Cabrera Named for Tech Presidency

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) announced Ángel Cabrera as finalist for the Georgia Tech presidency on June 6. Cabrera is currently president of George Mason University, a top-tier research institution and the largest public university in Virginia.

“Dr. Ángel Cabrera has the academic background, leadership skills and community ties necessary to lead a premier research institution like Georgia Tech,” said Chancellor Steve Wrigley. “His strong record of improving student outcomes, increasing enrollment, strengthening research and enhancing stakeholder partnerships will enable him to successfully advance the priorities and meet the needs of the Georgia Tech campus community. I am pleased he’s been selected as the finalist for president, and I am grateful for the hard work of the search committee.”

Since Cabrera’s 2012 appointment as president of George Mason, the university has accounted for more than half of all enrollment growth in Virginia, increased student academic

Reports Available from 2018 Student Climate Assessment Survey

In 2018, all undergraduate and graduate students at Georgia Tech were invited to participate in a Climate Assessment Survey to gauge the Institute’s progress on building an inclusive, supportive, and welcoming campus community. The report based on that survey is now available from Institute Diversity and the Office of Academic Effectiveness. The report also offers a comparison of results from the 2013 Climate Assessment Surveys, providing a longitudinal perspective. A Climate Assessment Task Force was established in Spring 2012 by Provost and Executive Vice President

Employee Learning Opportunities Plentiful on Campus

For some Tech faculty and staff, summer is a little less hectic than the rest of the year. So, the coming months may be a good time to take a self-development or self-care course.

“There are a lot of learning opportunities on campus that people either don’t know about or don’t take advantage of,” said Bryan Harber, training generalist with Workplace Learning and Professional Development in Human Resources.

Last year, as part of Employee Learning Week in December, Harber created the online Campus Learning Directory, a curation of learning and development opportunities available across campus for faculty and staff. Sponsored by the Association for Talent Development, a national organization, Employee Learning Week is an awareness campaign highlighting the important connection between learning and achieving organizational results. The Workplace Learning and Professional Development team hosts events for faculty and staff every year in support of this effort.

Harber said that he and his counterparts around the globe often hear employees
EVENTS

ARTS AND CULTURE

June 21-22, 27-29
DramaTech Theatres presents 4,000 Miles. After suffering a major loss while he was on a cross-country bike trip, 21-year-old Lee seeks solace from his feisty 91-year-old grandmother Vera in her West Village apartment. Over the course of a single month, these unlikely roommates infuse, bewilder, and ultimately reach each other. The show looks at how two outsiders find their way in today’s world. All shows begin at 8 p.m. at DramaTech Theatres, back side of Forest Center for the Arts. drinattech.org

June 27
The College of Sciences and iGnTe Summer Launch Program present Halloween in June, a costume party and variety show to celebrate the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements. The event will feature live music, magic, and comedy from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Atrium of the Petit Institute. sciences.gatech.edu

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

June 14
The Precision Academics Groupwork will host the Chancellor’s Summit on Precision Academics, a day focused on informing and improving instruction through the use of student learning data, at Georgia State University from 9 to 4:30 p.m. Learn more at c.gatech.edu/summit

June 18
The Library hosts a workshop on Monday Reference, a bibliographic management tool that can help with the research process, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Classroom 2130, Crosland Tower. library.gatech.edu

June 19
The LGBTQ Resource Center hosts a Trans 101 training session from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Register at lgbtqja.gatech.edu/trans-101

June 20
Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on education assistance programs from noon to 1 p.m., in the Student Center Theater. hr.gatech.edu/bewell

EVENTS continued on page 3

JEOPARDY! JAY

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

A historic Jeopardy! win streak came to an end June 3, and one Georgia Tech employee witnessed it from behind the buzzer.

Jay Sexton, chief operating officer of Georgia Tech’s Center for the Development and Application of Internet of Things Technologies (CDAIT), finished in third place as James Holzhauer ended a 32-game win streak to the night’s champion, Emma Boettcher. Sexton finished the game with $17,000, which on any other day could easily have been a winning score.

“It was the most efficiently played game in Jeopardy! history,” Sexton said. Fifty-nine out of 60 clues were answered correctly, all of them by the first person to ring in, with only one incorrect response. “I just happened to go up against two absolutely amazing players.”

Sexton had made appearances on High Q, a local quiz show for high school students, and taken the Jeopardy! test before. As a child, he memorized all of the questions from the Trivial Pursuit Genius I board game, reading trivia cards on road trips. His sister even appeared on the show a few years ago. But nothing could prepare him for being at the buzzer himself.

“The buzzer makes a big difference,” he said. “I never got the feel for it until too late in the game. Both [Emma and James] were amazing with the buzzer.”

Sexton was up against the show’s most dominant player in history. Holzhauer now holds the top 16 slots for one-day win totals, and won $2,464,216 overall during his run on the show — just $58,484 shy of Ken Jennings’ record total earnings. Of course, Sexton didn’t know that going into his game — his episode was taped in March, before Holzhauer first appeared in front of a national audience. Sexton quickly got a sense of Holzhauer’s level of play during player introductions, though, when he learned the length of his winning streak and how much money he’d already won.

“You realize he’s winning almost $80,000 per game, which is a record in so many ways, that we knew, ‘Wow, OK, this guy is something else,’” Sexton said.

Sexton is a two-time Tech graduate, with a bachelor’s and master’s in electrical engineering. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University. He came back to Tech as an employee in 2000 thinking he’d stay for a few years while pursuing a graduate degree. Almost two decades later, he’s still here.

“What I love about working at Georgia Tech is the variety of things I’ve been able to work on over those 20 years,” he said. His work with CDAIT and the Georgia Tech Research Institute has spanned K-12 outreach, accessibility, public safety, and sustainability.

His tips for those considering a Jeopardy! appearance: Study, watch old episodes, and practice using a buzzer.

Photo: courtesy of Jeopardy!

5 Faculty Members Receive Regents Recognition

SUSIE IVY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The University System of Georgia (USG)’s Board of Regents (BOR) has appointed four Georgia Tech faculty members as Regents Professor, and one as Regents Researcher. The titles represent the highest academic and research recognition bestowed by the USG.

The four Regents Professors are:

• Surya Kalidindi, professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering.
• Gerhard J. (John) Krige, Melvin Kranzberg Professor in the History of Technology in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts.
• Elizabeth Mynatt, Distinguished Professor in the College of Computing and executive director of the Institute for People and Technology.
• Haesun Park, professor of Computational Science and Engineering in the College of Computing and director of the Center for Data Analytics.

The Regents Researcher is:

• Margaret L. Loper, principal researcher at the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

“We are incredibly proud to celebrate our Georgia Tech colleagues as they are recognized by the Board of Regents,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs and the K. Harrison Brown Family Chair. “These new titles are a demonstration of distinction and achievement in their respective disciplines and their commitment to teaching and research excellence.”

Each year, the college deans may nominate two academic faculty members for the Regents Professor title and one research faculty member for the Regents Researcher title. The Georgia Tech Research Institute may nominate two research faculty members for the Regents Researcher title. The titles are awarded upon approval by the USG chancellor and its Committee on Academic Affairs — only with unanimous recommendation by the university’s president, the executive vice president for Research, the chief academic officer, the appropriate academic dean, and three other faculty members.

The nominations were approved by the BOR at its May 14 meeting. During the meeting, the BOR also approved the renewal of the title of Regents Professor for Vladimir Tsukruk, Dean’s Distinguished Professor of Engineering in the School of Materials Science and Engineering; Nicholas Hud in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry; and Sy Goodman in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs. It also approved the renewal of the title of Regents Researcher for Alex Harper, laboratory director of the Cybersecurity, Information Protection, and Hardware Evaluation Research Laboratory.
INSIDE THE ARCH

As a graduate student in Georgia Tech’s School of Architecture, Archila (right) studied the history and design of Tech Tower. Later, as an employee, he played a key role in getting one of the two archways uncovered and restored. Archila said, “Now, my desk faces the arch, and I see it every day.” The unopened arch can be seen above during the renovation of Tech Tower in 2017. See more interesting workspaces at news.gatech.edu/features/office-space.

CLIMATE, from page 1

for Academic Affairs Rafael L. Bras. The group’s goal was to measure Georgia Tech’s progress toward related goals articulated in its Strategic Plan and was chaired by Vice President of Institute Diversity Archie Ervin.

“The survey results indicate that large majorities of both undergraduate and graduate respondents feel Georgia Tech provides a comfortable and inclusive environment, with more than 80% agreeing that Tech provides a comfortable and inclusive environment and more than 85% feeling that the Institute supports their academic aspirations,” Ervin said. “The surveys also reveal that student experiences vary by gender, race, and ethnicity, in both positive and negative ways, which merits attention and actions to ensure an inclusive culture for all Tech students.

In the survey, students were asked to describe the overall climate at Georgia Tech and the degree to which they feel supported by the campus community. Respondents were also asked their opinions on the value of diversity and the degree to which the Institute is committed to policies that support the principles of diversity and inclusion.

Ervin added, “Joe Ludlam, methodologist for the survey data analysis in the Office of Academic Effectiveness, makes the presentation of data a clear and understandable analysis for everyone interested in our campus culture and climate. Policymakers will find the data analysis crisp, concise, and useful.”

Read the complete survey reports at diversity.gatech.edu/ClimateAssessmentSurveys.

CABRERA, from page 1

strength and outcomes, and joined the top tier of research universities in the Carnegie classification. It has established the Schaar School of Policy & Government, the Institute for Biohealth Innovation, a U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security Center of Excellence, the Potomac Center of Environmental Studies, the Point of View Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and a campus in South Korea.

Dr. Cabrera is a Georgia Tech alumnus with extensive experience in higher education, making him an excellent choice to continue building upon the institution’s strong foundation,” said Board of Regents Chairman Don Waters. “I look forward to the next step in this process and to ensuring Georgia Tech’s next president will continue moving this top ten public institution forward.”

Under Cabrera’s leadership, George Mason University has established partnerships to expand online programs and international recruitment, built several new facilities, adopted a new budget system and received a credit rating upgrade. Philanthropic giving has more than doubled, and a $500 million campaign was successfully completed in December with a total of $690 million.

“The search committee spent several months reviewing and interviewing a deep pool of highly talented individuals from across the country,” said Board of Regents Search Committee Chairman Ben Tarbutton III. “The national search was exhaustive and exciting, and I am deeply thankful for the dedication, time and energy of our committee members which allowed us to vet and nominate the most qualified candidate for the job.”

Cabrera serves on the boards of the National Geographic Society, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (where he chairs the Federal Reserve System National IT committee), the Bankinter Foundation for Innovation, the Northern Virginia Technology Council and Inovio, a publicly traded biotech company. He sits on the Georgia Tech Advisory Board (which he chaired in 2011) and the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (Fulbright program). He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has served on the board of NSF’s Education and Human Resources directorate, the academic board of Tec de Monterrey, as chairman of International Initiatives of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and past chairman of Virginia’s Council of Presidents.

“I am honored to be considered for this position,” Cabrera said. “Georgia Tech is very special to me. My wife and I met there and our son is a recent graduate. It would be a privilege to lead such a great institution.”

Cabrera earned his Ph.D. and M.S. in cognitive psychology at Georgia Tech — which he attended as a Fulbright Scholar — and his B.S. and M.S. in computer and electrical engineering at Universidad Politécnica of Madrid, which has awarded him an Honorary Doctorate. Prior to Mason, Cabrera led Thunderbird School of Global Management (now part of Arizona State University) and IE Business School in Madrid. He has been recognized as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, a Henry Crown Fellow by the Aspen Institute, and as a Great Immigrant by Carnegie Corporation.

He is married to management scholar and Georgia Tech classmate Beth and is the father of Alex (a recent graduate from Georgia Tech and incoming Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University) and Emilía (a rising junior at Harvard). He is the first Spanish-born president of an American university.

The Board of Regents will take final action on the selection of the next president of Georgia Tech at a future meeting following the required five business days.

EVENTS

June 27
The Web of Brilliance Introspect Employee Resource Group hosts The POWER of Writing from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 323, Clough Commons. Register at: e-gatech.edu/powerwriting

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Through July 24
Health Initiatives hosts Mindful Moments on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Seminar Room, Research Administration Building. Register at: training.esp.gatech.edu

MISCELLANEOUS

June 14
Last day of classes for Early Short Summer term.

June 17-18
Final exams take place for Early Short Summer term.

June 19
Late Short Summer term begins.

June 20
The Research Administration Buzz hosts a town hall for those who provide research administrative support on campus. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to noon in the Seminar Room, Research Administration Building. Register at: training.esp.gatech.edu

June 20
The GRIOT Employee Resource Group hosts Break Bread with GRIOT from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Panda Plaza, third floor, Student Center. Attendees must cover the cost of their own lunch.

June 20
A town hall will provide an update on the Comprehensive Administrative Review process from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 144, Clough Commons.

June 27
The Something Old, Something New Boutique Wedding Show will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Historic Academy of Medicine at Georgia Tech.

July 4
Campus closed in observance of Independence Day.

July 5
Campus is open but classes will not meet.

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu
Tech Scholar Publishes First-Ever Study of Paid Family Leave’s Impact on Maternal Mental Health

MICHAEL PEARSON
IYAR ALLEN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

California’s paid parental leave law appears to have improved the mental health of mothers and the overall wellbeing of their infant children, according to a new Georgia Tech study that is the first to assess the impact of paid family leave on maternal well-being.

Using data from the National Survey of Children’s Health and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the study finds a 5-9% improvement in self-reported ratings of mental health among California mothers after the 2004 implementation of paid family leave, as compared to women who gave birth in California before the law went into effect and to those who live in other states.

The study also found improvements in overall infant health and reduced rates of asthma among children born after the law’s implementation, according to Lindsey Bullinger, assistant professor in the School of Public Policy, who conducted the study.

So much of the focus on paid family leave is on the employment implications,” she said. “But paid time off to recover from childbirth and bond with a child could also have effects on the health of both parents and children. Some research has explored the health effects for children, but nearly no research has looked at the health of those who take the leave in the U.S.”

The study did not find any improvement as a result of the law in how new fathers reported their mental health status, or in measures of respiratory or food allergies in children. But it did find improvements in how parents felt they were coping with the day-to-day demands of parenting.

This story has been edited for length. Read the full story at c.gatech.edu/maternal.

Flicks @ Tech Movie Series Returns for 2019

Flicks @ Tech returns this month with three showings of outdoor movies on campus. Mark your calendars for the dates below and visit studentcenter.gatech.edu/activities for updates.

Marvel’s Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse
Friday, June 28
Bobby Dodd Stadium
Gates open at 7 p.m.
Screening begins at 8 p.m.

Parking will be available in Peters Parking Deck directly rants of the Stadium.

The stadium’s clear bag policy and other restrictions will be in effect. Visit ramblinwreck.com/clear-bag for more information.

Crazy Rich Asians
Friday, July 12
CRC Stamps Field
Gates open at 7 p.m.
Screening begins at 8 p.m.

Marvel’s Captain Marvel
Friday, July 26
CRC Stamps Field
Gates open at 7 p.m.
Screening begins at 8 p.m.

To view the Campus Learning Directory, visit hr.gatech. edu/campus-learning-directory. To request team support, email training@hr.gatech.edu.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

2BR/2BA apartment in Midtown available now until December for sublease. High ceilings, hardwood floors, walk in closets. Amenities include rooftop lounges, business center, pool, $2,300/mo. Serious inquiries only. Contact Cell.

For rent: Tech faculty-owned 2BR/2BA townhome on 16th Street in Atlanta. Available Aug. 1. Walkable to campus. Great room for decor. Floor plan: $2,800/mo. Contact Janak, jdesai1897@gmail.com.

For sale: 2011 GMC Acadia, pearl white. Used only 49,000 miles. DVD player on back of driver and passenger headrests. Call/text Renee Grueneich, 678-726-5064, or email agoudine6@hotmail.com.

For sale: 2002 4306 Mercedes-Benz, ~280k mi; runs well; photos available. $3,000 OBO. Contact wrongkow@bellsouth.net, 404-867-5035.

Owned and loved by a Tech professor, this 1996 Honda Del Sol Si has all service records, fewer than 100k miles, removable hard top. Call/text 707-948-6229.

TEAPOL

Tepal Kukunneli Ruggledly 3-person, 4-season rooftop tent, orange with black rainfly. Brand new. (Same tent currently listing at REI for $2,149.) Can arrange delivery. Call/text 404-931-0398.

Seeking photos of the 1996 Olympic aquatic events for on-campus installation. Do you have film or slides from the aquatic center in 1997? We would love to see! Contact Edward, eggan3y@gatech.edu.

Seeking donations of sewing machines, fabric, and notions to benefit the Amari Women’s Center in Clarkston, Tech staff from the Entrepreneurship Institute work with the center to teach sewing skills that help refugee women to earn a living wage. Contact berci@gatech.edu.

Seeking scrap unused paper for arts project. All sizes, colors, volumes accepted. Old unused notebooks, expired company letterhead, construction paper, copy paper, all paper that didn’t fit the pad of glue. Email Edward at gamit5y@gmail.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

2BR/2BA apartment in Midtown available now until December for sublease. High ceilings, hardwood floors, walk in closets. Amenities include rooftop lounges, business center, pool, $2,300/mo. Serious inquiries only. Contact Cell.

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