Message From the Director

It’s been a busy year for the Institute for People & Technology. We’ve launched new centers and initiatives, formed new partnerships, and there’s still much more to come. Overall, our external funding has grown tremendously; our total activity across campus exceeds $20 million. This growth comes from increased faculty engagement, our collective success in articulating new research programs, and securing funding from new sources and partners.

We’ve seen major growth in funding for health and humanitarian systems, including a new center funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research that focuses on support for aging adults with disabilities. This one-of-a-kind national center brings together decades of Georgia Tech research focused on successful aging and assistive technologies.

In response to growing industry demand, we launched our new Wearable Computing Center. This center offers a unique Industry Partnership Program for companies, large and small, to stay abreast of the rapidly changing world of wearable computing, to sponsor long-term and fast turnaround projects, and to work with other members on emerging industry standards.

iPaT also continues to strengthen its partnership with Midtown Alliance through the Midtown Buzz initiative. We’ve launched a new web portal and app, Midtownbuzz.org. Atlanta Magazine recognized our Midtown Buzz work as a 2014 Atlanta Groundbreaker. We’re thrilled to be recognized as a leader that makes Atlanta a better place to live through emphasizing innovation and new ideas. Atlanta and our Tech Square home continue to grow, providing more and better opportunities for daily collaboration with major corporations and cutting-edge startups, terrific student opportunities for entrepreneurship and industry experience, and global impact.

Looking ahead, we are forming a new Center for Transforming Pediatric Healthcare Delivery that will work closely with our strategic partners Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University while strengthening our international network of pediatric research. We’re also working with Georgia Tech Chief Technology Officer Ron Hutchins in the planning of the new high performance computing center in Tech Square. This unique facility will grow our footprint in Midtown Atlanta and will support new research in civic informatics and community visualization.

Our goals for the next year and beyond are to increase faculty and national leadership, improve internal operations, transparency and sustainability, and increase support for faculty-led initiatives. Through these goals we will continue our mission to build a future with more human-centered technology that has great societal and economic impact.

Elizabeth Mynatt
Executive Director
About IPaT

The Institute for People and Technology (IPaT) connects industry, government and nonprofit leaders with Georgia Tech’s world-class researchers and innovations to transform media, health, education and humanitarian systems. IPaT integrates academic and applied research through living laboratories and multidisciplinary projects to deliver real-world, novel solutions that balance the needs of people with the possibilities of new technologies.

IPaT creates transformative opportunities, builds powerful partnerships and maximizes societal impact of the exciting research being done at Georgia Tech through our "3T" approach:

Transdisciplinary Research
IPaT consolidates advances in system science and engineering, management and policy, information technology, and human-centered design.

Transdisciplinary Research
IPaT deploys living laboratories, testbeds, and datasets to facilitate the translation of research findings to practical applications.

Transdisciplinary Research
IPaT creates innovation crossroads for researchers, industry partners, government partners, and other stakeholders to meet and develop transformative solutions for complex societal challenges.
Tablet Project Empowers Cancer Patients

MyJourney Compass, launched in August 2013, is a pilot project that helps breast cancer patients navigate the often-overwhelming cancer treatment process. Patients receive tablet computers, which provide cancer and cancer treatment information. The program was recently expanded to include head and neck cancer patients.

“Quick Wins” Program Improves Children’s Lives Through Technology

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Georgia Tech are working together to develop pediatric technologies that will be put into the hands of clinicians within 18 months through

Building a Partnership to Better Manage Asthma

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Georgia Tech launched an initiative to tackle the spike in asthma-related emergency room visits. Researchers began by identifying and attempting to coordinate different asthma programs throughout Georgia, using the combined resources of both institutions to provide technology solutions for clinicians and patients. Through research and education, the goal is to help caregivers and patients better manage the chronic disease.

Showing and Sharing at the Educator Showcase

Georgia educators shared how they are integrating technology into their classrooms at the 2014 Educator Showcase. The Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) and IPaT hosted

IPaT Across Georgia

Quick Wins

Researchers have already developed a tool to more easily grasp tissue during pyloromyotomy surgery. They are also collaborating with Marcus Autism Center to address feeding disorders in children.

IPaT’s Mobile Storytelling Workshop, Hackathon

More than 40 people from Atlanta’s technology and creative communities attended the Midtown Mobile Storytelling Workshop, which highlighted four case studies to broaden our idea of “what’s a story” and “what’s mobile.” There were also brainstorming sessions on: history/cultural heritage, arts, health/fitness, games, civic engagement, community building and commercial. The following week, ideas from the workshop were put into motion at the Midtown Buzz Storytelling Hackathon. Participants generated ideas for mobile applications designed to tell a story and engage with the community to the benefit of Midtown.

I3L and Mohawk Industries Launch Tablet Program

The Interoperability and Integration Innovation Lab (I3L) and Mohawk Industries are working together to improve the lives of those suffering from musculoskeletal pain. I3L will build and sustain a health information exchange between Mohawk’s Healthy Life Centers and a pilot group of orthopedic care providers. Mohawk employees will receive tablets on which they and their providers can access their personal health records, including follow-on care and educational resources related to their conditions.
Verizon Foundation Augmented Reality Grant

The Verizon Foundation awarded a grant to Georgia Tech’s Interactive Media Technology Center (IMTC) to develop and test a prototype of an augmented reality mobile application. The app will layer virtual physics content on top of real-life objects to help students understand complex physics concepts. IMTC will test the prototype with schools in the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program and then share the results of the project.

Leigh McCook Named IPaT Deputy Director

In October, Leigh McCook became the new deputy director of IPaT. McCook’s role is to strengthen industry and international partnerships, and build new research collaborations across the Georgia Tech campus. While she continues to do research, McCook’s focus is on growing IPaT’s research portfolio of federal and industry projects, particularly in education and humanitarian systems. She has more than 20 years of research management and program director experience.

Foley Scholars Honored for Student Excellence

The GVU Center honored 2013-2014 Foley Scholars Jie Tan, Chris DeLeon and Iulian Radu along with the five Foley Finalists at the 6th Annual Foley Scholars Dinner. The James D. Foley Scholarship is GVU’s highest award for student excellence. Finalists are selected for their research vision and the potential impact of their work.

Annual People & Technology Forum Attracts Hundreds

The 2013 Georgia Tech People and Technology Forum drew over 300 attendees and featured keynote speeches and panel discussions on “The Future of Being Human.” Keynote speakers included Google Glass pioneer Babak Parviz.

Student Innovation on Display During GT Journey Competition

Twenty-four teams competed in GT Journey, a special edition of the Convergence Innovation Competition that focuses on applications, services, and experiences. Members of the Georgia Tech community judged entries both online and at a live demo event, with winners announced in three categories: Campus & Community, Classroom & Academics and Forever GT.

Mark Riedl Presents at Atlanta TEDx Peachtree Conference

Mark Riedl, head of Georgia Tech’s Entertainment Intelligence Lab, discussed “Unlocking Human Creativity” at the 2013
Atlanta TEDx Peachtree Conference. Riedl explained the relationship between humans and computers, and how storytelling can influence this relationship.

Georgia Tech’s I3L Wins Phoenix Award
Georgia Tech became the first university to receive the Phoenix Award from the Health IT Leadership Summit. The award was given to Tech’s Interoperability and Integration Innovation Lab (I3L) for its support of innovative health IT based education, research and commercialization. I3L is a virtual and physical collaboration laboratory for Health IT thought leaders and practitioners. Stephen Fleming, vice president and executive director of the Enterprise Innovation Institute, which manages the lab, accepted the award at the 4th Annual Health IT Leadership Summit in Atlanta.

oversees educational, consulting and other services to bolster economic development and improve health services delivery across the state. Dahl is an expert in the biomedical industry and healthcare governance and has 30 years of experience in technology transfer.

GT-RNOC Designs Art Crawl Mobile App, Augmented Reality Tour
Student research assistants from GT-RNOC partnered with organizers of the Clough Art Crawl to develop a mobile app and an augmented reality campus tour. Users of the app can view every piece of art, read descriptions written by the artists, and locate the art in Clough Commons using a built-in map. The application also provides a platform for the artists to further expound on their work. The Art Crawl Augmented Tour allows people to virtually experience the Art Crawl once the installation is removed. Artwork is overlaid on top of the camera view from their mobile device as if it were still on the walls.

Designers and Developers Brainstorm Ideas for Google Glass
IPaT hosted the first ever Google Glass Design Sprint at Georgia Tech. The event brought together over 100 local designers, developers, students and faculty members to brainstorm how Glass could be used to tell the story of Midtown Atlanta. The teams were directed to keep their ideas relevant, to avoid the unexpected, and to build for people by designing interfaces that use imagery, voice interactions, and natural gestures.

Margaret Wagner Dahl Named Associate VP for Health IT
Georgia Tech welcomed a new associate vice president for Health IT in February. Margaret Wagner Dahl is responsible for developing and expanding Georgia Tech’s efforts within the health information technology industry. She also

IPaT Represents Georgia Tech at World’s Largest Health IT Conference
In March, IPaT represented Georgia Tech research in health systems at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Conference & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida. The conference attracted more than 37,000 healthcare IT professionals, clinicians, executives
Tennenbaum Institute Hosts Workshop on Healthcare Transformation

The Tennenbaum Institute hosted Georgia Tech’s first ever workshop on Healthcare Transformation Through Analytics at the Global Learning Center. The event brought together key thought leaders from nationally recognized leading edge health organizations, who brought knowledge and experience in healthcare big data and analytics. This was the first time that health informatics faculty from all of the major medical schools in the region, including Duke University, Vanderbilt University, Emory University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Georgia Regents University, have convened at Georgia Tech.

Georgia Tech Launches Wearable Computing Center

Georgia Tech pulled together an impressive group of faculty experts to launch the Wearable Computing Center. The goal of the center is to bring together world-class wearable computing researchers for meaningful collaborations. Members also have the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of a new computing paradigm by joining the Industry Partners Program. Members will meet quarterly to discuss topics relevant to the wearable computing industry such as policy concerns, market research and tech developments.

Convergence Innovation Competition Expands to Include GT-Lorraine, France

For the first time, teams from Georgia Tech’s campus in Lorraine, France competed in Spring 2014 Convergence Innovation Competition (CIC). The teams presented their projects remotely live via Magic Window. Thirty teams in Atlanta also competed. The CIC is an opportunity for students and industry sponsors to network, collaborate and innovate. Each finalist finishes the competition with a working prototype and business case in their portfolio. They’re also well positioned to take advantage of commercialization opportunities.

Czech Days Foster International Collaboration

In May, Georgia Tech hosted a delegation of academic and industry experts from the Czech Republic as part of the first ever Czech Technology Days at GT. The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Georgia Tech organized the event with a goal of fostering partnerships between researchers and innovators from the Czech Republic and Georgia Tech.

Georgia Tech Capitol Hill Briefing

Georgia Tech hosted a roundtable discussion on driving innovation in pediatric healthcare in Washington D.C. to inform policymakers of challenges and successes in research partnerships. Co-hosted with IBM and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, the cornerstone of the discussion was Georgia Tech’s unique $20 million partnership with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. Panelists, including iPaT Executive Director Beth Mynatt, shared their perspectives on what it takes to make partnerships like the Georgia Tech - Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta partnership successful. Tech also held a briefing for staffers from the Georgia Congressional Delegation about the status of health information technology in our state.