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# THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

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THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## International Affairs undergrad named a Rhodes Scholar

Second Tech student in three years to be honored

David Terraso  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

For Jeremy Farris, going to college isn't about getting good grades and a job. College is about the experience of education and an opportunity to expand the mind. It's a sentiment that, while not surprising to hear from a college student, might be unexpected from a student with a 3.94 grade-point average who's just been named one of 32 Rhodes Scholars for 2005.

"The purpose of an education isn't to get you a job," said Farris, a senior in the School of International Affairs in Ivan Allen College. "The purpose of an education is to change you — to make you sufficiently human."

Before coming to Tech in 2000, the Bonaire, Ga., native won a best of category award at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for his discovery of a new pathogen that can control the invasive plant kudzu. As a result of the award, he was chosen to become an American delegate to the 2000 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Science Forum in Singapore. The trip inspired him to travel to Argentina on a study abroad trip the following summer, where he produced a documentary on the indigenous people of that country. These experiences eventually led him to change his major from biology to international affairs.

Since then he has conducted research on the possibilities for post-Castro democratization in Cuba and traveled to Guatemala to work on reforestation projects and collect footage for a documentary on illegal immigration networks.

"The thing about Jeremy that is really amazing is his desire to understand how the world works," said Kirk Bowman, assistant professor of international affairs and director of Tech's study abroad programs in Latin America. "He studies international affairs, but he feels the need to know science and philosophy so he can understand how the pieces fit together."



Jeremy Farris

At first glance, Farris' holistic approach to learning may seem at odds with Georgia Tech's career-oriented, disciplinary tradition. But the continuing rise of liberal arts, management and the interdisciplinary focus of Tech's science and engineering programs prove Farris to be a model of Tech's future student body.

"We need to think of education as something very real and important in itself," said Farris. "Georgia Tech can no longer be considered just a math, science and engineering institution."

Farris credits Bowman and two other Ivan Allen College professors, Jon Johnston and Ken Knoespel, with changing his life. "Bowman introduced me to democratization. Knoespel and Johnston really stimulated the life of the mind for me," he said.

Upon entering Tech, Farris became the recipient of the Stamps Family President's Scholarship, which, along with the HOPE scholarship, paid for his education at Tech. "Had I not gotten that, I don't know that I would've been able to come to Tech," he said. "I'm absolutely thankful for the opportunity."

Farris is the third Georgia Tech student to win a Rhodes Scholarship.

*Scholar continued, page 3*

## Klaus construction moves forward



photo by Nicole Cappello

Workers at the construction site for the Klaus Advanced Computing Building wait for a crane to deliver concrete into one of several concrete column forms. The project is expected to be completed in February 2006.

## Tech plans a best practices competition

Marita Sullivan  
Office of Organizational  
Development

Georgia Tech is issuing an open call for the first Best Practices Challenge — an initiative to acknowledge the creative and innovative ways departments are improving processes, using information technology and motivating people.

The competition is seen as part of a key goal in Tech's Strategic Plan — fostering a supportive, collaborative and effective administrative infrastructure — and was developed with the intent of promoting and disseminating new and innovative institute-level practices across campus. It also closely mirrors the Board of Regents System-wide competition, launched two years ago.

Tech has been recognized by the Regents in both years for its best practices. This year the Regents cited Internal Auditing for its Information System Incident Response Procedure in the Information Technology category.

"This Best Practices Challenge provides a great forum to showcase the

talent across the campus," said Hal Irvin, executive director of Organizational Development.

"Departments will be able to share proven administrative solutions with colleagues who can put their ideas to work."

The program provides a forum for the Tech community to create, share and adopt best practices related to any one of the following categories:

- People Strategies — hiring, development, retention and motivation of people including faculty, administrative, research and student staff
- Research, Finance and Institute Operations — daily management of research development, academics, facilities and administrative responsibilities
- Academic and Student Services — experience of and services provided to undergraduate, graduate, distance, study abroad and professional education students
- Information Technology — innovative, enabling applications of technology at the Institute

Entries will be accepted until

*Challenge continued, page 3*

## QUOTE UNQUOTE

"I think there is a meeting of the minds between China's leaders on the one hand and the leaders of the post-Soviet Central Asian states on the other. And cooperation in this area takes the form of intelligence exchanges, police cooperation, training of police, training of military forces, and the design of military operations targeting terrorist activities."

—John Garver, professor in the School of International Affairs, speculating on how Asian governments are protecting themselves against international terrorism. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty)

"Congress and the administration need to plan for a growing role of nuclear-generated electric power."

—Nolan Hertel, a professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering, writing a guest column for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.



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Institute Communications and Public Affairs  
Wardlaw Center  
177 North Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.

## Report calls for pollution standards in Hong Kong and SE China

David Terraso  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

In one of the world's fastest growing industrial regions, a study finding that a class of pollutants exists at levels four times that of U.S. air quality standards has prompted a Hong Kong public policy group to call for government standards on fine particulate matter.

The finding was released by Civic Exchange, a non-profit public policy think tank comprised of scientists as well as representatives from the power and oil industries, government and civic organizations.

The study measured levels of fine particulate matter and ozone, a major component of smog, across Hong Kong and its northern neighbor Guangdong Province. Fine particulate matter is made up of chemical particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter. The main sources of these particles are the burning of coal for energy, emissions from gasoline and diesel vehicles and the burning of other organic material such as vegetation and trash.

"By far, the highest levels in the region were found in Guangdong, where measurement sites showed levels of particulates as high as four times the U.S. National Ambient Air Quality Standard," said Michael Bergin, principal investigator for the fine particulate segment of the study and associate professor in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the class of pollutants has been proven to be harmful to human health, and long-term exposure can lead to reduced lung function, chronic bronchitis and premature death.

"Sites in Hong Kong were roughly twice the U.S. standards," Bergin continued. "Overall it appears to us that, with regard to particulate matter, Hong Kong air quality is being seriously impacted by Guangdong province in mainland China just to the north."

By comparison, Atlanta — which



Smog obscures the Hong Kong skyline, creating a silhouette effect in this view from Victoria Harbor in January 2004.

has some of the highest concentrations of fine particulate matter of any city in the United States — slightly exceeds the EPA standard. China does not have air quality standards for fine particulate matter.

### Manufacturing a reason

Much of the pollution can be tied to the Chinese export market. "About 20 to 30 percent of the pollution in the region is due to manufacturing goods for export," said David Streets, a senior scientist at Argonne National Laboratory who has studied pollution controls in China. "This includes not only manufacturing facilities, but also generating the electricity that goes into the factories and the trucks that transport goods to the ports. This contributes significantly to some of the high concentrations of pollutants



to the region."

Reducing those pollutants wouldn't add much to the cost of export goods, said Streets. Upgrading motor vehicle emission standards and placing emission controls on power plants and industrial smokestacks would add only three-tenths of a percent to the cost of each good. A \$100 DVD player, for instance, would only cost 30 cents more after emissions standards were put in place.

While the report found that particulate matter in Hong Kong is largely originated in Guangdong, that wasn't entirely the case with ozone levels.

"Many in Hong Kong thought almost all the ozone in the area was coming from mainland China," said Bergin. "Our results suggest organic compounds that lead to ozone formation may have sources in and around Hong Kong. Hence, solving the ozone problem in Hong Kong indicates a combination of local control strategies as well as collaboration with Guangdong."

In addition to recommending that both the governments of Hong Kong and Guangdong establish standards for fine particulate matter, the report called for more study to pinpoint the exact sources of the pollutants and their chemical precursors.

## Clough named to top leadership post at the Council on Competitiveness

Last month, President Wayne Clough was named to succeed Charles Vest as the new university co-vice chairman of the Council on Competitiveness.

The Council on Competitiveness is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization whose members are corporation chief executives, university professors and labor leaders dedicated to setting an action agenda to drive U.S. economic competitiveness and leader-

ship.

The Council is made up of three co-vice chairs, representing industry, universities and labor. Together, they make up the governing body of the Council on Competitiveness. Vest is stepping down from the position after recently retiring as president of MIT.

Clough, who has been involved with the Council for a number of years, recently helped the Council launch the National Innovation

Initiative with co-chair Sam Palmisano, chairman and CEO of IBM. This Council Initiative is focused on keeping the United States at the forefront of innovation throughout the world.

For more information...

Council on Competitiveness  
[www.compete.org](http://www.compete.org)

**Correction:** An article in the Nov. 15 issue incorrectly stated the number of individuals honored during the College of Engineering's annual alumni awards ceremony. In fact, the Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni recognized 18 alumni and another eight were inducted into the Council of Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni.



## Student Center Commons named for alumnus



At a Nov. 19 dedication ceremony, President Wayne Clough unveiled a plaque to recognize the generosity of Penny and Roe Stamps, in whose honor the recently completed Student Center Commons is named.

Stamps earned his bachelor's and master's degree in industrial engineering at Tech.

photo by Nicole Cappello

*Scholar, cont'd from page 1*

The first student was S. Alton Brown, who won the honor in 1951. The second was physics student Will Roper, who won the Rhodes in 2002.

The Rhodes Scholarships pay for two or three years of study at Oxford University, just outside of London. The oldest international fellowships in the world, they were established after the death of British statesman Cecil Rhodes in 1902. This year, 32 American students along with students from 22 other countries are being chosen for their academic achievement, personal integrity and potential for leadership to become Rhodes Scholars.

Farris is scheduled to receive his bachelor's

degree in international affairs next month. He then plans to spend the summer as Bowman's teaching assistant in the Argentina study abroad program. He'll begin a two-year master's of philosophy program in political theory at Oxford in October.

His career goals are just as broad as his education. Aside from conducting research and teaching public policy, he'd like to work with the American Civil Liberties Union and the White House, should newly elected U.S. Senator Barack Obama run for President.

"His level of expertise is just stunning," said Bowman. "As a professor, I spent a lot of time with Jeremy in a lot of different countries. I have learned more from Jeremy than he has ever learned from me."

*Challenge, cont'd from page 1*

January 14, 2005. Some requirements for entries are that the best practice must have been implemented for approximately six months, have resulted in a positive, measurable impact and be capable of possible adoption or adaptation elsewhere on campus. Collaborative submissions from

multiple units are encouraged. Entries meeting Challenge criteria will be presented at a one-day showcase that will be open to the campus.

For more information...

**Best Practices Challenge**  
www.ood.gatech.edu/BP

## Holiday hours

### Campus Recreation Center

Dec. 6-10 — normal hours  
Dec. 11-12 — closed  
Dec. 13-17 — normal hours  
Dec. 18-19 — closed  
Dec. 20-23 — normal hours  
Dec. 24 — 6 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Dec. 25 - Jan. 3 — closed  
Jan. 4-7 — normal hours  
Jan. 8 — 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Jan. 9 — noon - midnight  
Jan. 10 — resume normal hours

### Library and Information Center

Dec. 6-11 — normal hours  
Dec. 12 — closed  
Dec. 13-17 — 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Dec. 18-19 — closed  
Dec. 20-23 — 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Dec. 24 — 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 25 - Jan. 3 — closed  
Jan. 4-7 — 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Jan. 8 — 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Jan. 9 — noon - midnight  
Jan. 10 — resume normal hours

## IN BRIEF:

### Call for nominations

Realizing the need for and importance of cultivating an environment where value is placed upon the broader concerns of all humanity, The Office of the President has re-established the Don Bratcher Human Relations Award to reward those members of our campus community who are engaging in exemplary human relations work.

The Office of Diversity Management and the Office of Diversity Programs has assumed responsibility for administration of this award.

Nomination forms are available at the Office of Diversity Management and the Office of Diversity Programs. Criteria and procedures for accepting nominations can be found at [www.gtdiversity.gatech.edu](http://www.gtdiversity.gatech.edu).

### Student team earns berth in world programming finals

The Georgia Tech Student Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (GTACM) won first place at the 2004-2005 ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) held in Melbourne, Fla. After winning the Southeastern regional competition, the Georgia Tech team has earned a coveted spot at the World Finals in Shanghai, China, where 75 teams will compete in April 2005 at Jiao Tong University.

The contest is a five-hour battle of logic, strategy and mental endurance. Students solve complex problems using both traditional and new software development tools. The team is comprised of computer science undergraduates Charlie Reiss, Topraj Gurung and Chris Sidi.

### Instructor evaluation resource open for student input

The course instructor opinion survey is now available for students online at [www.coursesurvey.gatech.edu](http://www.coursesurvey.gatech.edu). Surveys will be available through finals week, ending on December 10. There will be short periods that the survey system is not available due to system back-ups. If the system is unavailable, try again about 10 minutes later — the system will not be shut down for long periods of time unless there is an unanticipated problem.

- The first 10 multiple choice questions are reported to the instructor's school chair and college dean. All other responses only go to the professor.
- All responses are anonymous. The database that keeps track of GTID numbers to see if a student has completed a survey — regulating that only registered students complete surveys and that students submit only one survey — is completely separate from the database of actual responses.
- The multiple choice responses will be made available on the SGA course critique page ([www.sga.gatech.edu/critique](http://www.sga.gatech.edu/critique)) for any class with at least five responses and at least a 30 percent response rate.
- Results are available to faculty on Thursday during the first week of winter break. Visit [www.coursesurvey.gatech.edu/login.cfm](http://www.coursesurvey.gatech.edu/login.cfm), go to the report submenu and choose single course/instructor survey report. Administrative reports will be available one week into the spring semester.

Individuals experiencing problems with the system should e-mail [CETLhelp@gatech.edu](mailto:CETLhelp@gatech.edu) with "CIOS Help" in the subject line.

# CAMPUS EVENTS

**Arts & Culture**

**Dec. 4**

The Ferst Center hosts the jazz program “A Peter White Christmas with Rick Braun and Mindi Abair,” at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 894-9600 or visit [www.ferstcenter.org](http://www.ferstcenter.org).

**Dec. 4**

The American Museum of Papermaking hosts a Holiday Season Family Workshop with museum staff from 1 - 3 p.m. Full details are at [www.ipst.gatech.edu/amp](http://www.ipst.gatech.edu/amp). Call Fran Rottenberg at 894-5726 for reservations.

**Dec. 5**

The Ferst Center presents the Celtic-themed holiday program “A Scottish Christmas,” featuring fiddler Bonnie Rideout at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 894-9600 or visit [www.ferstcenter.org](http://www.ferstcenter.org).

**Dec. 18**

The Ferst Center welcomes jazz pianist George Winston for an 8 p.m. performance. For tickets, call 894-9600 or visit [www.ferstcenter.org](http://www.ferstcenter.org).

**Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures**

**Dec. 2**

The School of Biology welcomes Gregory Velicer, research group leader at the Max Planck Institute, on “Evolution of Cooperation and Conflict in the Social Bacterium Myxococcus Xanthus,” at 2 p.m. in IBB’s Suddath Seminar Room.

**Dec. 3**

The Program in Cognitive Science welcomes Gary Hardcastle, assistant professor of philosophy at Bloomsburg University, on “A Problem Solving Account of Scientific Explanation,” at noon in room 132, Whitaker Building. For more information, e-mail [charmion@cc.gatech.edu](mailto:charmion@cc.gatech.edu).

**Dec. 3**

The School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences welcomes Harvard University Professor Daniel Jacob for a discussion on “Interpreting Satellite Observations of Atmospheric Composition,” at 3 p.m. in room L1205, ES&T Building.

**Miscellaneous**

**Nov. 29 - Dec. 3**

The campus bookstore will hold a customer appreciation sale — 20 percent discount on most items in the store — for faculty and staff. For more information, visit [www.importantstuff.gatech.edu](http://www.importantstuff.gatech.edu).

**Dec. 3**

Last day of classes.

**Dec. 7**

The Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club hosts its annual wine and cheese party for all faculty and guests from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Global Learning and Conference Center Atrium.

**Dec. 10**

Deadline for students to submit a President’s Undergraduate Research Award (PURA) application for spring semester. For more information, visit [www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu/institute-wide.htm](http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu/institute-wide.htm).

**Dec. 11**

Fall commencement will be divided into two ceremonies, with undergraduates at 9 a.m. and graduates at 3 p.m. For more information, visit [www.gatech.edu/commencement](http://www.gatech.edu/commencement).

**Dec. 13**

A Fidelity Investments retirement counselor will be conducting confidential consultations. To schedule an appointment, e-mail [trey.s.higgins@fmr.com](mailto:trey.s.higgins@fmr.com) or call 404-239-7303.

**Dec. 1 & 15**

The VOICE Initiative invites you to learn more about how you can play a role in ending sexual violence at Georgia Tech. One-hour orientations will be held Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 15 at noon. To sign up, e-mail [ann.frazer@health.gatech.edu](mailto:ann.frazer@health.gatech.edu) or call 894-9980.

**Dec. 27 - Jan. 3**

Campus closed for the holidays.

**Jan. 10**

Spring semester begins.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**AUTOMOBILES**

1993 Mazda Protege, good daily, dependable driver. \$1,300 OBO. E-mail [shoba.king@coe.gatech.edu](mailto:shoba.king@coe.gatech.edu) or call 385-2382.

1997 Convertible Pontiac Sunfire. Red and black, brand new rebuilt engine, good body condition, good tires and brakes. Very well maintained by owner. \$6,500, negotiable. E-mail [cheri@catea.org](mailto:cheri@catea.org).

1999 Mitsubishi Mirage, green, 42K miles, excellent condition, impeccably maintained. \$3,800 OBO. Call Maria at 404-372-7697.

**COMPUTERS**

Sun USB keyboard (Type 6). Part number 320-1273, includes wristrest, \$15. E-mail [ccoprj@mail.gatech.edu](mailto:ccoprj@mail.gatech.edu).

Sony laptop w/bag and accessories, \$400; HP iPAQ Pocket PC h1945, \$225; Nokia 3390 T-Mobile phone and accessories, \$60; HP CD-Writer 8200 series, \$50; Iomega ZIP Drive, \$40. All items negotiable. Call: 770-472-2330.

**FURNITURE**

Contemporary glass-topped dining room table (round, 4 feet in diameter) with 4 matching chairs (stainless steel curved backs and light-gray micro-fiber cushions). Furniture is 2.5 years old, looks brand new. Call 894-9862 or e-mail [jc450@gatech.edu](mailto:jc450@gatech.edu) for pictures.

Sofa, \$250; chair/ottoman, \$150; table, \$40; microwave, \$20; lamps, \$20; Contact [lbarta@yahoo.com](mailto:lbarta@yahoo.com).

35-inch Sony Trinitron KV35V35 with matching stand, \$550. Matching media cabinets, \$100/ea. Octagonal brass and glass coffee/end tables, \$75. Call 404-385-1696 or e-mail [bob.schultz@gtri.gatech.edu](mailto:bob.schultz@gtri.gatech.edu).

**REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES**

5BR/3BA for sale in Smyrna/Vinings area. Multi-level deck, hardwoods throughout, new roof, new paint and carpet, large private lot, fenced-in yard, 15 minutes to GT. \$199,900. Call Alicia, 385-4393.

1BR/1BA apartment for rent, off of Peachtree Industrial Road in Dunwoody area. \$600/month. Call Preethi, 404-216-5677.

3BR/2.5 BA condo in Vinings. 2,300 square feet, 2-car enclosed garage, fireplace, wet bar, deck. Unit by pool on cul-de-sac. Just inside I-285. \$1,500/month. Call 404-350-0064.

Views of Piedmont Park from the 29th floor at the Mayfair Renaissance on 14th Street, 2BR/2.5BA, private balconies, cherry cabinets, granite countertops, concierge, guard and valet. Motivated! Call 404-931-9922.

4BR/2.5BA, 2-story brick front traditional in Smyrna. Less than 10 miles to GT; 2,700 square feet, fenced, wooded level lot; \$268,864. Virtual

tour: [www.callityourhome.com](http://www.callityourhome.com), FMLS# 988257. Call 770-345-2704.

Elegant Buckhead apartment for rent, \$850 per month, spacious 1BR with beautiful views, pool and fitness center. Blocks away from Piedmont Hospital and minutes from downtown Atlanta. Call Maria, 404-372-7697.

Cozy home in perfect Decatur location – 3BR/1.5BA, LR, large eat-in kitchen, deck and huge front and back yards. Recently restored, new appliances. May consider lease/buy arrangement. Call George, 404-303-0759 or e-mail [tahmingar@cs.com](mailto:tahmingar@cs.com).

1BR/1BA condo in Midtown. Many upgrades. Low association dues, gym, pool, covered parking, security, storage unit. \$169,500. Call 404-386-2395 or e-mail [igetstuff@hotmail.com](mailto:igetstuff@hotmail.com) for pictures.

2BR/2BA condo in Vinings, 20 minutes to Tech. Wood flooring, Berber carpet and tiled floors. Fireplace, new appliances and fixtures. Fitness center and pool. \$164,000. E-mail [forsalevinings@yahoo.com](mailto:forsalevinings@yahoo.com) for photos.

**SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION**

Kickboxing/stand-up punching bag, \$25. Olympic weights (310 lbs.) w/bench, \$100. E-mail [bob.lang@police.gatech.edu](mailto:bob.lang@police.gatech.edu).

Peugeot racing bicycle, \$125. Call 385-1696 or e-mail [bob.schultz@gtri.gatech.edu](mailto:bob.schultz@gtri.gatech.edu).

**MISCELLANEOUS**

LitterMaid automatic cat litter box. New, includes 12 litter trays and sanitizer. Asking \$70 OBO. Call 894-0065 or e-mail [eileengram@juno.com](mailto:eileengram@juno.com).

Baby boy clothes; 3 - 12 months. Go to [www.coa.gatech.edu/jtc/clothes](http://www.coa.gatech.edu/jtc/clothes) for pictures and contact information.

Beautiful 9-foot Fraser Fir Christmas tree. Will bring to campus. Paid \$350, sell for \$225. Photos upon request. Used for 2 years. Looked smaller in the store! Call 894-4888 or e-mail [becky.fitzgibbon@arch.gatech.edu](mailto:becky.fitzgibbon@arch.gatech.edu).

Free black female and orange male cats (siblings, approx. 5 years old). Excellent health, affectionate, fixed and de-clawed. Call 770 845-1821.

Free yellow jacket/wasp nest removal. Nests to be used for research at Georgia Tech. Call 385-6311 or e-mail [michael.goodisman@biology.gatech.edu](mailto:michael.goodisman@biology.gatech.edu).

*The classifieds are a free service provided to members of the faculty and staff. To submit an ad, e-mail the text to [editor@icpa.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@icpa.gatech.edu). Due to the volume of submissions, it may take several weeks for ads to appear in print.*