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THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

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THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Fire marshal concerned with keeping campus safe

*Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs*

Over this past summer, the library at the University of Georgia was significantly damaged from a fire, damage which officials estimate will require \$1.5 million to repair.

Earlier this month, UGA suffered another fire, this time in its pharmacy building. Though neither blaze has been reported to have occurred as a result of negligence, it nonetheless serves as a reminder of the importance of fire safety.

At Tech, those efforts are coordinated through the campus' new fire marshal, Vic Rashael, who assumed his new position this summer. Working with Facilities' Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), his role is to provide fire safety services for approximately 200 buildings — roughly 10 million square feet — on Tech's Atlanta campus.

His office acts as a nexus for information related to keeping the campus in compliance with fire safety codes. That work includes coordinating with outside contractors, building managers and campus maintenance crews.

Routine inspections will be his principal prevention tool.

"There are a lot of 'housekeeping issues,'" he admitted. Items like maintaining illuminated exit signs and keeping exits free may seem minor, but have an overall effect of preparation for the unthinkable.

Previously, Rashael worked for the State Fire Marshal. In coming to Tech, he maintained his deputization that, as an officer of the court, brings a measure of authority and law enforcement to bear for preventing or eliminating potential hazards. In addition to annual inspections for each of Tech's buildings, Rashael also acts as a consultant with the design and construction crews on issues concerning fire safety.



Vic Rashael

"I look at it as a team effort," Rashael said. "Let's get the safest building at the smallest expense."

With two recent fires fresh in everyone's memory, he says, there is a renewed interest in making buildings safer. While preparing for a special exhibit, Library employees were required to certify the building's fire safety rating. Rashael was the first point of contact.

"If a university is lending us some rare or precious item, they want to be sure it will be going to a safe place," said building manager Katharine Norris. "At the time the fire at UGA happened, we had some concerns about the state of our ancient fire alarm system. Facilities has been responsive to these requests and given me the impression that sufficient attention is being paid to fire safety issues."

While protecting books is important, protecting people is paramount. Each building is required to have its own evacuation plan. Working with the building managers, Rashael reviews these plans and practices them on an annual basis. Such unannounced drills "test the practicality of the evacuation plan," as well as familiarize employees with their responsibilities in case of an emergency.

Another big component of the position is education, and Rashael said that he would be exploring various training efforts in the coming months.

"Fire extinguishers are often the first line of defense, so training people to use them correctly is important," he said.

Currently, a brief presentation on fire safety is available on the EHS Web site. Future hands-on classes are in the planning stages, but Rashael also said he is available for impromptu demonstrations as needed.

For more information...

Environmental Health and Safety
www.safety.gatech.edu

Tech Square grand opening features faculty panel discussions

*David Terraso
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs*

On Thursday, Oct. 23, Tech is celebrating the grand opening of Technology Square by hosting its first major event — called "Technology and the Global Economy" — at the new complex. The event will bring together leaders from business, government and academia for a daylong conference to examine the impact of emerging technologies on the world marketplace. Starting at 2:15 p.m. members of the Tech community are invited to take part in one of three breakout sessions at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.

Francois Sainfort, associate dean

in the College of Engineering, will moderate the discussion on biosciences and biotechnology. Panel members include College of Engineering Dean Don Giddens, David Ku from the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering and the DuPree College of Management, and Michael Cassidy of the Georgia Research Alliance.

The panel on engineering enterprise systems will discuss the challenges in networking, transportation and other large-scale systems. Chelsea White from the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering will moderate the discussion. Participants include Richard DeMillo, dean of the College of Computing;

Panel continued, page 3

Poetry at Tech



Poets Marilyn Nelson, left, and Ellen Bryant Voigt share a light moment at the second annual Bourne Poetry Reading, sponsored by Ivan Allen College's School of Literature, Communication, and Culture and held in the new LeCraw Auditorium in the DuPree College of Management at Tech Square. Together with Edward Hirsch, Nelson and Voigt read from their various works before a packed house of 300 attendees.

photo by Nicole Cappello

“QUOTE— UNQUOTE”

“Biology shows us that molecular machines are possible. In fact, a lot of people point to biology as the existence proof, saying, ‘We know molecular machines are possible,’ just as people in the 1800s would point at birds and say, ‘Heavier-than-air flight is possible because we can see birds.’”
—Ralph Merkle, a professor in the College of Computing, on the feasibility of molecular computing.
(National Public Radio)

“China’s launch of a manned, Earth-orbiting satellite symbolizes a great nation’s accelerating return to its normal position of global technological leadership.”
—John Garver, a professor in the School of International Affairs, in an editorial on China’s investment in science and technology, despite its “immense social needs.”
(Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

Giving soldiers a bird’s eye view of the battlefield

Rick Robinson
Research News

Soldiers in battle are always trying to discern what’s in front of them. Both victory and survival can depend on it. Yet too often, buildings, hills, forests and jungles get in the way.

Now a Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) project is developing a novel way for small ground units to see past obstacles. Called the “reconnaissance round,” it would let soldiers use small artillery weapons almost like a periscope. They could fire skyward a device that transmits images of nearby terrain back to a laptop computer, which is standard equipment now among infantry units.

The reconnaissance round is the idea of Charles Stancil, a senior research engineer at GTRI’s Aerospace, Transportation and Advanced Systems Laboratory.

“The typical situation an infantry unit will encounter is a small number of hostile forces, and the unit does not know exactly where the enemy is,” Stancil said. “Soldiers will be able to fire the recon round and have photos relayed to them right over the battlefield so they can see from a vertical perspective how the enemy is positioned.”

The 2-pound, 6-inch-long reconnaissance device, made from off-the-shelf parts such as digital camera components, would be used in weapons like mortars that launch shells high in the air. Far above the battlefield, a separation charge opens a parachute, and the surveillance device floats down, transmitting digital images as it descends.

“It can detect a human being from 1,800 feet in the air,” Stancil said.

Researchers are now testing and validating the recon round, now entering its second year of development. Stancil hopes to have the recon round approved by the military for full-scale engineering development this fall.

Black and white ground images seem to work as well as color, and may turn out to be more practical, too, because the smaller file size enables faster transmission than larger color files.

Stancil emphasizes the system’s simplicity, as well as



Black and white photograph taken from a prototype reconnaissance round shows a person standing in a sod farm near Atlanta.

its speed and relatively inexpensive price tag. Also, front-line troops can use the device easily under pressure.

The team used Atlanta-area sod farms as a substitute for a government test range for the compressed-gas-launcher test. The sprawling sod farms have many attributes of a military test range, including a remote location and a dearth of trees and utility wires.

“Using these farms has saved tremendous dollars and time,” Stancil said. “If we had to go to a government range every time we wanted to test-fire, we wouldn’t be anywhere near the point of achievement that we are now in the program.”

For more information...

**Aerospace, Transportation and
Advanced Systems Laboratory (ATAS)**
www.gtri.gatech.edu/atas



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or faxed to Michael at 404-894-7214
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call 404-894-8324.

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Georgia Tech is a unit of the
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Open enrollment season for reviewing benefits compensation

Benefits fair to be held
Oct. 29

Once a year, state employees have an opportunity to review and revise their benefits package. The Office of Human Resources (OHR) has spent the past several months preparing for the window of time known as open enrollment — running from Oct. 14 to Nov. 14 — when changes to these plans can be made.

Earlier this month, OHR distributed to all faculty and staff information packets designed to help employees navigate the sea of important information associated with benefits.

Most of the same information can be obtained through the OHR Web site, as well. A link titled “Open Enrollment Highlights 2004” provides a summary of all plan changes, as well as rates for 2004 and charts outlining the HMO and PPO/Indemnity plan.

In addition, OHR will host a benefits fair for the campus on

Major changes for 2004:

- A new four-tier premium structure for health and dental benefits. The four tiers are designated as “Employee,” “Employee + Child,” “Employee + Spouse,” and “Family.”

- A “one-time-only” Open Enrollment for the Board of Regents’ dental plan for 2004.

- Two different Kaiser Permanente HMO plan options.

Wednesday, October 29, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Representatives from the health insurance carriers, tax deferred annuity companies, AFLAC, MetLife, Teachers Retirement System, optional retirement plan, U.S. Savings Bonds Plan, short/long term disability insurance plan, the Credit Union and OHS/CompDent will

be present, as well as staff members from OHR and Health Services. Visitors may also opt to receive a flu shot, win one of several door prizes, or simply grab a free lunch of hot dogs and soda.

According to Linda Mitchell, one of OHR’s benefits counselors, “This is a great time to pick up and review rates and materials. Employees can get individual attention from company representatives, and most have promotional materials to give away.”

In order to make changes to a benefit plan, the appropriate enrollment forms must be completed. These forms will be available at the Benefits Fair, or may be obtained by contacting the Benefits Office. OHR requires that all forms be received in the Benefits Office no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, November 14.

For more information...

Office of Human Resources
www.ohr.gatech.edu

Meteorological scientists tap Tech professor for top prize

Sean Selman
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

Professor Peter Webster, who maintains joint appointments to the Schools of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been tapped to receive the prestigious Carl Gustaf Rossby Research Medal from the American Meteorological Society.

The medal is the highest honor the society bestows upon an atmospheric scientist, and is presented annually for outstanding contributions to the understanding of the structure or behavior of the Earth's atmosphere. Webster earned his for making "fundamental contributions to tropical meteorology and oceanography." He will receive the award next January during a ceremony in Seattle.

"Peter's research contributions and accomplishments in climate science — particularly in the understanding and prediction of monsoon dynamics — are no less than groundbreaking, remarkable and fascinating," said Aris Georgakakos, director of the Georgia Water Resources Institute in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

"But the impact of Peter's work extends far beyond science through the implementation of forecast systems that help save lives from floods, prevent famine and secure drinking water and energy supplies for millions of people around the world," Georgakakos said. "The Rossby Award is a just recognition of Peter's contributions to both science and society. We are all privileged to have him in our ranks."

President Wayne Clough is equally excited about Webster's award. "This award not only reflects Dr. Webster's outstanding work, but also brings welcome attention to Georgia Tech and our growing strength in the sciences," he said.

Gary Schuster, dean of the College of Sciences, said he is extraordinarily pleased by Webster's recognition.

"This work is both fundamentally important to science and practically valuable because it helps to predict the variability of monsoons, which affect the lives of many millions of people," Schuster said. "Professor Webster is an important



One of the research projects of Professor Peter Webster, right, involves working closely with farmers in Bangladesh to improve crop yields by providing them with accurate monsoon forecasts.

leader of Georgia Tech's interdisciplinary community. His joint appointment in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering is a personal embodiment of the collaborations we hoped for when we conceived and built the Ford Environmental Sciences and Technology Building. I am proud to be associated with him."

Webster is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the Royal Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union. The AMS promotes the development and dissemination of information and education on the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences. Founded in 1919, AMS has a membership of more than 11,000 professionals, professors, students and weather enthusiasts.

For more information...

Peter Webster
www.eas.gatech.edu/people/webster.html

Monsoon Forecasting
gtresearchnews.gatech.edu/newsrelease/forecasts.htm

Panel, cont'd from page 1

Catherine Ross of the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development; and Jorge Vanegas of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Stephen Cross, director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute, will head the panel on information systems and technology. Joining the panel will be Nikil Jayant from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Seymour Goodman from the College of Computing and Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, and Janet Murray of the School of Literature, Communication and Culture.

Those wishing to attend are encouraged to register by calling Andrea McLane in Institute Communications and Public Affairs at 894-2452.

For more information...

Technology Square
www.techsquare.gatech.edu

IN BRIEF:

In remembrance

Jerry Wilson listened to people's concerns and dreams. When he lost his battle with cancer Oct. 1 at the age of 61, he left behind a community of middle Georgia small businesses that might never have gotten started had he not been there to listen, encourage and build.

As associate director of Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), Wilson managed the Middle Georgia Technology Development Center, ATDC's incubator in Warner Robins. In the early 1990s, he gathered community support for it, building the facility and program from little more than an idea and a vacant field to a bustling complex that houses companies in all stages of development.

"Jerry just kept driving forward and didn't let anybody discourage him," recalled Mike Cassidy, now president of the Georgia Research Alliance, who was general manager of ATDC when the Warner Robins facility was hatched. "He had a solution for any problem that came up. Jerry could always find a positive way to make things work."

Wayne Hodges, director of the ATDC, said, "The Warner Robins ATDC is a model for what communities can do to grow new businesses. Jerry's success laid the foundation for new ATDC incubators in Savannah and Columbus."

A graduate of Warner Robins High School, Wilson received a degree in industrial engineering from Georgia Tech in 1966. He is survived by wife Faye M. Wilson; two daughters, Tamara W. Moody of Perry and Jerri Lyn Miller of Duluth; a son, Jeremy Wilson of Chicago; brothers Durward "Will" Wilson of Fort Worth, Texas and Mark "Bo" Wilson of San Antonio, Texas; and seven grandchildren.

MBA program ranked

The 2003 Forbes Magazine survey of top U.S. MBA programs ranked the DuPree College of Management ninth among public universities and 29th overall out of 67 programs. Forbes' survey differs from other business school rankings by measuring graduates' return on investment in dollars and cents, taking into consideration tuition and five-year gain in salary.

"We are pleased to see an increase in our Forbes rankings this year, but it is just one of many measures," said Terry Blum, dean of the College. "Our MBA program provides our students with a great value as the Forbes survey indicates, and we continue to focus on our mission of preparing business leaders for changing technological environments."

In Forbes' 2001 survey, DuPree ranked 53rd among U.S. schools.

New Web site a resource for health information

University System of Georgia employees now have a new Internet-based resource for health and wellness information, self-assessment tools and links to a variety of health-care topics and organizations.

Available to all employees, this tool can help users with referrals to behavioral health-service providers and questions about benefits.

A link to MagellanAssist may be found at www.usg.edu/admin/humres/benefits listed under PPO Resources. To log in, type in 800-631-9943 when prompted and click on "Georgia Board of Regents."

Technology Square

Grand opening schedule of public events:

Thursday, Oct. 23
2:15 p.m. — panel discussions featuring Tech faculty on technology and the global economy.

Friday, Oct. 24
11 a.m. — ribbon cutting with President Wayne Clough and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin.

11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. — a block party celebration on Fifth Street with food, music and entertainers.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Arts & Culture

Oct. 24

The Ferst Center for the Arts presents The Wayfaring Strangers, a hybrid of bluegrass, folk, jazz and Celtic, at 8 p.m. Tech faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9600 or refer to www.ferstcenter.org.

Oct. 25

The Ferst Center for the Arts presents international jazz artist Keiko Matsui at 8 p.m. Tech faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9600 or refer to www.ferstcenter.org.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures

Oct. 24

Ivan Allen College's Semiar in Science and Technology Studies continues with Public Policy Professor Hugh Gusterson on "The Mysterious Power of Polygraphs," at 4 p.m. in the Wesley Center for New Media, room 002, Skiles Building.

Oct. 24

The School of Mechanical Engineering's Woodruff Colloquium Series welcomes Mickey Wade of General Atomics on "Recent D111-D Research Results Aimed at Advancing the Tokamak Concept," at 11 a.m. in room 4211 of MDRC. For more information, call 894-3714.

Oct. 28

The Sam Nunn Security Program sponsors an event featuring Chip White, professor of transportation and logistics in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, on "The Challege of Securing National Borders from International Terrorism," at noon in room 114, MARC.

Oct. 28

The School of Materials Science and Engineering's Institute-wide Seminar Series welcomes Guokui Liu, a researcher at Argonne National Laboratory, on "The Nano-Effects on Photodynamics Induced by Confined Electron-Photon Interactions," at 3 p.m. in room 185 of the Love Building. For information, e-mail z.l.wang@mse.gatech.edu.

Oct. 28

The School of Mechanical Engineering's Woodruff Colloquia Series welcomes Thomas Skalak, professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Virginia, on "Vascular Assembly and Arteriolar Remodeling: In Vivo and in Silico Approaches for Analysis and Design of Multisignal, Multicomponent Assembly Processes in Vascular Systems," at 11 a.m. in the MaRC Auditorium. For information, call 894-3269.

Oct. 29

The DuPree College of Management's IMPACT Speaker Series welcomes Leland Strange, chairman and CEO of Intelligent Systems, at 4:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium.

Nov. 4

The Architecture Program's fall lecture series welcomes architectural critic Ulf Meyer at 5:30 p.m. in the College of Architecture Auditorium.

Faculty/Staff Development

Nov. 20

The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's Faculty Development Seminar Series continues with "Demystifying Ethics Education," presented by Robert Kirkman, assistant professor in the School of Public Policy, at 11 a.m. in the Library's Homer Rice Center. Lunch will be provided to those who register by calling 894-9418.

Miscellaneous

Oct. 29

The Office of Human Resources will hold its annual benefits fair from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. See article, p. 2.

Nov. 4

Fidelity Investments will hold individual retirement consultations from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 800-642-7131.

Faculty and staff should send calendar events to: editor@icpa.gatech.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

APPLIANCES

European copper fondue set. New and in box. \$70. Pictures available. E-mail sonia.gutkin@chbe.gatech.edu or call 894-8474.

AUTOMOBILES

1965 Ford Mustang coupe. Dark blue, 289 engine, 3-speed transmission, very good condition, \$5,895. Call Charles at 404-449-6106.

1992 Jeep Cherokee. 4.0L, 5-speed, 4 WD, 140K miles, AM/FM/cassette, a/c, cruise, 5-door. Asking \$3,500. Call 404-663-6950.

1993 Toyota 4-Runner. Black, V6, 4WD, 5-speed, 128K miles, good condition, brand new tires, power windows, locks & steering, sunroof, CD, alloy wheels, tinted windows, \$6,000. Call 678-462-1656 or e-mail pnewcomb@bellsouth.net.

1994 Chevrolet Cavalier. White 4-door sedan, 99K miles, original owner, \$1,400. Call 894-3476 or e-mail mercedes.saghini@arch.gatech.edu.

1994 green Ford Explorer XLT. 4-wheel drive, 4-door, 126K miles. 6-cylinder, manual. Power window/locks. Roof rack. Cruise. Excellent condition. \$4,900 OBO. Call 894-4038 or e-mail james.powers@chemistry.gatech.edu.

1997 Audi A4 2.8 Quattro V6, 5-speed, 4-door sedan. Excellent condition, 109K miles, All options. Very nice car, pictures available. \$11,000

OBO. Contact James at jg140@prism.gatech.edu.

Wanted: Ford Bronco, full-size Chevy Blazer, International Scout, or full-size pick-up truck. Call Daniel at 770-565-3242 or e-mail dhoff86@att.net.

COMPUTERS

Dell Inspiron 2650. Pentium 4, 1.6GHz, 256MB RAM, 20GB hard drive, WinXP, Office XP, 2 batteries, DVD, internal ethernet, leather case, \$1,100. DLink wireless PCMCIA card, \$40. E-mail dari.molavi@gttri.gatech.edu or call 894-4332.

FURNITURE

Simple styling ocean blue sofa w/box seat fabric removable cushions and internal seat coil springs. Includes three coordinated accent pillows. \$350 OBO. Pictures available. E-mail sonia.gutkin@chbe.gatech.edu or call 894-8474.

King-size waterbed w/mattress, liner, mattress pad, golden oak finish headboard and four-drawer pedestal. Can deliver to campus. E-mail lee.brame@housing.gatech.edu or call 894-1033.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

Professional male seeks roommate for 2BR/1BA house, walk to downtown East Point & MARTA. \$400/month, incl. utilities. Call Brian Burnett, 678-637-6887.

Roommate wanted to share furnished 3BR house in Jonesboro. \$125 per

week or \$475 per month, all utilities included. No smokers. Call Bob, 678-698-9464.

Visiting scholar from New Zealand looking for a (preferably furnished) room or small apartment for 3 months starting in November. Non-smoker. Maximum rent, \$500/month. E-mail fried.augenbroe@arch.gatech.edu or call 894-1686.

Eastlake Commons townhouse for rent, 4BR/4BA, modern kitchen, w/d, gated housing community, organic gardens, master suite, 10 min. from Tech, \$1,600 month + utilities. Call 404-876-3845.

Fully furnished house for rent in Decatur. 2BR/1.5BA, screened porch, large yard, carport & storage building. Perfect for visiting faculty. Available January. \$1,400/month. E-mail tahmingar@cs.com or call 404-303-0759.

Roommate wanted. Professional female seeks roommate in 2BD/1BA house near Howell Mill and DeFoors Ferry. \$400/month and one-half utilities. Call Kristi, 678-485-1614.

1BR apartment for rent in Midtown, ten minutes from GT campus. Extraordinary space, cathedral ceiling, w/d, non-smoker. \$900/month + utilities. E-mail jane.stoner@alumni.gatech.edu.

2BR/2.5BA townhouse for rent in College Park. Fenced back yard, fridge/microwave in house; washer/dryer hook-up; no pets or smokers. Available now for \$800/month. Contact Kim at 385-2932.

SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION

2 Sea-Doos for sale. Both 2-seaters, excellent condition, custom covers, garage kept. New ComFab double trailer, low mileage, mounted utility box with locks. \$4,500. E-mail mandy.huff@dlpe.gatech.edu or call 404-374-5847.

MISCELLANEOUS

Kittens ready for adoption. Two males, two females. Pictures available. Call 894-3312 or e-mail mona.meddin@omed.gatech.edu.

Futon mattress, 10 inches thick, dense foam core sandwiched between cotton layers. 2 years old, in excellent condition. Asking \$80 OBO, original price \$210. Call 404-210-3515.

Editor's Note: Only active members of the faculty and staff may submit classified ads, which will run for a maximum of three weeks in the order in which they are received. The Whistle reserves the right to edit ads longer than 30 words.