

Easy being green

Tommy Little, manager of Building Services in Facilities, received the

Environmental Leadership Award at Tech's 2008 Earth Day celebra-

tion last week. His Green Cleaning program has been recognized

nationally by the U.S. Green Cleaning Council and the Association

for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Educaton.

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

Volume 33, Number 17 • April 28, 2008

Graduate programs a first between the U.S. and Italy

eorgia Tech is partnering with two leading Italian universities, the Politecnico di Torino and the University of Trento, to offer dual master's degrees in electrical and computer engi-

neering and computer science. The new degrees, which will begin in the fall of 2008, represent the first dual graduate programs in these disciplines between American and Italian universities.

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering is partnering with the School of Information Technologies at the Politecnico di Torino located in Torino, Italy. The electrical and computer engineering program requires four semesters of course work-two

semesters at Tech and two at the Politecnico di Torino. All Tech courses will be taught in English, while lectures and labs at the Politecnico di Torino will be available in both English and Italian.

"Georgia Tech has long worked with key industry partners in Italy," said Gary S. May, professor and Steve W. Chaddick School Chair in Electrical and

Italy, continued, page 3

Class takes issues, students out of the classroom

Robert Nesmith Communications & Marketing

t Tech, complicated topicsequations, design chal-Lenges, policy issues—are presented to students who then present their solutions. Sometimes these topics are less abstract, and more focused on reality.

Very real examples of utilizing applied solutions exist in the communities surrounding the Institute, brought to the fore in part by the Office of Institute Partnerships.

we are a revolving door—we bring faculty, staff and students into the local communities and into the (local) schools to help areas undergoing renewal and redevelopment, and we bring community leaders, children and others onto our campus," said Institute Partnerships Director Andrea Ashmore. "We try to be good neighbors and help Georgia Tech to exhibit civic

responsibility," she said. One example of this outreach is Tech's working with Centennial Place Elementary School. The school is currently managing a new technology rollout. "It's supposed to be the Math, Science and Technology themed school, but they were working with 1998 computers and software," Ashmore said. A student group-Minorities at the College of Computing (M@CC) — is assisting with the technology update by recommending types of furniture, helping to

design the new iMac lab, and integrating the new technology. This project is one of more than 30 outreach initiatives that Institute Partnerships has encouraged Tech to sponsor at Centennial Place Elementary.

During the spring semester, Ashmore has worked with Honors Program Director and HTS Professor Greg Nobles to tackle another border community. During the "Semester in the City: Engaging English Avenue" class, students learned about the history of and the challenges facing the community due west of campus.

community." The area, class materials explain, experienced -Andrea Ashmore white flight" in the Director, Institute 1940s. In the 1970s the Partnerships area became 99 percent African American, and many of the more economically successful moved to the suburbs. The area was then left with numerous rental properties and a significant transient population.

English, continued, page 2

Finalists named in vice provost for DLPE search

he Office of the Provost has announced two finalists for vice provost for Distance Learning and Professional Education (DLPE). The candidates are Civil and Environmental Engineering Associate Professor Nelson C. Baker and Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor Monson "Monty" H. Haves III.

DLPE is a 126-employee organization that enables Tech faculty members to deliver both non-credit and for-credit education programs globally. In fiscal year 2007, DLPE provided more than 1,000 courses and grossed \$24 million in revenue. Its four service areas are distance-delivered education, professional master's and non-credit professional/executive education, English as a second language education and meeting room rentals in the Georgia Tech Global Learning Center.

Main responsibilities of the vice provost include strategic, fiscal and administrative leadership of DLPE; collaboration with Institute administrators, faculty and staff to better enable dissemination of knowledge to students; and working globally with industry, government and academics to provide global outreach educational programs. Within these responsibilities, the vice provost will oversee DLPE's growing educational offerings, ensuring consistency with Tech's academic excellence and innovative approaches, as well as nurture existing and establish new relationships both on-campus and around the world, to help position the Institute as the "preferred provider" of internationally sought-after educational programs in the public and private sectors.

"I'm grateful for the leadership of Jane Ammons as chair of the search committee," said Gary Schuster, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "They conducted a thorough and thoughtful process and have produced two outstanding candidate

Baker, currently associate vice provost for DLPE, is primarily responsible for the oversight of all professional education programs offered by the Institute and for the distance-delivered master's degree programs. He received his doctoral and master's degrees from Carnegie Mellon, in 1989 and 1985,

DLPE, continued, page 3



in the

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"QUOTE-UNQUOTE"

"We have a Hollywood picture that they're going to run amok, kill people and do bad things. This Bum Bot plays on that stereotype. For the rest of us who want to use technology to assist people in their daily lives, it's an obstacle."

-Henrik Christensen, director of Tech's Robotics and Intelligent Machines Center, referring to a security robotcomplete with a spotlight, infrared camera and a water cannon-deployed by an Atlanta pub owner to keep people from loitering on his property. (Washington Post)



WHISTLE

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Communications & Marketing Wardlaw Center 177 North Avenue Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

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

English, cont'd from page 1

"According to city of Atlanta statistics, English Avenue has been the No. 1 site for heroin distribution, the No. 1 site for AIDS/HIV, the No. 2 site for tuberculosis and the No. 1 site for illegal firearm usage and distribution," said Ashmore, who has worked in the community for seven years prior to the class.

The majority of the 20 Honors class members are from Georgia, with roughly half from the metro-Atlanta area and middle Georgia. Ashmore says it has been an enlightening experience for the students.

"Students have stated, 'I had no idea what was on the other side of Northside Drive,'" she said. "It has been rewarding to open their eyes, and hopefully their projects will help the community."

Several guest speakers have visited the class, including Mayor Shirley Franklin, Fulton County Commission Chair John Eaves, Atlanta Housing Authority COO Joy Wilkins, City Councilman Ivory Young, Atlanta Public School Board Representative Khaatim El and Tech alumna Renay Blumenthal, with the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

But information provided to the students does not just stay in the classroom-the students' papers and journals will be given to the mayor and other officials after the end of the semester. In addition, students will complete group projects that detail their ideas for revitalizing and helping English Avenue. The three projects include an informative Web site on area resources for the neighborhood association, the building of a KaBOOM playground (possibly at Bethune Elementary School) and a partnership with the Bellwood Boys and Girls Club for Saturday enrichment classes for Bethune and Kennedy Middle School students that teaches video production, culinary arts, computer construction and repair and provides field trips to Atlanta attractions.

Ashmore became aware of Nobles' class structure after auditing one of Nobles' Semester in the City courses years ago. When Student Government Association President Anu Parvatiyar requested Nobles resurrect the series, Ashmore says she was asked to teach.

"(After) seeing the students' faces and watching the 'a-ha!' moment, and also seeing the effect we have had on the community, it's been so worthwhile establishing Tech as a major partner in the community," she said. While she wants to continue with the class, Ashmore says her "day job" will only allow her to head up one class per year.

This is not the Institute's first time working with the neighborhood, however. All told, Institute Partnerships has assisted for seven years in English Avenue, from food drives and clothing drives to job fairs, administrative assistance and grant writing.

"Greg Nobles and I believe that the three group projects will be accepted and hopefully adopted by the community," said Ashmore, who credits her mother with instilling a drive for community outreach and service. "I am so



Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and Fulton County Commission Chair John Eaves speak about the challenges of and solutions for English Avenue during Semester in the City class, by Honors Program Director Greg Nobles (back).

appreciative of the students for their understanding of the community and their ability to reflect and create projects from their heads as well as their hearts." She wanted to establish a program where students can continue the work after the class has ended, and says she plans to teach the class every spring semester.

In 2004, Ashmore met with English Avenue community leaders, learning that employment was a serious challenge for the community's residents, with many being unemployed or underemployed. With several corporate partners, Tech helped create job fairs specifically for the English Avenue residents. "We partnered the clothing drive with employment initiatives," Ashmore said, explaining that professional attire was solicited for the clothing drive. In 2005, Tech helped to sponsor a job fair for 200 people and 35 companies; the next year, 300 people turned out, meeting with 25 companies, and 13 residents were hired on the spot.

She has spent time in the communities that are contiguous to campus by helping leaders and non-profits to organize efforts, by participating in the local school councils, serving on foundation boards for schools, and for five years she was secretary of the English Avenue Neighborhood Association. "In the first few neighborhood meetings I attended, we couldn't vote on projects or make any progress because not enough people were present," she said. Subsequent meetings jumped from seven or eight attendees to more than 40 as a result of a Public Safety Forum in 2005 that she helped to plan for English Avenue.

Consequently, other departments at Tech also have become involved. Sarah Brackmann, assistant director of Student Involvement for Community Service, co-authored a grant with Ashmore to hire three Americorps Vista employees that will be dedicated to assisting outreach efforts in English Avenue. In addition, City and Regional Planning Assistant Professor Harley Etienne instructed a course in which students presented a redevelopment plan for a plot of land in the area.

Ashmore would like to explore other areas in the future, including studying health services in the neighborhood, a subject she says has not been discussed yet.

"Based on the students' papers, journals and final projects, they obviously gained insight into the political structure of Atlanta from 1900 forward, and the reasons why English Avenue slid into disrepair," she said. "The thoughtfulness, as well as creativity, in their processing of ideas that led to their final group projects proved that they understood community history, service learning and outreach."

But more than this, Ashmore says she sees classes like these leading to more sustained outreach by the Institute, adding that Nobles, Brackmann and Success Programs Director Steven Girardot are working to expand the number of servicelearning classes on campus.

Institute Partnerships is currently working with Home Depot in the six local partnering schools, the corresponding PTAs and four neighborhood associations to provide information about water-saving tips, rebates on low-flow toilets and a gift card for a \$10 conservation packet. Ashmore created the Centennial Place Community Stakeholders group seven years ago, which is made up of more than 15 local businesses and nonprofits, in order to assist the community in building capacity and better communicate issues and concerns. Currently the Stakeholders are concentrating on raising awareness of safety issues and encouraging the Atlanta Police Department to resume bike patrols of the area. "When I take on a project, I believe in being as comprehensive as possible," she said.

"There are so many ways faculty can direct their students to work in the community," Ashmore said. "You don't just live on your property, you live in a community. By improving the area and the schools around Tech, we make it easier to attract quality faculty members and graduate students."

For more information...
Institute Partnerships
www.copp.gatech.edu
Honors Program
www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu
History, Technology and Society
www.hts.gatech.edu

W W W . W H I S T L E . G A T E C H . E D U

DLPE, cont'd from page 1

respectively, and earned his bachelor's in civil engineering from Tech in 1980.

His research interests center around intelligent learning environments for engineering, the application of artificial intelligence and other computerbased techniques for problemsolving and finding robotic applications to civil engineering, as well as the study of design processes. In working with students, Baker's activities have included the creation of multilingual, Web-based intelligent simulations for problem solving, intelligent tutors, student models, virtual reality interfaces for education and medical assistants for physicians.

Some of Baker's honors include Outstanding Faculty Member Award from the Tech student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers both in 1989–90 and 1993–94, the

Italy, cont'd from page 1

Computer Engineering. "This new affiliation will afford students the opportunity to experience competitive and complementary approaches to engineering solutions in a cross-cultural environment."

"The dual master's degree program brings together the resources of top-ranked research uni-

versities," said Franceso Profumo, rector of the Politecnico di Torino. "What better way for students to prepare to make important contributions in the world marketplace than to take advantage of the stellar engineering and computing programs that both of these institutions have to offer."

The Politecnico is in the process of developing a new industrial complex, the Cittadella Politecnica, that will eventually house research and development centers for a number of private companies such as General Motors and Microsoft. In addition, the university has partner-

ships with a range of internationally renowned research institutes and technology transfer centers.

The Politecnico is rated one of the top 10 European technical universities by the highly regarded Academic Ranking of World Universities, compiled by Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education. The Politecnico is a member of the Consortium Linking Universities of Science and Technology for Education and Research (CLUSTER). Tech is the only U.S. institution that is an honorary member of CLUSTER.

A dual graduate degree is also available through a partnership with the School of Computer Science and the School of Informatics at the University of Trento, located in Trento, Italy. The program requires the same four-semester program divided between Tech and the University of Trento, and will emphasize the development of computing and networking applications.

"The College of Computing has had an ongoing relationship with the University of Trento and the Trentino region of Italy for the last three years," said Richard A. DeMillo, distinguished professor and John P. Imlay Jr. Dean of the College of Computing. "We are providing these students the chance to experience firsthand the new opportunities that come with globalizing education."

The University of Trento is considered among the top universities in Italy and ranked first in

NSF Young Investigator award from 1992–98, the ASCE Journal of Computing Best Paper in 1990, and Tech's Outstanding Innovative Use of Education Technology Award for 1997.

Hayes has been associate chair for ECE Programs at Georgia Tech–Savannah since 2004. He joined the faculty in 1981 after receiving his master's and doctorate in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1978 and 1981). He received his bachelor's in physics in 1971, and worked as a systems engineer in infrared imaging systems with Aerojet Electro Systems until 1974.

His research interests include digital signal processing, image and video processing, face recognition, adaptive signal processing and engineering education. He is internationally recognized for his contributions to several of these subjects, is the author of two textbooks and has published

Hayes' distinctions include being named an IEEE Fellow (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) in 1992 and receiving the Institute's ECE Excellence in Continuing Education Award (2002), Tech's **Outstanding Professional** Education Award (2003) and the IEEE Senior Award for paper of exceptional merit. He is the chairman of the IEEE Digital Signal Processing Committee and is associate editor for both IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing and IEEE

more than 150 papers.

Transactions on Education. Professor William Wepfer, former vice provost for DLPE, was named Eugene C. Gwaltney Jr. Chair of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering in January.

For more information...

Distance Learning and Professional Education www.dlpe.gatech.edu

many scientific areas by CENSIS, a social study and research institute. Trento is an autonomous province of Italy and invests heavily in research and education, as evidenced by the Microsoft Research lab for Bio-Informatics, which is partially funded by the region.

"In collaboration with our colleagues in Electrical and Computer Engineering, we have developed a significant relationship with the

University of Trento and the Politecnico di Torino that we antici-"Students can pate expanding to other top-rated obtain two degrees universities in Italy including the in considerably less Politecnico di Milano," said Michael time than pursuing McCracken, program director for them individually, as the dual degrees in Computer Science and assistant dean of the well as jumpstart their career in the global market."

—**Anthony Yezzi** ECE associate professor and program director of the new dual degrees

College of Computing.
 "Not only will students have the opportunity to complete two graduate degrees in two years, but they will also have the possibility of obtaining an internship with a multi-national firm in Italy as well

as scholarship support," said

Anthony Yezzi, program director for the new dual degrees. "Students can obtain two degrees in considerably less time than pursuing them individually, as well as jumpstart their career in the global market."

Students must be admitted to Tech prior to enrolling in either program. The deadline for fall applications is May 1.

Angela Della Costanza Turner, executive advisor to the Office of International Education and president of the Italy-Atlanta Foundation, is a major proponent of the new degree programs. "We hope to encourage the Italian business communities in both Italy and the United States to sponsor scholarships," she noted. "The program has huge potential and will help educate our next generation of computer scientists and computer engineers."

There are a limited number of \$12,000 scholarships available through the Actions for Transatlantic Links and Academic Networks for Training and Integrated Studies (ATLANTIS) program. Both Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science are participating in ATLANTIS.

For more information...

College of Computing www.cc.gatech.edu Electrical and Computer Engineering www.ece.gatech.edu

IN BRIEF:

Abowd named HSI interim director

College of Engineering Dean Don Giddens announced that College of Computing Professor Gregory Abowd will be the interim director of the Health Systems Institute (HSI).

Abowd, Distinguished Professor of Interactive Computing, will oversee HSI as a committee headed by Giddens leads an international search for a new director. He has served as associate director since August 2006.

HSI is a joint research effort that includes Tech, Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. For more information, visit **www.hsi.gatech.edu**.

Rocket mystery explained with imaging technique

Megan McRainey Communications & Marketing

A strange wave phenomenon has plagued rocket scientists for years; a lurking threat with the power to destroy an engine at almost any time. Scientists have had a limited understanding of the problem because they could not replicate or investigate it under controlled laboratory conditions.

Generally, it is believed that these powerful and unstable sound waves, created by energy from the combustion process, were the cause of rocket failures in several U.S. and Russian rockets. Scientists also have observed these mysterious oscillations in other propulsion and power-generating systems such as missiles and gas turbines.

Now, Tech researchers have developed a liquid rocket engine simulator and imaging techniques that can help demystify the cause of these explosive sound waves and bring scientists a little closer to being able to understand and prevent them. The research team was able to clearly demonstrate that the phenomenon manifests itself in the form of spinning acoustic waves that gain destructive power as they rotate around the rocket's combustion chamber.

"This is a very troublesome phenomenon in rockets," said Ben Zinn, the David S. Lewis Jr. Chair and Regents' Professor in the Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, "These spinning acoustic oscillations destroy engines without anyone fully understanding how these waves are formed. Visualizing this phenomenon brings us a step closer to understanding it."

During past investigations into this damaging instability, scientists were able to observe initial stages of the problem, but were forced to shut down engines before the waves could fully develop and cause serious damage to the engine. But with a great deal of help from

Oleksandr Bibik, a visiting physicist and research scientist from Ukraine, the Tech team developed an experimental setup and imaging technique that provides detailed information on how these waves form and behave—without destroying a working engine or endangering lives.

The research was presented at the 2008 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Aerospace Sciences Meeting in Reno and funded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

"Better understanding this phenomenon could very likely lead to safer tactical and space missions and save billions of dollars for technologies that use combustors," Zinn said.



Arts & Culture

May 2–4 The Atlanta Lyric Theatre presents the Tony Award-winning musical comedy "Anything Goes," at 8 p.m. in the Ferst Center for the Arts. For more information, visit www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu.

Ongoing

The School of History, Technology and Society presents the Robert C. Williams Paper Museum exhibit "How Do They Spend It?" from April 23 to Sept. 2. Formed by Professor Gus Giebelhaus and students from HTS 4001, the exhibit examines money and images on money from 10 countries. For more information, visit www.ipst.gatech.edu.

Conferences & Lectures

April 29

School of Chemistry and Biochemistry research scientist Kyril Solntsev presents "Excited-state Proton Transfer: From 'Super' Photoacids to the Green, Fluorescent Protein," from 3 to 4 p.m. in room G011 of the Molecular Science & Engineering building. For more information, visit www.chemistry.gatech.edu.

April 30

The School of Literature, Communication and Culture presents its Digital Media Day, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Skiles classroom building. For more information, visit www.lcc.gatech.edu.

May 1

Rutgers University Professor Jeehiun Lee presents "Damaged DNA: Gas Versus Solution Phase Reactivity and Biological Implications," at 3 p.m. in room G011 in the Molecular Science & Engineering building. For more information, visit www.chemistry.gatech.edu.

May 5

Vanderbilt University Professor Sandra Rosenthal presents "Structure Property Relationships in Functional Quantum Dots; From Biological Imaging to Solid State Lighting," at 8 p.m. in room G011 of the Molecular Science & Engineering building. The seminar is part of the Atlanta Area Chemical Physics seminar series. For more

information, visit www.chemistry.gatech.edu.

May 6

The Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems presents the Georgia Climate Summit, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Ferst Center for the Arts. For information, visit http://climatesummit.gatech.edu.

May 7

The College of Management will play host to a town hall meeting on space exploration, presented by the Planetary Society and Tech's Center for Space Systems. Bill Nye "The Science Guy" will host the meeting, held at 7 p.m. in the college's LeCraw Auditorium. For more information, visit www.mgt.gatech.edu.

May 13

Michael Fonseca of CardioMEMS presents "Development of Implantable Wireless Pressure Sensors for Chronic Disease Management," part off the Nano@Tech lecture series, from noon to 1 p.m. in room 102A of the Microelectronics Research Center. For more information, visit www.mirc.gatech.edu.

May 15

The Advanced Technology Development Center presents the 2008 Entrepreneur's Showcase, which attracts leading entrepreneurs, investors and business authorities, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Biltmore Hotel. For more information, visit www.atdc.org

Faculty/Staff Development

Ongoing

The Office of Organizational Development offers a Web-based tutorial on the basics of using a state purchasing card (P-card). To register, visit www.trainsweb.gatech.edu.

The Office of Organizational Development offers an Emergency Preparedness Certificate, which consists of several smaller courses, including "Fire Safety," "Facilities Hazard Training" and "Basic First Aid/Adult CPR/AED." For more information on scheduling, visit www.orgdev.gatech.edu.

The "Defining Customer Service" certificate program provides campus groups and employees with

the foundation for offering exemplary service to those both on and off campus. Four required courses and two electives are offered. For more information, visit www.training.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous

Ongoing

Online registration for 2008-2009 parking permits begins April 15 and continues through June 30. To register, visit www.applyparking.gatech.edu. For more information, visit www.parking,gatech.edu.

May 4

Pianos used during the academic year by the Tech Music Department will be on sale from noon to 5 p.m. in the Couch Building. Most are less than a vear old, and have been loaned to the Institute at no cost by Pianos for Education. For more information, visit www.coa.gatech.edu/music.

May 12

Journalist Cokie Roberts will read from and sign copies of her newest book, "Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped our Nation," from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Georgia Tech Bookstore. For more information, visit www.gatech.bncollege.com.

May 13

The Silver Jackets, Tech's faculty and staff retirees organization, meets at 11 a.m. in room 343 of the Student Center. Scheduled guest speakers are Howard Wertheimer, director of Capital Planning and Space Management, and Jody Lloyd Thompson, department head of the Library Archives and Records Management Department.

May 16 GTMAG (Georgia Tech Military Affinity Group) presents a panel session with several Medal of Honor recipients, from 8 to 10 a.m. in the Wardlaw Center, in recognition of Armed Forces Day (May 17). For more information, visit www.gtmag.org.

May 22 A faculty and staff farewell reception will be held for President G. Wayne and Anne Clough from 2 to 5 p.m. in the ballrooom of the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center in Technology Square.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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