

FOCUS

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Ramblin' in Omaha

Yellow Jackets Baseball team wins the Super Regional against Georgia to go onto the College World Series. Jackets face South Carolina on Friday. Page 16

Atlanta Film Fest

The festival boasted the largest attendance for an independent film festival in the southeast. Among the films shown was the acclaimed film *Cherish*. Page 9

It's the economy...again

Many Tech graduates forced to seek out other alternatives to jobs

By Sloane Dean
Contributing Writer

Over the past year, the nation has felt the pain of the current recession. The state of Georgia and Georgia Tech itself are no exception. Georgia ranked fourth in job losses during the recession behind New York, Illinois and Florida. Since April of 2001, Georgia has lost 125,000 jobs with 80,000 of those being in Metro Atlanta. According to the State Labor Department, Georgia's unemployment is currently at 4.2 percent.

The recession is a reflection of poor corporate profitability. "Business sales are just not vigorous enough to improve prof-

its without major cost cutting measures," said Georgia Tech Economic Professor Thomas D. Boston.

So, how is the market outlook for the rest of the year? "Over the next six months the job market will not improve very much. The economy is projected to grow at only about 2.4 percent annually, and that is too slow to accommodate the growth of the labor market. We can continue to see job losses but at a much slower rate. Economic growth will be very anemic," said Boston.

"I've never seen the job economy in such a state. It's impossible for me to wrangle a job anywhere, at restaurants, at the mall, at random retail stores" said Angel Santos, a CS major.

There is a current national recovery, but it is more like a "growth recession" than a real expansion. Mx

companies and employers are not investing in the workforce. Large companies like Bellsouth, who just announced 5,000 new layoffs by the end of June 2002, are still downsizing and consolidating.

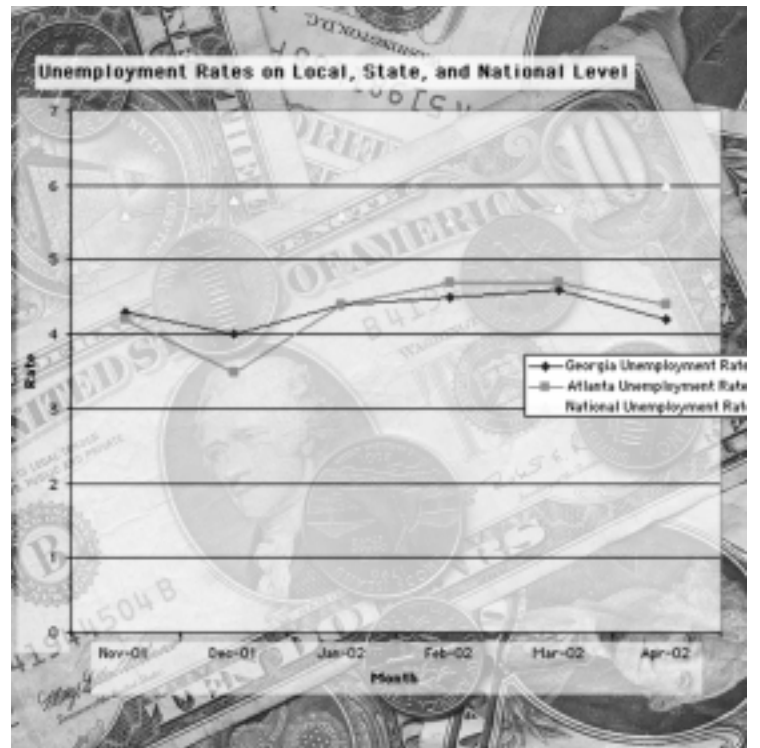
The current layoffs by large corporations can be attributed to the fact that corporate profits have not recovered yet. "Hence, large corporations are looking for ways to improve the bottom line in the absence of increasing sales. Look for this to continue until the corporate profit picture improves," said Boston.

As for the state, "Georgia is not going to be leading the recovery," said Georgia State University economist Rajeev Dhawan. Instead it will benefit from the nation's recovery.

How about Tech in all this? "We have seen a dramatic downturn over the past year in the volume of on-campus recruiting, and I think the outlook for this fall is more of the same," said Ralph Mobley, the director of GT Career Services.

"Even though many of the economic indicators have been relatively positive, hiring is a trailing indicator and employers, especially if they have experienced recent layoffs, are reluctant to add staff even as business picks up."

Tech graduates from this past spring are having a much harder time than those



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The graph shows the changes in unemployment rates from November 2001 to April 2002. The national unemployment rate is greater than the rates for Georgia. Atlanta's rate is higher than the state average.

who graduated a year ago. From spring 2002, the average annual salary reported by graduating students was \$45,039 with a signing bonus of \$4,282. Students reported receiving an average of 1.13 job offers. This compares to a year ago (spring 2001), when the average B.S. salary was \$49,356 with a signing bonus of \$5,452. The average number of job offers for the 2001 class was 2.01.

"Bottom line, salaries and bonuses are down from a year ago," said Mobley. As for the upcoming year, Career Services are hopeful that next spring will bring some turn around in recruiting activity.

Boston urges Tech students and upcoming graduates not be depressed about the job market. "Understand that these down cycles are normal and what we experienced in the 90's was abnormal. Now is a good time

to think about pursuing graduate studies if the option is available. It might even make sense to postpone graduation and take those additional courses that will make you more attractive in the future. If you can do this for a semester the market might be better by then. Weight the trade-off. It might be better to enter the job market a bit later and get a good job as opposed to entering it now and having to accept a marginal job. Sometimes its more difficult to recover from marginal jobs."

Most economists agree that 12 months from now, we can expect to see more robust growth, roughly 3.5 percent to 4 percent, thus greatly improving the employment picture for both the state and Georgia Tech.

For information on career planning, visit www.career.gatech.edu.

Finding the inner architect

By Jay Owen
Contributing Writer

When you walk into room 285 of the New Architecture building, you'll notice that charcoal drawings of hands cover the walls. The process of drawing these hands serves to teach students about space and light, which, according to Professor Charles Rudolph, are "... so basic that [they] can be taken for granted."

Professor Rudolph is the creator and director of the Architecture department's Career Discovery Program, a three-week course on the basics of architecture that is open to any and all comers. The program originated six years ago with seven students, and has grown every year since then, with 36 students, mostly high school juniors and seniors, this year. Professor Rudolph said of the program, "We try to give them

a studio experience."

The students spend their time here at Tech in an attempt to determine if architecture is a career path they might choose. They may spend part of the day in lectures, but a majority of the day is spent actually drawing and modeling. The focus

is on letting the students get involved and try out the basic work that architects perform, not on complicating details. "Architecture in high school is so technical," Rudolph said, "this is fundamental."

Carol Whitescarver, the Director of

Continuing Education for the Architecture department, said, "The growth of the program is an expression of its success." The Career Discovery program does very little advertising outside of making local

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By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Professor Charles Rudolph, the director of the Architecture Summer Discovery Program, offers Martha Reynolds, college graduate, advise on her latest project. Rudolph created the program six years ago.

Tech Up Close

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

Winner of the Tech Up Close contest receives a *Technique* T-shirt

Last week's Tech Up Close: Spotlight shining on the shaft

Last week's winner: Fernando Rosario



Architect from page 7

high schools aware of its presence, meaning that the program has grown due to word of mouth.

While the students in the program are mostly from high school, there are also a few adults taking the course. For them it might be simple curiosity, or it might lead to a career change. "If I had a program like this in high school, I would have been an architect," said Whitescarver. When she was 34 she changed careers and went through an architecture program here at Tech. She has remained ever since.

While the primary intention of the Career Discovery program is to educate students about architecture, it also has the dual purpose of recruiting students to Tech. In the past six years, 10 students from the program have come to Tech. One has since graduated and enrolled in the Architecture departments graduate program.

The students are currently work-



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The High Museum of Art is an internationally known landmark in Atlanta. Richard Meier designed the building in 1983. The museum is in the middle of a 100 million dollar campaign to expand the museum from 125,000 sq. ft to 300,000 sq. ft. The campers will be visiting the High on one of their many field trips.

ing on a 3-D modeling project for which they must cut one piece of paper into 12 pieces, using only right angles, and create a structure from the papers. They are supposed to

create rooms and work on spacing and enclosures, although some students built first, then decided a use for their structure. Dallas Louis, a junior from Eagles Landing High

School in Jonesborough, GA, had to think for a moment before deciding that her structure was "maybe a funky dance club."

She was sitting next to Carter

Coleman, a senior from Douglas High School here in Atlanta, who "had always wanted to be an architect." He is attending a similar program at FAMU, and debated attending another six-week course at Syracuse University. These programs are among the many around the country, some of which provided the inspiration for Professor Rudolph and Tech's program.

Rudolph is pleased with the way the program has come, and what it has done for the students. He says, "I love teaching this course." He has an obvious passion for the subject and the students, saying that younger students "...make you work harder. They ask the difficult questions without shame!"

The students would agree with Professor Rudolph about working harder. They work for eight solid hours every day, often on their feet in a studio environment. However, they all seem pleased with the program. "It's a lot of fun" Carter Coleman said, "but challenging and tedious."

Sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

peas, please
Bob Barr and Cynthia McKinney, how many ways will they think of to say, "I'm an idiot"
Dick Cheney looks like death cooled over
I prefer to think of myself as an nretni.
I am the only one who gets a kick out of the sliver box comments I submit. And I like it that way.
Perhaps you should submit sliver boxes with mass appeal, since we designed the Sliver Box to appeal to the masses.
Operation Gold Member is in effect.
Castro and Carter will get the job done no matter what the faithless say.
My ceiling is leaking. Has been for two days and my floor is soaking wet. The apartment complex said to expect that. I'm not happy.
The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.
Hey, now. Hey. Now.
Hilton can kiss my ass
I sure hope the TAs are getting

paid a lot for all of the ass raping they're doing.
After all when I'm paying for good service, the hotel had damn well better give it to me.
Yo Kav, respond to my freakin' message, or we'll have to settle this in the boxing ring
Get a freakin life.
Vi rocks
Come back peeps! Summer is BORING!
At least I can still get my swole on....
Paul can lick my balls
Thank you for calling Papa John's, this is Paul, may I take your order?
I'm all abouts getting my learn on!
Anyone here ever been in a Turkish prison?
Swarmee signed up for a Catholic dating service. Bee afraid.
Wes Durham has a Hugh Jazz. We can all get beehind him.
I can't wait to see G.Wayne and Special Sauce this summer!!!
Vim is better.
Why didn't I go to uga?
Almost time for the annual faset scam.
Oooh he's so hot!!!
No Sleep Until World Cup Finals!!!
Paul: Uncool at any Age
In six years, Paul will be that guy in the BMW on his cell phone on 400 who you want to run over