

FASET undergoes improvements

By **Kate Comstock**
Contributing Writer

After being accepted to Tech feelings of excitement are often soon replaced by the shock in realizing that there is a copious amount of information that new students must be familiar with to be successful at Tech.

It is no wonder that any freshman can simply be overwhelmed by all the changes that they are experiencing and information that is being thrown at them.

Thankfully the FASET orientation program sponsored by the Office of Success Programs helps new students to tackle this surplus of informa-

tion.

The program provides some much-needed insight into the realities of Tech life for students and helps to make them feel at home before they even begin their first class.

FASET is a student-led orientation program that seeks to familiarize freshman with life at Tech.

The program was started in 1972 and stands for "Familiarization and Adaptation to the Surroundings and Environs of Tech."

At orientation students and their parents attend meetings from different departments on campus that are instrumental in being successful at Tech. The Financial Aid office, Of-

fice of the Registrar and Georgia Tech Police are some of the many departments that answer questions and provide information to incoming students and their guests.

FASET is also the first opportunity for incoming students to register and become familiar with the OSCAR system. The program exposes students to the many resources that are available to them including tutoring and academic advisors.

The FASET staff also works hard to make it an environment where other freshman can socialize and make new friends to help ease the transition from high school to college.

The first freshman FASET orientation begins on June 17 with its only program for summer freshman. This is the first series of eight FASET orientations that will take place during this summer.

Following the program next week there will be five fall freshman FASET orientations and two programs for fall transfer students. The orientation for summer transfer students already took place in early May.

While many aspects of the program remain the same from last year, "We've enhanced certain aspects based on feedback," said Erik Tack,

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Courtesy of Matt LeBrun

FASET cabinet interviews potential FASET leaders as well as plan the summer FASET program. Each cabinet member is in charge of a FASET leader team. Back row from left to right: Ashley Johnson, Hari Gopal, Michael Toney, Cazzie Ferreira, Matt LeBrun Front row from left to right: Paul Robinson, Kathleen Duffy, Leigh Nash, Armina Khwaja, Kelly Sokolowski.

Students place first in design contest

By **Lindsey Hollenbeck**
Contributing Writer

Advanced golf balls, oversized golf drivers, ergonomically engineered putters, revamped golf tees.

These are all pieces of golfing equipment the *New York Times* lists as items that should, after nine centuries of potential development, have helped even the most physically uncoordinated of golfers to get up to par.

The National Golf Foundation states that the average 18-hole score still remains to be around 100, the same scores golfers were shooting 80 years ago with MacGregor persimmon woods.

However, the future of improved golfing may lie in the hands of the "Fantastic Four" of Direct Digital Manufacturing.

Four Tech ME graduate students, James Potter, Heather Humphreys, Yang Xie and

Raphael Okereke, received first place in the 2009 Design for Direct Digital Manufacturing Student Competition (DDM) for their prototype design of a 5-iron customized golf club with integrated sensors. Each submission must include a JPEG of the design as well as a one-page summary of why the design is suited to direct digital manufacturing.

DDM is a rapid prototyping technique that uses an additive machine process to reduce manual labor.

The embedded motion sensors in the club provide information about the motion of the club in space.

An additional embedded wireless transmission device feeds real time motion information for research.

"[The club] could be used for either golf simulation, like a game, or as a training aid to give information for swing improvement," Humphreys said.

One of the advantages of

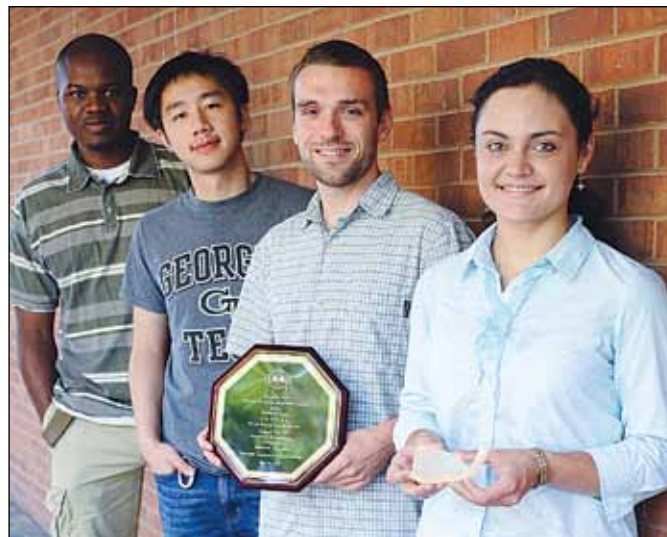


Photo by Kelvin Kuol/Student Publications

The design team, James Potter, Heather Humphreys, Yang Xie and Raphael Okereke, placed first in the DDM contest.

DDM is shape customization.

"I guess the club manufacturers do that to some extent now. They mix and match parts of clubs to customize for their customers," Humphreys said.

"So with the DDM, you can go a step further with mass customization," Humphreys said.

"You can do anything you

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CIRP report provides insight into student habits

By **Zimu Yang**
Staff Writer

Every year students of the incoming freshman class take the Cooperative Institute Research Program survey or CIRP for short. The survey is a part of a national effort with public schools like FSU, UGA, UCLA and private schools like UPenn, Boston College and Emory all taking part.

Most students attending Tech have probably taken it, but for those who didn't or those who don't remember, it asks dozens of questions on topics ranging from political persuasion of the student, to self-evaluations of academic prowess and the student's experiences in the classrooms.

The survey starts by obtaining basic background information of each student such as: their high school GPA, their parents' educational background, their citizenship status and how many colleges they applied to.

The survey then goes on to ask about future education and career plans, financial information and experiences they had in the classroom.

The survey is about 40 pages long, full of questions and goes into almost every aspect of a student's educational history.

John Gordon, Director of the Office of Assessment runs the survey.

"We've been doing this survey for all over 40 years. I think what it does is it gives us a snapshot of what the incoming freshman class looks like so we can see what changes in terms of student expectations, what their goals are, and how prepared they are when they get to Georgia Tech," Gordon said.

Multiple programs have benefited or have come about as a result of CIRP.

"I think GT1000 is something that came about in part because of some of the data we got from CIRP. Freshman Experience [was also a result]. We've made some tweaks to the International Plan and undergraduate research," Gordon said.

In addition to CIRP, surveys are also handed out to students in later years to measure their progress.

"We also use this as part of a longitudinal study so we are able to see what students are like when they are freshman but we also do studies to see what students do when they are seniors so we can see what kind of relationship there are between the activities they did in high school and their success in Georgia Tech," Gordon said.

Gordon and his peers are currently writing a paper on that relationship. He says it should be published in the upcoming months, probably in early June.

Gordon and his office recently released a report analyzing the data gathered and compared it to information from past surveys and data gathered at other schools.

The report and the actual results are available at assessment.gatech.edu.

There does appear to be a clash between expectations and work ethic. In subjective areas, such as expectations and self-efficacy, Tech students are assured of themselves.

The survey concludes that Tech students "are confident ... [expecting] to have at least a "B" average in college" and "are less likely to report feeling overwhelmed" often "rating themselves significantly higher than do their public university counterparts on academic ability."

However, they also admit spending "fewer hours a week studying than their peers" and they "are less likely than are their peers to report taking notes in class, revising papers and asking a teacher for advice after class."

This in turn implies that in objective ar-

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FASET orientation coordinator. "The most significant change this year has been in the training and selection of our leadership staff. We have taken our leadership staff and decreased it by 50 percent. With a smaller group there is a higher quality, more intense training that brings a more comprehensive experience," said Bethany Naser, Director of Orientation and Transition Programs.

Following the success of the parent orientation program that was initiated last year at freshman FASET, the program is also being added to transfer student FASET. The staff is also adding an academic support and financial support information session for parents attending the orientation.

"They're getting specialized information for parents... we wanted to provide a session that provides more intentional programming for transfer students and parents," Tack said.

In addition, the FASET staff is working with other departments at Tech to add student-led skits that inform and prepare students for all aspects of a social life Tech.

Some of these topics include diversity, alcohol education, academics and sexual health.

This is a change from last year when the skits focused mainly on diversity.

The program continues to focus on providing accurate information regarding aspects of Tech life. It is also especially important during this time to provide correct information regarding finances and campus safety because parents and students are currently very interested in these topics.

"[FASET] should be an opportunity to come to campus and learn about what the school expects, see resources, and get oriented so they feel like they're already a part of campus when they get here," Naser said.

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was useful in predicting future academic success, incoming Tech students fall short compared to their peers.

85 percent of respondents reported that Tech was their first or second choice of college, and that its academic reputation was the most important factor when making their future college decision. CIRP also seems to validate some prominent social stereotypes of the Tech student.

According to the survey, students are "less likely than were their peers to socialize, party, or exercise, although [Tech] men were more likely than their male peers to play video or computer games at least six hours a week ... respondents in 2008 report spending less time in high school socializing with friends, working, and partying than did respondents in 1998 ... and the percentage of men who spent at least six hours a week playing video games more than doubled." Alcoholism is on its way down. "Respondents in 2008 reported drinking less alcohol during their senior year than did respondents in 1998."

Quick Stats

- **Tech students were far more likely to classify themselves as "far right" or "conservative" politically than private institutions.**
- **Tech students were more likely to join a social fraternity or sorority when compared to their private institution counterparts**
- **Less than one-third of students reported working for pay six or more hours per week their senior year.**

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want with it. You can put your name on it, do anything you want with the graphics on it," Potter said.

David Rosen, Director of the Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing Institute at Georgia Tech and Associate Professor and Woodruff Faculty Fellow, suggested the students enter the contest as an extension to their ME 6104 class, the Fundamentals of CAD.

Humphreys and Potter both play golf and chose the subject because it was a topic that interested both of them.

"We made the CAD model, and then bounced around some ideas and played around a lot. There was a lot of brainstorming," Potter said.

"We also did a lot of research into the DDM machines themselves, how much they cost and how much the materials cost," Potter said.

Rosen accepted the award on behalf of the students at the annual RAPID conference held in Schaumburg, Ill. and the winning designs were on display at the RAPID conference and Exposition May 12 to 14.

"The first place entry was seen to be an excellent example of utilizing the customization capabilities of DDM in a personal interaction device," said Jane Wellington, Member and Industry Relations Manager of Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

"The justification of the DDM process and material was sound," Wellington said.

The students were unable to attend the conference due to a lack of funds.

The team is not quite sure if they will be entering another contest similar to the DDM Student Competition, but if so they all agreed that they would do one that has a cash prize.

Meet the Design Team



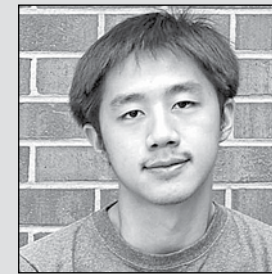
Name: James Potter
Year: Graduate Student
Major: ME

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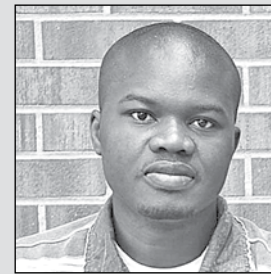


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Year: Graduate Student
Major: ME



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Year: Graduate Student
Major: ME

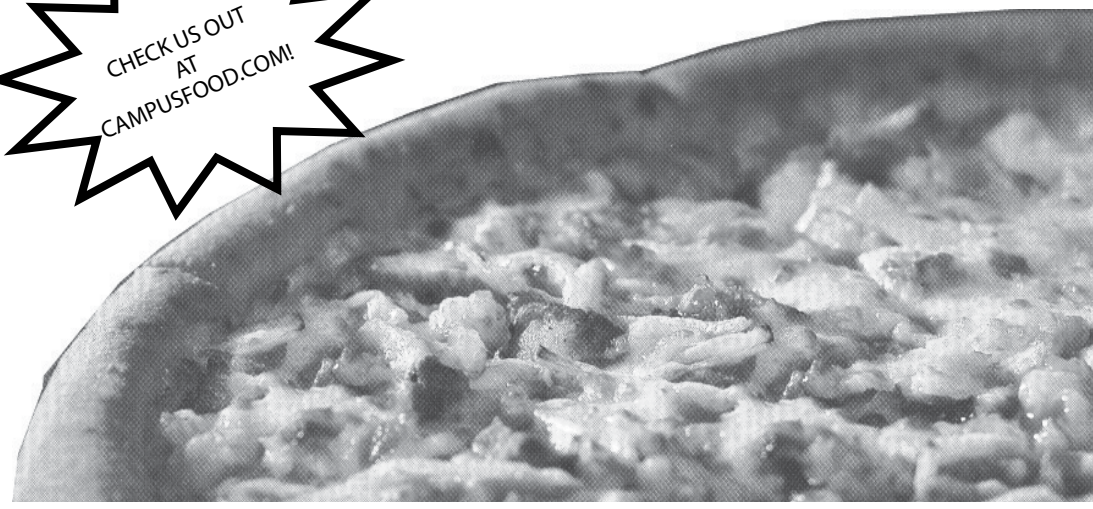


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i have mastered the art of making cookies in the toaster oven...
it's bad when you're so bored that you go ahead in your physics
hmkw for fun...
\\m/(-_-)m/
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The Raging Glutenators rock the known world and the realms of
the 5th dimension
to someone who recalled the thermo book.... i hate you.
oh the joys of co-oping in the summer...forget tanning. i need to
be pale.
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fields when there are so many people out there crammed in the
other half
get a real sport
stretch: you are a terrible roommate!!!!
Why can't professors post PDFs to T-Square. Firing up Word to
read project instructions is inane.
tiananmen...20 years
china wanted democracy...20 years ago
we, the chinese want democracy.
june 4, 1989
June 4 incident (tiananmen) remember it
My anxiety levels are through the roof
Why does the front of our library have to smell like a petting zoo?
... it's not like this is UGA!
www.waitlesstracking.com check it out if you tired of waiting at
the bus stop
hmm, i think all the water wasted waiting for hot water in my
shower is enough retribution against housing today.
Never thought I'd say this, but I actually miss Tech
why do I always fall for the guy who has a girlfriend?
i can has 5 & 8 am fire 'larms?
its not a real party unless 3 drunks end up sharing a toilet