Inside:

THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER VOLUME 27, NUMBER 3 • JANUARY 21, 2002 THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

A statement from President Wayne Clough on the recent academic honor code violations

'We cannot tolerate cheating'

The news that 187 students are suspected of sharing work inappropriately for computer programming homework assignments is sobering to all of us. We'd all like to think that those things only happen at other universities. But the fact of the matter is that they happen across the country as well as on our campus.

A recent poll by Duke University found 75 percent of college students admitted cheating. The Universities of Virginia and North Carolina-Chapel Hill have experienced widespread issues of cheating of late and, I suspect, the stories will continue. This is disturbing news and suggests that the issue is a major one that needs our attention.

The incident on our campus and its fallout will continue to unfold as Karen Boyd, associate dean of students, and her staff conduct investigations into the allegations. It will take a good deal of time to process these activities in a fair and effective fashion, so I ask for the patience and understanding of everyone throughout the coming months. This is a serious matter and we owe it to everyone involved to conduct the investigation in the most professional fashion possible.

While this process moves forward, I don't think we should passively wait to see the outcome. I suspect that we all can agree that we need to understand what we can do to get at the root issues. Obviously, preventing cheating is a much better approach than having it occur and dealing with a rueful aftermath of issues when it is exposed. The extensive time Dean Boyd and her staff will spend on this, the pain caused among our students and their families, the difficult situation created for our faculty and the negative publicity for the Institute are among the problems that follow from the present incident.

All this said, we cannot tolerate cheating and our students must learn the hard way if necessary that this is simply not right. And, having students learn this during their college years is better than dealing with it later in life. College is a time to learn about yourself, get your moral compass firmly situated, begin the process of maturing into adulthood, and hopefully better understand the ramifications of actions that may — on the surface — appear harmless.

Yet we need to explore ways in which we can better address cheating than just waiting to catch someone in the act. We are fortunate

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Campus entrance project on State Street delayed

Repairing old utilities holding up progress

Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

There are a lot of situations where having X-ray vision would come in handy. Construction engineers almost dream about it.

The State Street Improvements Project, one of the key elements of Tech's Master Plan, is being delayed. The cause, according to the project's manager, is one of unforeseen circumstances compounded by a little preventative medicine.

"There are a lot of underground utilities along State Street, and we ran into some issues that we couldn't anticipate," John Ducongé said. "That's the crux of it."

Ducongé said that, even as late as last week, new situations were cropping up to hinder progress. "I don't think it's anything serious, but these types of surprises are typical of underground work," he said.

When crews spend their time working on jobs outside the prescribed plan, delays are inevitable.

"It's just an old street with old utilities," he said "Sometimes when you start digging for one reason you discover there is something else that needs to be addressed. I hope some day somebody invents X-ray goggles, because you really don't know the condition of what's down there until you dig."

On this project, Ducongé said, Tech's philosophy is to take care of the small problems before they become big problems.

"We've taken a proactive approach, trying to resolve the need now — instead of deferring the maintenance until it becomes an emergency. This will save time, effort and expense over the long term."

Already, he said, crews have replaced a section of a steam line that services the Baker Building to prevent future problems associated with leaks. In the coming weeks, DuCongé anticipates that the old sewer line will completely repaired.

"In the old days, sewer lines consisted of four-foot sections of clay pipes, butted end-to-end. Over time, the clay softens and starts to corrode. When the joints start coming apart, sinkholes can result."

The construction phase of the project, which was scheduled for a March completion date, will likely be pushed to the mid-Spring. The street will be reopened at that time.

In an effort to reduce delay, DuCongé said, "We're talking with the contractor about overlapping tasks — to run concurrently instead of sequentially — to save some time."

"Unless something new occurs," DuCongé said that the underground work is almost complete. What remains involves paving the street and sidewalks, and installing the streetlights. At that point, the street will be opened for public use. A second phase involving landscaping and irrigation will be handled by a second contractor and will come on the heels of the road's completion.

Did I get in? Fielding questions from prospective freshmen

The Office of Undergraduate Admission has developed a list of frequently asked questions for those whose position on campus and/or relationships outside of Tech prompt questions from prospective freshmen and their families regarding admission to Georgia Tech.

This information will help direct prospective freshmen and their families to the answers they need. For further questions, contact the Admissions office at 894-4154.

What's the application deadline?
A prospective freshman is responsible for submitting all the required elements of the application by January 15 (postmarked) to guarantee consideration for admission for fall 2002.

Tech's SAT I school code number is 5248, and the ACT school code number is 0818. Tests taken after December of the senior year may not be accepted for use in the admissions decision.

Prospective students can check the status of their admission materials at www.enrollment.gatech.edu/

I have applied, but I haven't heard if I am accepted. When will I be notified?
As opposed to years past, this year Tech will hold the vast majority of admission decisions until March. A perceived delay in a student's notification is in no way an indication of

FAQ continued, page 3

"QUOTE—UNQUOTE"

"Proactive memory aids can liberate the mind to be more creative and not be bogged down by administrative minutiae. Even something as simple as my calendar program helps me concentrate on what I am doing instead of worrying about what I have to do next."
—Thad Starner, an assistant professor in the College of Computing, on the potential applications wearable computers can have for absent-mindedness.
(New York Times)

"We could turn into a patent machine and churn out patents left and right, but that doesn't advance the state at all. We tend to be more conservative in Georgia, sticking with solid ideas that can become viable businesses."
—Terry Blum, dean of the College of Management, commenting on the relatively few number of patents issued in 2001 to Georgia universities.
(Atlanta Business Chronicle)

Gimmestad named to Glen Robinson Chair in Electro-Optics

Kenya Ervin
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Gary Gimmestad made Georgia Tech Research Institute history when he was recently selected to hold the Glen Robinson Chair in Electro-Optics, the first endowed chair at GTRI.

"We are proud of this first endowed chair for GTRI and hope that it will be the first of many," said Edward Reedy, vice president and director of GTRI. "This endowment is extremely important to us and will allow us to do some significant research in the electro-optics area, supporting and expanding Dr. Gimmestad's work. We are deeply indebted to Glen Robinson for his generosity and foresight in supporting this GTRI initiative."

The chair was funded by Glen P. Robinson Jr. in January 1998. Robinson, an alumnus of Georgia Tech, was one of the founders of Scientific Atlanta, where he served as president, chairman and CEO. Robinson is also a fellow in the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers and was elected to the Georgia Technology Hall of Fame in 1993.

Robinson's choice of electro-optics for this chair will enable Tech to establish leadership in technologies that have a broad range of applications such as optics, electronics, materials sciences, solid state physics and mechanics. Robinson's vision entails compatibility with other resources in applying electro-optics research to the commercial transportation industry.

Since electro-optics touches upon many different applications, the Glen Robinson Chair search committee was looking for a candidate with extensive experience in these fields; who has made contributions to foundational and applied research in related fields; and who can oversee development of devices for new applications.

"I am grateful to Glen Robinson for the wonderful research opportunities this endowed chair provides," said Gimmestad, "and also for the support I have received from GTRI and the Georgia Tech administration."

Gimmestad joined GTRI as a principal research scientist in 1986. He received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Colorado, where his thesis research was an experimental study of the oxygen microwave spectrum. After graduating from Colorado, he was a research scientist and an associate professor of physics at Michigan Technological University. Gimmestad is the senior faculty leader in remote sensing technology, guiding research teams in the development of innovative sensors with applications in transportation and in atmospheric studies. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

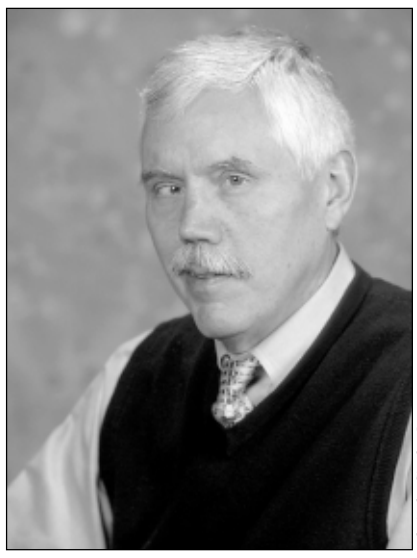

photo by Stanley Leary

Gary Gimmestad

Gimmestad's vision is to spearhead "an internationally recognized program of new, cutting-edge technology in electro-optics."

"The key to success will be collaboration," he said. "For example, Georgia Tech has world-renowned research efforts in atmospheric chemistry, air quality, and transportation, and our new sensing technologies will have applications in all of these areas. By collaborating with students and faculty, we will get our program off to a quick start and maximize the benefits to Georgia Tech."

Charitable Campaign sets new Institute record

Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Despite early signs to the contrary, Georgia Tech did indeed meet its goal for the 2001 Statewide Charitable Campaign, besting the mark by more than $6,000.

After last year's grand total of $309,000 — then an Institute record — this year's board was ambitious, raising the bar to $310,000, a 6.5 percent increase over the 2000 goal.

Last week, with pledge cards still trickling in, campaign coordinators announced that they had received 1,737 pledges totaling more than $316,600.

April Brown, who served as the campaign chair, said, "It has been an honor to serve Tech as the chair of this campaign. It's very telling that, despite the national tragedy, the faculty and staff also realizes the need for charity at home. Thousands of citizens will benefit from the generosity of their fellow Georgians, and I'm proud to say Tech will play a small part in that."

Privately, there were questions over whether the goal would be met, in light of September's terrorist attacks. Campaign Facilitator Theresa Warfield-Francis said, "This campaign was a big surprise to us. In the beginning the pledges were coming in very slowly, but by the end it was really remarkable the way people opened up and gave."

Warfield-Francis said that in years past, it was common for pledges to arrive steadily throughout the campaign. While there might have been some concern over early returns, she said the campaign slowly built to a crescendo, ultimately topping the goal by more than 2 percent.

"It was a very different campaign," she added. "We knew that people were giving in other places, but we ran the campaign as usual and it turned out very well."

Carolyn Schneider, who has acted as a campaign coordinator for the past three years, said, "When we were midpoint in the campaign, (the total) was less than $115,000. At that point, we thought we would be fortunate to get half (the goal). To turn around and exceed the goal was just wonderful."

Schneider, who will succeed Warfield-Francis as the campaign facilitator next year, added, "I was ecstatic with this year's total. To exceed our goal by more than $6,000 is just phenomenal. I was proud of this campus for people giving so freely — even after they gave following Sept. 11 — opening their wallets not once, but twice. It makes me so proud of the Tech employees that would care that much to contribute to make our campaign a success."

To continue the success, Schneider said, the campaign is always looking for new blood. Those who would like to participate in next year's campaign should contact their department head to volunteer.

"It goes without saying," Schneider said, "that any help is very much appreciated."

Georgia Tech

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Underground Atlanta

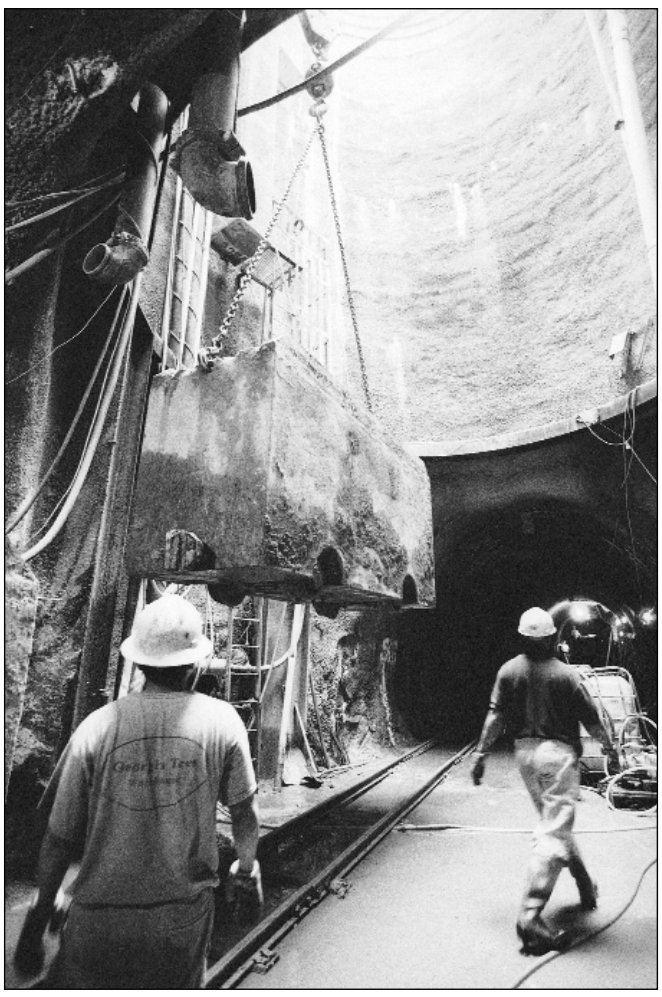

photo by Robert Hill

Fifty feet below Techwood Drive, city contractors work on the final phase of the Orme Street Combined Trunk Relief Sewer. When complete, the 12-foot-diameter sewer will serve to drain the northwest quadrant of downtown Atlanta, decreasing the overflows caused by insufficient capacity of the original Orme Street line, built between 1890-1930.

For the final stretch, engineers are employing a technique known as NATM, the New Austrian Tunneling Method, typically used in soft ground urban conditions. First, crews excavate the tunnel using trenchless digging techniques. The process is slow; crews are currently advancing approximately 10 feet per day. A layer of concrete — or shotcrete, as it is called — is then sprayed against a tunnel wall lined with rebar and temporary wall supports before pouring the tunnel's concrete foundation, giving the sewer a final wall thickness of approximately 2.5 feet.

Completion of the project — including site restoration — is scheduled for March 2002.

TRSGA plans lawsuit against Enron

The Board of Trustees of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRSGA) and the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) bought and sold Enron stock from October 1998 through November 2001.

The current estimate of the combined loss to TRSGA and ERS from its transactions in Enron is slightly more than $100 million, which represents about two-tenths of one percent of the combined TRSGA and ERS assets of $54 billion.

TRSGA and ERS have both asked the attorney general of Georgia to seek their appointment as the lead plaintiff in a class action lawsuit against the Enron Corporation.

Though the transactions in Enron stock did not seriously impair the total return on investments or impact retirement benefits, TRSGA has said it is committed to pursuing this litigation on behalf of all class members in an effort to maximize the recovery.

For more information...

Teachers Retirement System
www.trsga.com/News.Asp

Cheating, cont'd from page 1

that before the most recent incident, Jean-Lou Chameau, our provost, formed the Academic Misconduct Review Committee, to be chaired by Professor Cheryl Contant. This committee will examine issues in this area and the processes we use for academic misconduct. We will look to this committee to inform us as to how we can better work with our students and faculty to reduce the incidence of cheating as well as any other form of academic misconduct.

Solving a problem of this type will require all of us to work together, and I am sure in Georgia Tech "can do" fashion we will find the answers we need to become an even better institution than we are today.

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his or her likelihood to be admitted. Every prospective student who applies by the January 15 deadline will be notified by the end of March.

If I am not a President's Scholarship semi-finalist, should I still come to Tech?
More than 4,300 prospective students submitted the Application for Freshman Admission and the President's Scholarship. The top 750 candidates were chosen as semifinalists. Students who did not qualify as semifinalists should be strongly encouraged to consider Tech.

How do I apply for other scholarships?
Applicants seeking other scholarship opportunities should refer to the financial aid packet they will receive this month.

Do I need to visit the campus?
Every prospective student who applies for freshman admission should visit Georgia Tech before selecting a college, even if they have been on campus before. For the most up-to-date information regarding daily campus tours and information sessions, or other special visitation opportunities, go to www.enrollment.gatech.edu/visits or call 894-6809.

IN BRIEF:

Scholarship for children of employees

The (GT)^2 Club announces its fifth annual scholarship competition for entering freshmen who are sons and daughters of Georgia Tech employees.

The scholarship is funded by the Faculty/Staff Fund, corporate sponsorships, and Club fund-raisers, and is supplemented by GT Club scholarship funds. This year, **the (GT)^2 Club will award one-year scholarships** in the amount of $3,000.

To be eligible, the applicant must be the son or daughter of a current permanent employee of Georgia Tech and have been accepted for admission to the freshman class that will enroll in summer or fall of 2002.

Selection will be based on an applicant's high school academic record; leadership, involvement and accomplishments in school and community activities; and their ability to communicate orally and in writing

To obtain the (GT)^2 Scholarship application, refer to www.enrollment.gatech.edu/gt2. The deadline for applications is March 15. Qualified applicants will be interviewed by the scholarship committee in late March. Contact Paul Hurst at 894-1944, or paul.hurst@success.gatech.edu for more information.

Reinforcing 'Dead Week'

Georgia Tech recently incorporated a **new teaching policy** into the 2002 GT Faculty Handbook. The following excerpt is from the handbook and may warrant changes to course schedules and syllabi.

"**5.10.1.1(b)** The following policy applies only to Standard Terms. Quizzes and tests may not be given during the week preceding final exams. No final exam will be given earlier than final exam week under any circumstances. All quizzes and tests must be graded and returned on or before the last day of class preceding final exam week."

A complete version of the handbook is available at www.academic.gatech.edu/handbook/.

Education exchange

Georgia Tech graduate students and area high schools are teaming up to lend each other a helping hand. In August, 12 engineering and science graduate students will spend a year in the classrooms of five metro Atlanta high schools. This knowledge exchange is part of a three-year program designed to give Tech students intensive lessons in teaching while providing high schools with the students' expertise in science and math.

The Georgia Tech **Student and Teacher Enhancement Partnership** fellowship program (STEP) is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, along with Tech's Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing (CEISMC) and the College of Engineering.

CETL Director Donna Llewellyn said, "By participating in this program we hope to build stronger partnerships between Tech and area high schools. Using the expertise and energy of grad students who get real classroom training in return is one way to build those partnerships."

The deadline for applying is February 1. For more information contact Donna Llewellyn of CETL at 894-2340 or Marion Usselman of CEISMC at 894-9673.