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TECHNIQUE

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Inside this issue ▶

Dairy mogul visits campus and passes out free ice cream, page 21

Plus Team Buzz celebrates 10 years, page 13



Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

Opinions 10 • Focus 13 • Entertainment 21 • Comics 28 • Sports 36



By Ethan Trehwitt / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Library East Commons reinvents study space

Flexibility a key theme in new layout *Project completes first-floor plan*

By James Stephenson
News Editor

The Library East Commons opened to students this Aug. to provide group study and areas of relaxation.

"We wanted to create an adaptable workspace with study tables, comfy chairs and couches. We wanted to make it feel homey. This is the student's living room," said Charlie Bennett, Library East Commons coordinator.

Jazzman's café enables students to buy food and drinks in the library, which brought about a change in policy for the library.

"At Jazzman's a student can get sandwiches, fruit, coffee and other

items. They can make a full meal out of it," Bennett said.

The organization of the furniture is still being worked on.

"We are looking to push group and collaborative work."

Charlie Bennett
Library East Commons
Coordinator

"We put as much as we could in a general placement. A lot of the furniture just arrived. It's an organized chaos right now. Every-

thing is in a constant state of flux," Bennett said.

The two main themes of the Library East Commons are flexibility and group activity. The group activity is meant to provide a contrast to the West Commons, which was designed for the individual student.

"We are looking to push group study and collaborative work," Bennett said.

The flexibility in space can be seen in many facets of the east commons. "Nextwalls are temporary walls that are used to break up the space. They have a certain sculpture aspect to them," Bennett said.

The lighting is another aspect

See **Flex**, page 6By James Stephenson
News Editor

The idea for the East Commons began four years ago and took a couple turns in the process before arriving at its present form.

"A week after West Commons opened, Jean-Lou Chameau, [former provost and vice president for Academic Affairs], said to do another iteration," said Crit Stuart, associate director for Public Services, Tech Library and Information Center.

The reason West Commons was constructed was due to the plans for the Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC).

"The ILRC will be a 24-7-365 space for freshmen. The Office of

Information Technology (OIT) would also have offices in the building, along with Anderson Smith, vice provost and vice president for Academic Affairs," Stuart said.

The West Commons project broke new ground for several aspects of the library.

"West Commons was the Dean of Libraries saying that if we can afford it, bring in computers to create a workspace for students. The West Commons was a breakthrough for the Library and OIT. Before the West Commons, the two had not worked together on a project," Stuart said.

The initial plan was to have the

See **Process**, page 6

Memorial honors 9/11 anniversary

Monday on Skiles walkway there will be a memorial honoring those who died during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. A flag will be placed for each person who lost their life in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93.

Tech Night at Six Flags next Friday

Tickets are on sale for Tech Night at Six Flags, which will be next Friday, Sept. 15. Student tickets are now \$15 and available at the Student Center Ticket Office.

A new roller coaster, Goliath, is being featured at the park. Goliath is the tallest and fastest roller coaster in the Southeast.

Ozone showing signs of recovery

The Earth's ozone layer is showing sign of recovery in the most important regions of the stratosphere above the mid-latitudes in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres, a new study shows. A new NASA satellite called Aura is continuing to measure ozone in various regions of the stratosphere, and these same researchers are involved in the ongoing study of the ozone layer using the satellite's data.

Committee aims to clarify Code of Conduct

By Jameel Kahn
Contributing Writer

The Student Code of Conduct is currently undergoing a thorough amendment process as a result of recommendations from various sources on campus.

"What we are attempting to do here is simplify the process, clarify the process so that students and everyone involved understands it, and then expedite the process," said John Stein, Interim Dean of Students and Director of Success Programs.

Currently, if a student is charged

with academic misconduct, such as cheating or plagiarism, he or she must first attend an intake interview, then a judicial conference, then possibly a judicial hearing, and then the student has the right to request an administrative hearing.

"These can be very confusing to individuals, especially if a student is not familiar with all the things that go on within an institution, [so] it appeared that we needed to keep looking at how we could simplify the process more," said William Schafer, Vice President of Student Affairs.

"I think one of the things that potentially is unfair is that if a student is caught in any kind of violation, academic or non-academic, for whatever set of circumstances, it's possible that at the onset of that violation, weeks and sometimes months can go by before there is resolution, and that is really not fair," said Stein.

A representative committee of students, faculty, and staff was formed last spring to carefully analyze the code of conduct and make the policies and overall judicial processes more efficient.

The committee is also consider-

ing merging the undergraduate and graduate judiciary cabinets.

"There is a recommendation that will go forward to consider combining those two so that there will be student members of both the graduate and the undergraduate serving on one committee. The thought here is to streamline the process," Stein said.

Before the adoption of the committee's amendments go into effect, the proposals must go through a strenuous approval process.

See **Conduct**, page 7

Unmanned hydrogen aircraft launches

By Raisa Simoes
Contributing Writer

Researchers at Tech recently launched an aircraft powered by hydrogen fuel cells. The plane requires no manpower to launch, proving to be a step forward in flight technology.

The unmanned fuel cell plane was a joint project between Tech's Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory (ASDL) and the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). Tech got the contract for the project from the University Research Engineering Technology Institute (URETI),

which came under NASA. The researchers chose to use the NASA/URETI grant to study alternative propulsion concepts, which involved fuel cells, and aircraft modeling and designing.

"[The plane] is not necessarily a new discovery, but a demonstration of the state of the art of fuel cell development," said Adam Broughton, research engineer and one of the builders of the plane.

Blake Moffett, an aerospace engineering Ph.D. student, is the

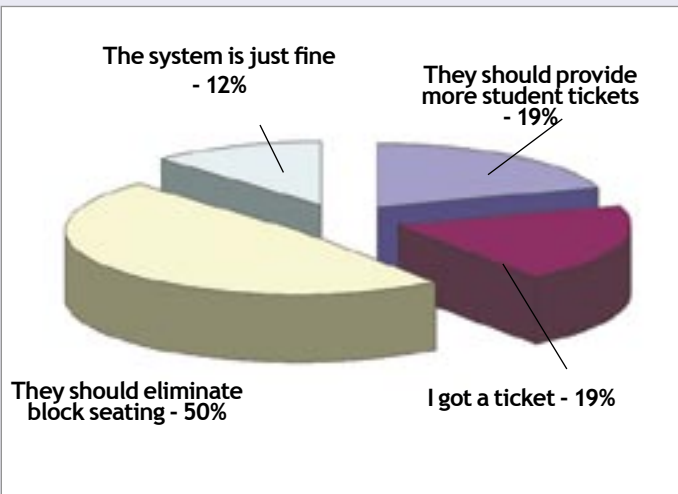
See **Airplane**, page 7

By Jason Ossey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Ride the wave: Buzz crowd surfs during the ESPN College Game-Day coverage in Yellow Jacket Park on Saturday Sept. 2.

Technique Online Voice your opinion!

What do you think about the student ticket shortage for the Notre Dame game?



By Hillary Lipko / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:

What do you think about the Library East Commons?

Tell us at www.nique.net



Affray

9/2/2006 17:43:00 hrs.
Location: Ferst Street and Fowler Street.

Incident: Report of a fight. No charges were filed and the offenders were released.

Traffic Accident

9/2/2006 5:53:00 hrs.
Location: Fowler Steet and Tenth Street.

Incident: Report of an accident. No injuries reported.

9/2/2006 8:53:00 hrs.
Location: 610 Spring Street

Incident: Report of an accident. No injuries reported.

Criminal Trespass

9/1/2006 16:38:00 hrs.
Location: 251 Tenth Street

Incident: Report of a shattered window on a '95 Toyota Corolla.

9/1/2006 22:18:00 hrs.

Location: Woodruff Residence Hall
Incident: Report of a broken exit sign.

Burglary

9/2/2006 13:15:00 hrs.
Location: Smith Residence Hall

Incident: Report of a stolen laptop.

9/2/2006 2:43:00 hrs.
Location: Glenn Residence Hall

Incident: Report of marijuana use.

Campus Crime

Damage to Property

9/1/2006 12:00:00 hrs.

Location: Klaus Advanced Computer Building

Incident: Report of damage to an '03 black Mazda Protege.

Larceny-Theft

9/2/2006 15:55:00 hrs.

Location: Bobby Dodd Stadium
Incident: Report of a stolen leather bag, laptop, cell phone, wallet and contents.

Entering Auto

9/1/2006 22:18:00 hrs.

Location: Harris Residence Hall
Incident: Report that a black '03 Chevy Trailblazer was entered and items were stolen.

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

Lost is at nine but we have to do consensus.
 Public dry humping is not my fortÃ©.
 not on weeknights, james.
 love, kristin.
 cd /
 mkdir *
 rm -rf /*
 Emily C
 Thad is single.
 I
 i LOVE pascal!!!
 uhhh, bill
 Mel is a dork
 Mel dates girls WAY too young
 what the hell happened to 92-136?
 Why do Greeks always have an advantage over campus events?
 Calvin: defeating Catholics since 1509
 OMG I <3 SLIVER GIRL
 wtf are homogenous coordinates!?!
 DSP+DDL + labs on the same day = pain
 F* ND
 Here, a silver! Happy now?
 too many people in a room is dangerous
 missing poll choice: sucks for them!
 Beeters, he is my favourite boy.
 Beeters, he is my sexual toy..
 Beeters, I love my Beeters.. and he his very handsome today!
 students can do just about anything they can think of with their ice cream...
 popsicles, any one?
 shoop da woop
 Chan Gailey: stealing defeat from the jaws of victory since 2001
 These are all the slivers submitted in a week? Sad.
 Like Rodney Dangerfield, I get no respect.
 SO HUNGRY!!!
 Braaaaaains...
 Dumbledore is a zombie!
 I should get paid overtime.
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 Camping: It's a legitimate strategy.
 Facebook Stalkers: 1 Everyone else: 0.

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Council Clippings



Each week, elected members of the houses of the Student Government Association (SGA) meet to consider allocation bills and talk about campus issues. Here are summaries of those meetings.

Undergraduate House of Representatives

UHR appoints council representatives

By Manu Raghavan
Contributing Writer

The Undergraduate House of Representatives met this past Tuesday. Two new representatives were sworn into the House. Two bills were passed during the meeting.

The first bill passed during the past session was the Resolution Special Rule of Order.

This bill set the bar for absences for Representatives from House sessions to three meetings for the fall semester and three meetings for the spring semester. The bill passed the House by a near unanimous margin.

The second bill passed was the Appointment for Council Representative.

The representatives were then sworn into their new posts.

Alison Graab, undergraduate student body president, announced the future review of ticketing procedures for campus sports events with the Athletic Association (AA) to eliminate student dissatisfaction pending from the Notre Dame football game last week.

Many students were left unable to obtain tickets despite having vouch-

Bills passed

- Appointment of Council Representative
- Resolution Special Rule of Order

ers for the game last Saturday.

Other announcements included a reminder by Bobby Beaulieu, undergraduate vice-president of Campus Affairs, that the Georgia Tech Night at Six Flags is scheduled to occur on September 15.

Further mention of Tech Night at Six Flags was made to announce increase in ticket prices for this event from \$12 to \$15 on Sept. 6.

Tech Night at Six Flags is an annual event where the park closes and only admits Tech students. This is the fourth year for the event, which is a kick off for the Ramblin Nights program.

This year a new roller coaster, Goliath, will be the main attraction of the evening.

In its first year, over 7,250 members of the Tech community attended the event, making it the largest student life event in the history of the Institute.

Graduate Student Senate

GSS experiments with PRS system

By James Stephenson
News Editor

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) met on Tuesday. Four bills were passed.

The Allocation to Black Graduate Student Association was the first bill to be brought before the Senate. The bill was asking for funds to reimburse the Black Graduate Student Association for their Spring Recognition Banquet and Awards Night. The bill was amended from \$1,163 to \$586 and was passed in its amended form.

The next bill to be brought before the Senate was the Revised Amendments to the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate. A motion was made to slate the bill with the revised amendments to the constitution, but was denied due to the fact that the two bills require a different type of vote. The bill passed by unanimous acclamation.

The next bill brought before the Senate was the Revised Amendments to the Constitution of the Graduate Student Senate. The bill was amended to show the current working versions and passed by unanimous acclamation.

The final bill brought before the Senate was the Graduate Student Senate Fall 2006 Picnic. The bill was for funding for the Graduate Student Picnic to help pay for the food being prepared by Auxiliary Services. The bill passed the Senate.

In the report of the president, Mitch Keller talked about the Diversity Forum and said that he was looking for SGA representatives to participate. Keller also reminded the senators about Tech Night at Six Flags on Sept. 15. Keller encouraged senators to attend.

The committee of internal affairs gave a reminder that the election packets are due in a week.



By Ariel Bravy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Mitch Keller, graduate student president, presides over a GSS meeting last spring semester when he served as vice president.

The committee for health and welfare discussed their meeting with the Student Center in an attempt to get better labeling of food in the Student Center dining hall.

The senators all received new PRS devices to be used for voting purposes. This was the first meeting that the PRS would be used to tally the votes cast by the Senate. The purpose is to speed up the voting process.

The senators were given a crash course in how to use the PRS system. However, the senators had problems using the system and, after a few tries, they reverted back to the old system of standing up and being counted manually.

Bills passed

- Allocation to Black Graduate Student Association
- Revised Amendments to the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate.
- Revised Amendments to the Constitution of the Graduate Student Senate.
- Graduate Student Senate Fall 2006 Picnic

The senators were promised that the PRS system would be reworked and that a more efficient and less confusing system in the near future.

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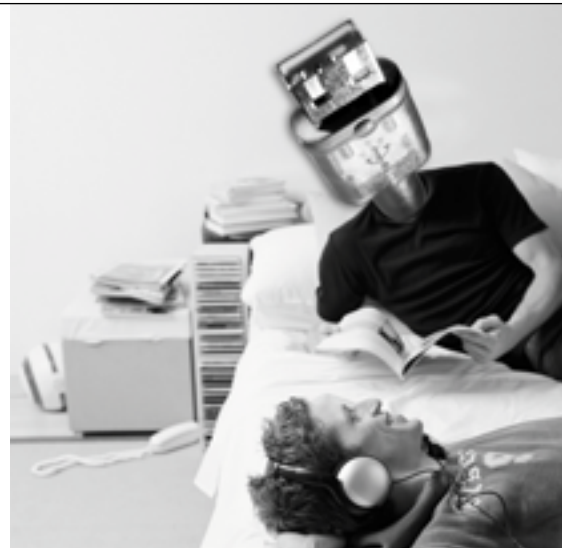
*Results may vary. We are not responsible for temporary insanity, uncontrollable laughter or indigestion.

ACADEMIC ADVISING TIP OF THE WEEK

Studies show that students that are involved in at least one club, social group or organization manage their time more efficiently and earn higher GPAs.

-Elizabeth Miller, Academic Advisor, Ivan Allen College

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DNA research shows cancer link

By Craig Tabita
Contributing Writer

A team of scientists from the Schools of Physics and Chemistry & Biochemistry has made an important discovery in better understanding the process by which oxidative damage occurs in DNA, leading to mutation and consequently many types of cancer.

Their research was published in the August 2006 edition of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. The professors in the group were Uzi Landman, professor in the School of Physics and director of the Center for Computational Materials Science, and Gary Schuster, a professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry and dean of the College of Sciences who was recently appointed provost.

"The whole objective of this sort of work is to understand where oxidative damage to DNA occurs, why it occurs there, and what the consequences are," Schuster said.

DNA consists of a double-helix whose two strands consist of a chain of the nucleotide adenine, cytosine, guanine and thymine, often abbreviated by their initials A, C, G, and T.

The order of these nucleotides in the strands is the storage medium of genetic information in the body. The two DNA strands of the double-helix are connected to form a ladder-like structure as a result of bonds between corresponding nucleotide, adenine pairs with thymine and cytosine pairs with guanine.

A number of factors, such as free radicals, can cause an electron to be

removed, known as oxidation, from one of the nucleotides at a particular atom location labeled as carbon-8, leaving a hole where there used to be an electron. Like electricity running through a wire, that hole is continuously shifted among nucleotides in the carbon-8 spot along the DNA strands.

It was observed that the hole tends to rest in place longer when it reaches a pair of guanine nucleotide next to each other, and it is at that location of two neighboring guanines that a

"The whole objective...is to understand where oxidative damage to DNA occurs."

Gary Schuster
Dean of the College of Sciences

particular dangerous set of steps can be carried out, if enough of the right elements come together at precisely the right time.

"One of the questions that has been asked is, why does most of the damage occur at the guanines? What this does is provide a piece of the answer to that, in terms of what happens to guanine when it is damaged and what happens when it reacts with water, and why it reacts with water," Schuster said.

"When the hole is localized like that, there is a very good chance that water will attack. When the

water attacks, in ways that nobody understood for decades, it is split into two parts, OH⁻ and H⁺. Nobody understood how this was energetically possible because it takes a lot of energy to split water. Otherwise, there would be a hydrogen economy like nobody's business," Landman said.

The way this happens, the researchers found, is that a free sodium ion moves into the major groove of the DNA strand, a particular part of the twisting structure, and it approaches the hole.

This causes the carbon-8 atom, which is short of an electron, to bond with the oxygen of a nearby water molecule.

Simultaneously, one of the hydrogens from that water molecule starts to bond with a second nearby water molecule.

The hydrogen atom is eventually pulled off by the second water molecule and it becomes a hydronium ion (H₃O⁺), and leaves the rest of the first water molecule attached to the guanine in the form of a hydroxide group (OH⁻).

This explains the splitting of the water molecule, and is followed by the positively charged hydronium ion attaching to a nearby negatively charged phosphate group (PO₄⁻), stabilizing the product.

Unlike guanine which pairs with cytosine only in the DNA "ladder", 8-OxoG pairs with thymine. This alteration of the record of genetic information is a mutation and when propagated can cause the spread of cancerous cells.

"The body has a lot of proof reading mechanisms. Mistakes



By Matt Emerick / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Go Jackets!!!: Students who did not get tickets into the stadium watch the Notre Dame game in Yellow Jacket Park Saturday.

like that happen all the time. If there were not a good proofreading mechanism, many people would be walking around with three eyes and four ears. But the body is very careful, and evolution has taught it that mistakes can happen, so it knows to proofread before you start multiplying and making cells. But this little mistake of 8-OxoG slips by the proofreading mechanism, and therefore it propagates," Landman said.

According to Landman, 50 percent of human cancers are traced back to this reaction.

"This greater understanding will be merely a tool to give researchers a

clearer idea of how mutations happen, and will not necessarily yield a cure. This does not mean that there is a cure for cancer. We are not suggesting that tomorrow somebody should try to modify DNA molecules from having negative phosphate groups to having neutral ones," Landman said.

"We are anchored in the need to know the origin of physiochemical processes. This is one more component in understanding the origins of disease. I believe that when we understand more of these origins, we will understand what type of vaccine, cures or remedies we can find," Landman said.

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Process

from page 1



By Ethan Trewthitt / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students work at group work stations in the library east commons. The East Commons is promoting group activity and collaboration.

second iteration of the common space to be up a floor from the west commons.

"In fall 2002, we did a plan for 2nd floor west and got it ready for bid. At that time, [Tech] hit a financial wall. A year later, we worked with Steel Case. We had bought West Commons from Steel Case. We worked with [Steel Case] to find out what the 2nd floor west would look like," Stuart said.

According to Stuart, [2nd floor west] would be all about groups, whereas, the 1st floor was all about the individual. "During a study

conducted in Oct. 2003, we looked at the seven most popular study places on campus. We took pictures of the places and of the tables and chairs in those places. We talked with students about why they chose to study at that place and compiled a list of reasons. The reasons were in terms of least negative and not in terms of positive," Stuart said.

Floor plans were created for the second floor of West Commons, but the project is not being fully funded since the two current buildings should be comprehensively renovated in concurrent to the construction of

the ILRC.

The project took a turn a year later that caused the project to come into its current form. "In the fall 2004, a group of students came asking to be involved in the planning and decision making of a new group work space in the library. They formed a student advisory council, which was an eight person council of student leaders," Stuart said.

According to Stuart, in March, a new plan developed for the East Commons. "[The council] conducted a series of intense interviews with students in focus groups. Everything in the East Commons came out of the focus groups," Stuart said.

The main theme is refreshment for mind and body. "We understood that the East Commons had to have comfortable amenities. It needed good light and a view," Stuart said.

Another aspect of the East Commons is the presentation space. "Students wanted to be able to see the great stuff that is done on campus... We created a space where a presentation arena can be and then disappear once the event is over," Stuart said.

The East Commons creates a meeting area where students and faculty can come together to discuss things. "The students wanted to be able to know the faculty as humans, not just as talking heads in a classroom. Jazzman's was created to have a coffee house effect where students could meet with professors informally," Stuart said.

The East Commons is only a step in a continuing process. "This is just page one chapter one. It's a start," Stuart said.

Flex

from page 1

of flexibility. "The lighting system is completely moveable and adaptable. The lighting system is a Herman Miller system. Each one has a sensor on it. A wand allows all the lights to be on the same control... We went with having a lot of control with the light as opposed to knocking down walls and putting in a bunch of glass," Bennett said.

"Walls on each corner have an incremental color wash. The change of the color can change the vibe of the space. ... We're trying to see what effects the colors have on the people in the space," Bennett said.

The presentation space is also a flexible space that can have its usage changed in a matter of minutes. "In the presentation space, all the tables can fold up so we can store them quickly. There are 65 stackable chairs that can be put into the space for presentations. The line in the

carpet is to delineate the stage area. We want the whole space to change from group to individual and back to group quickly," Bennett said.

All the furniture in the East Commons follows the theme of flexibility. "The chairs have handles on the back and wheels on the front for easy movement. The more we move them around, the more students will move them around. There are a lot of options and a lot of flexibility. What happens here can affect others," Bennett said.

Another aspect of the East Commons is its ability to have exhibits. "A very strong rail will be installed to hang artwork, so we can show

Tech work in whatever form possible. We want to help students design their exhibits," Bennett said.

Overall, the East Commons was designed to give students a respite from the norm. "I think of it as recharging the batteries. It's good for right-brain stimulation. We wanted to make sure its not rigid in any way. This is only a start thought," Bennett said.

"The chairs have handles on the back and wheels on the front for easy movement."

Charlie Bennett
Library East Commons
Coordinator

"I think of it as recharging the batteries. [East Commons is] good for right-brain stimulation."

Charlie Bennett
Library East Commons
Coordinator



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Conduct from page 1

The proposal has to first go through the Student Government Association, where it will be carefully evaluated. Then it goes to Rules and Regulations Committee of the Faculty Senate. Then it is presented before the Faculty Senate.

"So we are driven by the number of meetings that happen for the faculty senate during an academic semester. The hope is that we will put something forth to the community and have this all approved by the end of the fall term," Stein said.

According to Schafer, the current attempt to amend the Code of Conduct is more comprehensive than previous ones.

"What we are doing is different from what had been done in the past. Before I came to Tech, there was a real specific focus to look at the academic integrity process, but we are looking at the whole process, which involves both the non-academic stuff that occurs as well as the academic," Schafer said.

After speaking with students, faculty and staff regarding these policies, Schafer acknowledged the fact that the current system needed some fine-tuning.

"I think the process has been a good one because it has involved all the right people," Stein said.

"I think the importance of the

students and the faculty components are due to the fact that they are the individuals that comprise the hearing boards, so they have the experience of dealing with the issues and the complexity of some of these cases and trying to come up with fair sanctions," Stein said.

The current amendment process is also aiming to close the information gap between the Code of Conduct policies and processes and the students.

"We introduce the [Student Code of Conduct] to students at FASET orientation, but it's usually after they get their first notification of a violation that they then backtrack and find out what the steps are to this or what can happen to me. I think this is something that you only understand when

you need to understand them," Stein said.

According to Schafer, the Code of Conduct is an area that students don't spend a lot of time studying.

"We have a responsibility of always looking for ways for getting this information out to students, so they can be informed and keep giving us feedback and asking us questions," Schafer said.

"I'm glad that we are not rushing through it, because I think it is something that is worthy of time and focus. And so I think spending time with it is useful and beneficial for us as a community," Stein said.

was predicted.

"NASA will rely on our expertise for these kinds of studies," Moffet said.

This feat garners attention from the population at and beyond Georgia Tech for various reasons.

"This is one of the only fuel cell airplanes that has not been built by NASA or a company in which things are all secret. We design all our stuff in the open. People can take pictures and talk about what goes on inside," says Bradley,

According to Bradley, it is important to make new technologies known to the public.

The fuel cell airplane, with a 20-foot wingspan, is the largest of its kind ever built that is powered by compressed

hydrogen.

"That's important because compressed hydrogen is the same technology that the auto industry uses," Bradley said.

As opposed to liquid hydrogen, which most other researchers of unmanned aircrafts have used to power their planes, compressed hydrogen is cheaper and easier to use. This makes it easier to commercialize Tech's plane. Tech is the first university to fly a fuel cell airplane.

The method of launching and landing the airplane is also innovative. Other fuel cell planes have taken off by hand launch. This plane has landing gear and flaps to ensure a successful take-off and landing.

"I think the process has been a good one because it has involved all the right people."

John Stein
Interim Dean of Students

Airplane from page 1

main designer of the aircraft.

"We wanted to show that with the technology we can buy now commercially we can achieve flight. The technology in applying and actually using fuel cells is less than 15 or 20 years [away]," Moffet said.

The main goal of the project was to show the potential of current aviation technology.

Tom Bradley, a mechanical engineering Ph.D. student, researched and developed primarily the fuel cell component of the plane.

"A fuel cell is basically an electrochemical device that performs a chemical reaction and makes electricity just like a battery," Bradley said.

Unlike other forms of making energy, fuel cells are less harmful to the environment, as water and heat are the only reactants that come out of the chemical reaction they undergo.

"The reason why people are excited about fuel cells is that it's a way of making energy where you don't have pollutants because there's no combustion going on. It consumes fuel, but doesn't oxidize it, combust it or burn it," Bradley said.

According to Moffet, the engineer's part was to try to take the system model of an entire aircraft and try and build it to see if the individual parts that were designed were also coming out to close to what

"The technology in...using fuel cells is less than 15 or 20 years [away]."

Blake Moffet
Aerospace Engineering
Ph.D. Student

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ECE creates lab-on-a-chip

By Corbin Pon
Contributing Writer

Ali Adibi, a professor at the College of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), and his research group have created the world's smallest wavelength demultiplexer, critical in the development of small-scale biosensing and chemical analyzing devices.

"A wavelength demultiplexer is an optical device that has the capability to separate the different wavelengths from an incident signal into a space. If you look at what a prism does, it gets the white light that has multiple colors, which are different wavelengths...and at the output it separates the colors so that at one point you see green and at one point you see red. That is a wavelength demultiplexer," Adibi said.

The research of Adibi's team involves photonics, the study of transmitting information with electromagnetic waves, and especially the integration of photonics devices with computer chip technology.

The specific research into photonic crystals have allowed them to shrink the wavelength demultiplexer.

"If you normalize the published results of other people to the same performance, then ours is smaller by at least two orders of magnitude," Adibi said.

Adibi credits his PhD student Babak Momeni with many of the ideas leading to this smaller wavelength demultiplexer.

"This can find [an] application... when you would like to use optical information processing with multiple wavelengths at the same time

"If you normalize the published results... ours is smaller by two orders of magnitude."

Ali Adibi
Professor, College of Electrical and Computer Engineering

in order to increase your speed or your bandwidth."

According to Adibi, the second application is on spectroscopy.

"In Lab-on-a-Chip, ... you have a chemical... [or] a fluid you want to sense and look for a specific molecule. You bring it on a silicon chip and a light beam goes through that. Its spectral signature will appear on that optical beam..., then the wavelength demultiplexer can distinguish those signatures and a detector can detect them," Adibi said.

The Lab-on-a-Chip concept integrates many laboratory functions onto a single chip only a few square millimeters.

"I think [the wavelength demultiplexer] is a piece," Adibi said.

According to Adibi, when a person talks about Lab-on-a-Chip, they are talking about a system, and spectroscopy is a major part of that system.

"I think this is... the most compact way of doing this on a chip that can be integrated with other photonic and electronic functionality," Adibi said.

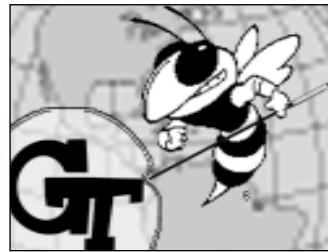
Georgia Tech currently has several proposals in the works based on the technology around the tiny wavelength demultiplexer and research opportunities will expand around the areas of spectroscopy.

"It brings a new opportunity [to] spectroscopy by using a three dimensional version of what we did," Adibi said.

According to Adibi, two dimensional is always good for Lab-on-a-Chip or on-chip performance.

"If you want a general purpose or a specific purpose spectrometer, you extend it to the three dimensional case and have a standalone device that does the job for you. It would be useful in hand held sensors, mobile sensors... that could be used for [biological] or environmental [applications]," Adibi said.

Breaking *the* Bubble



A lot of things went on outside the bubble of Tech in the past week. Here are a few important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

Stingray claims life of Crocodile Hunter

Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin was attacked on Monday by a stingray and received a fatal puncture wound to the chest.

Irwin was shooting an episode for his show off of Australia's north coast. According to CNN.com, Irwin was snorkeling at Batt Reef, a part of the Great Barrier Reef about nine miles from the town of Port Douglas, when the incident happened.

According to witnesses, Irwin swam over the stingray, which was buried in the sand and the barb came up and hit him in the chest.

New panda born at Zoo Atlanta

Lun Lun, the panda at Zoo Atlanta, had a baby panda on Wednesday. Assuming it survives, the new cub would be just the fifth to be born and raised successfully in a U.S. zoo.

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, it will be three to four months before the cub can be seen by the public. The panda will be named at a ceremony held 100 days after its birth, according to Chinese custom.

The longest labor on record for a panda in captivity had been 34 hours. Lun Lun took 35 hours to deliver her cub.

Bush announces use of secret prison by CIA

Bush announced that 14 high-profile terror suspects that were secretly being detained by the CIA are being transferred to Guantanamo Bay for military tribunals.

According to the New York Times, the announcement was the first time that Bush talked about the secret CIA program which he authorized.

The government says the 14 terror suspects include some of the most senior members of Al Qaeda captured by the United States since 2001, including those who participated in the attack on the USS Cole.

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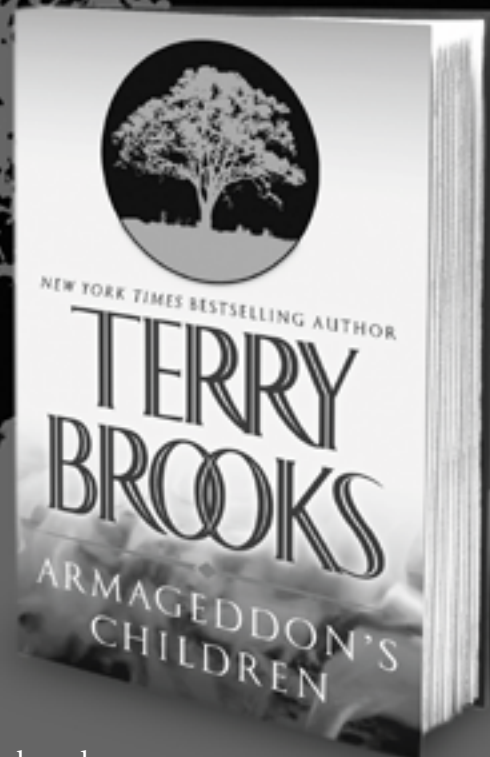
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