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The WHISTLE

The Georgia Institute of Technology

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Games people play

Researchers study online interaction with game played in virtual community

Jane Sanders
Research News and Publications

Interacting online with people from throughout the world is a daily occurrence for millions of Internet users, yet most do it with little perspective on the virtual identity they are projecting. Now a multiplayer online game created by Georgia Tech researchers is offering insight to virtual community designers and members.

Called "The Turing Game," its object is to differentiate imposters from players telling the truth. Games can cover aspects of gender, age, race, religion, nationality, native region or any other cultural marker of the users' choice. Differentiating imposters by the content and style of their online written communication will reveal insights into how various cultural markers affect a person's virtual identity, researchers said.

"Rather than just studying identity online, why not create a way for everyone—netizens and scholars alike—to learn more about it through personal experience?" said Joshua Berman, a College of Computing doctoral student who developed The Turing Game with his advisor, Amy Bruckman. "And why not try to make it fun as well as intellectually engaging?"

Bruckman compares The Turing Game to the old game show called "To Tell the Truth." "You have a panel of people with all but one of them pretending to be something they are not," she said. "The audience asks questions via the computer, trying to determine which panelist is telling the truth."

The Turing Game is based on the "Turing Test," named after British mathematician Alan M. Turing. Its intention is to see if a person can distinguish the differences between

See Game, page 2

Campaign offers a way to 'give back to the community'

Georgia Tech's 1999 Charitable Campaign offers one way for faculty and staff to give something back to the community. As part of the State Charitable

Contributions Program, Tech's campaign invites employees to contribute to participating charities, with the option of making donations through payroll deduction.

State records show that Georgia Tech is among the most generous of the state's agencies and institutions: Tech ranks first in per capita giving and second in total dollars (University of Georgia is first).

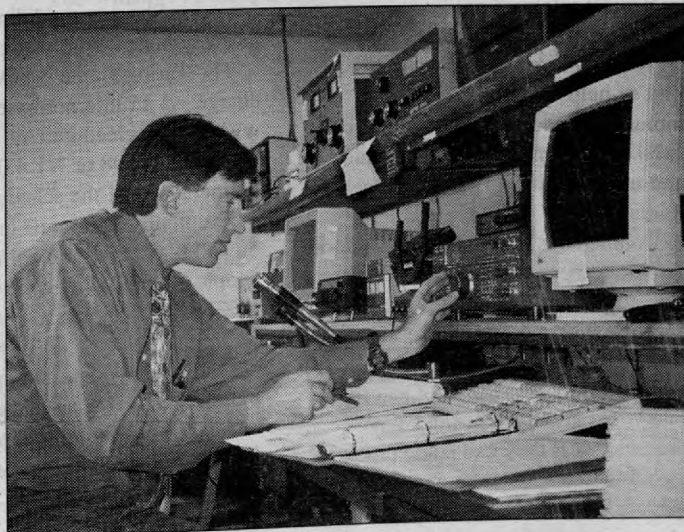
Launching the 1999 "Give Back to the Community" campaign is a kick-off breakfast on Sept. 22 with John Hannabach, recently retired director of Career Services, as the keynote speaker. Chairing this year's campaign is Miriam Drake, dean and director of Libraries, with Paul Ohme, director of the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing (CEISM), serving as co-chair. "The citizens of Georgia and Atlanta contribute to Georgia Tech through their tax dollars, lottery purchases, contributions to scholarship funds and purchase of tickets for athletic and arts events. We need to be active participants and give something back to our community," Drake said.

The goal for this year's campaign, which runs through October, is \$270,000. "Strong participation in the Charitable Campaign by Georgia Tech faculty and staff is just another way to show that we are a dedicated part of the whole Atlanta community and that we take our role seriously," Ohme said.

See Campaign, page 3



Tuning in to Hurricane Floyd



Hurricane watch: Paul Steffes, professor, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and advisor to the Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club, tunes in to Hurricane Watch Net, a radio network that provides information directly to the National Hurricane Center. Members of the Amateur Radio Club last week heard live reports from residents in the Bahamas who witnessed Hurricane Floyd. Club members heard from one man near Marsh Harbor who saw a building floating by, while another resident in Abacos reported 160 mile per hour winds. Through reports on the network, Steffes also was able to record barometric pressure. He said the lowest pressure reported was 27.44 inches (of mercury), which is close to the lowest pressure ever measured at sea level. (The lower the pressure, the more intense the storm.) Radio stations use Hurricane Watch Net to provide information on weather conditions to the National Hurricane Center.

Branch: Michael B
Library

0900
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Photo by Denise Noble, Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Ford strengthens partnership with Tech

Sarah Banick
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

The Ford Motor Company recently demonstrated its ongoing confidence in Tech's students and faculty with a multi-year commitment of \$3.1 million to The Campaign for Georgia Tech.

The benefits are spread widely across campus and will affect more than 15 different areas. More than \$1 million will go to the development of the Integrated Acoustics Laboratory in the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. This facility, identical to Ford's own, will be dedicated to the education and training of undergraduate and graduate engineers in acoustics and vibrations.

One of the most dramatic results of the Tech/Ford partnership is the innovative antenna design for the highly popular Ford Taurus. Thanks to an earlier gift from Ford, Georgia Tech professor Krish Ahuja developed the antenna in his Cobb County wind tunnel facility. The design decreases wind resistance and cuts down on noise.

"We think it is important for Ford Motor Company and the Georgia Institute of Technology to maintain a strong relationship," said Frank Taylor, vice president for Material Planning and Logistics at Ford.

Another area that will benefit is the manufacturing education program. The graduate program is being restructured to allow students more freedom in individualizing their coursework. Georgia Tech Lorraine, the Institute's engineering program in France, will also benefit.

When President Wayne Clough recognized the automobile manufacturer as one of Georgia Tech's preeminent corporate partners, Ford's Taylor had something more in mind. "We don't want to be one of Tech's preeminent corporate partners," he said. "We want to be the preeminent corporate partner."

Testing the waters



Photo by Denise Noble, Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Philip Walls, a plumber in the Plant Operations Division, finds more than three coins in this fountain. Twice a day, Walls checks the chlorine level and uses a net to skim food wrappers, bottles and leaves from the fountain at the Kessler Campanile. He said the spot is also popular with the canine members of the community who are known to jump in and cool off. The campanile, an 80-foot obelisk of stacked stainless-steel plates, was constructed in 1996 as the artistic focus of the Georgia Tech Plaza and the centerpiece of the Olympic Village. The campanile represents the vision of artist Richard Hill and several Tech alumni, including Richard Kessler (IE '68, MS IE '70), for whom it is named.

**Georgia
Tech**

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Wardlaw Center
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Game, continued from page 1

men and women without being able to see them—basically doing it with written responses.

The game is a research tool for Berman's dissertation, which will explore identity and culture in online communities from two complementary perspectives. "I hope to help virtual community members understand the actions which create their public identities, and to help virtual community designers be aware of the cultural and social affordances of the societies they create," Berman said.

Virtual communities, which are growing in popularity, are creating new educational and cultural opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. For example, U.S. students can regularly meet online with students across the world to play educational games and share project information.

"That's a powerful learning experience," Bruckman said. "The community support found in a virtual community can provide students with a lot of help."

But while virtual community support is a powerful tool, it is not fulfilling its potential effectiveness, Bruckman said. Community designers and members must first have a better understanding of virtual identity.

"Identity in online environments is still poorly understood," Berman said. "As online culture becomes an increasing part of everyday culture, it becomes more and more important for us to understand how it affects who we are. Our research aims to expand the body of knowledge about identity and culture online. We hope to expand that understanding not just for scholars, but for everyone who plays The Turing Game."

Researchers hope to answer what they call some crucial questions for virtual community designers. "Is it possible to create a genderless classroom? A raceless courtroom? A rich environment where a user can be not just a pseudonym, but a

person with a full history of culturally bound experiences?" they ask on their web site. "The Turing Game is a participatory collaborative learning experience to help us understand these phenomena."

Online players have been trying out The Turing Game recently with questions designed to reveal a panelist's gender. Here's a sample Q&A from people trying to portray women: "What's your best beauty tip? Nicky says: Mix your own concealer with Oxy10. It's a better color than the one that comes out of the bottle. Rhonda says: Always blot your lipstick with a piece of tissue." Who was really a woman? Nicky.

Here's a sample Q&A from people trying to portray men: "What was the worst thing about your last significant other? Bob responds: She wanted me to hang out with her all the time. David says: She always had a comment for everything. Joe says: She was the 'clingy' type. I felt like I had to check in every hour." Who was really a man? David.

The Turing Game is now available to the public free of charge via an Internet-based virtual community at www.cc.gatech.edu/elc/turing/. It runs on any computer with Windows 95, 98 or NT 4.0. Participants must register to play online at any of the scheduled game times.

Eventually as interest increases, players will be able to log on and play at any time. Interest seems high; more than 1,200 people—ranging in age from 18 to 89—in six continents registered to participate within the first month of the game's posting on the web on July 21.

"Participants report being both amused and enlightened, seeing themselves and others in new ways," Berman said.

The Turing Game is supported by a grant from Microsoft Research and by the National Science Foundation.

Parking Office reminds campus of home football game parking guidelines

The following areas have been designated as reserved parking areas for guests of the Institute on home football game days. Only those with special parking passes issued by the Georgia Tech Foundation or the Georgia Tech

Athletic Association are authorized to park in these areas on game days. Faculty, staff and students must remove their vehicles by the time indicated.

Parking area

R01 Peters Parking Deck
A07 Gate 5, AA lot on Bobby Dodd Way
B01 Administration Building Lot
B02 Wardlaw Garage
B03 SST Card Lot
B04 Library Card Lot
A01 Alumni Faculty House Lot
A02 North Avenue Lot, Deck Level 1 and 2
A02 McAfee Street Lot
A03 North Avenue Lot
A08 Power Plant Drive, between Bobby Dodd Way and Gate 4
A14 O'Keefe East Lot
Techwood Drive between North Avenue and Bobby Dodd Way
Bobby Dodd Way between Fowler Street and Techwood Drive
Cherry Street between North Avenue and Bobby Dodd Way
Brittain Drive
Fowler Street between Bobby Dodd Way and Fourth Street

Move cars by

10 hours before game time
7 hours before
3 hours before
3 hours before
3 hours before
3 hours before
3 hours before
3 hours before
3 hours before
3 hours before
7 hours before
6 hours before
6 hours before
6 hours before
6 hours before
6 hours before

A05 Student Deck

Approximately 900 spaces are needed in this area. Faculty, staff and student vehicles do not need to be moved. Access will be controlled and space reserved for special pass holders as necessary.

Street closures

The following streets will be closed to vehicle traffic three hours before game time:

- Techwood Drive between North Avenue and Bobby Dodd Way
- Bobby Dodd Way between Fowler Street and Techwood Drive

The Parking Office suggests parking in A09-Architecture/FF, A11-CE/Chemistry, R03 gravel, remote lots and the Physics lot.

Did you know

Techmasters

Techmasters, Georgia Tech's faculty/staff/alumni chapter of Toastmaster's International, meets each Thursday from 7:30 - 9 a.m. in the Pettit Building (MIRC), room 102. Anyone interested in improving his or her speaking, listening, thinking and leadership skills is encouraged to attend. The next open meeting will be held Sept. 30. Guest speaker David Arnold, director of Client Communications, Institute Communications and Public Affairs, will share strategies for speaking with the media. Guests are welcome. For more information, see the web at <http://spanky.mirc.gatech.tn/> or contact Barry Crouse, membership chair, at 894-5735 or barry.crouse@ipst.gatech.edu.

Whistle archives on the web

If you're looking for an article that appeared in a previous issue of *The Whistle* (from Nov. 1997 forward), see the web at www.whistle.gatech.edu and click on Whistle Archives. *The Whistle* is posted to the web each week.

'Making service a Tech tradition'

This year's TEAM Buzz planning committee is asking all volunteers to save the date: the third annual TEAM Buzz Community Service Day will be held Oct. 23. Registration begins Sept. 27, and volunteers may register as individuals or groups.

For more information, contact Melissa Matassa, faculty/staff involvement chair, at 206-9063 or gte588e@prism.gatech.edu, or see the web at <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/teambuzz/>.



Campaign, continued from page 1-

"Our goal for the Charitable Campaign is to achieve 100 percent participation by employees," said Drake. "I urge all employees to give to one or more of the many organizations included in the campaign. Every gift is important."

Each faculty and staff member will receive a pledge card with a list of eligible charitable agencies. The list includes both independent and federated charitable organizations. Independent charitable organizations conduct a wide range of

health, welfare and educational programs and provide services to individuals on a statewide basis. Federated charitable organizations include a number of local United Ways and several independent federations; the federations coordinate fundraising and allocations for more than 900 local charitable organizations that provide services throughout Georgia.

Participants may designate their gift for a specific area or let the State Charitable Contributions Program use it wherever it is most needed. Pledge cards will be distributed within the next several weeks.

Campus EVENTS

Arts/Culture

Sept. 25

Guitarist/composer/producer Chuck Loeb. Classically trained, Loeb has toured with many jazz greats and has written themes for Montel Williams, Nightline, New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves and CNN's Headline News. 8 p.m., Robert Ferst Center for the Arts. Tickets: \$29.54 for lower level, \$26.78 for upper level. For reservations, call 894-9600.

Sept. 29

Tokyo String Quartet. Presenting more than 100 concerts each year, the quartet performs on the renowned Stradivarius instruments known as The Paganini Quartet, on loan to them from the Nippon Music Foundation. 8 p.m., Robert Ferst Center for the Arts. Tickets for faculty/staff: \$28.90, lower level; \$23.80, upper level. For reservations, call 894-9600.

Brown Bags/Lectures

Sept. 23

GVU Brown Bag Series. "From Playing to Learning for Everyone, Everywhere," by Jamie Fenton, Stanford Research Institute. Noon, Pettit Building (MiRC), Rm. 102. Contact 894-4488 or gvu-info@gvu.gatech.edu.

Sept. 24

Cognitive Science Brown Bag Series. "If a Palm Pilot Could Speak Would We Understand It?" by Colin Potts, College of Computing. Noon - 1 p.m., Student Center, Rm. 321. Contact: Susan Jackson, susanj@cc.gatech.edu or 894-7865.

School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Colloquium Series. "Tomographic Inversion of Seismic Surface Waves," by Dr. Timothy Long, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. 3 p.m., Student Success Center, Clary Theatre. Contact: Susan Ryan, 894-3893.

Sept. 30

GVU Brown Bag Lecture Series. "Primatech: Models and Future Directions," by Jim Davies, Tim Keenan and Irfan Essa, College of Computing. Noon, Pettit Building (MiRC), Rm. 102. Contact: 894-4488 or gvu-info@gvu.gatech.edu.

Oct. 1

"Spatial and Temporal Variation in Bio-Irrigation at Sapelo Island, GA: Stochastic and Inverse Modeling Approaches," by Carla Koretsky, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. 3 p.m., Student Success Center, Clary Theatre. Contact: Susan Ryan, 894-3893.

Sports

Sept. 30

Football, Tech vs. Maryland, 8 p.m. Game to be aired on ESPN. For more information, see www.ramblingwreck.com or call 894-5447.

Oct. 1

Women's volleyball, Tech vs. Clemson, 7:30 p.m., O'Keefe Gymnasium. Tickets are \$3. For more information, call 894-5447 or see www.ramblingwreck.com.

Miscellaneous

Sept. 23

Georgia Tech Women's Forum general meeting. Noon, Student Center, Rm. 321 (new location). Speaker: Chris Coleman, co-founder and artistic director of Actor's Express. For membership information, contact Grace Yancey at grace.yancey@success.gatech.edu.

Oct. 1

Lecture and book signing by Susan Faludi, author of *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women*. Faludi will sign copies of her new book, *Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American Man*. 12:30 p.m., Student Services Building, Rm. 117. Contact: gigi.weinrich@bks.gatech.edu or 894-1642.

Editor's Note: Calendar items should be e-mailed to denise.noble@icpa.gatech.edu or faxed to The Whistle at 894-7214 at least 10 days prior to desired publication. For more information, contact 894-8324.

Classifieds

APPLIANCES

Used appliances, double oven, microwave, cooktop, refrigerator with auto ice maker. Best offer. Contact 603-9594 or lqli.iii@worldnet.att.net.

Refrigerator (white), good working condition. Whirlpool side-by-side 21.4 cu. ft. Auto ice maker. \$150 OBO. Call 894-1028.

AUTOMOBILES

1985 Plymouth Reliant station wagon. It runs, but brakes need work. 116K miles. Blue book \$1,500. To make offer, contact ribarsky@cc.gatech.edu.

1988 Saab 900, Hatchback, dark red, 115K miles, auto, power steering, 4 disc brakes, beautiful body, \$2,900. Call Emmanuel, 894-3707 (day) or 249-7342 (eve).

1988 Mazda 929, auto, sunroof, 160K miles, runs great. \$2,500. Contact 770-454-9161 (Steve) or diana.jiang@library.gatech.edu

1992 Ford Tempo GL, only 52K miles, white, auto, 4-dr, a/c, am/fm/cass, pwr steering/door lock, good condition, \$3,500 OBO. Contact 770-797-9532.

1995 Honda Accord EX Coupe, black, leather interior, spoiler, moon roof, alarm/keyless entry, 42K miles, new paint. Must sell! Call for price, 995-9626, or contact teresa.young@oit.gatech.edu.

1995 Ford Crown Victoria LX. Red, 4.6L am/fm/tape, ac, ps, pb, pw, pdl, auto, cruise, tilt, ABS, air bags, 102K miles. \$10,200. David, 894-5517, 770-505-0547 (eve) or david.bowman@facilities.gatech.edu.

1995 Dodge Intrepid ES, metallic gray, 4-dr, fully loaded: ac, pl, pb, ps, tilt, cruise. \$6,800 OBO. Contact 770-987-2247 (eve); 894-0870 (day); or marie.mcvay@icpa.gatech.edu.

1998 Honda CRV-EX. Assume low lease payments (\$300/mo) or refinance/make your own deal. SUV, loaded w/ options. Contact Andria, 894-9190 or andria.cole@vpss.gatech.edu.

1998 Chevy Silverado ext cab, 5.0 V8, am/fm/CD, 30K miles still under warranty, Rhino spray in bed liner. \$20,500 firm. Contact d.senn@gtri.gatech.edu, work 770-528-7011, home 770-632-9359.

FURNITURE

1960s rattan sofa, 2 chairs, 2 tables, excellent condition, \$475. PVC patio furniture with 48" table, 4 club chairs, 2-seat glider, 3 small tables, \$475. Leave message at 321-5218.

Broyhill blue leather recliner sofa. 3 yrs old, good condition. Price negotiable. Call 773-9518.

REAL ESTATE

For sale by owner: 1930 brick bungalow, Decatur—\$289,900. 3 BR on 1st, sleeping porch. Updated: HVAC, kit, 2 BA, roof, insulation, deck, hardwoods. 770-863-9892 or bill.borland@gtri.gatech.edu (agents protected; no listing calls please).

Bungalow, Candler Park. 10 min. from Tech. 2 BR/2 BA, fully renovated, central heat/air, hardwoods, den, LR, DR, built-in office, front

porch, back deck. W/D. Avail. 10/1, \$1,600/mo. Call 688-6364.

Unit in duplex, Inman Park. 2BR, 1BA, kitchen, LR, deck. Parking space in back. Central heat/air. \$1,000, incl. utilities. 658-1852 or fakhri.haghani@library.gatech.edu.

Lots for sale on large trout stream (Fighting Town Creek), Blue Ridge, Ga. 3/4 to 3 acre level lots, \$25K and up. Contact 770-386-3181 or charles.twiggsg@gtri.gatech.edu.

Professional Tech employee seeks 1-2 BR apt., condo or home near GT for herself and cat in good neighborhood. Can move in anytime. Possible purchase option. E-mail eileen.spencer@dev.gatech.edu.

For sale by owner: 2 BR, 1 BA. Fireplace, screened front porch. Creek on property, at foot of mountain, Ellijay, Ga. \$65,000. Contact dschneider@ppd1.facilities.gatech.edu, 622-7851 or 655-1148 (pager).

SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION

Total Gym, home gym system. Bought new for \$600, asking \$300 OBO. Health Rider, barely used, \$85. Contact 770-437-9643 or cheri.bernard@success.gatech.edu.

1976 Apache Roamer pop-up camper, sleeps 6, includes shower, hot water heater, stove, refrigerator, heater. Asking \$2,000; price negotiable. Contact Kathy Wingate, 894-1252 or kathy.wingate@chemistry.gatech.edu.

Whitewater kayak. Perception Super Sport, red. \$500. Contact Will Marble, 894-6267 or will.marble@sac.gatech.edu.

Weider bench with thick cushion, 160 lbs. free weights, \$75. Call 321-5218.

Want to trade Health Rider for Nordic Track cross country skier. Call Zena or Barbara, 770-967-8867.

MISCELLANEOUS

1987 Yamaha Virago 535 cc, maroon, garage kept, 3,260 miles, like new, \$2,500 firm. Contact 770-972-1123 or glen.williamson@ohr.gatech.edu.

Cat, 1 1/2-yr-old male, black striped tabby, loves attention. Call 770-955-7288.

Percussion instruments for beginners: Ludwig snare drum, drum stand, case, bells, sticks, mallets for bells, timpani, practice pad. All for \$180; cost \$360 new. Contact 385-0290 or debbie.pearson@coop.gatech.edu.

14" Panasonic color TV w/ remote, \$75; queen mattress frame, \$15; twin mattress, box, frame, \$30. JVC speakers (13" x 47"), black, need covers, \$100/pair. Call 385-1155 or 770-577-6267.

Wanted: 4 tickets for Homecoming game, Tech vs. North Carolina, Oct. 9. Call Ed or Sara, 770-487-9526.

Wanted: Vincent Bach size 5C trumpet mouthpiece. Willing to pay cash or trade Bach size 8 1/2 C trumpet mouthpiece. Contact Bob, 894-3626 (day) or bob.schwerzel@gtri.gatech.edu.

Two indoor cats (TJ, Its-a-Boo) free to good homes. 5-yr-old healthy neutered males, tolerate dogs and cats, love people. Contact 894-8157 (work), 770-424-1003 (home) or tony.white@gtri.gatech.edu.