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THE WHISTLE

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A statement from President Clough

Editor's note: Following last week's terrorist attacks, President Clough issued a statement to the campus community. The following is the text of that statement.

As news reports continue to stream in and as the events of the day become increasingly unbelievable, I know that all of us send our prayers and our sympathies to those who were injured or lost their lives in these horrible events, and to their friends and families. Events like today strike at the very heart of the notion of community here and around the world. Despite the obvious connection between these acts and domestic or international political division, it's important that we not forget the deeply personal loss experienced today by so many around the country and the world.

It is common for concern and sorrow to sometimes turn to anger in situations like this. That anger is magnified as the media search for blame.

But in the midst of this sorrow and anger, it's vitally important that we retain our personal integrity and refrain from engaging in anything that diminishes our sense of community. We are proud of the cohesive community of students, faculty and staff at Georgia Tech from around the state, the nation and the world. Today's events should do nothing to destroy that. While speculation is rampant about the cowards who perpetrated these crimes, please remember that no one within the Georgia Tech community should bear the brunt of any frustration from today's events.

Our focus should now be on those who were injured or lost their lives, those who feel that loss and those who risked their lives to save others. So as you watch and listen to everything that continues to transpire, please remember that we are all a part of the human community, no matter how hard some try to tear us apart. I ask that today and throughout your lives you focus on sentiments that unite and draw us closer, rather than engaging in actions that senselessly divide.

We are all diminished by these horrific acts, but I know that we will rise above this as time heals. Thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time.

Tech maintains high national rankings

Area universities also score well in magazine

Bob Harty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Georgia Tech continued to receive high marks in the annual ritual of rankings from U.S. News & World Report's annual listing of American universities. For the third year in a row, Georgia Tech was ranked among the nation's top 10 public universities. The Institute was ranked 41st overall, down slightly from 35th in 2000. In specific programs, the College of Engineering improved its prestigious undergraduate ranking, coming in at sixth overall, up from number eight in 2000. The DuPree College of Management remained in the top 35, with a 35th ranking, down one from 2000. In a recent ComputerWorld Magazine survey of the top Information Technology executive programs, the DuPree College was ranked 7th, behind Stanford University.

Other area university rankings include Emory (18th overall), University of Georgia (second tier overall, 18th among publics), Clark Atlanta University (third tier overall), and Georgia State University (fourth tier overall).

"It's good to see high scores sustained over a number of years," said President Wayne Clough. "The year-to-year variations in the rankings tend to undermine their credibility in the academic world. It's never a good idea to get too excited or annoyed with any of these rankings, because they're not a reliable, comprehensive assessment of educational quality. But a continual presence among the nation's premier universities is something of which our students, faculty and staff can be extremely proud."

President Clough also noted the continued rise of Georgia universities in the rankings. "To see Emory in the top 20 among all universities, Georgia Tech in the top 10 among publics and Georgia in the top 20 among publics, is a real accomplishment. Not many areas in the nation," he said, "have that kind of academic firepower. Those that do — such as San Francisco, Boston and New York — have a noticeable advantage in economic development and quality of life. That's a real benefit to the entire state of Georgia."

Georgia Tech's College of Engineering also had four programs ranked in the top five nationally, among the 12 specialty areas ranked by U.S. News. The School of Industrial and Systems Engineering re-attained its number one ranking after slipping to number two in 2000. Aerospace Engineering maintained its number two ranking, while Tech's Civil and Mechanical Engineering programs each moved up one slot to numbers three and five, respectively.

"Overall, said Clough, "the consistency of our rankings is decidedly positive."

Mid-term grades aimed at helping freshmen head off problems

Dan Treadaway
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

By the time many freshmen realize that they are in serious trouble in a course, it's often too late in the semester to turn the problem around. The resulting D or F grades can deal a serious blow to fledgling Tech students.

To help new students avoid this all-too-common pitfall, the Institute last spring adopted a policy to implement a mid-term grade system for all undergraduates in 1000- and 2000-level courses. The mid-term grades will not be included in the calculation of students' grade point averages and will not become a part of the students' transcripts.

Mid-term grades of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) will be assigned to all undergraduates in lower-level classes. For mid-term this semester, all students who receive one or more U grades and whose date of matriculation was spring, summer or fall term 2001 will be required to meet with their academic advisor. Advisors will help students identify the source of their problems and direct them to the appropriate campus resources for help. While students who receive U grades are required to meet with their advisors, they are not required to avail themselves of the assistance they learn of in those meetings.

Robert McMath, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies, says that recent studies by the Registrar's Office indicate that as many as one in five students in 1000- and 2000-level courses receive at least one grade of D or F during any given term. McMath said that many students who receive U grades this mid-term will already be aware of their problems on some level, but will need the U grade to serve as a reminder that they must take action while they still have a chance to improve their grades.

"Some students will need help with their general study skills," McMath said. "Some will need to visit their professor and talk about specific problems they're having in that class." McMath also said the Counseling Center, Success Programs, and the Freshman Experience program are gearing up to help students deal with classroom troubles.

"The impetus for this policy came directly from the students via the SGA (Student Government Association) leadership," McMath said. "They felt it was very important to have something like mid-term grades to give first-year students a sense of where they stood. The faculty had also been considering such a plan, and this fits in very nicely with President Clough's goals concerning student retention."

In addition to McMath's office, Institute Registrar Jo McIver's staff

Mid-term continued, page 2

"QUOTE— UNQUOTE"

"This is a step down the road to making a computer of such little structure that it could lead to a totally new type of computing."
—Uzi Landman, Regents professor in the School of Physics, on IBM's recent announcement of having successfully constructed a basic computer component using a single carbon molecule. (Chicago Tribune)

"The monster-slaying story would have been a coming-of-age tale for the Germans — the reflection of a ritual whereby a youth became a young man — alone and naked, armed only with their bare hands or a single blade, he faced the most terrifying thing in the universe, this ultimate chaos, the ultimate threat, and he overcame it."
—Don Beistle, an instructor in the School of Literature, Communication and Culture, commenting on his recent study investigating the Roman influence in the roots of ancient Germanic folklore. (United Press International)

Technology Square groundbreaking

At left, Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell thanks Georgia Tech for expanding the campus into what he referred to as a "development quarter" for the city. He is joined on the dais by, from left, Susan Mendheim, president of the Midtown Alliance; President Wayne Clough; H.H. "Buck" Stith, chairperson of the Georgia Tech Foundation; and Hilton Howell, chair of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Almost 300 people turned out on a hot and humid afternoon to attend the ceremony, which was followed by a reception in the Biltmore Hotel across the street. Governmental, educational and civic leaders made brief remarks about the significance of the project, which is expected to take two years and $180 million to complete. In the coming weeks, progress of the site may be monitored via webcam at www.gatech.edu/techsquare.

photos by Stanley Leary

Standing on the site of the future Interdisciplinary Center, President Clough pitched his shovel into the earth to signal the beginning of construction for Technology Square. Standing with him, from left, were Robert Thompson, senior vice president of Administration and Finance; Joe DiGregorio, vice provost of Distance Learning; Provost Jean-Lou Chameau, Terry Blum, dean of the College of Management; President Clough; Rosalind Meyers, vice president of Auxiliary Services; Tom Debo, associate dean of the College of Architecture; and Wayne Hodges, associate vice president for Economic Development and Technology Ventures.

Georgia Tech

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Editor: Michael Hagearty

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Institute Communications and Public Affairs
Wardlaw Center
177 North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

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has been working for several months to prepare for the first round of mid-term grades this fall. McIver has met with a number of campus groups and departments over the summer to spread the word about the new policy. "The Registrar's Office will have its term Information Sessions on October 4 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Clary Theater, and we will discuss the logistics of collecting the mid-term grades," said McIver. "We will also send e-mails to the academic departments prior to the collection of grades."

McIver said the Registrar's Office has written several reports for academic departments to use during advisement. The reports will be available on the EIS web page (www.eis.gatech.edu).

"This is a work in progress and we will be very anxious to see if mid-term grades and the advisement and support that will be available will have an effect on the freshman class," said McIver. "We hope that students having difficulties will avail themselves of these resources. We will be evaluating the results and will be looking for input from faculty, staff and students as to how we can improve the process."

Learning about America

photo by Stanley Leary

They travel from countries such as Ecuador, China and South Korea to enhance their education, complete their goals and grow professionally; yet a student's efforts can be further challenged by language and culture barriers — a vital part of the international experience.

In a collaborative venture between the Department of Housing and the Georgia Tech Counseling Center, a workshop entitled "Welcome to America" offers students support as they learn to cope with life in a new country.

"These types of events create a kind of camaraderie with the students and with the spouses in family housing," said Maz Kozma, community director for Graduate and Family Housing.

Mack Bowers, assistant director of the Counseling Center, and Rome Lester, a licensed marriage and family therapist also with the Center, facilitated the program that sought to explain the nature of everything American, from body language to communication patterns.

There are roughly 15,000 students at Georgia Tech, and almost 2,500 claim citizenship in other countries. Of those, 85 percent are enrolled in either graduate or doctoral programs.

ROTC still looking for a few good students

Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

As has been widely reported in the last several years, the military's difficulty in recruiting young men and women bordered on an epidemic. The U.S. Army, which suffered the most significant shortfalls of the four branches, realized it needed to alter its message to meet the challenges of young America's changing attitudes.

Army leaders responded with a new marketing campaign, a new slogan and more incentives for soldiers. For the first time in years, national enrollment quotas are being met, and Army barracks are once again full. Still, getting enough students to commit to both education and military training is an area of concern, one the Army is currently addressing by way of scholarship.

Maj. Richard Parker, a professor of military science, said, "What we've seen in the past is that the Georgia Tech ROTC has been able to provide the Army with the officers that have exceptional leadership characteristics not only on the field of battle, but also in the research and development programs they have to offer."

"As the world continues to evolve into a more technological society," he continued, "our officers need to have matching skill sets that will allow us to advance our own research and development capabilities and maintain a superior land force for the world."

He pointed to the millions of dollars in research, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, and the cutting-edge engineering projects that are being conducted on campus. The Army, he said, is looking for the type of officers who can advance these projects, and many of them come directly from the engineering programs at Tech.

Georgia Tech is the flagship school for an Army ROTC program — known as the Stinger Battalion — with satellite schools comprised of the AAU, Emory University, Southern Polytechnic State University and Kennesaw State University. Currently, approximately 100 cadets are enrolled in the program, though Parker admits that "part of that is due to downsizing — reducing the number of officers we bring into the service."

Nonetheless, this number is only a shadow of years past, when Tech's ROTC played a key role not only in commissioning officers for military service, but also in training them for leadership roles in the corporate world. Formed in 1916 by a War Department General Order, Tech's ROTC unit boasted an enrollment of 1,300 cadets within six years. Its enrollment peaked in 1963, but there has been a slow and steady decline in recent years. Since 1921, Tech has commissioned more than 7,500 officers into the U.S. Army and claims more than two dozen generals as alumni.

Georgia Institute of Technology Library and Information Center

Army ROTC, Stinger Battalion, in formation in the late '60s.

To meet the growing demand for officers with technological expertise, the Department of Defense has earmarked more than $600,000 in annual scholarships for students who meet eligibility requirements. Maj. Tom Evans, a recruiting officer for Army ROTC, said that based upon the academic environment, "Tech students have a greater advantage to secure these scholarships," because they are already acquiring the knowledge an evolving Army covets. Parker points out that the relationship between Tech and ROTC is a symbiotic one.

"We're a reflection of the society we represent," he said. "(ROTC) has a very positive influence, I think, on the school, and individuals with technical degrees are going to give the Army the training base it needs to do well and protect our national interests."

For more information...

Army ROTC — Stinger Battalion
www.gatech.edu/armyrotc

IN BRIEF:

Changing stripes?

The left-side parking spaces recently striped along Tech Parkway may not be around much longer, as crews began covering the yellow and white road paint last week. The Atlanta Police Department had voiced concern over the arrangement, which they believed to be a safety hazard, and asked that parking be moved to the right side of the street.

Rod Weis, director of Parking and Transportation, said a traffic engineer is planning to conduct a study of the route and determine future action.

"Whatever we need to do to comply with his wishes, we'll do," Weis told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "If that means go ahead and switch the outside lanes, that's what we'll have to do."

Buoyant rock?

A new study of the Earth's mantle beneath the ocean near Iceland provides the most convincing evidence yet that simple buoyancy of hot, partially molten rocks can play an important role in causing them to rise and erupt through the surface at mid-ocean ridges.

Published last month in the journal Science, the Georgia Tech study also shows that heat from a volcanic hotspot in Iceland can affect normal mantle convection activities at a nearby ridge.

Hot upwelling of volcanic rock from the mantle typically occurs in two environments: (1) mid-ocean ridges, which are linear chains of volcanic activity along the boundary where two plates move away from one another, and (2) "hotspots," which are point sources of high volcanic output associated with quasi-stationary and long-lived heat sources in the mantle. The mid-Atlantic ridge is an example of the former; Hawaii, Iceland and Yellowstone National Park are examples of the latter.

Faculty member receives award

John Zhang, an associate professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has received the U.S. Department of Energy's Defense Programs Early Career Scientist and Engineer Award. This award was established in 1996 to recognize the contributions of scientists and engineers in the nation's research universities to the Department's national security mission. He will formally accept this award at a DOE ceremony in Washington, D.C. in October.