Tech completes academic misconduct investigation

Changes to CS courses, review process initiated

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The investigations revealed that the plagiarism discovered was not done in an organized fashion. Rather, it ultimately resulted from a large number of students making independent decisions to use the work of others to meet homework deadlines. There was no evidence of a group effort to defraud the system.

The most significant policy change from the task force is shifting the assignment focus from homework to quizzes and exams. These two courses will now allow collaboration with attribution; homework assignments, a subtle but important change from previous years. The new policy, which went into effect for the summer semester, allows students to work collaboratively on homework assignments, as long as they credit the external sources used to complete the work. Those external sources may include, but are not limited to, other students, teaching assistants, textbooks or web sites.

“This change generated a great deal of discussion,” said James Foley, associate dean of the College of Computing and chair of one of the task forces. “There are logical arguments for both approaches and both are in use around the country. But we ultimately felt that learning would improve by using the homework to teach and quizzes and exams for the bulk of our assessment. Such an approach is consistent with Tech’s overall approach to collaborative learning.”

With the advent of the collaborative approach, in-class exams and quizzes will become the primary means of assessing student performance. Homework assignments will be far more teaching oriented than a means of assessment.

The Institute will also add resources and make slight changes to its Academic Honor Code administration. A Code re-introduced by Tech students in 1996. Among the refinements are additional resources to investigate and process allegations of academic misconduct. Both recommendations will be implemented immediately.

“This incident has caused the Georgia Tech community to look closely at the way we teach and the way we hold each other accountable for our actions,” said Bob McMath, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies. “Because of the serious and thoughtful efforts of many people, I believe that we are coming out of this experience a stronger and better university.”

The investigations were a number of suggestions for enhancing the Academic Honor Code process. Some of the other notable recommendations are:

- Create a new assistant dean for Academic Integrity and increase support staff within the Office of the Dean of Students to handle cases more efficiently.
- Increase the size of the Student Honor Committee in order to ensure a consistently available quorum for proceedings. Currently, the absence of more than one faculty or student representative prohibits conducting a meeting.
- Increase the number of computer lab spaces available.
- Increase the number of tenure-track faculty teaching the introductory computer science courses.
- Establish benchmarks for processing academic honor code violations to ensure swift adjudication.

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55 years later, co-op alumni group can still muster

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To the casual observer, they look just like anyone else in the lunch crowd at a popular Buckhead tavern. In the darkness it’s hard to tell, a bit older, a bit slower maybe, and a bit more boisterous than the rest of the crowd. If you never looked up, you’d never hear by the sound of it they were 16-year-olds. And if you never listened, you’d never know they were heroes. They meet on the second Monday of every other month. Their number varies, usually between four and eight. Today there are six: Al Hainlin, Rem DuBose, Jim Tucker, Ed Smith, Bill Camp and Jim Ivey. They meet for only two reasons — they all graduated from the co-op program at Georgia Tech, and they’re all veterans of World War II.

After the war they didn’t see each other except for the military business dealing that brought them together by chance. But in 1995, they had a muster. One of our members thought it would be a good idea for those of us who were in the war to get together by chance. The name of the group was Dufrose.

They tried to have a class reunion, but although they entered Tech around the same time (1940), the war split them apart and they graduated in different years. Tech said they didn’t have a “class” so there could be no class reunion. So they borrowed a term from their military days and called it a muster. More than 90 showed up; they’ve been getting together ever since.

“After you’ve talked to the grocer, the janitor, your own acquaintance, you man, you need stimulating conversation, so it’s nice to get together,” said Hainlin.

Quantum mechanics, growing orchids, medical alumni and the war are just a few of the topics that float across their table. Often they have a guest join them, and more often than not, the guest is from Tech. They’ve met with everyone from the provost to alumni to professors. Given the broad range of guests, it’s not a stretch to say they may be the best-informed group of graduates ever.

“We get a different perspective from each guest,” said Ivey.

They came to Tech when the country was in the midst of the Depression. Even though they say tuition was only $22.50 in-state and $80 out-of-state per quarter, they needed the alternating quarters of work and school and that the co-op program provided.

“Although we were 16-year-olds, we were heroes. There’s a feeling that if we didn’t do it, we wouldn’t have a country,” said Tucker.

“The vacation” didn’t last long. After a few months, they were sent to Office of Coast Guard School and then off to war. DuBose was lucky, he said, because he was stationed in Aberdeen, Maryland as a utilities officer. For him it was the best-informed group of veterans ever. Hainlin was sent to the Philippines to serve in a maintenance company keeping the army trucks and artillery running. Tucker and Ivey were shipped to the Pacific to dispose of unexploded bombs.

After the war they went back to Tech where rat caps and rat court didn’t seem so threatening anymore and tuition was paid by the government’s new GI Bill. When they finally graduated in 1947 and ’48, they went their separate ways, seeing each other only occasionally. Hainlin taught at the University of Miami and then started his own aerospace business. Tucker became chief engineer at Simons-Easterling, a manufacturer of production and division manager at Florida Steel and DuBose served as president of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association from 1984-85 and is about to retire as chairman from White Electric.

The “FutureTruck” competition, organized by Ford Motor Company and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), will be held June 11-21 in Arizona and California. The students, with guidance from faculty and technical help from DOE and Ford, will attempt to re-engineer a 2002 Ford Explorer into a low-emissions vehicle with at least 25 percent higher fuel economy — without sacrificing performance, utility, safety or affordability. The Tech team’s entry is a split-parallel hybrid vehicle that’s powered by both an electric motor and a standard engine. The front wheels drive electrically, powered by a
William Fash, Tech’s first dean of architecture, dies at 71

William L. Fash, the first dean of Georgia Tech’s College of Architecture, died on May 27 at his Atlanta home. He was 71.

Fash died of complications from lung disease. He joined the faculty in 1976 after the enrollment of almost 1,000 students resulted in the formation of Georgia Tech’s College of Architecture the year before. Fash was appointed the College’s first dean, and the program grew quickly during his tenure.

Major accomplishments during his tenure included an addition to the Institute’s original Architecture Building, and the approval of a doctoral degree program in architecture.

Due to health problems, Fash stepped down as dean in June 1992 and remained on the faculty until his retirement in 1994. “We have succeeded in getting instruction programs on very solid footing and very competitive with the other schools,” he said in 1992. ‘I’m very proud of the faculty and the staff that we’ve assembled. And, of course, Georgia Tech students are just incredible, and the students in this college are certainly no exception.’

Prior to his arrival at Tech, Fash was a professor of architecture at the University of Illinois. He has also held teaching positions at the University of Oregon and at Oklahoma State University, where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture. He also was a Fulbright Scholar.

IN BRIEF:

ATDC graduates nine

At its 12th annual Open House on May 15, the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) recognized nine companies for their accomplishments in a formal “graduation” from the center.

The companies represent a mix of technologies from medical devices and waste conversion to software and Internet applications. Three of the firms have been acquired by larger companies.

Three of the nine have direct ties with Georgia Tech.

• Chutey Technologies, Inc. is defining a new category of software solutions called Application Performance and Scalability Bottlenecks that persist throughout multithreaded web application architectures. Co-founded by DuPre College of Management Professor Anindya Datta, Chutey was recently included in ComputerWorld Magazine’s list of “top 100 emerging companies for 2002.”

• SaluMedica, an Atlanta biotech company, is designing and developing medical devices based on its proprietary biomaterial. SaluMedica holds the exclusive, worldwide license to use this patent-protected biomaterial. Regents’ Professor David Ru, who holds a faculty appointment in the College of Engineering and the DuPre College of Management, serves as both its president and CEO.

• TogetherWeb, Inc. enables electronic customer relationship management (eCRM) companies to provide collaborative solutions through secure, collaborative browsing between customer service representatives and customers. TogetherWeb was begun in 2000 by three Tech alumni; in January 2002, it was acquired by Proficient Systems, Inc., an Atlanta-based enterprise software vendor. TogetherWeb customer. The remaining six companies are EnEch Environmental, Fortel DTV, Information Distribution and Marketing, MedialOcean, Office2.com and STAR Software Systems. For more information on the graduate companies, refer to www.atdc.org/recentgraduates.html.

ECE students take Intel honor

Jay Silver took second place honors in the Intel Research Award Contest for Undergraduate Students last month at the company’s international headquarters in Santa Clara, Calif.

Silver graduated with his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering on May 4. Sponsored by Intel’s Microprocessor Research Labs (MRL), the program awarded grants for undergraduate student research conducted during the previous year that explores the frontiers of future computing.

Silver’s project, “Real-Time Nematode Egg Detection with Computer Vision,” was advised by Ronald Schafer, a Regents’ Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Silver will attend the University of Cambridge this fall on the Gates Cambridge Scholarship to pursue a master’s degree focused on computer science.

He was not the only Tech participant in the Intel competition. Chung-Tse Mar, who received his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering, was also named among the contest’s 14 finalists.

For more information, refer to www.futuretruck.org.

FutureTruck is a joint government-industry project created by the Department of Energy to explore alternative propulsion systems and fuels through student competition, with the goal of raising the environmental performance of the SUV while keeping the features that have made it so popular.

www.whistle.gatech.edu