Graduate programs continue national prominence

Magazine rankings rate engineering, management

Bob Harty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Georgia Tech’s College of Engineering maintained its powerful national stature in the most popular college rankings released last week, once again ranked among the top five engineering programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Tech’s Industrial and Systems Engineering program was ranked number one for the 13th year in a row. In all, seven of the 11 programs within Engineering ranked among the top 10 in their respective disciplines.

Among the highly competitive schools of business, Tech’s DuPree College of Management ranked 51st overall and the College’s Production and Operations Management program ranked 108th.

“Overall trends are far more important than a specific ranking in a specific year,” said President Wayne Clough. “Our consistently high rankings in Engineering indicate that we have been able to sustain a very high level of quality for a long time. That’s a very satisfying trend. I’m also confident in the fundamentals of our management program and look forward to improved rankings in the future. The economy has hit the technology sector extremely hard, so it’s only natural that a college that excels in entrepreneurship and the management of technology would feel the impact.”

Tech’s College of Engineering remained a member of the elite top five, behind only MIT, Stanford, the University of California at Berkeley, and Illinois. The seven engineering programs ranked in the top 10 are: aerospace (4th), biomedical (6th), civil (5th), electrical (6th), environmental (8th), industrial and systems (1st) and mechanical (6th).

“I’m very proud of the work done by our faculty, graduate students and staff to achieve these rankings,” he said. “We’re consistently competing well against some of the finest universities in the world. Rankings are not why we are here, but the trends contained therein are notable.”

This year, U.S. News & World Report ranked graduate programs in business, engineering, fine arts, health sciences, law and medicine.

New chair named for department of biomedical engineering

Larry Bowie
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Georgia Tech and Emory University have selected Larry V. McIntire, a prominent biotechnology expert, to chair the joint department of biomedical engineering (BME). Pending approval from the Board of Regents, McIntire will assume his full duties on July 1.

McIntire, who has built a distinguished career in the health and engineering fields, is currently the chair of Rice University’s Department of Biomedical Engineering, as well as Rice’s Institute for Biosciences and Bioengineering. He holds the E.D. Butcher Professorship of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering.

“I have worked in this field for many years now, and Larry McIntire is a noted expert in this area,” said College of Engineering Dean Don Giddeons, who served as BME’s inaugural chair until 2002. “I have a personal interest in this position and believe I’m passing the torch to an outstanding leader.”

With a graduate program ranked sixth in the nation, the department

Founder’s Day honors Tech’s pioneering women

Elizabeth Campbell
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

To Molly Ivins, politics may be a blood sport, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t enjoy yourself.

“What you need to do as you fight for freedom and justice in this country is have a lot of fun,” the political columnist and best-selling author advised a packed Student Center Ballroom. “(And) in order to have fun while fighting for freedom and justice, what you need is imagination and beer.”

Ivins’s trademark blend of humor and hubris was warmly received as Ivan Allen College celebrated its Founder’s Day on March 27 by awarding her the 2003 Ivan Allen Prize for Progress and Service.

Ivins was honored for a lifetime of achievement in a discipline related to a field of study in the College, said Usha Nair-Reichert, co-chair of the Founder’s Day Committee and associate professor of economics. Her nationally syndicated column runs in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Upon accepting the prize, Ivins said, “I remember very vividly when Ivan Allen was mayor of this city and how we envied you, those of us who lived in East Texas. You had Ivan Allen as mayor and Ralph McGill at the newspaper. I think those two men deserve much of the credit for Atlanta’s unusually rich cultural heritage, … and positioning it as an international city.”

Ivins spun several tales, many about Texas characters, but with a message underneath the humor.

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Mayor challenges Tech at women’s golden anniversary celebration

Rashida Syed
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Speaking to an audience of more than 400 guests who came to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Women at Georgia Tech, Mayor Shirley Franklin congratulated the Institute on this milestone and challenged Tech’s students and faculty to continue breaking through barriers even in times of celebration.

“I recognize how hard it must have been (for Tech) to make these changes — to recognize those with differences. But we’re not finished. The work you do in your fields will define what America will look like and how we progress,” said Franklin, the event’s keynote speaker. Franklin also spoke about three groups in Atlanta’s population whom she feels are oftentimes overlooked: immigrants, children and the disabled.

Immigrants, she said, struggle with acceptance and adjusting to life in Atlanta and elsewhere. Children in poverty also face numerous problems. Franklin explained, “There are tremendous challenges to young people in poverty … I challenge you to think as broadly as possible (about this problem). Many of our young people have no chance to get out unless we at Georgia Tech strive to make a difference.”

Franklin’s discussion of disabled citizens came with another charge, particularly for graduating Tech students. “Be proactive,” she said. “People who live with disabilities are relying on us to step out and make a difference.”

Faculty, staff, alumni, students and guests came together to honor the women who were trailblazers at Tech, many of whom took unprecedented risks to open doors for themselves and other women who would follow. The program recognized 50 of those firsts, including women who were the first to assume leadership roles, earn degrees, serve in positions or join activities that had been traditionally male dominated.

The Anniversary Steering Committee and Celebration Event Subcommittee pulled out all the stops for the March 28 dinner celebration. The entranceway featured mannequins dressed in clothing representing the five decades during which women have attended Tech; the reception hall included an exhibit displaying some of the first women students and faculty; and a video featured an anecdotal account of the past 50 years at Tech.

President Wayne Clough also spoke, and expressed the pride that Tech feels in being able to claim women like Shirley Newborn, one of the first two women to graduate from Tech, and the only woman president of the Alumni Association. “(Shirley) and the thousands of women who followed her to Georgia Tech … came for an outstanding education … they worked hard; they persevered; they overcame challenges Tech placed before them; and in the end, they got out and went on to contribute to society in important and meaningful ways that have made us proud.”

While Newborn, who was recently honored with the Georgia Tech Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award, shows no signs of passing on the torch she has carried for nearly 50 years since she graduated in 1956, she makes it her duty to encourage female graduates to become role models. “Women at Georgia Tech have many wonderful opportunities. They’ve been given much; therefore, much is expected. It is their bound duty to return that favor — to encourage, particularly women to pursue a career in science and engineering.”
Citing concern for health, Tech cancels Asian study abroad program

Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

A
s public health organizations such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) work to learn more about a new respiratory illness, administrators at Georgia Tech are having to make some tough decisions regarding students involved in international exchange.

For more information: wwwcdc.gov/ncidod/sars
World Health Organization: wwwwho.int/csr/sars/en

Residents of the institute and other laboratories have detected a previously unrecognized virus in patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), but have not made a definitive statement regarding the cause of the disease as of press time.

Most of the cases, characterized by flu-like symptoms, are in Asia. With the end of the semester near and travel plans being finalized, Tech sent out a campuswide e-mail providing resources and suggestions. In trying to explain the risks to concerned citizens, public health officials are drawing comparisons with influenza. So far, it is believed that SARS is transmitted by close contact with a carrier. While there are no special drugs that will cure this illness — another similarity with the flu — CDC Director Julie Gerberding said the mortality rate is “actually lower than what we see with epidemic influenza.”

As with many illnesses, those with compromised or limited immune systems — the elderly, children and those with pre-existing conditions — are more vulnerable to the disease. Current reports indicate that roughly 90 percent of patients recover within 10 days.

Georgia Tech, which has several study abroad programs scheduled to travel to Asia this summer, has taken steps to limit the potential risk to its students. In a letter sent by the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and the Office of International Education (OIE), students traveling to Hong Kong and Singapore were told the program was being cancelled.

“We are still firmly committed to the importance of international education,” the letter read, “however, the safety and security of our students and faculty are of paramount importance and must be considered above all other matters.” Alternate arrangements — postponing the semester abroad or participating in a different international study program — for those students are being made. Other study abroad programs are being carefully monitored by OIE.

The CDC also recommended that elective or non-essential travel to those regions be deferred. For those who will be going overseas, the U.S. Department of State offers “Medical Information for Travel Abroad,” at wwwtravel.state.gov/medical.

On April 3, the last date for reported figures before press time, the WHO quoted a cumulative total of 1,800 cases of SARS had been confirmed across 15 countries.

Barry Crouse, head of IPST Graduate School, dies

David Bell
Institute of Paper Science and Technology

T
he flag at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology (IPST) was lowered to half-staff on March 16 in honor of W. Crouse, the dean of the graduate School of Paper Science and Technology (IPST) and Georgia Tech’s first female dean. Crouse, the dean of the graduate school, passed away on March 16. He was 60.

Alumna Giselle Ow Yang said, “Barry was the best sort of teacher, the kind who helped you set foot onto the path of discovery to find out who you might be and what you might become. He would be uncomfortable to see you scraching your knees and scraping your knuckles, but he would not interfere with the growing process: beyond a few gentle but pointed words.”

Crouse was passionate about the students and the academic program, said Jim Perris, IPST president. “He mentored us, inspired us, taught us, and set high standards for us in terms of performance and ethics. He contributed to us as individuals and certainly in terms of our organization.”

Crouse was part of the management team at IPST for the past 14 years, working to create an atmosphere where projects on paper science and engineering were truly interdisciplinary.

Instructor. He was also a major force in Techmasters, the Georgia Tech Chapter of Toastmasters, an organization that helps people improve their communication skills.

Crouse received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in paper science and engineering from Rutgers University and the University of Maine in 1967 and 1968, respectively. He earned his doctorate in chemistry from Duke University in 1972. He served with the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1961-1964, was the faculty advisor for the Georgia Tech Flying Club and was one of only 500 pilots in the country with the designation of Master Certified Flight Instructor. He was also a major force in Techmasters, the Georgia Tech Chapter of Toastmasters, an organization that helps people improve their communication skills.

Crouse received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in paper science and engineering from Rutgers University and the University of Maine in 1967 and 1968, respectively. He earned his doctorate in chemistry from Duke University in 1972. He served with the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1961-1964.

**IN BRIEF:**

**Homeland Security update**

Officials with Georgia Tech’s Homeland Security Initiative this past week established a virtual community to encourage regular exchanges of information among faculty researchers. The online community offers forums for nine technical interest groups, including sensing and surveillance; policy education and training; materials and decontamination; information technology and cyber security; structures and facilities; biomedical/biometrics; systems engineering; transportation; and robotics. Forum members may discuss topics of mutual interest plus share current news and key documents regarding their work. Individuals can sign up for multiple groups, and members of the virtual community will receive a monthly e-mail newsletter that summarizes pertinent information generated by the technical forums. To join, contact Senior Research Associate Mark Hodges at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, mark.hodges@igr.tatech.edu. Include the name of any technical forums that you wish to join.

**Licensing liquor sales: a GT SMART forum**

On April 16, GT SMART presents a program from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Poole Boardroom of the Wardlaw Center featuring a discussion of the liquor license application process in Atlanta. Lt. F.M. Williams, director of the License and Permits division of the Atlanta Police Department, and Barney Sims, chairman of the License Review Board for the city of Atlanta, will describe how applications begin in the Police Department, move to the community and ultimately to the mayor’s desk. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jocelyn Thomas at jocelyn.thomas@vpsps.gatech.edu or call 385-1396.