Alumni Association sponsors an evening of research innovations

Sean Selman
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

A panel of distinguished faculty will discuss some of Georgia Tech’s leading research — in areas such as nanotechnology, tissue engineering and marine biology, among others — during a Feb. 11 presentation at Technology Square.

President Wayne Clough will lead the panelists in a discussion of “Georgia Tech: Innovating Here and Now,” sponsored by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association.

The event will be held at 7:15 p.m. at the Hotel and Conference Center. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends are invited to attend the free panel discussion.

“Innovating in the 21st century requires an interdisciplinary approach, and the collaboration of engineering, sciences and business will make Georgia Tech a leader in the innovation race,” said Joe Irwin, executive director of the Alumni Association.

“We hope this will be the first of a number of regional events we want to eventually hold throughout the country,” Irwin said. “They will give us a fantastic way to tell our alumni about some of the leading-edge research now under way at Georgia Tech, and give them a chance to ask questions about the work and how it might affect their lives.”

Vallee Donovan, assistant executive director of the Alumni Association, said several cities have been identified as possible locations for future panels, including New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

“Our panelists are leading the way in their individual fields,” Donovan said. “Our goal is to put forth some of our faculty with these events and to provide a forum for the faculty to interact with our alumni.”

It enhances the reputation of the Institute, helps in the continuing education of our alumni and provides a fantastic networking opportunity for everyone who attends and takes part.”

To register for the event, log on to www.gtalumni.org or call 894-7085.

For additional information, e-mail vallee.donovan@alumni.gatech.edu or call 894-9273.

Federal committee seeks input from Tech on math and science education

David Terraso
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Schools must teach students how concepts studied in class are used in the real world, if they want to improve science and math education.

That was the assessment of Paul Ohme, who testified before a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science last month. As director of Georgia Tech’s Center for Integrating Education in Science, Mathematics and Computing (CEiSMC), Ohme builds partnerships with local elementary and secondary schools that amount to a cultural exchange between higher and K-12 education.

“We got to share, on a national platform, some of the exciting programs that we are involved with at Georgia Tech and the creative ways that our faculty and staff and students are supporting [primary and secondary] schools and support an expectation that don’t perform well in these subjects at advanced levels. Students do not perform well in these subjects, he said later, because they aren’t expected to.

Highly qualified and motivated teachers are also necessary for improving science and math education, Ohme told the committee.

“A science teacher who’s been out of college 15-20 years, if they have not learned more about science since

GTRI engineers developing decoys that help protect military aircraft from attack

T.J. Becker
Research News

With the increasing threat of enemy attack on military aircraft by heat-seeking missiles, engineers at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) are testing new defensive countermeasures called decoy flares, which confuse the weapons’ tracking systems.

Because these missiles vary in their schemes for rejecting decoys, researchers are trying to develop a one-size-fits-all flare pattern. They are running thousands of computer simulations to examine as many flare patterns as possible. Then they test the best ones in the field.

This past summer, the researchers tested decoy flare patterns on military aircraft as part of their project for the U.S. Air Mobility Command and the Air National Guard. Field tests are key to tailoring the flare pattern to individual aircrafts and
Nick Voigt, an instructor in Aerospace Engineering, on the two exploration rovers currently operating on the surface of Mars.

Robert Braun, an assistant professor in the School of Aerospace Engineering, on the play approach to downloading two exploration rovers currently operating on the surface of Mars.

There has probably never been such a well put-together spacecraft in the history of mankind.

Georgia Tech's Library and Information Center will offer students and faculty members training seminars for using Endnote, a citation management program available through Georgia Tech's Office of Information Technology (OIT).

The Endnote site license has been provided for students and faculty as part of the Georgia Tech technology fee.

Endnote allows users to create a searchable library of downloaded or manually entered references for any type of publication, including journal articles, books, Web sites and legal material,” librarian Cathy Carpenter said. “Using this software, users also can create stand-alone bibliographies or format footnotes or endnotes within their documents.”

Endnote is compatible with many Georgia Tech databases, including the Web of Science and Science Direct, plus many GALILEO databases, Carpenter said.

Hands-on training for Endnote will be held for faculty 1:30 p.m., Feb. 16 and 17 in the Homer Rice Center, located on the first floor of the Library and Information Center. Additional sessions for graduate students will be held 1-3:30 p.m., Feb. 18, also in the Homer Rice Center.

Endnote version 7 runs on Windows NE/2000/XP/NT/4/98SE and on Macintosh OSX (10.1, 5, 10.2.x). The software and user manual can be downloaded from OIT’s software distribution Web site:

www.oit.gatech.edu/software

For more information, call 385-2211 or e-mail cathy.carpenter@library.gatech.edu.

New library program manages reference materials

Sean Selman
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

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DramaTech explores the ‘creature’ within

Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

In a rare confluence of art and science, the latest production of Georgia Tech’s student theater organization utilizes one of literature’s most enduring characters to plumb issues still being debated in contemporary society.

Beginning this weekend, DramaTech performs a series of one-act plays, collectively titled “Me Thy Creature.” Working out of the Dean Dull Theatre, located at the back of the Robert Ferst Center for the Arts, DramaTech — which began in 1947 — is the longest continuously-operating theater in Atlanta.

Greg Abbott has been the artistic director of DramaTech for the past 20 years, and teaches courses in acting, directing and stagecraft in the School of Literature, Communication and Culture. He said the idea came about in conversations with members of the Library staff who were making plans to host a traveling exhibition on Mary Shelley’s novel, “Frankenstein.”

That exhibit — due to open next month — examines the use of scientific experimentation as a metaphor to comment on cultural values and how the creature created by Frankenstein has become a cultural icon over the past two centuries.

“At that time I was considering commissioning new plays by local playwrights, and it occurred to me that we could do this in conjunction with the library exhibit,” he said. “This approach afforded us an opportunity to do a great project, work jointly with on- and off-campus entities, and support the exhibit.”

DramaTech commissioned three short plays from members of Working Title Playwrights, a professional theater organization in Atlanta. The ground rules were that each play be 30 minutes long, and inspired by Shelley’s classic tale.

“Me Thy Creature,” directed by Mary IN BRIEF:

Security upgrades make older BuzzCard obsolete

With several new security measures being implemented on campus, the BuzzCard Center is informing the campus that the older, blue BuzzCards may no longer be compatible with some card readers. Replacement cards are now available at no charge.

The new BuzzCard design is a yellow field that incorporates the gtID# on the front. Contact the BuzzCard Center at 894-2899 or visit the BuzzCard Center office in the Student Center Commons.

Commercializing GT research

Despite the cautious investor environment, CardioMEMS Inc. — an Atlanta firm commercializing wireless medical technology developed at Georgia Tech — has raised nearly $14 million in second-round funding.

Atlanta-based CardioMEMS is using micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS) technology to create a new generation of medical devices. The company’s first products will enable doctors to more easily monitor heart patients with tiny, wireless sensors inside the human body.

The sensors operate without batteries; radio waves activate the devices, which internally measure heart and blood pressure, then transfer the information to an external receiver.

CardioMEMS co-founders Jay Yadav and Mark Allen met in 2000 when Yadav, a cardiologist and director of peripheral and carotid intervention at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, was exploring ways to use MEMS technology for healthcare innovations. Allen, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Georgia Tech, had already been working with MEMS to measure pressure inside turbine engines.

Allen’s microsensors were designed specifically for military drone aircraft; however, he and Yadav believed that they could adapt the technology to monitor heart and blood pressure in people.

Nearly 5 million people in the United States have congestive heart disease, which makes the market for the heart sensor significant.

Baseball team pre-season faves

The Atlantic Coast Conference’s nine head coaches selected Georgia Tech as the top pick to win the conference championship in 2004 with six first place votes and a total of 77 points.

The Yellow Jackets return eight of nine position starters and a total of 20 letterwinners from a 2003 squad that captured the ACC championship and finished the season with a 44-18 record, including a 17-7 league mark and a trip to the NCAA Atlanta Regional.

Florida State finished second with 61 points and a first place vote after finishing the 2003 season as the ACC regular-season champions. Clemson was third, tallying 60 points and one first place vote.

Scholarships available

The Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club is offering scholarships specifically for children of faculty and staff at Tech. Students may contact Pat Webb at 770-487-5410 or Ann Donaldson at 404-983-8082 for an application form. The deadline for applications is March 8.

Materials Science and Engineering Professor Z.L. Wang, director of Georgia Tech’s Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and one of the world’s most cited authors in nanotechnology research, covers “Nanotechnology: How the Science of the Small Will Yield Important Breakthroughs in Our Daily Lives.”

College of Computing Professor Ralph Merkle, who directs the Georgia Tech Information Security Center, presents “Computing: How Do We Trust the Computers That Shape So Much of Our Daily Lives?” Merkle is widely recognized for his work in the field of cryptography.

Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor Andres Garcia, who specializes in areas that integrate engineering and biological principles, speaks on “Tissue Engineering: Replacing Diseased or Damaged Tissue.”

Professor Mark Hay, the chair in Environmental Biology in the School of Biology, discusses “Life Under the Sea: How Can We Protect and Replenish Coral Reefs?” Hay recently spent 10 days in an underwater research facility as part of a study that could help save dying coral reefs throughout the world.

DuPree College of Management Professor Marie Thurbuy, the chair in Entrepreneurship and expert in commercializing new technologies, talks about “The Business Edge: Getting Research from Lab to Market.”

IN BRIEF:

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CAMPUS EVENTS

Arts & Culture
Feb. 5
The bookstore welcomes author Deborah Dickerson for a lunchtime discussion of her newest book, "The End of Blackness." For more information, call 894-1642 or e-mail gilj.weinrich@bibs.gatech.edu.

Feb. 5
The School of Literature, Communication and Culture presents the McZer Poetry Reading, featuring Thomas Lux, H. Bruce McEver and Patricia Smith, at 4:30 p.m. in the Clary Theater. For more information, visit www.iac.gatech.edu/poetry.html.

Feb. 13
The bookstore hosts science-fiction author William Gibson, who will sign his New York Times best-seller, "Pattern Recognition," at 7 p.m. For more information, call 894-1642 or e-mail gilj.weinrich@bibs.gatech.edu.

Feb. 14
The Ferst Center for the Arts welcomes Peter Schickele (and his alter ego P.D.Q. Bach) for an 8 p.m. performance. Faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount. To purchase tickets, call 894-9600.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures
Feb. 4
The DuPree College of Management’s IMPACT Speaker Series welcomes Ray Anderson, chairman and CEO of Interface Inc., at 4:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium.

Feb. 5
The Graphics, Visualization and Usability Center’s brown bag series hosts a "Faculty Overview of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Research at Georgia Tech." at noon in room 132, Technology Square Research Building. For more information, call 894-4488 or e-mail gvu-info@gvu.gatech.edu.

Feb. 10
The School of Chemistry and Biochemistry’s Cherry Emerson Seminar Series welcomes Marcy Waters, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, on "Aromatic Interactions in Protein Folding and Molecular Recognition," at 4 p.m. in Rogers B6A.

Feb. 10
The School of Materials Science and Engineering hosts a seminar featuring Professor Z.L. Wang, professor and director of the Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, on "Semiconducting and Piezoelectric Nanobelts: Materials, Properties and Applications," at 3 p.m. in room 185 of the Love Building.

Faculty and staff should send calendar items for events to editor@icpa.gatech.edu when available.

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILES
1991 Honda Prelude Si. Fun to drive, 4-wheel steering. Automatic, sunroof, spoiler, CD player, black, 1568 miles, $2,700. Call 894-7429 or e-mail mercedes.saghini@arch.gatech.edu.

1995 Pontiac Grand Am GT. Blue/green, 918 miles, 5.1L V6, rebuilt auto transmission, a/c, 16-inch wheels, K&N, flowmaster dual exhaust. 6 CD changer and subwoofer, $4,000 OBO. E-mail mgilbert@bibs.gatech.edu.

2002 Toyota Camry LE. Original owner, 4-door, 25K miles, automatic, credit card, $15,000. Call 678-498-0815.

COMPUTERS

FURNITURE
Storehouse tucked sofa. Brown, very good condition, well maintained. $250. Call Jon at 404-794-8510.

Ubun with mattress, $150 OBO. Frame is green with wooden armrests. Mattress is black. E-mail gilj.weinrich@bibs.gatech.edu for pictures or call 894-6780.

REAL ESTATE/RENTALS
Fully furnished condo: www.thewilmarkt.com. 1BR unit, all utilities paid. Fitness and business center, rooftop jacuzzi and clubhouse, 24-hr. concierge. $875/month plus security. Call 770-725-9242 or e-mail omar@speedfactory.net.

2BR/2BA home for sale. Clairmont/Briarcliff area. Brick ranch home with finished basement, work bench area, screened porch, expansive decks around in-ground pool. Call 894-9945 or e-mail karen.foote@otk.gatech.edu.

Nice 2BR/1BA house near Buckhead/Midtown. 1020 Lindbergh Dr. hardwoods, fenced yard, attic storage, screened porch, expansive decks around in-ground pool. Call 894-9945 or e-mail karen.foote@otk.gatech.edu.

Children’s outdoor playhouse. The interior features a skylight, shuttered windows, pretend sink, a stovetop with clicking knobs, a push-button phone and fold-down table. Great condition, $125. Call 404-843-2929 or e-mail davidbridges@edl.gatech.edu.

Fisher Price vibrating baby bouncer with hood, cloth cover with navy blue and white polka-dots, good condition. $10 cash. E-mail marco.mooro@yahoo.com or call 894-2686.


SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION
500cc motorcycle including new chrome extras plus cover, new helmet and locks. $9,400. Call 404-626-1200.

E-mail sha.moore@yahoo.com or call 894-6780.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures
Feb. 11
Architecture Program Lecture and Exhibition Series presents Annie Fairfax, visiting scholar in historic preservation and adaptive re-use, at 5:30 p.m. in the College of Architecture Auditorium.

Feb. 12
The School of Biology welcomes William Airdron of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on “Can Captive Breeding Programs Help Restore Endangered Salmon Populations?” at noon in the Suddath Seminar Room of IIB.

Faculty/Staff Development
Feb. 18
The Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA) hosts a lunchtime discussion on methods for creating PowerPoint presentations that are accessible to people with disabilities. Lunch will be provided, but registra tion is required. E-mail Barbara.christopher@coa.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous
Feb. 16
Stay focused on your New Year’s resolutions by joining Weight Watchers at Work. Sessions are held in the Success Center for 15 weeks from 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. for more information, call 385-1095 or e-mail karla.ruggiero@alumni.gatech.edu.

February 2, 2004

Ads will run for a maximum of three weeks in the order in which they are received. The Whistle reserves the right to edit ads longer than 30 words.