Management helps educate members of Iraqi Ministry of Electricity

Matt Dixon
College of Management

Crime and terrorism don’t top the list of concerns that Iraqis want their government to address, according to a recent poll conducted by the International Republican Institute. Restoring reliable electrical power ranks number one.

In a country where summer temperatures can reach 130 degrees, frequent power outages have been a huge source of public anger and frustration since the end of Saddam Hussein’s regime in May 2003. On “good” days, Iraqis might have 12 hours of on-again, off-again electricity. But often the total is only half of that.

Georgia Tech College of Management’s Huang Executive Education Center recently lent a hand in helping solve this shortage by providing leadership training to 38 members of the Iraq Ministry of Electricity, who recently traveled to Atlanta.

Georgia Tech’s Strategic Energy Initiative helped, too, teaching Iraqi officials about the latest in power plant technology.

Contracted by the U.S. Agency for International Development via Bechtel Corporation, GE Energy selected Georgia Tech to provide the training program. “We’ve had a good relationship with GE Energy, providing other types of training for its employees, so when they recognized they needed help with Iraq, we were a natural place to look,” said Dan Stotz, director of executive education for the business school.

During a two-month period, Iraqi Ministry officials came in two different groups: first upper-level managers and then operations people. With the help of translators, they took classes covering a range of management and energy issues and made field trips to power plants.

Iraq’s power grid never recovered from the 1991 Gulf War due to the international embargo blocking the flow of goods and services into and out of the country, he explained. Faced with parts shortages, power managers had to patch the system as best they could. Keeping Baghdad fed with electricity was their top priority as the power infrastructure in other regions fell into deep disrepair.

Some professors were disheartened to learn of management practices that became standard in the Iraq Ministry during Hussein’s regime. “Given Saddam’s legacy of favoritism, a lot of the principles you’d consider to be normal — pay for performance, merit recognition — just aren’t there,” said Dennis Nagao, associate professor of organizational behavior. “We taught them best practices. However, they have a lot of entrenched individuals, the old guard, who are going to be difficult to root out.”

Fortunately, the Iraq Ministry officials who came to Tech seem committed to making a difference, Stotz said. “They’re glad that Saddam is gone and very hopeful for the future. They know that getting electricity to the people is very important to the future of their country,” he said.

An Iraqi training coordinator employed by GE said he was very pleased with the high quality of Georgia Tech’s leadership development program. “I wish everyone in the Iraqi Ministry could get the training,” he said. “They need it.”

For almost all of the participating Iraqis, this was their first trip to America. Making time to explore Atlanta, visiting such attractions as the zoo and the World of Coca-Cola Museum, they were pleasantly surprised by the friendliness of Americans. “They wanted to know why the Americans in Iraq aren’t as friendly,” Nagao said. “I had to explain that’s because we’re not being shot at here.”

Records management warehouse provides long-term storage solution

Matt Nagel
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Tired of losing documents that you need long-term? Are your department’s records kept in storage that just isn’t adequate? The Georgia Tech Records Center can help eliminate some of those long-term storage problems.

The Library’s Archives and Records Management Department provides long-term storage for campus business records to facilitate compliance with legal and fiscal guidelines.

Kirk Henderson, records manager, says the Records Center is a resource that can help campus units and departments meet the requirements of the Georgia Board of Regents Retention Guidelines governing record storage. “The Board of Regents has specific guidelines for what records should be stored and the time period or life span for each set of records,” he said. “We can help departments organize their material into groups that meet those requirements.”

The Records Center also provides assistance in determining what types of records need to be kept and what records can be disposed of immediately. Henderson suggests that any campus unit or department interested in using the free service should contact the Records Center.

“The first thing we’ll help them do is an assessment of what they are producing on a day-to-day basis as far as records. We work to eliminate any duplication and help you organize information into groups that fit the Board of Regents’ Retention Guidelines.”

If necessary, clients are also able to access the records after they put them into storage. Retrieval can take as little as a day for a file or a few files. However, if the department is looking for a number of files or even span for each set of records,” he

Records continued, page 2

Dennis pays Tech a visit

Kevin Ellis, a certified arborist and tree surgeon for Georgia Tech, begins to clear away the 80-foot American elm that fell in front of Smith Residence Hall along North Avenue in the aftermath of Hurricane Dennis. Though it displayed no visible signs of illness, the 75-year-old tree failed due to rotted heartwood in its center cavity, a common disease among deciduous trees.
“QUOTE-UNCQUOTE”

“Because most engineers work in industry and often do not interact with the general public, many people are unclear about what engineers do, and high-school students have no idea what an engineering education offers.” —President Wayne Clough, commenting on the findings of a National Academy of Engineering committee commissioned to study the future of engineering education. Clough chaired the committee. (Chronicle of Higher Education)

When opportunity knocks, will you be ready?

During our first column for this year, we posed the question: "When performance review time comes, will you be ready?" Now that performance reviews are over, it’s important that you begin to implement the steps that you outlined in your development plan.

Here’s a question: If a manager or employee in your department or another department called to inform you of a job opening, would you be able to apply for the position on the same day?

The reality is, employees must take charge of their careers. Self-assessment and feedback from others should be incorporated into your career plan, but action is also crucial, because you must be willing to act upon this feedback. Remember: "If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail!"

Begin by reviewing the actions included in your development plan, noting how many of these actions you have started or completed to date. It is also important that you take time to process the feedback received from your manager, and consider ways to apply this feedback to further your own skills and career.

Check to see if your resume is up-to-date, listing current skills and recent accomplishments, rather than using one that was submitted before you began working at Georgia Tech. If you have made a presentation at a professional conference, completed any of Tech’s certificate programs, or received any special recognition, make sure it is noted.

Once your resume is current, begin thinking about how you would answer the types of questions that one expects to hear in an interview setting. Examine your strengths and weaknesses. Think about what you can bring to your new position. Most importantly, though, is to consider your long-term and short-term goals, and how a new job will help you attain them.

Dr. Stephen Cooper, a professional career advisor with a national reputation, challenges employees to consider the following questions: What are your distinguishing values? What is the work that you are best at? What are your defining strengths and talents? What do you most love to do or what are you passionate about? What are your most compelling life interests? What do you need to learn, and what do you need to work at your best?

In order to answer these questions, one must set aside some time for self-reflection. When was the last time that you spent some quiet time with yourself to ponder the next step in your career?

In September, the Office of Organizational Development will begin to schedule open Career Development Flaming Sessions, on the Web at www.trainsweb.gatech.edu/mastcal.asp. I hope that this article has motivated you to take charge of your career. No one can better market you than you!

Records, cont’d from page 1

Records Supervisor Kirk Henderson and Coordinator Yolanda Strayhorn work in the Records Center’s warehouse, filing away several boxes for a new client.

Other services offered by the Records Center include secure destruction services of documents whose relevant life span has ended. This ensures that sensitive material is destroyed properly. Destruction services are free of charge to campus clients, as are most Records Center services.

For more information...

Archives and Records Management
www.library.gatech.edu/archives/records.htm
Tech matches best showing in Director’s Cup standings

Athletic Association

The Georgia Tech athletic program placed 51st in the final Sports Academy Director’s Cup all-sports rankings, released by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NCAA).

Tech compiled 526 points to equal its No. 51 ranking of 2003-04. Every school ranked ahead of Georgia Tech, but one fields more sports than the Yellow Jackets. In fact, 28 of the 30 schools ahead of Tech have at least three more sports.

Schools are awarded points for their NCAA finish in 10 men’s sports and 10 women’s sports. Georgia Tech sponsors 17 varsity sports; however, schools cannot count both indoor and outdoor track, so the Yellow Jackets can earn points in a maximum of 15 sports.

Stanford won the Sports Academy Director’s Cup for the 11th consecutive year as the Cardinal earned points in the maximum 10 men’s and 10 women’s sports. Texas, UCLA, Michigan and Duke rounded out the top five.

Fourteen of Tech’s 17 sports advanced to postseason play in 2004-05, and eight programs — men’s basketball, volleyball, golf, baseball, softball, women’s tennis, women’s indoor track and women’s outdoor track — finished ranked among the nation’s top 25.

Next stop: Arkansas

A reception honoring the 33-year career of Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs Bob McMath was held last week in the Alumni Ballroom. He will begin a new position next month, as dean of the newly created Honors College at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

McMath, who has been affiliated with Georgia Tech since 1972, said he and wife Linda were looking forward to new opportunities. He promised the crowd he would continue to wear the ring he received as an honorary alumnus in 2004.

As a final gesture, Provost Jean-Lou Chameau presented McMath with an original work of art, with Buzz provoking the Arkansas mascot, a razorback hag.

IN BRIEF:

NAD selects two from Tech for ‘Frontiers’ symposium

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) has selected two Georgia Tech faculty — Civil and Environmental Engineering Assistant Professor Adin Amekudzi and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Assistant Professor Christopher Jones — to participate in the NAE’s annual Frontiers of Engineering symposium, held Sept. 22-24 in Niskayuna, N.Y., will explore aspects of identification and verification technologies, the engineering of complex systems, engineering for developing communities and energy. For more information about Frontiers of Engineering, visit www.nae.edu/frontiers.

Register for faculty/staff charity run/walk

Georgia Tech is fielding a team to participate in the annual Kaiser Permanente Corporate 5K Run/Walk. In 2004, Tech’s faculty and staff men’s team took first place among a field of 80 teams.

Race day is 7 p.m. on Sept. 15 at Turner Field. Early registration for runners and walkers is $20 and open until August 15. Runners and walkers of all fitness levels are welcome, and those who register after July 21 receive a three-day event that will bring together engineers ages 30 to 45, who are performing cutting-edge engineering research and technical work in a variety of disciplines. Participants were nominated by fellow engineers or organizations and chosen from 220 applicants.

For additional information, call 385-6558 or e-mail susan.paranaka@carnegie.gatech.edu. To register, visit www.kpcorporaterrunwalk.com.

OIT announces plans for new telephone service

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) has surveyed campus units and determined that the institute needs a new telephony system — one that can deliver sustainable, feature-rich voice and data services to serve mobile and global needs.

The current Centrex telephone service provided by the Georgia Technology Authority will be replaced by a state-of-the-art system. The new service will include local and long distance calls, maintenance and support by an on-site team dedicated to telephony. Additionally, the system will help to incorporate emerging technologies such as VoIP and cellular integration rapidly and flexibly.

Conversion to the new system will take place in phases during 2006. Students, faculty and staff with campus phones will not need to make any changes as new phone service features become available for use. Campus phone numbers will remain the same.

Georgia Tech Purchasing released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the new system and services in late June. We expect proposals to be submitted by Sept. 1 with evaluation following. Any inquiries from vendors interested in this project should be directed to Procurement Services at 894-5000.

More information from OIT about the new system should be available this fall. For technical questions about this project, contact Anita Griffin at 385-6957.

Awards & Honors

The DuPont Corporation has honored Assistant Professor Christopher W. Jones (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering) with one of its DuPont Young Professor Awards, a three-year grant for his work in polymerization catalysis, functional silica materials and catalytic conversion of renewable resources.

Emeritus Professor Alan Porter (School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and Public Policy) was named by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) as recipient of the Rose-Hulman Award for his long-term contributions to the field.

College of Computing Assistant Professor Milan Prvulovic has been recognized by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a recipient of the NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award.

Four faculty in the College of Computing — Professor Mary Jean Harrold, Assistant Professor Pete Manolios, Assistant Professor Alex Orso and Professor Karsten Schwan — recently received IBM’s Faculty Award for Innovation, which supports university researchers who focus on specific areas of innovation using open source technologies.

For contributions in advanced polymeric materials science and processes, Regents’ Professor C.P. Wong (Materials Science and Engineering) has received the 2006 Technical Achievement Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Regents’ Professor Ben Zinn (Aerospace Engineering) recently won two awards from the International Gas Turbine Institute (IGTI): the 2005 Aircraft Engine Technology Award and the 2005 IGTI Scholar Award. The IGTI is a technical institute of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers.
Aug. 11
The Office of Organizational Development offers a one-day class on "Building Better Work Relationships," in room 308, Savant Building. To register, visit www.trainswb.gatech.edu.

Aug. 16
The Office of Organizational Development hosts a one-day class in "Defensive Driving." The 6-hour course will teach participants how to recognize potential and immediate hazards, how to avoid accidents in a variety of driving conditions and how to choose safe and legal driving behaviors. The emphasis is on identifying and choosing safe and legal behind-the-wheel behaviors and actions. Attendees must have a valid state driver’s license. To register, visit www.trainswb.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous

July 27
Flicks on Fifth presents a free screening of the movie "Sahara," at 9 p.m. in Centennial Plaza. For more information, visit www.flickson5th.com.

Aug. 1
Application deadline for the President’s Undergraduate Research Award (PURA), which pays a part-time salary for research work with a faculty member or travel expenses for presentations at professional meetings. More information is available at www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu.

Aug. 5
Summer commencement, 9 a.m. in Alexander Memorial Coliseum. For more information, visit www.gatech.edu/commencement.

Aug. 22
Fall semester classes begin.

The Whistle is on a biweekly publication schedule during the summer semester. The next issue will be published on August 1. E-mail all calendar events to editor@cga.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous

Snapper Hi-Vac riding mower. 28-inch, mulch kit. EZ-train oil valve, model M280191B, used fewer than 10 hours. Paid $1,200, sacrifice for $750. Call 878-6221.

Pink ipod Mini, $125. Call Ms. King at 385-2382.

Full-breed American Pit Bull Terriers (no papers), 12 weeks old. All have received first set of shots. Call 404-798-4503.

Free dog. Fergus is a great 50-lb, short-haired white dog. We have an allergic infant so we can’t keep him. See www.petsatgatech.edu/forpets or call Sean at 678-895-8096.

Seeking a Jamaican native to teach guitar. Call 678-895-8096 or call Sean at 678-895-8096.

Chasing a Japanese native to teach Patwa will pay $8/hr. for lessons 2 days/week. Call 770-369-0378.

Horses for sale. Pictures upon request. Appaloosa, Tennessee Walkers, $600-$1,500. Call 894-3680 or e-mail charles.twilgo@gatech.edu.

New brand Douglass touring tires. Size 215/60/16, all four for $100. E-mail erica@ece.gatech.edu.