Student musicians plan concert performances in China

Matt Nagel
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

While international experience is nothing new for Georgia Tech students, playing at the Shanghai International Arts Festival goes far beyond the usual study abroad trip.

Sixteen students from the Woodwind Ensemble will travel to Shanghai and Beijing next month to participate in several collaborative concerts. Assistant Professor and Director of Bands Andrea Strauss says she and the students are excited about the trip. “Beijing is the largest city in China and has the most history to it. We’ll be able to take in the sights such as Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall.”

The trip is more than just a sightseeing tour as Strauss has filled the itinerary with several opportunities for the students to perform while they are in China. These include the China Shanghai International Arts Festival, the Sino-U.S. Logistics Summit, Beijing Music Conservatory and Concord College.

“I think the performances are what make this trip different and unique for the students,” said Strauss. “These students are going to have the chance to be ambassadors for their country and for Georgia Tech, but they are also going to be able to collaborate with a different culture in a real, unique musical interaction.”

The students aren’t music majors and are well aware of the fact that they will be missing three days of classes for the trip, but the opportunity was too much to pass up.

“I think it is an incredible opportunity to do something outside of what I normally do,” said Adam Wilson, a computer science major, and when someone comes to me and

Aerospace engineering undergraduate Michael Abraham is a member of the Woodwind Ensemble traveling to China to perform several concerts during fall break.

Researchers uncover E. coli’s defense mechanism

Researchers at Georgia Tech have uncovered the mechanism that enables disease-causing bacteria to thwart the body’s natural defense responses. The findings, which could ultimately lead to the development of more effective antibiotics, appear in the September 29 issue of the journal Nature.

“Nitric oxide is produced by the body to fight infections. We discovered a mechanism that allows bacterial cells to detect nitric oxide and turn it into something that’s harmless to the cell,” said Stephen Spiro, associate professor in the School of Biology.

Spiro, along with colleagues from the John Innes Centre in the United Kingdom, studied a non-pathogenic strain of Escherichia coli, which is very closely related to salmonella bacteria.

The pathogenic forms of E. coli and salmonella are usually transmitted to humans through undercooked meat, unwashed vegetables and cross contamination from surfaces on which these foods were prepared. Infections from either of these organisms can cause diarrhea, abdominal cramps and occasionally require hospitalization. E. coli doesn’t respond well to antibiotics, while salmonella has developed several drug-resistant strains. Learning how the bacteria handle the body’s immune response is the first step in developing more effective medicines.

Spiro and colleagues focused their study on the NorR protein and the role it plays in reducing the levels of nitric oxide. In response to nitric oxide, NorR binds to DNA in order to prevent expression of an enzyme that reduces the amount of nitric oxide. Since nitric oxide is the first step in developing more effective medicines.

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Open enrollment season begins

This year’s open enrollment period — the only time of year Tech employees are invited to change their health benefits — will run from Oct. 3 to Nov. 4.

As with last year, most changes to a Georgia Tech employee’s benefits package can be made through TechWorks, the Web gateway that enables employees to view and update their own HR information.

In order to make changes, employees must log on to TechWorks with account and password information. Confirmation statements will be e-mailed to employees after changes have been made.

In addition, the Office of Human Resources will host a benefits fair for the campus on Wednesday, October 19, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. This is an opportunity to pick up and review new rates and materials. Employees can get individual attention from company representatives, and most have promotional materials to give away.

For more information...

September 26-28 to explore an expanded economic development partnership between the state of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and the Region of Lorraine.

The delegation, which included Lorraine President Jean-Pierre Masseret, hoped to explore how Georgia Tech—a key role played by the Advanced Technology Development Center—could add a new dimension to Georgia’s economic development activities by helping emerging Georgia companies with high technology products and services expand into the European market.

The delegation visited several labs and met with key leadership at Tech and also met with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and several local technology companies.

During the visit, President Masseret and Governor Perdue signed an agreement to affirm both parties’ transatlantic economic development and technology transfer commitments as provided for by the 1988 sister-state agreement.

Georgia Tech Lorraine (GTL) opened its doors in 1996. Students can take graduate-level courses taught in English in electrical and computer engineering and mechanical engineering. GTL also offers undergraduate courses as part of its summer program, including courses in electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering, management and international affairs.

Steven Kudravi, biology instructor and advisor, dies

Steven Kudravi, a senior academic professional and pre-medical advisor in the School of Biology, died suddenly over the weekend of Sept. 24-25. The School will host a memorial service on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. in room 1128 of IBB.

He received a bachelor’s in biology from Cleveland State University in 1991 and a doctorate in pathology from Vanderbilt University in 1998. He worked as a postdoctoral research scientist at the University of Washington School of Medicine and taught in the Seattle area before moving to Georgia State University in 2001 to take the position of lecturer and laboratory coordinator in the Department of Biology.

Kudravi joined Tech in May 2004. Within a year, he transformed Tech’s introductory biology laboratory classes to discovery labs with original experiments that require several weeks to complete. As senior academic professional, he mentored both graduate and undergraduate teaching assistants, continually coaching them to improve their teaching skills and to share his passion for excellence in teaching.

He also felt strongly that the importance of dedicated graduate student teaching assistants is too often unrecognized. In his memory, the School of Biology is establishing an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, presented annually to those who demonstrate excellence in undergraduate teaching. Anyone wishing to contribute to the award fund should e-mail nena.gray@biology.gatech.edu.

Kudravi is survived by two sisters, Kathy and Firis, and mother Paula Kudravi.

Lorraine delegation renews economic ties during Tech visit

A distinguished group of 15 delegations from Lorraine, France, visited Georgia Tech Sept. 26-28 to explore an expanded economic development partnership between the state of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and the Region of Lorraine.

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Pirelli signs R&D agreement with Georgia Tech

John Toon
Research News

Officials of Italian-based Pirelli and Georgia Tech have signed a five-year strategic research and development partnership to develop new optical components and systems and new broadband access technologies for future high-speed telecommunications networks. The agreement was announced last month by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, representatives of the company and Georgia Tech officials.

Pirelli and researchers from the Georgia Electronic Design Center (GEDC) at Tech will develop a new generation of integrated optical systems. Atlanta will become the North American operational branch of Pirelli Labs, the advanced research center of the group based in Milan. The group, founded in 2001, specializes in broadband access and second-generation photonics.

Pirelli will also consolidate all of its North American corporate staff activities in the new Atlanta center, including the headquarters of Pirelli Broadband Solutions, a new company that engineers and markets the innovations conceived in Pirelli Labs.

Under the agreement, visiting researchers from both organizations will work in Georgia Tech laboratories — and in the clean rooms of Pirelli Labs near Milan. There, advanced facilities devoted to research and development of optical components for telecommunications occupy about 54,000 square feet in the Pirelli Labs building.

Pirelli’s location in Atlanta will initially include laboratory space at the GEDC in the Technology Square Research Building, as well as additional office space next door in the Centergy One building.

“By combining the respective know-how, Pirelli Labs and Georgia Tech will be able to develop new cutting-edge broadband access and optical technologies for the North American market,” said Giorgio Grasso, CEO of Pirelli Labs Optical Innovation. “We view our partnership with GEDC as a major strategic asset in our future broadband activities.”

Pirelli, a pioneer in photonics worldwide, is among the world’s leaders and innovators in a number of fields, including its key markets of tires and telecommunications systems.

“Today’s announcement indicates that we are making great progress in establishing Georgia as a hot spot in the world of electronic design,” said Craig Lesser, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. “We set out to make Georgia a world leader in the design of high-speed communications systems, devices and chips, and Pirelli’s location here takes us one step closer to achieving that vision.”

The Pirelli decision demonstrates the impact that Georgia Tech can have on the state’s economy, noted President Wayne Clough.

“We are excited that an innovative company like Pirelli has chosen to locate at Technology Square in partnership with GEDC,” said Clough. “This outcome reflects the power of linking Georgia Tech’s research and educational assets with those of the state of Georgia to help build the state technology sector in a time when competition for such jobs comes not only from other states, but other nations as well.”

E. coli, cont’d from page 1

nitric oxide. The discovery of this mechanism is just the first step in what Spiro hopes will be a line of research aimed at disrupting the mechanism by which the bacteria rid itself of the poisonous nitric oxide.

If we can interfere with the mechanism, it could lead to better antibiotics and better treatments,” said Spiro.

Prism limits increased

The Office of Information Technology recently improved the Prism complex by giving users more personal disk space and another convenient way to access it. OIT increased the default disk space quota for each user from 25 megabytes to 256 megabytes, and added a file-sharing protocol to enable easier access from Windows XP and Macintosh OS X computers.

For more information, visit www.oit.gatech.edu/inside_oit or contact the OIT Support Center at support@oit.gatech.edu.

Mileage reimbursement rate increased

The mileage reimbursement rate for the use of private vehicles on state business has been increased to 48.5 cents per mile. This new rate was just adopted by the General Services Administration, and it is effective for all travel completed after Sept. 10, 2005. Travel completed before that date must use the old rate of 28 cents per mile.

Student business fraternity selling flowers

Every Friday, Georgia Tech’s chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi, the national co-ed business fraternity, sells roses as a fundraiser. Located on the first floor of the Student Center, roses are $2 each or $20 per dozen and will help to support the organization and the professional events and speakers it hosts for the Georgia Tech community. To place an advance order, or for more information on the chapter, visit www.gtaakpsi.com.
Art & Culture
Oct. 26
The annual Bourne Poetry Reading, featuring Doreen Gilroy, Michael Ryan and Thomas Lux, will be at 7 p.m. in the Clary Theater.

Brown Bags/Lectures
Oct. 6
The Woodruff Colloquia series continues with University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Sanford A. Klein on "Fuel Cells, the Hydrogen Economy and Your Energy Future," at 5 p.m. in room 2/11, MBDC. Call 894-7279 or e-mail srinivas.garimella@me.gatech.edu.

Oct. 7
The Georgia Tech Research Program in Ethics & Technology and the Ivan Allen College welcome University of Virginia Professor Deborah G. Johnson, on "Engineering Ethics: Integrating STS and Practical Ethics," at 2 p.m. in the Student Center Theater.

Oct. 11
The Office of Sponsored Programs hosts a brown bag workshop on "Conflict of Interest," with Associate Vice Provost for Research Jilda Garton about resources for Tech's GLBT population, at noon in room 102A of MiRC. To register, e-mail paul.lurgo@mix.mrc.gatech.edu.

Faculty/Staff Development
Oct. 19
The Georgia Tech Research on Accessible Distance Education (GRADE) project hosts a lunchtime presentation on Accessibility and Course Management Systems. There is no charge to attend, but registration is required. To register, e-mail barbara.christopher@coa.gatech.edu. A confirmation notice will contain location and directions.

Oct. 20
The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning’s faculty development seminar series continues with "Promoting Classroom Civility," from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Library’s Wilby Room. Lunch will be provided for those who register at www.ceti.gatech.edu or by e-mail to client.jyle@ceit.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous
Oct. 7
The Office of Diversity Issues and Programs sponsors Safe Space training, where individuals will receive information to provide support and learn about resources for Tech’s GLBT population, at noon in room 216, Student Health Services. To register, e-mail stephanie-ray@vpsn.gatech.edu.

Appliances
- 2BR/2BA condo in Cross Creek, 10 minutes from downtown. Hardwoods on main, seagrass carpeting on upper level. Adjacent to clubhouse and golf course. $169,900. Call 770-752-1545 or e-mail paulville@earthlink.net.
- 3BR/2.5BA home in Dallas, Ga. Built 2002, spacious island kitchen w/adjoining dining room. Upstairs laundry, 2-car garage. Fenced back yard. Lease $1,100/month or buy for $140,000. Call 404-604-0901.

Furniture
- Girl’s bedroom suite: twin white poster bed, 5-drawer chest, double dresser with vertical mirror. Only 1 year old from Rooms To Go Kids.

REALESTATE/ROOMS
- Housemate wanted to share luxury penthouse condo in Midtown/Atlantic. $775/month. See www.prien.gatech.edu/~hkl28/condo. Call 404-717-6406 or e-mail hkl28@mail.gatech.edu.

SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION
- 3BR/2.5BA family-ready house is available for lease. Located in pedestrian-friendly Oakhurst. For more information, call 770-849-2020 or visit www.showing247.com/132mead.

Miscellaneous
- Wanted: used upright or console piano in good condition. Call Roberta at 385-6311 or e-mail said.abdelkhalik@me.gatech.edu.
- Free yellow jacket next removal, to be used for research at Georgia Tech. Call 305-6311 or e-mail michael.goodisman@biology.gatech.edu.
- 1989 Sears Gamefisher fishing boat, 14-foot aluminum V-hull with 15 HP Evinrude engine. 2 swivel seats, trailer, $1,400. E-mail david.zurn@gtri.gatech.edu.

E-mail calendar events to editor@cpa.gatech.edu.