GTRI lab marks three decades
Rick Robinson
Research News

The Georgia Tech Research Institute’s Huntsville Research Laboratory (HRL) became official 30 years ago—in February 1978—when research faculty began establishing an onsite presence at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., to support U.S. Army missile technology.

Since its beginning as “Huntsville Operations,” the laboratory’s impact has grown, branching out into a variety of defense fields. Moreover, its location on a key Army installation has helped enhance communication between its parent organization and its military stakeholders.

“Our Huntsville Research Laboratory is an extremely important part of our overall strategy,” said Stephen E. Cross, GTRI’s director and an Institute vice president. “It has delivered outstanding technical assistance and real innovation on a consistent basis, which is reflected in the positive feedback we get.

Huntsville continued, page 2

Institute makes the grade in U.S. News rankings
Robert Nesmith
Communications & Marketing

Georgia Tech’s graduate programs rank among the finest in the nation in the most widely read college rankings for graduate programs. U.S. News & World Report ranked Tech’s College of Engineering among the elite, retaining them in the top 5, and the Computer Science program has moved into the top 10.

“Georgia Tech continues to maintain its excellence in graduate education,” said Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough. “Although the graduate rankings are not our sole measure of success, it is great to see so many of our graduate programs recognized on a national level for their consistent quality and continued success.”

Overall, the College of Engineering maintained its ranking of 4th, with 10 of the 11 programs ranking in the top 10. The top engineering programs are Industrial (No. 1), Biomedical (No. 2), Aerospace (No. 4), Civil (No. 6), Electrical (No. 6), Environmental (No. 6), Computer (No. 7), Mechanical (No. 7), Materials (No. 8) and Nuclear (No. 9). Computer Science ranked 9th in the nation overall, with Artificial Intelligence (No. 7), Theory (No. 9) and Systems (No. 10) all ranking in the top 10. For business schools, Tech’s College of Business ranked 16th.

Rankings continued, page 2

Facilities office wins award for recycling
Robert Nesmith
Communications & Marketing

Over the weekend, Office of Sustainable Management and Recycling Manager Cindy Jackson traveled to New York to accept an award recognizing the Institute’s efforts in paper recycling.

“We beat out over 100 [other] programs that applied,” Jackson said, referring to the 2008 American Forest and Paper Association’s (AF&PA) College and University Paper Recycling Award.

“We are the only award-winner for the College and University group.”

The application requested an overview of the institution’s program, including the weights of paper collected, the number of students enrolled, how the program began, how students, faculty and custodial staff are educated on the benefits of recycling and the specifics of the program, and what partnerships have formed under the program, both on and off campus.

Prior to Jackson’s arrival, Tech students would take charge of paper recycling around campus.

“Students would start the program, but then graduate or transfer, so the program would die down again,” she said, leaving the initiative in limbo until other students picked up the standard.

It was in 1996 that four undergraduate Civil and Environmental Engineering students requested a full-time recycling program and manager from President G. Wayne Clough after analyzing the solid waste and recycling processes at the Institute.

Jackson, who held this position at Auburn University, came aboard then.

It was in 1997 that the smallest unit in Facilities Operations and Maintenance—comprised of six full-time and two part-time student employees—has been responsible for the Institute’s comprehensive solid waste program. Waste management and recycling each take up a third of the office’s resources, with program development garnering an

Recycle continued, page 2

Fast plane to China
Robert Nesmith
Communications & Marketing

On the day Delta Air Lines offered direct service from Atlanta to Shanghai, Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue and a delegation from Georgia were on the flight to establish an economic development office in Beijing for the state of Georgia. Vice Provost for International Initiatives Steve McLaughlin was scheduled to be part of that group on March 30, working on partnerships with the country’s best and brightest.

“There are probably 40 people from Georgia—all university people, industry people, economic development people, local government officials—going with the governor and spending three or four days making China more aware of what’s going on in Georgia,” McLaughlin said. “Part of that trip is going to be focused on R and D and how Georgia (can develop partnerships).”

“Tech currently has or is developing collaborative efforts with both Peking University and Tsinghua (pronounced chih-wah) University in China’s capital city. Across the street from each other, the schools are often compared to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States. As Tech has been very influential in helping Peking University build its engineering program, one goal of his trip, McLaughlin says, is to continue renewing and developing collaboratives with Tsinghua, as well.

“The governor will give a speech at one of the universities,” McLaughlin said. “Myself and the (University of Georgia) provost will highlight how our universities can work together and how industry can get involved. There’s a lot of goodwill on both sides.”

A major initiative under way is the development of joint doctoral degrees in both biomedical engineering and materials science and engineering with Peking. Regents’ Professor Z. L. Wang is interim chair of the department in China. “It’s a very high-quality program,” McLaughlin said. “It’s a pretty innovative, and somewhat low-risk grassroots effort.”

The Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory used this same model at Peking University, with The Coulter Foundation providing funding for the partnership and jumpstarting the degree program. Professor Cheng Zhu from biomedical engineering will be going as well.

According to McLaughlin, as more opportunities become available globally the “best and brightest” students— who have traditionally studied in Western schools—stay in their home.

China continued, page 3

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If I click on an object, the robot will go and grasp it, pick it up ... and deliver it to me. It's a powerful new way of interacting with a robot, a point and click interface ... for a companion robot in the real world.

—Charlie Kemp, assistant professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University and director of the Center for Healthcare Robotics in the Health Systems Institute, on his point-and-click interface with robot El-E. ( Wired News)
China cont’d from page 1

universities. “The world is flatter and becoming more balanced,” he said. “There are tremendous opportunities around the world—not just in the United States or Europe any more—and the top (U.S.) universities feel like they should go to these places and be where the best students are.” China and India are among the top countries on this collaboration list. “All universities in the world are taking globalization more seriously (and are) taking their position more seriously.”

Tech also has several different programs in a strong partnership with Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). Two dual-degree master’s programs are offered, and there is a strong summer study abroad program and a Languages for Business and Technology (LBAT) session. “Students can earn a degree in ECE [Electrical and Computer Engineering] or in ISyE [Industrial and Systems Engineering] from both Tech and SJTU,” McLaughlin said. In addition, during the summer, about 30 students from SJTU study on the Atlanta campus. The ISyE program includes research in logistics and supply chain management and connects to the university’s operations in Singapore. Overall programs in Shanghai amount to about 75 students and are self-sustaining. “These international initiatives enhance our reputation in the region and promote Georgia Tech both in China and around the world,” he added.

Harkening back to his communications background, McLaughlin says both the United States and China are involved in network-building. “The best universities in China want to be connected to the best universities in the world. What those networks look like—what’s accomplished in those networks—everyone’s trying to figure out a model that works for them.”

This network model varies according to the partners’ research and translation of that research to the marketplace. “It’s something we’re really good at and the rest of the world is trying to figure out how to do,” McLaughlin said, admitting this “trade secret” can be the source of some contention.

“It is a controversial thing, because the U.S. government says—rightly so—we spent all this energy and money funding American universities for a century or more,” and we now have the best educational system in the world. If you travel abroad or live overseas, you just see it, how (our) education system works within the innovation ecosystem of our economy. There’s a very close connection between industry and academia, and that doesn’t really exist in many other places in the world. ‘The fear’ is these partnerships will result in the ‘other guy’ taking everything for themselves. That won’t happen, McLaughlin said. “We’re looking to establish long-term, win-win partnerships. If they are not win-win, they won’t be sustainable.”

And, McLaughlin says, it’s a matter of staying ahead in the globalization effort. “All universities in the world are taking globalization more seriously, taking their position more seriously,” he said. “They believe globalization is important and that it’s important to be a part of a network, and to have collaborations and partners around the world so that they can have access to the very best students in the world. If we’re not trying to be a leader, then we will be left behind.”
### Classifieds

**Automobiles & Motorcycles**

- 2003 Toyota Camry LE. 59K miles, leather, gray interior/exterior. Clean. All power, $10,250. 678-231-3678, or e-mail mc1919@mail.gatech.edu.
- 2000 Ford Windstar. Red ext. w/ gray leather int., 80K miles, new trans., exc. cond. 4-cylinder, 3.1L, in-console ext. system (VHS w/ additional inputs). V. clean. $5,000 firm; Edmund’s price $5,900. E-mail nate@buffaz.com.
- 2003 Chrysler Town & Country. 1 owner, great family car, well maintained, $10,000. E-mail 404-771-6952.

**Real Estate/Roommates**

- For rent: Studio condo in historic building near Tech, GSU, Aquarium, Centennial Park, full kitchen and bath. $800/month, incl. utilities. E-mail lynette.wilson@buzzcard.gatech.edu or call 404-771-6952.
- For rent: 1BR/1BA, walking distance of Civic Center. Incl. hardwood floors, simple cabinetry, on-site swimming, workout areas and secure covered parking. $950 from GSU and Tech. $1,000/month. Gas, basic cable, phone and Internet included. Darrel Mason, 678-637-9333.
- For rent: Beautiful Downtown studio. Oakley Commons in Union City. End-unit with side porch, lg. kitchen and breakfast bar, closest space and 2-car parking. Incl. all electric appliances, plus washer/dryer. $975 + deposit. 678-908-6799.

**Furniture/Appliances**

- Antique sofa (probably Art Deco) w/ elegant swan neck accents. Re-covered in off-white silk, pick up available. $450. E-mail kathy30340@yahoo.com or call 404-784-6046.
- Unfinished oak dining table, 4’ x 6’, and six Windsor chairs. $325 OBO. Pics avail. E-mail swann@earthlink.net.
- Unfinished oak dining table, 4’ x 6’, and six Windsor chairs. $325 OBO. Pics avail. E-mail kathy30340@yahoo.com or call 404-784-6046.

**Clubs & Activities**

- For rent: Studio condo in historic building near Tech, GSU, Aquarium, Centennial Park, full kitchen and bath. $800/month, incl. utilities. E-mail lynette.wilson@buzzcard.gatech.edu or call 404-771-6952.

**Classifieds**

- For rent: 1BR/1BA, walking distance of Civic Center. Incl. hardwood floors, simple cabinetry, on-site swimming, workout areas and secure covered parking. $950 from GSU and Tech. $1,000/month. Gas, basic cable, phone and Internet included. Darrel Mason, 678-637-9333.

**Classifieds**

- For rent: Beautiful Downtown studio. Oakley Commons in Union City. End-unit with side porch, lg. kitchen and breakfast bar, closest space and 2-car parking. Incl. all electric appliances, plus washer/dryer. $975 + deposit. 678-908-6799.

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