International class WlRES conference to kick off June 2 in Barcelona

ROBERT NEMETH
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The Center for the Study of Women, Science and Technology (WST) will extend into the international arena with its Women’s International Research Engineering Summit (WIRES), to be held June 2–4 in Barcelona.

The Summit is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the European Science Foundation, Hewlett Packard, and other foundations and corporations.

WIRES will serve as both a conduit for the enhancement of international collaboration and as a research vehicle, according to principal investigator Mary Lynn Reallff, associate professor in Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering. “[With most conferences], the focus is on technology exchange for the attendees, and networking is a bonus,” she said. “This conference reverses this. The focus is on constructing teams and means for collaboration. Technology exchange is a plus.”

Three major research areas will be the focus of the agenda: energy systems, micro/nanotechnology and simulation-based engineering. Poster presentations will list attendees’ affiliations, their areas of expertise, the results of research projects, types of research partners with whom attendees are interested in working, and descriptions of research equipment and lab space to which attendees have access.

Attendees, selected by the Summit committee, consist of roughly 50 percent associate professors, 10 percent full professors and approximately 25 percent assistant professors, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Reallff says that 100 attendees—50 U.S. participants and 50 from other countries—were selected from 300 inquiries. “Most will be associate professors who have shown a readiness for international research collaboration,” she said. “Full professors will serve as role models.” Roughly 15 attendees will be from industry. More than 25 different countries are involved, with attendees coming from Europe, Australia, Africa, and South America.

According to Public Policy Professor Mary Frank Fox, the research aim of the Summit is to examine barriers to international collaboration and global issues of gender equity for engineering professors in the United States and internationally. Reallff is the principal investigator for the Summit, with Literature, Communication and Culture Professor Carol Colatrella and Fox Polymer, Textile and Fiber Engineering Associate Professor Mary Lynn Reallff (from left), Public Policy Professor Mary Frank Fox and Literature, Communication and Culture Professor Carol Colatrella organized the Women’s International Research Engineering Summit, June 2–4, in Barcelona.

Fulbright Scholars named
Six students will receive award

SARAH MALLERY
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board has awarded six fellowships to Tech students—the largest number in the school’s history.

John Akin, Carrie Freshour, Josh Krienger, Micahj McKay, Jennifer Munson and Kathryn Stucki all received 2009 Fulbright awards as a result of their global competence and compassion. Named after Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Scholarship was established in 1946 as a vehicle for promoting “mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries of the world.” Fulbright grants are made to United States citizens and nationals of other countries for a variety of educational activities, primarily university lecturing, advanced research, graduate study, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

Food crisis research, teaching English in Indonesia

Freshour, a History, Technology and Society major, is preparing to study in Indonesia. Though she will be teaching English, Freshour “was drawn to Indonesia because of PURA [President’s Undergraduate Research Award] research on the food crisis. I have a strong interest in living in a non-Western region of the world, and I found this opportunity in Indonesia to be exciting and challenging.”

FULLBRIGHT, continued on page 4

Take time for fitness

As part of National Employee Health and Fitness Day, the Go T.E.C.H. coalition will host a health fair for Tech faculty and staff in the Student Center Ballroom. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 20, attendees can participate in fitness demonstrations, and HealthCheck Screenings and interactive wellness displays.

www.gotech.gatech.edu
Research

High-energy Tech faculty awarded DOE funding for nuclear research at universities

Tech researchers will share in nearly $44 million awarded to more than 30 universities by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for research into nuclear energy.

On May 7, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced that 71 university-led projects would share in the award under the Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP). Funding will continue for three years as part of DOE’s investment in cutting-edge research for carbon emission-free nuclear energy.

“The next generation of nuclear power plants—with the highest standards of safety, efficiency and environmental protection—will require the latest advancements in nuclear science and technology,” Chu said in a release. “The United States continues to lead the world in the nuclear field for years to come.”

Proposals were submitted in four research fields: the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative (AFCI), the Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP, also known as Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems), Investigator-Initiated Research (IIR) and Light Water Reactor Sustainability (LWRS). Tech researchers secured project funding in the first three fields.

“The Nuclear and Radiological Engineering Program is a major research thrust of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering,” said Professor V. Ramgopal Rao, who is principal investigator. “This award will further enhance our research capacity and our ability to engage with other universities and utilities to commit to building new nuclear power capacity.”

Tech also announced that DOE is accepting applications for individual NEUP nuclear science and engineering fellowships and scholarships. In keeping with the Obama Administration’s policy of training the next generation of American scientists, nearly $2.9 million will fund these fellowships and scholarships in an effort to support students entering the nuclear science and engineering fields.

“Georgia Tech has tremendous depth and breadth in materials, and this shows that we can compete at the highest levels,” Wepler said.

Selected projects include 31 U.S. universities in more than 20 states. Other universities, industries and national laboratories will serve as research partners and collaborators. Contracts for the projects are expected to be awarded by Sept. 30.

For more information
www.id doe.gov
www.me.gatech.edu

PROPOSALS

“Fundamental Understanding of Ambient and High-Temperature Plasticity Phenomena in Structural Materials in Advanced Reactors”— AFCI, Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor Chattayana S. Deo is principal investigator. Estimated funding: $489,486.


“Atomistic Calculations of the Effect of Minor Actinides on Thermodynamic and Kinetic Properties of U02+x”— IIR, Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor Chaltanya Deo is principal investigator. Estimated funding: $482,426.

“Efforts to use these awards reflect the quality of our people,” said William Wepler, the Eugene C. Gwaltney Jr. School Chair of Mechanical Engineering. “With Southern Co. and Georgia Power being among the first utilities to commit to building new nuclear power capacity, we are in a great position to provide critical research and technology to ensure safe, reliable and sustainable clean power.”

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Tech hosts global conference on digital repositories

ROBERT NESMITH
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Tech is hosting representatives from across the globe through May 21. Attendees are convening for four days at the Global Learning and Conference Center and the Georgia Tech Hotel for the 4th International Conference on Open Repositories.

The conference is for users of open-source repository platforms, which manage and archive increasing amounts of digital data. Many attending the conference are affiliated with universities, libraries, national archives and research laboratories. Library Associate Director Tyler Walters—who chair of the conference’s host organizing committee—said this community meets to discuss developing technologies, in addition to theoretical, practical and strategic issues.

Amid the more than 80 speakers, conference organizers are presenting five concurrent workshops, ranging from cloud computing storage and new repository tools from DSpace, Microsoft and VTLs to the implementation and applications of SWORD (Simple Web-service Onering Repository Deposit).

“Many of these tools were developed to deal with managing the ‘lifecycle’ of digital objects,” Walters said. “The conference helps users understand and work through how the different repositories interact with each other and with researchers.”

Representatives from NASA, the National Science Foundation and other national archives and research libraries are in attendance, as well. “The conference is both for the technologists creating these tools and repositories, and also for the archivists, librarians and repository managers,” Walters said.

So far, roughly 300 people have registered, about half of whom are from outside the United States. “The conference is about communicating with people and sharing knowledge gained about these systems for managing scholarly and research information—which is the core mission for any university,” Walters said.

SMARTech, Tech’s own institutional repository, will be four years old in August, Walters said. The seventh largest repository in the United States—and 30th internationally—SMARTech contains electronic theses and dissertations, conference papers, white papers, working papers and archived Web pages. SMARTech’s current storage of nearly five terabytes could easily double in the next year.

“Open repositories are critical for disseminating information of all kinds—scientific, technological and cultural—to scholars, students and the general public,” said Dean of Libraries Catherine Murray-Rust. “This gathering of people from all over the world who are advocates for and managers of open repositories will add value to what libraries are trying to do and will enhance both the tools and services open repositories provide. It is an honor for Georgia Tech and the Library to be the host for this meeting.”

Several on-campus groups attending the conference include library personnel and researchers with the College of Computing.

“We work a lot more internationally than ever before,” Walters said. “It’s getting to be a small world.”

For more information
http://or08.library.gatech.edu

Student makes All Academic Team

Virgil Secasanu, a recent biomedical engineering (BME) graduate, has been named to USA Today’s All-Academic Team.

Secasanu was one of 20 students named to the first-team; each winner will receive a $2,500 cash reward.

Judges based the selection on grades, leadership, activities and, most importantly, how students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom.

“I worked with another undergraduate student and a BME professor to almost quadruple the output of a laboratory technique used to control the micrometer-scale synthesis of cell scaffolds,” Secasanu said.

“We published this work and used the technique to synthesize neuron scaffolds for a nerve regeneration project,” Secasanu said.

Secasanu also worked with several physicians to design and develop medical devices. “My most ambitious project was working with two additional BME students where we designed, developed, constructed and evaluated a minimally invasive device for treating atrial fibrillation,” he said.

That work helped Secasanu land his current job as a research and development engineer at an Atlanta medical device startup. He plans to go to medical school in the fall.

Open Repositories Open Repositories Open Repositories Open Repositories

“College celebrates centennial of architecture at Tech

Photography by Karin Jakobson

“College time is a time to flaunt the great pride we have in the talents of our alumni and in our remarkable history,” said College of Architecture Dean Alan Balfour (above). Alumni and visiting Assistant Professor Tristan Al-Haddad designed the installation "Function Forming Fashion," celebrating 100 years of architecture at Tech. Connecting the college’s two main buildings, the exterior courtyard welcomed revelers (above, left; top) with billowing fabric and lighting. Inside the West Architecture building, guests’ movements created music in an attended table cape of hanging fabric (right).

www.coa.gatech.edu/centennial

College celebrates centennial of architecture at Tech

Events

JUNE

JUNE 1

Larry King’s “Health Across America” campaign comes to the Global Learning Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free heart screenings and consultations will be offered. Presented by St. Joseph’s Hospital and Georgia Tech.

JUNE 16

The Office of Organizational Development presents the brown bag seminar “Buying or Selling a Home in Today’s Real Estate Market.” From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 203 of the Savant building. There is no cost.

Ongoing

The Campus Recreation Center, in conjunction with the Atlanta Foundation, is offering Sun Tai Chi classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

www.crc.gatech.edu

Events updated daily, visit www.gatech.edu/calendar.

Classifieds

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles/Motorcycles

Acura CL 3.2 Type S Automatic, 2002, 100,000 miles. Silver, black leather interior. Very good condition. 3.2L V6 12V 20+ MPG city, 33+ MPg hwy. 5-speed auto, ABS, VSA, cruise control, xenon lights. Power windows, seats, mirrors, auto heat and A/C, 6-CD changer. Dealer maintained. $8,600. E-mail vanroojen@ece.gatech.edu.

Sports/Fitness/Recreation

3BR/2BA peaceful, furnished, waterfront cottage along the southern Outer Banks, N.C. $150/day, 3-day min. Pets OK. Boat slip. E-mail jud.ready@gatech.edu. Visit http://travel.ajc.com/ads/158.

Real Estate/Roommates

2BR/2BA 1,300 sq. ft., 2-level town home, Irwin Park, 3 miles from campus. Roommate-friendly floor plan. 1-year lease, renewable. $1,050/mo. E-mail acor@earthlink.com for pics, or call 470-794-3056.

For sale: Split level house in Lilburn, Camp Creek/Parkview schools, level lot, on a cul-de-sac. Call Matt Bass at 678-938-4015.

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Akin will begin law school at the University of Chicago. "I will be global in nature, so I am excited to continue a journey that I probably wouldn’t have been able to list if not for the countless experiences they took me on.”

A former intern at the U.S. Department of State, Krisinger hopes to work with the Peace Corps, the State Department or F.B.I. of State, Krisinger hopes to work with the Peace Corps, the State Department or F.B.I. for her work in training educators to guide young people into those fields.

"I have the opportunity to apply my education and my skills to create a meaningful impact, and that’s what I want to do," said the 25-year-old. "I want to continue to learn about a new culture, and I hope that I can be a part of that."