Researchers Give Robots Capability for Deceptive Behavior

A robot deceives an enemy soldier by creating a false trail and hiding so that it will not be caught. While this sounds like a scene from one of the Terminator movies, it's actually the scenario of an experiment conducted by researchers at Georgia Tech as part of what is believed to be the first detailed examination of robot deception.

“Most social robots will probably rarely use deception, but it’s still an important tool in the robot’s interactive arsenal because robots that recognize the need for deception have advantages in terms of outcome compared to robots that do not recognize the need for deception,” said the study’s co-author, Alan Wagner, a research engineer at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. The results of robot experiments and theoretical and computational studies of robot deception were published online on Sept. 3 in the International Journal of Social Robotics.

In the future, robots capable of deception may be valuable for several different areas, including military and search and rescue operations. A search and rescue robot may need to deceive in order to calm or receive cooperation from a panicked victim. Robots on the battlefield with the power of deception will be able to successfully hide and mislead the enemy to keep themselves and valuable information safe.

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Students, faculty and alumni with an iPhone can now find the precise arrival time for a Tech Trolley, reserve a library book and even plan a meal down to a nutritional nugget with a quick swipe of their thumb.

Following months of development, Georgia Tech’s Communication and Marketing department is pleased to announce the arrival of Tech’s official iPhone and iPod Touch application, a tool which aims to enhance the campus experience with function and style while providing a showcase for dynamic student research and design.

The app can be downloaded directly from the iTunes App Store or by going to www.gatech.edu/iphone. Plans are currently underway to develop a similar app for the Android mobile operating system.

The app was envisioned as a venue to exhibit the talented work of students, with the Usable Health utility a testament to this goal. But the app itself was made possible thanks to the talents of one enterprising undergraduate.

Noah Witherspoon, who will be entering his senior year as a computational media undergraduate at Georgia Tech this fall, worked directly with Communications and Marketing to design, develop and refine the application. Employing a student viewpoint during this process helped ensure the app would offer abilities with appeal and relevance.

“I think that as a student I could get a better idea of what people wanted out of it,” Witherspoon said. “Working on the app as a student here meant I already knew people who I could talk to for ideas. I think that resulted in the app being pretty well rounded. If you’re on Tech’s campus, you’ll find something useful in it.”
As football season begins, leaves start to change, the cool weather finally arrives, and summer is a fading memory. But every fall, Georgia Tech students begin the application process to spend their summer on Georgia Tech’s Oxford Study Abroad Program. This year, Georgia Tech staff members are being encouraged to apply for a role in the program that has been introducing Georgia Tech students to Europe for almost 20 years. The program allows students to take classes while visiting major cities in Europe, studying and expanding their global perspective. It also gives Georgia Tech staff, who accompany the students as group leaders, the chance to leave the Atlanta campus and experience new cultures, all while helping students have a safe and successful experience.

“The Oxford program allowed me to interact with staff and students in a format that was completely different from my normal role at Georgia Tech,” says Mahlet Endale, a psychologist in the Georgia Tech Counseling Center who participated as group leader this past summer. “It was refreshing and eye opening.”

With a demanding schedule — the Europe portion spans eight continental European cities in 30 days — and duties ranging from confirming museum reservations to liaising with the Dean of Students regarding student disciplinary issues, however, the role is best suited for the intrepid traveler.

“The Oxford Program is definitely not a vacation for the group leader. However, every day is an adventure and is filled with amazing sites and stories,” says Brett Hulst, an area manager for Residence Life and veteran group leader.

To apply to become a GT Oxford Study Program Group Leader for 2011, see the program website. Deadline for applications is October 31.

oxford.gatech.edu

McKenna to Head Office of Legal Affairs and Risk Management

Patrick (“Pat”) McKenna has accepted a position as the associate vice president for Legal Affairs and Risk Management. This position, a new role at Georgia Tech, is responsible for providing decision support to the Office of the President on legal and policy issues, establishing a compliance and risk management network, and developing an institutional approach to risk management throughout the next fiscal year.

The Office of Legal Affairs and Risk Management is comprised of several units: Affiliated Organizations, Internal Auditing, Legal Affairs, Security and Police, and a future Compliance and Risk Management function.

McKenna has served as executive director of Affiliated Organizations. The position was created in recognition of the

Game Day Recycling back for a third year

Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling Manager Cindy Jackson is ready for another season of Game Day Recycling. The recycling initiative enlists the help of campus tailgaters and visitors in the stadium’s suites. According to Jackson, a few hours before kickoff, student volunteers distribute compostable bags for fans to place all of their recyclable waste in — aluminum cans, plastic and glass. Facilities Department employees then collect the bags after the games. Last fall, Recycling Services collected nearly 20 tons of glass, aluminum and plastic from the fans who attended six home games last year. In the first game of this season — Tech vs. South Carolina State University — 2.1 tons of waste was collected. “While this can have a slight financial advantage, we’re helping to take materials out of the waste stream, which in turn reduces landfill costs,” said Jackson, who is also the director of Georgia Tech’s Earth Day celebration. “This is our third year, and there has been a lot of cooperation among many campus departments to make this program work smoothly.”

www.recycle.gatech.edu

Imagine Lab to Build Interactive Visualizations of Georgia Veterans Memorial

The Georgia Veterans Memorial Foundation has selected the Imagine Lab in Georgia Tech’s College of Architecture to create a 3-D interactive visualization of the Georgia Veterans Memorial, which is under construction in Rockdale County.

Designed to help engage the community and encourage philanthropic support for the project, users will be able to experience the new environment in multiple formats:

- Navigate a 3-D panomaricour of the three-arc memorial,
- Select and donate engraved brick pavers to make a meaningful gift,
- Visit the web-based environment hosted in Google Earth, and
- See a timeline animation showcasing the progress of the memorial site from 1988 to the future.

“We were pleased to be selected to recreate and help visualize future phases of the Georgia Veterans Memorial,” said Imagine Lab Director Anatoliusz “Tolek” Lesniewski. “We look forward to helping the foundation realize their vision for a place that will foster public understanding of the dedication of veterans and their families.”

“Proposals for this project came from across the nation, and Georgia Tech was deemed to be uniquely qualified to provide us with this 3-D model,” said Norman Wheeler, Chairman of the Georgia Veterans Memorial Foundation. “When the project is complete, I think any veteran, whether a resident of Georgia or visiting from other parts of the country, will be able to go to the memorial in Rockdale County to reflect and never forget the sacrifices of our veterans, to honor those who served and to remember those who fell.”

Supporters can get involved by making a tax-exempt donation to the Georgia Veterans Memorial Foundation, or purchase an engraved paver to be placed on the Walk of Heroes at www.georgiaveteransmemorial.com.

The Imagine Lab uses digital technology for visualization and design. The above image is an example of the type of three-dimensional visualizations that will allow visitors to navigate the memorial remotely.

For more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit www.gatech.edu/calendar.

www.astronomy.gatech.edu

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MOTORCYCLES

1998 Pontiac Grand Prix GT 3.8, 2 door, black, 136,000. Title: $1,700. Call Angie at 678-826-6406.


2001 Honda Civic Si, selling for parts. Wrecked on passenger side but good transmissions and motor as well as other misc. parts. Email: e.vicki.asphalt@physics.ics.gatech.edu.


REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

Seeking roommate to share large 3BR/2BA townhome in Buckhead. Porches, balcony, washer/dryer. Short walk to Carrol St. cafes, shops, 4 miles S of Tech. House occupied by Tech instructor. Rent: $650/month plus half utilities. Please contact jennifer.brown@esl.gatech.edu.

For sale: 4BR/3BA home in East Cobb. 5 min. from I-285, 16 min. from Tech. Hardwood floors downstairs, new carpeting upstairs, granite counter, finished basement, sun room, bonus room and deck. $350,000. Call 404-626-8181.
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growing complexity and increasing scrutiny of the legally separate entities affiliated with Georgia Tech, and assists the Office of the President in coordinating the activities of the affiliated organizations and assuring that they are aligned with the strategic goals and priorities of the Institute and the policies of the Board of Regents.

McKenna also serves as executive director of Georgia Tech Facilities, Inc., which finances and constructs buildings and facilities for the benefit of Georgia Tech, and as vice president of Georgia Advanced Technology Ventures, Inc., which is focused on technology commercialization, economic development, and relevant real estate development.

McKenna is a graduate of Georgia Tech, with a B.S. degree in industrial engineering, and holds J.D. and LL.M. (Taxation) degrees from the Emory University School of Law. He came to Georgia Tech in 1986 from a law practice in Atlanta. During his tenure at Georgia Tech he has worked extensively in planned giving and development and has served as executive secretary of the Georgia Tech Foundation.