Chewbots Takes Home InVenture Prize

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

After an evening of student presentations about innovative devices, ranging from a smart toaster to a credit-card-sized cell phone charger, and some sassy commentary from host Faith Salie, the newest InVenture Prize winner was crowned.

Chewbots, a line of fully automated robotic dog toys, won the fifth annual InVenture Prize competition in front of a live television audience on Georgia Public Broadcasting. Christopher Taylor, a mechanical engineering major from Stone Mountain, created the toys that won him up to $20,000 provided by Google and a spot in Georgia Tech’s startup accelerator program, Flashpoint.

“It was all just kind of a big blur,” Taylor said. “I was completely shocked. I don’t really have the words to describe it.”

He plans to manufacture the toys and is using his prize money to make a second prototype to test its product for durability. Erika Tyburski, a biomedical engineering graduate from Miami, and her invention, The AnemoCheck, took second place. Steven Wojcic, a computer science major from Forsyth, and Scott Groveman, an electrical engineering major from Roswell, who invented BioPin, took home the People’s Choice award.

http://inventureprize.gatech.edu

From left to right: Christopher Taylor, Chewbots developer, took home first place in the competition; The AnemoCheck, developed by Erika Tyburski, won second prize; Steven Wojcic and Scott Groveman, BioPin creators, won the People’s Choice award; and competitors, host Faith Salie, and the judges.

Office of the Provost Provides Strategic Project Updates

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

At the end of the spring 2012 semester, the Strategic Plan Implementation Steering Committee (SPISC) concluded the successful effort of shepherding the work of 16 task forces developing initiatives for elements of Georgia Tech’s strategic plan.

The recommendations were evaluated over the summer, and investments have been made in several efforts consistent with the SPISC’s final recommendations. This year, the Institute designated more than $2 million, from both state and Georgia Tech Foundation resources, for the academic support activities and initiatives described below. Projects are moving forward, embedded in the operating units that have been charged with piloting or initiating new ideas.

The following is a summary of selected activities where the Office of the Provost is heavily involved or taking a lead.

REVITALIZING UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

The task force had two recommendations that implied significant academic calendar changes. One was a January term, or J-term, a period between existing semesters where less-structured and less-mainstream educational activities could be carried out. The other was “project day,” a day or a portion of a day where...
**Donate Items for 2013 Earth Day Events**

Kick off your spring-cleaning efforts by gathering items to contribute to Georgia Tech’s Earth Day efforts.

Until March 30, members of the campus community may donate used athletic shoes, clothing, E-waste, office supplies, and books for one of the following Earth Day projects:

- **Reuse-A-Shoe**: The Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program grinds up old athletic shoes and turns them into material used to build running tracks, baseball courts, and tennis courts. Used athletic shoes (with rubber bottoms) can be dropped off at the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling (947 Atlantic Dr.), Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech, and Burdell’s in the Student Center Commons.
- **Clothing Swap**: Gently used clothing and accessories are being collected for the fourth annual Clothing Swap, which will be held during the 2012 Earth Day celebration on Friday, April 20. At the Earth Day Celebration, students, faculty, and staff may shop through the donated items — free of charge. Drop-off locations include the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling, Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech, and Burdell’s.

The deadline for faculty and staff to apply to be GT1000 instructors in the fall is April 19. adjut to college life, learn about their majors and related careers, and introduces them to campus resources. Each section has between 20 to 23 students, and instructors are assisted by upper-class students known as “Team Leaders,” added Steven Girardot, assistant vice provost for undergraduate education.

“We welcome people from any department at Georgia Tech, provided they have a minimum of a master’s degree in any field, have been employed at Tech for a year as of this summer, and have the support of their department,” he said. “If a staff member has a bachelor’s degree, he or she may serve as a co-instructor in a section, provided we can find a primary instructor who has a master’s degree.”

The Center for Academic Enrichment provides the course curriculum, resources, and training, and the time commitment is usually a minimum of two to three hours per week — an hour of class and one to two hours of administrative work.

During the summer, the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and the Center for Academic Enrichment host a training program for all new and returning instructors.

“The first time you teach is the hardest, because you don’t know what to expect,” Bramblett said. “But if you are interested in the students as people, the rest flows pretty well.”

The deadline to apply is April 19, but applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. For more information, email Nirmal Trivedi, director of academic transition programs in the Center for Academic Enrichment, at gt1000@gatech.edu.

**Ivan Allen College Hosts Founder’s Day Events**

Last week, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts celebrated Founder’s Day, which honors the legacy of Ivan Allen Jr. through symposia and festivities. As part of the celebration, a ribbon-cutting was held at the Stephen C. Hall (picture-cutting the ribbon) Building, which was recently renovated and now houses the Writing and Communication Program. The celebration will continue on April 4 with the presentation of the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage to John Lewis.

**Got Story Ideas?**

Have an idea for an article? Suggestions are always welcome. Send it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

**Calendar Submissions**

Published biweekly throughout the academic year and the summer by Georgia Tech Institute Communications.

Calendar submissions emailed to edsuite@comm.gatech.edu. or listed at 404-894-7263, must be sent at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. Classified submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 404-385-4142.

**Archived Issues of The Whistle**

Issues of The Whistle can be accessed at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

**The Whistle**

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THE WHISTLE • March 18, 2013 • PAGE 2
Artificial Platelets Could Treat Injured Soldiers

JOHN TOON
RESEARCH NEWS

When it comes to healing the wounds of war, success may hinge on the first blood clot — the one that begins forming on the battlefield right after an injury.

Researchers exploring the complex stream of cellular signals produced by the body in response to a traumatic injury think the initial response — formation of a blood clot — may control subsequent healing. Using that information, they’re developing new biomaterials, including artificial blood platelets that could replace natural clotting chemicals, that could be included in an injectable device to stop any bleeding that occurs. Soldiers wounded in action could use the device to treat themselves, helping to control bleeding, stabilizing the injury, and setting the right course for healing.

Formation of designer blood clots from the artificial platelets would be triggered by the same factor that initiates the body’s natural clotting processes. In animal models, the synthetic platelets reduced clotting time by 30 percent, but the materials have not yet been tested in humans.

“The idea is to have on the battlefield technologies that would deliver a biomaterial capable of finding where the bleeding is happening and augmenting the body’s own clotting processes,” said Thomas Barker, an associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering. “Simultaneously, the material would help instruct the biochemistry and biophysics of the clot structure that would govern subsequent healing.”

After an injury, the most critical need is to stop the bleeding. But as traumatic injuries heal, they often produce significant scarring that is difficult to treat. Georgia Tech researchers are working on both sides of the problem, developing cell signaling techniques that may head off the formation of scars — as well as techniques for addressing the fibrosis that is often the long-term result. Beyond helping to halt the bleeding, the synthetic platelets would deliver regulatory chemicals designed to prevent scarring.

“The blood clot actually ends up directing how the entire wound healing process is going to occur,” Barker said. “The initial clot matrix instructs very specific cellular behaviors, which have consequences for the next wave of cells that comes in to do specific jobs, which have consequences for the next wave of cells. If we can modify that initial clot, it can become the three-dimensional matrix needed to build the regenerated or repaired tissue.”

The synthetic platelets, made from tiny structures known as hydrogels, could be injected into the bloodstream where they would circulate until activated by the body’s own clotting processes.

Once activated, the particles — which are about one micron in diameter — would change shape, converting to a thin film that would help seal wounds. To develop these hydrogels, Barker is collaborating with Andrew Lyon, a professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

The bloodstream contains proteins known as “fibrinogen” that are the precursors for fibrin, the polymer that provides the basic structure for natural blood clots. When they receive the right signals from a protein called “thrombin,” these precursors polymerize at the site of the bleeding. To prevent unintended activation of their synthetic platelets, the researchers used the same trigger.

The researchers followed a process known as molecular evolution to develop an antibody that could be attached to the hydrogels to cause their form to change when they encounter thrombin-activated fibrin.

The resulting antibody has high affinity for the polymerized form of fibrin and low affinity for the precursor.

For the full article, visit http://c.gatech.edu/15ikGpH

TECH ARTS, THE ARTS AT GT

As a result of the task force’s final report, a Council for the Arts and an Office of the Arts have been established, both are operating. A related website has been developed at arts.gatech.edu. The second Clough Art Crawl was held this semester, with more than 300 student submissions, and an art festival will be held next month. Negotiations are under way to bring a sculpture exhibit to campus, and an external arts advisory board is being convened.

IVAN ALLEN INSTITUTE

The Ivan Allen Institute Task Force worked under the auspices of the executive vice president for Research (EVP). The recommenda- tion to place the Ivan Allen Institute within the Ivan Allen College has been carried out, and the effort remains under the guidance of the EVP, with close collaboration with the Office of the Provost. SPISC recommended that the Ivan Allen Institute take ownership of the Ivan Allen Prize for Social Courage; create a “Year of Engagement” where an annual theme is developed and explored through activities that inspire the entire community; and, formulate a direction. Professor Ken Knoopel has been named its director.

Over the coming weeks and months, the Office of the Provost, in collaboration with the academic units, faculty, and the rest of the Institute, will work to continue to advance these projects.

http://c.gatech.edu/15QITCQ

MISCELLANEOUS

March 21
In the Tech 2013, an alumni business and networking expo, will be a half-day expo that showcases Tech, alumni entrepreneurs, and local businesses. All members of the Tech community are welcome to attend the free event, which will be held at noon in Clough Commons.

http://gatumnxi.pages/biotech

March 25
Learn more about the tuition assistance program available to Georgia Tech faculty and staff at an information session, which will be held at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Center Theater.

http://c.gatech.edu/15JPrm

March 28
The Student Center and Dining Services have partnered to bring local, sustainable food to the Georgia Tech community’s fingertips on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tech Walk, through late April.

http://c.gatech.edu/15JP3W7

This week’s Open Forum “This I Believe” discussion features President G. P. “But” Peterson. Open Forum is open to students, faculty, and staff, and meets every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Office of Undergraduate Studies Resource Room, Clough Commons.

http://gatopenforum.gatech.edu

April 6-7
Join Georgia Tech faculty, staff, and students as they raise money for Relay for Life. The all-night event runs from noon to midnight at Tech Green.

To sign up, go to http://c.gatech.edu/ZFBfQE

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

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILES


REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES


Looking for handicap-accessible apartment or small house in Atlanta to rent. Couch was in driving accident and in wheelchair but doesn’t want to move back home. Email kcheek@gatech.edu.

Classifieds continued on page 4
Community News

Stamus Is Living a Sports Fan’s Dream

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Getting paid to promote and go to sporting events was an ideal gig for a college-aged Mike Stamus — and years later, not much has changed.

“My brother was a sports writer for newspapers, and I was the little brother who wanted to be just like him,” said Stamus, associate director of sports information for the Athletic Association.

In high school, he became editor of the school newspaper and later wrote for the college paper his first year as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech. But his stint at the college news rag didn’t last long.

“I got a call from the assistant sports information director at the university, and he offered me a job working in his office,” Stamus said. “He wanted me to go to games and work around the sports teams — and get paid for it — and I jumped at the chance.”

After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1982, it didn’t take Stamus long to realize that working in college athletics was where he wanted to be full time. He accepted a position at Georgia Tech less than a year later and has been here ever since.

Read on to learn more about Stamus and his time at Tech.

Tell us about an average day in your job.

I work most closely with the men’s basketball team, but I also cover communications for the golf team and men’s tennis. My days are spent coordinating media requests related to the teams and attending games and practices during the respective seasons. I also work on media guides and programs for various sports, and I am the person who issues credentials to the media for football and men’s basketball events.

What is one thing you’d like people to know about your job?

A lot of people see me having a great time at the games and don’t realize all of the long hours and behind-the-scenes work that goes into supporting the communications needs of these teams. My opportunity to finally relax is at the games!

What is the one piece of technology you couldn’t live without?

Actually, it’s a few things. I usually always have my laptop, phone, and iPad with me.

What are a few things that every employee should do while working at Tech?

Go to the Varsity and eat a chili dog. Run the Pi Mile, and come and see a football or basketball game.

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

Tech Square. It’s been amazing to see it go from being an idea to a reality. From the restaurants to Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech, it’s just a great gathering place.

What do you do in your spare time?

From April to September, I work as one of two scorers for the Atlanta Braves. Baseball has always been my favorite sport, and I learned how to score it in college. Over my years at Tech, I developed a relationship with a media relations person for the Braves and mentioned that I would love to score if the opportunity ever presented itself. In the 1990s, I started subbing for one of the scorers, and the next thing I knew, it was a regular job. There are 81 home games each year, and I work half of them. It’s a great way to spend my evenings, and I see many of the members of the media who are important to the work I do at Tech. It’s a win-win. And yes, I have been booed a time or two, but we have to be objective.

Tell us something unique about yourself.

I have my laptop, phone, and iPad with me.

On Febr. 19, the Midtown Alliance presented the Midtown Blue Partnership Award to Chief Teresa Crenshaw and the Georgia Tech Police Department. The annual award is given to the organization that has the most successful operation of Midtown Blue, the Midtown Alliance’s public safety force. More information about Midtown Blue can be found at http://c.gatech.edu/129p97.

www.police.gatech.edu

Faculty, Staff Invited to Honors Luncheon

As the semester winds down, it’s time to recognize the efforts of fellow colleagues at this year’s Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon.

The luncheon will be held on April 10 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. (Ten-year and 25-year service award winners will be recognized at a separate reception on April 8.) RSVP by March 27 at www.gatech.edu/specialevents/honorsluncheon

GTPD Recognized for Making Safety a Priority

On Febr. 19, the Midtown Alliance presented the Midtown Blue Partnership Award to Chief Teresa Crenshaw and the Georgia Tech Police Department. The annual award is given to the organization that has the most successful operation of Midtown Blue, the Midtown Alliance’s public safety force. More information about Midtown Blue can be found at http://c.gatech.edu/129p97.

www.police.gatech.edu

When the Whistle Blows

Blues on, stern Amurak of Toldi’s mighty crew. Be always firm and staid:

Blow on, stern Monarch of Tech’s mighty crew.

— A.D.A.

In his spare time, Mike Stamus is one of two scorers for the Atlanta Braves.

This spring, we will honor the memory of students, faculty, and staff who died of our own community. Nothing can replace the joy that a loved one or cherished friend brings to our lives. Each year the Georgia Tech community is deeply saddened by the loss of members of our own community. This spring, we will honor the memory of students, faculty, and staff who died in the past year. Join us in paying tribute to those indelible individuals who reached our hearts and contributed to our community.

www.gatech.edu