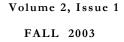# Office of Student Integrity within
The Office of the Dean of Students

INTEGRITY NEWS

Georgia Institute of Technology

www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity

2002-2003 Yearly OSI Academic Integrity Stats
Summer 2002– Spring 2003: 5/13/02– 5/11/03

⇒ Total cases forwarded to OSI: **335**

⇒ Total cases resolved: **356**

⇒ Total cases resolved through the Honor Committee: **56**

⇒ Total cases resolved through administrative resolution: **300**

⇒ Total students found responsible: **210**

⇒ Total students found not responsible: **146**

⇒ Total cases pending: **129**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AT TECH

Academic Violation Stats: Charges Data
Total Graduate and Undergraduate Students
Summer Term 2003: 5/12/03– 8/17/03
Cases Resolved

Total: College of Architecture	Total: College of Computing	Total: College of Engineering	Total: DuPree College of Management	Total: Ivan Allen College	Total: College of Sciences	Total: Other	TOTAL	Department/ Forwarded to OSI
0	0	4	2	1	3	0	10	**C1: Unauthorized Access**
0	2	3	0	0	0	0	5	**C2: Unauthorized Collaboration**
0	0	24	1	2	7	0	34	**C3: Plagiarism**
0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	**C4: Falsification of Work**
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**C5: Alteration of Grade**
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	**C6: Deliberate Falsification**
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**C7: Forgery**
0	2	33	3	3	11	0	52	**Total Cases Resolved**

This segment of the newsletter will cover recent statistics of the Office of Student Integrity. The focus will be on the latest trends at Tech regarding academic integrity. STATS will be run semesterly and yearly for the newsletter and other various research based projects. The data is divided into colleges.

Term: First day of a semester through the day before the next semester.
Primary Violation: The most important and underlying aspect/charge of the case.
Charges Data: Each case is calculated by the primary violation of the case, therefore there may be more charges within one case. Additional charges are not reflected in this data.
In Summer 2002 there was a total of 93 cases resolved.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Currently the GT Honor Code requires faculty to report any instances of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS).
- If you injure a student academically without due process (reduce a grade for cheating without working with ODOS); *you* have legal liability.
- The Honor Code contains broad definitions, therefore <u>you</u> must define what is acceptable for your course and each assignment. Eg: unauthorized collaboration.
- Information on how to forward a case to the Office of Student Integrity is on our website at:
  http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/page.php?facultyfaqfull.htm

The Office of Student Integrity (OSI) is located in the Student Services building and is housed within the Office of the Dean of Students. The Student Code of Conduct and Academic Honor Code were created to outline what the Institute expects and how it will respond if those expectations are not met. At the same time, Tech is an educational institution and, as such, the primary goal of the judicial system is to encourage our students to learn to make better decisions.

Questions about the office? Suggestions for topics? Interested in other academic stats?

E-Mail Integrity News To:
ericka.mcgarity@vpss.gatech.edu

38% of 18,000 students across 23 college campuses acknowledged engaging in internet plagiarism

HONOR ADVISORY COUNCIL'S CORNER

What students want faculty to know. . .

- Plaques with the Honor Code Challenge Statement are being installed in classrooms all over campus to serve as a constant reminder of the Tech community's commitment to the Honor Code.

- The Honor Advisory Council will be establishing relationships with academic units in order to promote and discuss academic integrity at department meetings.

- When preparing your syllabi for the spring semester, please make sure to clearly articulate your policies for *each type* of assignment to discourage cheating.

- If you are asked, please allow Council members 3-5 minutes during your first spring semester class to talk about academic integrity and the services the Honor Advisory Council provides.

RESPONDING TO ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

- **Forwarding a case:** You are now able to send a case to OSI using the online *Academic Incident Reporting Form* at the OSI website by clicking on the *Faculty & Staff* icon, then clicking on the *Report A Violation* icon. OSI website is: http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/

- All students found responsible for academic misconduct in Academic year 03-04 will be sanctioned to the Academic Integrity Seminar. The seminar is partly online using Web CT, and the in-class group meetings are facilitated by faculty.

- When forwarding a case to OSI, please *do not* submit materials through campus mail. The information is confidential and we will need it in order to complete the case in a timely manner. Please fax to 404-894-9928 with a cover page: Attn: Andrea Goldblum (we will ultimately need originals) or have it delivered to the Office of Student Integrity, suite 210.

FACULTY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY!

- **We Need Your Help!**- We are in need of faculty facilitators for the Academic Integrity Seminar! You can visit the online portion of the seminar at: http://webct.gatech.edu/ Visitor login ID: guest3, password: 1003 . Faculty interested in facilitating please contact Ericka McGarity via email: ericka.mcgarity@vpss.gatech.edu or 404-385-1562. Spring facilitator training will be during the first week of classes: January 6 and January 7, 2004 6:00pm-8:00pm.

AROUND THE WORLD IN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

One reason to keep academic integrity in the forefront of your mind, in and out of the classroom. . .

- **Students see the use of the internet differently:** 38% of 18,000 students across 23 college campuses acknowledged **engaging in internet plagiarism**; almost half of these students consider this behavior trivial or not cheating at all– 2003 survey conducted by Don McCabe, management professor at Rutger's University and founding President of the Center for Academic Integrity; New York Times, September 3, 2003.

∗ Be clear on your expectations, do not assume they will know better.

Office of the Dean of Students
Office of Student Integrity
353 Ferst Drive
Atlanta, GA 30332-0285
(404) 894-2564

Karen D. Boyd,
Senior Associate Dean for Student Life
karen.boyd@vpss.gatech.edu

Andrea Goldblum,
Assistant Dean of Students/
Director, Office of Student Integrity
andrea.goldblum@vpss.gatech.edu

Ericka S. McGarity,
Judicial Coordinator
ericka.mcgarity@vpss.gatech.edu

Chrissy Sherstad,
Judicial Administrator
chrissy.sherstad@vpss.gatech.edu

Alice West,
Senior Secretary
alice.west@vpss.gatech.edu

Honor Quotation of the Month

"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."

Samuel Johnson

Honor & Ethics Related Events

Honor Awareness Week 2004:
March 22– March 26

THIS MONTH'S HELPFUL CLASSROOOM HINTS. . .

A FEW POINTERS REGARDING COLLABORATION AT TECH:

Some of the most difficult Honor Code cases are those involving allegations of unauthorized collaboration. The <u>American Heritage Dictionary</u> defines collaborate as:

1. To work together, especially in a joint, intellectual effort;
2. To cooperate treasonably, as with an enemy occupying one's country. Just as this definition has good and bad connotations, so does the concept of collaboration at Tech.

There is no one definition of collaboration that is specifically outlined by the Institute. It is defined by each faculty member, for each assignment. Some faculty bar all collaboration, while others encourage, or even require it. Many faculty allow collaboration, but require unique work for each individual student. The latter can be quite confusing to students, who may not understand where the acceptable "line" is, and they often believe that if they collaborate, their work will look similar.
Here are some suggestions for your syllabus and classroom:
⇒ Clearly define in your syllabus the amount of collaboration you will allow
⇒ Define what constitutes an individual or unique effort, so students will know the difference between collaboration and copying
⇒ If the amount of collaboration that is authorized differs with each assignment, clearly state this policy
⇒ Define with whom students may collaborate; i.e. class mates, across sections, with TAs, with Tutors, and with students who had the course before
⇒ Define the acceptable use of "word." *Can they only use what you provide them?*

FACTORS IN SANCTIONING STUDENTS:

When you refer academic integrity cases to our office, we will want to know what you think is a fair sanction if the student is found in violation of the Honor Code. We will strongly consider your suggestion. However, there are many additional factors to be considered when sanctioning offenders. Following are some of the sanctioning considerations:
⇒ Outcome suggested by faculty
⇒ The nature of the violation
⇒ The degree of the student's involvement in the violation
⇒ The weight of the assignment toward the final course grade
⇒ The sanctioning of similar cases historically
⇒ The degree of honesty the student shows during the investigative process
⇒ The level of understanding that the student shows; i.e do they "get it"
⇒ The previous disciplinary history of the student
⇒ Any aggravating or mitigating circumstances