In the field
Symposium examines computing needs of global communities

ROBERT NESMITH
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The School of Interactive Computing (SIC) and the GVU Center hosted roughly 150 attendees during the premier Computing at the Margins Symposium, held May 6 and 7 at the Tech Square Research Building.

SIC and GVU launched the symposium under a research agenda to better understand the technology needs of under-served communities and to advance new technologies, aimed at overcoming the digital divide. The four goals of this newly launched program are for the agenda to have an impact on communities, education, computing research and the business of computing.

Symposium speakers and panels addressed this “digital divide” and were comprised of academic researchers and experts developing technology for the developing world, ubiquitous computing and industry representatives. Faculty members participating from Tech included International Affairs and SIC Assistant Professor Michael L. Best, SIC Associate Professor W. Keith Edwards, College of Computing Associate Dean Rebecca Grimer and School of Computer Science Chair Ellen Zegura. Laurence Konmla Bropleh, minister of Information, Culture and Tourism for the Republic of Liberia, delivered the symposium’s keynote address.

“Our goal had been for the symposium to bring together people from a diverse set of backgrounds and perspectives in an environment that could facilitate rich discussions around the role that technological innovation has to play in social impact,” said College of Computing and GVU Center Associate Professor Keith Edwards. “[The 150 attendees] represented academia, industry, major foundations, non-governmental organizations and governments.”

Medical innovation
Center the first of its kind in Southeast

John Toon
RESEARCH NEWS

Four of Georgia’s leading research and health care organizations have joined together to create a new innovation center that will accelerate the development and commercialization of next-generation medical devices and medical technology.

The first of its kind in the Southeast, the Global Center for Medical Innovation (GCMI), to be located in Technology Enterprise Park, will include a comprehensive medical device prototyping center. Supported by Tech, Saint Joseph’s Translational Research Institute (SJTRI), Piedmont HealthCare and the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), the center will combine the complete medical device marketplace—which includes universities; research centers and clinicians; established drug and device companies, investors; and

Schrage to step down as faculty athletics representative

Aerospace Engineering Professor Daniel Schrage will step down as Tech’s faculty athletics representative (FAR) to the Athletic Association, effective June 30.

President G.P. “Bud” Peterson has named Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Professor Sue Ann Bidstrup Allen as the next FAR. “I want to thank Dan Schrage for his years of dedicated and selfless service as our faculty athletic representative,” Peterson said. “I am pleased that he will be able to continue his valuable involvement in Georgia Tech athletics by continuing to serve on the Athletic Association board and many of its committees.”

Primary responsibilities for the FAR, who serves at the behest of the president, are as follows:

- Represents the institution as the FAR with the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and the National Collegiate

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Research

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early-stage companies.

GCMI was announced by Gov. Sonny Perdue May 19 at the 2009 BIO International Convention at the Georgia World Congress Center. “The convergence of the life sciences with engineering provides a unique opportunity to expand our technology in areas that will support the health care industry of the future,” said Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson. “The Global Center for Medical Innovation will bring together in one location the key infrastructure needed to rapidly move new medical devices and new medical technologies to market.”

The leading-edge medical research conducted at the founding institutions will be the engine behind the new center. By bringing together physicians with direct experience at treating patients with scientists and engineers, GCMI will facilitate the development of technology that meets real-world medical needs.

The new center will contain a complete medical device prototyping center; the capability to produce evaluation devices using “good manufacturing practices” mandated by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration; and the ability to manage, coordinate and aggregate intellectual property from the partner organizations and interested private companies.

SJTRI, the research division of Saint Joseph’s Health System, will add the capability for preclinical studies of new devices and technologies. SJTRI has recently opened a new, state-of-the-art, 32,000-square-foot preclinical research facility at Technology Enterprise Park.

With the GCMI resources, this facility will provide a comprehensive set of services for developing, testing and prototyping medical innovations.

“Physicians on the front lines of patient treatment have a very real appreciation of the need for new technology, but they often lack the resources to translate their ideas and solutions into new medical devices,” said physician Jay S. Yadav, chairman of the Piedmont Healthcare Center for Medical Innovation, a cardiologist with Piedmont Heart Institute Physicians and CEO of Atlanta medical device company CardioMEMS.

“By collaborating with institutions like Georgia Tech, we can meet patient needs and create new business opportunities.”

The proximity to university resources will also make the center attractive to outside industry and startup companies.

Investments in Georgia’s research universities are helping to create the knowledge and innovation necessary to expand the medical device industry in the state,” said Mike Cassidy, president and CEO of GRA, a public-private organization that supports the development of technology industry in Georgia.

“Through activities like GCMI and Georgia Research Alliance commercialization activities at the state’s research universities, we are supporting the development and growth of this promising industry.”

For more information

www.gra.org

A profile of the entering freshmen

The number of applications received for the 2009 freshmen class is up 12 percent over last year, with a total of 11,500 applications. Applications have been received from 49 different states (only North Dakota is not represented among them) and 76 nations. Sixty percent of the Georgia applicants are residents of Fulton, Cobb, Gwinnett and DeKalb counties.

The average SAT score (verbal and math) of the accepted students (who have paid deposits) is 1359, average SAT (verbal, math, and writing) is 1989, and the average GPA is 3.81.

ARRA status

Georgia Tech continues to very closely monitor the opportunities related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

This includes ensuring that faculty members are aware of single investigator opportunities such as the NIH Challenge Grants, coordinating with the University System about potential ARRA block grants distributed by the state of Georgia and deciding on the strongest proposals to submit on behalf of the Institute in areas such as major equipment, instrumentation and infrastructure.

We are also closely monitoring the new reporting requirements for ARRA funding mandated by both the state and federal governments. We encourage all faculty members to regularly check Tech’s ARRA web site: www.osp.gatech.edu/arra/

Campus safety

Campus safety is of the highest importance, particularly considering the fact that we are an open campus surrounding an urban environment.

While our primary focus is keeping the Tech campus secure, we are paying diligent attention to the crimes occurring adjacent to campus. We are extremely concerned about the recent incidents in Home Park, even though this area falls under the primary jurisdiction of the Atlanta Police Department (APD).

Because of the unique crime challenges posed by our location, we work continuously to improve campus safety and security through education, safety programs and the commitment of our Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD). We also work in tandem with APD in identifying and stopping those who choose to break the law in the Midtown area.

It is imperative that students, faculty and staff who live off campus and outside of our jurisdiction understand the nature of the living environment. This includes becoming familiar with neighborhood crime patterns, taking the necessary safety precautions after dark and knowing emergency contact numbers.

Dean candidates visit campus

Over the past few weeks, three dean candidates were invited to campus to meet with College of Computing faculty, staff and students, as well as Institute administration and external stakeholders. Each candidate presented a vision seminar and a research talk. Recorded webcasts are available to members of the campus community at www.cc.gatech.edu/deansearch.

Faculty, staff and students who participated in the visits wish that we could provide comments on the candidates can do so at www.cc.gatech.edu/deansearch.

IAC dean search kicks off

Earlier this month, suggestions for members of the advisory committee to lead the search for the next leader of the IAC were solicited from the College’s faculty and staff. The response was outstanding and indicates the College’s interest and engagement in the process. The suggestions are being compiled and committee members will be announced shortly. Meanwhile, executive search firms with expertise in this area were invited to submit proposals and those being reviewed and evaluated.

As part of an ongoing effort for enhanced communication by the Office of the President, Office of the Provost and Office of the Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance, this feature provides a brief snapshot of issues and projects of interest to the campus community. Carnegie News Briefs will be included in the first publication date of each month. Questions can be directed to Jennifer Horazy at jennifer.horazy@carnegie.gatech.edu.

CARNEGIE NEWS BRIEFS

Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing

War daylight Center

177 North Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

June 10

Indian Institute of Technology (Mumbai)

Professor V. Ramgopal Rao presents “Polymer-Based Sensor Systems for Health Care and Homeland Security,” from 1 to 2 p.m., in room 11160W of the Klaus Advanced Computing building, as part of the Microsystem Packaged Research Center Distinguished Seminar.

www.prc.gatech.edu

June 19

Hagen Klaus from the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research presents “Organic Nanoelectronics,” as part of the Center for Organic Photonics and Electronic Semiconductors, at 11 a.m. in room 4G11 of the Molecular Science & Engineering building.

www.cope.gatech.edu

FACULTY/STAFF DEVELOPMENT

June 2–3

The institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience student group presents its “Technique Symposium,” in which student representatives will deliver seminars and in-lab demonstrations. The symposium will be held at the Biotechnology Complex.

www.techniquesymposium.bbugs.gatech.edu

June 5

The Office of Organizational Development presents “Business Writing Skills,” from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in room 203 of the Savant building. Cost is $150.

www.ogdev.gatech.edu

June 9

The Office of Organizational Development presents “Creating an Exceptional Service Environment by Exceeding Customer Expectations,” from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in room 203 of the Savant building. Cost is $250.

www.ogdev.gatech.edu

June 11

The Office of Organizational Development presents the brown bag seminar “Communicating Across the Generations in the Workforce,” from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in room 303 of the Savant building. There is no cost for this course.

www.ogdev.gatech.edu

Ongoing

Georgia Tech Training Services offers a Web-based tutorial on the basics of using a state purchasing card (p-card), www.ogdev.gatech.edu/training/.

The “Emergency Preparedness” certificate program, which consists of several smaller courses, including “Fire Safety” and “Facilities Hazard Training,” provides faculty and staff members with valuable information in the case of a campus emergency.

www.ogdev.gatech.edu

The “Defining Customer Service” certificate program provides campus groups and employees with the

Calendar continues on page 3

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www.whistle.gatech.edu

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www.gatech.edu
Institute

MARGINS, continued from page 3

academic researchers exploring new ways to address social impact through innovation,” Edwards said. “Very few events have pulled together this kind of cross section.”

Computing at the Margins rose from the College’s Computing for Good (C4G) initiative, which centers on “applying computing to social causes and improving quality of life” for society as a whole.

And, as Edwards points out, the global perspective of the conference also includes initiatives that are closer to home, including working on technology for nutrition management, employment, Atlanta communities and systems to connect this country’s urban homeless with support networks and organizations.

“The common theme is about driving computing innovation beyond the affluent workplace settings in which ‘traditional’ computing has its roots and seeing what opportunities are there when we look at the rest of the world—which, as it turns out, happens to represent a far larger slice of human endeavor than just the workplace,” said Edwards. “By exploring these new contexts, we can actually create new things, which is a good test for the communities that we are looking at, but potentially more broadly, as well.”

Computing and Ivan Allen College Associate Dean for Computing and Technology, has worked with Liberia for several years. In 2008, Best and Tech students traveled to Liberia with the Mobile Story Exchange System (MOSES), a portable system to view and record stories from civil conflict survivors for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia. The project is currently under way, and Best says he hopes the resources will be there to extend the program for another three years.

The system used in Liberia needed to be useful in an area and climate not frequently thought of as conducive to computing technology. “Engineering is all about constraints,” Best said. “With MOSES, we worked with a series of constraints—many from Liberia—no power, no electric power, no Internet connectivity, security issues, a hostile population and a [Libyan] civil war.”

The equipment was tailored for use by the Liberian people, even in the most remote areas of the country. The titular cartoon character guides viewers—many of whom had never seen a computer or like device before—through steps to either watch recorded stories or film their own. Additionally, the MOSES system worked well with its intended audience.

“People who never used a computer before walked up and were able to immediately engage with the cartoon character of Moses,” he said. Best says that long-term research is examining the feasibility of making the MOSES system a component of proposed Community Technology Information Centers in Liberia, which would serve to allow everyone in the country to hear news from and interact with the central government.

Edwards says there will definitely be a follow-up to the conference, and that the various attendees have expressed interest in forming a consortium of universities, companies, non-governmental organizations and foundations to explore how technology can improve the “human condition” outside the normal channels of the industry.

“This belief—that we can drive technological innovation by situating research in fundamentally different contexts […] with extreme constraints that force us to come up with new solutions—is wired into the DNA of the College of Computing,” said Edwards, referring to the college’s research into the “digital divide,” key for considering unique solutions for networking poor populated locales, and pervades the Human-Centered Computing doctoral program. “The themes we focused on in the Computing at the Margins symposium will continue to be a key tenant of how we think about our research.”

Best agrees, adding that the symposium hit the goals set for the conference. “We wanted to hit the base with what it means to practice computing at the margins, and we wanted to establish Georgia Tech as the place that is working on this area,” he said. “This is the first of the three—the middle is, we have to be a dialogue, and we need to continue the dialogue.”

For more information

MORE ONLINE

Check The Whistle online for a Q&A with Liberian Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Laureate Korainna Brolphim on the importance of his country’s partnership with Tech.

Academic Services Associate Athletics Director Phyllis LeBaw characterized Schrage as “invaluable” in his work with the diverse group of student athletes. “[These students] are some of our most rigorous academic programs,” she said.

“He’s done a great job both assisting with and communicating their success. It’s phenomenal to have a faculty member—especially one who understands the academic and athletic rigor—working directly with the students.”

One of Schrage’s main platforms, LeBaw says, was to encourage more faculty involvement and mentors with scholar-athletes. “He understands the team concept, what it means to be part of a collegiate team.”

LeBaw said that Schrage had worked diligently to ensure students had the means to succeed in academics and athletics, and in many cases taking the time to connect struggling students with tutors and other resources.

“He was not a distant faculty representative,” she said. “He’s been right there in the trenches as an objective individual from the academic side of the Institute.”

“I am proud of the accomplishments I achieved and the activities I participated in as FAR,” Schrage said. “I have some regrets in stepping down, but my workload has kept me from participating in ACC and NCAA activities as much as I would have liked.

Schrage begins a new term on the GTAA Board of Trustees June 30.

“I will miss the interaction with the outstanding student-athletes of Georgia Tech,” he said.

Academic Services

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

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. QMB. E-mail judd@eucorl.com. Visit http://travel.jou.com/djd/t58. Vacation close to home. Roaring River RV Park and Campground, full hook-ups, Cable. 1 mile from I-40 exit 107, near Blowing Rock. For info, call 1-800-327-1313. www.roaringrivervacation.com.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

For rent: Large 3BR/1BA, 830 sf. Midtown Atlanta, near downtown. 1st floor apartment, 2nd bedroom facing front, 3rd bedroom facing back. 2 helmets and outdoor cover. E-mail joann_lowell@yahoo.com.

www.orgdev.gatech.edu

www.gvu.gatech.edu

www.computing-margins.org

foundation for offering exemplary service, to those on and off the campus. Four required courses and two electives are offered.

www.argdex.gatech.edu

Events

July 16

The Office of Organizational Development presents the brown bag seminar “Buying or Selling a Home in the Real Estate Market,” from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 203 of the Savant Building. There is no cost. www.orgdev.gatech.edu

Ongoing

Technology—Tech’s chapter of Toastmasters International—meets every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. in room 102 of the Microelectronics Research Center. www.techmasters.gatech.edu

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

www.computing-margins.org

Moises in the academic performance of the participants in the programs, compliance with all institutional, conference and NCAA regulations, and any matters of concern in the planning and implementation of programs in relation to the best interests of the Institute.

In August 2002, Schrage was named the first externally designat- ed Georgia Tech Center of Excellence. In his work, he recognized significant changes in the university’s intercollegiate athletics program, and the new Transfer Appeals Committee, and

Serves as a member of Tech’s NCAA Eligibility Certification Program, primarily responsible for evaluating the processes used.

The FAR also makes an annual pre- sentation to the Executive Committee and Academic Senate on the state of the Institute’s intercollegiate athletics program, covering contributions to the educational mission of the Institute, statistical information on the academic performance of the participants in the programs, compliance with all institutional, conference and NCAA regulations, and any matters of concern in the planning and implementation of programs in relation to the best interests of the Institute.

Serves as vice chair of the Georgia Tech Athletic Association (GTAA) Board of Trustees and as vice chair of the Alexander- Thrash Fund Board of Directors,

Serves as an assistant supervisor of the athletics department to Tech’s president on matters related to intercollegiate athletics.

Serves as a member of the Institute Admissions Appeals Committee (IAAC) and the GTAA Academic Committee.

Serves as chair of both the Student-Athlete Grievance Committee and the New Transfer Appeals Committee, and

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The FAR also makes an annual pre- }
With the System to Create and Relay Emergency Action Messages (SCREAM), the Institute can deliver emergency messages to more than 182 classroom projectors and computer clusters across campus. "When it comes to emergency notification, there is no single tool that covers everyone," said Emergency Preparedness Director Andy Altizer. "SCREAM provides a redundant emergency notification option that supports the existing GTENS and SWS systems." SCREAM has the capability of delivering emergency messages which can be displayed on more than 182 classroom projectors, as well as computer clusters in the library and Student Center, along with other digital signage around campus.

The classroom computer must be logged into the network and connected to the projector in order for the message to be delivered. The messages will mirror those sent via GTENS and should be delivered to approximately 450 campus locations in less than two minutes.

For more information
www.gatech.edu/emergency/

Ivan Allen College Dean
Sue Rosser honored

Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts Dean Sue Rosser, named Tech’s first female dean 10 years ago, was feted by the campus community last week. In July, Rosser will take the provost’s post at San Francisco State University. Tech Provost Gary B. Schuster thanked Rosser for her service and work at Tech, saying her contributions to Georgia State University. Tech Provost Gary B. Schuster thanked Rosser for her service and work at Tech, saying her contributions to Georgia State University. Sue Rosser honored.

Tech a founding partner in sustainability initiative

The Institute has joined with a leading global carpet manufacturer in providing a Web-based resource that strives to create a community of people working to becoming carbon neutral.

Interface Inc. founder and Tech alumnus Ray Anderson realized in 1994 that he wanted his companies to become environmentally sustainable. This initiative expanded beyond just Interface Inc. and was given both name and form late last year with Mission Zero, an online platform for companies and individuals to learn from and assist others in the effort.

"Anyone anywhere can participate [through the online component], which is so exciting to us because it is the community, not Interface, who will determine where this will go," said InterfaceFLOR Senior Vice President of Marketing Joyce LaVelle. The Web site offers news, interactive education, social networking, peer-to-peer interaction and partnerships with key corporate, educational and industry representatives, she says. Members can join groups, post news stories and blogs, pose questions on sustainability and give advice on best practices.

In this early phase, LaVelle says efforts are concentrated on expansion—spreading the word and attracting new members. In time, community members will share best practices and spark new innovations. "I don’t think it’s overly ambitious to say we expect that the more minds who gather and share their knowledge through this online community, the more we and the planet will benefit," LaVelle said.

College of Management Professor Terry Blum was the initial point of contact for Mission Zero, an opportunity, she says, the Institute seized.

“Mission Zero provides an open system for communicating about the interdisciplinary space of sustainability,” Blum said. “Because of Georgia Tech’s early leadership in sustainability, we were given the opportunity to be a founding participant in the Mission Zero community. We build on the legacy of alumni, including Ray Anderson of Interface and Brook Byers of Kleiner Perkins, the research programs and innovations of our faculty, research scientists, staff and our awesome students. Leadership in social and environmental sustainability is integrated into our defining of the technological university of the 21st century.”

To join, visit Green Buzz, Tech’s environmental sustainability Web site, and click the Join Mission Zero banner.

For more information
www.greenbuzz.gatech.edu

www.gatech.edu/emergency/