Tech wins national award for efforts to diversify workforce

Elizabeth Campbell, Institute Communications and Public Affairs

G eorgia Tech's comprehensive efforts to improve the ways that people work together have resulted in the Institute receiving an EVE Award from the U.S. Department of Labor and changing the mission of the office formerly called Equal Opportunity/Diversity Programs (EODP).

Last week, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded Tech the 2001 Exemplary Voluntary Efforts (EVE) Award. The national EVE award, begun in 1983, honors federal contractors and associations for their innovative efforts to increase employment opportunities for minorities, women, disabled citizens and veterans. Georgia Tech was represented at the ceremony in Washington, D.C., by Pearl Alexander, director, Equal Opportunity Programs; Chuck Donbaugh, associate vice president, Human Resources; April Brown, executive assistant to the president; and Nicole Shinhoster, diversity management specialist, EODP. Each year, five organizations receive the EVE award, and now Tech can count itself alongside Bausch & Lomb, Chrysler Corporation, CIGNA, and Microsoft Corporation.

To be eligible to compete for this award, the organization must pass a rigorous EEO compliance audit. Due to the large number of federal contracts that Tech researchers receive, the Institute is under close scrutiny for EEO compliance, said Alexander.

"We are pleased that the hard work and commitment of Pearl, her staff and that of the broader campus community has been recognized by this prestigious award. It is a strong testimony to Tech's ongoing commitment to diversity," said Donbaugh.

"Emergency preparedness is not something that can drop off our radar. We have to be vigilant and continually prepared. The situation is still evolving," said Rich Steil, director of the Student Health Center.

By the numbers:

As of January 2001, among the 4,200 faculty and staff members:

- Women 41%
- Minorities 32%
- Between 1994 and 2000:
  - The number of women employed at Tech has increased 17 percent
  - The number of African-American employees increased 17 percent
  - The number of Hispanic, Asian, and Native American employees combined increased 31 percent
Youth and opportunity mark Hewitt’s second season

Looking to replace five graduating seniors and assimilate five incoming freshmen, Georgia Tech’s basketball team began pre-season practice last week with two workouts at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Head Coach Paul Hewitt, who won Atlantic Coast Conference Coach of the Year honors after guiding the Yellow Jackets to a 17-13 mark and an NCAA Tournament berth a year ago, will put his second Tech team through 27 practices before the Jackets tip it up in their first exhibition game Nov. 8 against Niles Elite.

Tech returns seven lettermen, including two starters in senior point guard Tony Atkins and sophomore off-guard Marvin Lewis, and welcomes a group of five freshmen, four of whom were ranked among the top 100 high school seniors in the nation.

“I’m pleased with the shape in which they’ve come back,” said Hewitt, whose Jackets posted an 8-8 mark and a fifth-place finish last year in the ACC. “They worked very hard over the summer. They’re probably a little fatter ahead conditioning-wise than last year.”

Only Atkins, from Lilburn, Ga., and Lewis, from Germantown, Md., begin drills with a starting position. The rest is up for grabs, said Hewitt.

Atkins, an honorable mention All-ACC choice last year, led Tech in scoring (14.5 points per game) and assists (4.3 per game).

“After Tony Atkins, the next guy in my mind is Marvin Lewis,” said Hewitt.

“He’s the next guy who pretty much has a starting job sewn up. After that, it’s wide open, and I’m going to leave it wide open.”

Hewitt welcomes back forward Clarence Moore, a sophomore from Norco, La., who missed all but five games last year with a broken bone in his foot. After averaging 4.8 points and 3.9 rebounds in 30 games as a freshman, Moore injured the foot in pre-season drills last year and had two operations on it.

“Knock on wood, he’s healthy,” said Hewitt. “He’s working hard to get back into shape. He’s shooting the ball extremely well. He has a chance to be a big contributor this year.”

The Yellow Jackets will benefit from a highly regarded freshman class which includes guard B.J. Elder (Madison, Ga.), forward Imoni Williams, and center Luke Schenscher, a thin, 7-foot incoming freshman.

“B.J. Elder is shooting the ball exceptionally well. Clarence Moore is shooting the ball exceptionally well. But doing that in drills is one thing. Going out with nine other players and a big crowd in the stands is something else.”

Coaches hope Clarence Moore, above, can bounce back from an injury-riddled freshman year.

President of Auxiliary Services, said the guidelines for preventive measures will be evident. “We have posted information about what employees should be looking for,” she said. “We are also going to make gloves and masks available to any employees who handle the mail.”

Last Wednesday, an employee in the Department of Literature, Communication & Culture noticed white powder on her slacks after removing gloves she had worn while opening the mail. Department Chair Robert Kotler immediately contacted the Georgia Tech Police Department to ensure that every precaution was taken.

GTPD in turn contacted the Atlanta Fire Department’s Hazardous Materials group, which responded to the call. The song in the Shibles Building where the LCC offices are housed, cleared of everyone while the Fire Department removed the mail and cleaned the area. The materials are now with the FBI for testing to determine if the residue was from the gloves the employee was wearing or something in the mail.

Jack Vicker, chief of the Tech Police Department, said, “Given current events, the ‘unknown’ will be treated, understandably, as a potential hazard. It is important for us all to be vigilant and take common-sense precautions when we encounter that unknown. It’s just as important not to create uncertainty and an unknown for others. This is not the time to mail someone else a letter or package without a return address, or containing substances that may leak.”

“However,” he said, “we should not fear or assume that every unknown substance is in fact a known hazard such as anthrax. Odds are it is not. The guidelines provided to the public and the emergency response protocols are intended to help make that determination, and each incident has to be evaluated using the totality of the specific circumstances.”

The U.S. Postal Service delivers approximately 680 million pieces of mail per day and to date, only two pieces containing anthrax bacteria have been confirmed. Postmaster General John E. Potter even issued a statement urging calm and vigilance, saying, “The U.S. Mail is too important to this nation to allow conflict in the mail to erode.”

Despite the intense media coverage, the relative risk at this point is minute, said Bob Lang, director of security at GTRI. The gloves and masks issued to mail sorters there, he said, should only be used when a suspicious package has been identified.

“Some is nothing wrong with taking preventive measures,” he said. “If the employee feels that the package is identified, it should be segregated and covered before calling the police to respond.”
Seeking solace in a 'Golden River'

Laura C. Lieberman
Institute of Paper Science and Technology

ince the tragic events of September 11, artists and cultural institutions around the country have searched for ways to console and inspire their audiences through the work they present. As the New York Times and other national publications have reported, Americans have looked to the arts as a source of healing and strength, calling on poets and poetry, music, dance and theater for their consolation and inspiration during this time of national mourning and uncertainty. The Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking is therefore fortunate to have Rie Hachiyanagi’s The Golden River installed now and on view through November 25.

Created specifically for the museum’s small Changing Exhibitions Gallery, The Golden River began more than a year ago in tribute to a friend of the artist, a fellow woman papermaker who had just died. Hachiyanagi’s poetic work is often filled with literary references, and the current exhibition was also inspired by D.H. Lawrence’s poem, “The Ship of Death.” For her Atlanta installation, Hachiyanagi worked for months with traditional Japanese Kyo-yuzen techniques. She has spent fifteen years developing the process, which uses natural plant dyes colored by the natural pigments of the plant fibers. Hachiyanagi suspended her finished fleet of handmade paper sheets and often collaborates with dancers and other performance artists. Currently a faculty member at Alfred University in upstate New York, Hachiyanagi spent last summer in Japan identifying and translating historical texts on Japanese papermaking techniques into English, a research project supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Golden River” of the exhibit title refers to a Chinese legend of a mythical river in which the dead are transported to the afterlife. For Hachiyanagi, even blank sheets of paper can convey a wordless communica-

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cation. The space is transformed into a shimmering river of translucent curved forms, floating upon still, visible air currents. “The Golden River” of the exhibit title refers to a Chinese legend of a mythical river in which the present becomes eternal. For the artist, this embodies the moment of creativity.

In her work, Japanese-born and American-educated Hachiyanagi explores contemporary aesthetic concerns and centuries-old craft traditions, using both Eastern and Western papermaking techniques. She sees her art as a “bridge” between the two cultures she has embraced — her native country and the United States, where she has lived since arriving as an exchange student in rural Fafetyu in 1981. For Hachiyanagi, even blank sheets of paper can convey a wordless communication. The Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking is therefore fortunate to have Rie Hachiyanagi’s The Golden River installed now and on view through November 25.

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IN BRIEF:

Freeze covers campus

Georgia Tech and the rest of the University System have been operating for the past five months under a limited hiring freeze imposed by the Governor’s Office. Recently, the State Office of Planning and Budget has stated that conditions have not improved enough to expand so that the only vacancies now exempted are those funded from non-state resources, temporary and student positions. All other vacancies — including instructional faculty — are subject to conditions of the freeze and the exception request process currently in place. This action is effective immediately, with the only exception being currently posted vacancies. The Office of the President is engaged in working with the Board of Regents on grants and other existing resources, to prevent any further reductions in faculty positions.

Collaborative approach has yielded awards

During the annual awards ceremony, called “Trophées de la Nouvelle Economie,” GT Lorraine took home the prize for “Best Initiative.” The ceremony is sponsored by several of France’s leading communications corpora-
tions, and the award is considered a coveted prize.

“This is quite an accomplishment for the entire GT Lorraine team,” said Teddy Pütjens, president of GT Lorraine and a member of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Tech. “I’m thrilled that students from around the world can take graduate courses taught in English by Georgia Tech faculty assigned to this French campus, or that they can take classes at a partner institution in France taught in their own language.

Cooperative agreements with partner institutions enable students to pursue double degree programs in engineering and sciences. Upon graduation, they receive a master’s degree from Georgia Tech and a graduate diploma from the French partner institution in which they studied. During the ceremony, awards were given in four categories: Best Start-up; Best E-business; Best Private Corporation; and Best Innovation. The ceremony is sponsored by several of France’s leading communications corporations, and the award is considered a coveted prize.

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The Equal Opportunity Diversity Program Office (EODP), after an internal review and input from the Campus Diversity Council, a committee with representatives from across campus, has expanded its role beyond enforcing EOD poli-
cies. The new name, Office of Diversity Management, reflects this broader role.

In the past the office has been strictly focused on Affirmative Action Compliance. The Office has evolved its role over the last four years to include diversity strategies and programs. While recognizing that compliance is important, the office will continue to build a more inclusive, collaborative and business-focused approach to managing diversity.

The office will continue to be responsible for the implementation of the Institute’s Equal Employment (EDO) program, but will also take on strategic planning for diversity, establish and update diversity policies, report periodically on leadership on progress toward diversity goals, and consult with units on diversity issues.