Are world events fueling student interest in international issues?

Elizabeth Campell
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, a series of international events ranging from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, tensions with North Korea over nuclear weapons, and outbreaks of SARS and monkeypox have reinforced to Americans and Georgia Tech students the truly global nature of the world today. Sometimes called the September 11th effect, these events may be contributing to an increased student interest in international experiences — including international affairs courses, foreign language courses and study abroad courses at Tech.

The School of International Affairs, for example, has seen its enrollment grow by more than 26 percent over the past two years. The International Affairs faculty now includes a new Intelligence-Officer-in-Residence for a two-year stint, Rick Houska comes to Tech from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to teach and share his knowledge of the intelligence community with Georgia Tech students.

"Many of our students are keenly interested in international security matters, and many more are pursuing careers in government, particularly in intelligence work," says Bill Long, who chairs the School.

In addition, the International Affairs and Modern Languages (IAML) joint major continues to be popular with students, and the language component is in great demand for students who plan to work in an international environment such as the State Department or an international company. The IAML track has proven to be very popular — growing from six majors in 2000 to its current contingent of 140.

Overall, Modern Languages enrollment has increased 47 percent over the last two years. Reflecting current events, courses in Arabic have been added this fall for the first time, and the School now offers a second joint degree in Global Economics and Modern Languages. Moreover, 60 to 70 percent of students who enroll in language courses are majoring in engineering and computer science, according to School Chair Phil McKnight.

"Many students in technical majors at Georgia Tech find studying a language a welcome change from their core studies," said McKnight. "In addition, the kinds of companies that Georgia Tech students are interested in tend to be multi-national, and technical students now have opportunities for international internships."

Students in Modern Languages degree programs are encouraged to pursue a study abroad experience, supporting one of the goals of Georgia Tech’s Strategic Plan of offering a student-focused education by increasing the number of students who work or study abroad. Prior to the SARS outbreak this past spring, a record number of Tech students planned to study abroad in a variety of programs in Europe, South America and Asia.
A legal issues surrounding growth and development have become increasingly complex, Georgia Tech and Georgia State University (GSU) have developed a concurrent degree option that helps city planners earn law degrees in a shorter amount of time.

Approved by the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents this summer, the four-year Joint Degree Program in Law and City and Regional Planning from GSU’s College of Law and Tech’s College of Architecture began accepting students this fall. Graduates students who successfully complete the program will earn a law degree from GSU and a master’s degree in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech.

“This isn’t the creation of a new program or degree, but it allows our students to work toward earning a law degree and their master’s degree at the same time and during a shortened period,” said Cheryl Contant, director of the City and Regional Planning Program.

“Students at both schools will benefit from taking classes with each other, because they will gain a greater understanding of both professions,” said Julian Juergensmeyer, the GSU law professor who spearheaded development of the program along with Contant and Georgia Tech planning professor Chris Nelson.

Contant said the concurrent degree option is one of about 20 such programs offered in the United States, and it will allow Georgia Tech and GSU to produce “a new breed of planning lawyers or attorney-plan- ner specialists” for the region.

“These are going to be folks who will understand the limitations city and regional planners face based on legal requirements, but they’ll also understand how to leverage the law to achieve their planning objectives,” she said. “These folks are likely to become important players in state agencies, law firms and other official capacities.”

Joe Cooley, one of the first students to enroll in the concurrent program, said that planning and law have become so interrelated that anyone practicing either profession needs to have a good understanding of the other.

“Both planners and attorneys will make better and more defensible decisions through the study of both fields,” Cooley said. “I believe having both degrees as well as my previous experience consulting and in the public sector will give me a leg up in the job market. More importantly, I believe it will allow me to be a better practitioner.”

Shannon Sams, another student in the program, said it offers him a chance to become acquainted with urban and rural growth problems in more detail and with greater sophistication than either degree can offer on its own.

I hope to develop a city planner’s perspective on how to best accommodate growth and use my legal degree to form workable solutions,” Sams said. “At the very least I will learn innovative land use techniques, what factors should be taken into account before making a land-use decision, and be exposed to planners who will be making decisions or working for those who will make decisions concerning growth in the Atlanta area.”

Thomas Galloway, dean of the College of Architecture, said the new concurrent degree program is an exciting collaborative effort for Tech and GSU.

“arthis takes the best parts of two excellent programs and produces a new kind of graduate, one who will be well prepared to work throughout this region and, indeed, throughout the nation,” Galloway said. “Many communities in this country — and especially Atlanta — need professionals with a foot in both planning and law to address critical questions revolving around land use, redevelopment, historic preservation and many other sensitive issues.”

The greater understanding gained by lawyers and planners of their respective fields will help them be more creative in finding solutions to the development issues facing communities, GSU College of Law Dean Janice C. Griffith said.

“In the past, city planners have often felt stymied by their lack of understanding of what would result if they made certain planning deci- sions,” she said. “A better knowledge of the law will improve their decision-making process. Likewise, a greater understanding of planning will help lawyers do a better job shaping the law to improve the physical environ- ment.”

Tales of the City: current gentrification in Atlanta contrasts sharply with the past

T.J. Becker
Research News

Changing demographics and a greater appreciation for central-city living have sparked a new wave of gentrification in Atlanta.

The recent gentrification is a sharp contrast from restoration efforts in the ‘70s and ‘80s, said Larry Keating, professor of city and regional planning at Georgia Tech’s College of Architecture.

Gentrification, the upgrading of deteriorated urban property, is controversial and has sparked some important debates. “Although the resulting challenges of resur- gent gentrification are similar to those of previous decades, what has changed is the magnitude,” Keating said. “In the long run, more poor people lose.”

Resurgent gentrification is not isolated to Atlanta. Keating added, noting that cities such as Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and Oakland, Calif., face a similar phenomenon.

Keating’s work is an outgrowth of his research on the Atlanta Gentrification Task Force, a city-appointed committee he chaired from 2000 to 2001. As a result of its research, the task force endorsed 40 recommenda- tions. The Atlanta City Council passed five of these recommendations — which focus on the lowest income households — into legislation.

“There is considerably more work to be done in this policy area,” Keating said. “At the very least I will learn innovative land-use techniques, what factors should be taken into account before making a land-use decision, and be exposed to planners who will be making decisions or working for those who will make decisions concerning growth in the Atlanta area.”
Faculty seminars signal start of Homecoming Weekend

With Homecoming Weekend (Oct. 3-5) rapidly approaching, the Georgia Tech Alumni Association has announced the line-up of its 3rd annual Alumni Seminar series — featuring the participation of several distinguished faculty members — beginning Thursday evening and continuing Friday at the Global Learning Center at Technology Square. A partial list of speakers are named at right.

Faculty and staff are also invited to Buzz Bash, on the Friday night before Homecoming. Details begin at 7:30 p.m. at Bobby Dodd Stadium, with live music, food, beer, wine, soft drinks and a fireworks show in the stadium. Admission for Tech faculty and staff will be discounted.

To register for seminars, Buzz Bash and other Homecoming events, visit gtalumni.org/homecoming, or call Rae Piensha at 894-7085.

• Terry Maple (College of Sciences) presents “What Willie B. Revealed to His Psychiatrist”
• Michael Elliott (College of Architecture) presents “Building Consensus Between Palestinians and Israelis”
• John Endicott (Irvin Allen College) presents “Korea: A Country Divided”
• Nancy Green-Leigh (College of Architecture) presents “Cinema City: Architecture as Seen by Hollywood”
• Diane Gromala (Irvin Allen College) presents "Biomedical Art & Design Innovation"
• Thomas Lux (Irvin Allen College) presents “Engineering for Poem”
• Michael Mateas (Irvin Allen College) presents “Artificial Intelligence in Interactive Drama and Art”
• Robert McMath (Vice Provost & Dean of Academic Affairs) presents “Tech Today”
• Al Merrill (College of Sciences) presents “Georgia Tech in the War on Cancer”
• Anderson Smith (College of Sciences) presents “Memory Changes in Normal Human Aging”
• Anne Steinemann (College of Architecture) presents “Healthy Homes and Household Chemicals”
• Marie Thursby (College of Management) presents “Getting Technology to Market”
• William Trotter (College of Sciences) presents “Fun with Statistics”
• John Endicott (College of Sciences) presents “Tech Today”

*This is not a complete list. For more, refer to www.gtalumni.org/homecoming

IN BRIEF:

GT SMART coming soon to a theater near you

Boy meets girl, boy talks too much, boy loses girl. It’s a classic tale of romance gone sour, and it’s the plot of a new advertisement by GT SMART, Tech’s campus-community coalition to fight high-risk drinking. The ads, featuring the tag line, “Too much of anything makes you look like an idiot,” will run before the previews at 11 metro Atlanta Regal Cinemas from September 18 through October 16.

Nominate Tech’s ‘Women of Distinction’

Nominations are being accepted for the Georgia Tech Women’s Leadership Conference’s “Woman of Distinction” awards for fall workshops. To nominate a student, Alumna, Staff, and Faculty. This is the perfect time to recognize a colleague in your area for her leadership and service as the conference moves to the Fall Semester. The awards ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7, as part of the two-day conference November 7-8. Nomination forms are available at cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/wlc. A committee of students, faculty, staff and alumni select the recipients.

Nomination forms are due Friday, Sept. 26 to the Office of the Dean of Students, 210 Student Services. For questions, contact WLC Awards Chair Chelsea Lynch at gt610b@mprism.gatech.edu or WLC advisor Yvette Upton at 385-1563.

Phone survey seeking feedback on PPO healthcare plan

The Office of Human Resources has sent out a notice alerting members of the faculty and staff enrolled in the University System of Georgia’s PPO Healthcare Plan in either 2002 or 2003 that they could be contacted during the next few weeks as part of a customer survey.

On behalf of the University System of Georgia, the Burrus Institute will be calling randomly selected faculty, staff and retirees between 6 -9:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday during September. Responding will only take a few minutes. The survey seeks opinions in areas such as: the provider network, quality of care received, understanding of the PPO plan and overall satisfaction.

Run for charity

The India Club of Georgia Tech is co-sponsoring an on-campus 5K run/walk on Sept. 27, benefiting non-profit charities Vibha and the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children. Registration forms and additional details are available at atlanta.vibha.org or by calling 678-525-8247.

CEISMC increases its GIFT

Signaling stronger cross-business and academic support for an innovative teacher fellowship program, Georgia Tech has announced it will double the size of the advisory board of the Georgia Industrial Fellows for Teachers (GIFT) Program, adding 14 new members.

The GIFT program is administered by CEISMC, a unit within the College of Sciences. Its board members include representatives from the business community, government and academic institutions.

The GIFT Program is a collaborative effort designed to enhance mathematics and science experiences among Georgia teachers and their students. It offers teachers throughout Georgia summer fellowships in business, industry, public-science institutes and research venues.

Since 1991, officials with GIFT have placed more than 700 middle- and high-school teachers in four- to eight-week summer fellowships at sponsored companies and organizations.

For more information...
Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing
www.ceismc.gatech.edu

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C A M P U S  E V E N T S

Arts & Culture
Sept. 27
The Ferst Center for the Arts opens its 2003-04 season with jazz pianist and singer Peter Cincotti in his inaugural Atlanta performance. Faculty and staff receive a 10-percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9600 or visit www.ferstcenter.org.

Oct. 9
The School of Literature, Communication and Culture of Ivan Allen College hosts the second annual Bourne Poetry Reading, featuring Edward Hirsch, Marilyn Nelson and Ellen Bryant Voight, at 7:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium of the DuPree College of Management. No tickets are required. For more information, refer to www.iac.gatech.edu/poetry.html or call 385-2760.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures
Sept. 17
GCATT’s Public Policy Luncheon Series will host a panel discussion featuring, among others, David Burgess, commissioner of the Georgia Public Service Commission, and Phil Jacobs, president of BellSouth Georgia, to discuss “Broadband, Advanced Telecommunications and Publicly Developed Infrastructure,” at noon in the GCATT Auditorium. For more information, refer to www.gcatt.org/otp/policylunch. To register, call 385-4075.

Sept. 23
The Sam Nunn Security Program hosts a panel discussion entitled “National Security Threats” at 1 p.m. in room 119 of the GCATT Building. For more information, call 894-5601.

Sept. 24
The DuPree College of Management’s IMPACT Speaker Series welcomes President Wayne Clough at 4:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium.

Faculty/Staff Development
Sept. 25
The Office of Sponsored Programs offers the first of five core courses for its certification course — “Proposal Preparation and Submission” — from 9 a.m. - noon. To register, call 894-6944 or e-mail nadia.zilman@osp.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous
Sept. 17
The Georgia Tech Women’s Faculty Club — a social, cultural and charity group that raises funds for scholarships — hosts an open house from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for all faculty women and wives at 292 Tenth Street. Childcare will be available. For more information, call 404-876-3944 or e-mail sylviamallarino@mindspring.com.

Sept. 30
The fall meeting of the General Faculty and General Faculty Assembly combined with a meeting of the Academic Senate will be from 3-5 p.m., in amphitheater 236 of the Global Learning Center. The main agenda item will be the State of the Institute Address by President Clough. A full agenda is posted at www.facultysenate.gatech.edu. For more information, e-mail said@aelkhalil@me.gatech.edu.

Editor’s Note: Only active members of the faculty and staff may submit classified ads, which will run for a maximum of three weeks in the order in which they are received. The Wisdome reserves the right to edit ads longer than 30 words.