Multimedia Research Grant Awarded To Tech By Denon, Nippon Columbia

Denon Digital Industries Inc., of Madison, Ga., and its parent, Japanese electronics leader Nippon Columbia of Tokyo, have strengthened their ties with the State of Georgia by announcing a research grant to Tech. This grant will aid in the formation of a recently announced Telecommunications-Multimedia Initiative, the seed for development of a research center located at Tech which will specialize in digital multimedia technology.

The State of Georgia allocated $100,000 to Tech to develop a plan for a Telecommunications-Multimedia Research Center and to stimulate interest among potential corporate sponsors/research partners. Models for the proposed Telecommunications-Multimedia Center already exist at Tech in an advanced Microelectronics Research Center and a Manufacturing Research Center. This center will pursue developments in interactive multimedia technology such as digital signal compression methods and standardization, Digital Signal Processing (DSP), digital data transmission systems, multimedia display systems, and copyright/intellectual property management systems.

An example of such work is the Tech project to assist Atlanta in its forthcoming proposal to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in a bid to become an Olympics host city. Denon will provide assistance to the Tech project design team at the IOC's upcoming meeting in Shingagawa, Japan.

The multimedia presentation involves an interactive audio-video tour of Atlanta's sports, entertainment, and other facilities. The viewer controls the presentation with a joystick, much like flying over the city in a helicopter and zooming down for a closer view of the sights and sounds.

Tech President John P. Crecine says integrated consumer electronic and entertainment companies will certainly play an important role in driving the development of new media technologies.

"The Denon/Nippon Columbia multimedia grant is significant because it forges a link between our institution and a company with a distinctive perspective and strong tradition of technical excellence in an area of increasing importance," Crecine says. "The grant is a clear statement of Denon's recognition of the value of corporate investment in higher education. It is an exemplary instance of an international company's involvement in the community as a corporate citizen."

Gary Poehlein, Helen Grenga Appointed To Vice President Positions

Dr. Gary W. Poehlein has been named vice president for Interdisciplinary Programs, and Dr. Helen E. Grenga has been selected as associate vice president for Graduate Studies and Research, according to President John P. Crecine.

Poehlein had served as Interdisciplinary Programs' acting vice president since November 1989. He will be responsible for the administration of that office and will directly oversee the 22 centers on the Tech campus.

Areas of focus will include securing appropriate levels of financing for the office and the centers, encouraging interaction between interdisciplinary programs and the academic units, and ensuring that Georgia Tech's interdisciplinary programs contribute at all levels of the Institute. Poehlein will be a member of the Academic Council.

Poehlein has worked for Tech since 1978, serving as a professor of chemical engineering and director of the School of Chemical Engineering. Before transferring to Interdisciplinary Programs, he served as associate vice president and dean of Graduate Studies.

He received his B.S. in chemical engineering in 1958, his M.S. in 1963 and his Ph.D. in 1966 from Purdue University.

Prior to serving as acting associate vice president and dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Grenga was assistant vice president in that office from November 1986-November 1989. She is also a professor of materials engineering.

She came to Tech as a postdoctoral in metallurgy in the School of Chemical Engineering in 1967. She then became an assistant professor at Tech in 1968 and was promoted to full professor in 1977.

In 1978, she was appointed associate dean in the Graduate Division, a position she held until her directorship of the Graduate Co-Op program in 1983.

Grenga received her A.B. in chemistry from Shorter College in 1960 and completed her doctorate.
Tech Team Is Tokyo Bound To Wait For Olympic Bid Results

Finally, after the many campus events and displays organized to influence International Olympic Committee (IOC) members, the payoff approaches. Although the roughly 200 GTOC volunteers won't be able to go, a handful of Olympic promoters are taking their enthusiasm to Tokyo to lobby for those all-important votes.

As September 18 nears, the level of excitement heightens amongst supporters—especially those who will witness the event first hand. The primary reason for the trip is to display the high-tech video program designed by Tech experts which helps IOC members visualize the Olympic Village at Tokyo containing sites not yet constructed. Atlanta will be in competition with five other cities—Athens, Greece; Belgrade, Yugoslavia; Manchester, England; Toronto, Canada; and Melbourne, Australia—come voting day.

"Each city will have its own exhibit area," Senior Research Scientist Ray Moore explained. "The centerpiece of the Atlanta exhibit will be the ‘Vision of the Village’ —laser disk video plus the interactive video." The "Vision of the Village" video screen is 15 feet wide and curved to a 120-degree angle filling peripheral vision with the activities of the show. Multiple speakers and languages and special music help to complete the show. Three video disc players, a Commodore Amiga computer and an Apple Macintosh computer work together to create the images. In addition, a plastic model and its components illuminated by touch, will be available. The smaller, interactive video that was assembled on campus several times over the last year will also be part of the display.

So far, the Whistle has been informed of eight people from Tech, including President John P. Crecine, who are expected to board a plane during the next two weeks to Tokyo to join the expected 250-member Atlanta delegation.

Senior Research Engineer Mike Sinclair, who directed the technical staff which constructed the videos, and Principal Research Scientist Fred Dyer are expected to leave on Sept. 7 and run the show for several days prior to the voting day; both men are from Interdisciplinary Programs. Other supporters bound for Tokyo include Moore and Research Engineer Andy Guay; also from the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs; John Friedmann from the President’s Office; and Susan Hawkins and Jeanne Lin from TelePhoto.

Personnel Updates

Tech On Middle East Situation

With the pending call-up of some reserve units, Tech’s Personnel Division is answering numerous inquiries regarding benefits and other employment-related issues. Please refer these questions to Dr. John Gibson, director of Personnel, at 4-2499 or via PROFS JGIBSON. Below is a recent memo addressed to the Tech community from Gibson about this situation.

"Several of our faculty and staff have immediate family members who are serving with Armed Forces units that have been or will be alerted to be dispatched to the Middle East.

"It is anticipated that should you have a member of your organization in the above situation, a request for time off to make the appropriate adjustments and arrangements may be forthcoming.

"Should you receive such a request, please be considerate and generous in granting?"

Job Hunting?

If you’re looking for employment opportunities, call the Job Line in the personnel office—ext. 4-4592.

Akins Named New Director Of Tech’s Co-Op Division

President John P. Crecine and Acting Executive Vice President Michael E. Thomas have named Thomas M. Akins as director of the Cooperative Division. Akins served as the unit’s acting director since March.

"Several outstanding candidates were considered for this important position," Crecine and Thomas say. "We are confident that Tom will provide outstanding leadership in raising our Cooperative Program to new heights."

Akins had served as associate director for Tech’s Cooperative Division since 1982. He previously served as assistant director of the division from 1975-82. In those positions, his duties included working with the division’s admissions program and orientation sessions. He was also responsible for approximately 450-900 engineering and science students.

As a 1974 industrial engineering (cooperative plan) graduate of Georgia Tech, Akins is excited about working as director of the largest voluntary co-op program in the U. S. Approximately 2,700 Tech students are currently enrolled in the program.

"Our office’s goal is not only to be number one in enrollment, but also to be number one in quality," Akins says. "We also want to become more user friendly and more customer-service oriented, and we want to increase our interaction with academic units.

In addition to holding an M.B.A. from Georgia State University (1977), Akins is an active member of the American Society for Engineering Education, Cooperative Education Division in which he is currently chair-elect. He has also held the positions of program chairman and secretary-treasurer, and is past recipient of the Chairman’s Award.

Vice Presidents ... continued from page 1

in chemistry at the University of Virginia in 1967.

Her professional activities include the Society of Women Engineers, the Society of Sigma Xi, the American Society of Engineering Education, and the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers.

Grensa has received several honors and recognitions including Who’s Who in America, Who’s Who of American Men and Women in Science and the World’s Who’s Who of Women in Education.

Dr. John A. White To Speak At Summer Commencement

Dr. John A. White, assistant director of the National Science Foundation, will be the speaker for Tech’s 1988 commencement ceremony at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum on Sept. 7 at 9 a.m.

White, who is also a Regents’ Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering and a Eugene C. Gayetty Professor of Manufacturing, has been a member of the Tech faculty since 1975. White was a founder of Systec, Inc. and served as its chairman until it merged with Cooper & Lybrand in 1984. He currently serves as Executive Consultant to Cooper & Lybrand and a number of other firms including AT&T, Coca-Cola, Corning, Digital Equipment Corp., DuPont, Hewlett-Packard, and the U.S. Navy.

He has co-authored five texts, and has contributed to five handbooks, two encyclopedias and two books. White writes a monthly column for Modern Materials Handling and has authored or co-authored over 150 papers in professional journals, trade magazines, and conference proceedings.

White has served on the boards of and holds membership in several professional organizations and honor societies. He serves as U.S. chairman of the International Conference on Automation in Warehousing, director of Georgia Tech’s Material Handling Short Course and has given more than 500 presentations to local, regional and international groups on industrial topics.
Contributors Invest $28.5 Million In Georgia Tech, State's Future

In addition to enjoying a winning year in both academics and athletics, Georgia Tech has scored yet another victory in the gift revenue arena.

Alumni, corporations, foundations and friends contributed $28.5 million in gift revenues to Tech during FY 1989-90. According to Vice President for Tech's Office of External Affairs James M. Langley, this is an increase of $3 million. A total of 4,344 gifts were given, either in equipment or funds, to Tech.

Langley says this increase in contributions shows a continued dedication to insuring Tech's overall excellence.

"There is an awareness among our alumni and friends, and corporations and foundations, that excellence in higher education comes at an ever-increasing cost," Langley says. "I think these constituents also realize that Georgia Tech must continue to raise funds from external sources, so that we may continue to provide a quality education to our students. The education that our students receive at Tech will eventually contribute to Georgia's economic development."

Langley says gift revenues raised from these yearly campaigns are used as opportunity funds as new developments in education and faculty research emerge.

"These funds allow Tech to respond to many opportunities, most especially to research and educational opportunities which are market sensitive," Langley says. "We are able to offer programs to our students and faculty which are consistent with current developments in the ever changing worlds of science and technology."

Your Thoughts And Ideas Are Needed For "Faculty Forum"

Normally, the Whistle staff and its contributing writers are the primary sources for story ideas in this paper. However, the "Faculty Forum," a new feature of the Whistle, depends on your input.

The "Faculty Forum" is designed to be an open forum through which Tech faculty and staff can express their views on a variety of campus issues. Possible ideas could range from the parking situation and campus-wide recycling to academic issues.

A faculty review committee will be responsible for reviewing and selecting material for the "Faculty Forum." The committee includes: Bud Foote (Literature, Communications and Culture), Ruth Hale (Library) and Eugene Comiskey (Management). Whistle Managing Editor Jackie Nemeth will adjust the piece to Associated Press Style Book format without changing the piece's content.

At the end of each "Faculty Forum," a disclaimer box will list editorial review committee members, what type of material is appropriate for the column, and where to send essays for selection.

The following disclaimer will also be printed in the box: "Opinions expressed on this page (or these pages) do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration of the Georgia Institute of Technology, the Editorial Review committee, or the Whistle staff."

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts about issues that affect the Tech community, please submit a double-spaced essay (under 750 words) to Foote, 326 Skiles, mail code 0165.

Obituaries

Lois Nelson, a program coordinator in the Environmental Science and Technology Laboratory (ESTL) in GTRI, died Tuesday, Aug. 14. Funeral services were held at A.S. Turner and Sons Funeral Home on Aug. 18. She was 56 years old.

Nelson, a native of Rockville Centre, N.Y., attended Thiel College in Greenville, Pa. She began working in GTRI's Economic Development Laboratory in 1984 as a staff assistant. She then transferred to the Environmental Health and Safety Division (now ESTL) where she began work as a staff assistant in 1986. She was promoted to program coordinator in 1988.

Dr. John C. Nemeth, director of ESTL/GTRI, said Nelson possessed a set of unique qualities that set her apart personally and professionally. "Lois had a particular faculty or quality to combine an unbelievably high work ethic and high productivity in a very calm, caring and personal manner," Nemeth said. "She dealt with people firmly, yet sensitively. She was appreciated for her work, but more importantly she was appreciated personally. She lent a real sense of family to the work that we do in our lab."

David W. Mayer, leader of the Training Programs Office in ESTL, described Nelson as the "great hand holder" and "great smoother over" who was a constant source of cheerfulness and reassurance for the ESTL staff.

"Lois was firm when she needed to be, but most of the time she was simply there to reassure our staff that things would work out, and they always did," Mayer said. "She took a personal interest in all of us on the staff. She always encouraged us to go out — take charge — do what we could to improve things."


Child Care Fair Coming Sept. 24

The President's Child Care Development Center committee is sponsoring another Child Care Fair on Monday, Sept. 24. The fair will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Paul Weber (SST) Building, Rm. 5.

Over 100 nearby day care centers and child development centers have been invited to exhibit, along with organizations sponsoring family day care providers. All members of the Tech community are welcome to come and gather information about child care options.

Further information can be obtained from Margaret Horst, of GTRI, at 4-3578, or from Phyllis Ray, of the Office of Graduate Studies, at 4-3900.
Briefly...

Library Special Hours - The Price Gilbert Memorial Library will be on a special schedule before and during exams, as well as during the quarter break. The weekend before exams: Aug. 31, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sept. 1, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sept. 2, noon-midnight. Exam week: Sept. 3-6, 8 a.m.-midnight; Sept. 7, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Quarter break schedule will be: during the weekends of Sept. 8-9, Sept. 15-16 and Sept. 22-23, CLOSED; Sept. 10-14 and Sept. 17-21, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. During registration, hours will be 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sept. 24-25. The library’s regular week-day schedule, 8 a.m.-midnight, will resume Sept. 26, the first day of classes.

Walk For Hunger - The Metro Atlanta Hunger Walk, sponsored by the Atlanta Community Food Bank, will begin at Georgia Power Park on Sept. 23. Registration starts at 1 p.m. and the walk starts at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call Greg Timmons at 892-9725 or the Food Bank at 892-FEED.

Classifieds

For Sale - 2 table lamps, $70/pr; 3 glass shelf wall units, $100; Ford coupe, 49K orig. miles. Anmoire entertainment center, orig. $200 each or $350 for both; oak armoire, $600. Call John Holcombe at 471-2067 or 460-4298, ask for Guy.

For Rent - Duplex, 4 spacious rooms, quiet, clean, A/C, ceiling fans, central heat, W/D conns., off street parking, 3/4 mile from Tech, $400/mo, plus util. Call Garland at 4-4067 or 431-6582.


Roommate Wanted - 2 BR Cityview Luxury Apts., 1 Mile from Tech. Call Scott Smith at 4-5270.

For Sale - GE Hotpoint washer/dryer, excellent condition, $200 each or $350 for both; oak armoire entertainment center, orig. $1,000. Will take $550. Call 4-4339 or 231-9883.

For Sale - 1965 VW Beetle, 70K, bright red, pwrr. everything, $11,900 OBO. Many new parts. Call 471-2067 or 460-4298, ask for Guy.


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