Georgia Tech trains new breed of computer specialists

Amy Fraser
Communications

The information technology industry has come a long way since 1975, when Ed Roberts—a retired Airforce officer from Georgia—introduced the world's first personal computer. By 1982, an estimated 5.5 million home computers were in use. Today, more than 38 million households have one or more computers, and more than 12.5 million are on-line.

"Twenty years ago, when you had a cadre working on a main-frame computer enclosed in glass, designers did not have to think very much about the human-computer interaction," explained Dr. Jay Boitier, who has a joint appointment in the College of Computing and the School of Literature, Communication and Culture. "Now that the personal computer is available to almost everyone in the working world, designers have to consider different types of users with varied skill sets and training."

To accommodate new demand, Georgia Tech is offering a new interdisciplinary Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) program under the

existing Master of Science degree. The HCI program is a collaborative effort among the College of Computing (COC); the School of Psychology; and the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture (LCC).

"Our program is designed to train a new breed of computer specialists," explained Dr. Albert Badre, a COC faculty member since 1973. "It will provide students with practical skills and theoretical understanding needed to be leaders in design, implementation and evaluation of computer interfaces."

According to Dr. Andy Smith, associate dean of the College of Sciences, the HCI program is one of three "professional" MS programs the college hopes to implement over the next few years. "Until now, a master's degree in the sciences has always been a means, not an end. Our intention is to change that by building master's programs aimed at industry, rather than academia or research," explained Smith.

Georgia Tech is one of the few schools in the country with an HCI program. "We plan to build a highly respected program that attracts top graduates and top companies from around the country," said Badre, who is coordinating the program.

If the last month is any indication of the program's success, Badre's hopes may be fulfilled. So far, he has been contacted by Intel, Hewlett Packard, Mitsubishi, HBO & Company and other industry leaders expressing an interest in the program. Within a week of the March 18 HCI program announcement, more than 20 individuals requested information. The first session begins September '97.

The program encompasses three primary areas: interface software and usability (COC), engineering psychology and methods (School of Psychology); and multimedia design, communications theory and digital aesthetics (LCC). Upon completion of the core courses, students select a COC, Psychology or LCC specialization.

HCI graduates will be qualified for specialist positions with software manufacturers (Microsoft, Lotus etc.) or in the internal usability/human factor division of major corporations (Delta, American Express etc.).

GRA announces first Clark Atlanta/Georgia Tech joint appointment

Dr. Helena Mitchell joined Tech last month as the Georgia Research Alliance's newest Eminent Scholar for Distance Learning and the first joint appointment between the School of Arts & Sciences at Clark Atlanta University and the Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Public Policy.

"We're extremely pleased to have Dr. Mitchell with us," said Public Policy Chair and Professor Barry Bozeman. "We are currently exploring teaching avenues, drawing on her great expertise. We think she will contribute enormously to our ability to enhance our offerings in information and telecommunications policy."

Mitchell is based at the Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology (GCATT), where she will lead the efforts to develop and carry out a research program in distance learning to improve educational telecommunications development state-wide.

Mitchell comes to the position from the Federal Communications Commission, where she was associate chief of Strategic Communications for the Office of Engineering and Technology. Prior to that, she was an administrator at the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) and the Office of Television and Radio at Rutgers University, where she created the Distance Learning & National Satellite System.

She earned her bachelor's in secondary education at S.U.N.Y. at Brockport and her master's and doctorate from Syracuse University in telecommunications policy.

Bozeman said he is excited about the collaboration with Clark Atlanta. "Hopefully, this will be the first of many such opportunities," he said.
ARAMARK services to end June

With an annual catering budget of more than $1,556,000, entertaining is big business at Georgia Tech. So, when the 17-year-old contract with ARAMARK dining services was not renewed, there was quite a buzz on campus.

"Catering for the Georgia Tech campus was an important consideration for those responsible for awarding the dining services contract," explained Rosalind Meyers, vice president for Auxiliary Services.

"Marriott Dining Services promises to deliver unforgettable food and excellent customer service. From an elegant coffee for a select few to a banquet for 1,000, they are committed to showcasing Georgia Tech with fine taste and style," she said.

Perhaps nobody understands catering better than the Alumni Association. From Executive Board luncheons to volunteer trainings to Homecoming events, the Alumni staff orders upwards of 2,000 meals per year.

"Our special events operation depends on dining services," explained Cheryl Doiron, the Alumni Association's assistant to the director. "Quality catering is a very important component to hosting successful events," she said.

Other campus units who rely heavily on catering services are External Affairs, The Athletic Association, Success Programs, the President's Office and all five colleges.

Meyers is confident the Marriott Chefs' Guild will exceed the expectations of Doiron and other campus clients. "With dozens of guild members, she said, "Marriott has developed a remarkable team that services hotels, resorts and corporations throughout the Atlanta area.

Marriott was selected by a two-committee process that evaluated 30 possible vendors. "Although both ARAMARK and Marriott made it to the final cut, Marriott's technical proposal swayed the committee," Meyers said.

In addition to their dedication to improve catering services, Marriott representatives plan to improve dining services by renovating Woodruff dining hall and improving the Student Center food court. East Campus' British Dining Hall also may undergo some changes.

"I am confident the Marriott will bring endless synergy to Georgia Tech with their chefs, staff, sales support and food and beverage management team," Meyers said.

All ARAMARK hourly employees are eligible to interview with Marriott. Meyers can only speculate as to how many will be replaced. "We would like to see as many as possible get re-hired, but ultimately that decision is up to Marriott officials," she said.

Marriott will assume contractual duties July 1. Revisions for ordering and billing processes are still in negotiation. For more information about catering and/or dining services, call Wanda Buda, administrative coordinator, at 894-1822.

Flannery named to Royal Irish Academy

Irland bestowed its highest academic award—honorary membership in the Royal Irish Academy—upon Dr. M. Raymond Flannery, a Regents' Professor in Tech's School of Physics. Flannery is recognized as one of the world's leading theoretical physicists.

The Royal Irish Academy, founded in 1785, is at the center of Irish educational life. Through a network of national committees, representing both the sciences and the humanities, the Academy helps to stimulate and coordinate studies across a broad field including Irish studies, archaeology, languages, the sciences, mathematics, history, and geography.

Flannery will be inducted into the Section of Science, which limits membership to 30 scientists, of whom at least one-half must reside outside Ireland. Current members include Sir Michael Atiyah (Oxford), Francis Crick (Cambridge), Alexander Daugman (Harvard), Izrail Gelfand (Moscow), Gerhard Herzberg (Ottawa), Dorothy Hodgkin (Oxford), Sir Fred Hoyle (Cambridge), and Andrew Huxley (London). Flannery, who will be officially inducted this fall in Dublin, is the first new honorary member elected since 1991.

"Even being listed on the same page with, and being part of, such a distinguished and eminent body of scientists is quite a mind numbing and humbling experience," Flannery said. "I am indeed indebted to the Royal Irish Academy for this rare and singular honor. I cannot think of any award in this world which would give me more personal satisfaction. To be so recognized by my native Ireland is somewhat overwhelming. But I know that the real satisfaction lies in the scientific achievement and not just in the reception."

Flannery's particular research areas of scholarship are recombination processes involving electrons, ions, atoms and molecules and the theory of atomic and molecular processes, in general. Recombination processes are basic to Earth, planetary atmospheres, to astrophysics and laboratory plasmas.

"The spotlight of international attention is again focused on Ireland for this rare and singular honor. I cannot think of any award in this world which would give me more personal satisfaction. To be so recognized by my native Ireland is somewhat overwhelming. But I know that the real satisfaction lies in the scientific achievement and not just in the reception."

Flannery's election to the Academy is the latest in a string of honors, awards and accomplishments. In 1995 he received Georgia Tech's Distinguished Professor Award. He also has been an Invited Fellow at Harvard University's Institute for Theoretical Atomic and Molecular Physics, served on the Editorial Board of the Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics Handbook published by American Institute of Physics; was a Distinguished Scholar at Queen's University, Belfast; was an Invited Guest Professor at the University of Innsbruck; and had invited presentations of papers at scientific conferences and lecture series around the world, including Belfast, Innsbruck, Israel, Mexico and Toronto. He serves as an associate editor of Physical Review Letters, generally accepted as the most influential journal in physics.

Referring to Flannery's impressive list of accomplishments, Dean Schuster jokingly said, "Professor Flannery's next promotion will be accelerated by award of the Nobel Prize."

Flannery received his bachelor's degree in 1961, with first class honors in mathematics and a postgraduate prize, from the Queen's University of Belfast, N. Ireland; and his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the Queen's University in 1964.

He began his career with Georgia Tech in 1967 as an assistant professor of physics. Shortly thereafter, Harvard University invited him to accept a joint position with the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. He remained there until 1971 when he returned to Tech, as an associate professor, to establish a theoretical program in atomic and molecular physics to complement the School's experimental work in this area.

He is also Fellow of the American Physical Society (1979) and of the Institute of Physics, London (1980).
Noted biorevolutionary returns to Georgia Tech

David Arnold
Communications

Twelve years ago the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University began a collaboration called the Emory-Georgia Tech Biomedical Technology Research Center (EM/GT). The purpose of the Center was to create and sustain research and education in medicine, biology, engineering and physical sciences to improve health care. Dr. Don Giddens, the man responsible for initiating that collaboration for Georgia Tech, is coming back to Tech after five years as dean of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. Giddens will return to Tech July 1 and will join the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience. He will be responsible for continuing his work as well as undertaking a number of new initiatives with Emory in the area of biotechnology.

"Don Giddens is returning to Georgia Tech to further strengthen our already strong efforts in biomedical engineering," said Michael E. Thomas, provost and vice president, Academic Affairs, Georgia Tech. "Because of the strong relationship he had with the Emory Medical Center when he was previously at Georgia Tech and the excellent relationships he was able to develop between Engineering and the Medical School at Johns Hopkins, we expect a significant enhancement of our strong associations with Emory as a result of Giddens' appointment."

"When I came to Hopkins, I told (then-president) Bill Richardson I would be here five to seven years, and that I looked at the dean's position as putting in an incredible amount of energy for a period of time and doing everything that you can to accomplish something significant," Giddens said. "I think we have done this."

Prior to leaving for Hopkins, Giddens served for 25 years on the faculty and administration of Georgia Tech. He rose to the rank of Regents' Professor, the highest professorial rank within the University System of Georgia, in 1982. He was a major figure in the development of the bioengineering program at Tech as well as EM/GT. He served as co-director of EM/GT from 1987 until 1992. He was director of the school of Aerospace Engineering from 1988-92, and in 1992 that department became the fourth-ranked Aerospace Engineering graduate program in the U.S.

"Returning now to a faculty position, and being more involved with research and students, is something I will enjoy," he said. "While being dean has been wonderful fun, that's a piece of the academic life that I've missed."

Although educated as an aerospace engineer—he earned his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees all at Georgia Tech—his interests are in finding human applications for his expertise in fluid mechanics leading to a concentration on biomedical research. His work in the mid-1970s demonstrated how the measurement of disturbed blood flow patterns could be used to detect arterial disease in humans, a common diagnostic technique in use today.

Giddens went on to win presidential young investigator awards or similar prestigious young investigator awards from the National Science Foundation or the Office of Naval Research. The school rose from unranked to the "second tier" in 1993 to 17th in this year's U.S. News & World Report "Best Graduate School" engineering rankings.

"Don Giddens took a very young engineering school with tremendous potential and really launched it into national prominence," said William R. Brody, president of Johns Hopkins University. "I am grateful for his many contributions and accomplishments as dean."

The 1986 agreement between Emory and Georgia Tech was initiated to establish a collaborative research program by funding seed grants between the two institutions. The State of Georgia has provided several hundred thousand dollars a year to sustain the program and each institution is using the grants to leverage additional funding. Most recently Georgia Tech alumna Parker H. "Pete" Petit donated $5 million to what is now known as the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience. The Institute is preparing to construct a new facility that should be ready for occupancy in early 1999.

A second component of the collaboration is education and recently the two schools created a joint M.D./Ph.D. program under which students spend the first two years at Emory's School of Medicine doing pre-clinical work. Then they attend Tech for three years to complete the Ph.D. part of the program before returning to Emory for the final two years of medical school.

While all the details have yet to be worked out with Emory, there is a proposal awaiting approval of Emory's Board of Trustees that calls for significant financial and personnel contributions by Emory. These things are certain. The biorevolution is joined. The State of Georgia, Emory University and Georgia Tech are committed to seeing it through. With the return of Giddens and continued generous private sector support Georgia could soon be at the forefront of the emerging fields of bioengineering and biosciences.
Brown Bags/ Lectures

May 8
The Graphics, Visualization & Usability Center's Brown Bag Lecture Series presents "Do Geometric Models Affect Judgments of Human Motion?" with Jessica Hodges, James O'Brien and Jack Tumblin (CoC) and "Simulation: Levels of Detail for Real-time Animation" with Deborah Carlson and Jessica Hodges. Brown bags begin at 12:00 p.m. in room 102 of the Pettit Building. For more information, contact Elaine Swobe at 894-9392, or elaine@gren.gatech.edu.

May 9
The Turkish Student Association will host a Culture Break from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Student Services Building, room 117. Faculty, staff and students are invited. Culture Breaks are sponsored by International Student Services and Programs. For more information, contact Linda Duckworth at 894-7475, or idf@isucis.gatech.edu.

Courses/ Seminars

May 6
Human Resources (OHR) presents "Pre-Supervisory Skills, Part I" from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the HRD training room. (Part II will be held Friday, May 9 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

May 7
The School of Aerospace Engineering presents "Fuel Cells for Transportation—a Status Report," with Dr. D. G. OEI of the Ford Research Laboratory, Dearborn, MI, at 3:30 p.m. in room 317 of the Montgomery-Knight Bldg. For more information, call 894-3032.

Career Services presents "How to Use the Career Library" from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

OHR presents "Managing the Performance Process" from 9:00-11:00 p.m. in the HRD training room.

May 8
Career Services presents "Job Search Strategies for the '90s" from 11:00 a.m. - noon.

HRD presents "Business Writing for Success" from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the HRD training room.

May 10
Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta presents "Techfest '97," featuring guest exhibitors from around the country. Demonstrations will include laser, multimedia and robotic technology. Techfest is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 770-526-7222.

Classifieds

APPLIANCES
Gibson 21 cu ft commercial upright freezer. Excellent condition, rarely used in last 12 years, color white. Sell $200 OBO. Contact 770-928-2314, 894-4514, or greg.wiles@edl.gatech.edu.

AUTOMOBILES
1995 Ford Probe, 32,000 miles, auto, w/AC, air bags, FM/AM/cassette, PL, PW, PM, Cruise control. Premium wheels, tilt wheel etc. Must go. Asking $11,000 OBO.

1987 hi-top conversion van, black/grey, 4 up chairs reclining bench in rear, auto, PS, PL, PW, cruise, table, coolers. 138k miles, runs & looks good. $8,000 OBO. Contact carol.gardiner@facilities or jerry.hauck@housing.gatech.edu with year, model, weight. 486-25MHz, 170 MB hard disk, 8 MB RAM. More info, contact 894-8435 or Rusty.Embry@gtri.gatech.edu.

1987 Nissan Sentra, silver, 121,000 miles, one owner, two door, 5-speed, A/C, AM/FM radio, new front tires and clutch, good condition. Asking $1,300. Call 894-4153 or (770) 388-6200 after 6:00 p.m.

1980 Mercedes 300D. Excellent condition. Cold AC. Fresh engine/paint. Sunroof. No rust/wracks. $4,500/0B0. Call 351-4088 evenings, or paul.springer@retec.gatech.edu.


1997 Civic Camra, 104k mi., 40K on new engine, auto, oil, overall good condition. $2,800. (770) 419-8067 (770) 528-7642 (W).

Volvo 240 DL, 1985. runs well: single owner; newer w/center console; 179,000 highway miles; needs paint. Call Mike Parks at 894-4472 for information.

Wanted: 6-cylinder van with automatic transmission, up to 120k K. Cargo van preferred. E-mail jerry.hauck@housing.gatech.edu with year, model, mileage and asking price.

COMPUTERS
Grapics/Aero laptop computer. Very small & lightweight, 486-25MHz, 170 MB hard disk, 8 MB RAM. Great for travel, accessing e-mail, and Windows 3.1 applications. $220. Call Drug Martin, off: (770) 726-7048, hm: (770) 977-8285.

FURNITURE
Standing solid oak antique rocking chair with matching pillow and footstool. New upholstery and padding. $125 OBO. Contact 894-3971 or matthew.malok@gtri.gatech.edu.

Queen size with black metal gold headboard $150. Contact Mercedes at 894-8227, 251-0797 (H), or e-mail mercedes.saghal@chemistry.gatech.edu.

REAL ESTATE
May 25-June 1--villas for rent in Edisto Beach. Two bedroom loft sleeps 8. Screenporch on lake and golf course front. $600. Contact 894-9371 or matthew.malok@gtri.gatech.edu.

For sale, August '97 - August '98: two-story fully furnished house 4-bdrm, 3-bath on 1850 sf/0.45 acres, hrdwd firs, frplc, bay wndw, porch, deck & Separate entrance, has room for apartment. Daylight basement w/sep entrance, has room for apartment. Contact 894-9945 or karen.fore@oit.gatech.edu.

For Sale: Summer Clothes for Women and Girls

Pong Pong Table, $50; basketball goal, $35; exercise bicycle, $25. Contact L. Dunn at 894-8435 or lloyd.dunn@biology.gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS
Gibson 21 cu ft commercial upright freezer. Excellent condition, rarely used in last 12 years, color white. Sell $200 OBO. Contact 770-928-2314, 894-4514, or greg.wiles@edl.gatech.edu.

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For Sale: 3 rooms to Tech 2 bdrm 1 bath, plus den, solarium. New bathroom, new carpeting throughout & white pickeet fence. Daylight basement w/sep entrance, has room for apartment. Contact 894-9495 or karen.fore@oit.gatech.edu.

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