Georgia Tech climbs further in U.S. News rankings

Bob Harty
Communications

Georgia Tech continues its climb into the elite of national universities, with the release of this week’s rankings of the "1998 America's Best College Rankings" from U.S. News & World Report. Tech was rated No. 9 among all public universities, the first ever move by the Institute into the Top 10. Last year, Tech was ranked 13th among public schools. Overall, Georgia Tech ranked 41st among all national universities, a jump of seven places from previous rankings.

"Rankings are not the sole means of evaluating the quality and effectiveness of a college or university," said Dr. G. Wayne Clough, President of Georgia Tech. "But I'm very pleased that Georgia Tech continues to receive national recognition for our undergraduate teaching. When you consider the caliber of public universities of which we are now considered a peer—schools like Virginia, Berkeley, Michigan, and North Carolina—I think that Georgia Tech has really arrived in the top echelon of public universities in America."

The U.S. News rankings evaluate seven distinct criteria to establish a statistical analysis of quality. Among them are academic reputation, student retention, faculty resources, and the alumni giving rate.

"Statistics can tell you just about anything you want to hear," observed Clough. "But digging into the data reveals how difficult it is for a public university to score highly. Georgia Tech's academic reputation places it in the top 25 among all universities," noted Clough. "But when you include variables like the amount of funds per student, or overall funds available for education, public universities like Georgia Tech lose points. It's no accident that Yale, Harvard, and Princeton are perennially at the top of the overall rankings. The private schools simply have more money to spend on education."

"That's why I'm so pleased that we've cracked the Top 10 among public universities for the first time," said Clough. "For us, the public school rankings are the most important rankings. Five years ago, we considered a good regional technical school," observed Clough. "Now we're among the very finest public universities in the nation. That's progress!"

The only other Atlanta-area school to achieve prominence in the U.S. News undergraduate rankings was Emory University. Emory climbed from 19th last year to 9th this year.

The U.S. News rankings come on the heels of a plethora of college rankings from various publications around the country. In the last week alone, Money Magazine, Newsweek Magazine, and the Princeton Review all ranked various aspects of undergraduate education. Tech fared well in those rankings, too. Money ranked Tech in the Top 20 for best values among public schools, and a No. 2 best value among scientific and technical universities. Newsweek/Kaplan listed Georgia Tech in their "Schools Where the Price is Right" category, along with Berkeley, Illinois, Washington, and McGill University in Montreal.

Traditions strengthen "family" ties

TJ Becker
Communications

A group of new Development and Communications staff members attended a "mobile workshop" last week to bolster their knowledge of Georgia Tech traditions.

"Traditions are no trivial matter, especially when you're trying to connect alumni with fund-raising efforts," said Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) Development Director Raymond Reynolds, who spearheaded the workshop. A 1988 Tech graduate, Reynolds shared invaluable insights with the group.

Fundraising aside, traditions have value for anyone associated with an institution by promoting a sense of connection, observed Phil Spessard, development director of the Northeast region. "Traditions are the root of what ties all students, faculty and alumni together as members of the Georgia Tech family," said Spessard, who helped Reynolds organize the workshop.

Kicking off the event, Jennifer Hedrick, an ISyE graduate student and Alumni Association ambassador, led the group of 15 on a walking tour of campus. Hedrick amazed her audience with her extensive knowledge of campus lore. Workshop participants were exposed to a mixed grill of traditions, ranging from well-known customs to more obscure legends. A sampling of the historical fare follows:

See Traditions, page 2
ECE summer program reigns SUPREEM

Mark Vaughn's introduction to graduate school was tough. The problem was not the course work, but the fact that he did not know the basics of graduate school. "When I started graduate school I did not know what resources were available," said Vaughn, who earned a masters at the University of Rochester. "I spent my first semester not knowing I had an account at the computer center. I was renting typewriters and typing my papers. Networking would have eliminated that limitation immediately."

Vaughn, now a Georgia Tech Ph.D. candidate in electrical engineering, wants to make sure new graduate students know what to expect and what is expected of them. To help spread the word, he works as a mentor with the Georgia Tech Summer Undergraduate Program of Research in Electrical Engineering for Minorities (GT-SUPREEM). The eight-week summer program is designed to attract qualified minority students into graduate school in the field of electrical and computer engineering and electronic packaging.

GT-SUPREEM students are housed on campus, and, in addition to a $500 travel allowance, receive a $3,000 stipend. Students are paired with faculty advisors with similar research interests and are assigned graduate student mentors to help ease them into the university research environment. This year's 14 participants took field trips to Lucent Technology's fiber optics manufacturing plant in Norcross and to NCR's printed circuit board facility in Duluth.

"I learned a lot about hands-on research and about graduate studies in general," said Sherlon Kauffman, a GT-SUPREEM student from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. "As a graduate student you're very independent," she said. "It's up to you to get your work done, and to keep everyone in the research group informed. But, there's a lot of group support, so it's easy to get questions answered."

As the students learn about the graduate school environment and tour electronics facilities, they are simultaneously conducting research. At the end of the program, they must prepare a written summary and present an oral report of their research findings.

Kauffman, an electrical engineering senior, sought to make a presentation on "Pyroelectricity of Thin Film Polymer Capacitors," a subject she researched under the advisement of Associate Professor Mark Allen, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). "In our program at Hampton we conduct a general research project and make a presentation at the end," she said, explaining her comfort with transparencies.

"The Georgia Tech experience is unique because we're undergraduates doing graduate research," said Kauffman, who graduates in December. "It left me with a good opinion of Georgia Tech and provided motivation for graduate studies. I'm definitely going to graduate school, and my preference is Georgia Tech. I want to go into bioengineering, with an emphasis in medical instrumentation and imaging."

Kauffman is not the only student motivated by GT-SUPREEM. Since the program's inception in 1992, approximately 92 percent of the participants have obtained a graduate degree, are currently in graduate school, or are undergraduates planning to pursue graduate degrees within the next two years, according to a survey conducted in spring of 1996 by Dr. Gary F. ECE associate professor and coordinator of GT-SUPREEM. Since 1992, approximately 47 percent of GT-SUPREEM's participants have selected Georgia Tech for graduate studies, May said.

Vaughn, who has worked with GT-SUPREEM for three years, is sold on the merits of the program. "GT-SUPREEM students get to know what graduate life is about," he said. "The program takes away the fear. Students will know where to get the information they need."

Traditions, continued from page 1

- Ramblin' Wreck References: The nickname traces its roots back to 1890 when a train carrying students back from a football game in Athens was derailed. The song, which begins "I'm a Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech," was first printed in the 1908 yearbook; it is regarded as one of the most famous campus fight songs around the world and was sung by Richard Nixon and Nikita Khrushchev at their 1959 meeting in Moscow. The Ramblin' Wreck parade began in 1932 as a road race between Tech and University of Georgia students. Today the parade is held on homecoming weekend, giving students a chance to create outlandish automobiles.

- George P. Burdell: A mythical student reportedly created as a prank in the 1920s by a flesh-and-blood student. Since then Burdell's name has mysteriously shown up in a variety of places including attendance rolls, registrar's forms, and letters to the editor. He is frequently paged at sporting events, airports—anywhere Tech alumni may gather.

- Stealing the T: The first successful theft of Tech Tower's five-foot initials was in 1968. After that escapade, the letters were welded and wired to alarms, however, students have continued Tower raids. The most recent heist occurred this June during finals week. (For aspiring burglars, there is even some literature available on the subject: a pamphlet outlining how-to strategies reportedly is available in the Library, albeit this may be a bit out-of-date as it was written in the early '70s. For more recent information, details of the alarm systems are on file—required because they are alterations to state-owned buildings.) In the event of pilferage, Tech staff is prepared—4 surplus TSs are kept in campus storage in addition to one E. C. and H.

- Rat Caps: Required headgear for Tech freshmen, a practice originating in 1915. On campus, the rat cap could be a bit of a handicap, enabling upperclassman to identify and take advantage of freshmen. But off-campus, they had distinct advantages: one alumnus said it helped him get dates—girls would recognize the Georgia Tech rat cap and offer him their telephone numbers.

The group also visited the Arthur B. Edge Building/Athletic Center and the Alumni Association. Marilyn Somers, director of communications at the Alumni Association, discussed the Oral History Program, a three-year-old initiative that seeks to document alumni history via videotaped interviews. "In the context of telling their own stories, alumni also tell the story of Georgia Tech," said Somers. To date, 155 interviews have been conducted, many with alumni who graduated in the '20s and '30s.
Campaign Corner

Two pledges catapult campaign total

Summer was a busy time for Georgia Tech in terms of fundraising, with current campaign pledges and gifts now exceeding $218 million. The following major pledges were made public this month.

Poole increases personal pledge to $1.6 million
Longtime Georgia Tech supporter James Parrott “Polly” Poole increased his Capital Campaign commitment to $1.6 million with a meaningful gift to the DuPree School of Management.
Poole, IM ‘42, had already pledged $125,000 to the Alexander-Tharpe Fund, $125,000 in unrestricted funds, $50,000 to Roll Call and an additional $300,000 addition to a charitable remainder trust for scholarships.

“As Erskine Love used to say, some of us need to plant trees that we will never sit under,” Poole said. “I have a great desire to help young people, and I believe Tech has the finest student body of any university in the country.”

Poole, president of Employer-Employee Security Plans Inc., also gives freely of his time and energy. He has served as president of the Alumni Association and the Greater Atlanta Georgia Tech Club, and chairman of the Class of 1942 Reunion Committee. He is a member of the Dean’s Advisory Board for the DuPree School, and he is a member of the Georgia Tech Foundation.
Poole served as vice chairman of the Centennial Campaign Steering Committee. He is a founder of Georgia Tech Charitable Life Inc., and he received the Georgia Tech Distinguished Service Award 1988.

“Polly Poole is one of the most genuine people I know and he cares deeply for those institutions that made a difference in his life—the church and Georgia Tech,” President Wayne Clough said. “His faith in the Institute is reinforced by his willingness to invest in its future. Polly and his wife, Dot, are the real things by all they touch.”

NationsBank Endows Policy Forum
Shortly after Poole’s pledge was announced, NationsBank finalized their plan to give $1 million over five years to endow the Sam Nunn NationsBank Policy Forum. The forum is a joint effort among Emory University, University of Georgia and Tech’s Summ Nunn School of International Affairs.

The annual event is designed to bring together noted experts on international affairs, public policy, and technology to engage in critical examinations of issues vital to future economic competitiveness. It will include participation from world leaders, international figures, and prominent scholars.

The forum site rotates among the three universities. The first forum, which focused on the threat of weapons proliferation, took place in Athens last spring. Next year’s forum on Cyber Security will take place at Georgia Tech (March 29-31). Additional topics may include overhaul of the U.S. tax code and/or the role of emerging communications technology in shaping international affairs.

Jim Lientz (IM ’65), president of NationsBank Georgia, believes NationsBank’s association with the Policy Forum will reap benefits all around. “Sam Nunn, Georgia Tech, and NationsBank make a great team,” said Lientz. “We’re proud to be on it.”

Editor’s Note: Campaign Corner is written by Sarah Bonick. Georgia Tech’s primary writer for the Capital Campaign. Questions and comments concerning the campaign may be directed to Bonick at 894-6302, or sarah.bonick@opea.gatech.edu.

Change in the federal minimum wage:
Effective Sept. 1, the Federal minimum wage will increase from $4.75 an hour to $5.15 an hour. No further increases are scheduled in the foreseeable future.

The wage rate of any Georgia Tech employee (staff or student) making less than $5.15 an hour will be adjusted to the new minimum by Sept. 1. The Payroll Department will notify responsible administrators of anticipated wage adjustments in advance of the effective date. Further action by department administrators is not required.
Questions should be referred to Pat Brook, Payroll director, at 894-4614.

New Faculty Development takes off
Several campus units are joining together to facilitate a new Faculty Development Program intended to encourage and support efforts to improve student learning outcomes through the use of innovative teaching, learning, and technological applications. The first series of course offerings are designed for faculty members who are interested in the capabilities of the new educational technologies, but do not have extensive hands-on experience with their development.

People in the news

The Robert Fosch Center for the Arts
The Robert Fosch Center for the Arts received the Arts for All Collaboration Award at the Very Special Arts Georgia annual Appreciation Luncheon held in recognition of its support of the Cultural Paralympiad presentation.
The center was instrumental in the planning and completion of the first Cultural Paralympiad and presented two world premiere performances in conjunction with Very Special Arts Georgia.

Very Special Arts Georgia is a unique cultural organization which provides educational arts opportunities for and with individuals with disabilities.

On hand to receive the original, specially commissioned print signed by artist David Sampson was Rosalind Meyers, associate vice president of Auxiliary Services; Rich Steele, director of the Student Center; Cathy H. Harroun, Robert Fosch’s newly appointed director; and Amy Geisler, the center’s marketing coordinator.

Electric Engineering
Tech senior Acie Abner gained more than job experience during his summer internship at Delco Electronics in Kokomo, Indiana. Abner won the use of a sporty 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix at a raffle during a national and domestic co-op students attending the Global Student Seminar at Cobo Hall in Detroit. He will get to use the new vehicle for one year. Abner, an electrical engineering major, worked in the vehicle audio systems engineering section during his internship with Delco.

Editor’s Note: All “People in the News” submissions should be e-mailed to amyfraser@opea.gatech.edu, or faxed to Amy at 894-7214. Please include the nominee’s name, title and department. Submissions should not include mentions for published research, conferences attended, or presentations. For more information, call Amy at 894-8324.
Courses/ Seminars

Aug. 22
Paul Kappel, director of Integration Services South, IBM Global Services, will address students and faculty/staff guests at 1:00 p.m. in the College of Computing, room 102 (the "Classroom of the Future") during The Real World Lab class, taught by Melody Moore, senior research scientist. For more information, contact Mostafa Anmar, faculty liaison, at 894-3292.

Santosh Chokhani, a nationally recognized expert on key management, cryptography, and general information security, will be giving a talk entitled, "Applications of Public Key Cryptography," at 3:00 p.m. in MRC, room 102. For more information, contact Mully Croft, director of development. For more information, contact 894-8383.

Aug. 25 -29
The Faculty Development Program presents "Introduction to Educational Technologies," from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or 1:00-4:00 p.m. There are 10 spots available in each session. To find out more, visit the Faculty Development Web site at http://classweb.gatech.edu/fwp/index.html, or contact Steve Teal, director of Educational Technologies, at teal@oit.gatech.edu*

*Facilitated by The Office of Information Technology, the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs, the faculty development program is intended to encourage and support efforts to improve student learning outcomes through the use of innovative teaching, learning, and technological applications.

Sept. 8
The Georgia Tech Planned Giving Office hosts "Gift Annuities," the first in a series of luncheon workshops designed to educate and inform the campus community. Everyone directly or indirectly involved in fundraising and gift administration is invited. The workshop will be held from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Goodly Room of the Warbelow Center. The deadline to RSVP is Aug. 29. RSVPs should be directed to Jennifer McQueen at 894-4678.

Meetings

Aug. 26
There will be an Academic Senate meeting in the Theatre of the Student Center at 3:00 pm. The semester curriculum for the College of Computing and for the College of Architecture are on the agenda. For more information, contact Russ Heikes at rrussell.heikes@isye.gatech.edu

Miscellaneous

Aug. 31
Faculty, staff and students are eligible to participate in a six-on-six Water Volleyball Tournament which will be held at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. Admission and entry is free. To register, stop by room 151 of the Student Athletic Complex, or call 894-5437. Entries will be accepted through the day of the event.

Ongoing

DramaTech Theatre presents "Demons," Karla Jennings' suspenseful drama laced with terror and supernatural entities. Showtimes are Aug. 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are $4 for students; $6 for faculty and staff, and $8 for the general public. Reservations are requested. For more information, contact 894-3481.

"Watercolors" by Jo Lackey will be on display through Aug. 30 at the Bill Moore Student Success Center's Hall of Success. For more information, contact Robin Cabbage at 894-1953.

Sports/Recreation

Sept. 6
Georgia Tech Football. The Yellow Jackets' season opener against Notre Dame starts at 2:30 p.m. The game will be televised on NBC. For ticket information, call 894-5400.

Classifieds

APPLIANCES
13" RCA color TV - $30, Wedgewood China, Columbia pattern W525, 69 pieces including soup tureen, platters, veggie bowls, $3,200, valued at $6,200. Contact Pat at 894-4839.

AUTOMOBILES
1990 Buick Le Sabre, custom, ruby red, SE
1990 Geo Prism, 4-door sedan, automatic

1990 Geo Princm, 4-door sedan, automatic transm., $2,500. Call Ed Ekara at 770-78, 4-bdrm., 3 1/2-baths, vaulted master & great room, eat-in kitchen, guest suite, rec room; $184,900, purchase with lease option.

1993 Isuzu Trooper S, PEP, 4x4, AT, Silver hatchback); new Z-engine 1995 ($2700); oven, 4 eyes. White, GE. Very good condition. Great little 30" electric drop-in stove. Full 1990 Buick Le Sabre, custom, ruby red, SE for sale: Half interest in lakefront home. For sale: Large home, 3,700 sq ft, off Hwy 78, 4-bdrm., 3 1/2-baths, vaulted master & great room, eat-in kitchen, guest suite, rec room; $184,900, purchase with lease option. Only 45 minutes to Tech, call 894-9621 or 770-979-2395.

Roommate wanted to share house in Rivendale, 15 miles south of GT. $350 per month, includes utilities, large bedroom, fenced backyard, washer/dryer, convenient to I-75. Contact Janice at 894-4874.

Two cats are looking for a loving, new home. Both are healthy indoor cats. Male: black, short hair, very outgoing & loving. 8 yrs. I'm moving & need to find a good home ASAP. Contact Stefanie at 894-5352 or stefanie.scherzer@modlangs.gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

For sale: Large home, 3,700 sq. ft, off Hwy 78, 4-bdrm., 3 1/2-baths, vaulted master & great room, eat-in kitchen, guest suite, rec room; $184,900, purchase with lease option. Only 45 minutes to Tech, call 894-9621 or 770-979-2395.

Roommate wanted to share house in Rivendale, 15 miles south of GT. $350 per month, includes utilities, large bedroom, fenced backyard, washer/dryer, convenient to I-75. Contact Janice at 894-4874.

For sale: Half interest in lakefront home. For sale: Large home, 3,700 sq ft, off Hwy 78, 4-bdrm., 3 1/2-baths, vaulted master & great room, eat-in kitchen, guest suite, rec room; $184,900, purchase with lease option.

Free kittens: Five kittens born on July 18, can adopt on Aug. 29. Mixed, one tuxedo, one gray, three blond/tan. Healthy, cute, friendly, will be litter-box trained. Contact Mary at 894-5199 or mary.mckenna@vpea.gatech.edu.

Sewing patterns (and other misc. sewing equipment) available: women, sizes 8-12 dresses and pants. Call 770-319-1405.


Custom designed/made stained glass, small to medium size pieces and a variety of sun-catchers. Will work with you on any design. Contact Dave at (770) 819-8366 or 894-0589 or dave.hatchett@chemistry.gatech.com.

Editor's Note: The Whistle staff reserves the right to edit all advertisements. Ad submissions should be no longer than 30 words/total. Only Tech employees are eligible. The average wait-time is 11-13 working days. Submissions should be faxed to Amy at 894-7214, or e-mailed to amy.fraser@spa.gatech.edu. All electronic submissions should include the word "classified" in the subject line. Ads run a maximum of three consecutive weeks.