Study shows increase in female Internet users

Gwendolyn Glenn
Communications

Results from the latest World-Wide Web study conducted by Georgia Tech researchers show a continued, significant increase in the number of female users on the Internet. In the last six months, the number of women users has jumped from 33 percent to 38.4 percent of all users. In 1994, when Tech researchers began conducting the web surveys, women represented a mere 5 percent of all users on the Internet.

"Last November there were more than 36 million people on the Internet in the U.S. With 38.4 percent of those users being female. We know there is a great number of women who use the Internet, but it's only since the late summer of 1996 that we realized the number was increasing," said Colleen Kehoe, a Ph.D. student at Georgia Tech and a lead research scientist for Tech's Graphics, Visualization and Usability Center's (GVU) World Wide Web Study.

"Kehoe added, "Most old users started on the system at work or school then got a home computer. The new group started using the Internet for personal reasons at home first and don't use it at work. Those that access the Internet from home only, represent a large category that has seen significant growth."

"Another difference between the new and old web users according to the Tech study is that new users are more cautious and concerned about their information being tracked for unknown purposes by web site server and page owners. "The new users don't want anything recorded without their knowledge and consent. This may be because they are influenced by media fraud stories about credit card numbers being stolen on the net. It's not clear if the long-time users are less cautious because they have their guard down or because they are more knowledgeable about the technical aspects of the Internet," Kehoe said.

According to Kehoe, a large amount of the increase in female Internet users is among college-aged women. Of the 10,000 participants in the survey, there were more female respondents in the 16-20 year-old age range (11 percent) than males (8 percent).

"A lot of the female use is being driven by the fact that more educational settings are being wired -- high schools and especially colleges," Kehoe said.

This latest survey marks the first time the World Wide Web study has analyzed participant responses in terms of how long the users have been on the Internet. The results point to significant differences in the profiles of Internet veterans and novices. In the past, the typical web user was a male 20-30 years old, employed in the computer field and who rarely used the computer for fun purposes. The new Internet consumers are more gender balanced, don't use the Internet for work purposes and became a user due to interest and not work-related duties.
PeopleSoft system will help simplify Tech's business processes

Jim O'Connor
Office of Information Technology

Georgia Tech's plan for surviving Year 2000 software problems is well underway. A key component of the plan is the implementation of PeopleSoft products to replace the aging Cyber-based payroll system that currently processes the entire campus payroll.

Initial implementation planning was completed in November by a combined team of professionals from the Office of Human Resources, Financial Services, Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), and the Office of Information Technology (OIT). Today, the team is fully engaged in an intensive effort to match PeopleSoft's robust set of applications to Georgia Tech's business processes - a process called "Fit Analysis."

In Phase I of this multi-phased, multi-year project, Georgia Tech will concentrate on providing the Human Resources, Payroll, and General Ledger functions required to pay faculty, staff, and students in July, 1999 when the fiscal year 2000 begins. In future phases, more process improvements and features will be rolled out to departments on campus.

Robert Thompson, senior vice president for Administration and Finance, explained the broader goal of the System 2000/PeopleSoft program: "The Georgia Tech System 2000 Initiative will deliver a state-of-the-art, institute-wide information system that will simplify administrative processes, increase productivity, improve information flows and enhance customer satisfaction. Many of these service improvements will be the direct result of Business Process Reengineering efforts that have been on-going for over two years."

Thompson also said that communication with the campus is an important element of this program. He explained that the team will use Web pages, newsgroups, and media articles to communicate progress and important events to campus customers. Over the coming months, there will be a number of "town meetings" focused on specific topics of interest. Chuck Donbaugh, associate vice president for Human Resources, will discuss how the new Human Resources Management System (HRMS) will be used to improve Human Resources and Payroll services. Joel Hercik, associate vice president for Financial Services, will lead a similar discussion on campus financial services and processes. In addition, Gordon Wishon, associate vice president and associate vice provost for Information Technology, will discuss the new system's technical implications.

Announcements of upcoming "town meetings" will appear in The Whistle calendar. For updates on campus Year 2000 efforts, visit the Georgia Tech Year 2000 Web page at <http://www.gatech.edu/year2000>.

Jim O'Connor is System 2000 Project Director.

U.S. Rep. John Lewis to speak at King Week Ecumenical Service

Victor Rogers
Communications

More than 200 African American students considering graduate school will attend Georgia Tech's seventh annual King Week Ecumenical Service held at the Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology (GCATT) on Sunday, January 18, at 10:00 a.m. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is the speaker. The service is open to the public.

The Ecumenical Service is part of FOCUS '98, one of Tech's efforts to encourage and assist African Americans to pursue advanced degrees in engineering, sciences, architecture, management and computer science. From January 15-18, students from across the nation will receive an overview of Georgia Tech's colleges, graduate programs, financial sources and registration procedures.

Georgia Tech is a leader in developing graduate recruitment programs geared toward minorities, and graduates more African American engineers at the master's level than any other U.S. university. Thanks to the support of the Sloan Foundation and others, Tech offers qualified minority graduate students one of the best support packages in the country.

"Many schools have implemented FOCUS type programs, and competition for the top minority graduate students has increased tremendously," said Robert Haley, director of Special Projects, College of Engineering. "Support from the Atlanta community is essential and, as always, most appreciated."

The speaker for this year's ecumenical service, Rep. John Lewis, has been described as one of the most courageous people produced by the Civil Rights Movement. Since the early 1960s, he has been in the vanguard of progressive social movements and human rights struggles in the United States. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement from 1963 to 1966, Lewis was the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an organization largely responsible for the sit-ins and other activities in the struggle for civil rights.

Despite 40 arrests, physical attacks and serious injuries, Lewis remained a devoted advocate of nonviolence. After leaving SNCC in 1966 he remained active through the Southern Regional Council's voter registration programs, and later became director of the Voter Education Project.

Congressman Lewis' first electoral success came in 1981 when he was elected to the Atlanta City Council. He resigned from the Council in 1986 to begin his successful campaign for Congress. In 1996 he was elected to a sixth term in Congress.

Editor's note: The Ecumenical Service has been moved from the Robert Ferst Center for the Arts to the GCATT auditorium.
Faculty Research Commercialization Program pre-proposals due January 20th

Meet Judy Fitzpatrick

The Faculty Research Commercialization Program (FRCP), operated by the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), will now require recipients to invest a portion of their funding in business development activities. The FRCP program invests an average of $350,000 a year in developing commercial products based on research conducted at Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, Emory University, Clark Atlanta University, Georgia State University, and the Medical College of Georgia. Commercialization awards average $50,000 per project.

In 1997, four Georgia Tech faculty received FRCP awards: Dr. John Muzzy for development of glass mat reinforced recycled thermoplastics, Dr. Charlene Bayer for hydrogel air cleaning technology, Dr. William Ribarsky for a PC-based virtual landscape project, and Dr. David Ku for commercialization of a novel vascular graft.

The deadline for receiving three-page pre-proposals for the 1998-99 competition is January 20. Full proposals for are due by March 23, and awards will be made June 1.

Under the new rules, successful candidates must partner with an advisor from the local business community, an industrial partner, or a faculty member from the business or management programs at the participating universities. The business advisor would provide general business planning and market research assistance.

Full Name: Judith Ann Fitzpatrick (but I normally go by Judy Fitz)

Age: 50

Occupation: Project Support Analyst in GTRI's Management & Project Support Group

Current projects and/or research: closing out GTRI fiscal year budgets and helping on a major proposal effort

Years at Tech: 10

Education: Bachelor's degree from Georgia State

Marital Status: single (divorced)

Children: none -- three cats

My favorite book is: "To Dance with the White Dog," Terry McKay

One CD in my stereo is: "Adajio" by Karajen

If I were not working I would be: professionally organizing homes.

What brought you to Georgia Tech? Bud Sears and the MIS job in his unit.

One thing I would like to improve about Georgia Tech is: Training and communication. I think too often support people (especially) are dropped into jobs without any awareness of how important what they do is to the whole organization.

One result of the requirement will be increased collaboration between researchers and the business and management faculties of their universities. In addition to new opportunities for business faculty, Grover notes, the new business development component could also provide students with experience in dealing with real business issues.

"We have a lot of talent in the business schools and a lot of talent in academic research, but until now there has not been a big drive to put them together," she explains.

By encouraging involvement of business development specialists at an early stage in the product development process, the ATDC hopes to increase the odds that the commercialization effort will result in formation of a successful company. "Typically, we see researchers that are extremely capable in the product development area, but they often lack the time, skills or passion required for developing a business," she says.

Applications will be judged on a number of criteria, including the potential market for the product involved, the competitive advantage of the technology, and the quality of the management team.

Funding is available only to faculty at the six Georgia Research Alliance universities for projects based on the intellectual property of those institutions. The basic research necessary for the product must be complete, and researchers should be able to develop a commercial prototype or have the technology ready for licensing within a year.

The funding can be used for salary, equipment, materials, testing resources, and business consulting. The money is exempt from university overhead.

More information, including a template for the pre-proposal, is available on the ATDC Web site at: <http://www.atdc.gatech.edu>. Information may also be obtained by calling Grover at 894-0616, or by e-mail at <shawn.grover@atdc.gatech.edu>.

The Advanced Technology Development Center is Georgia's technology business incubator, operating technology business centers on the Georgia Tech campus and in Warner Robins, Georgia. The ATDC is part of Georgia Tech's Economic Development Institute.
Brown Bags/Lectures/Courses
Jan. 13
The Woodruff Seminar Series presents “The Mechanics of Thin Film Deposition,” by Professor John W. Hutchinson of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the MRDC Building, room 4211. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Professor Iwona Jasik at 894-6597 or iwona.jasik@me.gatech.edu.

Jan. 15
GVU Brown Bag Lecture Series. “Designing Computer Puzzle Games,” Guest Speaker: Scott Kim (Scott Kim & Associates), Room 102 Petit Building (MRDC). For more information call 894-4488 or e-mail cea.warren@me.gatech.edu.

Jan. 20
“Working with Images,” 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Rich Bldg. Rm. 242. Faculty members will learn text and image scanning methods and how to manipulate images for use in enhancing coursework. This is primarily a hands-on course; please bring materials. Course is helpful for creating a web page. For more information call Clint Lyle at 894-6254. For registration info, see: http://classweb.gatech.edu/fbw

Jan. 21
“Supervisory Skills Part I.” 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Human Resource Development Training Room 302, Coliseum Annex. For more information, contact Wansley Dennis at 894-2249.

Jan. 22
GVU Brown Bag Lecture Series, “Business Information Visualization,” Guest Speaker: William Wright (Visible Decisions, Inc.), Room 102 Petit Building (MRDC). For more information call 894-4488 or e-mail cea.warren@me.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous
Jan. 15
The Diversity Forum, The Student Government Association, The African American Student Union, and The Office of Diversity Issues and Programs will sponsor a panel discussion – “Affirmative Action at Georgia Tech: Yes? No? Maybe So?” 5:00 p.m. in the Student Center Theatre. For more information or special accommodations, call Stephanie Ray at 894-6367.

Jan. 21
The PEACH Program presents its 17th Anniversary PEACH Banquet in the Robert First Center for the Arts. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. followed at 7:15 p.m. by an informative, fun health presentation by Peter Townsley titled “The Best Health in the World - Why Don’t Americans Have It?” RSVPs for the dinner must be received by Friday, January 16; the health presentation is FREE and open to the public. For more information contact Clint Sibbit at 894-3449 or clint.sibbit@sac.gatech.edu.

Performing Arts
Jan. 16
Cuban-Venezuelan guitarist Ricardo Ibañez will dazzle audience members at the Robert First Center for the Arts. For ticket information, contact the box office at 894-9600.

Editor’s Note: Calendar items should be e-mailed to any/fraser@spoa.gatech.edu or faxed to The Whistle at 894-7214 at least 10 days prior to desired publication. For more information, contact 894-6016

For Sale: 1993 Ford Ranger XLT, Excellent condition. 5-speed, gold with beige interior, A/C, PS, PB, AM/FM/cassette, Beltdliner, $5,800 OBO. Call 297-6742 or (770) 705-4341.

For Sale: For a condo in Colony Square. Please for Tech faculty - 1 mile from Tech. 1 block from Art Center/Marta. Remodeled 2-bdrm., 2.5-bath, 2-story townhouse. Beautiful city view, balcony, 24-hour reception desk, etc. $195,000. Call 894-4488 or 880-6952.

For Sale: Desktop/quarto computer upgraded to P83, 24 Mb Ram, 1.08 Gb hard drive, 4x CDROM, Soundblaster 16 Plus, includes monitor and software. Asking $555 OBO. Call Dwayne at 894-3606.

For Sale: Wanted: Cassettes of “100 Greatest Books Ever Written” and/or “100 Greatest People Who Ever Lived” Contact Bud at 892-1009, X270, or weisser@nei.gatech.edu.

For Sale: Wanted: “100 Greatest Books Ever Written” and/or “100 Greatest People Who Ever Lived” Contact Bud at 892-1009, X270, or weisser@nei.gatech.edu.

For Sale: For a Four Piper ZX Radial 2-pp (P-225/60R15) tires. Contact Randy Crawford @police.gatech.edu, or 894-1285.