APB News survey presents misleading violent crime picture

A survey released last week by a fledgling commercial news service ranks Georgia Tech as one of the top 25 campus neighborhoods in the country for the potential for violent crime. Tech ranked 19th overall and is one of six Atlanta-area, and eight Georgia institutions to make the national list. Morris Brown ranked No. 1 with three other Atlanta University (AU) Center schools also in the top five. Georgia State University ranked 13th. Atlanta is the only city in the nation with six schools in the top 25. The survey, commissioned by APBNews.com, received modest play locally and little attention nationwide. The majority of the media attention focused on the AU Center schools, all of whom took issue with the study and its methodology. That skepticism is shared by Georgia Tech.

While the data upon which the survey is based are credible, the manner in which APB News has used them most certainly is not," said Bob Harty, Tech's executive director of communications and public affairs. "The result is a survey that purports to provide insight, but instead fans the public's emotional flames about violent crime."

The APB News rankings are based on data from the CAP (Crimes Against People) Index. The Index was designed and commercialized by a University of Pennsylvania professor. It uses a variety of socio-economic and census tract data to predict the probability of violent crime in geographic areas. It does not include actual crime statistics.

For this survey, APB News took CAP Index data within a two to four mile radius of college campuses and then ranked the potential for violent crime on a scale of 1 to 10. All of the schools in the top 25 received scores of 10. However, Georgia Tech's actual violent crime statistics portray a much different picture. According to statistics provided to the University of Justice over the last three years, Tech has averaged 0 homicides, 0 related sexual offenses, 1 rape, and fewer than 7 robberies. That places Tech roughly 150th overall in the nation for actual violent crime statistics—eight times less than the national average.

Schools such as the University of Alaska at Anchorage, Ball State University, the University of Iowa and the University of Utah all have violent crime statistics worse than Georgia Tech. According to Harty, "A random review of crime statistics compiled by the Chronicle of Higher Education found more homicides at Iowa State, more forcible sexual offenses at Illinois State, and more aggravated assaults at Montana State University."

"Students at Georgia Tech are not at a very high risk of violent crime," Harty said. "To the contrary, actual crime data show that they are extremely unlikely to experience any violent crime whatsoever."

The study has generated considerable discussion among Atlanta-area colleges and universities. Georgia Tech was first contacted by APBNews.com about the study results in late August. Initial release was to have occurred in early to mid-September. But complaints about some components of the methodology, technical problems with the web site, and expanded marketing efforts by the commercial news service kept pushing the release date back.

"This is a flawed application of good data to wrong conclusions," said Harty. "It arbitrarily punishes college campuses in urban environments, and it ignores behavioral and movement patterns."

Cross-Campus Violent Crime Comparison (1997 data)

Yearly comparisons of violent crimes at Georgia Tech
Three faculty, two alumni make list of top 100 young innovators

As the millennium draws to a close, retropectives of the decade, century and millennium abound: One such compilation that differs by looking to the future was organized by Technology Review, "MIT's magazine of innovation." Technology Review decided to celebrate innovation by searching for the top 100 Young Innovators (TR 100) under the age of 35 who have made contributions to their disciplines and industries, but "are innovators to watch, whose greatest and most exciting efforts lie in front of them."

Georgia Tech is pleased that Technology Review named three Georgia Tech faculty and two alumni to the TR 100. This recognition reinforces Georgia Tech's reputation as a top caliber research institution. "This type of recognition affirms what many of us already know, that Georgia Tech is becoming one of those few technological institutions which will help define the future," said President Wayne Clough. "I could not be more proud of our young faculty and alumni, and I look forward to more of our faculty and alumni continuing to receive recognition for their impressive efforts. This bodes very well for our future."

The three faculty members named to the TR 100 are Amy Bruckman, assistant professor in the College of Computing; Mark Prausnitz, assistant professor in the School of Chemical Engineering; and Thad Starner, assistant professor in the College of Computing. Bruckman, 33, was recognized as a pioneer in the World Wide Web category for creating online communities. Her MOOSE Crossing virtual community designed to get kids excited about reading, writing and programming has gained wide recognition. Prausnitz, 33, was named an innovator in the biotechnology field. He envisions the use of "microneedles" thinner than the diameter of a human hair as the basis for a new drug delivery technique able to administer small quantities of high-potency medications through the skin without causing pain. Starner, 30, was named to the Hardware category for his wearable computing work. Starner has worn his computer since 1993 and has not used a traditional desktop computer since December 1996. Starner created an open hardware platform for wearables and software to make the most of a computer that is always on and in contact with the wearer.

Two Georgia Tech alumni, Christopher Klaus, 26, of Internet Security Systems (ISS) and Ralph Taylor-Smith, 34, of Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs, were also named to the TR 100.

As a Dean's List engineering undergraduate at Tech, Klaus, founder and chief technology officer of ISS, released his first version of Internet Scanner software that tests a network's vulnerability. Klaus left Georgia Tech in 1995 as a junior in order to pursue his business. In March 1998 ISS had a successful initial public offering of stock.

Taylor-Smith, who was named in the Materials category, devised an efficient way to produce nanocomposites of organic and inorganic components, a process he calls "application-specific materials design." Taylor-Smith has also invented a variety of new materials, including one suitable for optical-based information storage. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Tech in 1989.

The TR 100 are the 100 young people (under 35 as of January 1, 2000) whom the TR 100 panel of judges deem to be most likely to make major contributions to innovation in the 21st century. The dynamic technology areas under review were biotechnology, information technology, chemistry and materials science, including nanotechnology.

For more information about the Technology Review 100 Young Innovators, visit www.techreview.com.

Fall semester course/instructor survey goes live Nov. 29

As published in a previous article, the Institute course/instructor opinion survey (CIOS) has gone online and will be administered over the web from this semester on. Previously, the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL) administered this survey each term on paper forms. The survey will be live from Nov. 29 through Dec. 10, 6 a.m. - 11:59 p.m.

All questions on the web survey are the same as those on the paper form, with two additional questions regarding where the student lives (to assess the presence of bias in having the survey online) and a feedback question for CETL to assess the web process. As before, the departments and faculty will be able to include optional questions (chosen from the same sets that have been used previously).

The reporting process is similar as well — faculty will receive a statistical report for each of their classes including all optional questions and comments. Their School chair/department head and dean will also receive a copy of the statistical report, but without the instructor optional questions and without the comments.

With the process online, these reports will now be available five days after finals end. In addition, faculty will be able to manipulate their reports electronically; for example, they can import the reports into Excel for analysis. A secure server assures anonymity of the responses.

In order for the results to be statistically significant, faculty and staff must help ensure that students fill out the surveys. Student participation is important because the survey responses are essential components in faculty reappointment, promotion and tenure. CETL will distribute a paper reminder, with log-on instructions, to all departments for the faculty to distribute to students. There will also be centralized e-mail reminders sent to all students at the start of the survey period and one week into the period. On the last day of the survey period, a reminder will be sent to all students who have not yet submitted their surveys.

As a further incentive this year only, CETL will provide three sets of prizes, randomly selecting students who complete their surveys, faculty whose courses have high response rates and department coordinators whose departments have good overall response rates. Below is a list of prizes to be awarded:

- $40 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificates - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $40 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $150 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $100 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $50 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $25 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $10 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $5 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $2 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $1 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.
- $0.50 Georgia Tech Bookstore gift certificate - to the faculty member who gets the highest response rate from each college for an undergraduate course with at least 20 students enrolled.

The course survey can be accessed through the CETL homepage, www.cetl.gatech.edu. For more information, e-mail cetlhelp@gatech.edu, or contact CETL Director Donna Llewellyn at 894-2340 or donna.llewellyn@oars.gatech.edu.
Yamacraw executive director named

Gov. Roy Barnes announced last week that James D. Foley has been named executive director of the Yamacraw Mission. Foley will also serve as a professor of computer science and electrical and computer engineering at Georgia Tech.

The Yamacraw Mission is a strategic economic development initiative combining the efforts of academia, industry and state government to promote and brand the state of Georgia as the center for semiconductor chip design in the areas of embedded software, high bandwidth telecommunications, system prototyping and content processing. "Jim is a highly respected teacher and researcher with a keen understanding of industry-oriented research and development," said President Wayne Clough. "It's wonderful to welcome Jim back to Georgia Tech, and I have every confidence that he will make this important statewide initiative a success. Georgia Tech is playing a key role in Yamacraw, and Jim is the ideal person to lead that effort."

Foley, 57, is currently chairman and CEO of ITA-Mitsubishi Electric Information Technology Center America in Cambridge, Mass. In this position, he has been responsible for corporate research and development in North America. Previously, he served on the faculties of the University of North Carolina, George Washington University and Georgia Tech. He received his B.S. from Lehigh University and his M.S. in electrical engineering and Ph.D. in computer information and control engineering from the University of Michigan.

In addition to Foley, other key staff members have recently been added to the Yamacraw Mission team. The University System of Georgia has named Daniel S. Papp, professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs in the Ivan Allen College, as director of Yamacraw Educational Programs, and the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism has hired Stan Holm as director of Marketing for Yamacraw. Other staffing includes a director of research, a financial officer and two other support positions that are currently being recruited.

The three key elements of the Yamacraw Mission are marketing, research and education. Much progress has been made in each of these key areas since the governor announced the mission in January 1999.

The Yamacraw web site, Yamacraw.org, is now up and running with information related to the initiative. A marketing plan and strategy are being developed to target the constituencies of technical professionals, high-bandwidth telecommunication companies and the citizens of Georgia. Additionally, a marketing agency will soon be hired for the Yamacraw Mission.

Yamacraw has allocated $4 million to this effort with the goal of attracting a major share of electronic design job growth. The research agenda of Yamacraw extends from basic system-on-a-chip electronics through the design of wireless and broadband communications systems. Three major research areas are under way, including embedded software, led by Professor Vijay Madisetti; broadband access hardware, led by Professor Joy Laskar; and system prototyping, led by Professor Nikil Jayant.

Five institutions are involved in Phase I of the University System of Georgia's Yamacraw Mission project, and jointly they have hired 21 new faculty. These include 15 new faculty in Tech's College of Computing and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, as well as faculty at Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University, Southern Polytechnic State University and the University of Georgia. In addition to faculty hiring, participating USG institutions have begun modifying and restructuring the curriculum in electrical and computer engineering, software engineering and computer science to include an emphasis in the seven Yamacraw focus areas: system-on-a-chip, embedded systems, optical networks, wireless, content processing, digital signal processing and high-speed access devices.

'Wayfinding' master plan in development

As part of the Campus Master Plan, a "wayfinding" plan is being developed to make it easier for people to find their way around campus. The Capital Planning and Space Management department is managing this project, and Georgia Tech has hired Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc. (MIG) to develop a wayfinding plan. Signage, such as the sign at left pointing to east area residence halls and facilities, is one key source of wayfinding information, but the consultants are also exploring the use of written directions, kiosks and web-based graphics and maps.

MIG has been on campus several times analyzing existing conditions and talking to various stakeholder groups. When they return later this month they will present the draft schematic design for the wayfinding system. This is a critical point in the planning stage and calls for the attention and input of the campus community. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to attend any one of three one-hour town meetings that will be held on Nov. 23 at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. in the Student Success Center, Clary Theater. For more information about the project, contact Nancy Tinsley, director of Capital Planning and Space Management, at 894-4799.

APB News, continued from page 1

patterns in communities. What happens in a potentially dangerous neighborhood three and a half miles away from this campus has little bearing on the personal safety of our students."

But Tech officials were not cavalier in their attitudes and awareness of crime on this campus and others. Like many campuses across the nation, Tech has crime issues to contend with, especially in the area of property crimes. Further, they emphasize that no one should take personal safety for granted. Awareness of surroundings is one of the best anti-crime methods available to everyone.

"The safety of our students is of paramount concern to Georgia Tech, our students, their parents, and our faculty and staff," said Harty. "No campus, no community is completely safe. Common sense and crime awareness are part of every college student's curriculum. But this study does nothing to promote campus safety. It serves only to misinform and alarm the general public. We trust that people will see it for what it is and respond accordingly."

Hollywood Squares College Tournament

Even if you're not a fan of game shows, tune in to Hollywood Squares on Nov. 23 to see Tech student Kristin Patterson compete in the college tournament series. The show airs at 7:30 p.m. on WGNX, Channel 46. The tournament starts Nov. 22 and runs for two weeks.
**Classifieds**

**Automobiles**

1987 Olds Cutlass Ciera Brugham, silver, 4 dr., auto, loaded, low miles, asking $2,500. Call 894-3635 (day) or 770-418-9025 (eve).

1993 Toyota 4-wd pickup, 113K miles, V-6, new paint, new tires, ed, cold a/c, new bedliner. Looks, runs great. $5,000. Contact 377-5563 or john.baily@conted.gatech.edu.


1992 Toyota Previa, 2-dr luxury passenger van, 5-spd, dual a/c, 130K miles, power everything, anti lock brakes, tilt steering wheel, AM/FM/CD, 10-CD changer. Asking $6,495. Call 678-461-6712.

1995 Dodge Intrepid ES. Metallic gray, am/fm/cass, a/c, ps, pb, pw, pd, auto tilt, auto seat, dual air bags, 111K miles, $6,000. Contact Marie, 894-8070. 770-987-2247 (eve) or mari.nevay@icpa.gatech.edu.

1996 Saab 900 SE, 3-dr, red with black interior, less than 36K miles. Turbo, sun roof, heated seats, alarm, fold down rear seat, many extras. $20,500. Contact Al Moloff, 892-3099 ext. 270 or 255-4608.

1998 Dodge Grand Caravan, misty green, flawless maintenance record, all automatic, 46K miles, $15K or OBO. Contact Carol York, 894-8648 or carol.york@grtl.gatech.edu.

1999 Ford Windstar, 7,000 miles, gray, loaded, asking $6K. Contact Susan Jackson, susanj@cc.gatech.edu or 894-78615.

**Furniture**

Cargo loft bunk bed set. Includes ladder, 2 mattresses, 2 headboards. $450. Contact 770-523-7758 or mark.richards@grtl.gatech.edu.

Super waveless water bed with mirrored headboard, 8 drawers, 5 other storage spaces. Asking $550. Contact Greg, 804-3423 or greg.slaaple@grtl.gatech.edu.

Moving sale: wood dining table with 4 chairs, $55 OBO; futon, $75 OBO; 4-drawer chest, $10 OBO. Contact 894-5259 (w), 872-4156 (h) or tony.wong@physics.gatech.edu.

**Real Estate**

For sale: Condo in historic 1920s brick building, 2 miles from Tech. Completely renovated, 2BR/1BA, hardwood floors, high ceilings. Contact camille.chapman@intprog.gatech.edu.

For lease: 4 dr, auto, loaded, low miles, asking $2,500. Contact Susan Jackson, susanj@cc.gatech.edu or 894-78615.

**Miscellaneous**

Craftsman cart for riding lawn mower/garden tractor, $100; chain link dog run, 24" x 6' wide, $100. Contact Judy, 894-9054 or judy.wilfied@business.gatech.edu.

Large outside rabbit hutch, 25" d x 65" w x 40" h standing on 35" legs (75" h total). $50. Call 523-8407.

BellSouth NOKIA cell phone (Model 5120). Will give away phone ($200 value) if you transfer contract in your name; 16 months left on contract. Instruction book, charger included. E-mail mhb223@compuserve.com.

For good to go: 2 dresshunds, one male (5 yrs), one female (3 yrs), both "fixed.

Contact chris.lindsey@conted.gatech.edu or 770-842-2399.

7 tickets for Army Grant concert, Nov. 26 at Philips Arena. Selling for face value. 894-6597, 894-5077 or page.morton@housing.gatech.edu.

Wanted: 6 tickets to GT/UGA football game, Jan. 27. Contact Pam, 894-1740 or pam.routree@marc.gatech.edu.


**Events**

**Arts/Culture**

**Nov. 17 - 20**

DramaTech presents Geography of a Horse Dreamer. Sam Shepard's play depicting a man with a gift for picking winning horses in his dreams. 8 p.m., James E. Dull Theater. For reservations, call 894-2745.

**Nov. 19 - 21**

BalletTnch's Urban Nutcracker. Set on Sweet Auburn Avenue, Urban Nutcracker is to The Nutcracker what The Wizard is to The Wizard of Oz. Fri.-Sun., 8 p.m.; Sat./Sun. matinees, 2 p.m. Call 894-9600.

**Nov. 30**

Music of the Season, featuring WGST's Keith Kalland and Tech's Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, Chordie and Symphonic Band. 8 p.m., Robert Ferst Center for the Arts. Call 894-9600.

**Brown Books/Lectures**

**Nov. 16**

"Electricity and Computers: Which Girls Care? A Study of Georgia Tech Application Demographics." Donna Llewellyn, CETL, and Marion Usulman, CEBNSC, discuss their research findings on admission application rates and outcomes for women at Georgia Tech. 4 p.m., Tech Tower, 3rd-floor conference room.

**Nov. 18**

GVU Distinguished Lecture Series presents "Distance Matters," by Gary and Judy Olin, University of Michigan. Noon - 1 p.m., MIRC, Rm. 102. Contact: leisha.stewart@cc.gatech.edu.

"The Ivan Allen College and the School of Literature, Communication and Culture present "The Surplus Value of Images: Totem, Fetish and Idol," by W. J. T. Mitchell, University of Chicago. 3 p.m., Petri Hall (MIRC), Rm. 102. Reception follows. Contact: Paul Young, 894-1025.

**Nov. 27**

Football, Tech hosts Georgia, 1 p.m. Game to be aired on ABC.

**Sports**

**Nov. 20**

Football, Tech at Wake Forest, time TBA. For more information, call 894-5447 or see www.ramblinwreck.com.

**Nov. 26**

Women's basketball, Tech vs. Elon, 2 p.m., Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

**Nov. 27**

Women's volleyball, Tech vs. Georgia, 7:30 p.m., O'Keefe Gymnasium.

**Miscellaneous**

**Nov. 18**

Georgia Tech Women's Forum, Noon - 1 p.m., Student Center. Rm. 321. Program: "illiteracy: The Silent Disability," by Collette Duncan, executive director of Literacy Volunteers of America-Metropolitan Atlanta. Lunch: sandwich buffet (with pasta salad, cookies, iced tea), $6.95. Brown baggers and all members of the Tech community are welcome. Contact: maude.robinson@business.gatech.edu.

Options Extravaganza, highlighting the diverse classes that Options offers each semester to students, staff and faculty. Event will feature performances by students and instructors, including tango and belly dancing, plus musical talent and student art work. Student Center Ballroom, 6 - 9 p.m. Contact 894-2805.