WELCOME TO THE GEORGIA TECH-LORRAINE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

Dear Alumni,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the first edition of Georgia Tech-Lorraine Perspectives, a biannual publication dedicated to our distinguished network of alumni in France and Europe. As you peruse the various articles contained in this newsletter showcasing our accomplishments in global education, research, and innovation, you will see that 2010 was a benchmark year in the life of Georgia Tech-Lorraine (GTL). We can all be very proud of what the institution has accomplished in the past twenty years, and how Tech has been internationally recognized for successfully implementing an innovative U.S. campus in Europe.

You can take pride in having a degree from an institution that has been ranked number five by the Academic Ranking of World Universities, popularly known as the Shanghai Rankings for Science and Technology. As alumni, you have all played a part in our remarkable story of growth, achievement, and success. It is my sincere hope that you will continue this legacy and play a role in shaping and defining our future.

We are at a crucial crossroads, with so many exciting developments in our academic programs, research initiatives, and ever-expanding global partnerships. Your continued participation and investment will be critical to Georgia Tech-Lorraine’s continued success.

Yves Berthelot, President
Georgia Tech-Lorraine

Georgia Tech-Lorraine on the eve of its twentieth anniversary celebration.

New President’s Challenge Program for GTL Alumni

The American tradition of philanthropic giving that has empowered the Georgia Institute of Technology will also benefit Georgia Tech-Lorraine through the President’s Challenge Program.

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Share Your News!

New Job? Moved recently? Made an addition to your family? Tell us so we can share your news with your fellow alumni.

What projects are you working on? Share your challenges and accomplishments with fellow alumni. Brag a little. It’s all news to us.

Have a company news item or an opinion? Share these things with your fellow alumni. Let them know what’s going on in your life.

Send your story to GTL-Alumni-newsletter@georgiatech-metz.fr.

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A new tradition of philanthropy among Georgia Tech-Lorraine alumni and supporters is heralded by the establishment of the President’s Scholarship Challenge Program. This initiative, established by Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson, is designed to inspire charitable gifts from alumni to support the Lorraine campus and to accelerate the development of the institution’s alumni support system. It is this very system that helped propel Georgia Tech’s Atlanta campus to its current level of excellence and achievement. In announcing the decision to establish this scholarship program, President Peterson pledged a $100,000 challenge commitment. “A number of the more than 2,500 students who have participated in the Georgia Tech-Lorraine program have told us how the experience changed their lives. We wanted to provide them an opportunity to give back and to help them maximize their gifts so that many others can benefit from the international experience. I have been impressed with the energy and potential of GTL’s outstanding alumni, and I am confident that they are up to the challenge,” he said.

Student participation in Georgia Tech-Lorraine’s programs has grown steadily during the past two decades. This European campus continues to play a significant role in helping Georgia Tech realize its strategic vision of educating global leaders for the twenty-first century. As the GTL program has grown, so has the number of potential participants, comprised of outstanding students on both continents who desire this experience but cannot afford it. The President’s Scholarship Challenge Program will enable these students to come to Georgia Tech-Lorraine and propel the level of student involvement to its highest potential. The program is spearheaded by a team of alumni volunteers in France, including Aurelien Cottet (MSAE 2003), John VanDer Weide (MSME 2006), and Spencer Patterson (MSME 2004), who are working with Associate Vice President for Development Marta Garcia. Garcia noted that “the flexibility and independence of alumni support will not only offer critical support for deserving students but also will offer an important buffer in these times of economic volatility and uncertainty.”

The President’s Scholarship Challenge Program is in the first phase of a five-year effort to raise $250,000 in scholarships and a total of $1 million by Georgia Tech-Lorraine’s silver anniversary in 2015. This will be achieved by inviting alumni to make a commitment to the program during this five-year period. Simultaneously, faculty and corporate partners will be invited to make commitments to grow the President’s Challenge fund through matching alumni gifts. “This represents the perfect partnership of major stakeholders in the Georgia Tech-Lorraine mission—its alumni, its faculty, and its corporate partners—for the benefit of students for generations to come,” said Yves Berthelot, president of Georgia Tech-Lorraine.

For important information and updates, stay tuned on our web site, www.georgiatech-metz.fr.

For further information, please contact Marta Garcia, associate vice president for Development, at marta.garcia@dev.gatech.edu.
Georgia Tech-Lorraine has entered into a partnership with French public entities to establish an international technological innovation center called the Lafayette Institute.

Collectively, the French partners are investing €23 million ($33 million) in the Lafayette Institute, which will provide state-of-the-art nanofabrication facilities for innovations in optoelectronics and advanced materials research. Leveraging Georgia Tech’s expertise in technology transfer and commercialization through the Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute, it is expected that the Lafayette Institute will serve as a catalyst for economic development in the Lorraine region of France.

The 20,000-square-foot facility, which will be situated adjacent to Georgia Tech-Lorraine, will contain a 5,000-square-foot clean room and more than $10 million in scientific equipment. The completion date for this facility is June 2013. “The innovation hub will be a resource center to industry and academic research laboratories and will leverage GTL’s ongoing research and academic programs,” said President Yves Berthelot.

The Lafayette Institute serves as a model for international collaboration and represents a milestone in achieving the strategic goal of expanding Georgia Tech’s global footprint and influence. Jean-Luc Bohl, president of the Metz Métropole Urban Community, stated “The partnerships we have established serve as a profound testimony to the capacity of the French communities to seize opportunities for collaboration and to transform these opportunities into ambitious partnerships in a global context.”

The official agreement to establish this center of innovation was signed on November 30, 2010, in Atlanta by Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson, Georgia Tech-Lorraine President Yves Berthelot, and dignitaries representing the sponsoring entities—First Vice President Jean-Yves Le Déaut of the Lorraine Regional Council, Vice President François Lavergne of the Department of the Moselle, and President Jean-Luc Bohl of the Metz Métropole Urban Community. Mayor Dominique Gros of Metz was also present at this official signing ceremony, which took place as part of the France-Atlanta 2010 celebration.
Established in 1990 as Georgia Tech’s first international campus, Georgia Tech-Lorraine commemorated its twentieth anniversary with a visit from key Georgia Tech officials including Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson from June 14 through 16 last year. The anniversary was celebrated with several events that recognized individuals who played a significant role in the evolution of the institution, as well as events that reflected its growth and successes.

- Former mayor of Metz Jean-Marie Rausch received the Honorary Alumnus Award from the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. He is the first foreign individual to receive this prestigious award. A long-time champion of GTL, Mr. Rausch was the vice mayor of Metz when the school was first established and later served as president of the Lorraine Regional Council.

- A letter of intent was signed between Georgia Tech, Georgia Tech-Lorraine, and representatives of French government institutions to establish the Lafayette Institute (see page 3).

- A memorandum of understanding between the Georgia Department of Education and the Rectorat of the Academy of Nancy-Metz was signed.

This agreement will enable exchanges and innovative collaboration to take place between French and Georgia high school faculty members and students to promote the French and English languages.

- President Peterson joined 220 Georgia Tech students attending the summer program at GTL to visit the largest World War II American cemetery in St. Avold, near Metz.

“Georgia Tech-Lorraine fits very well with our twenty-five-year strategic vision,” Peterson said. “We are committed to fostering international alliances to enhance learning experiences, build research collaborations, and promote economic development. We believe that the most pressing challenges in business, industry, and society cross national boundaries, and by working together, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.”

More than 400 people attended the celebration. The U.S. delegation included John Brock, CEO of Coca-Cola Enterprises, and the French delegation was comprised of local officials, including the mayor of Metz, the secretary general for regional affairs of the Prefecture, first vice president of the Lorraine Regional Council, vice president of the Department of the Moselle, president of the Metz Métropole Urban Community, and members of Parliament. The ceremony was transmitted live to the French Embassy in the United States and to the Atlanta campus, where Kathy Cox, superintendent of schools for the State of Georgia signed one of the agreements.

“The anniversary of Georgia Tech-Lorraine represented a great opportunity to share our significant achievements of the past twenty years and our vision for the next twenty years,” said GTL President Yves Berthelot. “The anniversary was also the perfect setting to announce the creation of a new Georgia Tech-Lorraine foundation, incorporated in France, bringing to France the powerful American philanthropic ideal.”

“Many consider Georgia Tech-Lorraine as the model of what a U.S. technological research university presence in Europe should be,” Berthelot said. “We have created a node in the heart of Europe where Georgia Tech is plugged into a network of excellence in education and research and development.”
From November 29 through December 12 last year, the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Consulate General of France in Atlanta jointly sponsored France-Atlanta 2010. This event was offered under the auspices of the French Ambassador to the United States Mr. Pierre Vimont, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, and Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson.

The opening ceremony took place at the World of Coca-Cola with Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed welcoming a crowd that included Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue and Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson.

These events drew a total of more than 3,500 attendees and involved a delegation of French officials, researchers, artists, and business leaders who gathered in Atlanta to participate in the events.

For Georgia Tech-Lorraine, the major events were the signing of the agreement establishing the Lafayette Institute (see page 3) and the UMI/CNRS-sponsored symposium on Photonics, Materials, and Nanotechnology and Applied Robotics.

This event was a culmination of nearly a year of planning and preparation on the part of the Consulate General and Georgia Tech. The initiative served as an example of broad collaborations and partnerships between the two countries and a proud reflection of the role of GTL in enabling and facilitating this process.

Mr. Pascal LeDeunff, Consul General of France in Atlanta, said, “Georgia Tech was on board from day one when we discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring a series of French-American events centered on innovation. France-Atlanta gave a new impetus to our bilateral relations. The fact that we have decided to repeat this initiative really speaks volumes. France has a great partner in Georgia Tech and Georgia Tech-Lorraine.”
A New International Research Partnership

Another milestone in the evolution of Georgia Tech-Lorraine’s research presence in Europe has been heralded by the signing of a Letter of Intent with Peugeot Société Anonyme (PSA) Peugeot Citroën on May 19, 2011, establishing a new Materials and Processes OpenLab.

This OpenLab will be embedded in the Unité Mixte Internationale (UMI) 2958 Georgia Tech-CNRS laboratory in Metz. Citroën operates an international network of “OpenLabs” designed to pool the talents and resources of the world’s top researchers into teams to explore major themes relating to the future of the automobile and to stay abreast of cutting-edge scientific discoveries. PSA Peugeot Citroën selected these partners for their excellence and innovation in advanced materials and robotics.

The letter of intent was signed in Paris by Sylvain Allano, executive scientific director of PSA Peugeot Citroën, Yves Berthelot, president of Georgia Tech-Lorraine, Abdallah Ougazzaden, director of the Georgia Tech-Lorraine International Joint Research Unit (UMI 2958 GT-CNRS), Jean-Marie Castelain, international relations associate director of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Arts et Métiers, and Marc Lemmer, managing director of CRP Henri Tudor.

Georgia Tech-Lorraine was one of three university research entities selected for this joint venture, which includes the network of the laboratories of the Arts et Métiers ParisTech and the Centre de Recherche (CRP) Public Henri Tudor.

The Materials and Processes OpenLab will be coordinated by the UMI 2958 GT-CNRS laboratory under the leadership of Abdallah Ougazzaden. “This new partnership is an affirmation of GTL’s research stature and marks an important milestone in advancing our cutting-edge research,” said Ougazzaden.


PROFILE

Mel Johnson, MSEE 1993

Diplôme de Spécialisation, Ecole Supérieure d’Electricité (Supélec) 1993

Mel Johnson started off as a Georgia Tech-Lorraine pioneer. He was in the very first class of graduate students who attended the institution in its inaugural year, 1991. There is a special quality that brings students to this institution—a spirit of adventure and a willingness to take risks. For Mel’s inaugural class, there was no track record, no history—nothing that held any guarantee of success other than the Georgia Tech name.

When Mel came, writing the first chapter in the now twenty-year-old success story that is Georgia Tech-Lorraine, he spoke only the most rudimentary French. The first thing he did was to sign up for a special course in French that was offered by the nearby University of Metz. When he stepped into a small classroom of less than ten students and saw the “legendary” Professor Ron Schafer sitting at a desk, he knew that this was going to be a special experience. “Dr. Schafer was the god of digital signal processing, and I got to sit right next to him as a fellow language student,” Mel said. When he stepped into a graduate seminar course the next day, he was one of only three students learning from, being mentored by, and befriending Dr. Schafer.

According to Mel, things went uphill from this auspicious beginning. He reached out and met many French students from Supélec, where he later enrolled in the dual degree program to take advantage of every possible opportunity to absorb the language and culture. When he completed his Georgia Tech-Lorraine and Supélec degrees, he had not only earned an exceptional education from both French and American institutions, but he came to appreciate and love the country that would forever be considered his second home.

Mel’s career now spans nearly twenty years and has included international travel and professional roles ranging from independent consultant to project manager. He believes that his educational experience has yielded benefits that extend beyond the professional. He learned to acclimate himself to a totally different environment. He learned to listen. He learned to appreciate a quality of life that often eludes Americans.

Mel has sustained his connections with both Georgia Tech-Lorraine and his fellow graduate students throughout the years. Today, he lives in Atlanta with his wife and two children and works as the president and CEO for Greenway Consulting, a company that he founded in 2007. This year, he accepted an invitation to join the Georgia Tech-Lorraine Advisory Board.
PROFILE

Olivier Clerc, MSME 2010
Diplôme d'Ingénieur, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers (ENSAM ParisTech) 2009

Olivier Clerc was raised in Grenoble, a city in southeastern France, at the foot of the French Alps. When he completed high school and his classes préparatoires, he began his studies at ENSAM ParisTech, on track to complete his diplôme d'ingénieur from this top French engineering school and to begin his career as a mechanical engineer.

Three years later, he made what turned out to be a life-altering decision to pursue a second degree from Georgia Tech-Lorraine through the dual degree program. This decision was driven by his desire to pursue an international career and by the opportunity to study at a top American university. “I knew about the strong reputation of Georgia Tech and Georgia Tech-Lorraine, and this seemed like a great opportunity for me to expand my horizons,” said Olivier.

After finishing his studies in Metz, he went to Atlanta to complete the required semester of study at the main campus. He knew right away that one semester was far too short to absorb the American experience. Fortunately, he was able to secure a Graduate Research Assistantship that enabled him to extend his stay. During this time, he served as a participant in the practical, real-world project EcoCAR Challenge, a multi-university competition to reduce the environmental impact of vehicles by minimizing a vehicle’s fuel consumption and emissions.

Having the advantage of both a theoretically oriented French education and a problem-solving American education, his interest in applying his educational experience to practical applications continued to grow after this research. As a student, researcher, and traveler, he sought to adapt to American culture, both socially and professionally.

Upon graduation, Olivier made another seminal decision—to seek a position in the United States. In spite of the rather heavy Department of Labor requirements for hiring a non-citizen, he was recruited by Schlumberger to work in their Houston, Texas, office. For Olivier, the opportunity to stay in the United States and to work in a totally English-speaking environment was a dream come true. For Schlumberger, Olivier’s French background and his proven cultural adaptability was a plus.

Olivier’s long-term plans will probably take him back to France, but he will always include work and play in the United States, which he has come to call his second home.

Reflecting upon the interesting path he has taken since his decision to attend Georgia Tech-Lorraine, he said, “Five years ago, I was far from imagining that I would now have an American girlfriend and would be living in Texas, watching rodeos and wearing cowboy boots.”

Message from the Club President

(Continued from page 1)

with more than 1,000 members. As your new president, I am dedicated to continuing the tradition of networking through regular events, such as our monthly meetings in Paris. I want this organization to serve you, so please let me know your ideas and suggestions.

I encourage all of you to share your news with us though this publication and to remain active members of this great organization.

Aurelien Cottet, President
Georgia Tech Alumni Club of France

Georgia Tech-Lorraine’s campus is located in a park-like area minutes from historic Metz.
The beginning of Spencer Patterson's story is anchored in America's heartland. Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, Spencer attended Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. After he graduated in 2002, Spencer resolved to seek the most interesting international experience he could find. He found Georgia Tech-Lorraine, where he could take advantage of the double degree program to further enrich his graduate education.

Spencer's hopes and expectations were fully met—and even exceeded. He felt that his experience with the French partner school gave him a deep understanding of the unique perspectives of European students and engineers, particularly as he transitioned into courses taught completely in French at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers (ENSAM ParisTech). Upon completion of his coursework, he found an internship with Schlumberger in Paris where he worked for six months. Immediately thereafter, he was hired into the company's Tech & Field program, where select new engineers were dispatched to the field before returning to work in the product center.

Spencer's first assignment was in Kazakhstan. Having grown up during the Cold War, he was fascinated to see the remnants of former Soviet Union life and culture, a world so very different from anything he had ever experienced before. Kazakhstan was to be the first of many stops around the world. His next assignment took him to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for a three-month training course, and then back to Kazakhstan to complete his field assignment. After that, he was transferred to Turkey. Soon after, he was loaned to the base in Aberdeen, Scotland, the oil capital of Europe. When this assignment was completed, he was sent to a training school in Egypt and then returned to Turkey before finally transferring to the Paris office. In the space of two years, this young engineer experienced life in five vastly different countries all over the world. He was the living personification of the "global engineer."

Spencer has spent the past four years in Schlumberger's product center, assuming increasing levels of responsibility within the organization. This summer, his career advances another step with an assignment to the Louisiana field location near New Orleans. There, he will spearhead the company's "lean initiative," which Spencer defined as a campaign "in relentless pursuit and elimination of waste and anything that does not add value for clients."

Spencer credits his experience with Georgia Tech-Lorraine for having opened the doors to his globe-trotting career. "I am a cheerleader for the GTL program, because I know that these past six years would not have happened without this first experience. Georgia Tech-Lorraine enabled all of it."