Magazine’s graduate rankings show Tech holding steady

Management jumps 10 spots; ISyE remains #1

Bob Harty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

The most widely read college rankings for graduate programs were released last week, and Georgia Tech’s graduate programs are again ranked among the finest in the nation. The most notable change from last year was Tech’s College of Management, which moved up 10 slots to number 32 in the business school rankings, an unusually strong surge for any program. The College is now ranked among the top 15 among public universities in the nation.

Rankings continued, page 2

Computer engineering undergraduate named a Gates Scholar

Anthony Hylick doesn’t want much out of life, only to help develop what could be the biggest revolution in computing since the Internet.

Now, he’ll have his chance. As Georgia Tech’s latest recipient of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, he’ll begin pursuing his doctorate at the University of Cambridge this fall in the Sentient Computing research group.

A computer engineering major from Warner Robbins, Ga., Hylick said he wants to make computers easier to use for people who aren’t computer experts. He doesn’t mean just a little easier. He’s thinking big — Dennis Hayes big. Much like that Tech alumus did with the computer modem in the late 1970s, Hylick wants to revolutionize the way computers communicate with each other and with users.

Sentient computers could be that easy to use for people who aren’t computer experts, “The computers could be useful in satellites, surveillance cameras, any system that’s someplace where you don’t want to have to go touch these devices every time something goes wrong,” he said. “You want to have the assurance that if something does go wrong, it will be able to sustain itself and continue to function.”

Hylick said his research experience as an undergraduate at Tech has only increased his interest in changing the world. This past summer he worked with electrical and computer engineering Professor Ian Ferguson programming light-emitting diodes (LEDs) that can simulate sunlight. An LED uses less power than incandescent or fluorescent light bulbs and can adjust itself to respond to lighting conditions.

Currently Hylick is the president and regional vice president for his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, where he teaches young students through its mentoring programs.

“We have structured programs where we take young men, help them develop and encourage them to go to college. We try to give them that positive role model that they may not have,” he said.

In between classes, research and his fraternity activities, Hylick has also found time to work. He currently works as a tech support specialist for the local service company I.T. Knowledge. Prior to that he participated in Tech’s cooperative education program doing tech support for local schools at Virtucom.

Started with funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000, the Gates Cambridge Trust chooses approximately 100 students from across the globe to study at Cambridge University in England. The award covers the cost of tuition, airfare and a small stipend.
Tennenbaum supports unrestricted giving, ISyE

Dan Treadaway
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Longtime Tech philanthropist, friend and alumnus Michael Tennenbaum has focused his latest gift on two critical Institute needs: unrestricted giving and undergraduate scholarships.

Half of Tennenbaum’s gift will go to the Tennenbaum Family Scholarship Fund to support undergraduate students in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE). The other half will go to the Georgia Tech Foundation’s Special Needs Fund, which is expected to result ultimately in significant unrestricted funding to support Institute priorities.

“The School is so appreciative of Mr. Tennenbaum’s support of our undergraduates,” said Paul Griffin, associate chair for undergraduate studies and associate professor in ISyE. “The Tennenbaum Family Scholarships help us attract the very best students, which is extremely helpful since our reputation is based ultimately on having the best students and faculty.”

Equally, if not more, appreciative than Griffin are the many students who have received Tennenbaum Family Scholarships. “As a recipient of the Tennenbaum Family Scholarship, I would like to thank Mr. Tennenbaum for the opportunity this scholarship has given me the past two semesters,” said Theresa Larkins, a fifth-year ISyE student who has also completed the Co-op Plan. “It was a huge relief knowing that I was going to be able to get through my last year at Tech without having to resort to some other financial alternative. I am very proud of the fact that I have paid my entire way through college without any help from parents. After I graduate, I plan to give back to this scholarship fund so that other students are able to benefit the same way that I have.”

Established in 1996, the Tennenbaum Family Scholarship Fund currently supports twenty-three Tech students. The Georgia Tech Foundation’s Special Needs Fund is the other beneficiary of Tennenbaum’s most recent act of philanthropy.

“The Special Needs Fund is an initiative by the Foundation trustees to raise a $4 million endowment to pay the debt service for the Foundation’s new home at Technology Square,” said John Carter, president and chief operating officer of the Foundation. “When the debt service is paid off, the annual distribution from the endowment could go to the Institute’s unrestricted fund and be available to support Georgia Tech’s highest priorities. That’s the thing that makes this particular gift so meaningful, that Michael Tennenbaum has the confidence in our Institute leadership to make such a significant unrestricted gift. Georgia Tech is indeed fortunate to have this support.”

Another recent gift from Tennenbaum established Georgia Tech’s Tennenbaum Institute, which will focus on developing business practices and organizational cultures that will help existing enterprises become more cost-effective and competitive by leveraging technological and market innovations.

The information systems program and the operations management program within Management were ranked 25th and 19th, respectively.

“We’re gratified that the rankings are increasingly reflective of all we have to offer,” said College of Management Dean Terry Blum. “We believe our MBA program to be one of the very best, and these new rankings offer some credence to that claim. It’s a considerable jump in two years.” The College was ranked 51st in the 2003 rankings.

“That is an unusually strong showing for any program, and I’m very pleased for our business school,” said Tech President Wayne Clough. “We’ve done a lot to invest in the College of Management and we’ve known that those investments would pay dividends. While rankings are not the sole measure of success, it’s great to see such a strong, positive direction for the College. There’s a lot of momentum there.”

Tech’s graduate Engineering curriculum maintained its national stature, once again ranked among the top five in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

Eight of the 11 programs within the College of Engineering ranked among the top 10 in their respective disciplines, led by Industrial and Systems Engineering. That program was ranked number one for the 15th straight year, an achievement almost unheard of in U.S. News rankings.

In the sciences, Tech’s program in industrial/organizational psychology was ranked 6th, and the School of Psychology was ranked 77th.

“Quality and consistency over time are the two things you look for from these somewhat simplistic rankings,” said Clough. “Fortunately, that is what we’re seeing at Georgia Tech. It is difficult to remain at the top in the nation, as we do in engineering, and move up as noticeably as we have in both management and sciences. Those traits do not go unnoticed nationally and internationally. Our success is the direct outgrowth of recruiting and retaining the finest faculty and students possible, and investing in the infrastructure that allows them to thrive. We intend to continue to do just that and if we do, the rankings will take care of themselves.”

Tech’s College of Engineering retained its position in the elite top five, behind only MIT, Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. The eight engineering programs ranked in the top 10 are: industrial and systems (1st), biomedical (3rd), aerospace (5th), computer (6th), electrical (6th), mechanical (7th), and environmental (8th). All of Tech’s engineering programs are ranked in the top 15.

“I’m very proud of the work done by our faculty, graduate students and staff to achieve these rankings,” said Clough. “We’re consistently competing well against some of the finest universities in the world. It’s important that Georgia Tech maintain its excellence while improving in areas for which we’re less well known. I’m confident that this trend will continue and that our programs will gain prominence across the board.”
New manager named to regional ATDC office

John Toon
Research News

Macon resident Sherry Giddings has been named associate director of the Aerospace Innovation Center in Warner Robbins, Ga., and manager of the Warner Robbins Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) program.

A graduate of Wesleyan College and Mercer University, Giddings has more than 15 years of experience in aerospace manufacturing technology, development of new technology-based products, information technology applications and project management.

In her dual roles, she will bring together the resources of the state-supported Innovation Center and ATDC to encourage the development and growth of technology companies in middle Georgia. The Innovation Center has a specific focus on the aerospace industry, while ATDC assists a broad range of technology companies.

"Sherry Giddings offers middle Georgia a broad base of experience and expertise that includes assistance to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, operational management of a medical device company, including the development of a new product and information technology applications in manufacturing, medical services and higher education," noted Wayne Hodges, vice provost for Economic Development and Technology Ventures. "She will be a tremendous asset to the state and local efforts to expand middle Georgia’s community of technology companies.

Students to debate music file sharing in open forum

Following last week’s oral arguments for MGM Studios v. Grokster before the United States Supreme Court, Georgia Tech student leaders have organized a public forum of their own to call attention to the issue. Called "The Download," the event will bring together members of the music, movie and computing industries for a discussion of Internet file-sharing through peer-to-peer networks.

With the huge popularity of digital music and media, file sharing is at an all-time high, especially on college campuses where high-speed Internet access is provided to nearly every student and faculty member. The event is being produced through collaborative efforts with the Dean of Students Office, the Office of Information Technology and the Georgia Tech Honor Advisory Council.

The town hall discussion will be held in the Robert Fertz Center for the Arts on Tuesday, April 5 at 7 p.m., and is designed to provide the audience with a variety of perspectives on the file sharing debate. The forum will enable audience members to hear from and direct questions to industry groups, musicians and public interest groups about the issue.

Tech’s radio station - WREK 91.1 FM will offer a live broadcast of the event on air as well as a live stream cast on its Web site, www.wrek.org.

For more information, or to submit a question for the panelists, visit www.honor.gatech.edu.

Diversity Forum sponsors debate on academic freedom

The Georgia Tech community will have an opportunity to participate in an open forum discussing "Academic Freedom and Diversity of Opinion in the Classroom," from 5-7 p.m. on April 11 in the Ciley Theater.

Sponsored by the Georgia Tech Diversity Forum, the moderated panel discussion features Georgia State Senator Bill Hamrick, co-author of State Resolution 661, the Academic Bill of Rights, and School of Public Policy Professor Barry Bozeman.

Hamrick will speak on the provisions of SR 661 and why this is important to higher education in Georgia, while Bozeman will discuss the under-implings of academic freedom and how it relates to activities in the classroom.

Selected Georgia Tech students will participate in the panel, with questions solicited from the audience for discussion. Panel members will offer contrasting views on the importance of both academic freedom and an atmosphere which encourages diversity of opinion in the classroom.

Baseball team ranked #1

In last week’s Collegiate Baseball Newspaper poll, Georgia Tech was ranked No. 1 in the country. The Yellow Jackets earned the top spot for its 2-1-4 record and first place position in the Atlantic Coast Conference, with an 11-1 league mark.

Tech had an ACC-record 25-game league winning streak snapped on Mar. 25, but the Yellow Jackets rebounded to win the next two games against the University of Miami. In all, Tech has won 27 of its last 28 ACC games, and the Yellow Jackets have won 11 straight ACC weekend series. The Jackets are 18-2 in their last 20 ACC road games and have won seven straight ACC road series.

Remaining home games include Florida State (Apr. 14-17), the University of Georgia (Apr. 20), Florida Atlantic (May 6-8) and Virginia Tech (May 13-15).

Drama Camp registration

The Fertz Center for the Arts Drama Camp is a four-week summertime experience that introduces campers to the wonder and detail of theatre performance. This year’s Drama Camp will run July 5 - 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and is for children ages 8 - 13. Pre- and after-care is available.

Drama Camp offers workshops on acting, directing, playwriting, technical, musical theatre, comedy improvisation and special workshops on accent work, clowning, puppetry and fight choreography. The camp ends with a big show completely produced by the campers for parents and friends.

More information and registration forms are available at www.fertzcenter.gatech.edu/kids/dramacamp.php, and Georgia Tech employees are eligible for a discounted rate.

For more information, call 385-4219 or e-mail tyler.woodstrom@arts.gatech.edu.

IN BRIEF:

New supercomputing cluster among world’s fastest

As of last week, Georgia Tech has three new high-performance computing clusters (HPCC). These clusters are made up of 64, 128 and 256 Dell PowerEdge 1850 servers, respectively. For projects requiring an exceptional amount of processing power, the clusters can be joined to create a 448-node HPCC capable of processing 5.3 trillion floating point operations per second (TPLOPS). In this configuration, the Georgia Tech cluster ranks among the top 100 supercomputers in the world.

"Industry standard processors and novel distributed architectures are key to Georgia Tech’s supercomputing strategy," said Rich DeNino, dean of the College of Computing. "Dell is an increasingly important partner in this effort. The cluster we are unveiling today will enable new science and engineering discoveries that would have been impossible even five years ago."

The systems will provide both dedicated and campus-wide resources for Tech’s researchers.

Researchers plan to use the systems to study complex problems such as the atomic causes of friction, the simulation of entire aircraft designs and the design of future computer chips. It will also be an important resource for Georgia Tech’s broad efforts in developing new grid and enterprise computing technologies.

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Academic Events

**Arts & Culture**

**Apr. 7**
The Poetry at Tech series continues with poets Robert Slye and Heather McHugh, at 7 p.m. in the College of Management’s LeCraw Auditorium.

**Apr. 9**
The American Museum of Papermaking hosts “Paper from Plants: A Handmade Paper Workshop,” from noon to 5 p.m. at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology. For more information, visit www.ipst.gatech.edu/amp.

**Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures**

**Apr. 6**
The School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences welcomes Joanna Haigh, professor of atmospheric physics at the Imperial College of London, on “Solar Variability and Climate Change,” at noon in room L1116, ES&T Building.

**Apr. 7**
The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering’s annual James R. Carreker Distinguished Lecture welcomes Howard Lance, chairman, president and CEO of Harris Corporation, on “Advanced Communications and Information Technology-Integrated Solutions for Prosperous and Perilous Times,” at 3:30 p.m. in the Van Leer Auditorium.

**Apr. 8**
The Program in Cognitive Science Colloquium features School of Industrial and Systems Engineering Chair William Rouse on “Cognitive Perspectives on Enterprise Transformation,” at noon in the Maier auditorium.

**Apr. 12**
The School of Mechanical Engineering’s annual Woodfill Distinguished Lecture features Thomas Christopher, CEO and vice chairman of AREVA, on “The Energy Highway ... Where Does Your Road Lead?” at 3:50 p.m. in the Van Leer Auditorium.

**Apr. 14**
The Office of Organizational Development and the Office of Information Technology sponsor the information security brown bag “Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) Software Usage,” at 11 a.m. in room 321, Student Center. There is no cost to attend. To register, visit www.trainsw.gatech.edu.

**Apr. 15-16**
The annual Sudoth Symposium on “Fluorescence Imaging in Cellular Biology” will be held at the Institute for Bioscience and Bioengineering. More information, including registration, is available at www.ibb.gatech.edu/sudoth2005.

**Faculty/Staff Development**

**Apr. 16**
Georgia Tech Professional Education offers a six-hour, classroom-based National Safety Council course on defensive driving, providing instruction on how to recognize and act appropriately and in time to avoid potential driving hazards. Employees receive a 10 percent discount. To register, visit www.pe.gatech.edu.

**Miscellaneous**

**Apr. 8**
The deadline for students to apply for the President’s Undergraduate Research Award (PURA). Applications are available online. For more information, visit www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu/institute-wide.htm.

**Apr. 16**
Each year, Tech Beautification Day attracts students, faculty, and alumni to work together on a variety of outdoor campus projects, completing nearly 2,000 work hours during the one-day event. For more information on projects or volunteering, visit www.techbeautificationday.org or e-mail gb16@bslprism.gatech.edu.

**Apr. 18**
The Office of Organizational Development has rescheduled its “Legislative Update” brown bag with Office of Governmental Relations Director Andrew Harris for 11:30 a.m. in the Pfenning Room of the Student Center Commons. To register, visit www.trainsw.gatech.edu.

**Apr. 19**
Called meeting of the General Faculty combined with the Academic Senate and annual meeting of the Academic Faculty, at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Theater. Agenda items include a report by the faculty athletics representative, a report on rising costs of textbooks and a report on faculty handbook modifications. For more information, visit www.facultysenate.gatech.edu or e-mail said.abelkhalil@se.gatech.edu.

**April 4, 2005**