It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a paper glider!

Earlier this month a team of engineering students traveled to North Carolina to compete in the Energy Challenge 2003, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. The glider placed second in the flight category.

By Jennifer Lee
Staff Writer

If you think folding paper airplanes is cool, what about building a paper hang glider? Five students from Tech have been doing just that. Their efforts recently culminated in the Energy Challenge 2003, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. An annual competition, previous year's Energy Challenge participants have had to build, for example, kayaks and sailboats—outside, far from the back to the driver's seat. Fitting the glider into a 15-passenger van turned out to be the least of their problems, however. On their first day at the competition, which took place on sand dunes at Jekyll Island State Park, their sail ripped as the team was trying to set up. "It rolled in their van," said Hsu.

Women at Tech have made great strides in their struggle for equality, so much so that, for many of them, their gender is hardly an issue anymore. Students like fifth-year Industrial Engineering major Lindsay Smith exemplify the typical female student whose primary concerns are the same as those of their male counterparts.

Smith arrived on campus in 1998 after applying to several schools. Although she had attracted her interest, she was sold once she attended an open house. "I think it's very challenging, but I think that's what makes you step above the rest," she said. "I think it's diverse. If you want to take a different type of class, you're given that opportunity. But as far as tennis or anything of that sort that other schools have, we don't have any of that, but I think that's a good thing because it keeps you focused."

Also, that prestige, she believes, arises in part from Tech's choice of professors. "I think Tech really has some of the best professors... that I've had," she said. "We all did a good job of handling officers, and the dance committee worked hard to put on a good show."

Lindsay Smith exemplifies the typical female student who succeeds both in and out of the classroom. Female students and professors often feel that in this latest decade, gender is no longer an issue.

50 Years of Women at Tech

Enthusiasm, involvement are sign of times

By Joshua Cuneo
Staff Writer

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Hang gliding team pilot Vicky Hsu said that our glider was most like the training glider that they have. Also, she pointed out, “We were the smallest team there, all girls, compared to up to 10 members on the other teams.”

The teammates were likewise good-natured about their mistakes, and jokingly asserted that the only thing that really matters is the flying. “We’re engineers; who cares about reports?” said Hsu.

With most of the team planning on competing again next year, though, they are already starting to look ahead. Next year’s challenge will be to build a snowboard. “We want to make a call to all snowboarders,” Barber said, “whether they want to get involved with the construction, or the testing, or the actual competition.”

And this time they’ll be prepared. Said Barber, of next year’s endeavor, “We’ll make sure that it wins.”

Anyone interested in joining next year’s team should contact Vicky Hsu at gts981@mail.gatech.edu.
The Aware Home Project, located just outside campus on the corner of 10th and Carter Street, aims to develop ways to make a home more responsive to its inhabitants. Georgia Tech computer science and psychology professors, as well as undergraduate and graduate students, collaborate on this research endeavor.

Besides benefiting the morale of senior citizens, the project could also benefit them economically. In an interview with Research Horizons, Abowd said, “As we develop the technology, we find the value of it for a larger group of people. This is referred to as a universal design and from my perspective it is a goal.”

Besides helping the elderly, the group is also dedicated to expanding the project for a larger group of people. In an interview with Research Horizons, Abowd said, “As we develop the technology, we find the value of it for a larger group of people. This is referred to as a universal design and from my perspective it is a goal.”

The researchers on the field bring together various levels of expertise to the project. College of Computer Faculty Abowd, Myntt, Thad Starner, David Anderson, Irfan Essa, and Jim Rehg work with Aaron Bobick, the GVU Center Director, and Dan Fisk and Rogers from the School of Psychology. There are several undergraduate and graduate assistants as well. Collaboration is necessary in order to create applications that harness sensing and computer perception technology capabilities.

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And, of course, the historians: strength of fire, mind of the heavens, speed of the tempest, thus conquered was achieved some opposition on this campus really SUCK.

At this point, I'll take easy grades in the classes that don't require me to retake it. If we don't know the material, we get an F and have to retake the class. If professors can't teach they're asked back and get a probably raise. Go figure. I just want a diploma. Is that too much to ask?

I wonder how much money the dumb Atlanta Hawks lost with that dumb playoff bound stuff.

I hate this. Connect W/T each opportunity to whisper “turn back now” to a potential student! I mean a fifty mile hike (with my girlfriend) I must be crazy.

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Women
from page 1

It puts females at an advantage, she said. The early pioneers like Shirley M. Ewell and Elizabeth H. Emond had to deal with professors who didn’t want women in their classroom.

Smith’s classmate also unabashed. “Sometimes I feel a little intimidated when I’m the only women in the group, but the E classes are split fairly evenly. I get along better with guys, anyway.”

Women like Smith no longer have to deal with the taunting related to their gender. The days of having to deal with the taunting and intimidation are over. Smith has attended every football game since her freshman year, partly because of her involvement with the ‘Rock Club.” I personally took part in the tradition part of that organization because that meant a lot to me, she said. “Some of my fondest memories are at the football games.”

But she still managed to squeeze some social time into her busy extracurricular life. She acquainted her large family while balancing that with time spent in the city with her and her brother’s friends. “That’s one of the main things, too, about Tech, is that I love the big city and being so close to it,” she said.

Smith also decided to try co-op when she was advised of its benefits. “Once I get in, I realized that it was a really good mental break, and it was nice to have the extra money,” she said. “And the experience, and not just the experience engineering-wise, but from a professional standpoint, it’s something you can only take advantage of while you’re on campus.”

Smith started her co-op career at Burnham Logistics before it was bought by UPS. Following the buyout, Smith switched to Oglethorpe Power, where she remained. It wasn’t Burnham, and only at Burnham, she said, where she remembered having any observable problem with discrimination. “I was the only female in a group of eight males, and it was the youngest by far, so I think a lot of them at first didn’t take me as seriously as they would a male co-op,” she recalled.

“I think by the end of the term, I kind of proved my own. But I think I had to earn my keep.”

Smith is set to graduate this August. “I plan to go to work upon graduation and then re-evaluate going to graduate school in a couple of years,” she said. Her long-term plans also feature a family, but she said that she wants to concentrate on her career first.

When asked how she felt about women at Tech, she replied that they are still in a state of progress. She noted that the state of affairs of women at Tech has even improved since her arrival only five years ago.

There are plenty of opportunities for women, but Tech still has a way to go. Smith agrees with sentiments that women at Tech are better off than in the world at large. “Tech has support. A woman might have to prove herself in the real world,” she said. “There is some uncertainty. But I think as long as you don’t put yourself on an idiosyncratic playing field, nobody else really does.”

Smith also took note of the substantial effort Tech has made over the past year to recognize the progress of women at Tech. And Tech has made a lot. It’s given special emphasis on annual proceedings such as the Women’s Leadership Conference and the Vagina Monologues, held special events such as the opening of the 50 Years of Women at Tech exhibit at the library, and provided a myriad of programs during Women’s Month.

Smith exemplifies today’s Tech woman. Busy and ambitious, she shares many of the same traits as her predecessors without the hassle of intimidation.

She’s had the freedom to pursue her goals without the constraints of the past. She’s had fun.

“It’s been a blast,” she said.
Winner of the Tech Up Close contest receives a Technique T-shirt and a coupon for a free student combo at Li’l Dino’s.

Last week’s Tech Up Close:
Junior’s Grill sign

Last week’s winner:
Danny Nguyen

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu
Thanks to the many women at Tech who contributed to series

By Joshua Cuneo
Staff Writer

The history and state of affairs of women at Tech is so extensive and complex that it really deserves a full study by a professional historian. It could be researched, composed and bound in a volume that would literally take up hundreds of pages to even glance at every facet of women at Tech. This newspaper series was barely able to scratch the surface, but it wasn’t meant to be a complete case study. Instead, it served as an overview or a glance at women at Tech, how far they have come and how wonderfully diverse they’ve become.

Many other aspects of women at Tech could have been explored as well: women in music or art, women in religious organizations, women in honor societies and many others deserved attention. More than one woman hard- ly does a decade’s worth of history have been profiled. No new woman hardly does a decade’s worth of history justice.

A goal of this series has been to make the point that women at Tech have gone from a persecuted minority to a significant, vital, well-respected part of the community. Women don’t allow themselves to be intimidated because of their gender, their background or their diversity of interests. They’re a strong, ambitious, independent bunch, and may they be saluted for making it this far and setting a standard that the rest of society should follow.

The following people deserve to be recognized for providing vital assistance in the production of this series:

• Marilyn Somers, who provided videotaped interviews of many of the first women who attended Tech, which were vital to the writing of the first four articles.
• Amy Stalzer, Dr. Carole Moore, Monique Tavares, Yvette Upton and the WRC, Dian H Adsett, Kirk McQueen, Jackie Cox and the Library staff, each of whom helped provide references for interviewees or vital background research.
• Katie Neale and Jennifer Leefors, providing references, Kimberly Reck, who wrote the first article in the series, the Photography staff for providing the illustrations, and Jennifer Schur, my editor, who was the one to develop the wonderful idea for the series in the first place.

• My classmates Irene Gung, Erin Redick and Tina Deng were also instrumental in helping track down interviewees.

And finally, thanks to Dr. Robert Mckelvie, et al, for their excellent book Engineering the New South, the most thorough history of Georgia Tech ever published, which provided vital research for this series.