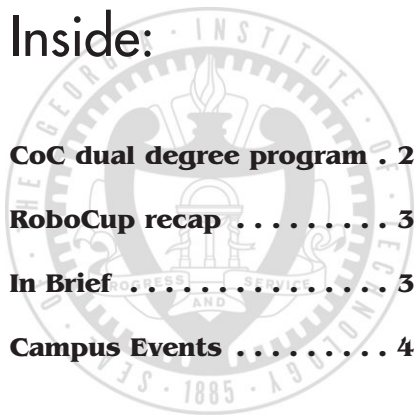


Inside:

CoC dual degree program . 2  
 RoboCup recap . . . . . 3  
 In Brief . . . . . 3  
 Campus Events . . . . . 4



# THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

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THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## For contributions to higher education, Thompson earns national recognition

Following four decades of service as a university administrator, Robert Thompson, the executive vice president of Administration and Finance at Georgia Tech, will be recognized during a ceremony later this month.

The Distinguished Business Officer Award, the highest honor given by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), is given for "outstanding achievement in the field of business and financial management in higher education."

Perhaps the most tangible effect of his tenure is that Tech's building square footage has doubled. Most of that growth was a result of broad



Thompson

strategic planning, he said, designed to guide not only the look and feel of the campus but also programmatic expansions and interdisciplinary partnerships.

Saying he had "served with distinction for 40 years in higher education administration," President Wayne Clough emphasized it was Thompson's decision to join Georgia Tech "where his talents made a singular difference in an institution's future."

Thompson, after nearly three decades at the University of Washington, said he was drawn to working with Clough on a shared vision for raising Georgia Tech's national profile.

"Wayne had a definite idea of what he wanted to do and the direction he wanted to go," he said. "His offer to help execute that vision was very appealing proposition."

The two things that have helped sustain the momentum, he believes, are passion and people. His staff, he said, shares the credit for his success.

"That's the thing about my time here that I'm most proud of — that I've brought together what I think is the best team in the whole country. The people in Administration and Finance really embrace the vision. It's been an incredible ride with this group of people."

## Tech professor named president of Korean university

David Terraso  
*Institute Communications and Public Affairs*

South Korea's Woosong University has named John Endicott, a professor in Georgia Tech's School of International Affairs and director of the Center for International Strategy, Technology and Policy, as its next president and vice chancellor. Endicott will assume his new posts at the schools in Daejeon, South Korea next month.

"It's a great challenge and a wonderful way to have an impact directly on east Asia," said Endicott.

Endicott will be the first American president of a four-year private university in South Korea, and the second overall. Woosong University has approximately 7,000 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses. Its newest college, Solbridge International, will specialize in international affairs and business management. Endicott will serve as its vice chancellor.

Approximately 85 percent of the

university courses are offered in English, and the school offers intensive training in Korean, Japanese and Chinese languages. It has more than 600 international students from the United States, China, India, Vietnam and Japan. The university is in the process of expanding by establishing satellite campuses in other Asian countries.

"We're building an innovative school of business and international studies in Daejeon that will give students a real international experience not only in Korea but other parts of Asia," Endicott said.

"Another thing I look forward to is continuing my research and writing on the sentiment of the Korean youth toward America," he said. "This gives me an opportunity to dialog and understand their criticisms and objections of the U.S. firsthand."

Endicott has an important history in Asian affairs. In 1991, he founded the Limited Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone for Northeast Asia, which seeks to permanently remove nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula,



Most of John Endicott's work during 18 years as a professor at Georgia Tech was directed toward achieving long-term political stability in East Asia.

Japan, Taiwan and Mongolia. It is also moving to remove tactical nuclear weapons from eastern Siberian Russia, northeast China and parts of Alaska. Both Endicott and the program were nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. He hopes that the future success of this project will serve as a model for creating nuclear-free zones elsewhere.

"There's no place in northeast Asia that's more critical for international security than the Korean peninsula," he said.

*Endicott continued, page 2*

## New commitment creates Stamps Leadership Scholar Awards

*Enhancing Tech's premier scholarship to attract the nation's top undergraduates*

Dan Treadaway  
*Institute Communications and Public Affairs*

For many years, students who have received Georgia Tech's prestigious President's Scholarship have excelled in their studies on campus and gone on to become CEOs, attorneys, university professors, management consultants, software designers and engineers, high school science teachers and many other distinguished careers.

As varied and impressive as the achievements of past President's Scholars are, their current and future counterparts are likely to have even more options available to them, thanks to a generous new commitment from the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation. The \$5 million commitment will create within the

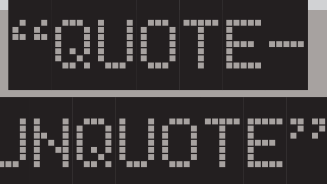
President's Scholarship Program the Stamps Leadership Scholar Awards, beginning with the 2006-07 academic year and concluding in 2015-16. The expendable funds will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Institute to fully fund the Stamps Leadership Scholar Awards, providing full-ride awards and enrichment programs for these extremely gifted students, who are the top 10 to 15 Tech freshmen every year.

"What really sets the Stamps Leadership Scholar Awards apart from the already impressive President's Scholarships are the individual enrichment opportunities that will be available," said Randy McDow, director of the President's Scholarship Program and a former President's Scholar alumnus. "The possibilities for this kind of experience include an outdoor summer leadership development experience prior to the freshman year, a grant to support a public service internship and/or an undergraduate research experience, or one or more travel/study abroad experiences."

Freshman and current Stamps Leadership Scholar Will Boyd, a double major in physics and mathematics, is enjoying such an experience this summer. "I'm looking forward to traveling this summer on one of the many study abroad programs available at Tech," said Boyd, whose hometown is Dayton, Tennessee. "It will be an awakening experience visiting Tokyo, Hong Kong, and other urban centers in East Asia while studying the development of the many thriving new economies in the region."

Another freshman Stamps Leadership Scholar, Carola Conces of Dallas, Texas, will be traveling to both Mexico City and Madrid, Spain, this summer as part of the Languages for Business and Technology (LBAT) program. "I think the program will be a great opportunity for me to learn the economics and business language of two different countries," said Conces, a double major in global economics and modern languages, and applied

*Scholar Awards continued, page 3*



"The Internet is like a big wonderful house that was built in the 1970s. It's really important to you and you love it, but it may not do things you need it to do today. And while I'm not saying the house has termites, there are signs of decay."

—Ellen Zegura, chair of the School of Computer Science, who is actively involved in assessing the infrastructure of the Internet. Zegura co-chairs the science council at GENI, the National Science Foundation's \$300-million project to test ideas about network security, mobility and manageability. (Chronicle of Higher Education)

## Korean government taps Tech for dual degree program

Michael Hagearty  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

As it strives to maintain global competitiveness in the development and manufacturing of sophisticated technology systems, the South Korean government has tapped the College of Computing to help address a human resource problem.

At the same time, a new academic partnership between Georgia Tech and Korea University (KU) may position the Institute for greater strategic collaboration, both as a teaching organization and as a research partner, in East Asia.

The opportunity arose last year, when the Korean government's Ministry of Information and Communication held an open competition for U.S. universities to develop and deliver a dual degree program that would retrain select employees at private Korean companies in embedded software. Tech was awarded the contract last fall to develop the program in partnership with Korea University, and began offering classes in Spring 2007.

"Korea is in an interesting situation," said Associate Professor Leo Mark, who is director of Graduate, Professional and International Programs for the College. "Companies such as Samsung and LG Electronics are very good at developing

embedded software and performing high-level research in this domain. The problem is one of scale — they do not have enough resources to educate all the new professors that, in turn, train the master's students needed to feed industry. That's why they seek a partner that has the resources, both expertise and raw manpower, to provide a solution like this."

The intensive, one-year master's program was designed for experienced people in industry and research centers. Korean companies allow their employees to take a leave of absence to pursue master's degrees in embedded software design, while the Korean government underwrites the expense. Participants are able to pursue both degrees concurrently, transferring course credits that apply to both degrees.

"It's very attractive to the students," Mark said. "It's expected that these people will be much better qualified to move up through their organizations from an engineering level to a senior level, boosting their personal income and contributing to the success of local industry."

The curriculum is taught by Tech faculty at Korea University — without students having to go abroad — and managed jointly with KU faculty through distance learning technology. Computer Science Professor Kishore Ramachandran, who oversees the

project, approached the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) to broaden the collaboration further.

"We entered into the agreement, but clearly a master's program in embedded software spans both the College of Computing and ECE," he said. "So right from the beginning we involved ECE. We wanted it to be a partnership."

"There's a huge benefit for our faculty also," he continued. "It's a cultural immersion experience, but also an opportunity for professors to go there and attract graduate students to Atlanta. In fact, some of the new faculty we have recruited said these programs appealed to them."

The agreement between the schools will last four years. During that time, Korea University will hire new faculty to take over the program. "In a sense, we're building up their expertise," Mark said. "When the contract expires, it will no longer be a dual degree program. So part of it is to get them prepared."

Mark also expects this partnership will open new avenues for joint research between other Korean universities. "We believe there will be fantastic opportunities for research collaboration between Georgia Tech and industry in Korea," he said. "That's a huge attraction for us."

## Georgia Tech joins new biofuel research center

Megan McRaney  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

Georgia Tech is part of a new research team, led by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), that has won a bid from the Department of Energy for a \$125 million bioenergy research center that will seek new ways to produce biofuels.

Funded by the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the Bioenergy Science Center will be located on the ORNL campus in Tennessee. The center, one of three funded from more than 20 proposals, will focus interdisciplinary expertise on new methods for processing plants, such as switchgrass and poplar trees, into biofuel. The strategy involves breaking down into simple sugars the lattice of cellulose,

hemicellulose and lignin that makes plant cell walls resistant to the stress of weather, insects and disease. These sugars can then be processed into fuel.

Georgia Tech's primary role in the center will focus on characterization, or the fundamental study of plant cell walls. Tech's goal will be to study the chemical bonds within switchgrass to help create more efficient methods of breaking the plant down into the sugar needed to make ethanol.

"As part of the center, Georgia Tech will develop new techniques that allow for a very fine detailed analysis of switchgrass," said Arthur Ragauskas, one of the primary investigators for Georgia Tech's portion of the project and a professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

The DOE Bioenergy Science Center will focus on achieving the specific

goals of:

- Modifying plant cell walls to reduce their resistance to break down. Such modification would decrease or eliminate the need for costly chemical pre-treatments now required.
- Consolidated bioprocessing, which involves the use of a single microorganism or group of organisms to break down plant matter through a one-step conversion process of biomass into biofuels.

Other key participants at Georgia Tech include the Strategic Energy Institute; Eberhard Voit, a GRA Eminent Scholar in systems biology in the Department of Biomedical Engineering; Cameron Sullards, a principal research scientist in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry and School of Biology; and Charles Liotta, a Regents' professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

Endicott, cont'd from page 1

In addition to his non-proliferation work, Endicott also began the Korean Initiative while at Georgia Tech. The

initiative works to offer courses at Tech in Korean affairs, security issues, language, political economies as well as guest lectures. The Korea Foundation has been instrumental in the success of this initiative.

"It's very difficult to leave Tech, but this is one of those opportunities that has to be taken in order to complete what I hope to do in my career," he said.

Georgia  
Tech



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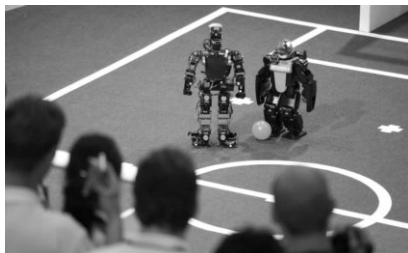
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## RoboCup 2007



Welcoming nearly 300 teams from 37 countries, School of Interactive Computing Associate Professor Tucker Balch (left) commenced the 11th annual RoboCup. For seven days, students worked feverishly at the competition's largest venue: the fourth floor of the Campus Recreation Center (below).



All photos by Rob Felt. For more, visit [www.gatech.edu/gallery/v/robocup](http://www.gatech.edu/gallery/v/robocup).

*Scholar Awards, cont'd from page 1*

mathematics. "I hope to work in international economics after I graduate, and pretty much all economics research now has a global element to it, so I think the language and cultural parts of the LBAT experience will be a big help."

The Stamps Leadership Scholar Awards place Georgia Tech in a much stronger position to recruit the best and brightest young scholar/leaders to campus.

"Coming to campus to meet Tech's fantastic crop of President's Scholars is something that my wife, Penny, and I always look forward to because

we get so much energy and inspiration from them," said Stamps. "These amazing young people are so bright and so motivated not only to do well in life for themselves, but also to find ways of making a real difference in other people's lives."

Stamps, vice chairman of the Campaign Georgia Tech Steering Committee, has been involved in a number of student-focused philanthropic efforts, including the renovation of the old Houston Bookstore Mall into the Penny and Roe Stamps Student Center Commons, the Dr. Edward Roe Stamps III Health Services program in the Joseph P. Whitehead Building and the Stamps Athletic Fields adjacent to the Campus Recreation Center.

## IN BRIEF:

### Volunteers needed for study

The Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA) is seeking volunteers for a computer workstation research study to collect information for use in the development of a new workstation to help computer users with chronic low back pain.

During the session, researchers will adjust the workstation to body size, and volunteers will be asked to do typical computer-related tasks.

The research session lasts approximately three hours and will be recorded on videotape for later analysis. Volunteers will be compensated for each session. Research sessions are being scheduled from now until August 3.

Researchers are seeking volunteers between the ages of 18 and 65, who average at least 10 hours of computer use per week, weigh less than 250 pounds and have touch typing skills. Preference will be given to volunteers who have chronic, recurring episodes of low back pain or discomfort.

For more information, call Charlie Drummond at 894-4960 or e-mail [focusstudies@coa.gatech.edu](mailto:focusstudies@coa.gatech.edu).

### NAE selects two from Tech for 'Frontiers' symposium

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) has selected two Georgia Tech faculty — College of Computing Associate Professor David Bader and Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor Samuel Graham — to participate in the NAE's annual Frontiers of Engineering symposium, a three-day event that will bring together engineers ages 30 to 45, who are performing cutting-edge engineering research and technical work in a variety of disciplines. Participants were nominated by fellow engineers or organizations and chosen from 260 applicants.

The symposium will be held Sept. 24-26 at Microsoft Research in Redmond, Wash., and will examine trustworthy computer systems, safe water technologies, modeling and simulating human behavior, biotechnology for fuels and chemicals and the control of protein conformations. For more information about Frontiers of Engineering, visit [www.nae.edu/frontiers](http://www.nae.edu/frontiers).

### Wreck wrecked

The Ramblin' Wreck, the 1930 Ford Model A sports coupe that has served as an official Georgia Tech mascot since 1961, was damaged while being transported last month.

Tech student John Bird, a member of the Reck Club and selected driver of the Model A, was at the wheel of the Alumni Association's Ford Expedition pulling the trailer with the Wreck inside when the accident occurred.

The Wreck had been booked for a wedding and Bird was en route to the event when he lost control of the SUV on Interstate 75.

"The trailer torqued the ball hitch right out of the Expedition and turned onto its side. When the trailer tipped over, the Wreck snapped the straps holding it down and crashed onto its left side. The motor, frame and right side are fine," he said.

"The truck and trailer were completely totaled," Bird said. "The Wreck will require a lot of body work but should be fine."

The vehicle, which is driven onto the football field during home games, is one of three Wrecks. Another is owned by the Alumni Association. The third is displayed inside the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.