**Notes and Notices**

**Congratulations!**

To Ching-I Lin and husband, Jesse, whose baby girl, Annika, was born on April 8.

To Alex Kelenci and wife, Dee, who gave birth to Breanna Magen on March 14.

To Stephen Nichols and his new wife, Sherlita, who were married April 11, 2003.

**Activities:**

- Volleyball
- Softball (Bring your own glove)
- Swimming (Don’t forget your suit)
- Games for children and children-at-heart

RSVP: We’ve made it easy. Go to the intranet homepage (http://inside.gst.com) where there’s a link to a form to tell us you’re coming.

**News from Corporate Communications**

**September 2003**

**GIST Newsletter Schedule**

- August 15 - articles & news items due
- August 1 - classified ads & upcoming due
- September 1 - Autumn 2003 issue published

**Thank you!**

Contributors to this issue of the newsletter include: Nadine Alameh, Brian Bell, Chieh-san Cheng, Glen Gardner, Laurie Graham, Seth Lunford, Robert Mahoney, George Percival, Cathy Starnes, Nanci Tutini, Kandy Tytus, Pete VanWie, and Linda Wieder

- Editor-in-Chief: Ingrid Shipton
- Assistant Editor: Nancy Carney
- Designer: Steven Stuart

**Recognition and Thoughts for Further Improvement**

By Chieh-san Cheng

**Wisdom from Inc. Magazine’s Conference**

In October GST was ranked as #369 on Inc. Magazine’s list of 500 fastest growing private companies in the U.S., and because of this I had the privilege to attend a conference sponsored by Inc., which was held in Palm Springs, California two months ago. I shared the honor of attending this conference with all 500 winners. I enjoyed the awards ceremony and other activities, but listening to the talks by successful entrepreneurs was a humbling experience for me. Speakers from successful companies, such as Intuit and Men’s Wearhouse, Inc., shared their unique experiences in how to analyze customers’ needs, how to nurture, develop, and deliver products and services, and how to expand market base. There were so many enlightening and important messages in their talks. I would like to share a couple with you.

First, all the speakers emphasized the importance of knowing what customers want at any given time. Scott Cook, co-founder of Intuit, elaborated on how he learned to listen to customers carefully and passionately (emphasis added) in order to cultivate an innovative environment, which led to the creation of such widely popular and successful products as Quicken®, QuickBooks®, QuickBooks Enterprise® and Turbo Tax®. Mr. Cook stated repeatedly that his company would not know the demands for more sophisticated but user-friendly accounting packages, such as QuickBooks and QuickBooks Enterprise, if he hadn’t paid attention to his customers. He said that customer chemistry needs to be fluid. Therefore, “taking the pulse of your relationship with your customer” is crucial. And, to develop plans for providing the best service to your customers (emphasis added) is the key to success. We, at GST continue to emphasize the importance of listening to our customers, but in general we don’t have a good enough systematic approach of implementing actions addressing customer’s concerns and desires. We will take steps to improve this.

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**Global Science & Technology, Inc.’s Mission and Vision**

Our mission is to apply our leading scientific and technical expertise toward solving the challenges fundamental to advanced science and technology-based enterprises.

Our vision is to capitalize on our unique knowledge and accomplishments to sustain its growth as a financially stable and responsible corporate citizen with increasing employee ownership.
Government Division

GSFC Code 696

JOULE Has Launched
By Glen Gardner, Engineer

At 3:09 AM Alaska time, March 27, 2003 the sounding rockets of the JOULE campaign were launched from the Poker Flat Research Range, north of Fairbanks, Alaska. As the northern lights blazed overhead, the four rockets were launched in rapid succession, two containing sophisticated electronic payloads built by GST personnel. The other two rockets contained Tri-Methyl-Alumina as a chemical release payload for camera studies of high altitude winds. The purpose of the launch was to study heating in the upper atmosphere due to sun/Earth interaction via the magnetosphere/ironosphere, and aurora borealis. The data from these payloads could provide new insight into the Earth’s heat budget and sun/earth connection.

The people of Alaska seemed to have a great interest in our work, and we were televised on NASA TV and Alaskan TV channels on at least one evening. The Discovery Channel TV crew was present and spent a great deal of time interviewing all of us and a lot of time filming the various aspects of the buildup prior to launch. We also previewed the Sun Earth Connection video they made, which showed the launch of the CUSP payload last November in Norway. (CUSP was also built by GST personnel.)

Initial reports from the science team indicate that all instruments appear to have performed perfectly. On a personal note, for me, this is great news, because so many have worked so very hard and long to make it possible, on what was a particularly ambitious launch schedule and a difficult launch. My thanks go out to all at GST who provided support for the effort. Thank you all ever so much.

The following link is for the launch site (Poker Flat Research Range):
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For more launch images and some pictures of the chemical release, go to:
http://www.alaskaurora.com/Poker/PokerFlat.htm

News from Human Resources

Welcome New Employees
• Monty Deel
• Purnachandra Dokku
• Carmen Verdugo
• Chingiz Tairbekov
• Chris Herb
• Ellison Bowman
• Ashish David
• Althia Harris
• Ignatius Hsu
• Nathan Jones
• Kathy Ward
• Nicole Francis-Williams
• Elmer Yglesias
• Lotfi Mehai
• Antoine Besson

Employees on the Move
• Kiwana Stuart from Receptionist at Headquarters to Receptionist NPRS
• Beth Lunsford to Lead Technical Editor at NPRS
• Rochelle Holder to Lead Meeting and Conference Coordinator at NPRS
• Pauline Burgess to Lead Meeting and Conference Coordinators at NPRS

Careers at GST

Greenbelt, MD
• Linux (Unix) System Administrator
• Object Oriented Software Development Lead
• Opto-Mechanical Engineer
• Proposal Manager

Washington, DC
• Education Program Analyst
• Help Desk Analyst
• Program Support Manager
• Program/Project Coordinator
• Senior Software Engineer – Web Applications

News from Human Resources

By Kandie Tytus, Employment Specialist, and Cathy Starnes, Director

Discounts on Alternative Therapies Available
By Nancy Tutini, Benefits Administrator

As a member of the CareFirst health plan (HMO, POS, PPO) GST employees are entitled to discounts on laser vision correction procedures, Beltone hearing aids, mail order contact lenses, fitness centers, and alternative therapies, such as acupuncture, massage therapy, and chiropractic. This is not a covered benefit under the CareFirst health plan, but a way for our members to tap into health and wellness practitioners at discounted rates. These services require no paperwork or referrals. To find out about participating practitioners, or to receive more information, visit www.carefirst.com.

Employee Service Awards
By Linda Wieder, Office Manager

The first annual Employee Service Award luncheon was held on Monday, March 10 at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant in College Park, MD. In previous years, employee service awards were presented at the annual Holiday Gala. However, with the impressive growth of GST and our employee base, these awards are now presented at a separate event. For those who might not be aware, GST also celebrated its 12th anniversary on that day.

Congratulations to David Cottingham, Alex Lai, and David Lynch, who have served GST for 10 years. They received an engraved world globe desk clock and a framed certificate. And, congratulations to the 5-year award recipients: Howard Brenner, Kelvin Brentzel, Lara Clemente, Bill Dickinson, Jr., Laurie Graham, Tony Guattieri, Jeff Love, Nancy Mackenran, Adrienne Marble, Idriss Mekrez, Max Repaci, Anne Marie Russell, Cathy Starnes, and Cynthia Starr. All received a framed certificate.

Thank you for your commitment and hard work. See you all at a repeat performance in five years!
**News From the Spatial Technology Group**

- GST’s Auburn, New York office will be relocating mid-June to the campus of Cayuga Community College. The building, pictured, will house the Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology as well as our Spatial Technology Group, directed by Brian Bell.

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**“I Knew GST Was the Right Company When...”**

by Laurie Graham, Graphic Designer

We all have defining moments when we know if we’ve made the right or wrong decision. My moment was at my first GST Christmas Party.

I came to GST in October of 1997 through the acquisition of our contract with NASA. I had been with my previous company for over five years and was unsure about changing companies.

The Christmas party two months later was at a country club and everything was top drawer. After the meal, Chieh-san Cheng and Ed Stanford stood up in front of the room and announced that they would demonstrate the Tango for our enjoyment. Apparently, Ed teaches ballroom dancing and had been teaching Chieh-san the Tango. Before my mind could wrap itself around this strange notion, the music was on and there was the president of my new company, dancing the Tango with another male employee! Both men were tall and thin and with hands clasped, faces screwed into mock seriousness, those two tangoed across the floor, stopping only for the well-placed dip! As I laughed, I knew at that moment that, oh yeah – I’d definitely come to the right company! They were a sight to behold – Chaplinesque in their style and grace. :-)

Here at GST, we like to think of ourselves as a big family. Well...every family has a few good stories, and we would like to hear yours. In this new section, we are looking to find out which special moments reaffirmed your choice to work at GST. We hope to hear from everyone and enjoy a few more laughs along the way.

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Joule continued...

In short, we had two payload rockets, and two chemical release rockets (tri-methyl alumina). The first rocket was fired at 3:09 a.m. March 27. The last rocket left the pad at 3:13 a.m. the same morning. That comes out to be a rocket launch every minute.

- A nice image of Poker Flat. It seems that if it is not a hill, they call it a “flat” in Alaska. You can see the launch site, and the tower near the block house, as well as the blue sheds that cover the rocket launchers.

- A picture of the blockhouse. I discovered that it was the only place in all of Alaska where I did not feel that constant chill of the cold weather.

- This is one of the rockets on the launch rail. This one is a Black Brant V aka “BBV”. The motors and electronics can be damaged by the severe cold, so the rockets were completely ensased in sheets of foam insulation, and warm air was pumped inside to keep things nice and warm. It looks really funny to see these 40-60 foot long boxes sticking up in the air.

- Here is one of the Joule Rockets as it is being prepared on the launcher. This rocket is a “Black Brant X,” also called “BBX” by those who know it. It has two stages and is the workhorse of the sounding rocket fleet.

- A picture of both the payloads in the assembly area. The payloads were similar but had different configurations. Yes, the black fold-up booms are really made from fishing rods.

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News From the Geospatial Interoperability Group

Nadine Alameh Receives International Recognition

By George Percival, Director, Geospatial Interoperability Group

Nadine Alameh of GST's Geospatial Interoperability Group has been receiving international recognition for her expertise in geospatial web services recently.

In March, Nadine presented at Geospatial Information & Technology Association's (GITA's) 26th Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, TX. Nadine's paper "Chaining GIS,... a "Best of GITA26" CD and will be presented as part of GITA International's panel at GEOBrasil 2003 in São Paulo, Brazil.

Furthermore, by personal invitation of the Egyptian government, Nadine was asked to speak on May 7th at a conference on the Egyptian National Spatial Data Infrastructure, hosted by the Egyptian Information Technology Institute. Her talk on interoperability and web services, which she presented in Arabic, received the Best and Most Relevant Presentation award from the Egyptian Minister of Information and Telecommunications. Subsequently, Nadine was interviewed, alongside the Minister, on a couple of national Egyptian TV and radio stations. Nadine said, "Interoperability and web services resonated really well with the attendees (of the conference) as everyone there is getting ready to build the Egyptian National Spatial Data Infrastructure."

For more information about this work: http://www.geis.ha.osd.mil/GEIS/SurveillanceActivities/RVFWeb/index.htm
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This paper, which appeared in the Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing Journal, February 2002; 68-2, pp. 137-145, was selected for its practical value in demonstrating the capability of using satellite data for near-real time monitoring of eco-climatic conditions necessary for outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever in Africa. This work is part of a collaborative effort between NASA and the Department of Defense’s Global Emerging Infections System which attempts to monitor and predict outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever early enough to prevent them or reduce their impact on society.

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Upcoming Events

GIST’s annual picnic returns on Saturday, June 14 from noon until 6 pm. See details inside on page 8, or go to the intranet: inside.gst.com

IGC Meetings with Chieh-san Wednesday, June 4 at noon and Wednesday, July 2 at noon in the Mississippi Room

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