Salary Increases Will Vary

Administrators are now working on salary increases due July 1. And EES Director Don Grace says employees will receive the news next month about their individual raises.

Like all departments at Georgia Tech, the Station is duty-bound to adhere to salary administration rules set forth by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and our President’s office. For FY 82, state and sponsored funds are available for each unit to work with a maximum 11% increase in its total payroll for both professional and classified employees. Unit managers, faced with a need to balance salary levels, must recommend increases below as well as above the 11% overall figure.

With some exceptions, all full-time employees will receive a 5½% across-the-board salary increment consisting of a 2½% position index increase and a 3% cost-of-living increase. The cost-of-living raise will not be given automatically to those employees with less than a year of service, those terminating in FY 82, or those considered to be fully compensated for their position or level of responsibility. However, employees in the last category will receive the 2½% position index increase or a $500 increase, whichever is greater.

The additional 5½% budget increase available to each unit manager has been loosely designated for “merit increases.” Unit managers must distribute this budget increase among all employees after considering each individual’s current compensation, performance during the year and level of responsibility. These funds are also used to adjust salaries of classified personnel to bring them up to or within, their appropriate classification range. The same is true for professional researchers whose salary may have fallen below a level commensurate with their performance.

Although the overall salary increase must average no more than 11% throughout EES, individual raises may be above or below this percentage, within limits, depending upon the combination of factors that affect specific individuals.

Raises for classified personnel are administered under slightly different rules. For example, they cannot boost salaries beyond the brackets specified for a given classified position.

For part-time personnel and graduate students, a total budget increase of 9% is available for raises based on performance and other factors. Of the 9%, 3% is for cost-of-living raises and 6% is available for merit. Again, individual employees may receive more or less than a 9% salary increase, depending on specific circumstances.

“Every year we face difficult decisions in administering salaries,” says Director Don Grace. “It is a complicated process during which outstanding employees as well as average performers are to be compensated within very finite budget constraints. We try every year to compensate all of our employees fairly,” he added.
EES employees who experience poor reception when watching UHF-TV stations could be among many consumers to benefit from a study conducted by EES’s Electromagnetic Compatibility Division.

Like many television viewers, you may want to buy special equipment to improve UHF reception in your home. But what components should you buy? Do you need a new antenna or transmission lines? Is the most expensive equipment necessarily the best?

To answer consumer questions like these, EESL has assessed the quality of UHF receiving equipment which is commercially available today. During a nine month study for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the laboratory tested many different combinations of UHF antennas, preamplifiers, transmission lines and transmission line components. As a result of these tests, EESL provided to the FCC a number of purchasing guidelines for consumers.

“In general terms, we learned that antennas designed for UHF reception perform better than products labeled for combination UHF-VHF use,” says William Free, director of the EESL project. “From an overall performance and cost standpoint, the 4-bay, bow-tie antenna with a screen reflector is best,” he added.

The EESL study concluded that television owners willing to buy special receiving equipment should look for products with the following specifications:

• UHF-only preamplifiers, mounted at the antenna, which provide approximately 20 decibels of gain with a noise figure in the range of two to five decibels.
• An input terminal at the preamplifier which matches the output terminal of the antenna.
• An RG-6/U type coaxial transmission line. Unshielded lines are susceptible to wetness, metal proximity and interference.

EESL estimates that equipment with these ratings will cost approximately $70 at current prices — $10 for an antenna, $45 for a preamplifier and $15 for a transmission line.

A report to the FCC was compiled by the Electromagnetic Compatibility Division after the project. EESL’s guidelines may be distributed by the FCC to consumers at a later date.

Engineers like John Daher helped the FCC to evaluate the quality of a number of different kinds of UHF-TV reception equipment. As a result of EESL’s studies, guidelines now exist to help consumers in choosing equipment which will improve UHF television reception.
Basic Data Closes in May

EES' Basic Data Collection will be disbanded as a centralized research area as of May 15, 1981. Some of its resources, however, will be retained in various offices within EES. "The collection has been an invaluable resource to the people of Georgia," says David Clifton, director of the Economic Development Laboratory under which the collection now resides. "EES' economic development goals have changed over the years, however, and we find that other organizations are now providing some of the information services handled by Basic Data," added Clifton.

"We cannot overemphasize the important role that Mary Edna Anders and the collection played in helping Georgia during its economic development drive in the 1960s," says Clifton.

Basic Data Director Mary Edna Anders is assuming a new position as an EES information specialist. She will be helping researchers with computer-based data searches and other research projects. Secretary Nickie Whitehead will be working in Tech's Admissions Office after May 15.

Howard Assumes New Position

Senior Research Scientist Bill Howard has been appointed by OOD to serve as Special Assistant for Staff Development.

In his new role, Howard will be involved in professional recruitment, evaluations, exit interviews and staff grievances. He will also provide administrative support for long-range staff development.

EES administrators with questions relating to staff development are encouraged to discuss them with Howard. His phone number in the Himman Research Building is 894-3359.

Radar Could Protect Miners

Researchers at EES and NASA have built a prototype radar sensor designed to make remote control of coal mining operations possible. Through remote control, this sensor could protect miners from black lung disease.

"The aim of the research is to remove miners from areas where coal dust is heavy and to do it without impairing the efficiency of mining," says Dennis J. Kozakoff of EML.

If used commercially, these radar sensing devices would be installed on mechanical shearsers which remove sections of coal in mine shafts and transport them out of mines on conveyor belts. At present, human operators must walk beside these shearsers to position the digger for proper cuts. The radar unit would electronically measure the distance between the cutter and the ceiling of a shaft, making it possible for an operator to control the equipment at a location hundreds of yards from the excavation site.

EML has built four prototypes, using radar developed by NASA at its Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. EML's engineers developed the unit's antenna and a special lens which focuses the radar beam on targets several feet from the apparatus. EML packaged the radar, antenna and lens into an explosion-proof box. EML is working as a subcontractor in the program to Foster-Miller Associates, a Massachusetts engineering firm which is handling mining tests of the radar for NASA.

No decision has been made yet to release the radar sensor design for commercial development. However, tests undertaken recently at the Marshall Space Flight Center were promising enough that EML has received a contract to build five new prototypes modified for improved performance.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LAB

Harris Johnson, field engineer with the SW Area Office of EDL's Industrial Extension Division (IED), is now director of the Carrollton Area Office. DavidPoss has been promoted to director of the Augusta Area Office.

EDL's Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program welcomes three new employees. Anne Alexander is now a senior secretary in the Atlanta office. Randy Dalton has joined the program office in Macon. Mike Luster, an employee of IED's office in Macon, has transferred to the safety and health program's on-campus headquarters.

Congratulations are due to Martha and Dan Kemper, EDL research engineers, on the April 10th birth of a new son, Randall Charles Kemper.

EDL bid farewell to three employees in March. Tom Samford of the West Georgia Area Office is now working with Brown Bovari Compuguard, Inc., on the new TVA headquarters in Chattanooga. Bruce Eelman has joined the Strategic Planning Department of Lockheed Aircraft. Staff Assistant Elaine Storey has left EDL to spend more time with her family.

ELECTRONICS & COMPUTER SCIENCES LAB

Six new employees have joined ECSL's staff. W. Bruce Warren, formerly an EES employee, has moved back to Atlanta from Houston to serve as ECSL's assistant lab director.

Joining the Electromagnetics Compatibility Division are: Timothy Shands, research scientist I; Joanne Benight, administrative secretary, and Sandy Yates, Clerk I. Benight transferred to the division from EML. The Communications System Division welcomes Jeffrey Aaron, a research engineer I and recent graduate of Tech; Deborah Reid has joined the Command and Control Branch as a senior secretary.

ENERGY & MATERIALS SCIENCES LAB

Carlos Seminario, an EML employee who recently received a Master's Degree in Computer Science, has resigned his position to accept a job in private industry. Congratulations to Kathryn Logan on becoming a Registered Professional Engineer.

SERVICE GROUPS

The Supply Services Group welcomes Damita Hester, clerk typist II.

EESS' Personnel Services Department accepted the resignations of three employees in March. Chip Wiggins, assistant department manager, is pursuing fulltime graduate studies. Administrative Specialist David Lambert has moved back to Jacksonville, Florida. Vic Rockhill, personnel assistant I, is working for a company in Douglasville, Georgia.

SYSTEMS ENGINEERING LAB

Linda LaNer, senior secretary, has transferred from SEL to the Office of Contract Administration. SEL also said goodbye to William Geary, Philip Bloom and Patrick Ryan in March.

SYSTEMS & TECHNIQUES LAB

Congratulations are extended to Cindy Chappell on her April 4th marriage to Mike King. The couple honeymooned in Panama City, Florida.

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS LAB

Charles Healey and Tom Putman have resigned their posts with the Energy Conservation Division. Healey is working for an engineering consulting firm in Atlanta. Putman has accepted a job with Ebasco Services.

Peggy Luhrs, senior secretary, and Vicki Butt, administrative secretary, have resigned from TAL's International Division. Peggy is now working with Chase Commercial Corporation. Vicki will soon be working at Emory University.

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