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TECHNIQUE

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Research Option: Tech seeks to increase undergraduate opportunities

Too good to be beaten: softball goes undefeated in the ACC tournament.

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McMath departs



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Robert McMath speaks at a Co-op Honors Banquet on Wednesday, April 6. McMath is leaving to head the Honors College at Arkansas.

By Darshini Nanavati
Contributing Writer

Robert McMath, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs, will be leaving Tech this summer to help start the Honors College at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville as Dean on Aug. 1.

When he transfers to the University of Arkansas, McMath will work on beginning a new, unified Honors College. Currently, there is no actual Honors College at the school, but there is an Honors Program which has individual courses with selective admission for all majors.

"I would like to create an Honors Program that will benefit the entire student body. That will be my main challenge [at the University of Arkansas]," he said. He sees the Honors College as "an opportunity to use the same skill of developing

programs to improve undergraduate education in a more focused way."

McMath will work on developing scholarships for the Honors College, expanding study abroad and developing new honors courses. He will also make certain that classes bring faculty of different colleges together to teach a specific theme.

"Overall, I will work with different groups on a common goal and will encourage students, faculty and others to join the program," he said.

McMath values his experience at Tech. He believes that his greatest contribution came "from teaching history and helping students with their own career plans and goals."

He gives credit to his colleagues on the progress they have made in undergraduate studies and enjoys working with students.

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Barbell Club faces eviction

By Venkat Jonnala
Contributing Writer

The administration recently gave the Barbell Club an eviction notice for July 1, after notifying the club early last October that its space in the O'Keefe Gym was needed for the women's volleyball team.

Robert Thompson, Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance, sent a letter containing the notice to all involved parties on April 29, the Friday before the last week of Fall semester.

The club is continuing to fight to keep its current location in the basement of the O'Keefe Gym.

Tech administrators intend to use the location to provide locker facilities for the women's volleyball

team, which regularly competes in O'Keefe gym.

This renovation is a result of efforts by the Athletic Association

"... we are informed that we will have to surrender all of our space."

Michael Kim
Barbell Club President

to bring the volleyball team into compliance with Title IX regulations, which require the team to have locker facilities in the same building that it competes.

Michael Kim, president of the Barbell Club, said, "Initially, we were told that we would have to give up only about half the space for the locker facilities. Now, however, we are informed that we will have to surrender all our space."

In order to provide justification for the move, the administration conducted a survey to investigate the needs of the volleyball team for locker and related space.

The survey was part of the planning process performed by a committee that studied those needs, documented in a report attached to the aforementioned letter.

"In the beginning nobody knew exactly how much space was necessary," Thompson said, "and that was

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TKE receives hazing penalties



By Michael Skinner / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

TKE was placed on suspension-in-abeyance for the summer and on social probation for the fall semester. Any events held by TKE in the summer must first gain the approval of the Office of Greek Affairs.

By Nikhil Joshi
News Editor

The Office of Greek Affairs has placed the local chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity (TKE) on suspension-in-abeyance until early August, in addition to issuing several other penalties.

Due to the suspension, TKE must approve any event or activity it holds through the office. The decision was handed to TKE March 28 after a five-month hazing investigation regarding a photo the office received from an anonymous source, showing several pledges dancing in their underwear at an initiation event.

According to Buck Cooke, Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Greek Affairs, the

photo contained "pledges that were wearing thong underwear and that appeared to be ripping each other's clothes off."

The facts became clear to the office soon after it began its investigation early last November, Cooke said.

The photo was taken at the TKE Dinner Theatre, an event which was

nature."

Although the pledges were not required to strip, there was, according to Cooke, a "covert expectation to outdo the previous year's dance."

Alcohol was also present at the event, which, although not forced upon the pledges, raised more concerns.

"Hazing is a broad term; what we look out for are things that are endangering. We also deal with smaller issues, but place more importance those which endanger students' well-being."

During the course of the investigation, the office also found

several other fraternity events classified as hazing, some of which were unrelated to pledging. Cooke said that these events were not always en-

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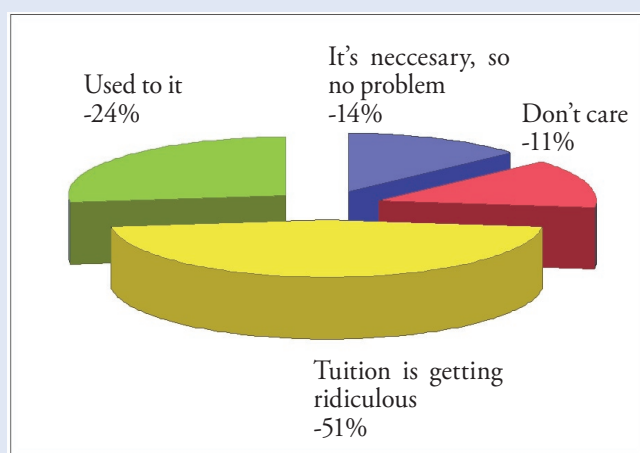


By Wei Liao / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Comic relief at the Commons: Local comedian Mia Jackson performs at the Student Center Commons Stage on May 31 at the show, "Does This Taste Funny to You?"

TechniqueOnline Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 237 responses.

What do you think of the tuition increase?

This week's question:

Do you feel that hazing is a problem on campus?
Tell us at www.nique.net

**Power outage**

On May 20, a truck driver snagged a low power line on Bobby Dodd Way. As a result of this, two electric poles collapsed. There was also a power outage in the area due to the fallen power lines. No injuries were reported.

Front-end damage

On May 20, a car owner reported a gash on the front bumper of his vehicle. The vehicle was a black 2004 model Ford Mustang.

*From the files of the GTPD...***Campus Crime****Electronic thief**

On May 20, an officer responded to a complaint at the Westside market. The officer was told that a person had requested money from an ATM, but that person was shorted \$100 by the faulty machine.

Memory loss

On May 20, an apparent student was reported acting very strangely in the College of Computing. It was also reported that person was possibly influenced by illegal substances. He had previously been issued a criminal trespass warning and been escorted from the Van Leer Building.

The offender later said that he was only attempting to register for classes. He was issued another trespass warning. He was also advised by the police not to return to campus. When offered a ride to his residence, he could not remember his address.

The roof is not on fire

On May 22, two police officers responded to a report of a fire alarm at the Structural Lab. After checking the second floor, the police found no fire. The officers then attempted to reset the alarm. It would not reset, so they decided to silence it.

This week's campus crime information contributed by Kenneth Basket

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dangerous, but they could have lead to endangerment in the future.

One of these activities, "treeing," involved duct-taping a brother to a tree in honor of a new girlfriend or engagement. Afterwards, brothers could pour food on him.

"We do not necessarily think that this would always have been a harmful activity," Cooke said, "but it could get out of hand if unregulated."

Another such finding related to dinner interviews in which pledges memorized facts about fraternity lore. Since the interviews were conducted in front of a large group, rather than a one-on-one basis, Cooke said, this may have been intimidating.

After assessing their findings, the office issued a number of penalties

to TKE in addition to placing the fraternity on suspension-held-in-abeyance.

TKE is on social probation for the fall semester of 2005; no social events can be held by the fraternity during this semester. The restriction will be lifted after the semester only if TKE can raise its average GPA to the Tech all-male average undergraduate GPA. If the fraternity is found to have any more incidents of hazing in the next ten years, it will be placed on suspension for a minimum of five years.

The fraternity was only allowed one brotherhood event in the spring semester and was not allowed to hold a spring rush.

Brett Cupta, current president of TKE, and Jay Gardner, who was president just before the investigation began, said that the investigation and the penalties were fair.

"The investigation gives TKE an opportunity to work on our program, and to change; they are very fair," Gardner said.

"We were a little surprised that a lot of things that we did not realized were hazing actually can be considered as hazing, but we think that the investigation was fair and helpful," he added.

Cupta said that many events are being formally changed to cover a broader definition of hazing. "We do believe that pledge events are supposed to be team-building events; they are supposed to be safe and controlled. Pledges need to be pressured—just pressured in the right way."

"A lot of activities are being changed. For example, TKE Dinner Theatre will be purely voluntary, and will involve brothers as well as pledges," Cupta said.

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why a planning committee was asked to do a study of these needs. The committee surveyed the locker room of the women's basketball team. They looked at the exact amount of space they had for specific purposes as one benchmark in their study."

Kim was expecting more justification. "When asked the reason for this change in space requirement," he said, "the administration told us that this was a result of a survey, which had not been performed earlier."

The committee's conclusion, as documented in the administration's report, was that the volleyball team required 3698 square feet out of the 4337 square feet currently occupied by the Barbell Club.

In addition, the report stated that the remaining space would be

inadequate for the club to continue its activities.

In an effort to combat eviction, the club launched a "Save the Barbell Club" campaign last semester. The response generated by this campaign coupled with efforts by the SGA played a large role in bringing both sides to the meeting table. A primary concern addressed at these discussions was the issue of how much space would be required by the volleyball team.

As a part of their campaign, club representatives intend to garner as much public support as possible.

"We have had 11 Alive News come down and do a story for the eleven o'clock news," Kim said.

"We also had the A/JC come down and told them the situation. Moreover, we have been in contact with some alumni. We will keep fighting," Kim said.

Come to our next meeting Tuesday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m. in room 137 of the Student Services building!

McMath leaves behind great contributions

By Kimberly Rieck
Opinions Editor Emeritus

This article was originally published on March 21, 2003. It details the career of Robert McMath at Tech. With McMath's departure, this feature provides a look back at many of his accomplishments.

While an undergraduate student at North Texas State University, Robert McMath became “hooked” on history after becoming involved with an undergraduate research project. McMath went on to receive his Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1972. After graduation, McMath decided to

accept a teaching position at Georgia Tech. Tech had a school of social sciences that McMath said offered a wide variety of undergraduate history courses even though it did not offer any degrees. McMath enjoyed his position because it was not the typical job post-doctoral position for a history professor.

“I liked the students, and working with students from a wide variety of backgrounds and not just from my own field. I really enjoyed getting to meet faculty from the different fields,” said McMath. “It was a more open environment to be a professor in other places where you get stuck in your own little department.”

McMath’s research and teaching interests have dealt with American political movements, particularly populism as a movement in the United States and Europe, the history of the new south and the history of technology. McMath has written

numerous articles on American history and the history of the American South and authored or co-authored seven books. His books include a history textbook-The American People: A History, co-authored with Arthur S. Link and American Populism: A Social History, his most recent book.

A journal article that McMath wrote on the origins of Georgia Tech with retired professor Jim Witten led to the most comprehensive history book ever written on the school. After the article was published, Dr. Joseph Petit called

McMath to his office and told him that the school needed a scholarly history of Georgia Tech to be written for the Institute’s centennial (in 1985).

McMath was reluctant at first because of his other research and teaching commitments. Also, McMath said, it can be difficult for professors to be objective when writing about their own university, so the writing could be viewed as a “puff piece.”

After consulting other colleagues in the department, McMath and four other professors, including Ronald Bayor, went back to Petit and told him that they would write the book on a few conditions, which they did not think Petit would agree to. The conditions were: a decrease in the team’s teaching and research commitments, full editorial control over the project, funding and complete access to the school’s records.

Instead of the “no” the team was expecting, Petit said, “when can you start?”

The project was unique in that it combined professors with overlapping interests in the history of technology, the south, education and urbanization.

In just two short years, the team had completed the research and writing and Engineering the New South: Georgia Tech, 1885-1985 was published in 1985. Further along in his time at Tech, McMath was chosen to be one of two associate deans to help organize the Ivan Allen College during its formation.

After a couple of years, McMath went on to become Chair of the School of History, Technology and Society. In 1996, he traveled to Italy as a Fulbright Lecturer. While in Italy, McMath learned that President Clough had created the position of Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs.

McMath applied for the position after he returned to Tech in the fall and subsequently became “the lucky winner” of the position.

As Vice Provost, McMath oversees student academic services and coordinates campus-wide initiatives designed to improve the learning environment for students.

One of his major projects right now is the building and the development of the Undergraduate Learning Center, which will begin construction as soon as funding is secured from the state.

The learning center will be the new home of freshman science labs, a

few classes, academic support offices, tutoring assistance, advising and other information for students.

“It’s both an academic building and part of the library information system and kind of a gathering place for students right in the center of campus,” said McMath.

McMath still continues to teach history courses as well, despite his busy administrative schedule. He notes that teaching is very rewarding and satisfying to him, and he is usually happiest in the day after he’s come out of teaching one of his classes. His classes have included a class on the history of Georgia Tech (taught twice in 1985 and 1999), history of the south courses and special topics classes.

His current course is a history class designed to help students understand political and social affairs in the United States from 1960s to the present.

“Personally it’s very satisfying to me to interact and teach undergraduates,” McMath said. McMath said he considers working with students the most rewarding part of his job.

During his tenure at Tech, McMath has received numerous awards including the George W. Griffith Award for Outstanding Teaching, the Dean James E. Dull Administrator of the Year Award and the Governor’s Award for the Humanities. Outside of Georgia Tech, McMath is currently collaborating with his wife, Linda, a public school administrator in DeKalb County, on a historical travel guide to the eastern shore of Virginia and Maryland.

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“I have had a great experience in my 33 years teaching and researching history,” he said. “The students were what kept me here at Georgia Tech.” He admires the strong desire for education in Tech students and feels that the students elsewhere will not be the same as those he leaves.

“One of the aspects I enjoyed the most in my career at Tech was the opportunity of being able to work with students and help make a difference for them,” he said.

As vice provost for Undergraduate Studies at Tech, McMath had two major responsibilities—overseeing academic support offices that report to the provost and improving the undergraduate department.

In overseeing the academic support offices, he made sure that all of the offices, including admission, registration and co-op, have sufficient resources. In the undergraduate department, McMath worked to help find opportunities to improve undergraduate education for faculty and students.

Recently, he has been working on the planning effort for the opening of the Undergraduate Learning Center. The ULC will house several classrooms, academic offices, tutoring assistance, advisement offices and science laboratories for freshmen.

One of McMath’s close colleagues, Charles Liotta, vice provost for Research and dean of Undergraduate Studies, said, “I have known Bob McMath for over thirty years. He is an outstanding scholar, a great administrative team player, and a wonderful friend. I will miss him.”

McMath said, “I am sad about leaving people. There are so many good friends colleagues here. I’ll miss them.”

“I’ve had the chance of a lifetime [at Tech] to make a difference for a group,” he added.

The Technique

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We worked hard to earn that title.