



RoboJackets compete at RoboCup 2011

By Henry Duong
Staff Writer

During the second week of July, Tech's robotics team, the RoboJackets, represented Tech in the 2011 RoboCup world event, held in Istanbul, Turkey. The RoboJackets performed well and advanced to the playoff rounds for the first time.

RoboCup is an annual robotics competition that hosts teams from all over the world to compete against each other in a soccer competition where the players are robots.

The stated goal of the event is to eventually feature "a team of fully autonomous humanoid robot soccer players that can win a soccer game, complying with the official rules of FIFA, against the winner of the most recent World Cup."

The event is broken down into several leagues. These include the humanoid league, which features humanoid robots with individual vision, and the small-size league, which uses five robots that feature overhead vision and whose diameters are less than 18 cm. The small size league is the one in which the RoboJackets participate.

"One of the nice things about the small size league is that because you have the overhead vision system, you can worry more about doing more planning and passing. So this league turns out to be one of the fastest leagues, compared to the humanoid leagues," said Alex Cunningham, team manager and software lead of the RoboCup team and an ECE PhD candidate.

The RoboJackets were one of two teams that represented the United States at the event in Istanbul. The other U.S. team at the event was a joint team comprised of students from Harvard and MIT.

"[Harvard's and MIT's] robots were a little broken this year, and they left early. Their team is one year older than ours, but it took them a couple of years to make their robots literally not catch on fire. The teams that have their robots carefully tuned and everything planned precisely tend to do the

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NCAA punishes Tech for violations

'09 ACC football title vacated, other penalties assessed



Photo courtesy of the GTAA

Institute President G.P. "Bud" Peterson and Athletic Director Dan Radakovich present Tech's response to the NCAA's findings on July 14. Tech was cited for major NCAA violations for the third time in history and the first since 2005.

By Alex Sohani and Nishant Prasad
Sports Editor / News Editor

A 20-month NCAA investigation into Tech's athletic program culminated last week on Thursday, July 14, when the NCAA announced that Tech had committed major violations related to its football and men's basketball programs. As a result of the infractions, the NCAA fined Tech \$100,000, forced the football team to vacate its victory in the 2009 Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) title game, imposed various men's basketball recruiting restrictions and put the Institute's athletic program on four years of probation.

This incident marks the third time Tech has been cited for major NCAA violations and the first time since 2005.

"This is not a good day for Georgia

Tech. It is not a proud day for me... This institution should not be placed in a position where its integrity is challenged," said Athletic Director Dan Radakovich.

The NCAA's primary reason for citing Tech for major violations was that they felt that the Institute had deliberately tried to impede the investigation. This led to charges of failing to cooperate with the NCAA investigation and failing to meet the conditions of NCAA membership in what the report by the NCAA Committee on Infractions called a "cautionary tale" for other schools under investigation.

"Tech officials disobeyed direct instructions from the enforcement staff... These actions impeded the enforcement staff's investigation and hindered the committee in getting to the truth in this case," said Dennis Thomas, chair of the

NCAA Committee on Infractions.

Both Radakovich and Institute President G.P. "Bud" Peterson were adamant that Tech had never intended to obstruct the NCAA inquiry.

"At no time prior to or since the 20-month investigation do I believe that anyone at Georgia Tech did anything or took any actions with the deliberate intent to either hinder or impede this investigation," Peterson said.

The football infractions stemmed from an incident in late 2009 when then-Tech wide receiver Demaryius Thomas reportedly received clothing and other items that were perceived to be impermissible benefits. Another football player, safety Morgan Burnett, allegedly accepted benefits but denied

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USG Chancellor Huckaby visits Tech, meets leaders



Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing

Chancellor Hank Huckaby talks with Institute President G.P. "Bud" Peterson while visiting Tech on July 19. Huckaby was appointed to the post in May.

By Maddie Cook
Staff Writer

Chancellor Hank Huckaby, the newly selected leader of the University System of Georgia (USG), visited the Tech campus this past Tuesday, July 19, to begin a series of tours at the campuses of USG universities.

"It was a pleasure to be the first institution in the [USG] to host [Huckaby]," said Institute President G. P. "Bud" Peterson.

Huckaby toured the campus in a day-long visit along with other leaders of campus. Huckaby met with the President's cabinet, research directors, student leaders and many others. Huckaby also took tours of the new Clough Commons and the Biotechnology campus.

"The Chancellor was able to see firsthand the quality of... Tech students, faculty and staff as well as view a few of our world-class facilities," Pe-

terson said.

Huckaby has a long history in public service for the state of Georgia. His professional experiences include a stint as Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration at the University of Georgia from 2000-06.

He also worked alongside then-Governor Zell Miller to help create and establish the HOPE scholarship in 1993. Huckaby served as director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget at the time.

During his visit, Huckaby sat down with student leaders: Undergraduate Student Body President Elle Creel, Executive Vice President Austen Edwards, Graduate Student Body President James Black and Graduate Executive Vice President Mihir Pathak, along with Peterson.

During this meeting, Huckaby spoke of his goals and plans regarding the recent increases in tuition fees and changes made to HOPE last

spring. Regarding the changes and budget cuts made to the HOPE program, Huckaby reflected on his experience and work with the changes.

"I was very much involved in the plan that they passed... I know numerous options were considered... I think the bill that came out was probably the best it was going to get," Huckaby said.

Huckaby believes the revisions made to HOPE will be enough to ensure the stability of the program in the short term.

"The economy continues to improve and we can look toward greater funding for the state that will alleviate tuition increase. Keep your fingers crossed, the economy is gradually improving. At least it's headed in the right direction," Huckaby said.

One detail of the HOPE alterations that will most likely change is the percentage of

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TECHNIQUE

The South's Liveliest College Newspaper

Founded in 1911, the *Technique* is the student newspaper of the Georgia Institute of Technology, and is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. The *Technique* publishes on Fridays weekly during the fall and spring and biweekly during the summer.

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OFFICE:

353 Ferst Dr., Room 137
Atlanta, GA 30332-0290
Telephone: (404) 894-2830
Fax: (404) 894-1650

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Kamna Bohra
editor@niquenet.net
Telephone: (404) 894-2831

NEWS EDITOR: Nishant Prasad / news@niquenet.net

OPINIONS EDITOR: Zheng Zheng / opinions@niquenet.net

FOCUS EDITOR: Gaines Halstead / focus@niquenet.net

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: Patricia Uceda / entertainment@niquenet.net

SPORTS EDITOR: Alex Sohani / sports@niquenet.net

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From the files of the GTPD... Campus Crime

By Zheng Zheng
Opinions Editor

One too many

On Thursday, July 14, a police officer stopped a driver on Fourteenth St. and State St. after observing the suspect weaving in the right lane and hitting the curb. When the officer approached the vehicle and began speaking to the driver, the officer noticed that the suspect's eyes were "glassy and red." The officer asked if the driver had consumed any alcohol earlier in the night, and the suspect said he had and had "two or three... vodka and tonic[s]." The officer then administered a field sobriety test and concluded that the suspect's ability to operate a vehicle

was impaired. The suspect was issued a DUI charge and a charge of failing to maintain lane.

Flight of the living dead

On Saturday, July 16, a police officer was dispatched to investigate a report of possible theft at the North Ave. Apartments parking deck. The officer saw two men running between two cars.

When the two suspects noticed the police, they hid behind a truck. The officer drew a weapon and ordered the two suspects to show their two hands and to come towards him. Instead, the suspects ran away toward the in-

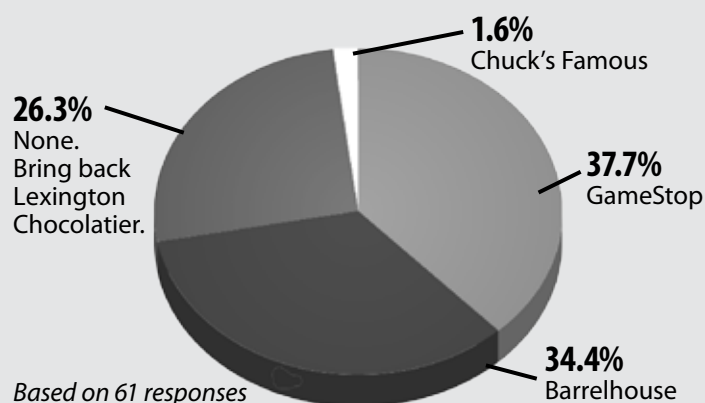
tersection of North Ave. and Williams St. Other officers began to respond to a call to intercept the subjects.

Eventually, the two suspects headed to a loading dock and hid in a dumpster. The officers told the suspects to exit the dumpster and surrender. After the two were arrested, the officers began to search the dumpster for weapons. A loaded pistol and a screwdriver were found. Both suspects denied being in possession of the pistol at first, but eventually admitted to it when one of them was found with a .380 ACP full metal jacket round that matched the pistol.

When the two suspects were being escorted in a vehicle to the station, one of the suspects explained the weapon was being carried for protection as the suspect recently "came back from the dead" and pointed to a recent gunshot wound.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Which new Tech Square store do you like best?



Next issue's question:

How do you feel about Tech's NCAA violations?

Tell us at niquenet.net

TECHNIQUE

THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

SUMMER SCHEDULE

TECHNIQUE IN NEWSSTANDS:

FRIDAY, JUNE 3
FRIDAY, JUNE 24
FRIDAY, JULY 8
FRIDAY, JULY 22

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TECHNIQUE THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

STAFF MEETINGS
FREE PIZZA!

7 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 14
TUESDAY, JUNE 28
TUESDAY, JULY 12

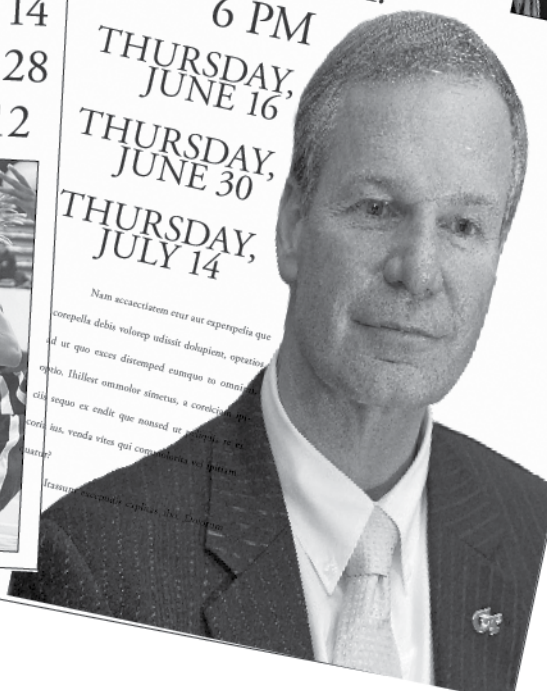


TECHNIQUE THE SOUTH'S LIVELIEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

PHOTO MEETINGS
FREE PIZZA!

6 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 16
THURSDAY, JUNE 30
THURSDAY, JULY 14



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best,” Cunningham said.

Aside from fielding a RoboCup team, the RoboJackets support many other robotics-related activities. The other two collegiate robotics teams are a team for the IGVC event, which deals with navigation and mapping, and a team that competes in the Battle-Bots competition.

The RoboJackets also host a kickoff event for the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), an international competition for high school students, in Jan. each year at the Ferst Center.

Earlier this year, the RoboJackets moved their shop from the old Tin Building to the Student Competition Center on 14th Street.

The additional space allowed for an indoor miniature soccer field to test their robots, but at the same time, their new off-campus location has made recruiting more of a challenge.

Still, membership in the club has proven rewarding for many. Because of practical and technical skills that team members learn in the process of designing and build-



Photo courtesy of the RoboJackets

RoboJackets team members Hunter Scott, Ben Johnson and Alex Cunningham work to prepare their RoboCup robot for a match.

ing robots for competition, former members of the RoboJackets have gone off to work for entities such as Caterpillar Inc. and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"[I initially joined because] I wanted to get some hands on experience that you don't get in the classrooms. Robotics is one of the few areas where there are a lot of mechanical problems, a lot of hardware testing and also a lot

of software testing in the development cycle," said Stefan Posey, president of the RoboJackets and a sixth-year AE major.

For Posey, the process of designing and building a robot tends to be a very valuable experience.

"Seeing your robot finally work the way it's supposed to and seeing your design coming together and performing is very rewarding," Posey said.

90 [percent] to 50, but it may get to 86 or 84," Peterson said.

Huckaby mentioned that the Board of Regents plans to further investigate other ways of creating HOPE funds besides the lottery.

"There's some talk and consideration [of] the lottery expanding the scale [and] scope of what they call gaming...From my understanding, this would make a lot more money," Huckaby said.

Black voiced concern over the specific ways in which the HOPE changes will affect graduate students. Specific changes and increases made to the special institution fees apply differently to undergraduate and graduate students.

"We would really like to see

[special institution fees] get rolled into graduate tuition and see that fee for graduate students come down," Black said.

Huckaby noted that this situation is complicated, but it is an issue that deserves attention. He also welcomed the help of graduate students in creating a solution.

In discussing the new engineering programs at UGA and Georgia Southern, Huckaby stated that Tech will still maintain its engineering and science reputation within Georgia.

"Tech is a premier institution. As far as I'm concerned, my office and the Board of Regents will work to maintain and sustain that. It's too critical to the state," Huckaby said.

NCAA from page 1

any wrongdoing.

When the NCAA informed then-Compliance Director Paul Parker that there were investigating allegations of impermissible benefits in early Nov. 2009, the NCAA indicated that only Peterson and Radakovich were permitted to know that Burnett was going to be interviewed.

Radakovich chose to inform Head Coach Paul Johnson of the situation, and Johnson, who was unaware that the information was classified, discussed it with Burnett prior to Burnett's interview with the NCAA.

On Nov. 16, 2009, two days before he was set to be interviewed, Burnett met with Radakovich, Johnson and Parker. Two days later, on Nov. 18, Burnett denied any wrongdoing when speaking with NCAA investigators.

The NCAA deemed the decision to inform Burnett about the interview to be a failure to protect the integrity of the investigation, as it caused Burnett's interview to be "tainted," according to the infractions committee's report.

Thomas was interviewed on Nov. 19, 2009. He told an NCAA investigator that he and Burnett had gone to the home of Thomas's cousin, where they met with former Tech quarterback Calvin Booker, who reportedly was tied to an Atlanta sports agency, and the cousin's roommate. While there, Thomas received various clothing items that had a total value of \$312.

Thomas initially told NCAA investigators that his cousin's roommate had provided the clothing, but in a Nov. 24 interview with Tech general counsel Randy Nordin, Thomas said it was his cousin who provided the clothing.

It was based on this information that Peterson—acting on the advice of Nordin and Radakovich—made the decision to allow

Thomas and Burnett to continue to play despite repeated indications from the NCAA that each player's eligibility was in question.

"The information...was steadfast that this clothing came from a relative, which is a permissible benefit. That's the direction... which I passed on to President Peterson, and the decision was made to allow these young men to participate," Radakovich said.

The NCAA presented formal allegations on Dec. 21, 2010. Included in the allegations were charges related to a non-scholastic basketball tournament held on campus in 2009 and 2010, in which a then-graduate assistant evaluated potential recruits who were participating.

At a nine-hour hearing on April 15, 2011, key figures from Tech defended their case before the NCAA Committee on Infractions. Here, Peterson admitted that Tech had made mistakes during the investigation.

Notably, Peterson said Tech should have sought outside legal counsel instead of relying on Nordin, who had little experience in NCAA-related matters and whom the NCAA perceived to have obstructed the investigation at times.

Tech's representatives at the hearing argued that the infractions should be considered secondary violations, but the NCAA determined that the violations in both sports were major in nature. Three months later, on July 14, the punishments were handed down.

Along with the probation period and the \$100,000 fine, Tech was stripped of all football wins from Nov. 24, 2009, to the end of that season, so Tech's 2009 ACC title has been vacated. Aside from probation, no long-term penalties were assessed to the football team.

The men's basketball team will be limited to 10 official visits for recruits over the next two seasons and self-imposed other recruiting restrictions.

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tuition covered for those students who are not Zell Miller scholars.

For the 2011-12 academic year, this figure was originally set at 90 percent of the previous year's tuition, which was \$3,535 per semester for 2010-11 for students not on Fixed for Four. With the tuition increase for the coming year taken into account, 87.4 percent of the new \$3,641 per-semester tuition for these students will be covered by HOPE.

That 90 percent figure is subject to change in future years, but Peterson indicated that it should not decrease substantially from the original figure.

"I don't think you'll have to worry about it [fluctuating] from

making friday lectures more interesting

technique

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