

# TECHNIQUE

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Madame d'Amour returns  
in Campus Life triumph.  
Read her—and learn.

Campus Life page 15

Paul Hewitt announced as new  
head basketball coach yester-  
day morning.

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## Spriggle wins USG Presidential run-off

*Spriggle defeats Mason by 58 votes in highly publicized election for student body president*

By Matt Gray  
Assistant News Editor

In last week's run-off election for Undergraduate Student Body President, J.R. Spriggle defeated Matt Mason by a count of 51% to 49%, or 1316 to 1258 respectively, a margin of 58 votes. Turnout remained high for the election with 25% of the eligible voters casting a ballot. Spriggle will take office on April 20.

The general election held two weeks ago had Spriggle, Mason, and David Stopp all running for President, but after the vote, no candidate had received the necessary 50% to win the election. Mason and Spriggle earned the two highest vote totals at 36% and 35%, securing places in the run-off.

"I commend Dave and Matt on the race," said Spriggle.

"The race was very close, and I obviously was disappointed to lose by only 58 votes," said Mason.

Both elections were very close, with a combined 79 votes deciding first and second in the two elections.

The first action Spriggle plans to take as president take appointing committee chairs, members of the Joint Finance Committee, and the Vice Presidents of Finance, Campus Affairs, and Administrative affairs. He believes that now is the time to get people to help accomplish his goals.

For the rest of spring semester, Spriggle plans to lay the groundwork necessary to have a highly productive Undergraduate SGA once fall semester begins.

Spriggle also thanked every-

one involved in the process. "Tyler [Brown] has done a great job helping with ensuring a seamless transition from his term," said Spriggle.

The turnout for both elections was very high, with the 30% in the first election being one of the highest in the nation. For the run-off, voter turnout did not slip much, staying at over 25%.

"I think people were excited about my ideas, and I hope J.R. works to make web-based GT email and the 'Bus to Buckhead' a reality," said Mason.

Stopp plans to continue work within SGA, and will work to achieve his platform. "I look forward to a productive year under J.R.'s administration," said Stopp.

Spriggle's platform included developing the Midtown area to encourage more student-friendly

businesses to move into the area. Additionally, he plans to improve the quality of Teaching Assistants by producing a TA manual, making language classes available, and promoting more interaction between professors and TAs. Spriggle's complete platform can be found online at <http://www.spriggle.com>.

In order to promote constant and positive communication between USG and the student body, Spriggle encourages students to either send him an e-mail or stop by the SGA office in the Student Services Building to voice any possible opinions, concerns, or suggestions that they might have.

For complete election results, visit <http://cyberbuzz/sga>. The SGA office is located in Room 131 of the Student Services building.



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS  
J.R. Spriggle (left), the newly elected USG President, studies with freshman Andrew Swift.

## Town hall meeting held to discuss parental notification

By Matt Gray  
Assistant News Editor

At a town hall meeting last Thursday, the idea of parental notification for students violating the alcohol policy was debated through open discussion amongst administrators and students.

A recently passed amendment to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows universities to notify parents if their underage children are found drinking, and Georgia Tech is looking into the possibility of enacting this as new Institute policy.

Several other meetings have been held on the issue to date, including one with parents of Tech students, and meetings with student organizations.

According to Karen Boyd, Senior Associate Dean of Students, the consensus among parents was notification should only occur for the second violation, or in serious cases, on the first.

If enacted, the policy would only affect those under 21 years of age, the legal age for consuming alcohol.

The majority of students present at the meeting and in other organizations who have met and discussed the issue seem to support maintaining the current policy.

"To this day, what Tech has done is notify parents if their student is headed for the hospital," said Boyd.



By Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS  
Dean Karen Boyd leads the town hall meeting over a possible change in the alcohol policy.

Led by GT SMART (Students Managing Alcohol Risk at Tech), the administration is attempting to receive student feedback on the potential changes to the current alcohol policy, although no changes have been proposed. GT SMART was created back in September as part of the \$700,000 binge-drinking grant the school received at the start of the school year.

"We don't have a plan yet," said Boyd.

At the meeting, a number of proposals were made, including a suggestion for a class on alcohol responsibility.

"If you are of age, you can only have [alcohol] in approved areas," said Boyd. "If you are underage, you can't have it, period."

If parents are about to be notified, a student will be given the opportunity to appeal the decision.

Other schools have already adopted notification policies. In some cases, the students are required to notify their parents of the violation, while in others the administration simply informs the student's parents themselves.

"We're not going to do less than we do now," said Boyd.



By Chris Baucom / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This car received a dent and a broken window due to a theft last semester. Auto break-ins on campus were unusually high last month.

## March marked by auto break-ins

By Jennifer Hinkel  
News Staff

Are cars on campus safe? Are deck parking spots more protected than street spaces?

A recent epidemic of car break-ins has left victimized students confused, angry, and at times disbelieving. The series of crimes has also left some wallets much lighter.

"It cost around three-hundred and fifty dollars and about five hours to get [the driver's side window] replaced," said Sam Hale, whose car was burglarized between 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning two weeks ago.

Even more disturbing is the fact

that 4 or 5 cars were entered between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., in broad daylight, on Thursday, March 16. These cars were parked on the top of the Student Center parking deck, next to the highest traffic area on campus.

In 1998 and 1999, there were, respectively, 291 and 266 auto break-ins reported to the Georgia Tech Police Department. The highest average per month of auto break-ins for those two years is 33.5, with the lowest average of 7.5 incidents.

In March alone of this year, 68 cars have been entered. Over one hundred occurrences of cars being entered on campus have come to pass so

See *Break-ins*, page 5

# Dave Stopp chosen as SAC's Student Services Chairman

By Matt Gray  
Assistant News Editor

The Student Advisory Council (SAC), an organization comprised of SGA representatives from around the state, met this past weekend to discuss issues relevant to students in the University System and hold their annual elections. Among the new officers is David Stopp, a Nuclear Engineer here at Tech, who was appointed chairman of the Student Services committee.

Tech sent five representatives to SAC: Stopp, J.R. Spriggle, Christine McIntyre, Matt Gray and Hugh Coke.

Stopp's appointment means that he will set the agenda on which issues are acted upon in the area of Student Services, which includes Auxiliary Services such as housing and parking.

"I'm really glad to have the opportunity for this appointment,

and plan to get some stuff done in Student Services," said Stopp.

In the last year, Stopp's work with Student Services has included writing and passing the Student Bill of Rights, and working on issues regarding student fees.

Other elected officials included Nels Peterson of Kennesaw State as the new President, Jerry Edwards of Georgia State as Vice President, Tonya Jackson of West Georgia College for Secretary, and Cody Guined of Gainesville College as the new Treasurer.

The newly elected officers will serve until the Spring Conference next year.

A number of issues were discussed at the Conference, including the possibility of taking Withdrawals from classes off of academic transcripts, the passage of a list of student responsibilities, and changes to the SAC constitution.

# Marriott admits mistake over Frappaccinos

By Angela Swilley  
News Staff

On Friday, March 17, Marriott representatives forced Alpha Kappa Psi members to stop giving away Starbucks Frappaccinos in front of the Student Center. Marriott representatives claimed that it was a violation of their contract with Tech and that the members of Alpha Kappa Psi, Tech's business fraternity, could only hand out the drinks in front of Britain and Woodruff Dining Halls.

The students had been hired by The Impact Group to distribute the Frappaccinos as a fundraiser. They were offered \$150 for their organization to pass out the drinks. Traci Smith, the Alpha Kappa Psi member who organized the fundraiser, states that, "I had gone through all the proper channels... They had no right to ask me to leave."

Smith asserts that she had gotten the proper form from Danielle Willard and obtained Willard's signature and the chapter leader's signature. Then, she had walked the form over to Carol Gardner, Ad-

ministrative Manager for Capital Planning and Space Management, who approved the fundraiser, gave Smith contact information, and sent a confirmation email to Smith and several people on campus who might have needed to know.

On the seventeenth, Smith went to class during the distribution and when she returned, the Marriott representatives were arguing with a representative from The Impact Group. Smith showed the Marriott representatives the confirmation, but they insisted that the students relocate to the dining halls where the food is presold through meal plans.

Since Gardner, who approved the fundraiser, was unavailable, the students began giving away multiple drinks to each student so that they would have less to move. Smith states that the Marriott representatives yelled at the students taking the drinks, telling them they had to go to Britain and Woodruff to get a free sample.

Smith claims that the event "got really out of hand and they were really unprofessional." She says that

they missed the main lunch rush at the dining halls while they had to load the truck, thus not using many samples. Smith states that Marriott's actions hurt Tech students. She insists that Alpha Kappa Psi was not violating the contract and, because Frappaccinos are not sold anywhere on campus, they were not providing competition.

Smith added that the fundraiser "ended up being a huge hassle." She feels that Marriott was in the wrong and she should have stood her ground. She advises other students should make sure that the person authorizing a fundraiser is the one who makes the organization leave.

Rich Steele, the Director of the Student Center, called Smith to apologize and make sure Alpha Kappa Psi would receive their payment. He also told Smith that the administration would work on communication for next time. Rosalind Meyers also states that, "I have spoken with Marriott management, and they understand [that they had no right to do this]. It was a misunderstanding and will not happen again."

# MOVIES AT THE FOUNTAIN

## Happy Gilmore



9:00pm- 11:00pm

## The Sixth Sense



11:00pm-1:00am

# Free Admission .... Free Popcorn and Drinks !!!!

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Council Clippings

UHR thanks voters for high turnout

By Kim Spuller  
UHR Correspondant

In the SGA elections held two weeks ago, voter turnout on Tech's campus was 30%. That's the highest ever at Tech, and it was the highest turnout in all colleges with over 10,000 students.

SGA would like to extend a thank you to all who came out to vote in the elections.

GT Books is currently in its preliminary run and has given \$200 to SGA for their services. Additionally, GT Books will be advertised in the FASET book given to incoming freshmen this fall.

The UHR was told that the parking office is currently working on extending their operating hours to

24 hours a day. This should happen within the next year or two. One reason behind this effort is to help out with visitor parking after hours. Visitors will be able to purchase visitor passes in the middle of the night instead of risking getting a ticket.

A new parking deck, being built at the corner of Tenth Street and Atlantic Dr., is expected to alleviate some of the parking problems near the baseball field, the physics building, and the new Biology building.

In old business, an allocation was given to the Georgia Tech Bowling Club for registration and travel to the national championship in Omaha, Nebraska. They go into the championship ranked number 2 in their division.

The Georgia Tech Women's Ul-

timate Team was allocated money for fees and travel to the Region Tournament, where they could qualify for Nationals. They are currently ranked fourteenth in the nation and first in the ACC.

Money was granted to the Georgia Tech Housing Resident Life to help pay for a Club Night, which they will be putting on at Under The Couch on April 20.

Allocations were also granted to the following organizations: Phi Psi National Textile Fraternity for a convention in Philadelphia, PA, the Entertainment Software Producers of Georgia Tech for an Electronic Entertainment Expo in May, and the Governmental Affairs Committee for 6 delegates to attend the spring SAC delegation.



By Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Outgoing UHR president Tyler Brown addresses the meeting. High voter turnout marked the election to find his replacement.

GSS debates bookstore move, asks questions of Auxiliary Services



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Several GSS members look on as the possible bookstore move to Fifth Street is discussed at this week's meeting.

By David Peters  
GSS Correspondent

The Graduate Student Senate spent the great majority of its meeting on the subject of the bookstore move and the future expansion of Georgia Tech to the east side of I75/85.

Rosalind Meyers, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, presented the tentative plans for the area owned by Georgia Tech, the Georgia Tech Foundation, and private entities. Meyers substituted for Vice-President Bob Thompson who was unable to attend.

Senators asked several questions after the presentation:

**Q:** Will campus transportation be improved once the bookstore and management are moved?

**A:** It is our plan to improve transportation whether the move happens or not.

**Q:** How will the parking spaces be allocated?

**A:** The hotel guests will have priority, but the hotel will only have 200-250 rooms, the deck will have 1000 spaces.

**Q:** Where will management students park?

**A:** Some there, not everyone can park adjacent to their building, that is true already.

**Q:** Will there be a way for students to pick up books near the center of campus during peak book-buying times?

**A:** We have looked into the possibility of packaging orders placed

on-line and having students pick them up at a central location.

There are several resolutions on the bookstore issue that will be discussed next week. Meyers agreed to return next week to be available for additional questions that the senators have.

The Senate then considered a bill allocating money to the Georgia Tech Women's Ultimate team for travel and tournament fees. A bill to allocate money to the Institute of Industrial Engineers for a laptop computer was discussed, but no action was taken this week.

*Graduate Students who have questions or concerns about the possible Bookstore move are encouraged to contact their representative to discuss the issue and its implications.*

# Mock Trial team places fourth in nation

By Joel Wooten  
Special to the 'Nique

The Georgia Tech Mock Trial team placed fourth at the National Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament held in St. Paul, Minnesota this past weekend. The tournament, which consisted of four rounds of competition amongst the different schools, was sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association. The annual event regularly draws top collegiate mock trial teams from across the country.

This year, 48 teams participated in the tournament. Teams were selected to compete at the national competition by finishing at the top of their field in each of 16 regional qualifying tournaments. In all, more than 325 teams were registered to compete at the regional level of com-

petition this year.

A mock trial team consists of six to eight students who take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a simulated court case. Rounds are judged by practicing attorneys and judges.

This year's trial involved a murder among best friends. Tech sent two teams to the regional tournament, where both teams qualified for nationals. Members of one qualifying team include Joel Wooten, Brad Durham, Todd Lee, Jason Fowler, Dan Ketterer, Jenny Ruth Harrison, and Warren Stramillo. The other team consisted of Katie Saliba, Sara Cames, Todd Pearson, Joel Whitley, Neil Vaishnavi, Suja Ramachandran, and Matt Morrison.

Tech elected to only send one team to the national competition.

This team, consisting of Joel Wooten, Brad Durham, Katie Saliba, Warren Stramiello, Todd Lee, and Suja Ramachandran, won fourth place by finishing the three-day tournament with a record of five wins, two losses, and one tie.

According to Dick Calkinsm, president of the American Mock Trial Association, the rounds this year were both lively and entertaining.

"Every year the competition becomes more and more competitive, and this year was certainly no exception," Calkinsm said.

For more information on the Georgia Tech Mock Trial Team, contact Joel Wooten at 206-9798 or gt5105c. The Mock Trial Team is also working on a web site at <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/mock-trial>.

There are only two *Technique* issues remaining this semester. Sorry. Our first summer issue is scheduled for June 2.

Taking a light class load this summer?

Planning on having some  
free time to write?

Join the Technique staff.

We have four issues during  
summer term, every other week.

Stop by Student Services Room 137  
or e-mail [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu)



don't ask.  
just come and see.  
tuesdays. 7 p.m.  
student services.  
rm 137



# News briefs

## First Hunger Banquet

Campus Civitan is offering students a chance to learn a bit about what’s going on in the surrounding community. A Hunger Banquet is an interactive dinner to promote hunger awareness where students and faculty can learn about what is going on in Georgia and the greater world population.

The Banquet is Sat., April 14 from 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on the first floor of the Student Success Center. Anyone may attend by donating one canned food item or two dollars. All proceeds go towards local charities.

Those interested can buy a ticket at the event or in advance by contacting Gayle Willis at gte884j.

## Festival this Saturday

Festival 2000 will take place this Saturday, April 8 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Burger Bowl. The movie Animal House will be showing at nine.

## UHR Committee chair applications

UHR positions Vice-President Campus Affairs, Vice-President Administrative Affairs, Joint Finance Committee chair and members, and other committee chair positions are currently available. Applications are due April 14 at 5 p.m. in the SGA office and are available at cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sga/undergraduate/index.html.

## Special library hours

The library’s hours for final exams week and the beginning of the summer break will be as follows: 4/28 - 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., 4/29 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 4/30 - 12 p.m. to 2 a.m., 5/1 - 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., 5/2 - 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., 5/3 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5/4 - 8 a.m. to 12 a.m., 5/5 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5/6 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5/7 - closed, 5/8 to 5/12 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5/13 - closed, 5/14 - 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Announcements? e-mail news@technique

## Break-ins

from page 1

far this year. The number of 68 in one month is higher than any reported number in 1998 or 1999. The highest number of incidents per month was December of 1999, where 39 cars were burglarized – a number nearly half of last months car break-ins.

Sergeant Randy Barrone of the Georgia Tech Police Department is involved with the Crime Prevention Unit and safety education on campus. He cautions students against leaving cell phones, CD players, or other items in their cars when they park. His other tips include writing down serial numbers to electronics. A national network can then trace stolen items if the item is later found in a pawn shop or by a police officer. Also, car alarms are a deterrent to theft, although they are common and at times ignored by passerby.

“We can go a month without one, and then get hit all at once,” said Barrone of the recent spree. In January thirty car break-ins were reported; in February, only twelve occurred.

Barrone said the parking decks are “pretty safe,” also encouraging students to park near a light. How-

ever, neither of those factors stopped cars from being burglarized last month.

The Georgia Tech Police Department patrols campus aggressively and has a good reputation for deterring crime. Campus is much safer than the surrounding areas. However, students need to be aware that Georgia Tech is located in central Atlanta, where the possibility of crime is present and apparent.

Sam Hale’s car was burglarized while parked “under a street light on the corner of Sixth and Ferst.” Whoever was responsible for the incident attempted to remove the CD player, but was unsuccessful, instead grabbing a “pair of expensive sunglasses.” Untouched went other items worth “around a hundred dollars” and a “small amount of cash.”

“I figure it must be students or some ‘professional’ type operation because this person was after one thing: the CD player,” said Hale. “By the way, I will never leave anything of worth in my car anymore. If people would pay more attention to car alarms or care about what is going on it would help a lot. The

police did a good job with it. I know they will never find my glasses, but they did check up on my car after I moved it that night to make sure everything was ok.”

Tico Ballagas’ CD player was stolen, along with several others in the March 16 incident.

“It’s amazing that something like this could happen in the middle of the day in the Student Center parking deck,” said Ballagas. Those responsible broke the window of his white ’94 Saturn, stealing the CD player but leaving sunglasses, a CD collection, and other items. CD players were stolen from the other cars as well, but the thief (or thieves) broke locks instead of windows to access the other vehicles.

Motor vehicle thefts have also been high since the new year, with 27 reports on campus in three months. In last December and January, there were 23 total reports of stolen cars. Fourteen more incidents have occurred since the beginning of February. However, there appears to be no correlation between the two genres of crime, as March’s six car thefts were not wildly above the previous average.

Vote in the *Technique’s* online poll

http://www.nique.net

“What did you think of the April Fool's issue?”

(sorry, we don’t have any “I Voted” stickers)



By Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS  
The shaft has been fixed up for the arrival of spring, and water was put back just in time for our new Editor's initiation. For more shaft news, see page 31.

# Schools miss millions of e-commerce sales tax dollars

By Megan Boldt  
U-WIRE

(U-WIRE) U Minnesota — E-commerce giants like eBay and Amazon.com are making millions of dollars each year from online transactions - tax-free transactions.

Currently, there is a moratorium on Internet sales tax that would last until 2001. The moratorium prevents some states, including Minnesota, from taxing transactions made on the Internet.

Minnesota and other states stand to lose millions of dollars in the next several years if the current ban on Internet taxation continues. While the amount of money the state is losing in sales tax is not monumental yet, it is expected to be in the future.

“At this point it is not estimated exactly how much the state is losing,” said Judy Niccum, key resource for sales tax in the Minnesota Department of Revenue. “It will be a big chunk in the future.”

According to a study done by the Multistate Tax Commission, if the moratorium continues, the state of Minnesota will lose \$219 million in state and local taxes.

“If that mode of business ex-

pands, the state could lose billions in the future,” said U.S. Rep. Martin Sabo, D-Minn.

The ban’s purpose is to conduct a study on the impact of online retail and what affect it will have on sales tax, said Steve Behm, spokesman for U.S. Sen. Rod Grams, R-Minn.

Grams currently supports the ban, but has publicly stated he will reconsider when the research is finished. The U.S. government is in the process of gathering information on e-commerce’s trends and its effects on sales tax.

Rep. Bill Luther, D-Minn., said he supports extending the moratorium so the Internet can continue to advance and grow.

“The full impact of a tax-free Internet has yet to be fully analyzed by a neutral, independent source, and that’s why I don’t think we should alter the moratorium until we understand the true impact of e-commerce,” Luther said in a statement released Tuesday.

Behm said it is unclear whether Internet business will be taxed next year when the moratorium expires.

“That is a factual question that we are still waiting to figure out,” Behm said.

Sabo disagrees with the ban, saying online sales should be subject to a normal retail sales tax like any other business. “It is unfair the people selling goods in the traditional way are getting taxed while others are not,” Sabo said.

The future taxation of the Internet remains in limbo, Niccum said. The complexity of some states’ sales tax policies have caused debate among legislators and state officials. Some say the process of taxing is too complex and a new system needs to be examined.

Niccum said Minnesota is working with other states to look for a system that is less complicated.

Questions linger regarding what items are taxable or not. He said the state is examining options that would eliminate discrepancies between taxable goods and the burden on out-of-state retailers.

“There is a national effort to look at ways to simplify and streamline taxes,” Niccum said.

According to a survey by the Carlson School of Management released last month, Minnesotans spent about \$243 million online in 1999.

Of those surveyed, 29 percent of those who have purchased online do so at least once a month.

Technique, Technique, Technique.

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Tuesday, 7 p.m., room 187 in Student Services. We have free pizza.

# Getting out in May?



Celebrate T-Week 2000!  
05/01/00 - 05/05/00

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**\*Tech Trivia Night\***

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# Spring Semester Final Exam Schedule

Class Meeting Time	Exam Period	Day	Date	Examination Time
MWF 3:00	1	Mon	5/1	8:00 -10:50
TTH 8:00 & 8:30	2	Mon	5/1	11:30 - 2:20
MWF 8:00	3	Mon	5/1	2:50 - 5:40
TTH 1:00 & 1:30	4	Tues	5/2	8:00 -10:50
MWF 11:00	5	Tues	5/2	11:30 - 2:20
TTH 12:00 & 12:30	6	Tues	5/2	2:50 - 5:40
TTH 3:00 & 3:30	7	Wed	5/3	8:00 - 10:50
MWF 10:00	8	Wed	5/3	11:30 - 2:20
TTH 2:00 & 2:30, 4:00 & 4:30	9	Wed	5/3	2:50 - 5:40
MWF 2:00	10	Thu	5/4	8:00 - 10:50
MWF 9:00	11	Thu	5/4	11:30 - 2:20
MWF 12:00	12	Thu	5/4	2:50 - 5:40
MWF 4:00 & 4:30 & TTH 10:00	13	Fri	5/5	8:00 - 10:50
MWF 1:00	14	Fri	5/5	11:30 - 2:20
TTH 9:00 & 9:30	15	Fri	5/5	2:50 - 5:40
Period for Conflicts	—	Sat	5/6	9:00 -11:50

**NOTE:** For a class meeting at irregular times, the examination period is determined by the day and hour at which the regularly sequenced class meets. Classes meeting on a staggered schedule should use the examination period for the days of the week that most closely correspond to times in the table above (e.g., a class meeting MWF 8, TTh 2 uses the MWF 8 exam period; TTh 9:30–11, MW 10 uses TTh 9).

**EXAMINATIONS FOR COURSES SCHEDULED DURING EVENING HOURS (5 p.m. or later):** Examinations for courses scheduled during the evening hours will be conducted either during the regular evening class hours during the period of December 13-17, or during the examination period for a daytime section of the course if one is available and the instructor approves.