



FOCUS

Freshman Issue 2004

LAWN increases laptop usage

By Arcadiy Kantor
Staff Writer

Since it first launched in 1999, Tech's Local Area Wireless/Walkup Network (LAWN) has grown by leaps and bounds.

The network, which is responsible for all wireless access on campus, as well as a majority of the ethernet ports available to students in locations like the library and the Student Center, has expanded rapidly both in terms of the number of users

and its coverage area, and has developed into a key service for the campus.

One of the reasons for the increased number of users has been the proliferation of Wi-Fi-enabled devices on campus. Wi-Fi, the popular generic term used to describe the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' 802.11 standards for wireless internet access, has found increasing support throughout the U.S., and the Tech campus is no exception.



By Ethan Trehwitt / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A student uses the wireless connection in the atrium of the Student Services Building. As campus wireless coverage increases, more freshmen are purchasing and using laptops.

"More and more things come with built-in wireless," said Matthew Sanders, who manages OIT's wireless projects, including LAWN. To provide support for all the new wireless devices on campus, OIT has aggressively expanded the network's coverage. At this point, 83 buildings around campus have at least partial coverage, and 52 of them are covered completely. This number has continued to increase rapidly over the past two years.

Students have taken advantage of the increased network availability.

"It's in a lot of convenient places, and if I can't get a signal, there's always the 'Walkup' part of the 'Wireless/Walkup' that allows me to connect," said third-year Computer Science major Daniel Pak, who uses his laptop as his primary computer. "Brittain Dining hall became one of my night study spots once the LAWN was introduced there."

This coverage has made laptops an increasingly attractive and practical option for many students.

"I would say there has been an increase in the past few years," said Adrian Smith, ResNet's program manager. "We do a

customer satisfaction survey... and this spring the number [of students] that had at least one laptop was about 32 percent."

Laptops have several advantages over desktop computers. "I wanted a computer that I could easily take home with me on weekends and to the [College of Computing] where I would work," Pak said. "There's little I've found that my laptop can't handle, [and] I can take it anywhere I want."

There are, however, trade-offs related to buying a laptop over a desktop, including higher prices and lack of upgrade options.

"We try to... recommend things that will last your entire Georgia Tech

career, which of course is four to five years... There are several times during that fourth or fifth year that [the] laptop may not provide the academic support that it once did," Smith said.

Some students also do not find laptops to be as useful as Pak finds his.

"Tech offers many computers for use around campus—at the library, Student Center, College of Computing," said Alok

"This spring the number [of students] that had at least one laptop was about 32 percent."

Adrian Smith
ResNet Program Mgr.

See Wireless, page 9

Hall directors bring new perspective to FE

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

This year's incoming freshmen will be part of the first Freshman Experience (FE) Program under a new staff structure that was announced last fall.

This year, there are seven new Hall Directors, who will each supervise one to three FE dorms. The Hall Directors are professional staff, and replace the student positions of Peer Advisor from last year. These Hall Directors will be further overseen by three Area Managers, who were previously Residence Life Coordinators under the old structure.

The Hall Directors were hired through an intense interview process and come from a variety of backgrounds. All have prior experience in residence life, and many view the position of Hall Director as a good way to get their foot in the door of student affairs.

"This is a great entry-level position for student affairs," said Mitch Tappen, the Hall Director for Smith Hall. Tappen is from Idaho and previously served in the Peace Corps before taking the Hall Director position.

Teresa Piekarski, Hall Director for Brown and Howell, has a master's degree in higher education from Virginia Tech and expressed similar aspirations.

Though the impact of the new structure remains to be seen, the overall feeling of the FE administration is that a full-time position will benefit not only the staff, but the freshmen as well.

"I think this position will be better because now that I'm a Hall Director, I don't have classes and clubs and everything

See Housing, page 4

After one year, Tech Square continues to grow

Fall semester brings numerous store openings, renewed business after a slow summer

By Smitha Prasad
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted, with modifications, from the July 9 issue of the *Technique*.]

Technology Square, the expansion of Tech's campus across I-75 and into Midtown, is roughly a year old and still going strong. Home to—among other buildings—the School of Management, the campus bookstore, the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center (which has hosted politicians and celebrities), and various restaurants and retail shops, this new addition to Tech's campus has successfully integrated the Institute with the vibrant Midtown community, giving the students a new set of accessible stores and Midtown a new neighborhood with a distinctive feel.

The commercial district made its debut last summer, and the past year has shown most of the stores to be very successful, though some were forced to close due to lack of business. Others that had been planned were never actually launched. Among the existing stores, some have had slower-than-expected business, but

many have still done well enough to stay afloat, and the rest have flourished.

"Sales have increased each month since the stores opened," said Rich Steele, director of the Student Center. "It's been a tough economic environment... the summer's been really hard—sales have dropped by 40 percent. None of us were expecting that."

However, Steele is confident that the start of fall semester, as well

as the recent and forthcoming additions to Tech Square, will bring the numbers back up. "By early-to mid-fall, every operation but one will be open," Steele pointed out. "Our goal was

to offer a set of unique retailers, that are appropriate for Midtown and appropriate for Georgia Tech, and that fit the needs of campus."

Students have embraced the new stores as valuable, accessible and generally affordable resources, with more selection and better hours than the facilities provided by Auxiliary Services. Brian Byrne, a recent Computer Science graduate, confirmed this. "It gives students somewhere to eat after 3," he said.

The mixture of the student popu-



Photo courtesy Institute Communications and Public Affairs

One year after opening, Technology Square businesses are still enjoying the unique mix of Midtown community patrons and students. Several new restaurants will be added by the end of fall.

lation with the Midtown community has interested the store proprietors from the very beginning. Tom Orshinjiro, the outgoing owner of the popular Tin Drum Asia Cafe, is excited about the progress Tech Square has made during its first year. "It's giving Georgia Tech a very good profile, and it's drawing traffic from all over," he said. According to

Orshinjiro, Tin Drum's clientele has been primarily students, with some people from the community as well. He also praised Tech students for being "very well-behaved," which he said has helped make people outside the Tech community feel welcome.

Colin Gillens is a fifth-year Computer Science major and supervisor

of the Tech Square Starbucks. "Tech Square's improving, but it's still got a way to go as new stores open," he points out. He is generally satisfied with how his store has served both the Tech and Midtown communities. "It's an interesting atmosphere, since it's infused with the student

See Square, page 9

Introduction

Focus is a magazine-style section that covers Tech issues, ideas and individuals. Inside, you will find examples of proactive, feature-based journalism. The impetus for news stories originates outside the *Technique* office, while Focus stories often come from within. Focus writers seek out the most interesting stories on campus.

If you have any questions or comments about the Focus section, contact its editor, Jennifer Lee, at focus@technique.gatech.edu.

Cover photo

Aakash Jariwala, WREK's general manager, searches for a CD on the eight-foot shelves that house WREK's extensive music collection. WREK 91.1 FM, Tech's student-run radio station, recently moved to a new broadcasting studio in the Student Center Commons and went live on the air on July 27.

Several other organizations have also completed their moves into the Commons: for more information, check out the related story on page 6.

Inside Focus



Take a tour of the Student Center Commons, which has its grand opening this month. **Page 6**

As the 2004 election draws nearer, groups on campus are working to get students registered to vote. **Page 5**

Two students who were in Boston for July's Democratic National Convention share their stories. **Page 5**

Cockroaches, monkeys and jungles: read journal excerpts from the Costa Rica study abroad program. **Page 10**

35 out of 1000 college women are sexually assaulted each year. How does Tech stack up? **Page 11**

Housing from page 3

else to worry about," said Christina Patrick, Hall Director for Cloudman. Patrick is a Tech graduate and a former Peer Advisor.

Bob Morton, Assistant Director for Freshman Experience Program, added, "We're hoping that with full-time attention on what the Peer Leaders are doing, Peer Leader performance will increase. Hopefully the trickle-down will be that all the freshmen are getting more consistent opportunities."

While Peer Leaders will still be in charge of most programming, Hall Directors will help to mediate conflicts, supervise Hall Council, and oversee other duties. Area Managers will be in charge of disciplinary cases, such as those involving alcohol.

Though the Hall Directors will have offices in the buildings they supervise, they will live in separate on-campus apartments, as opposed to Peer Advisors, who lived in the freshman dorms. As a result, FE

was able to accept 50 additional participants this year—a benefit, said Morton, considering the increase in the incoming freshman class.

The Freshman Experience budget was also able to be redistributed to allow for the additional professional staff positions.

"We removed 20 Peer Advisors' stipends, their meal plan and rent exemptions from the payroll. We also removed four Staff Advisors, their meal plan and rent. We converted their room space from a single staff room...to double, revenue generating spaces, which added space for 50 more freshmen," Morton said. "The Director of Residence Life did not have to request a larger budget to pay the Hall Directors salaries."

Though some returning Peer Leaders may have their doubts about the new Hall Directors, they do bring an enthusiasm to the job. According to Area Manager Laura Powders, "They're very sincere about wanting to do a good job."

Tobias Spears, Hall Director for

Folk and Caldwell, confirmed this. "I'm looking forward to getting the residents involved," he said.

The Hall Directors also bring a sense of humor to the job as well. When asked what his previous experience was, Shane Caldwell, Hall Director for Towers, deadpanned, "Actually, I have no housing experience. I used to be a used car salesman," before the rest of the group broke into laughter.

"We're a fun loving bunch," said Joe Slade, Hall Director for Glenn.

Freshmen may also play a role in refining the Hall Director job description as well. Patrick commented that freshmen should feel comfortable contacting them.

"I think everybody will have office hours, but outside of that, we'll just be around the dorms... seeing what's going on, talking to people," she said. "I think the students will be comfortable with calling us whether we happen to be in the office or not."

Students head to Boston for DNC

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

The hot news item at the end of July was the Democratic National Convention in Boston, where the Democratic Party formalized its nomination of Senator John Kerry for the 2004 presidential election.

But the commotion of the convention overshadowed its collegiate counterpart next door, the College Democrats of America National Convention, an annual event where College Democrats from universities nationwide gather together to meet famous delegates and elect next year's officers.

Two students from the Georgia Tech College Democrats—Alan Bakowski, a first-year Public Policy graduate student, and Todd Perry, a second-year Computer Science graduate student—were among the college delegates this weekend. The two sat down with the *Technique* recently to share some of their experiences.

Technique: So how was the CDA convention different this

year because of the presence of the national convention next door?

Bakowski: We had several people speak at College Democratic Convention [such as] Teresa Heinz Kerry and P. Diddy.

Perry: I was under the impression [that] we had unusually good speakers at the opening event of the College Democrats because of the national convention.

AB: Oh yeah. People like Al Sharpton.

What else did you get to do at the convention?

TP: Another thing we haven't mentioned yet is going to the Georgia delegation breakfast.

AB: We had breakfast with the mayor Shirley Franklin.

TP: Yeah, I sat at one table with...Lt. Governor Mark Taylor.

AB: Jimmy Carter came up to us, [and] Max Cleland, the former US senator from Georgia who gave the introduction speech for Kerry on Thursday night [was there].

TP: [Also], the Harvard Kennedy School of Government

See **DNC**, page 11

Campus orgs push for voter awareness

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

With the 2004 election coming up, many students, especially freshmen, may be eligible to vote for the first time. However, statistics show that the college demographic (ages 18-24) consistently has the lowest voter turnout during elections.

The good news is that many organizations at Tech are working to get students registered to vote in light of what promises to be a very close election.

The Student Government Association (SGA) has created an ad-hoc committee, the Civic Relations Committee, that is currently being fleshed out. Undergraduate Student Body President Amy Phuong said the committee was formed in response to an overall desire from groups on campus to see a push for general political awareness.

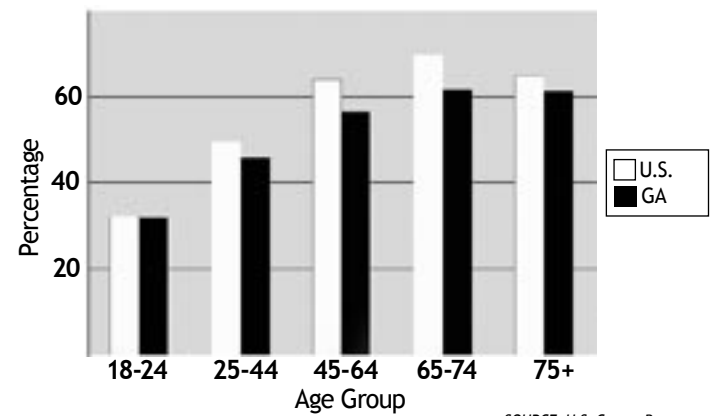
She added that an SGA committee also offers a nonpartisan face to a voter registration effort. "It's kind of putting an umbrella to everything on campus," Phuong said.

Ruth Malhotra, a fourth-year International Affairs student and Chair of College Republicans, will chair the Civic Relations Committee. Malhotra emphasized that despite her position as College Republicans Chair, the Civic Relations Committee would indeed be nonpartisan.

"I talked to Amy last year," Malhotra said. "As an officer of College

See **Vote**, page 10

PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHO VOTED IN 2000



College-aged students have the lowest voter turnout of all age groups. Georgia voter turnout is below the national average.

Wanna vote? Here's how

1. Decide where you want to register.

You can choose to register at Tech or in your home state. This choice won't affect who you vote for as president, but it will affect who you're voting for in state and local government.

2. Register.

If you want to vote at Tech, you can register at an on-campus voter registration drive or online at the Secretary of State's website (www.sos.state.ga.us). If you want to register at home, you can do so online at numerous sites (such as www.yourvotematters.org). Deadlines to register differ by state, so make sure to check yours: Georgia's is October 4.

3. Vote.

Election day is Tuesday, November 2. If you registered to vote at Tech, the poll location is the Student Center, which makes it easy to cast your vote between classes. If you registered to vote at home, you'll have to drive to your registered polling place. Or you can vote absentee by requesting an absentee ballot.

Moving In: A Tour of the Student Center

INTRODUCTION

Students who have complained about an embarrassingly small Student Center for such a large university can take comfort in the new Student Center Commons (SCC), an expansion of the Student Center that opened up to students last March and has its official grand opening this month. This collection of restaurants, shops, lounge areas, offices and conference rooms has been in the works since 2000, although construction began just last year after the campus bookstore—which formerly occupied the space—moved into its new space in Tech Square.

The SCC is currently in the midst of its official grand opening, which began August 14. “We [want to] encourage students to use it as their own,” said Rich Steele, Director for the Student Center. “The first few days after it opened, students would ask... ‘Is it okay if I come in here?’ We had to convince [them] that it’s for students. We would love for students to start telling their peers, ‘Hey, let’s [go to the] Student Center Commons, and we’ll figure out what we’re going to do and study and eat,’” he said.

“We call it the social crossroads for the campus,” Steele said. “It’s where you can come and see and be seen.” The SCC offers everything, he said. It is a place for students to gather, study, eat, sleep, shop, socialize and simply relax.

NOOKS AND CRANNIES

Two large meeting rooms and four conference rooms are available for general use on the first and second floors. A study lounge is tucked away just outside the BuzzCard Center. “We try to create space for students to gather,” Steele said. “We understand that students, no matter where they sit, might want to sleep, talk to friends, eat [or] study, so we try to create space that is more conducive for all these activities.”

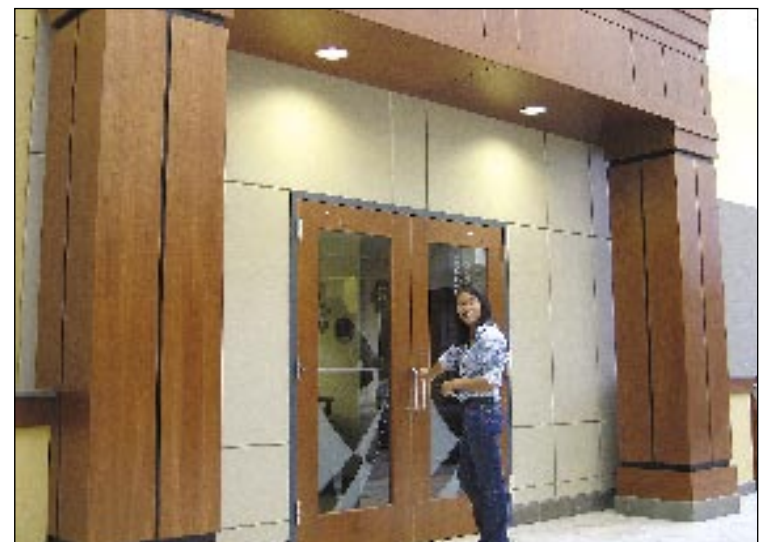
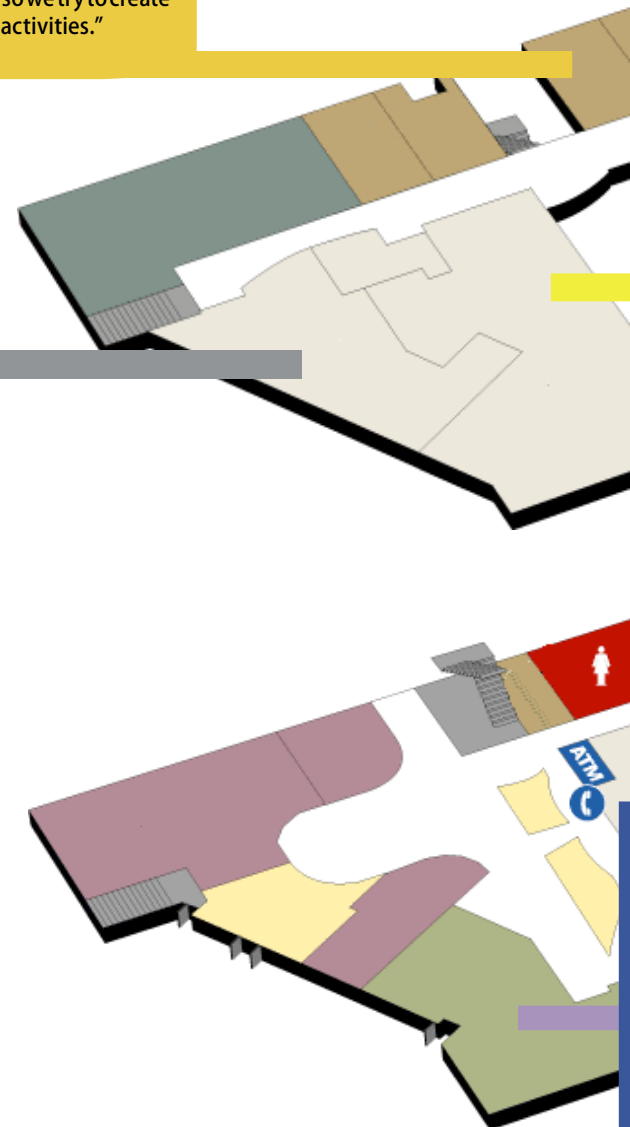
WREK

WREK 91.1 FM, the campus radio station, has a new broadcasting studio located right next to the Student Involvement Center on the second floor. Previously, WREK was located by the Alexander Memorial Coliseum. Aakash Jariwala, WREK’s General Manager, hopes that its new location will help increase student involvement in the radio station. “We were at the far end of the world over at the Coliseum,” said Jariwala. “With this central location, people won’t have to travel as far to get down here.”

The new studio is smaller than the old one, but it boasts a bigger production room and more storage space for WREK’s extensive music collection. Jariwala also expressed excitement over plans to make the station fully digital in the coming months.

WREK went live from their new studio on July 27th, and while there are still plenty of boxes to unpack and repairs to make, the crew has already looked ahead to future programming opportunities. “We plan on establishing a closer relationship with the [Athletic Association],” he said. “We’re the official flagship station for... women’s basketball, volleyball and men’s baseball.”

WREK has also started using the Student Center Commons’ stage for their Tuesday night “Live at WREK” show, which features live performances by popular music bands.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Perhaps no student organization can more appropriately sit in the center of student activity than the Student Government Association (SGA). “We wanted to be in a centralized location where all the students would be,” said Georgia Braxton, an administrative assistant in the SGA office. “Students wouldn’t [have to] run from one building to another to take things up with the student government.”

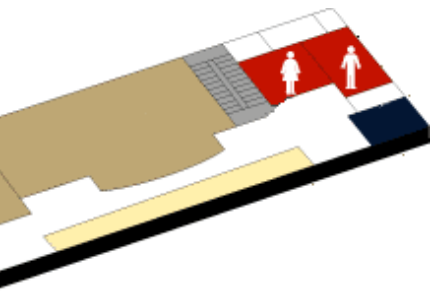
The new office comes complete with a workstation, computer lounge, and a full, private conference room, although there is less space for individual offices than the old location. Braxton said that this new environment enhances the image SGA hopes to convey.

“I think the Student Services Building was a little bit too business-oriented,” she said. “This facility [has] a more relaxed atmosphere because you’re dealing directly with students all the time.”

SGA can also use SCC resources, such as the rolling credenzas outside. “[SGA is] already talking about how they’re going to use them [to] sell Six Flags tickets for the Ramblin’ Nights event,” Steele said. “It looks a lot better than putting a folding table out in the middle of a common space.” Steele added that the credenzas can be used by all student groups, not just SGA.

Commons

BY JOSHUA CUNEO



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The Student Organizations Office, the headquarters and resource center for most of the clubs and organizations on campus, has moved from the Student Services Building to the Commons. They have also renamed themselves the Office of Student Involvement.

"We felt that the previous name made it seem like the office was only for those people already in organizations," said its director, Danielle McDonald. "We wanted to make sure that students knew this was a resource for them to discover ways to get involved."

The center provides offices for organizations that request it, and all spaces are already filled for this year. But they also offer mailboxes for any organization as well as workspace and materials for all students.

"The Center is equipped with computers...poster paints, letter cutouts, leadership books, meeting tables, a large worktable...a kitchen, and a lounge," McDonald said. "We hope that students will come up and visit it often and make it theirs."

McDonald hopes that its new location will increase its use, and that late-night student activity will help enhance the SCC's image as a "dynamic, 24-hour space."

JACKETS

Jackets, a non-alcoholic pub with an Irish theme, is set to open this fall. "We'll have what we call 'pub-grub,' which is burgers and fries and salads and grilled chicken...and smoothie-type drinks, espresso-based drinks, coffee," Steele said. And surprisingly, Jackets will open without a single TV. Steele said that he plans to wait for student feedback before he considers installing TVs in the restaurant. "A typical pub in Europe isn't a place where you go and hang out and watch TV alone, it's a place where you...gather with friends who talk and...enjoy hanging out," he said. "It can be that students would rather not have [the] distraction [of TVs]."

PANDINI'S

Pandini's, an Italian restaurant, is located next to Jackets. With a pizza oven capable of making 160 pizzas an hour and seating for 100 people, Pandini's has been doing brisk business since its opening this past March.

EINSTEIN BROS. BAGELS

Einstein Bros. Bagels is set to open at the beginning of the semester, replacing the CyberCafe. "[Einstein Bros.] will have the whole range of products—bagels, food, coffee—that you would seek in any other Einstein's," Steele said. However, it will differ from most Einstein's in that it will continue to serve Starbucks coffee.

BURDELL'S

The extra space that the SCC provides means that Burdell's—that small gas station-style shop where students could buy a drink and a pack of batteries—has grown up into an airport-style store. A slick new entrance gives way to displays of best-selling novels, clothing, school supplies and enough snacks for a full meal.

"What we've been able to do is expand our product offering to the Tech community," said Curtis Waddell, the manager of Burdell's. "Now, [students] don't have to make a journey to get those things that they may need of an immediate nature."

According to Waddell, Burdell's has settled comfortably into its new space, so he has turned his sights on expanding the store's selection even more. "We'll be able to offer products such as ice cream," he said. "We're [also] going to be...taking a look at school supplies that specific departments need."

But the final decision on what's offered will be based on customer response. Steele said that Burdell's is "trying to hear from customers, what are we not carrying in Burdell's that we really would like to be able to purchase in the central part of campus." He added, "I would encourage any customer with comments to share it with the staff there."



Photos by Ethan Trehitt and Jonathan Mehlberg / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Square from page 3

population,” Gillens said, adding that the clientele “changes at different times of the day.” Professors and businesspeople frequent the store in the morning and midday, while students study there in the evening.

Jim Hawes is the owner of the Copy Club/Parcel Plus combination store. His store is the first location of the chain in the metro Atlanta area, and due to its success, a second location opened in July in Colony Square.

“Tech Square is one of the best strategic moves I’ve seen,” Hawes said. “Whoever designed this to blend with the growth of Midtown—this is marvelous.”

Yoichiro Endo, a Computer Science and Robotics Ph.D. student who spends much of his time at the TSRB, generally agrees with the sentiments of the store owners. “The choice of food—the availability is good,” he says. “I like the mixture of the people—not only Georgia Tech students.”

Jenny Parks, a third-year Management major and a barista at the Tech Square Starbucks, feels the same way. “I really like it—I have most of my classes here...it’s a great way to socialize.” On the move of the School of Management to Tech Square, she said, “For me, it’s really changed. It’s nice to have such an awesome building to go to...it’s much nicer than the IC was.”

However, some students think Tech Square is just a bit too far away. “I feel separated from central campus,” Parks admitted.

Byrne, who researches at the TSRB and has had a few classes in

Tech Square, added, “Tech’s traditionally been bordered by residence places, and now we have to cross 75 to get to Management classes.”

Two new additions to Tech Square debuted at the end of the summer. Khao, a specialty grocery that opened on July 26, offers a wide variety of international groceries and beverages, including freshly prepared international foods by a gourmet chef.

Additionally, the managers of Ray’s New York Pizza in Buckhead and Cedar’s Mediterranean Grill on Lenox Road collaborated to form a new combo restaurant that opened July 12. Ray’s/Cedar’s offers a menu consisting of a combination of many of the regularly served items from

both establishments, including a lunch buffet during the week that has become quite popular since the store’s opening.

Tech Square is also currently home to LA Fitness, Great

Clips, Fifth Street Ribs & Blues, Moe’s Southwest Grill, St. Charles Deli, Volcano Tea Room, Marble Slab Creamery, T-Mobile, and YamaTec Newsstand/Cleaners.

So what’s in Tech Square’s future? Ray’s/Cedar’s will offer a full bar, as well as Poker and Trivia Nights, after the school year begins. St. Charles Deli will be offering a student menu with more affordable prices.

And according to Gillens, “There are rumors of the addition of a Tech Square director to give the area some direction...if the project were under some kind of direction, I think things will get better.”

He also adds that in light of the extended hours of the Ray’s/Cedar’s bar, Starbucks may reevaluate their hours and stay open till midnight. A park may also be built nearby.

Wireless from page 3

Marwaha, a second-year Computer Engineering major who owns both a laptop and a desktop. “Overall...I could easily live without [mine].”

Laptop ownership also carries an increased risk of theft. Since a laptop is frequently taken out of a student’s room, the chances of it being stolen increase significantly.

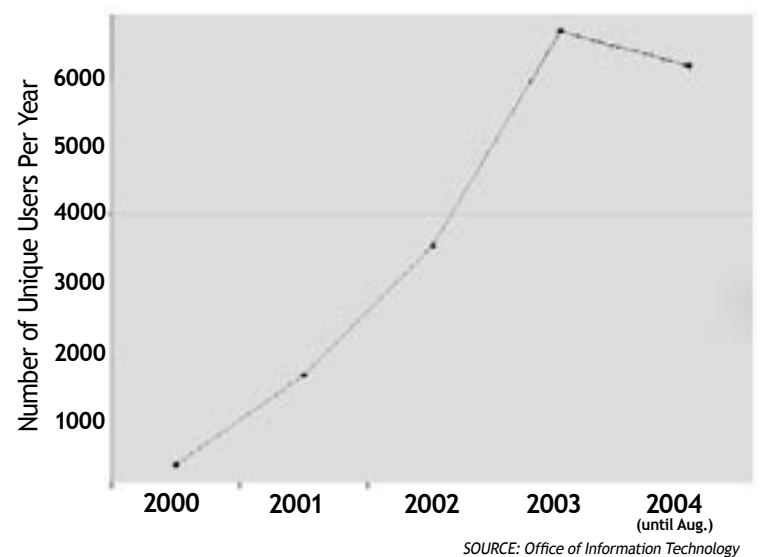
“One of the common things I’ve been telling people is to treat it like a purse,” Smith said. “You don’t leave a purse unattended; you shouldn’t put a purse behind your chair when you’re eating somewhere on campus. It should be something that stays attached to you, in front of you, under the table between your legs, where you have a physical sense of where it is at all times.”

These concerns do not appear to have stopped laptop buyers, however, as the number of users on LAWN continues to double year after year. The number of unique users over the course of the year was only 268 in 2000, but grew to 6733 in 2003, a 25-fold increase.

Though the increased number of Wi-Fi-enabled devices has certainly played a major role in the growth, so have the improvements to the network’s coverage. As of this summer, OIT and ResNet have installed wireless access points in the Freshman Experience dorms’ Learning Centers. “We would like to cover all the common spaces in the dorms, and we’re starting with the Learning Centers,” Sanders said.

Another major area of expansion for LAWN is outdoor coverage. Areas such as the Campanile, Skiles Walkway, and the Tech Trolley bus route are currently covered. Outdoor coverage will probably not be as reliable as that found within buildings. “Trees and anything organic are wonderful barriers to 802.11... because they contain water,” Sanders said. “So coverage...is going to vary depending on the season.”

YEARLY LAWN USAGE



SOURCE: Office of Information Technology

Usage of Tech’s Local Area Wireless/Walkup Network has jumped from 268 unique users in 2000 to 6733 users in 2003, as OIT has worked to expand the network’s coverage across campus.

In addition to the expansion, OIT has also been upgrading much of the equipment installed back when the program was just getting started.

The College of Computing is actually getting all-new equipment;

speed of 11Mbps, to 802.11g, which tops out at 54Mbps.

Students have been pleased with the improvements, but there are some additional features they would like to see. “I’d like the ability to register my MAC [address] with Georgia Tech and not have to log in,” Marwaha said. The MAC address is a unique identifier of a computer’s network card which can be used for authentication purposes. Currently LAWN users must log in each time they wish to connect to the network.

OIT hopes to provide 100 percent coverage to centrally-managed classrooms over the next few years, and Institute President Wayne Clough’s strategic plan outlines 100 percent wireless availability for the campus.

Still, the wireless network continues to have the drawbacks associated with the technology, and Tech’s wired network remains far superior to its LAWN counterpart.

“Make the most of it, but...don’t let your life or your career or your education depend [only] upon wireless technology,” Sanders said.

“We would like to cover all the common spaces in the dorms, and we’re starting with the Learning Centers.”

Matthew Sanders
OIT project manager

we did a site survey, and it will be a major improvement over what was there,” Sanders said.

Much of the newer equipment has also been upgraded from the slower 802.11b standard, which allows for a theoretical maximum

Costa Rica's beautiful, wish you were here

The 'Nique's Jennifer Schur shares journal excerpts from studying abroad

By Jennifer Schur
Executive Editor

For six weeks this summer, I studied abroad with a program in Costa Rica studying tropical ecology and environmental politics. I lived with a wonderful Costa Rican woman, Terry, and her daughter, Lisa, in the capital city of San Jose and traveled the small Central American country during days off and with the group as a part of the program. It's funny what events stick out in my mind, and what was memorable enough at the time for me to want to jot down in the journal I carried with me.

Saturday, May 29

This afternoon I went with Terry, her sister and her brother-in-law to the MultiPlaza Este, one of the nicest malls in San Jose, to go to their favorite ice cream place. I immediately felt a part of the family as we all ate out of the gallon bucket of vanilla Terry bought.

The first question the brother-in-law asked me was who I liked, "Bush or the Democrat?" Upon hearing my response, he gave me a high five and I cracked up. Apparently, he's marching in a demonstration on Monday morning against the war in Iraq and against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Graffiti denouncing the FTAA is everywhere here.

Friday, June 11

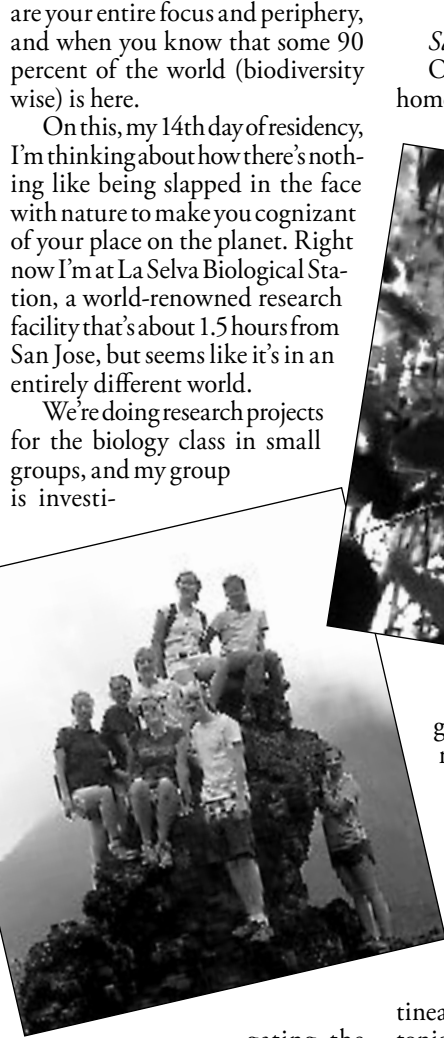
It's easy to see how people can spend great quantities of their lives here in the rainforest, where the days pass languidly by; only the rising and setting of the sun and the increased frequency of bird calls let you know that another day has passed, that you're one day older. It's easy to

forget that more life exists outside of these green borders, when they are your entire focus and periphery, and when you know that some 90 percent of the world (biodiversity wise) is here.

On this, my 14th day of residency, I'm thinking about how there's nothing like being slapped in the face with nature to make you cognizant of your place on the planet. Right now I'm at La Selva Biological Station, a world-renowned research facility that's about 1.5 hours from San Jose, but seems like it's in an entirely different world.

We're doing research projects for the biology class in small groups, and my group is investi-

gating the stripe-breasted wren's bird song.



gating the stripe-breasted wren's bird song.

Yesterday in the field a troop of howler monkeys and mealy parrots nearly attacked us. Our experiment required absolute silence as we listened to our bird's calls, when all of a sudden what sounded like a huge, extremely angry, charging silverback gorilla from Michael Crichton's *Congo* erupted from not 100 yards

Saturday, June 12

Oh, cockroaches. When I got home from dancing tonight, there was a HUGE,



giant, six-legged monster with the most disgusting antennae skittering across the kitchen floor. I might have screamed and woken up my host family, but I refuse to confirm such things.

Thursday, June 17

Boca Juniors, an Argentinean soccer team, won the game tonight.

Studying abroad, being forced to constantly be aware of my surroundings and go through the continual challenge of developing new friendships, makes me realize how much I've grown into who I am and who I want to be. It's reassuring, kind of, and the sort of experience that everyone should have at least once while they're in college. Even though I'm "seeing the world," I'm

concurrently witnessing a microcosm of how the world works in the way the group interacts with each other and with this other culture.

Being here has also made me realize how much my friends at home and family mean to me, a thought that is always nice to be reminded of.

Friday, June 25

We've been in Manuel Antonio this week, a national park on the Pacific that is quite possibly the most beautiful place I've ever been. Even so, I feel as though I've started to become immune to the stark beauty surrounding me after having seen one incredible view after the other for the past four weeks.

This morning three friends and I went for a horseback ride through the jungle to the most majestic waterfall, where we got to swim in and climb the rocks of the waterfall's rivulets.

Friday, July 16

Somehow, while flying home, it is easy to forget all the reasons I didn't want to come home, all the reasons I had explaining why Costa Rica was better. My summer adventure continually surprised me, not only because of what I saw (things most people only ever get to see on the Discovery Channel), but also because of what I learned about myself and the world.

It's easy to get absorbed in Tech while I'm within the confines of Ferst Drive, but after studying abroad, it's much easier to remember that school is just one part of the big rest of the world, and that it's the experiences that are a byproduct of these four years that affect me as a person and truly matter in life.

Vote

from page 5

Republicans, I wanted to...maybe create a bipartisan effort with the different political organizations. I thought working through SGA would... have a better impact," she said.

An idea Malhotra is working on is a Voter Awareness Week close to the voter registration deadline, which for Georgia voters is October 4.

"I think college students are typically last-minute," she said. "If you let them know, 'Hey, registration ends in a few days,' I think... the urgency factor helps motivate people."

Malhotra also commented on the need for more voter awareness at Tech. Though college-age voter turnout is typically low, at a technical university such as Tech, voter apathy may be even greater.

"In general, I think it's true that liberal arts colleges are more...active in the political scene," Malhotra said. "Tech students are brilliant, but when it comes to civic awareness and involvement within government, I think they are...a little more apathetic than general."

The different political organizations will also be holding separate election-related events, especially as November 2 draws closer.

Luigi Montanez, a member of the College Democrats, said, "We're going to hold voter registration drives—we usually table in the Student Center—and we'll probably do them... several times a semester." Malhotra said the College Republicans would be holding similar drives.

The College Democrats are also looking into having a screening of Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* as part of a voter registration drive. "We think the production company [Lion's Gate Films] has a promotion where if you do voter registration during the event, they'll lend you a copy of the movie to show," Montanez said.

DNC

from page 5

put on...three sessions. The first one was about students mobilizing, then domestic policy issues and foreign policy, and they were all very good.

I understand that you saw some celebrities that you haven't mentioned yet.

AB: We got to go and see Kerry give his acceptance speech...[We were] pretty high up, but nonetheless, that was pretty exciting. We got drowned in confetti.

TP: We got to see them drop 100,000 balloons...

AB: ...very slowly over about 15 minutes.

Anybody else?

AB: Well, the strangest one was Larry King. We were walking down the street, and Larry King was walking...and we just went after him and said, "Hey" and shook his hand. He seemed appreciative that we knew who he was, but he was obviously on his way somewhere else.

TP: He had a surprisingly gentle handshake...I was expecting him to have more of a firm handshake.

AB: He seemed kind of strong. He's pretty tall, but he walks real fast. Shirley Franklin gave us Atlanta Braves hats for the Georgia delegation, so I had her sign [mine], which is kind of cheesy.

TP: My favorite guest...was Ron Reagan, son of Ronald Reagan. I [also] had an opportunity to talk to Joe Trippi.

Who is Joe Trippi?

TP: [Governor Howard] Dean's campaign manager...He kept making comments about how Napster was a little bit like the political revolution that he has in mind. The people...making a difference by working together online. We never saw Ben Affleck.

Did you form opinions about any of the other celebrities that you met or saw?

TP: I thought it was pretty interesting seeing Clinton. Clinton went into a jewelry store, and a crowd formed outside...Someone had a book to sign, which seemed completely unreasonable, given this

crowd, but Clinton actually signed the book [when he came out].

AB: And he shook everybody's hands.

TP: We had the sense that Clinton's people had to encourage him to get in the car.

AB: In Harvard Square, during the DNC convention...people [were] chanting, "We want Bill! We want Bill!" to get him to come outside. I think [Clinton] was very appreciative of the crowd.

Any other observations from the national convention?

AB: There were three times as many media people as there were actual delegates at the convention...I think it's [due to] the explosion of media in general.

Let's shift gears for a minute. What do you think are Kerry's chances in the election?

AB: I think he has a good chance. I think that President Bush's got a lot of weaknesses, and I think that...Kerry demonstrated in Boston [that] he has what it takes to be president...And

I think there was a lot of excitement in Boston.

What should students at Tech do to get involved in this election?

AB: I think the most important thing...is just to be thinking about the issues and then talking

about them to people and making sure that people vote, because, unfortunately, when students don't vote, they get ignored...You don't have to donate money or give up hours of your time...to make a difference in campaigns.

Any other thoughts about the CDA convention?

TP: I guess the event further convinced me that the American political system does work. It allows a lot of different kinds of people to get involved...I have a sense that I will be able to make a difference by continuing with this stuff and talking to people. Sharing ideas. Figuring out why we believe what we believe.

AB: I think one of my favorite parts...was getting to talk to so many students from around the country, especially on our bus [to Boston with other southern Democrats]...We got to trade a lot of stories and opinions about what it's like to be Democrat in the South and how you can make a difference.

Unreported rapes skew statistics

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted, with modifications, from the June 11 issue of the *Technique*.]

Georgia Tech boasts five or fewer reported cases of sexual assault a year, falling far below the national estimate of 35 instances of sexual assault per 1000 college women.

However, according to national statistics, fewer than five percent of sexual assaults are reported each year, so the national average for college women—which also factors in unreported cases—suggests that roughly 150 Tech women are victims of sexual assault annually. Studies further suggest that 25 percent of women and eight percent of men will be victims of sexual assault in their lifetimes.

Numbers like these have prompted a multitude of efforts both at Tech and nationally to address the issue of sexual assault, a spectrum of behaviors that can range from unwanted touching or exposure to forcible rape.

"The challenge is that are we looking at reporting unreported acts of sexual assaults," said Angelique Burke, the Victims Advocacy Response Program Coordinator at the Wellness Center.

Convincing victims to report assaults is often difficult because their attackers are usually acquaintances, friends or lovers, and the acts often occur in privacy in an existing relationship, usually in a place of residence.

"I've had stories of people who were together in the lab who ended up in a semi-social setting, and the woman is assaulted," said Yvette Upton, Associate Dean of Students and the Director of the Women's Resource Center. "[Or they] had a male friend and they wanted to walk them back across campus because it wasn't safe, and then followed them into their room and raped them."

Rape by a stranger to the victim is much less common, even though it is the form of assault most popularized by the media and the general public. Upton said she has dealt with only one instance of rape by a stranger during her career at Tech.

"Rape is not about sex but about power," said Andy Peck, the Violence Prevention Coordinator at the Well-

ness Center. "A lot of people think about sex in a way that involves overpowering someone...Sex and power have gotten mixed up together in a way that's very harmful."

While many cases remain unreported, many victims will come forth to consult student services if they sense that the assault has impacted their academic or social lives or influenced their emotional health.

The Counseling Center is one of the most popular resources, since it offers customized assistance to victims who exhibit a variety of responses.

"Not every victim survivor goes through the same stages in the same way," Burke said. "You might see a student who...was a very good student...and that student may con-

"When it's someone you know, it's more complicated to...do something that's really going to hurt them."

Yvette Upton
Director, Women's Resource Center

tinue to be that way, and in fact their studies might even get better...Or that same exact student could start failing classes."

The Counseling Center can also help victims overcome feelings of blame or self-doubt—emotions which are especially common when the victim knows the attacker. This is also why victims often have difficulty defending themselves in the face of an attacker.

"When it's someone you know, it's more complicated to ram something in their face or do something that's really going to hurt them," Upton said. "And I have seen situations where roommates maybe were in the next room or people were in the dorm hall, but they didn't feel comfortable calling out."

Upton recommends telling the attacker "no" in every conceivable way possible, since some assaults occur due to a miscommunication between the attacker and victim. She

also emphasized the importance of seeking medical attention right away, both to test for disease and pregnancy and also to gather evidence against the attacker.

The Health Center and Women's Clinic provide some services and may also refer victims to the Grady Rape Crisis Center, and victims can approach the Women's Resource Center, the Dean of Students' Office or anybody on call in any of the residence halls for further assistance.

Many victims turn to their family or friends for support, which is often a trying experience if the victim chooses not to report the incident or seek guidance. Peck warns against forcing such a decision on them.

"They experienced a loss of power and control, so the process of dealing with that...comes to returning power and control to that person," he said. "I think that it's important to...think about how you can play a role in returning power and control to that person in the decisions that they make."

Students may also take comfort in the myriad of proactive programs that have appeared at Tech in the last few years.

"The Wellness Center does much training on the issue," said Karen Boyd, the Senior Associate Dean of Students for Student Life. "Certain populations have additional training, such as the Greeks, [and] the Athletic Association has it in their coursework."

A tracking system is being developed to get a better approximation for the true number of sexual assaults on campus. Tech also has a Sexual Violence Task Force and VOICE, an organization of men against violence towards women.

In addition, Tech received a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Justice last year to implement the Georgia Tech Violence Prevention Program, which established the first official campus protocol for responding to survivors of sexual violence.

"We're working with getting more advocates trained," Burke said. "That training actually will be coming up at the end of the summer, so people will be able to respond to a student...or faculty members who have been sexually assaulted and who need some kind of advocacy system."

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