

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

TECHNIQUE

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Plus ► Free movies: Flicks on Fifth, page 7

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Physics tweaks testing methods

By Shan Sharif
Contributing Writer

Introductory physics is undergoing several major changes for the fall semester. These include the addition of free-response portions to the multiple-choice tests in Physics 2211 and recitations for both Physics 2211 and 2212.

In response to complaints about the current multiple-choice-only format of exams, the school maintains that multiple-choice questions and tests are important.

"Multiple-choice is important... Careless mistakes have led to large-scale disasters in the real world."

Michael Schatz
Undergrad coordinator

Furthermore, according to Michael Schatz, physics undergraduate coordinator, it has been possible in the past to receive partial credit for "answers that are almost correct," although in most cases partial credit was not given.

"Multiple-choice is important. It is closer to real life. Careless mistakes have led to large-scale disasters in the real world. Should these engineers [who make mistakes] be given partial credit for understanding the concepts,

See **Physics**, page 2

By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tie-dye and ice cream: Rachel Brooks pours tie-dye on a T-shirt. Students take a break from classes on June 15 to make shirts and enjoy frozen confections. The event took place on Skiles Walkway from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Library updates renovation plans

Recent renovations to the library, including the opening of the Jazzman's Café, a small coffee shop, will be completed by the fall semester.

Other renovations which will be completed by fall include new group and individual workstations, reading areas, workspaces and theater space. Art displays will also be added.

White House awards Tech pros

The White House presented Ali Adibi and David V. Andersen in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and William King in the School of Mechanical Engineering with the 2004 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The PECASE awards are one of the highest research honors in the country, given to 58 researchers across the nation in the early part of their careers.

Blum announces decision to step down



Photo courtesy of ICP

Terry Blum will resign as dean of the College of Management effective June 30, 2006.

By Nikhil Joshi
News Editor

Terry Blum announced her decision on Monday to step down from her position as dean of the College of Management. She said that the resignation would be effective as of June 30, 2006.

Afterwards, she plans to rejoin the faculty and head the creation of a new institute, which is tentatively being called the Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship.

Blum said that the College of Management stands to benefit from new leadership. In a letter to the faculty, she wrote that her most significant accomplish-

ments included improving the MBA program, moving the college to Tech Square and hiring helpful faculty.

"I thought about staying," she said, "and leaving is a little bittersweet, but the college is poised for greatness. I think a new leader will be able to bring us new, fresh ideas."

By taking up her new position, Blum said, she would be able to focus more on interacting with students and faculty.

"There are a variety of reasons for which I am stepping down," she said. "One of them is that as a dean, I spend a good deal of time on administrative things, and I want to be more closely

connected with the students and faculty. I have been dean for six years now, and it will be seven after I step down."

The Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship will focus on merging its two major themes together. The leadership part of the institute, according to Blum, will involve the creation of classes relating to leadership as well as research. The entrepreneurship part will focus on creating international markets and developing entrepreneurs.

"Basically," Blum said, "I want to bring leadership and entrepreneurship together. Leadership

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Boyd, Mobley present online tool

On Monday evening, Karen Boyd, senior associate dean of students, and Ralph Mobley, director of Career Services, gave a presentation to a small group of student leaders regarding the creation of an online Career Portfolio.

Mobley gave a demo of the program, an online resource in which students will be able to record and keep track of their accomplishments and activities at Tech.

Students will be able to share the information that they store in the Career Portfolio with employers and recruiters.

A beta-testing period will take place in the fall semester, in which the system will probably be tested, according to Boyd, in several of the freshman GT1000 courses.

Stingers, Emory Shuttles gain tracking ability

By Darshini Nanavati
Staff Writer

As of May 27, Parking and Transportation installed devices with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology on all Stingers and Emory Shuttles. The technology will allow students to track locations of the buses beginning this summer.

The technology produces a map showing locations and minutes till the next arrival for each Stinger on its route. The website that displays the map, **NextBus.com**, has been showing locations and times for the Tech Trolley for about a year.

According to David Williamson, vice president of Parking and Transportation, the information is updated every twenty-five seconds.

"Everything has already been installed and tested," Williamson said.

Information regarding time until the next arrival at the bus stop can also be accessed from a few handheld devices.

"The technology is very convenient; riders can even access the information without a computer, through cell phones and PDA's," he said.

Parking and transportation will put up signs displaying the time until the next Stinger arrival and for other Stingers en route at the intersection of Atlantic Drive and Ferst Drive and at the Student Center bus stop.

Williamson said that the signs will also announce the closure of certain stops and the location of stops that may be on alternate

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By Wei Liao / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Stingers are following Tech Trolleys in the implementation of tracking technology. The trolleys have had been using the GPS system for one year.

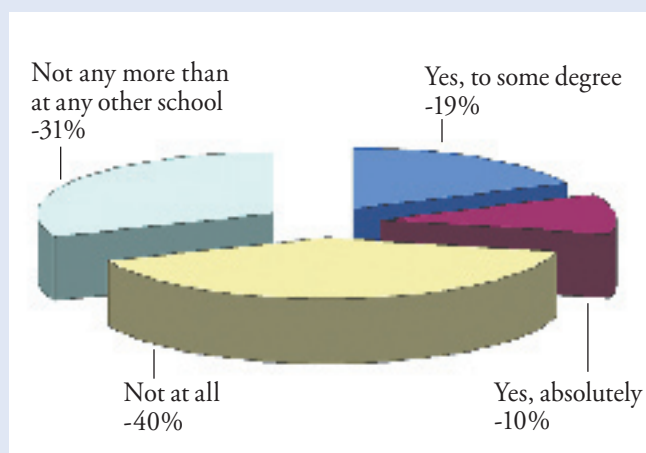
Tech alum leads NASA mission

Tech alum and astronaut William McArthur, Jr., who graduated as an Aerospace Engineering major in 1983, will be leading a mission to the International Space Station for NASA.

As commander of Expedition 12, McArthur will travel to the space station for a six-month mission along with Valery Tokarev, a Russian cosmonaut, and Thomas Reiter, a European Space Agency astronaut. McArthur has also served in the U.S. Army and at West Point.

TechniqueOnline Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 77 responses.

Do you feel that hazing is a problem on campus??

This week's question:

Will you use any of the new Stinger features?
Tell us at www.nique.net**The price of cleanliness**

On May 26, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., someone entered the A. French Textile Building and stole nine rolls of toilet paper, damaging nine dispensers in the process.

The paper was taken from the first and second floor men's restrooms and the second floor women's restroom.

Fourth wheel missing

On May 24, an officer discovered three silver rims in the Armstrong Parking Lot. The location of the fourth rim is undetermined.

*From the files of the GTPD...***Campus Crime****Stealing signs**

Vandalism was reported at the Wesley Foundation on May 31.

Over the prior week, a "no parking" sign and a yard light were stolen.

In addition, a building sign was damaged.

Stealing garbage

On May 25, a suspicious man was seen entering the Rich Building.

After five minutes, the man was seen a second time running out of the building carrying several trash bags.

The man then dropped the trash bags, entered a yellow Scion automobile and drove off.

A witness managed to write down the tag number, enabling the police to find the suspect.

Upon inspection of the garbage bags, they were found to contain trash. The offender later said that he was only attempting to register for classes.

Buzzing mad

On June 1, a police officer responded to a report of an unknown male who tore a BuzzCard reader off the wall in a fit of anger.

Although there were no witnesses on the scene, the entire event was caught by a security camera.

This week's campus crime information contributed by Kenneth Basket

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but getting incorrect answers?" Schatz said.

Some students agree that multiple-choice is fair because of the possibility of receiving partial credit.

"Like a free-response question, if you solve the majority of the problem correctly, and get an incorrect answer because of a simple mistake at the end, you still have the chance of getting partial credit," Molin Jiang, a first-year Industrial Engineering major, said.

Many students feel differently.

"Multiple-choice questions do not allow for differentiation between those students who followed a solution correctly but made a minor error, and those who completely guessed and were lucky enough to get full credit," Pedram Javanmard,

a first-year Biomedical Engineering major, said.

According to Schatz, many students have the misconception that hand-graded, free-response

"My lowest test grade...was an 80. My friend's highest grade was the same, and we got the same grade in the class."

Kaustubh Bhardwaj
First-year student

questions will earn them higher grades just because they can show their work.

"Statistics indicate that average

scores on multiple-choice questions are higher than those on hand-graded questions," he said.

Besides the format of tests, students had other complaints.

Kaustubh Bhardwaj, a first-year Biomedical Engineering student, said that he felt that the structure of the tests and of the class as a whole was unfair. Bhardwaj took Physics 2211 in the spring.

"My lowest test grade in the class was an 80. My friend's highest grade was the same, and we got the same grade in the class," he said.

"My biggest complaint about the class was the lack of a recitation period," Spencer Nettleton, a first-year Industrial Engineering major, said.

Starting in the fall semester, physics labs will include a recitation period. The School of Physics, Schatz said, is constantly evaluating their curricula to make improvements.

According to Schatz, next semester, self-paced physics, "an experiment to explore alternatives to the standard offering of physics," will be temporarily unavailable so

"We try to find the best practices to keep our physics program at the forefront."

Michael Schatz
Undergrad coordinator

that the department can evaluate its success.

"We feel that this is a good time to look at the results of the experi-

ment and to see whether or not it is working," he said.

The school plans to offer the course again as early as the spring semester. According to Schatz, self-paced physics may be expanded to include Physics 2212; it was only offered as an alternative to Physics 2211 in the past.

"We listen to feedback from our students, and look at what has been done at other institutions. We try to find the best practices to keep our physics program at the forefront," Schatz said in regards to the Physics program as a whole.

Technique welcomes your comments and suggestions, as well as information about errors that call for correction. Messages may be emailed to nique@gatech.edu. Letters to the editor may be directed to the same address, or to opinions@technique.gatech.edu.

Come to our next meeting Tuesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. in room 137 of the Student Services building!

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routes due to construction.

"It will be convenient; we can even announce when specific stops are closed so that riders know the route or the alternative place to stand," he said.

Williamson hopes that the signs at the stops will be installed and working by next semester.

The two major purposes of installing the GPS, Williamson said, are "to provide customer service and a database on the quality of service."

"Right now we don't have anything to let us know how well we are doing," he said. "If we guarantee that one bus comes every six minutes, we will now be able to judge how accurate that is."

An additional bus on the red route will be added during the fall semester due to the high volume of riders in the past.

"Our focus is on the Trolleys and Stingers, and making service more dependable for them. We assume that if [the buses] are more dependable, more people will ride them," he said.



Courtesy of NextBus

An enlarged portion of a Trolley tracking map as seen on *NextBus.com*. The location of the vehicle updates every 25 seconds.

The money for the GPS technology comes from the Student Transportation Fee. Funds were requested from SGA for GPS on the Stingers and Emory Shuttles two years ago.

Tech originally undertook the project along with several other corporations.

"Georgia Tech's OIT played a huge role [in getting it installed]," Williamson said. "In addition to *NextBus.com*, Transtell and Cin-gular were also involved."

In the future, Parking and Trans-

portation plans to install screens at bus stops with maps showing the exact positions of the Stingers.

"We are looking forward to putting screens at the stops so people can see the map," Williamson said.

"It removes the concern of time that students have. Riders don't have to be left wondering when their bus is coming; the time becomes their own to manage and make into something more productive," he said.

Currently, no other university in the state of Georgia has a similar system in place.

Blum from page 1

skills are really very important. I want to educate students on different aspects of leadership, such as what makes a good team."

Because the institute is in its beginning stages, Blum said that she is still discussing her aims with the major stakeholders.

The goals of the institute, she said, must also take into account the interests of the College of Management and of Tech as a whole. However, she said, the major players in the institute's formation have more than enough resources.

"I already have an endowed chair in entrepreneurship, and the other people involved also have strong

resources. Because of this, we have an incredible basis; this is not something that we will have to wait a long time for," Blum said.

One of Blum's main goals is to have a minor in leadership at some point.

"There needs to be some greater program of classes based on researching leadership; what I would like to see is the students and faculty capturing onto a theme. This will benefit both the students and the intellectual community," she said.

"I feel that all students, not only student leaders, have great leadership potential, especially at a place like Tech," Blum said.

In addition to heading the effort to create the institute, Blum will continue to teach courses in

leadership.

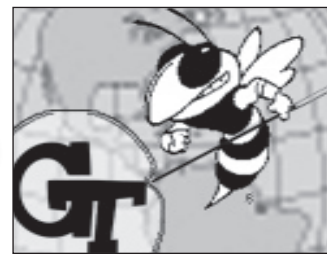
"The joke in the office is that I'm being promoted to the faculty," she said. "It is an honor to be a member of the faculty at Tech."

Blum said that even though it means stepping down from a higher position, she is excited to join the faculty.

"I am looking forward to it; the best thing in the world is to be a faculty member with students like Tech's," she said. "They represent our future."

Blum was named to the Tedd Munchak chair in 1996, and became dean of the College of Management in 1999. She also plays a key role in Georgia Tech Technology Ventures and the Georgia Tech's Economic Development Institute.

Breaking the Bubble



A lot happened outside the Tech bubble during the past two weeks. Here are a few important events which took place throughout the nation and the world.

Jackson acquitted of molestation charges

Michael Jackson was acquitted by a California jury of child molestation charges on Monday.

The charges included four counts of lewd conduct with a child under fourteen, four counts of administering alcohol to facilitate child molestation, one count of lewd attempted conduct and one count of conspiracy to commit child abduction, false imprisonment, or extortion.

The events linked to the trial began in December 2003 when charges were filed against Jackson after a British documentary showed him protecting his practice of allowing young boys to sleep in his bed earlier in the year. He was indicted by a grand jury in April 2004 on the aforementioned charges.

Jackson's accuser is now a fifteen-year-old cancer survivor. Although he described his reasons for charging Jackson in detail during the testimony, he admitted during cross-examination that he had told a school official that Jackson had done nothing to him.

Results of Schiavo's autopsy released

The results of Terry Schiavo's autopsy were released by a Florida hospital on Wednesday.

According to Jon Thogmartin, medical examiner for Florida's

District Six, the results of the autopsy indicated that Schiavo's brain damage was irreversible. A report written by Dr. Steven J. Nelson said that the weight of her brain was less than half the weight of a normal female her age.

In addition, no evidence of abuse or trauma was found, refuting the allegations of abuse made against her husband.

Las Vegas residents eat costly cake

The city of Las Vegas was stuck with a \$95,000 bill after city residents consumed a giant cake in celebration of the city's centennial birthday.

The cake, produced by Sara Lee in Tarboro, N.C., weighed more than 65 tons and measured 52 feet wide, 102 feet long and 20 inches high, reported *The Boston Channel.com*. According to the website, it took more than 600 volunteers to assemble the cake after it was trucked to Las Vegas.

According to celebration committee staff, the city believed Sara Lee had agreed to donate the cake to the city. The company, however, had only agreed to provide the cake at a significant discount. The retail value of the cake was approximately \$250,000, *The Boston Channel.com* reported.

Las Vegas taxpayers were not able to enjoy the cake in full, either. Much of it was left uneaten at the conclusion of the celebration and was trucked to a farm in Northern Las Vegas, where it was fed to pigs.

The Technique

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We worked hard to earn that title.