



TECHNIQUE

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Page 19



T-Square bugs cause system downtime

By Corbin Pon
Assistant News Editor

Two weeks ago, T-Square ended up going down because of a glitch in the system. Since adopting the new T-Square course management system, students and faculty have been learning how to utilize its capabilities as well as dealing with the struggle of adopting a new system.

"In the last couple of weeks, we had problems with the resubmission tool. It had been slowing the whole system down, and it was hard to track down the problem."

"We decided the best thing for the stability of the whole system was to disable [the resubmission tool]," said Clay Fenlason, director of Education Technology for the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL).

The developers have been working on fixing the tool and will spend the next few weeks testing it.

"We're going to move slowly to not reintroduce problems into the system," Fenlason said.

Other issues that users of T-Square have been encountering revolve around trying to adapt the system to deal with larger classes.

"Any time you have a very large class, you're going to see problems that you're not going to see in a class of, say, 40."

"One of the issues is that the grade book system isn't as sophisticated as it could be, and professors are having to go through an older system to submit grades," said Donna Llewellyn, Director of CETL.

Students have had issues getting used to the new interface and getting a feel for its layout.

"The tabs in T-Square are displaying my old classes, and I find it a little annoying," said Andrea Huber, fourth-year Electrical Engineering major.

"The biggest thing [we hear] from the students is that 'when [T-Square] slows down, it kills us,'" Fenlason said.

As one way to communicate with students, Fenlason set up the "T-Square Talk" group on T-Square to allow users to ask questions, provide feedback and interact with the T-Square development team.

The questions range from T-Square automati-

See T-Square, page 2

Audit details over \$40,000 in fraud

By Craig Tabita
News Editor

A diamond ring, laptop computers and thousands of dollars in gift cards are among the \$40,000 in personal purchases a Tech employee was able to make unnoticed on a procurement card (P-card) intended for approved departmental purchases only, according to a report released this month by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DAA).

The DAA identified the fraudulent spending in April as part of a statewide audit of P-card practices, and the employee was fired in May. The employee was an administrative assistant in the College

of Management and her supervisor has since resigned. The purpose of the audit was not to catch individual P-card abusers, but in reviewing card records auditors uncovered instances of fraudulent spending at Tech and other state agencies that had been ongoing for months.

"The audit did show some control weaknesses that need to be fixed, and the president has already taken action to completely close the gap on those weaknesses," said Phillip Hurd, interim director of internal auditing.

While names and identifying details of the employees were eliminated from the report, it did list some examples of the purchases they made on the P-cards. Those that the Tech employee was able to make are startling: among them, \$13,000 in American Express gift cards and Visa debit cards purchased from UPS and CVS stores; \$5,700 in Wal-Mart gift cards; a \$1,300 diamond band; \$4,000 in laptop computers and digital cameras purchased from Amazon.com; \$270 for a repair for the cardholder's sister's car; \$900 in payments to debt collection agencies; \$3,300 towards her son's car insurance; and \$3,350 to Cingular for her and her son's accounts. This was by far the most extensive abuse of the system contained in the report, which

characterized the behavior as "a specific situation in which an individual, with criminal intent, had devised methods to take advantage of a human element in the control structure."

Specifically, the employee did not submit receipts or monthly credit card statements for a year and a half, and when the DAA requested those documents she gave them to who she thought was the designated approving official in the department, who signed statements implying the purchases were reviewed. However, her designated approving official had actually changed during the summer of 2006 as a result of a modification of department policy.

"It was not apparent that the cardholder, the cardholder's supervisor, or the previous approving official was aware of this policy change. This total disregard for approval responsibilities led to long-term and extensive card misuse," the report states.

The report included several criticisms of Tech's implementation of the P-card system. It singled out the Chemistry and ECE departments where 57% and 33% of procurement cards, respectively, are held by professors, provosts and school chairs, but the designated approving officials are administrative personnel.

"Approving officials within these departments are typically not of sufficient rank to question such cardholders' purchases," the report states.

It also showed that 120 currently open P-cards at Tech were inactive and 149 were used three or fewer times over the past year. The report recommends that agencies follow the example of Moultrie Technical College, which "routinely reviews P-card usage to identify cards with minimal activity that should be cancelled."

"Purchasing industry best practices specify that agencies should be selective in

See Fraud, page 7

Some Fraudulent Purchases



Gift cards: \$18,570



Diamond ring: \$1,300



Laptops & digital cameras: \$4,000



Car insurance: \$3,300



Cell phone payments: \$3,350

By Blake Israel / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Autonomous SUV to compete in DARPA Urban Challenge



By Craig Tabita / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Sting 1 autonomous vehicle, a highly modified 2006 Porsche Cayenne, completes a live demonstration run near Tech Square Wednesday, Oct. 17.

By Emily Chambers
Senior Staff Writer

The Georgia Tech Sting Racing Team left for the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency's (DARPA) Urban Challenge in California this past Wednesday. The team, which is composed of faculty and students from the College of Computing and the College of Engineering, has been working on a driverless Porsche Cayenne for the past year to prepare for the 60-mile urban course competitions.

The semifinal national qualifying event will be held Oct. 26 at the former George Air Force Base in Victorville, Calif. The top 20 teams will then compete in the final event Nov. 3 for a possible grand prize of \$1 million.

"Everyone who works on it also would really like to be known as someone who worked on a successful project, so [the publicity] could be a great thing for all of us involved," said Matt Powers, research scientist for Interactive Computing.

The Porsche itself has been augmented with nine laser sensors, eight dual Pentium processors and five radar sensors. Many of the sensory and software systems were provided by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), who was partnered with Tech in research and development on the car.

"I would say 80% of the teams have corporate partnerships. I know Stanford is partnered with Volkswagen, Carnegie Mellon is partnered with Toyota and there

are some corporations competing on their own," Powers said.

The Porsche Cayenne was chosen based on its strong air conditioning system and the integrated computer systems already present in the car. The Porsche's systems already included electronic feedback on the speedometer, engine RPMs and turn signals.

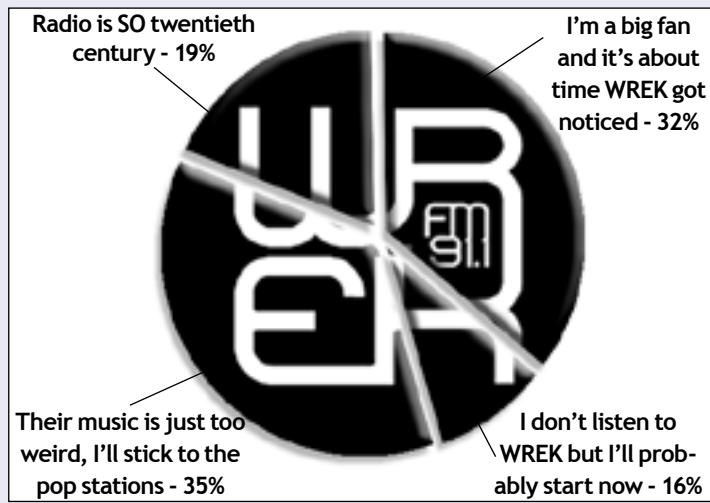
"We looked at using the Toyota Prius, because it promoted environmental values, but at the end of the day it just didn't have the size and power that we needed. We were able to get the Porsche at a large discount, and its computer system saved us hours of work," said Henrik Christensen, KUKA

See Porsche, page 6

TechniqueOnline Voice your opinion!

Last issue's question received 97 responses.

What do you think of WREK's award?



This week's question:

What are your feelings toward T-Square?

Tell us at www.nique.net**T-Square** from page 1

cally logging out to the performance of T-Square on computers running the Linux operating system.

One of the obstacles that needs to be overcome is that many people see T-Square as a replacement for WebCT, Fenlason said. T-Square was intended to be more than just a course management system.

"One of the unique things about T-Square is that people can use it in non-traditional ways. Being able to use [T-Square] as a general manage-

ment tool will help faculty to adapt. The more people are comfortable doing things that don't have classroom applications, the more likely they will be to use it in the classroom," Llewellyn said.

For example, T-Square can allow research groups to collaborate their information, and users can set up their own groups and even their own websites.

Students and faculty have also requested abilities like adding users who aren't associated with Tech, integrating features like content management systems and implementing

**Burglary**

10/10/2007 1:30:00 hrs.

Location: North Avenue Apartments

Incident: Report of stolen laptop computer and various other items

10/8/2007 16:00:00 hrs.

Location: Nanotechnology construction site

Incident: Report of stolen copper wire spools

Driving Under the Influence

10/11/2007 2:28:00 hrs.

Location: Tenth St./Hemphill Ave./City Cafe

Incident: Offender arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to maintain lane

From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime**Larceny-Theft**

10/15/2007 17:00:00 hrs.

Location: Sigma Phi Epsilon

Incident: Report of stolen copper refrigerant lines

10/13/2007 0:00:00 hrs.

Location: North Avenue Apartments

Incident: Report of stolen ceiling mounted, wireless internet parts

10/12/2007 9:00:00 hrs.

Location: College of Management

Incident: Report of stolen projectors

10/9/2007 16:30:00 hrs.

Location: Center Street Apartments

Incident: Report of a stolen Panasonic flat-screen television

Assault

10/10/2007 6:14:00 hrs.

Location: Harrison Residence Hall

Incident: Offender arrested for resisting officer/arrest, simple assault/battery, and possession of tools

Student Conduct Code Violation

10/13/2007 2:49:00 hrs.

Location: Techwood Dr. between North Ave. and Bobby Dodd Way

Incident: Report of an intoxicated pedestrian, transported by ambulance to Crawford Long Hospital

Soliciting

10/11/2007 15:30:00 hrs.

Location: North Ave. @ Williams St.

Incident: Offender arrested for pedestrian soliciting business or rides in roadway

GRADUATING IN DECEMBER?

FALL COMMENCEMENT

All ceremonies will be held at
Alexander Memorial Coliseum

PhD and Master's Ceremony

Friday, December 14
7:00PM-9:00PM

Undergraduate Ivan Allen, Computing, Architecture, Management, and Sciences Ceremony

Saturday, December 15
9:00AM-11:00AM

Undergraduate Engineering Ceremony

Saturday, December 15
2:00PM-4:00PM

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October 24-26

10:00AM-4:00PM

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Georgia Institute
of Technology

Council Clippings



Each week, elected members of the houses of the Student Government Association (SGA) meet to consider allocation bills and talk about campus issues. Here are summaries of those meetings.

Graduate Student Senate

GSS passes lone bill to fund WREK conference

By William Brawley
Contributing Writer

Bills passed

- Joint Allocation to WREK Radio

The Graduate Student Senate met again for its weekly Tuesday session with only one bill on the day's agenda. The meeting began with the standard run-through of officer reports, with President Brock Wester discussing the process of increasing campus awareness of Tech's centralized communication systems, such as Buzzport. Wester also talked about a newly planned email and calendar system called Zimbra that will be integrated into Buzzport.

The one and only bill up for consideration at Tuesday's session was a Joint Allocation bill for WREK Radio. WREK Business Manager Alok Marwaha and General Manager Brad Petrick spoke for the bill. The purpose of the funding request was to cover expenses for a college radio and broadcasting conference in Washington D.C. Marwaha and Petrick emphasized the benefit of WREK on campus and stated that by attending the conference WREK would be better able to stay with industry standards in broadcasting and continue to be a valuable asset

to Tech and the Atlanta area. The speakers explained that the only sources of funding the station had received for the conference were from underwriting, a legal form of advertising for non-commercial radio stations, and from the ISP Sports contract the station has to broadcast Tech sporting events.

During the discussion of the bill, Senator Mitch Keller had some very positive and supportive comments towards the bill and the radio station. Keller described WREK as a very important part of Tech, saying that it is "a very powerful station" and that in terms of WREK's growth, "[WREK] is headed in a very positive direction." The bill was passed with 27 votes in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention.

During the open forum section of the meeting, Senator Grant Farmer made a brief announcement for the annual Team Buzz service activity being held on October 27. Also, President Wester gave some publicity to the homecoming activities this weekend, including the parade.

Undergraduate House of Representatives

UHR fails to meet quorum

By Emily Chambers
Senior Staff Writer

The Undergraduate House of Representative's meeting began with the resignation of two representatives. "Both of the representatives had more than three absences, and they chose to resign rather than go through the process of being voted out due to their absences," said Matt Peeples Executive Vice President.

Unfortunately for the student organizations awaiting funding from SGA, the House meeting was adjourned this week without any discussion or voting on bills.

The House was unable to meet quorum, or the required attendance for voting, despite nearly 30 minutes of announcements, recesses, and requests that representatives call any absent representatives that they knew.

Officer Grant Hawkins began the announcements with comments on the upgrades to the North Avenue Apartment security systems. The gates at the North Avenue entrance of the complex have been reinstalled, and alarms have been placed on both exterior and interior doors that set off a "very annoying screech that alerts the officers in the area if a door is open for more than 20 seconds," Hawkins said.

Hawkins also explained the security efforts for the rest of campus. There is a uniformed officer who patrols a signal zone of campus, for instance the East Campus residential from Peter's parking deck to Smith Dormitory, and is able to respond to any location in that area within 90 seconds, as well as two campus patrol officers who work as back up for the zone-restricted officers.

Officer Hawkins completed his announcements by giving out informational flyers and brochures,



By Justin Levine/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Officer Grant Hawkins speaks to representatives about the security upgrades at North Avenue Apartments at last Tuesday's UHR meeting.

Bills passed

- None

as well as magnets, pens, and highlighters.

Vice President of Campus Affairs Stephen Kump announced that Campus Services has negotiated contracts with both Einstein Bros. Bagels and Quizno's Subs underneath the North Avenue Apartments to accept Buzzcards. Wingnuts, located next to Quizno's, is expected to accept Buzzcards in the near future.

Two announcements were made about this Saturday's homecoming game. The first explained the new game day recycling initiative of SGA, in which a group of volunteers will walk through campus with blue

recycling bags and explaining which items are recyclable to tailgaters. The game will also be a Gold Out game, and all fans are encouraged to wear old gold.

Undergraduate President Anu Parvatiyar closed the meeting with her announcements. Dr. Randal Pinkett, season four winner of "The Apprentice" will be speaking on campus, and the first 10 students to arrive at the presentation will receive a free autographed copy of his book.

After a three minute recess and a brief discussion on Robert's Rules of Order pertaining to time limits for achieving quorum, the meeting was adjourned with only 34 representatives in attendance.

Correction

In last issue's article "STEP reaches out to area youth," quotations were attributed to STEP director Donna Llewellyn that should have been properly attributed to the organization's website, www.cetl.gatech.edu/services/step/program.htm. In addition, the article mistakenly referred to students as teachers in specially created classes, when in fact the students partner with the school's existing teaching staff in classes that are already being offered.

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

Doom the Movie: only good if you have either a lot of weed or a lot of beer...

save a deer, paint it orange

Wasn't Grundle in Beowulf?

What's douchebag in Russian?

AK: I'm so not up to date on my sexual slang

AK: Does anyone have a guide or something?

Glass Bottom Boats.... I forgot there was a glass coffee table involved....

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CoffeeHouse

Join us for a student art gallery, poetry, good friends, and of course coffee! Come to the Music Listening room on the 2nd floor of the Student Center across from the food court. Please bring poetry or art if you would like to share, and enjoy the fun!

Date: Wed Oct 24

Time: 8-10pm



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Faculty, administrators review undergrad education at retreat

By Denise Gonzalez
Contributing Writer

While students took time off during Fall Break, over 100 faculty members and administrators met at Callaway Gardens for a weekend retreat to review Tech's undergraduate curriculum and interdisciplinarity. The retreat was hosted by Provost Gary Schuster's Task Force for Excellence, which was formed last May to review Tech's undergraduate and graduate education.

Ray Vito, Tech's first vice provost of graduate and undergraduate education, leads one of the subcommittees of the task force.

"I have been at Georgia Tech for 34 years, and this is the first time that the Provost has taken the initiative to look at undergraduate education as well as graduate study and research in detail. But the undergraduate focus is pretty unique and forces us to ask a really hard question: are we educating our students to be as successful as previous generations of Tech students?" Vito said.

Anu Parvatiyar, undergraduate student body president, was one of three students invited to attend the retreat. According to Parvatiyar, the Provost's Task Force marks the first time since the 1995 semester conversion decision that Tech has taken a comprehensive look at undergraduate curriculum.

At the retreat, a number of ideas

were discussed, including adopting the College of Computing's Threads curriculum Institute-wide, the formation of "mini-minor" programs, thematic academic years, academic calendar restructuring and a greater emphasis on experiential learning.

"Those were all ideas that were discussed and they all had some interest, although where they'll go, it really kind of depends," Vito said.

"It's very important in all of this that students be engaged."

Ray Vito
Vice Provost for Graduate and Undergraduate Education

Mini-minors would require fewer required hours than regular minors but would differ from certificate programs in that they would probably appear on transcripts and would offer more variety to students.

Another idea involved setting a theme to each academic year. Each "year of engagement" would challenge faculty and students to incorporate the theme into their work and would bring speakers, events and special courses to campus.

"It's a very interesting idea as a way to possibly get students and faculty more engaged with each other and perhaps to get us more into a thinking, intellectual mode ... but it's going to take the engagement of the students to make it happen," Vito said.

The Provost's Task Force has two themes. The first one is defining undergraduate technological education for the 21st century. The second theme centers on defining and supporting interdisciplinarity, specifically in graduate study and research.

Both groups met over the summer and defined specific topics on which the Fall Break retreat was based.

"My hope is that as we go along we can expand the number of students in this group," Parvatiyar said.

Vito believes student participation will increase over time. "There will probably be more students as we wind down. We are nowhere near closure on this thing. It's very important in all of this that students be engaged. There is no question of it, and I don't think anyone was purposely trying to eliminate students. Whenever the final report is written, students will have plenty of chance for input," Vito said.

The task force will continue meeting over the next several months and is slated to make its final recommendations to the Provost sometime in the spring.



By Michael Schneider / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Believe it: Phi Mu's Mock Rock squad, which placed first among sororities, performs at the Ferst Center Tuesday, Oct. 16.

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Porsche from page 1

Chair of Robotics in the College of Computing and director of the Center for Robotics and Intelligent Machines. The funding for the car and the additional systems used in the project came from the Office of the Provost, GTRI and the Colleges of Engineering and Computing.

The automated car drives using a combined sensor system and standard GPS map. The multiple sensors placed on the car track the double yellow lines and white line of the road, eliminating the two to three meter inaccuracies within the GPS maps. The team has been working on research and development for the car for over a year, putting in six days of work a week and 10-hour days for the past few months.

"I really hope practice goes well every time we do it, since when we practice parking we park the automated Porsche next to my Porsche," Christensen said.

In order to qualify for the semi-finals, Sting Racing had to pass an initial site test by DARPA. The test in June included a technical report detailing both the design of the car and the algorithms involved in the software, as well as safety

and performance tests. The car had to negotiate an intersection with other cars, complete a lap, make a U-turn and pass stationary cars on the course.

"We didn't have any trouble until we had to pass a stationary car parked just past a tight curve. Our car's

"I really hope practice goes well every time we do it, since when we practice parking we park the automated Porsche next to my Porsche."

Henrik Christensen
KUKA Chair of Robotics,
College of Computing

camera radius didn't extend out far enough to pick it up, so it accelerated through the turn, and then noticed the car in its lane and slammed on its break within maybe a foot of the parked car. We have worked on that since and improved, but I was in the

chase car behind the Porsche that day sweating bullets, hoping that we wouldn't hit the stationary car," Powers said.

The team will receive a standard GPS map of the area for the semi-finals two days before the competition, and a USB stick with their specific mission five minutes before the start of the competition. Each car will have a series of locations within the area that it has to reach in a specified order. After five minutes of programming in destinations and routes, the team will sit in tents for up to 10 hours while DARPA officials follow the automated Porsche through the 60 miles of course in a chase car. The chase car has the ability to pause or disable the vehicle for safety reasons or for necessary stops. Should the vehicle have to be disabled, the team will be disqualified.

Cars are not allowed to exceed 30 mph during the course, and the chase cars may pause the automated contestants for breaks, extending the completion time beyond the maximum of six hours per vehicle.

"30 mph really under-utilizes the Porsche's abilities, but we will be able to get to 30 mph faster than any other contestants. Maybe that will be part of our advantage," Christensen said.



By Craig Tabita/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Sting 1 features an array of advanced electronics powered by eight trunk-mounted dual Pentium servers running Ubuntu Linux.

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October Events

Thursday Oct. 18th 4pm

*J. L. Thompson-My College Finance
A Guide to Understanding Personal Finance for
Students & Parents*

Friday Oct. 19th 5pm

D. Seven-The Last Hidden Scroll

Thursday Oct. 25th 4pm

*Larryette Kyle-Debose- Charging The Net:-
A History of Blacks in Tennis*

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sliver

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To the freshman boy messing with me: I am not kissing you again until you kiss me first
ATTN guy in the student center computer room around 8 on Tuesday night and then waited for the shuttle outside the student center afterwards:

You are the most absolutely gorgeous guy I have ever seen. Will you have lunch with me?

Krystal...we're over...the kinkyess has got to stop.
p.s. and you're nickname is c-fart? puh lease..we are so through
GT Rugby Women are hott- Love Always, Pit Stop
the amount of information i forget is more than you'll ever know
What a punk move it was to attack women, black people and everyone who isn't a white male...life must be so difficult for you.
Talk about treacherous free speech... some people should know when to speak and when to KEEP SILENT.

Has Georgia Tech always been a haven for bigots and racists?
WREK = #1

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Fraud

from page 1

issuing cards. A proliferation of cardholders increases agencies' financial exposure and makes it difficult for them to maintain effective internal controls," the report states.

Among the other criticisms was that Tech was among three agencies where "it was evident that persons other than the designated cardholder had access to and were using purchasing cards." Also, there were situations where an excessive number of P-cards were under a single approving official.

"Not only is it unlikely that one person could conduct a meaningful review of purchases made by so many people, it is also unlikely that the approver could have an intimate enough knowledge of these cardholder's jobs to understand what purchases are appropriate and needed," the report states.

In one such instance, one person was responsible for reviewing and approving the purchases made on 116 P-cards. In that department, five of the 18 files reviewed were missing receipts. Overall, 16 of the 81 reviewed monthly P-card packets from OIT, Housing and the Chemistry and ECE departments were missing receipts.

The report also showed that a Tech policy prohibiting P-card purchases over \$3,000 was violated, showing purchases of a \$4,500 industrial vacuum and two \$3,260 laptop computers. This can contribute to fraud because P-card purchases are not automatically entered into the inventory kept by the Capital Asset

Accounting Department, according to the report.

However, the Institute is at odds with some aspects of the audit report and the picture it paints of Tech's P-card system.

"It is a mischaracterization to take what the auditor found and apply it to Tech as a whole. [The audit found] one person out of quite literally thousands that did something wrong, which is certainly problematic and we're going to work to take care of that," Hurd said.

"It is a mischaracterization to take what the auditor found and apply it to Georgia Tech as a whole."

Phillip Hurd
Interim Director of
Internal Auditing

"Auditors looked at two months, out of what are years of transactions, for four of 122 units. That is a microscopic sample size to look at to make a determination of the entire control structure," Hurd said.

But Hurd acknowledged that the audit made some good recommendations.

"The first thing we're going to do is require an electronic confirmation of timely reconciliation, which is one of the issues that the state auditor brought up. We will require P-card

coordinators to verify through our PeopleSoft system that they have accountable documentation as well as reconciled statements for each purchasing cardholder for each month. If they don't have that, the cards for those users will be cut off. There's a 45-day window for them to get that reconciliation, which we believe is an adequate time to get that reconciliation even with the vastly diverse community that we have," Hurd said.

He also said that P-card policy will be amended so that the approving official must be someone with firsthand knowledge of how the money should be spent, but also totally removed from operational oversight of the cardholder, so that a professor could not use his administrative assistant to oversee his or her P-card purchases.

There will also be an increased emphasis on educating program participants about policy and responsibilities, and administrators are continuing to look into improving the P-card system.

"The president has directed me to create an aggressive audit approach to purchasing card and funding use at the institute. We are already beginning to see additional misuse that we need to look at. The expectation is that there certainly won't be many, but there will be some more issues that arise with this that we will handle in a similar matter," Hurd said.

Hurd said that Tech should be able to recover a vast majority, if not all, of the amount of money lost to the fraud.

The state Attorney General is



Courtesy of Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts

In an example of P-card abuse, an employee ran up a \$2860.65 charge at the UPS Store, which included 27 \$100 American Express gift cards.

currently looking into prosecuting the employee, which could result in a restitution payment, and Bank of America has a fraud protection policy from which Tech has already

collected money. Tech can also regain some of the money through an insurance policy it has through the Department of Administrative Services.

GTidea's

Afric@Tech
Speaker Series presents...

Date: Thursday, October 25th

Time: 5:15pm - 6:45pm

Place: Georgia Tech Student Success Center, Clary Theater

Dr. Joseph Hughes

Professor & Chair of the
School of Civil & Environmental Engineering

speaking on

Environmental Development in Angola
The Restoration Plan for the Caçango Region Mangrove Lagoon



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