

# OPINIONS

Technique • Friday, June 30, 2006



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**TECHNIQUE**  
 Serving Georgia Tech since 1911

**Quote of the week:**  
*"Wisdom is what's left after we've run out of personal opinions."*  
 —Cullen Hightower

## OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

### Respect for grads

The Ph.D. commencement ceremony for summer has changed location, time and procedure unexpectedly. Ph.D. candidates will walk in a separate ceremony from all other summer graduates and have limited tickets to the event.

The ceremony has moved from the Alexander Memorial Coliseum to the Ferst Center, a much smaller venue. As a result candidates have been allotted only four initial tickets to the ceremony with the possibility of two more if space permits. The new policy is a departure from previously unrestricted guest seating for the ceremony to a miniscule amount of available tickets for each candidate. Four tickets is an inadequate number to even cover immediate family for many students. This will limit the opportunity for students to celebrate their high achievements with family and friends.

Though the change only affects a small number of graduates, it hurts those receiving the highest degree possible. It is unfortunate that this group is suffering because of the Coliseum renovations. At a moment when they should be celebrating their years of hard work, these individuals now must select a mere four people to witness their high honor.

Even more shockingly, the change was not communicated effectively. No official notification was given to the Ph.D. candidates, who probably did not expect the change. Although the information was posted on the commencement website, the students were owed the courtesy of an email letting them know of the changes and new schedule. This lack of communication hurts students who have family and friends, many traveling long distances, planning to attend under the assumption of unlimited seating. Tech must respect all degree candidates in the future by informing students of any changes regarding graduation effectively and efficiently.

### Community building

The buzz surrounding the Greek Habitat for Humanity project for fall is starting to grow as fundraising efforts for the project are extending beyond the Greek community. Together, students and faculty have an excellent opportunity to give their time or money to the cause.

The general student body should step up to join in this effort. It would be great to see the Greek community embrace the entire community throughout the project, making it a true collaborative effort. Despite immediate financial obstacles, the project's intentions can be realized if it successfully creates a united effort from the entire student body.

*Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.*

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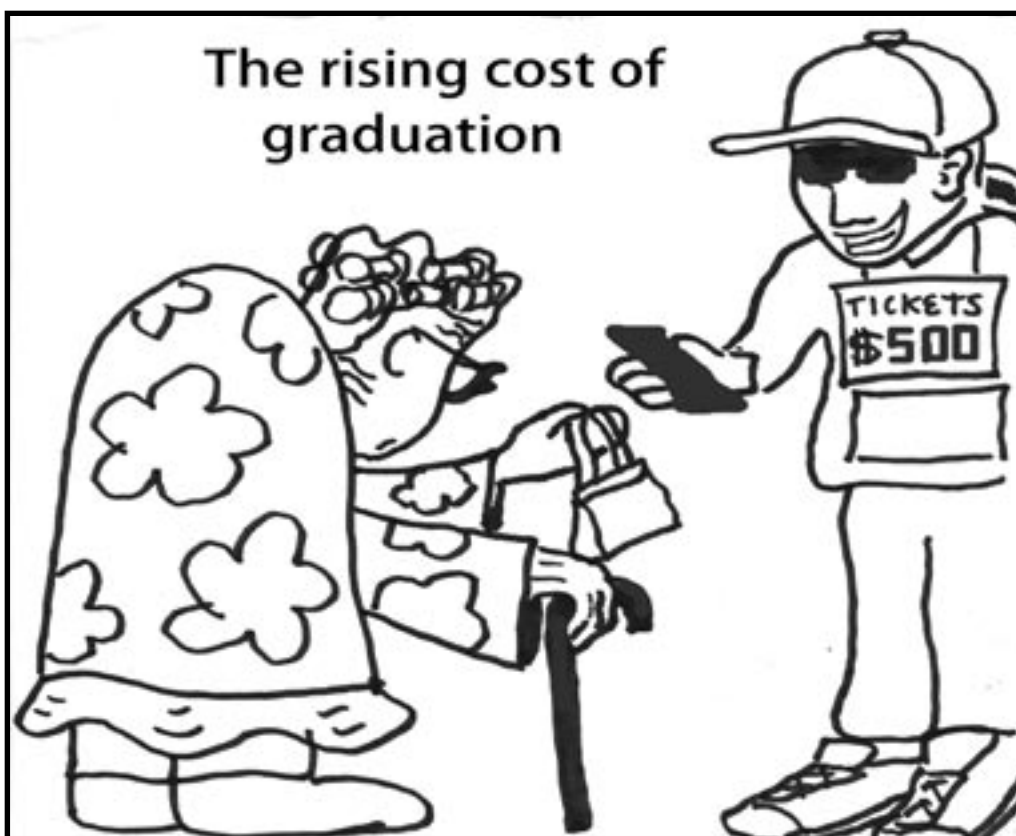
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By Clifton Cochran / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## Research provides opportunity

Many undergraduates at Tech are involved in some way in the university's research efforts. Institute President Wayne Clough estimated that approximately 40 percent of the undergraduate student body will have participated in research experiences by graduation.

Although many students may not want to get involved in research, some may gain significant benefits from working a semester or two in a lab at the undergraduate level. Many undergraduates think of research as a necessary bullet on a future graduate school application. It is true that undergraduate research is often a prerequisite for graduate work, but undergraduate research can be a meaningful experience whether or not it is required on an application. We are lucky to be at a school which affords us so many opportunities —just look at how many schools consistently earn a top 10 spot in the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings.

"It is a given that a great research university is a place where faculty will create new knowledge, and this is true of Georgia Tech," Clough said in his State of the Institute address last year. During the last decade, Tech has progressed immensely in its research efforts: whether it is the relatively new Biomedical Engineering concentration, the addition of Computational Media to Computer Science or the continuing work of the Georgia Tech Research Institute, Tech's research efforts have increased by leaps and bounds.

The advantages to participating in undergraduate research are numerous and include the following.

1. An opportunity to learn cutting-edge applications of material covered in class. For instance, while sitting through a lecture about digital signal processing may be a tedious and difficult endeavor, getting to see and work with an actual design for



"Undergraduate research can be a meaningful experience whether or not it is required on an application."

**Nikhil Joshi**  
 Development Editor

the processing components of cell phones might be very interesting, in contrast.

2. A way to earn class credit. Working for a lab does not have to extend the time required for graduation. Many undergraduates work for credit hours, and these can usually be applied to elective credits in any major. The recently created Research Plan, which will soon be offered for several majors, will provide a timeline within which students can conduct research and still graduate in four years.

3. A way to earn money. Another benefit of undergraduate research is that many students receive a President's Undergraduate Research Award for a semester of research. Other grants and programs available include the Minority Undergraduate Scholars Engineering Research Program and the Undergraduate Research Internship Program. There are also separate programs available in addition to the ones listed for summer research.

4. A way to learn where one's interests lie (and where they don't). After working in the Neuroengineering Lab for a semester, I found that neuroscience is an exciting field in which there is still much to discover. However, I have come to realize that conducting research is a long and difficult process. It requires a great deal of patience; researchers are always waiting for grants and money to fund new projects and are always under stress. Through this

experience I have learned that a job in which I could practice medicine would be better suited to me than one in biomedical research.

5. Getting to know distinguished faculty. In addition to learning the newest applications in a certain field, working in a research lab is a great way to make contacts which will undoubtedly be helpful at some point in any student's academic or professional career. Not only is it good to get acquainted with an expert in the field, but graduate students also have plenty to offer.

6. Adding that bullet on the resume. Undergraduate research is a great resume builder. Especially because Tech stands out for the amount and quality of the research that it produces, employers and graduate schools alike will recognize and give credit to students involved in some form of undergraduate research.

The easiest way to get started in a research position is to browse Tech's main website and search. Directly contacting individual faculty members and asking for availabilities works best. Most professors are very open to questions from undergraduate students and many are willing to place undergraduates in their labs; most Tech faculty look favorably upon undergraduate research.

The faculty and administration deserve praise for their efforts in facilitating undergraduate research; I encourage students to take advantage of Tech's reputation and research opportunities at the undergrad level.

# Indecision carries consequences

Graduating high school students are changing the way the Admissions Office has to plan for the upcoming year. According to a recent study, admissions numbers are up across the nation, though the actual number of students attending college has not risen as drastically.

The reason for the inflated admission numbers is a phenomenon called double depositing, where a prospective student gives a non-refundable admission deposit to more than one university as a commitment that he or she plans to attend each of those schools in the fall.

Of course the student can only attend one college that was committed to, which means the money deposited to the other schools will be lost forever.

The only rational explanation for double depositing is that a prospective student is holding out to gain admission to his or her dream school. However, when researching the admission deadlines of several schools around the country, I found that all of the schools declared May 1 as their deadline to make the deposit to secure a place in the incoming freshman class.

The only other explanation, and a far less rational one, is that prospective students simply cannot choose which school they wish to attend. The student already



**“The irony...lends itself to a real life lesson...with indecisiveness coming at a cost.”**

**James Stephenson**  
News Editor

spent close to 500 dollars on application fees applying to every prestigious school under the sun, and then the prospective freshman was only accepted into a couple of them. Most schools give students about a month to decide where to attend.

A month is a long time to make a decision, especially when everyone else around you is faced with the same decision; counseling is often available for the students who are most impacted by the stress of such a decision. I understand that certain factors play into the decision that some people find hard to take a stand on one way or another, such as staying close to home or going to a school far away with a better ranking. However, in less than a month, a person can confer with family and friends to help flesh out exactly what the best decision for that person should be.

Still, there are people who decide that it is better to waste a few hundred dollars than be forced to make a decision. These students argue that the distress arises out of pressure to make a life-altering decision, and ultimately these students do not want to be rushed.

I think the excuse of pressure to make a final decision is not valid. A bachelor's degree is losing its importance in the job market, and even more people are going on to some form of graduate work. Also not all universities are as narrowly designed as Tech as far as majors are concerned. At most major state universities, a variety of majors are offered, so a student who is unsure of declaring a major going into college will have another year to decide what they want to major in while completing core courses.

So these cash commitments to attend multiple universities come back to people simply being indecisive and the process costing them a lot of money; perhaps the irony of this situation lends itself

to a real life lesson more than anything, with indecisiveness coming at a cost.

If you oscillate for too long, you will lose out. This time the loss may be only a two to three hundred dollar deposit that the parents are willing to pay to ensure the happiness of their child. But next time the loss might be a job offer or a big business deal that could cost thousands of dollars or even place the job at stake.

People who are indecisive rarely climb the corporate ladder because they cannot be trusted to make an important decision when needed. Instead the decisive individuals are the go-getters in life who seize opportunities and do not sit around calculating every little ramification.

So yes, incoming freshmen are talking about the rest of their lives when deciding on which college to attend. But in the same consequence, being unable to decide produces the adverse affect: those students unable to take a risk when the stakes are high will find themselves behind other students who can rationally make a timely decision.

Only the students with multiple deposits before coming to college know their reason for doing so.

But if multiple deposits are for the sole purpose of simply being too scared to actually make a life decision, then those individuals may have already sealed their fate with higher costs in the future.

## OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

### HOT- or -NOT



#### Paving the way

With new road closings and inconvenient construction popping up, it is no surprise 10th Street's uneven pavement and huge potholes made the list. The resurfacing work will pave a sleeker roadway. It is nice to see a worthwhile project, which was needed, underway. Also, the road staying open during construction along with alternate routes makes this project less of a hassle than most on campus.



#### End of a good thing

After an exciting year and impressive post-season, the baseball team wrapped up their season with two losses in Omaha, Neb. Cal State-Fullerton knocked the Jackets out of the tournament in the first round of the College World Series.

Fans were disappointed to watch great plays and late leads slip away to elimination, knowing the Jackets carried such a strong team for the year.



#### July 4th celebration

With the peak of the summer around the corner, students enjoy the break from classes to have some fun in the sun on July 4th. Students can enjoy a relaxing cook-out, head home to be with family, venture to the Braves game, run in the Peachtree Road Race or just enjoy the numerous fireworks displays in Atlanta.



#### Evacuation scare

Students and faculty experienced an inconvenience with a chemical leak scare in the Bunker-Henry building. What turned out to be an exhaust fan failure put the fire department on high alert. Taking no chances, four buildings were evacuated and adjacent roads were closed to investigate potential danger.

## YOUR VIEWS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tech limits Ph.D. tickets

After numerous delays, the commencement office finally revealed this week that graduating Ph.D. students will only be allowed four guest tickets for the summer commencement ceremony.

This is an enormous slap in the face to a group of hard working and highly dedicated students.

Without explanation the Ph.D. Commencement Ceremony was separated from the others and moved to the Ferst Center, which albeit is a wonderful facility but very limited in seating capacity.

This action is a departure from previous years and consequently unfairly forces doctoral candidates to select a very small number of people to join them at the ceremony.

Ironically, the announcement for the Spring Commencement Ceremony touted no restriction on tickets so that all your family and friends can celebrate your accomplishments.

Apparently, Georgia Tech feels that its doctoral graduates no longer have earned that privilege. Many of us have spent five, six or even seven plus years working toward our doctoral degrees with the hope that one day our families and friends would be able to share in the excitement of the graduation ceremony.

Could someone please tell me how I should break the news to Grandma that she will have to wait in the car?

Eric Vanderploeg  
ME Grad Student  
evanderploeg@gatech.edu

#### Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu) or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Amanda Dugan, Editor-in-Chief.

All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

#### Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at [www.nique.net](http://www.nique.net). The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is noon on Friday, one week prior to publication. For rate information, call our offices at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved over the phone.

The *Technique* office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 353 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Nancy Romero at (404) 894-2830.

#### Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, email [editor@technique.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@technique.gatech.edu).

## BUZZ

### Around the Campus

**What do you suggest for a good summer read?**



**Kathryn Goins**  
PSYC 3rd year

*“Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas by Hunter Thompson.”*



**Derryl Carter**  
CM 2nd year

*“The Outlaw Sea by William Langewiesche.”*



**Katie Dickenson**  
IE 3rd year

*“I don't have time to read in the summer.”*

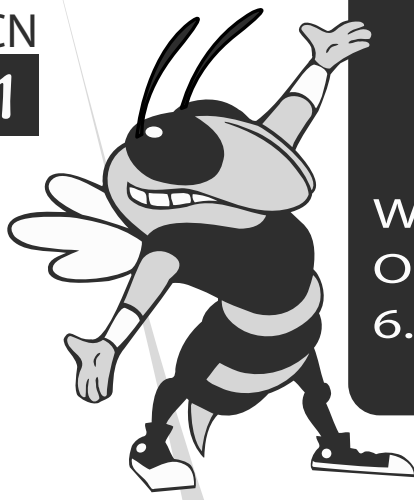


**Kyle Dreyer**  
IE 3rd year

*“Freakonomics by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner.”*

# Have Some Fun

GTCN  
21



# What's On?

WEEK  
OF  
6.30 - 7.6

frí.  
6.30

12:00	National Lampoon
2:00	Campus MovieFest
5:00	Phat Literature
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Aeon Flux
9:00	Classic GTCN
9:30	Campus Movie Fest
11:00	Rumor Has It
1:00	Planet X

sat.  
7.1

12:00	Good Night and Good Luck
3:30	Campus MovieFest
5:00	National Lampoon
7:00	Jarhead
9:00	Classic GTCN
9:30	King Kong
1:00	Planet X

sun.  
7.2

12:00	Campus MovieFest
2:00	Good Night and Good Luck
4:00	National Lampoon
7:00	Jarhead
9:00	Classic GTCN
9:30	King Kong
1:00	Planet X

mon.  
7.3

12:00	National Lampoon
2:00	Phat Literature
4:00	Film In Italy
5:30	GT Sweat
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Jarhead
9:00	Classic GTCN
9:30	Good Night and Good Luck
11:30	Campus Moviefest
1:00	Planet X

tues.  
7.4

12:00	Zilo Network
2:00	Phat Literature
3:00	Outlook Video
3:30	National Lampoon
5:30	GT Sweat
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Jarhead
9:00	Classic GTCN
9:30	King Kong
1:00	Planet X

wed.  
7.5

12:00	National Lampoon
2:00	Good Night and Good Luck
4:00	WTF Wrestling
4:30	Clips and Quips
5:00	Atlantic Station
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Jarhead
9:00	Classic GTCN
9:30	King Kong
1:00	Planet X

thurs.  
7.6

12:00	Zilo Network
2:00	Invisible Children
3:00	Film In Italy
4:30	GT Sweat
5:00	Get Used To It
6:00	Somethin' Fresh
7:00	Jarhead
9:00	Classic GTCN
9:30	Good Night and Good Luck
11:30	Campus Moviefest
1:00	Planet X



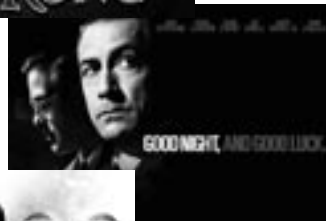
The World Cup goes to the Quarter and Semi-Finals! Will it be England, Italy, or host country Germany, who will come out of these pressure packed rounds to play for the World Championship on July 9th? Find out this week!

*It's an All-American movie party  
in July on GTCN!*

Brought to you by:



A remake of an American classic comes to GTCN as **King Kong** returns to wage war with New York City. A sad time in American history is examined in **Good Night and Good Luck**. Finally, GTCN salutes all of our fighting men and women in the military as **Jarhead** comes to your television to show the horrors and heroism of waging war.



Coming In  
September

Want to know what GTCN has in store for the Jackets and their football fans this fall? Details next month...



Get Your  
School On

GTCN  
20

mon, tue. & thurs.

6:00 ECE 6530

wed. & frí.

6:00 ECE 6323

8:00 AE 6220

10:00 AE 6050



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