FOCUS

focus@nique.net

Focus Editor:
Kamna Bohra

Organization Spotlight: Qurbani
A dance team geared toward spreading Indian culture with a unique fusion of traditional and contemporary bhangra with modern hip-hop.
Contact: http://jacketpages.collegiatelink.net/

TECHNIQUE
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Students share mixed feelings about tuition hike

By Andrew Nelson
Staff Writer

With a $227 million decrease in the University System of Georgia's (USG) budget, Tech students will see a $500 per semester increase in tuition starting with the Fall 2010 semester.

The tuition increase will offset $80 million, and reductions in USG's 35 colleges and universities' operating budgets will offset the remaining $147 million.

"I agree with the tuition increase because it is necessary to maintain the quality of education, which helps ensure grants and research funding will continue to come in," said Keller Smith, a third-year CHBE major.

Tech is a top ten public university and a strong research institution with access to opportunities not available to other institutions, yet tuition is still relatively low compared to its peers. After the $1000 increase, tuition at Tech will still be either at or below tuition rates of its peer institutions.

"I also fault the Georgia State Legislature for cutting funding for education for the same reasons stated above. The increase for the Student Government Association (SGA) is a small price for the continuing support of student organizations," Smith said.

Earlier this year, SGA passed a five dollar increase in the student activity fee with the Board of Regents' approval, allowing student organizations to function normally without a budget hit.

"We do not take the impact of these decisions lightly. However, we still believe the value of a Georgia Tech education far outweighs the cost of attendance. Our Institute consistently produces some of the world's highest-paid and most successful gradu-

ates. Without your support and hard work, Georgia Tech would not be the school it is today," said a campuswide e-mail sent by SGA on May 25.

Budget reductions from the last fall and spring semesters saw furloughs, USG employee health care changes and the institutional mandatory fee increase. That reduction was $176 million compared to the new $227 million reduction, leading the Board of Regents to look for more effective reduction solutions for the growing problem.

"I'm not even willing to pay a penny more for tuition, and this is not the right time for an increase. I understand the difficulty, but it is part of [the job of the State Legislature and the Board of Regents] to manage things like this," said Sho Kitamura, a second-year CE major and New York native.

"I see the same going on in New York, but the legislature is managing the educational stability. Recently, they even awarded more financial support to in-state students, so I see no reason why Georgia cannot maintain the same educational affordability. I don't want education to be a luxury," Kitamura said.

The Helping Outstanding People Educationally (HOPE) scholarship will cover the $500 tuition increase, putting a more obvious strain on out-of-state students who will now annually pay $18,000 more than in-state students in tuition. The Board of Regents stressed that the students who are under the Guaranteed Tuition Plan (also referred to as "fixed-for-four") will continue to be covered, and the Board has called on research institutions like Tech to provide more need-based financial aid for students on Pell Grants.
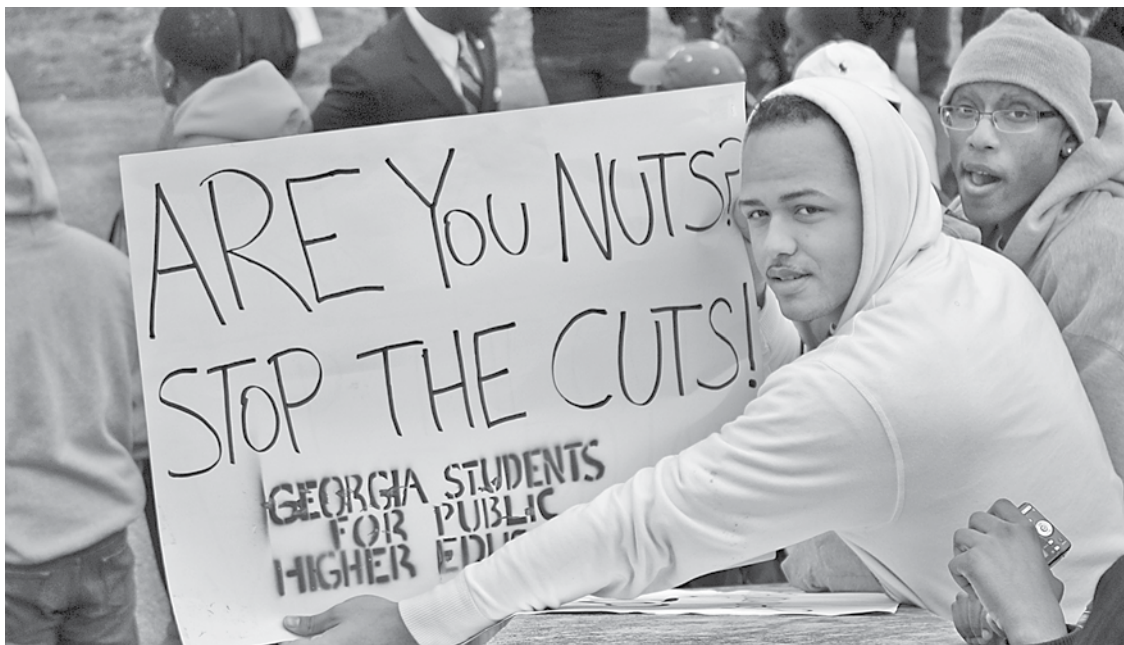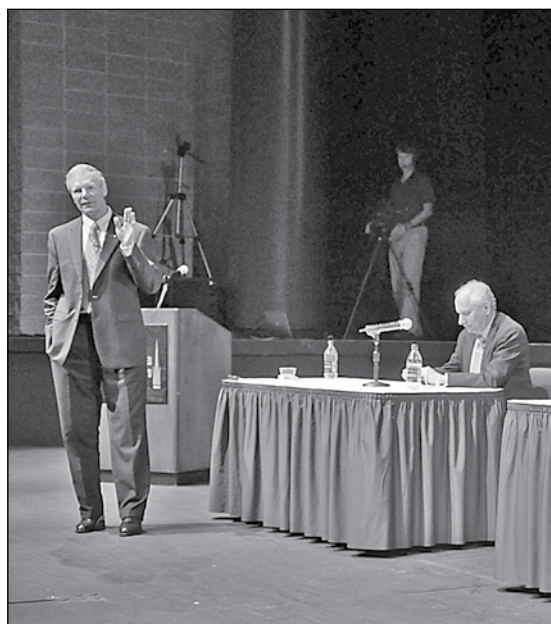

Photo by Virginia Lin/*Student Publications*

Photo by Doug Kim/*Student Publications*

Photo by Virginia Lin/*Student Publications*

Top and bottom right: Students from across Georgia protest recent budget cuts at the State Capitol. Bottom left: Months earlier, Institute President G.P. "Bud" Peterson and the budget committee host a town hall meeting to discuss the looming budget cuts Tech would face with the shaky economy.

National engineering education society honors Tech director

By Kamna Bohra
Focus Editor

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) announced the chair of its Professional Interest Council to be Tech's Patricia Bazrod. Bazrod currently serves as the Director of the Division of Professional Practice (DoPP) Internship and Graduate Co-op programs at Tech.

The ASEE enhances professional opportunities for students and faculty in engineering institutions. The society is a network of deans and faculty members of over 400 engineering colleges, along with representatives of the government and over 50 corporations. As an ASEE chair, Bazrod will facilitate interaction among engineering educators and industries to represent their interests on the ASEE board.

With over 20 years of experience in cooperative education, Bazrod has served for the Cooperative Education Division

(CED) of the ASEE since 1984, working in multiple leadership positions, including the organization's Archivist. In addition to the ASEE, Bazrod has also held membership in the Cooperative Education and Internship Association, the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the World Association for Cooperative Education (WACE) and the Accreditation Council for Cooperative Education.

At Tech, Bazrod directs the nation's largest graduate coopera-

tive education program, with an around 800 graduate students in the program. For her work in cooperative education, Bazrod received the CED Borman Award for outstanding service.

"To have the opportunity on a daily basis...to witness the realizations students have about themselves, their strengths and weaknesses and their growth – both personally and professionally – is rewarding to say the least. I have the ultimate dream job," Bazrod said in her online DoPP profile.

Image courtesy of Georgia Tech Communications and Marketing

Recent survey zeros in on students' problems with Zimbra suite

By Julia Turner
Contributing Writer

It seems as though the average student does not usually use the MyGaTech service except as a email alias, which redirects any mail that goes to the Zimbra account to an alternate Yahoo! or GMail account.

The majority of Tech students have not even seen the face of My-GaTech since getting here. What

else can they do with MyGaTech besides email?

Personal investigation revealed that the email service on MyGaTech (the advanced version) is comparable to many others with a calendar, tasks and some other types of applications called Zimlets, which have a wide variety of functions including scheduling events in your calendar and looking up information on Wikipedia.

MyGaTech launched in Jan. 2008, so after two years in use, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) "felt it was time to learn more about how the campus uses the service, how satisfied they are with those features and to identify which new features are needed" said Kim White, an OIT project director in an email interview.

At the end of the previous semester, OIT created a survey to figure out just what students were

doing with their MyGaTech accounts. The survey assessed the utilization and user satisfaction with the MyGaTech service. The questions for the survey were simple and quick to answer, aimed at gathering information such as who was using Zimbra, how often he or she used it and how satisfied he or she was with what was offered.

According to a Tech news release, MyGaTech boasts a 90

percent utilization rate among students and a 70 percent rate with faculty; however, of the approximately 18,000 student users and about 600 faculty users at Tech, currently only about 2,550 have responded to the survey. The response from those who have filled out the survey has been mostly positive, though, with 80 percent saying they are somewhat

Zimbra

to very satisfied with the service.

These results have also revealed that many users are unaware of all that MyGaTech can offer. While most users are aware of MyGaTech email capabilities, the service provides other useful applications.

"We learned many of the respondents requested features that are currently offered by the existing service," White said.

Additionally, students note an inherent difficulty in many components of MyGaTech, but experience helps.

Students like Kelley Zinger, a third-year BC major, said that while it takes some work to get used to, MyGatech is really useful.

For former *Erato* editor and fourth-year STAC major Amaris Guiterrez-Ray, monitoring the *Erato* mailing list would have been much more trouble without prior experience monitoring the STAC mailing list.

Some students note a difficulty in separating personal, academic and work-related e-mails, especially for co-op student and third-year MGT major Rachel Wernert, who said that MyGaTech is very hard to use because the work and class e-mail gets mixed up since they are sent to the same account.

Those who responded to the survey are interested in learning more about MyGaTech.

"Students would like to have more information published on using Zimlets, using Activesync with your Windows Mobile device or iPhone to access your email, calendar and contacts and Search functionality & capabilities," White said in commenting on the results of the survey.

As shown by personal student responses solely about e-mail, one of the most important pieces of information the survey has indicated is that OIT needs to get more information out to students about what MyGaTech has.

"OIT needs to modify our training and communications plans to improve campus awareness about these features," White said.

In fact, they are making such plans to alter their service and approach to advertising that service based on the responses they received. The new release date for the updated service is projected for next Fall.

"Our upgrade plan will incorporate many of the features prioritized by the student respondents. Those features include (1) Zimbra briefcase [and] (2) running filters over existing email, along with Zimbra documents, improved Calendar views and managed shared items," White said.

The survey results thusfar indicate that the most desired components to be established on MyGaTech include Zimbra Documents, Zimbra Briefcase, colored e-mails, mailing filters, integration with T-Square and return read receipts.

They are also developing specific plans for communicating current features as well as the new additions to students and faculty.
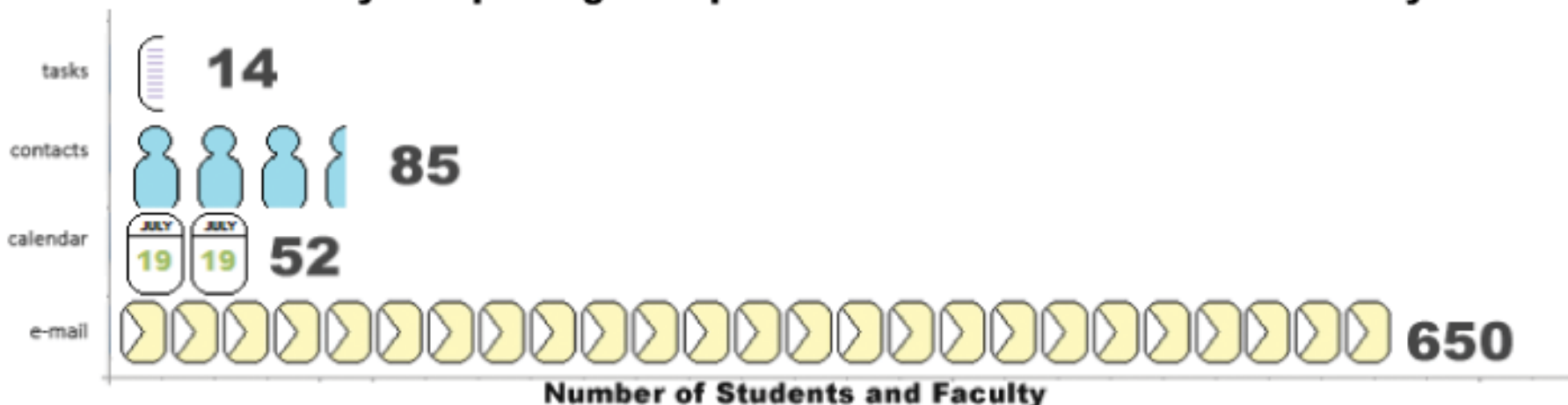
In a recent upgrade of Zimbra, Tech has allowed and planned for leverage of multiple e-mail accounts and aliases, a single sign-on service for applications such as T-Square and Buzzport, an RSS feed subscription and a shareable online calendar, according to a townhall meeting held by OIT Service Lead Pam Buffington on May 17.

OIT identified performance issues, especially delays in creating meetings, typing, viewing, sending and logging into MyGaTech.

"OIT is committed to continuous improvement and delivering a stable, robust and reliable service to meet Georgia Tech's needs by the continuous improvement and providing a strong platform and base for future innovation and collaboration," White said as an overall purpose of the survey that closes on May 31.

Number of surveyed reporting multiple uses of Zimbra functions on a daily basis

tasks	14
contacts	85
calendar	52
e-mail	650

Number of Students and Faculty

sliver

Karla I know you read these - just wanted to say Hi!

I was sitting on a bench with my girlfriend when these random guys come out of the bushes and throw carrots at us! What is wrong with this school?

You guys really should move the sliver box higher, I keep Google Searching instead of slivering

Earth day... no lights?? Why don't you call it Muggers night out!

the SliverPro Theorem of Sliverability:
(Sliverability) = (randomness).*(hilariousity).^(vented frustrations).*sin(campus events/avg. student workload)

The pdf version has been broken for a while now

And where are the archives?

I'm taking avantage of the bad sliver economy: Publish me!

I wear chacos. Keep an eye out for me.

to the beautiful busty blonde walking out of physics II - am I hallucinating?

irony: handing out disposable plastic cups for earth day

earth day is more about green money than green earth

the only thing green about earth day is the money made exploiting it

Cop on a segway, HOW DID YOU GET ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE STUDENT CENTER AT MIDNIGHT???? (He was watching basketball)

two bits is back!

where's the whistle?

Irony: the strong meat guys' motto verse speaks of the need to give infants milk; not ram meat down their throats.

Also, their terrible theology and grammar both pain me. If you think animal sacrifices took away sin, go read Hebrews 10.

what's up the the ispt blg ? does anyone speak english in there ?

too many boys here. where are the lesbians? (the non butch kind please)

Awww, two bits, such a downer! Hope things look up soon, welcome back!

attacks

hey