

FOCUS

Technique • Friday, October 15, 2004

THAT'S THE (NIGHT)LIFE

Techies are no stranger to all-nighters, but our sleep-deprived *Nique* writer shows there's more going on at 3 a.m. than just studying. **Page 13**

PUPPETS + PARODY = PERFECT

South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone have traded cartoons for puppets in *Team America*, their hilarious, controversial new movie. **Page 20**



Midterm course surveys beneficial, but rare

By Jennifer Lee
Focus Editor

It's hardly the end of the semester, but already, a few professors have their students filling out course evaluations.

These professors are giving out these "midterm" evaluations with the rationale that they might be more useful, and more appropriate, at this point in the semester than at the end.

The idea is not new. Pinar Keskinocak, an assistant professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has taught at Tech for six years, and has given out midterm course evaluations each semester to each of her classes.

"I find it very helpful in terms of seeing how the students are grasping the material, [and] if they're happy with the assignments," she said. "It gives me a chance to adjust things if necessary, at least for the remaining half of the semester."

Trace Hawkins, an instructor in the College of Management, also gave a midterm evaluation. "At the [College of Management], we get judged based on our evaluations at the end of the year, so there's no reason to be surprised—you might

as well find out if you're doing a poor job halfway," he said. "Why wait until the end of the semester to find out that you've screwed up?"

According to Hawkins, though there's no formal requirement in his department to conduct midterm surveys, younger faculty with less teaching experience are encouraged to do so.

Maria Schilpzand, another instructor in the College of Management, agreed that midterm course evaluations were beneficial for faculty with less experience.

"The longer you teach, the more you know what the right format is to learn," she said. "When you first start out, there's always room for

improvement...constructive feedback is definitely helpful."

However, according to Keskinocak, who teaches ISYE3104

semester, a midterm evaluation can be beneficial even for an experienced teacher.

"I'm teaching this course for the fourth time," she said. "Even though I have a good idea of what works and what doesn't work, I still do it because...each class is a different character."

This "character," Keskinocak said, can be influenced by factors such as having prerequisites taught by different professors, for example.

"Every class is different, every semester is different," Schilpzand said.

Asif Kazani, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering major and a student in Keskinocak's class, felt

strongly that a midterm course evaluation was beneficial.

"I was really astonished when she gave us the [survey]."

Asif Kazani
Fourth-year IE major

Indeed, most students say professors who give midterm course evaluations are the

exception.

Sarah Hancock, a third-year Electrical Engineering major, said one of her professors did an informal survey through a class discussion, but that it was the first time any of her professors had done so.

Despite the informal nature of the survey, Hancock said it was still beneficial. "We talked about his substitute, and how he needs to give us his notes," she said.

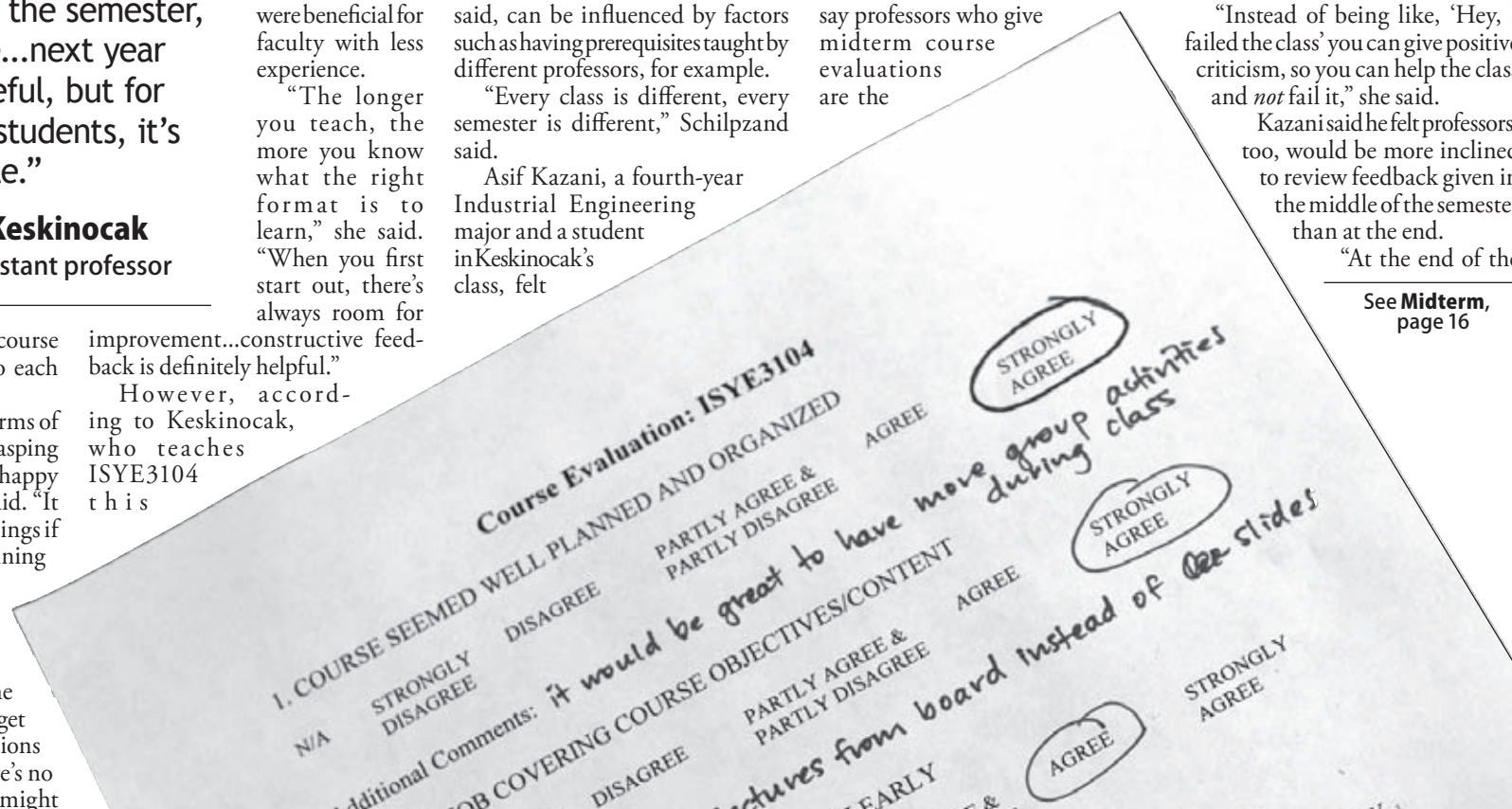
Hancock added that midterm course evaluations made more sense for students than end-of-semester ones.

"Instead of being like, 'Hey, I failed the class' you can give positive criticism, so you can help the class and *not* fail it," she said.

Kazani said he felt professors, too, would be more inclined to review feedback given in the middle of the semester than at the end.

"At the end of the

See **Midterm**,
page 16



Administrators' salaries not exempt from cuts

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

In the wake of additional budget cuts recently proposed by Governor Sonny Perdue, the entire Tech community has been scrambling to find ways to offset the financial impact to the Institute.

Additional staff layoffs, expanded class sizes and increased tuition rates have all been thrown around as possible options, leading, in the latter case, to a meeting between the governor and student body presidents from across the state.

Yet one option that has not received as much attention is cuts to the existing salaries of top-level administrators, or, at the very least, scaling back their pay raises. The idea is that these administrators, who earn annual salaries of well over \$100,000, could afford the loss, which would lessen the financial burden on the rest of the Institute.

This is a proposal that has stirred some discussion after Dan Embree, a professor of English at Mississippi State University, published an editorial detailing the salary increases of the faculty, staff and administration over the past five years. He noted a 53.3 percent pay raise for the president while the faculty received an

average raise of only percent.

"The situation that Embree describes is...a national problem," said Mike S. Adams, a professor of Criminal Justice at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, in an online post at radicalacademy.com last June. "I have written previously about the elitist mindset of administrators at my university."

Similar figures are present in the University of Georgia System.

"We had our salaries frozen the year before last."

Gary May
Executive Assistant to the President

According to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the Board of Regents had approved a \$180,000 salary increase for Medical College of Georgia President Dan Rahn just before they heard about the Governor's budget cuts, bringing his total salary to \$527,000. The report added that salaries of the presidents of all four University System of Georgia

research universities have increased by 65 percent to 100 percent since 2000.

"I understand you have to pay a price for education," Gerald Heavens, a junior at Clayton College and State University and president of its Student Government Association, told the *AJC*. "At some point, that price doesn't need to increase because individuals won't make sacrifices themselves."

However, according to Gary May, executive assistant to the President, even the salaries of Tech's top administrators have been affected by the budget cuts. There have been no large salary increases in the administration in at least two years.

"We had our salaries frozen the year before last," May said. "This past year, the state put a two percent raise into the budget, and so...we gave all the faculty and staff a two percent [average] raise."

May added, "We haven't done anything where there's been a tremendous increase in any particular administrator's salary."

However, that still raises the possibility of reducing the current salaries of the administration and faculty in order to avoid layoffs. But

See **Admin**, page 14



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Despite controversy around the country regarding university administrators receiving raises in the face of budget cuts, Gary May, Executive Assistant to the President, says that's not the case at Tech.

Tech Up Close

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE ON CAMPUS THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN?

Last week's Tech Up Close:

Eta Kappa Nu keystone in front of Van Leer

Last week's winner:

Irene Chow



THIS WEEK'S PHOTO:



By Julia Bunch / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Email focus@technique.gatech.edu for a chance to win a free student combo at Lil' Dinos.

The diary of an all-nighter

A sleepless 'Nique writer stays up late to find out what students really do at three in the morning

By Tricia Breed
Contributing Writer

Staying up well past midnight is nothing unusual for Tech students—but are tests and homework always the reason for the insomnia?

I decided to stay awake myself and wander around campus to see what students are really up to during the wee hours of the morning and their opinion about Tech's late-night atmosphere.

11:42 p.m.: Campus Recreation Center

Students exiting the CRC around this time gave mixed reactions when asked if a late night workout was a regular part of their schedule.

"The CRC should be open later... until around 2 a.m. would be good, especially on weekends," said Rachel Fincher, a second-year International Affairs and Modern Languages major, "That is when I have time to cut loose and play some basketball."

11:48 p.m.: SAC Field

Even this close to midnight, there were several intramural practices being held on the SAC fields.

Why so late? Davis Kim, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering major, explained, "The field clears up around 11 p.m. because then the actual flag football games are over."

Kim said that he doesn't mind the late-night practices, even though as a commuter, he has to get up around

5 a.m. to get to Tech in time for his 8 a.m. class. "You have to have some free time," he said.

12:35 a.m.: Student Center

There were very few people in the Student Center at this time: 11 in the computer lab, and three studying at tables.

Asma Rifay, a third-year pre-med and Management major, took a break from studying to comment about the places available to Tech students that function as 24-hour study facilities.

According to Rifay, there is a great need to renovate the library. "Students spend so much time there, and Tech spends their efforts building a new [Fifth Street] bridge and a new recreation center," Rifay said. "But what about renovating our study facilities?"

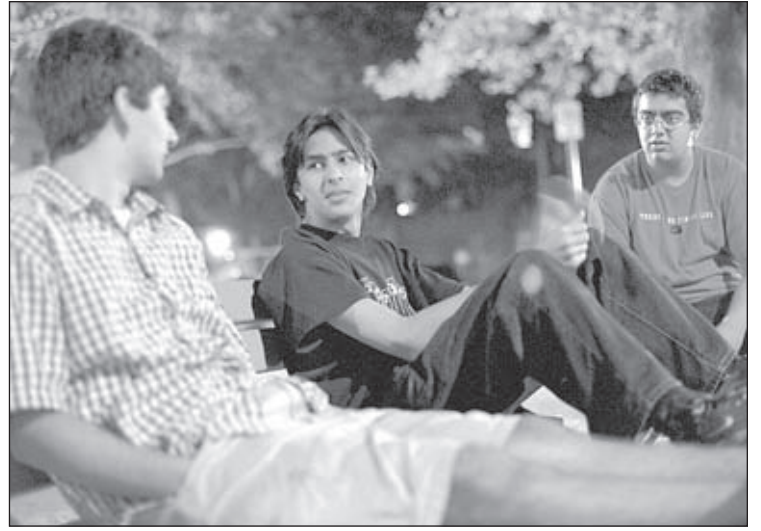
1:00 a.m.: Yellow Jacket Park

The first evidence of homecoming week was found here, as three members of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity practiced for two of the homecoming field events.

John Kelly, a second-year Computer Science major, was making a valiant effort to first spin around a bat 10 times and then complete a standing broad jump.

Jeff Geisert, a first-year Industrial Engineering major, and Tom Fairchild, a third year Mechanical Engineering major, practiced for the punt, pass and kick event.

"We didn't have any time during the day to practice," Fairchild said. "I always say that I am going to stay up late tonight and get to bed early tomorrow...but that never happens."



By Andrew Saulters / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Freshmen Lalit Kapoor, Shyam Mehta and Rishab Malhotra wait outside of Fitten Residence Hall to take a Stinger to East Campus.

1:45 a.m.: East Campus

During a drive through East Campus, nothing was more evident than the efforts being made to "pomp." Greeks were still out in force, constructing their displays out of chicken wire, wood and tissue paper for the homecoming

still outside their dorms on West Campus as well, but not because they were completing homecoming displays.

Freshman Andrew Butterfield was hanging out in the courtyard between Caldwell and Folk.

"I like how quiet it is later at night," he said. "[I] can actually get things accomplished." In fact, Butterfield says he and his friends are "just waking up around midnight."

Students were also outside waiting for late-night food. During the 10 minutes I spent in the courtyard, there were three deliveries made.

"Woodruff should be open later at night, even if they just serve pizza and hamburgers," said Reed Lovell, a first-year Industrial Engineering major. "Some cheaper late-night food options would be nice."

"2:22 a.m.: West Campus. During the 10 minutes I spent in the courtyard, there were three [food] deliveries made."

contest.

Tony Le, a fifth-year Electrical Engineering and Management double major and a brother of Pi Kappa Phi, said, "Staying up late to finish the display is one of the best parts of homecoming week. You just get to hang out with your friends and work on something fun."

2:22 a.m.: West Campus

There were numerous students

3:02 a.m.: Library West Commons

At 3 a.m., the library was very populated, with the LWC around 50 percent full. Most students I spoke with had either homework due or a test the following day.



By Andrew Saulters / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Andrei Bersatti studies Embedded Systems Design at West Side Diner, one of the few options besides delivery for late-night food.

SLIVER

www.nique.net/sliver

I saw Red Jesus walking on water in the Campanile Crimson Clipper, do you bleed green?

Chan, if your team doesn't plan to show up for their games, I'd like to borrow them for a while.

OUR FOOTBALL TEAM SUCKS!

They stray kitten on East Campus has a name: and it is Charcoal... respect the Charcoal, it's a mafia cat Attention most of you TA's: Learn to speak english BEFORE you try to teach.

I wonder if he knows that I'm cheating...

I wonder if she knows that I am cheating on her.

Impeach Phuong!

I'm aramblin' gamblin' HELL OF A MANAGEER!

To all those complaining how the volleyball team has great locker rooms already: how many of you have actually seen them? Thanks for now shutting up

Why are the football lights still on at 2:41 a.m. after the Miami game?

Yay for parent's weekend to watch us lose!

See page 14 for more slivers

See **Nightlife**, page 14

Admin from page 14

May said that because Tech is dedicated to preserving the core activities of teaching and research, layoffs are preferable to pay cuts.

“What will happen is you get attrition,” he said. “People will leave [if you cut their salaries, and] there are a lot of other institutions that would like to hire some of our folks... If we want to remain competitive, I think when we start thinking about cutting salaries, that’s not the way.”

Preserving the current faculty and administration is so critical, he said, that despite the budget cuts, the Institute still has the resources to counter offers that faculty might get from other universities.

“Usually...that’s done with private money,” May said. “In a competitive situation, we have to address that those things still do happen.”

According to May, remaining competitive in teaching and research is why approximately 50 Tech employees who work in non-core activities have been downsized so far while all faculty are still employed.

“I will say that laying off faculty is, number one, difficult to do. You have tenured faculty, of course... People have contracts,” May said. “Number two, I think it’s really the absolute last resort... If we get to that point, I think that the future outlook for Georgia Tech would be very grim.”

There has been some agreement from students, including Jonathan

ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES, 2002-2003		
Name	Position	Salary
Wayne Clough	Institute President	\$365,805
Don Giddens	Dean, College of Engineering	\$296,511
Jean-Lou Chameau	Provost and VP for Academic Affairs	\$286,308
Robert Thompson	Senior VP, Administration and Finance	\$284,259
Terry Blum	Dean, College of Management	\$247,662
Gary Schuster	Dean, College of Sciences	\$245,400
Richard DeMillo	Dean, College of Computing	\$223,683
Thomas Galloway	Dean, College of Architecture	\$207,981
Charles Liotta	Vice Provost for Research/Dean, Grad. Studies	\$206,754
Sue Rosser	Dean, Ivan Allen College	\$205,008
Joseph Irwin	VP and Executive Dir., GT Alumni Association	\$164,875
Gary May	Executive Assistant to the President	\$161,500
Gail DiSabatino	Dean of Students/Interim VP for Student Affairs	\$120,730

Sharma, a second-year Aerospace Engineering major.

“The administration at the school is very, very important to Tech’s success,” Sharma said. If salaries were cut, he said, “Tech would lose some very important assets.”

Besides, May said, a freeze on salaries is, in effect, a cut in pay.

“People’s take-home pay was less than it was before, because insurance [and parking] went up...[and] things

like that happened,” he said. “Our administration, faculty and staff feel the impact of the budget crunch as much as anyone else.”

For instance, while Tech will not consider laying off faculty, the budget crunch means vacant faculty positions remain unfilled. Furthermore, May said that some of the layoffs have already happened to administrators.

“We don’t distinguish between administration and staff,” he said. “I

don’t know if students understand those definitions clearly.”

Regardless, students like Justin Kingsly, a third-year Industrial Engineering major, say that they would prefer not to see any faculty or administrators receive a pay cut and risk losing them.

“We...take pride in our excellent teachers,” said Kingsly. “Minds of such great caliber deserve their salary.”

May said that the administration returns the sentiment.

“We’re very grateful for [the students’] activities, and we’re very proud of the way that they’ve responded [to the cuts],” May said. “We hope that some positive results will come out of this.”

Nightlife from page 14

“Having a library that is open 24 hours is something we take for granted,” said Brantley Beaird, a third-year Biomedical Engineering major. “I have friends at other schools where the library closes at 10 p.m. and they have no quiet place to study late at night.”

Matthew Ritz, a third-year Mechanical Engineering student, said, “We pull all-nighters here all the time, especially when our homework is due.”

Since they spend so much time at the library, both Beaird and Ritz suggested that there could be “more real food at the library...you can always order food, but it is expensive, and the vending machines don’t quite cut it.”

3:42 a.m.: Architecture Building

If you want to find students awake late at night, the architecture buildings are a good place to look, with students consistently working on projects for their studio classes during all hours of the night.

“Studio takes up a lot of your time,” said Michelle Mendenhall, a second-year Architecture student.

However, she added, “You are there with the responsibility to get your work done, but it is a social hour at the same time. People play music, there is conversation, and being surrounded by all that is comforting.”

SLIVER

www.nique.net/sliver

I haven’t gotten into The Wire yet. Maybe I should.
Since there’s a dearth of programming on HBO until the next 6 Feet Under or Sopranos.
‘Cause Deadwood’s a little too weird. And Carnivale just, well, sucks.
Sitting out at the poll with Katie. In West Palm. Hooray for skin cancer!
That’s “privilege,” not “priviledge.”
Q: What’s the leading killer of domestic felines? A: Miller Lite
I have a girlfriend; watch me naked!

See page 21 for more Slivers!

GTPD's K-9 dogs are furry, valuable part of police force

By Katherine Colmer
Contributing Writer

For most students, the Georgia Tech Police Department makes its presence felt through its patrolling of the campus during the day and throughout the night.

However, some of the police cars carry a relatively unknown part of the GTPD's task force—its K-9 unit, which is made up of Zeus and Tiger, two German shepherds, and their handlers, officers Erich Frechen and Paul Honcharik.

Tech initiated a K-9 unit in March of 2003. However, Frechen began training police dogs eight years ago and has been a police officer for three years. He came to Tech when the police department asked him to start the K-9 unit.

Frechen had to go through 180 hours of training with Zeus, as well as a separate 160-hour class, in order to become certified as a trainer of police K-9 units.

Tech's K-9 dogs can apprehend criminals and track people who are missing or hiding. They are also a great crime deterrent, both physically and psychologically. "Will a person wanting to commit a crime do it near a dog barking like crazy? No, he'll probably find someplace else that does not have a dog," Frechen said.

He added, "My car sits six inches lower in the back because

the springs have worn down from Zeus' barking."

"It's a big game to [the perpetrators] until they realize a dog is there," Frechen said. "People start acting like they want to fight, and I tell them, 'Do you hear that dog barking? If we start to fight, he's going to come for one of us, and it's not going to be me,' and they settle down really quickly."

Though there is no way to completely eliminate crime, "If you can keep it away from... where you are responsible for, that's a big plus," Frechen said. "Crime is down 30 percent on campus...since we started the K-9 unit."

He added, "We've looked at stats, and a lot of times when things are happening here, they are times when there is no dog around."

According to Frechen, the homeless and drug addicts can be a prob-

lem on campus, and the dogs help keep watch. "We patrol, practice and train, keep the dog smart, are seen on campus, and talk to people who might be suspicious," Frechen said.

The dogs are also valuable if a perpetrator does decide to get aggressive, serving as "bullets you can recall," Frechen said. If an officer fires a gun during a standoff, even if the perpetrator gives up, he may still be shot. A dog can be called back, giving the perpetrator a chance to surrender without getting seriously

"My car sits six inches lower in the back because the springs have worn down from Zeus's barking."

Erich Frechen
GTPD K-9 handler

See K-9, page 16

WOOF, WOOF! A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A K-9 DOG



LEFT: Bombs are my specialty
At left, Zeus, one of the Georgia Tech Police Department's two K-9 dogs, searches every nook of a car to find a bomb. Once he successfully finds the bomb, he will receive a tennis ball to play with as a reward.

BELOW: Barking up a storm
Even from the backseat of the police car, Zeus and his excessive barking can scare away criminals—and unsuspecting persons—who get too close to the car (below).

BELOW: A bullet that you can recall
Upon command, Zeus will catch the perpetrator by grabbing the first available spot, usually the arm, as his handler demonstrates below.



RIGHT: Out of the car for a bit of fresh air:
After a long night of patrolling campus in the police car, Zeus poses for a picture with his handler, Officer Erich Frechen (right).



Photos by Katherine Colmer / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

K-9 from page 15

hurt, Frechen said.

“Unfortunately, in our society there is always going to be the need [for guns],” Frechen said. “So dogs will never take the place of guns, but they are a psychological deterrent.”

For the dogs, apprehending a perpetrator is sort of a game: sometimes the dog will try to get the perpetrator to move so he can purposefully bite him, but otherwise the dog is trained to wait. The bite is a controlled one, meant to immobilize the perpetrator, not hurt him. “We want the perp to be compliant,” Frechen said.

There are two different types of scent specialties a dog can be trained for, bombs and narcotics; Zeus and Tiger have a specialty for bombs. Usually, a K-9 dog specializes in one or the other, so as not to cause confusion.

To find a bomb, the dog must do a passive search, meaning he must not scratch or dig to find a bomb or he might set it off. Instead, when the dog scents a bomb, he is trained to sit.

Frechen laughed, “If you ever see us out and about and my dog sits, you’re going to see me running and just try to keep up, because he’s found a bomb.”

“But at home at night, he sleeps at the foot of my bed...”

Erich Frechen
GTPD K-9 handler

A search-and-find is very stressful to a dog: one short bomb search is equivalent to a person running two miles.

The dogs are also talented at searching and finding people. During a training session, a K-9 dog found a person hiding in a building the size of the police station in less than five minutes. By comparison, the same search would take five officers half an hour.

Zeus and Tiger also have the distinction of being the only two dogs in Fulton County who are also full patrol dogs. Tech’s K-9 units have mutual aid agreements with the surrounding areas, meaning that they can be called upon to help in situations that occur off campus.

Zeus and Tiger are also two out of six or seven dogs in the country that can deploy out of the windows of a police car, Frechen said.

The relationship between owner and dog is both professional and personal. In the mornings, Frechen said, “It is like the dog is going to work: I hold out his work collar, the one with a badge on it, and I tell him to put on his uniform, and he slips his head into the collar.”

However, “at home at night, he sleeps at the foot of my bed; he’s a baby,” he said. “He never barks...and will play with anyone I let into the house. It’s like flipping a switch.”

Midterm from page 11

term it’s like vacation time, and I don’t know if they would bother,” he said. “After midterm...they have to come back to the class.”

Keskinocak agreed. “If you get the evaluation at the end of the semester, maybe if you teach the course again next year, it’s useful,” she said. “But for these students, it’s too late; it doesn’t affect them. Because of that, many of them actually don’t fill out the surveys at the end.”

Each professor had their own method for conducting midterm evaluations. Keskinocak used the same course survey that is available at the end of the semester, though she encouraged her students to write additional comments.

Hawkins and Schilpzand used a simpler and more open-ended survey, consisting of three questions: “What am I doing right?”, “What am I doing wrong?”, and “What would you like to see more of?”

All three set aside anywhere from 15 minutes to half an hour during class periods, not only to administer the evaluation but also to follow up, discussing the feedback with their students, explaining which aspects of their teaching they could change and which aspects that they couldn’t.

Some student suggestions had to do with the instructor’s teaching style; others focused more on the class itself. For example, Hawkins learned from his evaluations that “I tend to mumble at the end of lecture,” he said.

“One year the students said they would need a bit more practice for

the exam, so then I started giving them some guidelines for how they should practice for the exam, and some practice questions with solutions,” Keskinocak said.

Reading through all the surveys took some time as well. For Hawkins, this process took “between four and five hours.”

However, most professors who take the time to do a midterm survey usually follow through. Ashley Harrison, a student in Hawkins’s class, said, “We wanted less lecturing

“It’s a good thing if the teacher... [is] open to recommendations by the students.”

Laura Pate
Third-year IE major

and more case studies or more class involvement,” she said. “Since then, he’s brought in articles.”

Schilpzand’s students wanted more direction as to what was important in each chapter. As a result, Schilpzand said, “For the next exam, I’ll give them an outline of what topics they need to focus on.”

“That’s very easy to accommodate,” she added. “Sometimes they’re things professors just don’t think about.”

However, other students point out that the professors who could benefit the most from a midterm

survey are also the ones who won’t bother to do so.

Phu Lam, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering major who is in Keskinocak’s class, said that though the survey was constructive, he would have rather seen it in another class.

“[Keskinocak] is like my best professor this semester,” Lam said, “but I’ve had some awful ones in the past, and a midterm evaluation would have helped so much with those classes.”

As of now, the initiative for midterm course evaluations seems to be limited to individual professors in scattered departments.

In addition, students have mixed opinions about whether the idea should be encouraged by, for example, administration or department chairs.

“I think it’s a good thing, if the teacher uses the evaluation to change their teaching style and if they’re open to recommendations by the students,” said Laura Pate, a third-year Industrial Engineering major.

Ethan Trewhitt, a fourth-year Electrical Engineering major, shared Pate’s cautious view. “Some professors are so set in their ways that it won’t really make a difference,” he said.

However, other students say they wouldn’t mind if more of their professors followed suit.

“It would be excellent if every class did [a midterm survey],” Harrison said. “I don’t see how it can hurt; I think it can only help.”

“It should be a mandatory thing,” Kazani said. “I would definitely go for that.”