

OUR VIEWS CONSENSUS OPINION

Only Freshmen

With the increased awareness of the need to nurture incoming freshmen, the administration has announced that the Fall 2006 freshmen class will most likely have a summer semester offered to them. The semester will be seven weeks long, starting in mid-June and ending at the same time as the normal summer semester. The various core classes ranging from GT1000 to general chemistry are expected to draw 300-400 students.

There is a wide range of advantages to this program; it could help ease students into college life, help some get ahead or give more personal attention as they transition to students who need it. It would also help reduce the workload for students during their freshmen year. In addition to these advantages, by limiting students to two courses in the semester, freshmen will avoid becoming overwhelmed.

However, there are some concerns. With many current students lamenting the lack of energy and spirit around campus during the summer, it is important to make a good first impression on incoming students. Freshmen Experience (FE) dorms as well as GT1000 classes would help welcome students and help them adjust to college life. Also, allowing students to stay in the same FE dorms from summer through the rest of the year would be beneficial by helping to build a community.

With the administration making the summer semester addition for freshmen, they should also consider adding classes for the general student body. With people in the popular co-op program needing summer classes to complete their degrees in a timely manner, an increase in the variety of courses offered would be valuable. Also, a later shortened session, like the current early short session, could be another nice option.

Fresh faces

The statistics are in for this year's incoming freshmen class. The growing numbers of incoming students in Ivan Allen College reflect improvements in its recruitment process. Preview Georgia Tech, FUTURES, Girl's Night Out and Ivan Allen's own Shadow Day have contributed to the college's increasing popularity. With a 46% increase in its incoming freshmen class linked to an increase in applications to IAC, the college also boasts a 71% increase in out-of-state students.

With Tech often regarded as mainly an engineering school, the growing strength and reputation of the liberal arts college adds diversity to the student body. It appeals to prospective students, leads to more rounded students and makes a Tech degree more valuable.

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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By Mark Parsons / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Classes answer to boredom

I used to wonder who in their right mind would take summer classes when they didn't have to. With the possible exception of kindergarten through second grade (when school was actually fun), summer vacation was always a welcome break from the drudgery of classes, homework, studying, tests and just stress in general. Not to mention, it gave me a chance to catch up on my sleep and TV reruns.

Of course, somewhere around the middle of July, I'd tend to start getting really bored, irritable from having to spend most of my time at home with my family (whom I love, but who are best taken in small doses), and more than ready to find something to do outside of the house. And being from Macon, my options of things to actually do are pretty limited.

Now, I didn't really think about any of these things when I decided, very much on a whim, to register for summer classes. Initially, I had planned to study abroad this summer, since I figured the trip would be worth taking classes, but I didn't get my application turned in on time. So somewhere between the application deadline and summer registration, I got the crazy notion that taking summer classes and staying in Atlanta over the summer might be better than vegetating in Macon for three months. As it turns out, my crazy notion wasn't so crazy after all. Summer classes are a lot more laid back than classes during the regular school year. Somehow, despite taking the same number of hours as I did in the spring, I'm not nearly as bogged down, and I have a lot more free time—so I can still catch up on my TV reruns. Not to mention, it's the middle of July and I'm not bored out of my mind.

So I've learned that taking summer classes when you don't have to isn't so crazy after all. In fact, I'd



"...I decided, very much on a whim, to register for summer classes. Initially, I had planned to study abroad..."

Hillary Lipko
Entertainment Editor

wager to say that it's a lot better than taking classes during the rest of the year. Actually, I recommend that everyone take a summer semester at least once. There's something almost fun about it (unless you get stuck taking DSP, thermo or something equally nasty, in which case you have my condolences). Summer is a good time to take some of those core requirements or humanities electives—you get them out of the way, they're more laid back, and some are even easier than they are during the rest of the year. And as a bonus, you get to enjoy a summer in the city.

Taking a summer semester doesn't even necessarily mean giving up taking a vacation, either. Unless you're a co-op student, you don't even have to take a full load, so you could take a week off without missing much at all. Or you could take short session classes, which end at the beginning of July, leaving you the rest of the summer to do whatever you want—the best of both worlds.

As much as I've (dare I say it) enjoyed sticking around for the summer, I have had to sacrifice a few things I normally would have done had I not taken classes. For one, I haven't gotten to spend nearly as much time with my friends from home as I would like. I've had to pass on quite a few party invitations in lieu of studying or homework. For another, there has been very little catching up on sleep. Not to mention, I got ridiculously sick the first several

weeks of the semester and didn't have the time or ability to immediately see a doctor that could actually do something for me. Of course the root of that gripe is another editorial for another time. Once I was well, though, things got on track, and I got to enjoy myself a little, partaking of summer campus events and spending time with friends who live at and around Tech. One more piece of advice for the summer semester: if you live on campus and have some other means to feed yourself regularly, don't bother with a meal plan. The dining halls have diminished selection and service during the summer and a meal plan is hardly worth it unless you absolutely can't cook. I made that mistake and pretty much wasted 500-some dollars on a meal plan that I've only used about five times.

So let's recap: everyone should take a summer semester at some point. If you can, take an easy load—don't get so wrapped up in schoolwork that you can't enjoy the summer a little. Find balance. Don't get sick. Partake of what both the campus and the city have to offer. Don't bother with a meal plan unless you can't cook at all. Yup. That about covers it. I still love my breaks as much as the next person, but I figure I'd better start easing myself into the idea of not getting as many. After all, unless you're a teacher, there are no summer vacations in the professional world, and said world is sneaking up on me fast.

Workers waste away hours and life

Someone told me what he believed to be a deceptively simple yet clever trick for office jobs: drink lots of water. The benefits are two-fold. Not only do you have to walk over to the watercooler, pour the water and carefully cradle your styro-foam cup as you walk back to your desk, but you also need to pee more, providing an ingenious excuse for walking all the way to the bathroom. Funny thing is, I thought that was MY special trick. It turns out to be odd and pathetically common.



“Due to cultural differences and labor controls, Europeans enjoy longer vacations...”

Melissa Cataldo
Focus Editor

As reported July 11 in a *Reuters* article, Americans admitted in a recent survey to wasting an average of over two hours each day at work. These hours were spent socializing, surfing the net and “spacing out.” Common reasons for wasting time were not having enough work to do and being underpaid. Younger workers were especially likely to waste time.

Paradoxically, we as a country work more and longer hours than almost any other industrialized nation. Due to cultural differences and labor controls, Europeans enjoy longer vacations and shorter daily hours. Our added hours have helped make us an economic superpower, but at what point do these extra hours add diminishing or even negative returns as workers become

tired, disgruntled, or simply run out of work to do? And what do these extra hours cost us in terms of hobbies, a social life, and family time?

These concerns were highlighted for me by two concurrent events: a recent trip to Italy and my impending graduation (May 2006). Italy is a stereotypically lazy country, featuring common train strikes, a daily siesta from 1-4 pm and a love for the “dolce vita.” I noticed something else, though, that is completely missing from most American communities, especially in the smaller, non-tourist areas: families, friends, and neighbors out on the town in droves late into the evenings. Aside from bringing a sense of community, this nightly activity also contributes to a sense of safety. Of course I don’t think Americans can or should completely adopt the Western European way of life, but in

our quest for a more balanced lifestyle, we should recognize the benefits of societal priorities on unstructured relaxation and community.

In contrast, many Americans, especially with the demands of dual-income families, come home and are too exhausted to do anything except vegetate in front of the television and struggle to put the kids in bed, only to wake up early the next morning for another packed day. Doctors warn that we don’t get enough sleep and are overly stressed, leading to a variety of health problems. Generational mixing is limited, as every age group not only has its own hang-outs, but a lack of diversity in most neighborhoods makes it seem as though some suburbs are geared toward young professionals, others toward middle-aged families and yet others toward the elderly. American employers seem convinced that the way to maximize worker

productivity is to give longer hours, but I don’t believe that this is always the answer. Aside from the societal tolls, workers may become tired and be less productive, give up and decide to actively waste time, or even worse, employees may run out of work and at that point companies are pointlessly wasting wage money while concurrently lowering worker satisfaction.

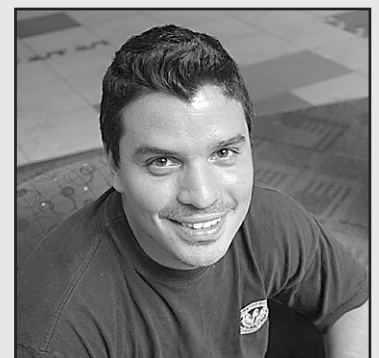
I know as I dive into my final year at Tech, I will resurface at graduation all too soon and be forced to face a career decision. There are so many things I want to learn and do, and I am becoming more convinced of my fear that over-specialization, although economically efficient, renders most office jobs unfulfilling. Where does one fit in this society when she loves a mental challenge, wants to work with smart people, and wants to excel, but at the same time loathes the thought of giving her life and her youth to shaving costs for a corporation? People who want this option should not necessarily expect to get rich, but should at least have a place where they can make a living and have their talents be put to good use while maintaining a balanced home-life. We don’t need three cars and a 4,000 square foot McMansion, but we do need a sense of community.

BUZZ Around the Campus Is there a lack of summer entertainment around campus?



Dongha Kim
CE PhD

“It’s very calm and more relaxing with less people around campus.”



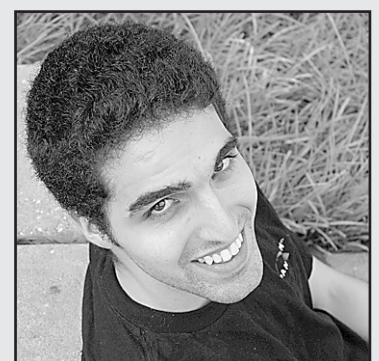
Alvaro Prieto
AE Grad

“...everything is dead...but I would like more intramural sports, maybe soccer.”



Christine Dehn
IAML Fourth-year

“I don’t think so, with the Crafts Center and the MLR open.”

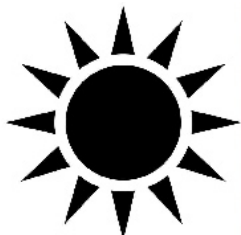


Igor Borges
CmpE Fourth-year

“...they should have some random activities in the park (like a concert).”
Photos by Ayan Kishore

OUR VIEWS HOT OR NOT

HOT- or -NOT



School’s out...sorta

Last week marked the end of short semester classes. While some students remain finishing up the last few weeks of the full semester, others only taking short semester classes are free to enjoy the rest of their summer. Those left are not to worry though—classes end in three weeks (in case you weren’t already counting down) and then there are a nice two weeks off until fall semester starts.

Rain, rain go away

The dreary effects of hurricanes Cindy and Dennis have been felt by students all around campus. Whether treading to class through mini-rivers, being soaked by the torrential downpour or being victim to the numerous floodings around campus and the city, students are definitely ready for some solid days of sunshine. Preferably not scorching heat, but we’ll take what we can get.



Batter up

Yellow Jackets rising junior third baseman Wes Hodges and rising sophomore utility player Matt Wieters have been named to the USA Baseball National Team. This makes 17 Tech players that have gone to the national team since 1984, second only to Stanford, who has sent 24 players to Team USA.

Gold hopes gone

It has recently been announced that baseball and softball have been dropped from the 2012 Olympics to be held in London. With Tech boasting strong athletes in these sports, Olympic gold has diminished hopes in these sports. That is, at least for 2012. The sports will be considered again for 2016.

Terrorists attack values

By Matt Tilly
Daily O’Collegian

(U-WIRE) Okla. State U. —Less than 24 hours after being rocked with jubilation and glee after being named the site of the 2012 Olympic games, London was struck with a kind of grief and terror that was not too long ago felt here in the United States.

As of press time, there were just over fifty dead and hundreds wounded in the four explosions on the London transit system.

In responding to the attack, British Prime Minister Tony Blair reminded world leaders at the G-8 summit that this was “not an attack on one nation, but all nations and on civilized people everywhere.” The terrorist who perpetrated these attacks kill Western men, women and children indiscriminately in what Mr. Blair correctly labels “utterly barbaric acts.”

This is not a lack of agreement over certain issues. For them there is no compromise. This was a de-

liberate attack on our civilization and values. Fortunately, those who follow this extremist Islamic doctrine are comparatively few in number.

No amount of Homeland Security can ever be expected to thwart every possible attack.

The best we can do is to go after the threats before they come to us...Anything less would be admitting a defeat in our way of life. We must show through both our words and our deeds the values of liberty and justice juxtaposed against the oppression and indiscriminate terror offered by the other side.

The test of greatness is not in how many dangers we face in this war on terror, but in how we face them.

As allies and friends, we must do everything we can to assist Britain in the wake of their tragedy.

May God bless the people of London and give us all resolve in the face of this hatred that we must continue to fight.

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 or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Kyle Thomason, 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 reserves the right to edit for style, content and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

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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.