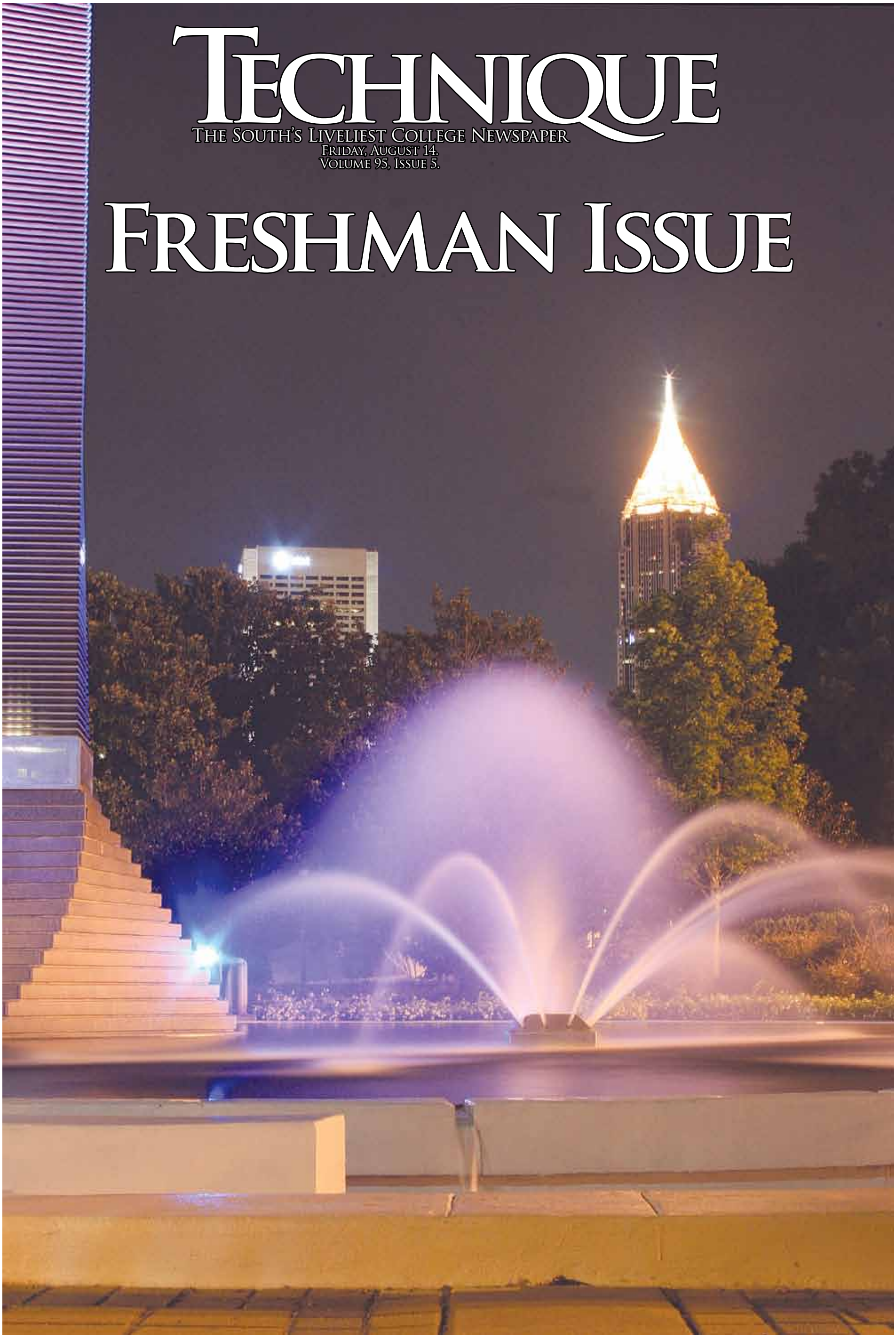
Technique

The South's Liveliest College Newspaper

Friday, August 14.

Volume 95, Issue 5.

Freshman Issue



TECHNIQUE

The South's Liveliest College Newspaper

Founded in 1911, the *Technique* is the student newspaper of the Georgia Institute of Technology, and is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. The Technique publishes on Fridays weekly during the fall and spring and biweekly during the summer.

ADVERTISING: Information and rate cards can be found online at **nique.net/ads**. The deadline for reserving ad space is Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. To place a reservation, for billing information, or for any other questions please e-mail us at **ads@nique.net**. You may reach us by telephone at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

Driving in the future

On July 4, an officer observed a blue Chevrolet Monte Carlo displaying a cardboard tag with a date of August 8, 2009. The plate did not have a state issued hologram. When pulled over, the driver stated that he had owned the vehicle for several months. After the officer conducted a check of the Vehicle Identification Number, the suspect then stated he had removed the original license plate and that a friend had provided him with the fraudulent dealer's temporary plate. He was arrested and the vehicle was towed to the impound station.

Don't tell my mother

An officer was sent to Britain Dining Hall due to a complaint about two intoxicated students on July 10. The complainant stated there were two white males who, in a drunken state, were dropping food and staggering about. The students had already left the scene upon the officer's arrival

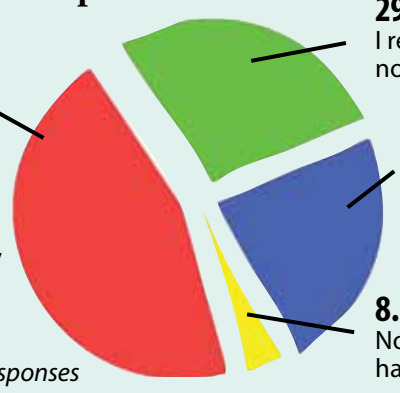
The complainant described one of the students as a white male. The officer radioed in the description. A man fitting the description was observedat a Stinger Stop. The two men were contacted by officer. During the conversation, the officer noted that one man's eyes appeared glassy and bloodshot. A EMS was called onto the scene to transport one of the men to the hospital. The other student was thus advised that this behavior would not be tolerated and released to attend class.

Lurking in the bushes

On July 22, an officer noticed a suspicious person loitering in the bushes at Brown Residence Hall. The subject was approached by the officer and questioned about his business in the area. The suspect was unable to provide a satisfactory answer. He was subsequently searched and checked for prior criminal trespass warnings. The record search returned positive. The suspect was then arrested for criminal trespass.

POLL OF THE WEEK

How do you feel about the Centergy parking deck collapse?



Based on 72 responses

Next issue's question:

How do you feel about the Tech professor being arrested for child porn?

Tell us at **nique.net**

Tech rankings maintain upward trend

By Sijia Cai
News Editor

According to this year's U.S. News and World Report, Tech ranks number seven among public universities in the United States. This is the highest ranking in the history of the university and a spot that the Institute has maintained for three consecutive years.

In addition, for the past ten years, Tech has been counted among the ten top public universities in the United States. Among all national universities, Tech ranks 35, and on the "Great Schools, Great Prices" list, Tech ranks 47.

"When you get up to the top of that ladder, the competition gets extremely fierce, and moving further up is a matter of great difficulty," said Gary Schuster, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Tech's engineering programs continue to take the lead in national rankings, with the College of Engineering (still the largest in the nation) tying for fourth place with Caltech and the University of Illinois. This is one spot up from the College's ranking in 2008.

Within the College of Engineering, individual programs top the lists. In specialty areas, Industrial Engineering ranks first in the nation, Aerospace Engineering second, Biomedical Engineering third, Mechanical Engineering fourth, while Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering both rank fifth. Of these programs, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering were not in the top five last year.

"Rankings are a part of life, and they reflect many different factors. I am pleased that our reputation for undergraduate education, graduate education, and research in engineering continues to increase," Schuster said.

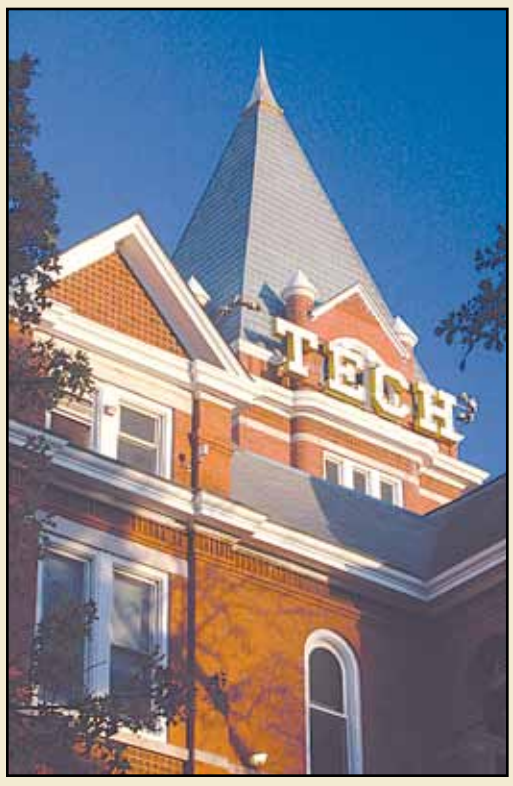
Notably, the College of Management now ranks 35 nationally for Best Business Programs, while Tech's internship and cooperative education programs are listed under "Programs to Look For."

"I think higher rankings will encourage more students to look at Tech, said Robin Osborne, a third-year Biology major. "The numbers show how the quality of classes is improving from their already high standards."

Graduate rankings are stellar as well. The College of Engineering is at No. four nationwide for top graduate engineering programs, and ten of its eleven programs rank in the top ten for their respective fields. IE stands at No. 1, BME No. 2, AE No.4, EnvE No. 5, CE No. 6, EE No. 6, ME No. 6, CompE No. 7, MSE No. 8 and NRE No. 8.

The College of Management made a jump from 29th last year to 22nd this year, tying with Emory in the ranking of full-time MBA programs.

"I think part of the reason that the College of Management has been able to make such large leaps in national rankings is due to of course our excellent faculty and new building with its first-rate facilities. This shows that not only our engineering but our other programs, such as the liberal arts, are rising in national recognition as well," said Schuster.



Freshman enrollment at its highest in Tech history

By Vijai Narayanan
Senior Staff Writer

The Institute saw an increase in the number of applicants to Tech for the coming fall semester, a trend that has been continuing for several years. The enrollment for this year's freshman class is expected to be roughly 2690 students, with around 250 entering during the summer semester. Tech also admitted 1200 transfer students.

The number of college applications rose across the country, making it a very competitive environment for college-bound students.

"One of the reasons we had so many applicants this past year was that this incoming class had the highest number of high school graduates than any other class in American history," said Rick Clark, the Director of Undergraduate Admissions.

According to Clark, another reason for the increase in applications this year was the state of the economy.

"People see the value in a Tech degree and they recognize that our students get a practical education that can land them a job, and in this climate that is not a given," Clark said.

In addition, Clark credited a savvy marketing campaign that was launched recently to get more students to apply to Tech.

This year, Tech also saw an increase in the number of applicants from abroad. This was in part because of the weak dollar, which made it cheaper for international students to pursue a degree in the United States. Furthermore, rising population in the Southeast and especially in states where matriculation to the Institute is traditionally high contributed to the rise in applicants.

The Undergraduate Office of Admissions tried several new initiatives this year to streamline the application and admission process.

Unlike previous years, in which decisions were made on a rolling basis, the admissions office posted decisions online on a set of multiple dates.

Once students were admitted, they were given access to their Buzzport accounts, through which they could accept their admissions offer and follow through on other tasks.

In addition, preview programs such as Connect with Tech were enhanced to provide prospective students with more information about the Institute and help them make the decision to apply to Tech or to attend once admitted. Campus tours and open houses also saw an increase in interest from prospective students and their families.

"On-campus programs like Connect with Tech have been with us for a long time, and they are designed for students to immerse themselves into Tech culture and decide whether this is the place for them," said Leslie Jackson, Program Coordinator for Admissions and Undergraduate Recruiting.

Another recruitment tool that has proved highly useful in attracting new students this year was a blog posted by the Admissions Office to encourage those who have applied or have been admitted to matriculate (actually enroll in classes) at Tech. This

See **Freshman**, page 9

Photo by Jamie Howell / *Student Publications*

An unprecedented number of students enrolled this fall, representing 54 countries. This increase can be attributed to new admissions initiatives undertaken by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

GTPD increases efforts to combat crime on campus

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

The Georgia Tech Police Department is implementing a new plan in cooperation with the Atlanta police department to combat robberies in Zone 5 (the area encompassing Midtown and downtown Atlanta which also includes Tech's campus). Although statistically speaking, crime rates are down 10% this year, there has been a surge in crime concentrated around the Tech campus, punctuated by serious incidents such as the separate shootings of a Georgia State student and a Tech student.

The current GTPD roster has 71 officers divided into four twelve-hour teams, each composed of eight to twelve officers. They patrol the four hundred and eighty acres of land comprising the Tech campus and Home Park. In addition to that, a strike team whose prerogatives are targeting designated hot spots of crimes has been established.

GTPD's new plan will include an increase in allocated resources. What this means is there will be more roadblocks, checkpoints, undercover and plains clothes agents and an overall increase in officer presence. Zone 5 assistant commander Joseph Spillane stated at a June 23 press conference that the Atlanta Police Department has met regularly with the GTPD about shoring up police activity around the Tech campus.

"Utilizing various resources, we'll be putting this into effect immediately, running it over the next few weeks and reassessing the crime, seeing where we go with the trends and if we impact [them]," Spillane said. "You'll see an increase in the number of police officers around the Georgia Tech campus…but there will be other people in the area you will not see."

Tech president Bud Peterson is also confident about the plan.

"We have reviewed these plans and the actions that have been taken prior to today, over the past month or so, and have identified several additional opportunities that we think can continue to foster the close relationship we've had with the Atlanta Police. [Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin] continues to assure me that the police department will collaborate with Georgia Tech and with other safety organizations within the area," Peterson said.

There is the possibility of furloughs ending for Atlanta employees, which could

See **Police**, page 6

Library adds "flexible spaces"

By Vijai Narayanan
Senior Staff Writer

Photo by Dottie Hunt/ *Library Staff*

Construction continues within and around the main library building over the summer in order to completely revamp the second floor West Commons.

Construction crews and library staff have spent a busy summer converting the second floor of the West Commons (2 West) into a more usable and productive space for students. Previous renovation projects led to big changes in the East and West Commons, including expanded study areas and Jazzman's Café. The main purpose of this project was to provide more power and data connections in 2 West and create more spaces for collaborative work.

"We saw that once the East Commons filled up during high traffic periods, students moved up to 2 West. So we started the process a while back to make that space a more aesthetically pleasing as well as a more productive place for students and groups," said Bob Fox, Associate Director for Library Administration and Public Services.

Throughout the planning and design stages, the library held open forums and discussion panels to gather student opinions on changes to be made in 2 West. Construction on the space began immediately after the spring semester and the area is expected to be reopened by the start of the fall semester, although some features will be updated during the semester.

One of the major themes

See **Library**, page 11

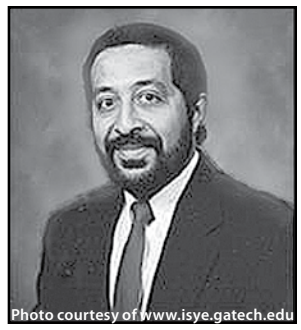


Photo courtesy of www.isye.gatech.edu

Professor arrested for illicit activities

By Craig Tabita
Online Editor

Tech associate professor Faiz Al-Khayyal was placed on indefinite suspension without pay last Friday by the Institute for what was described as "alleged violation of the university's computer usage policy." He was arrested Tuesday night on charges of child pornography.

Al-Khayyal was charged with 15 counts of sexual exploitation of a child, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI). He is currently being held without bond at the Fulton County jail.

According to Institute spokesman Matt Nagel, Tech's Department of Audits detected a virus on Al-Khayyal's computer that was commonly associated with illicit activities, and a follow-up to the virus report determined that the matter should be reported to the GBI. The GBI then raided Al-Khayyal's house and seized his computer in order to search for evidence of child pornography.

GBI representatives refused to comment on the ongoing situation.

"Georgia Tech expects its employees to maintain the highest standards in all aspects of their conduct including adherence to Institute policies," Nagel said in an online statement released by the institute. "In cases where we have reason to believe that policies and procedures have been violated, incidents are aggressively reviewed and appropriate action is taken."

OSCAR lists Al-Khayyal's only instructional commitment this semester as teaching graduate course called Deterministic Optimization, with 85 students distributed among three sections.

SGA leaders discuss goals for the upcoming year

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

Photo by Ben Keyserling / *Student Publications*

Student representatives in the Undergraduate House of Representatives vote on funding bills. Some of SGA's concerns for the upcoming year include student safety awareness, expanding transportation services, and dead week policy.

The Student Government Association (SGA) has a myriad of goals for this upcoming year. One of the major concerns of SGA and Tech as a whole is the recent spike in crimes in the past year and efforts to combat it. Additional issues include further attempts to reach out and communicate with the student body as well as faculty members. The student government plans on implementing various policies and events over this course of this school year that will go towards achieving these stated goals.

With regard to achieving increased safety, SGA will be focusing most of its efforts towards raising the student population's awareness of crime happenings and ways to stay safe around campus. One new strategy is the creation of the student safety task force. Alina Staskevicius, undergraduate student body president, explained the reasoning behind the task force's creation.

"Student government members felt the need to create a task force so that we can better voice student concerns and try to get some students directly involved with and fix the issues and address crime around campus," Staskevicius said.

The task force has already been formed over the summer but it will be organizing an off-campus student organization. This organization will be composed of and will be open to all students. Examples of the off-campus organization's responsibilities will include presentations on neighborhood watches.

According to Staskevicius, SGA hopes that eventually the organization will come to represent students in home owner's associations.

"I think it'll be a great body for lobbying and giving input for things like broken gates or increased lighting," Staskevicius said.

The SGA safety task force is organizing a safety awareness night that will take place on August 27 at 7 p.m.

"It will be open to the larger community," Staskevicius said. "We really wanted to focus specifically on freshman who may be unaware of some of the safety programs they may be taking advantage of, especially as they'll be living in the city, as well as some of the international students who are coming in from different areas…we're also looking at students who are living off campus because there are so many prevention tips they could be taking advantage of."

According to Brenda Morales-Pico, chair of the Institute-wide committee in SGA, the Georgia Tech Police Department will be giving a presentation at the safety awareness night.

"They'll be giving safety tips and crime prevention... they have in turn invited the Atlanta Police Department to speak. We have also invited one of the students who have been involved in crimes to come speak," Pico said. "We'll also be handing out fliers and safety tips [at the event]…I know that the police department as well as Georgia Tech communications and marketing have been working with Papa Johns on Tenth Street to try to get fliers with safety tips put on all the pizza boxes that are sent out to the area."

Another area the task force is looking at is transportation. Currently there is ongoing discussion with Parking and Transportation about the possibility of providing different off-campus transportation options at night.

One example is Stingerette service, which has expanded to include Home Park, Centennial Place, and the Marta station over the summer. However, the expanded service seems unlikely to remain in the fall due to the influx of students and subsequent higher demand.

"They're expecting more students to take advantage of the service. At the busiest times last year they were having 800 calls in one night" Pico said.

To compensate for the lost service, the task force is entering into discussion with other car companies to see if they are willing to assume off-campus transportation responsibilities.

Other areas on SGA's agenda involve academic areas at Tech. One proposal involves extending the add/drop deadline, while another involves an elaboration of dead week policy.

"Right now the policy is pretty much just a sentence and we want to elaborate on it and hold professors to it

See **SGA**, page 9

sliver

www.nique.net

Fin aid office sucks. Faxed them 3 times. Emailed 4 times. Called twice and still they say I'm missing stuff. FAIL
hi there
yooo hooo
Good Luck on your finals Val!
kelvin....spell check, man
Summer!!!!!
Christina Bourgeois - FML
Seriously girls, just because I'm talking to you doesn't mean I want to screw you. Get over yourselves and let's have a decent conversation.
Albert Einstein is a librarian at Tech. Go to information services and you'll find him.
I can't wait for football season!
akins
Screw kinetics
Can someone show me how deep the rabbit hole really goes?
ME2016 Blows!!!
Psuedo----> Rocks!!
Junoon=Suckiest Dance Team @ Tech
I just heard that MJ died... FML
Neitzel just might be the devil.
little did i know that all georgia fans are vampires
test
yo
HS Summer volleyball camp might as well have been a jailbait convention...
CHICKEN! I'm gonna eat you!
Lee N. is the most amazingly stunning woman I have met.
why is GT planting new grass when we have a major budget deficit
Shruti is irritating
With every breath you take and every move you take I'll be out partying since I dumped your butt.
Strange women lying in ponds distributing swords is no basis for a system of government!

Economy spurs GT Lorraine enrollment

Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Lorraine

200 students attended the GT Lorraine program in Metz, France, this summer, which spans ten weeks.

By Vijai Narayanan
Senior Staff Writer

The GT Lorraine (GT-L) program experienced the highest attendance rate this summer since its founding, in large part due to the poor economy. GT-L is one of Tech's international campuses and is located in Metz, France. Students can elect to spend time abroad on the campus during the summer, fall or spring semesters to gain international experience and take classes offered by Tech professors.

Over 250 applications were received for the summer semester and only 200 were selected for the program, reflecting a 58% enrollment increase. The primary reason for turning away so many applicants was the inability to house any larger number of students. Living space is usually leased from neighboring facilities in and around Metz, which presents unique logistical challenges.

"We received a huge number of applications this year, and unfortunately we had to turn away many students. One of the factors limiting the size of the program was our ability to provide housing to students," said Catherine Bass, the Undergraduate Program Coordinator for GT Lorraine.

"Not only is GT-L located at the heart of Europe, it also offers classes taught by Tech professors in English language, removing the worry to make sure credits transfer," Bass said. Another reason why space was limited was to maintain the GT-L experience of having small class sizes and the ability to freely explore Europe on weekend trips.

"With the number of applications we received we really wanted to make sure to protect student experiences. We wanted to make sure that we had the faculty there to support our students," said John Schuman, Marketing Manager for GT-L.

The primary reason for the increase in enrollment seems to be the downturn in the economy. As co-ops and internships have become more competitive, students have looked for unique ways to further their pursuit of a Tech degree. Just this past year, internship and co-op placements fell by 30% due to the state of the economy.

Economically, GT-L is cheaper compared to regular costs at the Atlanta campus for out-of-state students, who spend significantly less on a summer abroad at GT-L campus. "GT-L is a great investment, especially for out-of-state students. They save an average of $6000 while studying abroad in

See **Lorraine**, page 8

Police

from page 4

mean an increase of up to twenty officers.

"That would be basically eighteen million dollars to remove the furloughs for police officers or other public safety workers. It will surely put twenty officers back in Zone 5," said Councilman Kwanza Hall, whose district includes Zone 5 and parts of Home Park.

Although there has been a spike in crime around campus, Spillane does not believe Tech students are being targeted as a group. People are being robbed everywhere but Tech cases are more high-profile.

What student victims and Atlanta citizen victims have in common is that they were often individuals alone at night.

"If you read the reports, [the crimes] happen between 10 p.m. and 4 in the morning," Spillane said. "If you look at the crime statistics and the number of robberies in Zone 5 and you look at the number of students robbed, the number is relatively low. We're concerned with robberies everywhere, but we want to make sure the students at Georgia Tech feel safe and that you know that we're working with [GTPD] to make that happen."

Despite the attention surrounding the recent crimes, police stress that they do not feel there is a reason to be overly worried and that the campus is still a safe place.

"The campus is very safe for our students," Spillane said.

New athletic ticketing system explained

QUICK FACTS ABOUT NEW FOOTBALL TICKETING

Method of registration	Online through the Athletic Association. The system will be managed by Paciolan, a subsidiary of Ticketmaster.
Student ticket options	2,900 season tickets will be available for $36. The remaining 6,100 tickets will be free single-game tickets.
Entry requirements	Students will need to scan their Buzzcards at stadium gates to enter. Paper tickets will no longer be used.
Block seating	Groups applying for block seating will need to purchase season tickets.
Cost	$35,000 from SGA + $115,000 from AA = $150k

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

The athletic department, in cooperation with SGA, has instituted a new ticketing policy for students starting this fall.

"Our goal is to ensure the integrity of student tickets," said Alina Staskevicius, Undergraduate Student Body President. "These tickets are for students as opposed to alumni who are trying to sneak in. With this system, it guarantees students receiving their tickets."

"The students' problem was that a lot of alumni were getting in and not students, which wasn't fair because they weren't paying an athletic fee. So [the change] was initiated by students. This is actually the result of two years' worth of discussion," Staskevicius said, elaborating on the reason for the change. "The new system is entirely online. All you need to get in with is your Buzzcard."

However, that might lead to long waiting times similar to what happened at the Gardner-Webb game last year. According to Staskevicius, SGA had considered this and had implemented a viable solution.

"We purchased, SGA has funded and the athletic association has funded the purchasing of a new turnstile so you shouldn't have too long of a wait to get into the game," Staskevicius said.

Eligible students have two options in receiving their tickets. The first one is by reserving a season seating at a cost of $36. The seats will be on the north end zone between sections 112 and 120.

Students may also register as part of a group. Each group will will submit a single payment on behalf of the entire group. Alternatively, students may join SWARM. If the student does not wish to join any group, then he or she could purchase a reserve season ticket individually.

Registration for season reservations is done on a seniority basis calculated by the number of hours accomplished by the student.

The order is as follows: students with 90-plus hours will be able to register 8am on August 14, 60-plus hour students can begin registering on August 16, 30-plus hour students may register on August 18 and any students with fewer than 30 hours can register on the August 20. In total, six thousand tickets will be available in the first ticketing option.

The second option for students is on a first-come first-serve basis. The dates at which students may claim their individual tickets are available at **www.ramblinwreck.com**.

These tickets will be free, excluding the already paid student athletic fees. Students will not be able to claim both a season reservation and a free individual ticket. Approximately 2500 tickets will be available each week under this option.

For students interested in inviting non-Tech students to games, student guest tickets will be available should ticket inventory remain on Wednesdays prior to the game. These guest tickets will cost $25 each except for the Jacksonville State game which will cost $12.50 each. Payments will have to be made online. Each student is limited to one extra guest ticket. Guests will have to accompany their host student to the game. At the entrance, the guest ticket will be a second scan on student's Buzzcard.

Guests are required to sit at the general admission seating in the end zone, so reserved season ticket holders will be unable to sit with guests.

Basketball ticketing will be similar to football ticketing as well.

At regular season games, students will simply have to show their Buzzcard at the ticket booth.

Post-season home games will cost $5. All other varsity sports will follow a similar policy: students will have to show their Buzzcards in order to gain admittance.

Communications and marketing release survey results

By Emily Chambers
Editor-in-Chief

This May the department of Communications & Marketing released the results of the Student Experience Survey conducted this Spring. The survey, which was sent out at random to 5,520 students via email, 1,326 of whom responded, evaluated the Tech experience in terms of importance and performance on a number of subjects.

"This survey is unique,because it is the first time that students were invited to define the factors that drive their experience here" said Kathi Wallace, Direct of Research & Analysis. "We looked at this experience through a student lens. We haven't really found much similar work out there at our peer institutions."

"This is fairly new to colleges and students. Its common practice in the business world, but not a lot of people are letting students do evaluations of their experience," said James Fetig, Director of Communications and marketing.

Students who participated in the survey were asked to rank various aspects of their experience in terms of importance, and were then asked to rank how well Tech was performing in each of the areas previously ranked.

The data released by Communication and marketing focused on four areas; quality of overall experience, friendly & welcoming atmosphere, ease of offering opinion and likely to recommend. The data was then analyzed based on demographics of the respondents, such as the year, major, gender, race or campus involvement level of the student. Financial factors, such as scholarships or grants received, were not considered, although the scores of in-state students were compared to out-of-state students.

"We considered a ranking of 8-10 to be a strong positive ranking on the performance part of the survey," Wallace said.

The question "would you be likely to recommend Tech to a qualified peer" received 68% 8-10 rankings, with an average ranking of 7.91 53% of students ranked the quality of overall student experience between 8 and 10 with an average score of 7.29. 41% of respondents gave Tech's friendly and welcoming atmosphere 8-10 while only 26% responded that the ease of offering opinions/feedback deserved 8-10, with an average score of 6.0.

Perception ratings tended to be higher among younger students, females and students who had taken GT1000, while out-of-state students and students who listed no extra-curricular activities had distinctly lower perception ratings.

The scores for ease of offering opinions, for example, fell from 34% 8-10 ratings from first-year respondents to 20% 8-10 ratings from fifth-year respondents

"We ultimately want to see loyalty and perception improving as people spend more time here, but to seems in some cases even when they become more familiar with the institution they still don't know where to go to seek assistance," Wallace said.

Scores and importance rankings were also broken down into classifications of importance, which were used to isolate key areas of opportunity in the student experience.

Both the quality of interaction with other students and the social life on campus had low perception ratings on campus, or low rankings on a performance score.

"I found it more enlightening than I expected, I don't think I could have projected how candid the students would be in terms of their interactions with each other," Wallace said.

"This all fits in with my platform of building a stronger Tech community, which is why we are sharing all this with SGA this week.... We are focusing on more feedback with things like our new website and on more student interaction," said Alina Staskevicius, Undergraduate Student Body President.

The survey also focused on communicating with undergraduate students evaluating the ways that students share their opinions about their experience as well as the ways that students receive news and updates.

68% of students claimed to talk with other Tech students frequently about the student experience, while only 11% spoke about it with an administrator and only 7% spoke frequently with and SGA representative.

64% of students expressed a preference for information in the forms of emails from the administration, with Georgia Tech websites as the second most-preferred method with 57%.

MySpace was the least preferred method, with only 1% of students selecting it as one of their 7 preferred options. Facebook was preferred by 47%.

Students were finally classified by advocacy levels, which were divided into four groups. Students were either loyal, favorable, vulnerable of dissatisfied in relationship to their Tech experience. Loyal students gave their Tech experience, the Tech atmosphere and their likelihood to recommend all ratings of 8-10, and comprised 32% of the respondents. Favorable students comprised 55% of the rankings with only 13% of the respondents classified as vulnerable or dissatisfied.

"The thing to remember here is you are not trying to bring the low end to the high end, you are trying to bring the favorable students up with strategic targeted efforts," Wallace said.

The results of the survey were shared with the associate deans of colleges as well as campus departments, SGA and other student leaders.

"I am excited to see what will happen in the future. It is one thing to get this information, it is another thing to send it out, to act on it and to see it to fruition," said Brian Tyson, fourth-year w and Freshman Experience Survey committee member.

An introduction to President Bud Peterson

President Wayne Clough announces his departure from Tech to become the 12th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.

Nominations and applications are due. The committee receives nearly 100 applications.

Presidential search begins with first committee meeting.

G. P. "Bud" Peterson is announced as the finalist for Institute President.

Interviews begin.

MAR. 2008 | **JUNE 2008** | **JULY 2008** | **AUG. 2008** | **SEPT. 2008** | **NOV. 2008** | **DEC. 2008** | **FEB. 2009**

President Clough steps down and Provost Gary Schuster becomes the interim president.

Presidential search committee is formed.

Presidential Search Forum takes place to gain student input in the committee's decision.

Peterson is officially named the 11th President of Tech.

By Sijia Cai
News Editor

After former Institute President Wayne Clough left in March of last year to become the twelfth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Tech community began its search for the next permanent president. The process taken to find current President George P. "Bud" Peterson was methodical and required the input of many different facets of Tech as well as the Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The 21-member presidential search committee was formed in July and comprised eight Regents, seven professors, two Tech-affiliated foundation chairs, two business sector representatives and two student representatives. The faculty representatives and the student representatives were chosen in particular through recommendations and lists from the student body, other faculty members, departments and the president's office. Included in the committee are also notable Tech alumni Joe Rogers, one of the cofounders of Waffle House, and Chris Young, the chief of protocol and director of international affairs for the state of Georgia.

In order to ensure the quality of the selection, the Board of Regents brought in a search consultant company, R. William Funk and Associates, to help with soliciting nominations and attracting candidates.

"We set out with the clear vision of finding the best president for Georgia Tech. We didn't want a transition president or a short-term president but one that could take us to the next level," said Nick Wellkamp, former undergraduate student body president and a member of the search committee.

The search committee's work kicked off on Aug 12 with its first meeting, in which some goals and logistics were set out. On September 17, Presidential Search Open Forums were held in the Student Center Theater in order to gather student feedback on what qualities they find vital to being a good university President.

"The next president needs to know the culture of Georgia Tech in planning its strategy, and also needs to be efficient, effective and organized... to be able to inspire people. The president needs to be more than a manager, but needs to be a leader...to inspire confidence and trust," said Gary Schuster, Interim President during the search process and current Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Nominations and applications for the position were taken through November, with a final tally of nearly 100 applicants. On October 30, the search committee distilled the pool to a short list of 10-15 candidates, which was then further reduced to 5 to 7. Members of the search committee conducted "due diligence activities," which included extensive research on the candidates.

Off-site, one-and-a-half-hour interviews were conducted with these candidates on December 7-9 and only a very small number of finalists were recommended to the Board of Regents for interviews in mid-January. After the search committee made its last selections, the Board of Regents consulted non-directed references (people that the Board of Regents thought would know more about the candidates but whose names were not provided by the candidates themselves) in making their final decision.

"We asked questions about the candidates' previous roles, their responsibilities, their experience with finances and fundraising, intercollegiate athletics, diversity, research and commercialization, student life, internationalization, and their perceptions of Georgia Tech. And then we just asked any questions that came up during each individual interview," Wellkamp said.

On February 9, the Board of Regents announced Dr. G. P. Bud Peterson, former chancellor of the University of Colorado at Boulder, as the sole finalist for Tech's presidency. Peterson had been the chancellor of CU since 2006, after six years as provost at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and 19 years at Texas A&M. Previously, he was a walk-on wide receiver while an undergraduate at Kansas State, and spent several years teaching at high schools in Kansas.

President Peterson formally took office as Tech's eleventh President on April 1.

Peterson has been CU's chancellor since July 2006, during which he led the university's initiative to reinvent itself as a flagship university of the 21st century. At that period, the institution had been struck by several scandals, which threatened the university's reputation.

Despite his success at CU, Peterson saw an opportunity to effect lasting change around the world as president of Tech.

"When you think about institutions around the world that can have a dramatic impact on [areas such as energy and sustainability], Georgia Tech in particular is an institution with [those] characteristics. If we're going to solve really challenging problems...they're going to be solved at places like Georgia Tech," Peterson said in a brief address shortly after the announcement of his appointment.

In the speech, he mentioned that Tech has become an example to other universities, citing a memo one of his associates sent to CU's faculty. "He said, if you want to know how institutions improve, look at Georgia Tech," Peterson said.

He proposed an engineering-like approach with which he will try to maintain the quality of a Tech education and a tradition of improvement despite dwindling state revenues. "It's easy to do more with more. What requires innovation and creativity and leadership is to be able to do more with less," Peterson said.

The investiture ceremony for President Peterson will take place on September 3. All students are welcome to attend this event.

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France, and we've actually had several students go back for that reason," Schuman said.

The variety of courses offered at GT-L is another reason why students, both in-state and out-of-state, find the program attractive. The courses offered at GT-L come from a wide range of subject areas, including engineering, language, social science and computer science courses. Students can opt to take a mix of core courses and electives.

Accrding to Bass, a targeted, grass-roots advertising campaign also led to the boost in enrollment.

"Generally our best advertisers are our students, those who have been on the program before and can share their experiences," Bass said.

The program targets specific majors in the Institute to take part in GT-L, partnering with different departments to design programs that maximize students' chances of advancing their degree requirements while abroad.

Over the 10-week program, students attend classes for four days a week and can spend the three days traveling around Europe.

"One of the great benefits of GT-L is the flexibility it offers students to do what they want to do. They can choose to immerse themselves in the French culture or choose to travel across the continent," Schuman said.

Unlike other study abroad programs, GT-L students are not led by faculty but instead are responsible for to coming up with their own plans. Still, this can pose challenges to some students.

"You don't want to go to Greece on the weekend and carry around your books, so our students usually learn to organize themselves very quickly," Bass said.

The response to this year's program has been overwhelmingly positive, and Bass hopes that the enrollment at GT-L will continue to remain high in not only future summers, but also during the fall and spring semesters.

Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Lorraine

Leading in sustainability

Tech furthers green initiative with GreenBuzz, Mission Zero and sustainable education

By Vijai Narayanan
Senior Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, Tech was named to the Princeton Review's sustainability Honor Roll. The Institute landed in the top 15 with a perfect score, in no particular order. Tech also had the distinction of being the only school from the Southeast to receive this recognition.

"This is not the first time that our sustainability efforts have been recognized and certainly recognition isn't the most important thing, but Tech is regarded as a leader across the country when it comes to sustainability, thanks to the dedicated work of students, faculty and staff," said Sarah Mallory, the Student Communications Director for GreenBuzz, an on-campus sustainability resource.

Among the reasons for this honor is Tech's commitment to sustainable education. The Institute has had a long standing commitment for every student to take at least one course related to sustainability during their time at Tech. Architecture, for example, provides numerous courses on sustainable building and urban planning.

"From engineering to the liberal arts, departments across campus are making an effort to increase sustainability through ground breaking research. That's one thing that students can get involved in just by talking to a professor," Mallory said.

Research into sustainable technologies across all majors and disciplines is a major aspect of sustainability on campus. Dr. John-Paul Clarke, an AE associate professor, and his team came up with the idea of a continuous descent flight that could save over $80 million dollars per year in fuel costs.

Aside from the academic initiatives, various departments on campus have made sustainability a priority. Dining hopes to begin composting its waste and move completely to tray-less dining. Nearly every residence hall has access to a recycling center. This coming football season, they hope to add game-day recycling inside the stadium. This past year, the recycling department collected over 10 tons of game-day recycling outside the stadium alone.

Student collaboration with departments across campus has also led to numerous sustainability programs. For example, a student led push to expand the Sustainable Move-Out Initiative led to collection of over two tons of food. A student organization called Students Organizing for Sustainability has worked together with Dining to reduce their water usage dramatically over several years.

"When students come up with an idea to encourage sustainability we really support them to go out and try to achieve that. There are plenty of examples on campus where student initiatives have led to a more sustainable campus," Mallory said.

Sustainable buildings are another reason why Tech is recognized as a national leader on sustainability issues. The Institute is committed to sustainability in its buildings by requiring all new and renovation projects to follow LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. Currently, Tech has ten buildings that are LEED certified including one gold certified building, the Klaus Advanced Computing Center.

Tech has also partnered with community organizations in the Atlanta area as well as participated in nation-wide initiatives to spread sustainable practices. Tech was recently named a founding partner for Mission Zero, an online resource where individuals and businesses can share ideas and tips on how to make their homes and businesses more sustainable. Tech was the only university on the founding panel.

"When you look around, whether you know it or not, you are part of a sustainable campus," said Mallory. She hopes that sustainability efforts will continue to grow and that students continue to come up with new ideas to improve sustainability on campus.

"There is so much going on campus related to sustainability and students can get involved simply by asking around or talking to a professor," Mallory said.

Photo by Kelvin Kuo/ *Student Publications*

Regents pass budget decisions

By Sijia Cai
News Editor

Faced with declining state tax revenue and deep budget cuts statewide, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) has taken decisive measures to cope with the economic recession in several key meetings in recent months.

In April, Erroll Davis, Chancellor of the USG, held an information session and dialogue with SGA representatives from schools all across the state. During this meeting, Usha Ramachandran, vice chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, gave a presentation on the USG's overall budget situation. It showed that state tax revenue for this fiscal year had dropped 8% from last year, and proposed a three-tiered budget reduction plan.

Included in the budget reduction plan for the upcoming year is an 11.6% cut in institutional budgets across the state, despite the fact that USG enrollment has steadily increased in the past five years, a trend that is likely to continue. In April, the Board of Regents also approved a Fiscal Year 2010 budget of $2.17 billion, which includes federal stimulus funds of $92.6 million. Additional funds in state appropriations include $79.4 million for enrollment increases.

As for Fixed for Four, the Board decided that no changes will be made to the tuition paid by currently enrolled students. However, incoming students of the Class of 2013 and beyond are no longer able to take advantage of the guaranteed tuition plan. They will pay tuition at the same per-credit-hour rate charged last year but will be subject to future tuition raises. In addition, Tech students taking six credit hours or less will be charged a flat tuition of $1,800 per semester, and students taking more hours will pay a flat tuition rate of $3,035. All students will continue to pay the $100 mandatory fee.

"We're glad to see the end of Fixed for Four," said Nick Wellkamp, former undergraduate student body president. "It has placed a major constraint on institutional funding and how well we can adjust to economic shocks. Contrary to popular belief, it does not actually save students money because they simply average the projected tuition over four years, so you end up paying more in the beginning and less in the end."

On May 12, the Board of Regents approved the modification of all employee contracts, giving University Presidents the authority to furlough any employees, including faculty. In this context, furloughing means asking an employee to take one or more days off without pay.

Originally, about one fourth of the University System's 40,000 employees were protected by their contracts from being furloughed, but these employees accounted for more than one half of all personnel costs. After this contract modification, all employees, regardless of tenure or position, can be furloughed if the need arises.

"What the Board of Regents

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website offers student perspectives on a wide range of topics including course load, work periods, and study abroad experiences.

From over 11,500 applicants for the fall semester, around 59% of students were offered admission. That comes out to approximately 6,800 students. The incoming class had an average SAT score of 1366 on the combined reading and math sections, 2 points higher than last year's class. This year was also the first year that Tech considered the writing section. Taking that into account, the average score on the SAT was 2040.

"Diversity is a very important aspect of Georgia Tech and this incoming class contributes to that tradition," Clark said.

Over 45 different states are represented in this year's incoming class, out of a potential 48 in the applicant pool. Citizens from 54 different countries are represented, reduced from a possible 79 countries. Furthermore, the number of female students increased 1.4%, thereby changing the ratio to 33% female and 67% male.

SGA from page 5

because a lot of the time we find that students are cramming and turning in projects or homework and taking tests during dead week when really there shouldn't be any of that happening," Staskevicius said.

Change is also occurring to SGA itself. Freshman elections will be held for the first time to give the incoming class of students a voice in the legislation. Elections will be held late in the fall.

In order to help students hit by the economic downturn, SGA has procured 8,000 notebooks and 8,000 planners from different companies and will distribute them free to students at the student center and the library.

A welcome back party, scheduled for the same day as President Bud Peterson's investiture, is also being hosted by SGA. The celebration will be held on 7 p.m. at September the third. The event will showcase different student organizations, a performance by the GTG's and a fireworks show. SGA was also responsible for the football ticketing changes that take effect this year.

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Peterson announces 25-year plan for Tech's future

Photo by Robert Combier/*Student Publications*

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

Over the coming weeks and months, the Institute will develop a strategic plan that envisions Tech's future and provides a roadmap for achieving that goal. The purpose of the plan is to transform Tech into the premier educational institution for the 21st century. The hope is to develop a plan and to implement it over the next 25 years, in time for the 150th anniversary of Tech's founding.

"The principal question is: what should Georgia Tech be like in 25 years? What do we expect Georgia Tech's international footprint be like in 25 years? What will the student experience be like? How is that going to change what we do from an educational perspective? Those are some of the questions that we want to answer," said Institute President Bud Peterson.

"The purpose of the strategic plan is to lay out what we need to do in the next 3-5 years, the next 10-12 years to achieve the vision of making Tech the foremost university for students and the community," said Steve Cross, Director of Georgia Tech Research Institute and a member of the President's cabinet.

Cross explained the logic behind a strategic plan. "What we want to do is to develop a plan that can guide the different colleges and administrative units in their planning and budgeting towards achieving the stated goals and to setup benchmarks to test their performance," Cross said.

Previously, strategic plans have previously been implemented with success. The plan developed nearly 10 years ago set the stage for many of the infrastructure and construction projects that have since been implemented on campus. Like the previous plan, the current one aims to focus the Institute on a path that helps serve the campus and the broader Atlanta community.

One of the proposed strategic themes is to explore how education can be delivered more effectively. "One of the things we really want to explore is how we can better deliver content, and give students a more interdisciplinary and experiential education," Cross said.

Other important themes include global health, the role of Tech's international operations and the role of the Institute in the state of Georgia.

"Anybody who wants to come and get involved will have a chance to. We want all the students, faculty, and staff to get involved and help clarify and define the themes central to Tech," Cross said.

Members from the President's cabinet and other administrative units met on August 3 to develop a steering committee for the development of the strategic plan. The steering committee consists of 75 individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds who interact with Tech on a variety of different capacities. Alumni and students, along with faculty and staff play an important role in the steering committee. The steering committee currently has six students representing the student body.

This steering committee will reduce the proposed themes to approximately 10 themes which it then will present to stakeholders.

A tentative timeline for the process is as follows. After meeting with the steering committee on August 24, President Peterson will formally announce the planning process for the initiative during his investiture ceremony on September 3. Following that announcement, the steering committee will hold a series of town hall style meetings with students, faculty and alumni.

Peterson stressed that he believes student involvement is critical to making the plan a successful one. "I really encourage students to get involved in the strategic planning process. The steering committee has been developed simply to give some structure to this broad task. We need the students' creativity and their innovation to come up with a good plan," Peterson said.

During the spring, the committee will come up with roadmaps to achieving different themes. After reviewing the plan with various constituencies, the committee is scheduled to come up with a draft of the plan by the end of the spring semester. During the summer, the committee will spend time refining and polishing the plan for finalization.

"Once the plan has been completed, departments across campus can adjust their budgetary and administrative tasks towards achieving the goals. In addition, the plan will be an important step in continuing fundraising for the Capital Campaign for Georgia Tech," Cross said.

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wanted to do was provide each University President with all of the tools available to manage the current fiscal crisis, and furloughs are one of those tools," said Gary Schuster, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

On August 12, the board approved six mandatory furlough days for faculty and staff, to be implemented over the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010. This will affect all 40,000 USG employees, except the lowest paid (annual salary of $23,660 or lower), and is equivalent to a three percent pay cut. Classes and employee retirement plans will not be affected.

In this most recent meeting, the board also approved changes in health insurance programs affecting almost 5,000 employees enrolled in the USG's indemnity plan, which will be eliminated.

"These are difficult reductions for all," Davis said in a press release. "We are spreading the pain among our employees and withholding the direct financial pain to our students as an absolute, last resort. But we are committed to serving our students – all of our students – with continued high academic quality."

The regents also approved a Fiscal Year 2011 capital budget request of $275.6 million, which includes $19.7 million in equipment for six new facilities, $157.9 million in new construction or renovation, $68.9 million in both design and construction funds and $75 million in funds for major repair and rehabilitation projects.

Library from page 4

of the redesign was to create defined, yet flexible spaces. Upon entrance into the 2 West area, one sees three rows of group and collaborative work spaces. These spaces are designed for a maximum of six people and are enclosed with semi-transparent screens, designed to give an open feeling to the surroundings yet still allowing groups to maintain a sense of privacy. Each group space features wired data and power ports, as well as a movable whiteboard.

In addition, the floor includes a lounge-like area for groups to meet and discuss ideas. Almost all of the furniture on the floor has been replaced based on student input, and nearly all of the pieces are movable. The balcony overlooking the presentation room will also be open for viewing.

"We used to have large ten-person tables that were rarely filled, and that's why we decided to go for smaller tables and newer chairs," Fox said.

The new space will have 40 fewer chairs than before, but Fox believes that more of the new chairs will be occupied under the new arrangement.

The most important change to the space is probably the proliferation of power ports, which were scarce on 2 West in the past. The new design also carves out space for group enclosures with docking stations and flat screen monitors to facilitate laptop usage. The design committee for the renovation chose not to purchase more desktop computers due to high maintenance costs.

Changing the lighting was another major focus in this project. Previously, the lights on 2 West were thin-tube fluorescent lights meant for bookshelves.

"They were long, narrow and harsh for studying," Fox said.

They have been replaced by energy efficient lights that sense the ambient lighting and adjust appropriately to provide adequate lighting. Unfortunately, 2 West will not be fully renovated at the start of the fall semester.

"Because of the economy, vendors aren't stocking large amounts of products and so a few parts are on back-order," Fox said.

One of the features that will have to be completed during the fall semester is the group areas with docking stations.

In addition to renovating 2 West, the library also updated the equipment in the East Commons. All of the renovations were completed without state money, as the library's budget was cut last year and is expected to be cut again.

"We were able to use the Technology Fee money to update our desktop computers. However all of the renovations were done using funds in the Price Gilbert endowment and through separate grants," Fox said. He stressed that because state funds are unavailable, any future renovations will take several years to initiate.

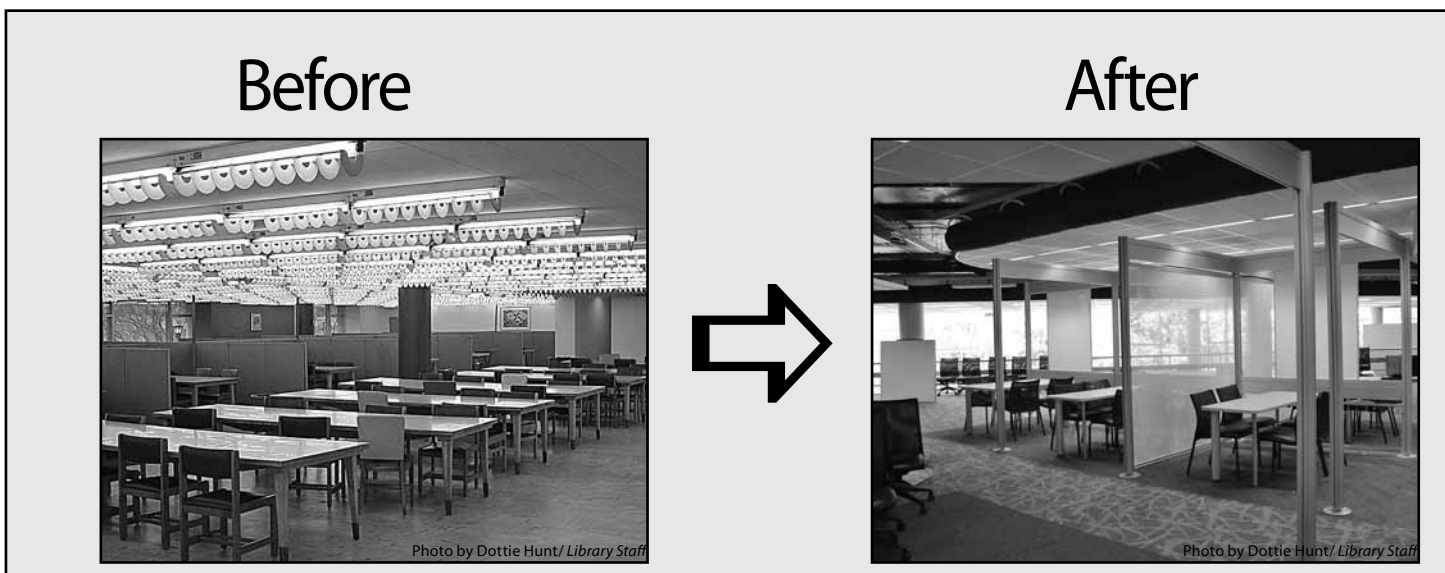

Photo by Dottie Hunt/ *Library Staff*

Library space was constrained and inflexible, causing significant student inconvenience.

Photo by Dottie Hunt/ *Library Staff*

More spacious and more diverse facilities available for students to study individually or in groups.