FOCUS

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JACKETS AIM HIGH IN ACC

Tech beat North Carolina State last week. If the Jackets win this Saturday, they will earn a spot in the ACC championship game. **Page 26**

***THE FOUNTAIN* FINALLY ARRIVES**

Director Darren Aronofsky delivers his long-awaited follow-up to *Requiem for a Dream* with his new sci-fi film *The Fountain*. **Page 15**

First global health week educates campus

By Manu Raghavan
Contributing Writer

Imagine living on one dollar a day. That is the challenge the organizers of Tech's first Global Health Education Week, held Nov.6-9, extended to students to enlighten them of the difficulties faced by over two billion people around the world living in extreme to moderate poverty.

Organized by Tech's American Medical Students Association (AMSA), the week-long series of events is intended to increase awareness of problems in global health.

Accepting the dollar-a-day challenge meant that participants had to pledge to spend less than a dollar on food throughout a 24-hour period, all other expenses being discounted for simplicity—no mean feat for the average grande-mocha-frappuccino-sipping, pizza-delivery-ordering college student.

Even though a dollar in the U.S. counts for less than it does in other countries, the event organizers hope that "walking the talk" will make students more informed and sympathetic towards global health needs.

The connection between dire poverty and health? Just imagine how easily someone can stay healthy when they have barely enough to eat.

Nikhil Patil, the advocacy chair of AMSA and one of the organizers of the event, said that increasing student awareness is the main objective behind the event.

> "Even if just one person on campus... becomes educated about [global health], I'll consider this...a success."
>
> **Nikhil Patil**
> AMSA Advocacy Chair

"We're all about educating students about global health issues. Even if just one person on campus listens to what's being said and becomes educated about the area, I'll consider this event a success," Patil said.

The dollar-a-day challenge is one of many events that took place around campus as part of the week. Other events, including lectures from public health professionals, development project leaders and industry leaders were lined up to shed light on evolving global health needs.

To that end, the organizers focused each day of the week on a different area of interest in public health. The first day of the event concentrated on infectious diseases.

By Jonathan Agee / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students help raise awareness of significant issues like infectious diseases for Tech's first Global Health Education Week. Students used displays set up on Skiles walkway to educate others this week.

"Avian flu is the next big thing. People are very concerned that an avian flu pandemic could kill more people than all previous epidemics ever [even in the U.S.]," Patil said.

Patil acknowledged that not all students would relate to the issues being advocated, but insisted that they are relevant to everyone.

"There are certainly challenges in reaching out to the student body, but everyone faces these issues. We really have to connect to students," Patil said.

"Compared to [urgent] humanitarian crises like Darfur, we see that the advocacy campaign is gaining momentum now [because of greater information propagation]. That's what we want do for global health here," Patil said.

The week ends with Action Day, which will be held tomorrow Nov. 11 to get interested students directly involved with public health initiatives through local service projects. Students can choose from sorting blood donation supplies at a Red Cross facility to tutoring elementary school children to gardening at the Carter Center. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up at **www.move.gatech.edu/medical**.

Briefing discusses legislation

By Matt Peebles
Contributing Writer

For anyone who wants to impact Tech affairs in the legislative arena, the place to be next Saturday, Nov. 18 is the Legislative Network fall briefing. The 2006 briefing will be held in the Clary Theater of the Student Success Center.

Hosted by the Alumni Association, the briefing will discuss the upcoming Ga. legislative session and the issues that Tech will focus on in that session.

According to Andrew Harris, the director of Government Relations in the Legislative Network, the group meets once every year in the late fall, usually before a home football game, to discuss Tech's and the University System of Georgia's priorities and to make a strategy for the following legislative session.

By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The upcoming Nov. 18 fall briefing will discuss major issues that Tech will present at the next state legislative session in the Capitol.

This year's briefing begins two hours before the kickoff to Tech's final home game of the year against Duke.

There will be three speakers at this year's fall briefing: Jerry Keen, the majority leader of the Georgia House of Representatives; Institute President Wayne Clough; and Tom Daniel, the interim chief operating officer and executive vice chancellor of the Board of Regents.

> "The main purpose... is to inform the state legislature of Tech's agenda..."
>
> **Andrew Harris**
> Government Relations Director

"The main purpose of the briefing is to inform the state legislature of Tech's agenda for the next legislative session. We tell [the legislature] why Tech is important to the state," Harris said.

Harris explained that Tech's agenda for the meeting is to introduce to the legislature a proposal that will allow the university to carry over internal funds (such as tuition) each fiscal year to exempt college textbooks from the state sales tax and to allow for the full funding of the university system's funding formula, which would include restoration of the "major repairs" and "rehabilitation" portion of the formula.

Funding the formula would cost the state approximately $70 million, according to Harris. This formula is based upon enrollment at the school—how much money the school gets is determined by how many students are there.

See **Briefing**, page 12

Workshop sheds light on some hidden disabilities

By Jenny Zhang
Focus Editor

If the only things that the word "disabilities" brings to mind are wheelchairs and seeing-eye dogs, it may be time for a broader definition. A new class of disabilities is on the rise, disabilities that often cannot be seen and are sometimes not even suspected by those who have them—psychological disabilities.

A workshop held Nov. 7 as part of Disability and Diversity Days 2006 sought to address psycholgoical disabilities.

> "[Psychological disabilities] are usually not apparent, not even to the people [with them]."
>
> **Ruperto Perez**
> Counseling Center Director

Moderated by Counseling Center Director Ruperto Perez and Disability Services Specialist Tameeka Hunter, it was attended by several campus administrators.

The workshop sought to create a basis of understanding and foster support for people at Tech, especially students, with psychological disabilities.

"Psychological disabilities are known as one of the hidden disabilities because it's not necessarily visible. They are usually not apparent, not even to the people who have them," Perez said.

According to Perez, a psychological disability is a diagnosed mental condition that significantly impacts major life functioning.

"We're talking about a student who has shown a pattern of decline in academic performance, social well-being and physical health," Perez said.

"This is a disability that affects a number of different life spheres," Perez said.

Specific types of psychological disabilities include depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Pointing to the fact that 86 percent of students with psychological disabilities withdraw from college without completing

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Briefing from page 11

Tech and the rest of Georgia's state universities have the power to carry over money from one fiscal year to the next, but if the money is not used within two years, it goes away as part of the "sunset clause."

Tech's plan is to try to change the law so that there is no sunset clause and the state universities can carry over their money from year to year without fear of losing any.

Harris said that the push to exempt college textbooks from the state sales tax was initiated last year by Tech students.

If textbooks were exempted from taxes, the state would lose six million dollars in revenue.

According to Harris, cutting the state sales tax on college textbooks would save the average college student around $70 every semester, which adds up to just over $400 for a typical four-year college student.

The Legislative Network is made up of Tech alumni and students. It was established back in the 1980s to help Tech build a relationship with the state legislature.

When asked why the school does not appeal to the federal legislature for school funding, Harris responded that most of the funding that comes from the nation's capital is used for research.

> "Students are the reason everyone is here...and [they] are the best ambassadors..."
>
> **Andrew Harris**
> Government Relations Director

"We want as many students to come and get involved [with the Legislative Network] as possible. Students are the reason everyone is here at the university and students are the best ambassadors to the legislators," Harris said.

Harris believes that the legislators listen to students more than others at the university because everyone else involved in the Legislature Network is paid.

Harris said that since students are not paid by the university, legislators are more likely to listen to them than to those people who are paid by the university.

Depending on the kickoff time for the Duke vs. Tech game on the 18th, either lunch or brunch will be served to those who RSVP by sending an email to Betsy Jackson (**betsy.jackson@dev.gatech.edu**) by Nov. 14.

At the briefing, there will be a short question and answer session after each speaker so that students, staff, faculty and others in attendance can ask questions.

After all the speeches have been concluded, each speaker will be available for discussion with the audience members.

By Ariel Bravy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

May I have your vote? A polling place was opened at the Student Center this past Election Day. Many students took time off from their classes to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

Ebriedad gente, ebriedad
everyone knows about calvin, but james is the best kept secret
Beverly Hills! That's where I want to be!
The truth is out there.
Death = 7.0 < pH < 7.8 = Death
M!(&@$[boned C@^*[!^$
Backside attack!...I wish I weren't such an electrophile.
Toooootsie
People have always been poking people with needles
I've seen a lot of the concussed.
If you see a guy looking into every car he passes its because he's looking at his reflection
The Klaus bld will be official once I take a dump in it
Few can say they've taken a #2 in every major building at Tech
One thing college teaches you is to be able to take a #2 anywhere despite the conditions, even in a suit and tie
We have some nice looking girls, but FEW HOT HOT girls, damn
Remember, remember, the 5th of November!
Two Bits Man...I created a WIkipedia article about you
Enjoy TBM
I'ma let you check upon it
Damn, East Commons is Loud.
Shut Up people I'm trying to study
Wikipedia deleted my article about the Two Bit Man...sad times
awkward turtle!!!
ACC championship...here we come
how 'bout them dawgs?
sweeeet homo alabama spledge
plegde paddle party...kinky
Brittain Dining Hall: Solving the over-population issue one hungry engineer at a time.
Whisper, whisper, whisper
Finding Common Ground is an honorable event, but a reckless and irresponsible use of the Student Activity Fee.
Thank you to all of the members of SGA who questioned Finding Common Ground, rather than mindlessly accepting it.
LEAVE ME ALONE!!!

See page 16 for more Slivers!

Kids find college heroes

Students mentor children impacted by HIV/AIDS at GT HERO's 2006 annual fall festival in Yellow Jacket Park

By Aileen Li
Contributing Writer

To some, escape is a luxury. To others, especially to children whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS, escape is a necessity.

On Nov. 4, the Tech chapter of HERO (Hearts Everywhere Reaching Out), or GT HERO, hosted a day of fun for these children at its annual fall festival in Yellow Jacket Park.

HERO is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of children infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. According to the organization's website, there are 9,000 children in Georgia who are affected by HIV, and there is a great need for outreach. HERO meets this need through enriching programs, connections to the community and events like the recent fall festival.

The organization got its start from two intrepid volunteers from Georgia. After working separately with AIDS orphans abroad, Ryan Gembala and Garrett Gravesen were inspired to initiate a program at the university level that focuses on reaching out to children living with the illness.

By Gilbert Cha / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Body painting was one of the many fun activities featured at the recent HERO (Hearts Everywhere Reaching Out) festival on campus.

Since the majority of the children in the HERO program are from the metro Atlanta area, Gembala and Garrett opened a chapter of HERO at Tech, with the sole mission of enriching the kids' lives by providing them opportunities for fun and for future possibilities.

The festival was a tremendous success. More than 200 people showed up for the event, including more than 90 HERO children and more than 40 volunteers.

"Some of these families can't afford to go to fairs or carnivals, so we want to give that experience to their kids. We hope that all those that helped out will see that their time and fundraising efforts really makes a difference in these kids' lives," said Elicia Skelton, the executive director of GT HERO.

In addition to a special appearance by the Tech basketball team, the fall festival included six large inflatable games, sports stations set up by the Hawks and the Thrashers, face painting, pumpkin decorating, a magician and a petting zoo.

"The fall festival is a day that the kids can play outside, interact with students and volunteers. Being on campus gets [the children] excited about school in general, and that goes a long way," Skelton said.

The festival not only gave the children a day to be out on the inflatables, it gave them a chance to experience new things.

By Gilbert Cha / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A Tech student poses with Daffy Duck and a young child at the recent fall festival held for children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

"[Being at] home is really boring," said Aisha Brown, a 13-year-old HERO participant from Kings Middle School.

"[At the festival] I can make new friends, and have fun. [The program] helps our parents too…it gets us out of the house," Brown said.

> "To all of [us], this event is special because you can literally see the impact of the work... on the kids."
>
> **Elicia Skelton**
> GT HERO Exec Director

To volunteers, simply being with the children is a reward.

"To all of [us], this event is special because you can literally see the impact of the work the organization has on the kids," Skelton said.

HERO also works to raise money for the programs it runs for local children. One notable program is SuperHEROs, a mentoring program that pairs a volunteer with a HERO child to mentor for one year. The program pays for monthly events that allow its SuperHEROs and children to bond through fun experiences. Past events held by SuperHEROs have included Braves Night at Turner Field, the Laser Show Spectacular at Stone Mountain and ice skating in Centennial Olympic Park.

"To raise money for these programs, GT HERO plans smaller and more local fundraisers such as our end-of-the-year party, HERO discount cards and GT HERO T-shirts," Skelton said.

To find out more about GT HERO and discover how to be a hero, check out **www.gtheros.org**.

Hidden from page 11

their degrees, Perez emphasized the importance of identifying students with these disabilities and providing them with the services they need for support.

"A common misconception [about psychological disabilities] is that students affected by them are unable to do well in college. This is simply not true. Given adequate accommodations and medical or therapeutic services, students can be successful," Perez said.

Other widespread misconceptions about these types of disabilities are that they do not count as "real" disabilities, or that students who have psychological disabilities pose a danger to other students.

"Actually, the student is probably a much greater threat to him or herself," Perez said.

However, the need for greater awareness and understanding of psychological disabilities may be greater now than ever before.

Perez cited statistics that indicate college years are the "right time" for psychological disabilities to emerge, with many of them developing in people between the ages of 18 and 25.

Tech is no exception. According to Perez, 35 percent of the students who come to the Counseling Center are dealing with depression and 25 percent are dealing with anxiety.

However, there are still many students who may not be getting the help they need.

"There's a considerable social stigma attached to having a psychological disability. It's difficult for students to come to terms with [it]. They're competitive, they're used to being among the best and brightest…to be labeled with a psychological disability undermines their self-esteem. We at the Counseling Center try to help them overcome that," Perez said.

Denise Johnson, the Assistant Dean of Students and director of Disability Services, provided further insight on the extent of the stigma.

"The number one question students ask us when they register [with our disability services office] is will this go on my transcript, will people know I have this disability? The answer is, of course, no," Johnson said.

> "There's a... social stigma attached to having a psychological disability."
>
> **Ruperto Perez**
> Counseling Center Director

Tech provides several resources for students with psychological disabilities.

In addition to the Counseling Center, the ADAPTS (Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students) Office specifically provides students with information and support regarding their disabilities.

In order to receive help from ADAPTS, a student must self-identify him or herself as having a disability and show official documentation of the disability.

Documentation for psychological disabilities must be less than a year old, and are sometimes required to be renewed on a semi-annual basis because of the constantly changing nature of the disabilities.

Once students have submitted their documentation and register with ADAPTS, the office's staff serves them as full-time advocates.

ADAPTS staff help students secure adequate accommodations for their disabilities and obtain access to all college programs.

Common accommodations for these students include having extended time on exams, note takers, permission to record lectures and additional absences without penalty.

Hunter stressed the need for these accommodations to be reasonable.

"If a student is being impacted by the psychological disability such that [he or she] cannot function to the point that they need treatment, then [ADAPTS] can intercede on the student's behalf and talk to the faculty. Usually, the accommodations are very individually based…what they are depend on the student and their condition," Hunter said.

However, it has sometimes proven difficult to secure needed accommodations for students with psychological disabilities.

"One thing we get a lot from professors is that they say ADD [attention deficit disorder] is not a real disability, or the students couldn't be at Tech if they had ADD or they're just lazy and slacking off. That's when I go into data mode, talking about the biopsychosocial processes involved, the specific effects of the disorder on the frontal lobe…and then they understand," Hunter said.

"It's necessary to give them the hard and fast facts of the case, explain this is why the [accommodation] is needed for this student," Hunter said.

A section about psychological disabilities is included in mandatory orientations for new faculty, but there is currently no such mandatory training for faculty and staff already at Tech.

"It's important for professors to be educated about and aware of [psychological disabilities] so they're prepared when they have students with those disabilities…This is why we hold workshops like this one…We'd like to move to the point where all faculty receive training [about psychological disabilities]," Hunter said.

Students who have been diagnosed with a psychological disability or believe that they may be affected by one are encouraged to visit the Counseling Center and register with the ADAPTS office.

For more information about ADAPTS, please visit **www.adapts.gatech.edu**.

Fast Facts

Psychological disabilities are a relatively new class of disabilities emerging on college campuses across the country and affecting growing numbers of students. Ruperto Perez, director of the Counseling Center, provides some quick facts on the issue:

- **Psychological disabilities are often "hidden" disabilities in that they are rarely apparent even to someone who might have one**
- **35 percent of students who visit the Counseling Center come for help dealing with depression**
- **25 percent of students who visit the Counseling Center come for help dealing with anxiety**
- **86 percent of students with psychological disabilities withdraw from college without completing their degrees**
- **Documented numbers of Tech students with psychological disabilities may be grossly underestimated, since many are hesitant to report themselves as having a disability**
- **Social stigma is a major factor in students' reluctance to come forward or seek help for their psychological disabilities**