Moving forward

Gary Schuster, current dean of the College of Sciences, is replacing Jean-Lou Chameau as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. His appointment indicates that Tech is moving in the right direction. While all of Tech’s engineering disciplines hold top 10 rankings, before the Institute can reach its full potential, growth in the humanities and sciences is necessary. Innovation is necessary for Tech to remain competitive with other top-tier colleges and universities. Schuster’s background and emphasis on multidisciplinary approaches will be beneficial tools to help leverage Tech’s current international prestige in engineering to other disciplines.

Schuster said that he wants to hear from students and use their input. The typical five years that students spend at Tech is a relatively short time in the life of the Institute, and it would be easy for Schuster to get away with not listening to us or responding to our needs. We encourage Schuster to remain true to his word and be aware of what students think about academics, not just in the beginning but throughout his tenure as provost. We look forward to seeing him help Tech reach the next level.

Three is a crowd

The new Housing plan that puts three freshmen together in a room built for two is perhaps this semester’s biggest controversy. Putting students in such a cramped space no doubt made the freshman year transition to college even scarier than normal. Housing is doing the best it can with the options it has to work with; at this point, 10 rooms have already been un-tripped, and they plan to have all of the dorms returned to their intended capacity by the spring semester. Housing should continue working toward this goal as rooms become available.

Housing should be guaranteed for freshmen, but it should be quality, not overcrowded, housing. This problem arises from complications in Admissions, not Housing, however. More freshmen have accepted Tech’s offer of attendance than was anticipated for two of the past three years, and Housing has had to arrange alternative housing arrangements, including flex spaces and triples used this year.

Given Tech’s increasing population and Housing’s increasing popularity, administrators should start planning how to better handle large incoming classes now. The Admissions office needs to find a better way of predicting numbers and implement a better system. Still, Housing should start reserving many more freshman spaces than expected, as it is better to take an up

Build on past with new traditions

“T-thieves could face expulsion” was the first story I ever read in a Technical during a summer visit in 2001. However, what I remember from that paper was an editorial about the future of the “T” tradition.

The news editor not only suggested how administrators could handle the pranksters but was critical of the mixed messages that had been sent to students about the tradition. I realized that by reporting what was going on at Tech accurately and covering both the student and administrative perspective that the paper served as a bridge connecting the Tech community. It was this realization and that first article that made me want to contribute to the paper. I recognized that not only was this a campus newspaper, but it truly was a tradition of recording and commenting on campus news.

I carried on this tradition of informing and entertaining students with the Technique, the south’s liveliest college newspaper since 1911.

I hope that this year you find your own mark. This is in the process of making. Sending us something does not mean that it will make it into the paper, but it certainly increases your odds. The quickest way to lose your voice is to never speak up. The more that we hear from you the more this paper will reflect the ever-changing student body and the history that it is in the process of making.

When you came to FASET, you learned about Tech’s history and traditions; you even went on a campus tour of them. However, remember that each tradition had its own unique start before you, certainly don’t try to steal the T since you’ll bedone before you, certainly don’t try to steal the T since you’ll be

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I find that I am lacking in opinions on current events at Tech, in Georgia or in the United States as a whole since returning from 10 weeks studying abroad in Western Europe this summer. But no matter, because I can take this opportunity to do a sales pitch for studying abroad.

I saw eight different countries this summer, and in every place it was hard to avoid making comparisons to home, both good and bad. It was refreshing to realize that there is a different way of doing things.

One of the first things I noticed about every big city in Europe was how much better their public transportation was than MARTA. It’s so easy to get around the cities, which makes them seem much friendlier through accessibility. Getting lost isn’t a problem, because you can always find the nearest subway station and make your way back to somewhere you know.

Getting lost, I found some of the most interesting and beautiful places by wandering around. Some of our most memorable experiences happened by simply setting out with no particular destination in mind. The best way to experience a place, after all, is to escape the tourist trap and see where and how real people live their lives. While we may explore foreign countries, we rarely do the same thing in our own. I wouldn’t know where to see if I looked at Atlanta with the eyes of a visitor.

In fact, our whole country is much different from a place in Western Europe, the area to which we’re most closely related. According to one of my history professors, most countries in that area have some type of socialist party and a conservative party. Compared to the left wing parties across the Atlantic, our liberals are very right wing. It is difficult, if not impossible, to affect social change with a limited system of government composed of two parties so close together on the political spectrum.

I’ve seen Americans unite behind the flag in the wake of terrorist attacks, a brief surge of patriotism in an extreme situation. In Europe, I saw patriotism that wasn’t caused by tragedy but by sport—the World Cup frenzy. It is a much happier form of patriotism, and very contagious. There is something astounding about the way something, like soccer, can bring together all kinds of people from diverse backgrounds and cultures and make them proud to be a citizens of their countries. It reminds me of college football, actually. But American football is a sport unique to us. If only America’s favorite pastime was [real] football instead, our people, not just our politicians, could interact with the citizens of a large part of the rest of the world.

To me, interacting with the rest of the world is a great reason to study abroad, but there are others. With such a limited number of students from Tech traveling together, many friendships form outside the normal boundary lines that divide us. Labels—nerd, jock, Greek—don’t matter as much when the people you’re with are the only thing that is familiar. Without this common experience, most of us never would have spoken, much less become familiar with each other and shared our varied perspectives of our travels with each other.

You learn a lot about yourself out there in the real world, too. Mom and Dad aren’t there to rescue you in case of an emergency. Sometimes you have to survive without the benefit of speaking the local language. But you quickly learn how you react to extreme situations, from rescuing a friend being dragged off by drunken, flirtatious British guys to getting desperate and finding your way back to a hotel in Paris at 3 a.m.

The world is an enormous place, and I feel like I’ve seen very little of it—but studying abroad is a great way to start. Tech has some great programs, and the list is growing all the time. The new International Plan makes it easy to see many parts of the world while pursuing a degree. I’m jealous of all the rising sophomores from my program who plan to take advantage of the International Plan, and I wish I could do the same. It’s not too late for you, I suspect you start looking at some of the many programs Tech offers. This time next semester, you could be in New Zealand, Mexico or Germany, to name a few.

The newly refurbished Library is a sight to students returning to campus. The warm and inviting atmosphere of a library and (yes, even the checkout desk) make mandatory trips to the library much less painful. We do miss the brightly-colored cups in the café, but we can’t have it all.

Since returning to school, I made a decision to join the United States Marine Corps Reserves. I then spent a year in training before returning to school in 2004. I spent voluntarily on active duty taking part in several missions. Since returning to school, however, I have discovered an unexpected difficulty: the administration.

I have on occasion been obligated to service when I would have otherwise been in class. Sometimes I can arrange to re-schedule this service, sometimes I cannot. I once asked for an excuse from the Dean of Students. I make every effort to inform my professors before I get the excuse and most tell me immediately. "Just get me docu- mation from the Dean." In every instance, the Dean of Students office has given me some trouble in some way. They

“Work hard and still be social.”

Lan Ju

MGIT grad student

“Don’t be too shy to ask for help.”

Courtney Buckner

Fourth-year MGT

“Get out more or else Tech will drive you crazy.”

Lamar Dorsey

Third-year Chemos

“Pray.”

OPINIONS

Technique - Friday, August 25, 2006 - 25

Our Views

HOT or NOT

Eatin’ mor chikin

The Student Center Chick-fil-a is open until 8 p.m. this week! This welcome change gives students the option of eating a good meal on campus after 3 p.m. Although the option of eating a good meal on campus after 3 p.m. is now open until 8 p.m., this change is better than nothing.

Registration woes

Another semester has started with the same registration problems as always. With canceled classes, TBA teachers and classes moved to Tech Square from their original locations, it is becoming increasingly difficult to stay on track for graduation. There’s nothing wrong with adding classes during Phase II, rather than unexpectedly changing Phase I classes.

Injured hopes

Wide receiver James Johnson, starting fullback Michael Cox and several starting linemen have all sustained injuries during pre-season practice. Even Calvin Johnson sat out part of last weekend’s scrimmage game. Hopefully the squad will be in better shape for the upcoming Notre Dame game.

Library face lift

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New year opens with radical change at UGA, Tech

"Every year, a new class of freshmen arrives on campus. This year is the biggest ever as a result of the fact that everybody really just wants to go to the same school as me, and it is my duty to teach them everything." That's how this column might start if I were giving advice to the new folks on campus, and just the slightest bit conceited.

However, freshmen are getting plenty of advice this week on what they should do. There's even a whole section of this paper devoted to them. (If you can't figure out which section this is, please transfer somewhere else, immediately.)

Now that I have lost most of my freshman readers that have frantically flipped through the paper to find the Freshman Survival Guide, I shall turn to more important matters—the University of Georgia has apparently started a war.

A headline in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's online edition on August 23, 2006, reads: "UGA deems war on underage and excessive drinking." Of course, encouraging drinking responsibly, that's undeniably a good thing, and it should not be trivialized, but really, a war?

On the bright side, this is a step in the right direction. It takes us back to the good ol' days when we could fight wars against material things, like the War on Drugs, which I think was fought entirely on net something stupid tonight? I sure hope not. Bail bondsmen advertising at a bookstore, be happy that I'm not Stephen Colbert, or you'd be on notice.

Of course, UGA is not the only school with some big happenings to start the school year; they just got a three-day head start by beginning classes a bit earlier. There are also some new, notable occurrences at Tech, with the biggest pair being the much-anticipated, newfangled Honors Program and a surprise addition—putting three people in triples.

That's absolutely ridiculous. And it gets more ridiculous as you think about the actual coupons. Does 20 percent off actually make somebody think: "You know, I wasn't going to get arrested, but hell, now that I've got 20 percent off the bail bond, I better not forget to take the coupon with me when I get plastered and do something stupid tonight!" I sure hope not. Bail bondsmen advertising during television. I guess I just never think was fought entirely on net against abstract nouns like Terror.

And whether you're doing it on purpose or by mistake, the War on Drugs, which I didn't even actually have to be my friend—just keep me informed.

If you happen to win, you will achieve great notoriety by having your name published in my next column. Of course, I am willing to be a little risky; after reading the comprehensive website on triples and make five fearless predictions before I even have a friend on the inside.

1. People in triples, who have been asked not to bring refrigerators because of space, will get thirsty at some point in the middle of the night, but they will not have anything cold to drink. The dining halls will be closed. They won't have cars. And they'll eventually get mildly upset.

2. The answer to the FAQ on the Housing website, "Is it true that students placed in triples typically enjoy the experience and choose to stay even when offered a double?" "Yes," for those of you who couldn't guess, will tell you otherwise.

3. People in triples typically will not be "surprisingly happy" living on the fourth floor of Folk or Caldwell.

4. The people in my freshman home of Folk will actually manage to have hot water at most times of the day and air conditioning the whole year.

In fact, Folk was chosen "due to [it] improved HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems." You see, I lived in Folk the last full year "before improvement." Let's just say that come spring, the room was hot and the shower was chilly. Stop complaining.

Nobody actually knows how this tripling thing is going to work, and whether the activities planned are really going to be "surprisingly fun." But, I know you're out there, Friend-in-a-Two-Person-Room (population: 3), to let us know as it goes along.

"To qualify for this Friendship, you must actually have two other assigned roommates. The guy/girl that unfortunately lives with a roommate who has already decided to shack up with the guy/girl he/she met in his/her first week of school, no lest! has my sincerest apologies, but their entry will still be considered void.

Marine from page 25

Receiving an excuse for a documented, excusable absence should be a painless process regardless of the reason.

Derek Greene
Third-year CompE
gg312a@prism.gatech.edu

Derek Greene
Tech offers opportunities for all

On behalf of Student Government, welcome to the 2006-2007 school year. I am honored to have been elected as your 83rd Undergraduate Student Body President for the exciting year, and I am looking forward to serving you.

To the class of 2010, welcome to Tech. I have had the opportunity to meet many of you throughout FASET Orientation and Freshmen Convocation, and you have convinced me that this is one of the most talented classes to enter Tech.

As students, we are fortunate to be attending Tech today. Tech is consistently ranked as one of the top 10 public universities in the nation and has a nationally renowned athletics program and an international presence.

The enthusiasm and commitment that Tech students display on a daily basis towards improving the Institute makes Tech much more than simply one of the nation's leading research institutions.

It is student dedication that continues to advance Tech both inside and outside of the classroom. The Student Government Association is one way that students have an opportunity to make a difference. Whether it is joining frSGA, being a Representative in the House or serving on a committee, students have a chance to make their voice heard.

The Student Government Association oversees the Student Activity Fee budget of over $3.5 million annually. SGA serves on Institute Wide Committees ranging from the Executive Board to Campus Recreation Advisory Board and works diligently to make your voice heard whenever a decision is made that affects the student body.

There are many other great opportunities for Tech students to have an impact. Whether it is participating in intramurals, playing in the band or orchestra, attending athletic events, writing for the Technique or joining another organization, there is a way for everyone to get involved.

We have an exciting year ahead of us and I encourage you to make the most of it.

Join me in wearing your Game Day Gold to each home football game. Come out to Yellow Jacket Parkbright and early on the morning of the Notre Dame game (Sept. 2), so that we as students can show off our Tech spirit to the nation when ESPN films Game Day in the heart of our campus.

Additionally, join thousands of your fellow students, faculty members, administrators and alumni on Sept. 15 at our fourth annual GT Night at Six Flags. These are only a couple of the many great opportunities for this fall. No matter what your interests, there is something for everyone at Tech.

I am truly honored to serve you during this year, and I am looking forward to working with you to continue the long precedent that Tech students work to make a difference for students here, now and in the future.

If you ever have a question or concern, feel free to stop by my office, which is in the Student Center across from Einstein Bagels, send me an e-mail at president@sga.gatech.edu or call me at 404-894-9114.

Student Government is here to serve you, so please do not hesitate to let us know how we can help.
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