Election season kicks off
By Corbin Pon

The marketing period for positions within the Student Government Association (SGA) began last Sunday at 8:00 p.m. Lasting until the polls close on April 11, the campaigning period is the time for potential candidates to become known to the general Tech population in hopes of being elected to the positions of SGA Executive President, Vice-President or one of the 57 open seats in the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHHR).

Candidates for President are Anu Parvathani, the SGA Chief-of-Staff and Biomedical Engineering major; Alex Wang, SGA Academic Affairs Chair and a Chemistry major; Bob Worrall, an Industrial Engineering major; and Mark Youngblood, a Computer Engineering major.

Candidates for Vice-President are Kyle Dreyer, an Aerospace Engineering major; George Raw, a Public Policy major; and Ron Peoples, an Economics and International Affairs major.

The Election Committee headed by Will Welch, SGA Elections Chair, oversees both the run up to the elections and the coordination of the elections themselves.

“The Election Committee’s primary goal is to see that the elections are fair and smooth. Also to ensure that the students get who they voted for without too much distraction for issues of cheating,” Welch said.

During the run up to the election, the responsibilities of the Election Committee involve modifying the election code that governs the conduct of the candidates during the election. Although not a new addition to the election code, Welch added that an emphasis had been placed this year on strengthening the rule for those convicted of election tampering. It is one of the ways that a student can find themselves permanently barred from participating in SGA.

Not every rule violation will find the candidates barred from SGA, but the rules and requirements in the code are meant to ensure a fair playing field for all the participants. Candidates running for Executive President and Vice-President are capped with a $225 spending limit and those running for seats in the UHR are capped at a $50 spending limit.

“I think one of the common misconceptions is that people think that SGA funds the candidates’ expenses for them. They are allowed to get money from other sources, but candidates do not receive any money from the SGA,” Welch said.

Candidates must abide by the spending limits put forth by the code. If the spending limits by less than five percent is a violation that is reviewed by the

See SGA, page 7

Committee secures TI for Sting Break
By Emily Chambers

The Student Center Programs Council recently released the performance line up for this year’s Sting Break. This years headlining performer will be Charles Joseph Harris Jr., more commonly known as the two-time Grammy winner and Atlanta native TI whose album “King” was released to huge success last year.

“The big show is April 20 at 8 p.m. in Yellow Jacket Park. In keeping with TI’s Atlanta influence, the concert will be hosted by Atlanta comedian Louis Ramey. Ramey has performed on Nick at Night and Comedy Central. The opening act is the Georgia Tech group ‘Oo La La, or J.R.B. The five-man group won the coveted opening spot in the Student Center’s Battle of the Bands back in December.”

“The scheduling and contract with TI were finalized roughly three weeks ago.”

Scott Bancroft
Concerts Committee Chair

The funding for TI’s final $60,000 price tag came not only from the Student Center Programs Funds, but also from SGA, IFC, the Alumni Association, Panhellicen Council, and various other sources.

TI’s performance is going to be slightly cheaper than last year’s Sting Break’s double performance by Cake and Big Boi, and the students are directly receiving the benefits. This year’s concert will be free entry for all students who present a Buzzcard, a move that will hopefully lead to the projected turnout of 5,000 students.

The show is outside due to the construction in Alexander Memorial Coliseum this year.

The concert will be part of the Student Center Programs Council Concert Committee, a group that plans various events throughout the year.

The committee was headed up by Scott Bancroft as the Concert Chair. The initial list of potential artists was gleaned from an email survey released to all students in early December.

The headlining artists for the past

See Break, page 4

Health Center birth control prices increase
By Craig Tabbata

Female students getting certain contraceptive medications from the Health Center pharmacy will have to start paying up to hundreds of dollars more per year to continue their medication after a bill by Congress has taken effect that eliminates certain subsidies on medications to health care providers such as those at universities.

The affected medications are hormonal contraceptives sold under the trademarks DepoProvera, Ortho-Tri-Cyclen, which are taken orally, and NuvaRing, a contraceptive ring placed in the vagina.

“We received a letter in December from the companies that we purchase from, saying that in less than a week we would no longer be able to purchase some of our birth control pills at the deeply discounted clinic prices as a result of the Deficit Reduction Act,” said Viola Brown, Health Services pharmacy supervisor.

Users of NuvaRing will experience the greatest jump in price, as it has already risen in cost from $10 to $46 for a monthly supply. Approved by the FDA in 2001 and introduced to the market the following year, many women prefer it because they find its method of using a single ring to be more convenient than having to remember to take a pill every day.

But after the almost five-fold price increase, saying that in less than a week we would no longer be able to purchase some of our birth control pills at the deeply discounted clinic prices as a result of the Deficit Reduction Act,” said Viola Brown, Health Services pharmacy supervisor.

Students volunteer at a children’s health clinic in Costa Rica, page 11

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House debates 2008 FY budget proposal

By Emily Chambers
Contributing Writer

This week’s council clippings is a double header, covering both this Tuesday’s meeting, as well as the meeting on Tuesday March 13, just before break.

The meeting on the 13th started with the joint allocation to GT Ice Hockey Club to help pay for travel to a tournament. The bill passed unanimously with a vote of 35 in favor. The second bill brought before the House was the joint allocation to GT Club Tennis. The group was requesting 35 women’s and 25 men’s uniforms to replace the tee shirts currently worn by the players. The bill was passed by a unanimous vote of 32 in favor.

The third bill brought before the house was the joint allocation to the Students for Justice in Palestine. The group is partnering with an organization at Kennesaw State to get the funds to Motorsports. Two bills allocating funds to Motorsports were slated to conference committee and allow the bill to not go to conference committee in which the joint resolution expressing condolences, the bill was in response to the death of Dean Galloway, dean of the College of Architecture. The bill passed by unanimous acclamation.

The second bill brought before the senate was the joint allocation to the Ice Hockey Club. The organization was asking for $3,000 for travel expenses for a tournament in Fort Wayne, Ind. The bill had been in conference committee and returned with a total of $1,618.40. The bill passed the senate.

The third bill brought before the senate was the joint allocation to Students for Justice in Palestine. The bill passed the senate.

The first bill brought before the senate during the March 13 meeting was the joint resolution expressing condolences, the bill was in response to the death of Dean Galloway, dean of the College of Architecture. The bill passed unanimously. The second bill brought before the senate during the March 13 meeting was the joint resolution expressing condolences. The bill passed by unanimous acclamation.

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The fourth bill presented was passed unanimously with 32 votes in Finance Committee. This bill also funds for licensing fees, which was second week in April. They requested the organization to get the funds to the joint allocation to GT paintball, the uniform to replace the tee shirts currently worn by the players. The bill was coming back from conference committee in which the committee split the difference between the undergraduate version and the graduate version of the bill. The bill passed the senate.

The second bill brought before the senate during the March 13 meeting was the joint resolution expressing condolences, the bill was in response to the death of Dean Galloway, dean of the College of Architecture. The bill passed unanimously. The third bill brought before the senate during the March 13 meeting was the joint allocation to GT Ice Hockey. The bill passed the senate. The bills allocated funds to Motorsports were slated together and taken into consideration at the same time. The bills funded more than the organization was needing, but the organization was asked to make the bills certain that stipends were needed under the supervision of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). This would allow the bill to not go to conference committee and allow the organization to get the funds to the joint allocation to GT paintball.

The bill passed the senate.

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The names of the recipients of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation’s (ASF) Research Fellowship have been announced for 2007, and this year, one of the winners is a Tech professor, Soojin Yi, assistant professor with the School of Biology, is one of the new Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellows and will receive a two-year grant amounting to a value of $45,000.

“What’s happening at Tech in the field of biology is really exciting and there are a lot of people coming who are broadly associated with my field of study,” Yi said.

Based on the results of the poll, the committee was originally interested in getting a rock group such as the Killers, who were ranked second in the “King of the South”. However, the committee was unable to do so due to scheduling conflicts. Other rock groups considered were 311 and Weezer, but neither group was available.

The committee also looked into Kanye West, but he was ruled out due to a high price in the interest of providing a free concert.

Yi said, “Since coming to Tech, I have been working a lot on several problems in genome evolution... These problems that my group and I work on are traditional problems in the field of evolutionary genetics. What’s nice is that we now have a lot of other data from other fields of study... and when you combine this data with the thinking of evolutionary genetics, you see a lot of new insights,” Yi said.

One of the important distinguishing features about the ASF fellowship is that the award grant contains no restrictions. The fellows are free to pursue any research direction they choose and are allowed to apply the funds toward the purchase of equipment, professional travel expenses, technical assistance, travel and other expenses related to the fellow’s research.

“TikTok is the ‘King of the South’,” Yi said.

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“I’m very grateful to John McDonald, Chair of the School of Biology, for nominating me. There are a lot of great people at Tech, a lot of great young scientists. Maybe in the future, others will hopefully be nominated,” Yi said.

What’s happening at Tech in the field of biology is really exciting and there are a lot of people coming who are broadly associated with my field of study. Studies into evolutionary principles are becoming more and more appreciated as people are realizing that these are key to studies in the areas of genomics and systems biology.

“In the School of Biology we have a very strong faculty in all of these fields and interdisciplinary thinking is encouraged. This makes it really exciting to be in the School of Biology right now,” Yi said.
Summer reading selection begins

By James Stephenson
News Editor

The Summer Reading Program will return for its second year with some major structural changes, the most prominent of which may be a name change. While the new name of the program has not yet been decided, one thing is for sure, it will not have the word ‘summer’ in it.

The program debuted last year with Jared Diamond’s Guns, Germs, and Steel, a book that examines the role of technology in the rise of civilizations. It sought to change the way freshmen entered the university body. The program was focused toward incoming freshmen as a way to enhance their educational experience. It sought to increase student-faculty interactions and hosted panel discussions about the book. The program was a way to unite the freshman class by having a common book that all would read. The book was incorporated into programming in GT1000 classes as well as into Housing’s Freshman Experience program.

This year, students on the program planning committee will restructure the program, based on feedback received from the freshman class. Surveys were sent to all freshmen who participated, and 690 students responded. “The most common thing that students told us was that they did not like being forced to read a book in the summer,” Patrick Odneal, a member of the planning committee said. “Many of them looked forward to the summer before college as an escape from the summer reading programs of their high schools.”

This year, Odneal said, the book will still be available for purchase when students attend FASET, but programming will start a couple weeks later into the school year, so that students have the option of reading the book once on campus.

Of the nine books that are finalists, all are under 400 pages in length. The list includes a biography, a play, a collection of essays, and works of non-fiction. Odneal said that no matter what book is chosen, there will be a big-name speaker coming to speak on campus. “Whether it’s the author or other noteworthy speaker, we want the speech to be the culminating event for the program, something students will remember for a long time,” Odneal said.

Last year, Diamond was supposed to speak on campus, but scheduling conflicts prevented him from visiting Atlanta. “That was a big let down last year. This year, we won’t choose a book without a confirmed speaker, and the event will be open to all students, not just to freshmen.”

The planning committee is currently in the process of selecting the book and has narrowed down to nine finalist books. On Tuesday, the committee will choose the final three books and then during the following week will open up an online poll where each undergraduate can pick their top choice.

“The student voice is key on the book selection process. That’s why the program is here in the first place — for students. That’s why we want everyone to vote online next week.”

The planning committee also looks to extend the program to the entire undergraduate student body.

“In addition to surveying freshmen, we also talked to the upperclassmen involved in the program and held focus groups to get input from other non-freshman students. One idea was repeated over and over — don’t limit the program to just freshmen,” Odneal said. “Many realized how valuable a common reading program would have been for them as they progressed through their college careers.”

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Students have been divided on the topic of college reading programs, with some saying that they hate the idea while others believe it to be beneficial.

“I think that if you are taking birth control because you are sexually active and pregnancy could obviously change a college student’s life,” said Georgia Davis, a third-year management major. “Doctors determine which form of birth control a woman can take. They can’t just switch pills,” Brown said.

“The price increases come as a result of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The act was signed into law by President Bush on February 8, 2006 but didn’t take effect until January of this year. Its intention was to reduce federal spending by cutting a number of growing costs in programs including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Before the act, pharmaceutical companies supplied the medications to certain health care providers such as universities and public clinics at a heavily discounted price. Now, the incentives for the companies to offer the drugs at the lower prices have been eliminated and without them the companies have removed the discounts rather than maintaining the lower price and taking the loss.

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The pharmacy buys its medications through a variety of methods to attempt to get the lowest prices for students, including through group purchasing organizations such as the Minnesota Multi-State Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy, which is operated by the state of Minnesota but has thousands of participants all over the country. Groups are currently lobbying for college health centers to be exempt from the Deficit Reduction Act. Predictably, students have expressed displeasure at the price increase to which they or their peers will be subjected.

“I think that it is terrible that the prices have gone up, because birth control is an important thing for college students to think about. There are a lot of students who are sexually active and pregnancy could obviously change a college student’s life,” said Georgia Davis, a third-year management major.

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The fifth bill brought before the house was the joint allocation to GT motor sports, a bill actually voted on last week, and stalled by the graduate. No new motion was made on this bill. The sixth bill presented were the appointments to Council Representative and the temporary Biomedical engineering, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Junior Representatives were all sworn into office.

After the swearing in of three new members to the house a motion was put on the floor. This motion was titled “Floor Resolution Concerning Campus Organizations.” This bill was intended to encourage the Graduate Student Senate to act in a timelier, and more professional manner when dealing with time-sensitive bills, and to be more professional to the representatives of the petitioning organizations. In reference to the actions of the GSS towards the representation of various organizations, Claudia Jones, Joint Finance Committee (JFC) chair stated, “There have been multiple situations in which I have felt the need to apologize for the behavior of the senators.” The resolution was passed.

A second motion was then raised from the floor, this time an undergraduate allocation to GT motor sports. The organization had indicated that the request was time sensitive due to competition schedules, but the Graduate Senators had chosen to postpone the bill prior to Spring Break, it would have been two weeks before they received the requested funding. The Joint Finance Committee recommended that the bill be amended down for travel costs. The bill was so amended, and passed with 30 yays, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

The third bill brought before the house was the Joint Allocation to Paintball. The team was requesting funds to travel to a national competition in California. The Joint Finance Committee recommended that the bill be amended down for travel costs. The bill was so amended, and passed with 30 yays, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

The fourth bill presented was the House was the joint allocation to GT Motor sports. The resolution brought up in the meeting on the 13th had effectively nullified this bill, which had been passed by the House.

The bill was proposed to reconsider the undergraduate allocation from last week and amend it to allow for funding from the original joint allocation. While this would be, as representative Tim Gallager explained, “this would technically be double-funding the group, but Jones has volunteered to oversee the receipts and make sure they are not paid twice.” The bill was written in, but passed with a vote of 10 yays, 17 nays, and 1 abstention.

The fourth bill presented was the joint allocation to the Campus Christian Fellowship. They were requesting funds for travel, van, and U-Haul rental to help transport student volunteers to Eggs in the East, a volunteer construction project over the weekend of April 6th in Louisiana. JFC recommended that the bill be amended to remove the van and U-Haul rentals, and amend travel to a new total of $1,310.40. The House did not amend per Joint Finance recommendation, instead choosing to keep the price of U-Haul rentals in the bill, for a final total of $2,409.10. The bill passed unanimously with 31 votes in favor.

The fifth bill presented was the joint allocation to AJAS, but it was tabled due to lack of a representa- tive. The sixth bill brought before the house was the joint allocation to the Astronomy Club. The bill passed with 29 yays, 9 nays, and 1 abstention.

The seventh and eight bills presented were both joint alloca- tions to the Georgia Tech Wushu Club for funding for martial arts organization, and in the first bill they requested funding for travel costs. The weapons were purchased. The next bill was a request for funding for the recent national tournament in San Francisco. The bill passed with 35 yays in favor, no votes, and 0 abstentions.

The ninth bill presented was the Joint Allocation to African Student Association. The bill was amended per Joint Finance policy and passed with 30 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

The tenth bill presented to the House was the Joint Resolution on fiscal year 2008 Budget Tier I, II. A motion was passed to limit the tier I discussions to the allocations to the Student Center, as there was no representative present from the CRC.

Voting was postponed on the Tier I budget based on the limited discussion. Quorum was lost during the vote total of the bill was $2,410.40. The bill passed the senate.

The next two bills were both al- locating funds to the Wushu Club. Both bills passed by unanimous acclimation.

The next bill was the joint allocation to the Campus Christian Fellowship. The organization was asking for $13,006.10 so a group of students could go to the Gulf Coast to help with Hurricane Katrina disaster relief over Easter weekend. The JFC recommended striking van rental and U-Haul rental and reducing travel expenses to $1,310.40. That would bring the total of the bill to $1,310.40. The senate did strike the van rental from the bill, but left the U-Haul rental in the bill. The new total of the bill was $2,409.10. The bill passed the senate.

The next bill brought before the senate was the joint allocation to AJAS. The bill was postponed one week.

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The next two bills were both al- locating funds to the Wushu Club. Both bills passed by unanimous acclimation.

The next bill was the joint all- location to the African Student Association. The bill also passed by unanimous acclimation.

The final bill was the joint resolu- tion FY2008 SAF Budget Tier I, II, & III. The bill was postponed until next week.

Better than Idol: Two sorority sisters perform in the Greek Sing competition held March 13 as part of Greek Week 2007.

from page 3

The GSS in time to complete their project. The bill passed by unanimous acclimation.

The next bill was the joint all- location to the Paintball Club. The JFC recommended amending the bill down to $7,200. The bill was amended according to the JFC recommendation and passed the senate.

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NAA, here we come!!!
Take a hike, doctor con
Wake Forest, thank you for ruining all of our dreams this year.
Two Bits Woman: You don’t cut sandwiches into rectangles, they already come that way. You are an idiot.
Screwed up a crossword Puzzle again. What am I supposed to do in Physics class now?
Oh, I don’t know...pay attention? Sleep? Make fun of the professor?
i totally love the wedding/funeral joke.
Yes, I have lived in the U.S. for 7yrs and am a U.S. citizen, and I will be 25 by the time the elections app is due for GA Dist. 10.
I just want some serious input.
Nah! With only 2 more months before me graduates....ahhh me can’t wait.
Nice crossword puzzle. Idiots.
WHAT HAPPENED TO DAVE BARRY?! LET ME OUT!!!
woman suck
PLG
Hey what happened to the 2 bits column!!!
I heard he’s on sabatical, training to be a ninja somewhere in Japan.
--Silver
Wake Spring Break so close, yet so far away.
gin had some issues with daylight savings...
Gay-ee, why are you so awesome?
hello.
WARNING!!! DO NOT LIVE AT 100 MIDTOWN! WORST
hello.
Gay-cee, why are you so awesome?
WARNING!!! DO NOT LIVE AT 100 MIDTOWN! WORST
Better than Idol: Two sorority sisters perform in the Greek Sing competition held March 13 as part of Greek Week 2007.

GSS

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in time to complete their project. The bill passed by unanimous acclimation.

The next bill was the joint all- location to the Paintball Club. The JFC recommended amending the bill down to $7,200. The bill was amended according to the JFC recommendation and passed the senate.

The next bill brought before the senate was the joint allocation to the Campus Christian Fellowship. The organization was asking for $13,006.10 so a group of students could go to the Gulf Coast to help with Hurricane Katrina disaster relief over Easter weekend. The JFC recommended striking van rental and U-Haul rental and reducing travel expenses to $1,310.40. That would bring the total of the bill to $1,310.40. The senate did strike the van rental from the bill, but left the U-Haul rental in the bill. The new total of the bill was $2,409.10. The bill passed the senate.

The next bill brought before the senate was the joint allocation to AJAS. The bill was postponed one week.

The next bill brought before the senate was the joint allocation to Astronomy Club. The bill passed the senate.

The next two bills were both al- locating funds to the Wushu Club. Both bills passed by unanimous acclimation.

The next bill was the joint all- location to the African Student Association. The bill also passed by unanimous acclimation.

The final bill was the joint resolu- tion FY2008 SAF Budget Tier I, II, & III. The bill was postponed until next week.
A lot of things went on outside the bubble of Tech in the past week. Here are a few important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

**Iran demands British admission of trespass**

Iran’s foreign minister said Wednesday that Britain must admit that its 15 sailors and marines entered Iranian waters in order to resolve a standoff over their capture by Iranian authorities. Foreign Minister Manouchehr Motaki’s announcement came on a day of escalating tensions, highlighted by an Iranian video of the detained Britons that showed the only woman captive saying her group had “trespassed” in Iranian waters. Britain angrily denounced the video as unacceptable and froze most dealings with the Shiite nation.

According to ABCNews.com, Motaki also backed off a prediction that the female sailor, Faye Turney, could be freed Wednesday or Thursday, but said Tehran agreed to allow British officials to meet with service personnel.

His comments were the first confirmation that Iran agreed to a British request for a consular visit with the crew, though he did not specify when. Iran has not said where the 15 are being held.

### Attorney firings due to political shortcomings

Eight federal prosecutors were fired last year because they did not sufficiently support President Bush’s priorities, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales’ former chief of staff says in remarks prepared for delivery Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

“The distinction between ‘political’ and ‘performance-related’ reasons for removing a United States attorney is, in my view, largely artificial,” Kyle Sampson, who quit during the furor over the firings, says in the remarks, obtained by The Associated Press.

Another Gonzales aide, Monica Goodling, has refused to testify and will invoke the Fifth Amendment to protect against incriminating herself while testifying under oath.

According to CNN.com, Justice Department e-mails given to Congress show Sampson and Goodling were both closely involved for at least a year by attending meetings, in one on conference calls and corresponding with White House officials in drawing up the plans to fire the prosecutors with as little political fallout as possible.

### Saudi king speaks out against Iraq War

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia told Arab leaders on Wednesday that the American occupation of Iraq is “illegal,” and he warned that unless Arab governments settle their differences, foreign powers like the United States would continue to dictate the region’s politics.

The Saudis brokered a deal between the two main Palestinian factions last month but one that both Israel and the United States found deeply problematic because it added to the power of the radical group Hamas rather than to the more moderate Fatah.

On Wednesday, the king called for an end to the international boycott of the new Palestinian government. The United States and Israel want the boycott continued.

In addition, King Abdullah invited President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran to Riyadh earlier this month while the Americans were being shut out.

And in trying to settle the tensions in Lebanon, the Saudis seem willing to negotiate with Iran.

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**SGA Elections Committee**

Exceeding the five percent boundary results in an automatic disqualification from the election process.

“Any undergraduate student can turn in a violation form if they think the election code has been violated. The violation goes to the Election Committee... and we make a decision on whether we think the code has been violated and if what level was the code code violated,” Welch said.

Solutions to minor violations can involve the Election Committee asking the candidate to fix the problem and more severe violations can carry the punishment of disqualification or being barred from SGA.

“If someone who works for a candidate violates the code, the candidate will be held responsible for that person’s actions. In extreme cases the actual violator would be held accountable for their actions, but in all cases the candidate will be held responsible,” Welch said.

Other major issues that candidates must deal with are the areas of communications through email and in the residence halls. The distribution of election messages through email lists that any student is required to be a part of for academic purposes is prohibited. The policies for campaigning in residence halls are set up by the Department of Housing. If a candidate does have an issue with a violation, they can be appealed to the Undergraduate Judiciary Committee. All information about the election process and its rules can be found at http://sga.gatech.edu/files/ElectionCode_App.pdf.

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**Congratulations to the Following Organizations that Received Funding from GTSF this Semester:**

- **GT-IDEA** — Teaching Project in Ethiopia
- **Consulting Club** — Consulting Competition
- **GLASSS** — Hispanic Outreach Program
- **Colleges Against Cancer** — Coaches Against Cancer Event
- **GT AMSA** — Startup for Pre-Medical
- **GT BBQ** — Startup Supplies for Organizations
- **FIMRC** — Supplies for Upcoming Service Projects
- **TekStyles** — Supplies to Rejuvenate and Mobilize Organization
- **AMA** — Marketing Speaker Series
- **Caribbean Student Organization** — International Showcase

GTSF has Allocated $33,600 to Student Organizations during the 2006-2007 Academic Year!

GTSF can Be Found On-Line: www.gtsf.gatech.edu

To get Involved with GTSF’s Development Committee Contact Alex Wang: awang@gatech.edu