**Drought raises concerns**

By Vivian Fan
Contributing Writer

When numerous students across East Campus stepped into surprisingly cold showers Monday morning, most quickly came to the same conclusion. “They’re probably restricting hot water because of the drought,” said Davin Green, a first-year Biomedical Engineering major. “I guess they want us to take shorter showers.”

While, in the end, the temporary change to cold water showers was due to a steam pipe break that morning, the occurrence showed that Georgia’s current water crisis is ever present in the minds of Tech students. Since early this summer, water levels in the state’s lakes, rivers and other natural water sources have decreased greatly as a result of a two-year-long drought affecting much of the Southeast. According to state and federal officials, North Georgia and Atlanta’s main water source Lake Lanier only holds enough water storage for three months. Lake Lanier and its reservoirs are more than half-way depleted, and thus, have ceased to be a state of emergency in the entire state of Georgia. “We are now in the dry cycle of the climate, and it’s the second year,” said Professor Artis Georgakakos, director of the Georgia Water Resources Institute (GWRI) at Tech. “The droughts in this region usually last for four years or more...if we are in the second year of the drought now, chances are that we will have a drought next year, and the year after that. So, probably have not seen the end of this crisis.”

The GWRI works with state, national and international groups to develop multidisciplinary solutions and information decision support systems for hydrological problems. Currently, the Institute is working with and advising state and federal officials with the Southeast’s water crisis. Along with the state’s Environmental Protection Department, the GWRI has drafted and sent in a bill for a drought contingency plan in the state legislature. According to the GWRI, the current water crisis and drought make up the third most severe drought in recent history, spanning from the early 1980’s until now. The current water shortage has been attributed to four factors: the variability of the weather and climate, the growth in the population of the Southeastern United States, the increase in water use, and the competing demands of agriculture and urban areas.

**Professor lectures on politics surrounding North Korea**

By Hamza Hasan
Contributing Writer

Last week, Dr. Bruce Bechtol came to Tech to talk about arguments and ideas concerning Northeast Asia focusing specifically on North Korea and the threat the nation poses. In his lecture, Dr. Bechtol explored the threat that North Korea poses, especially by its proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. His argument is supported by his new book Red Rogue. He explains that the book is divided into two parts: the first identifies and examines the threat, and the second presents solutions to the problem.

Dr. Bechtol continued to clarify the situation in North Korea. “I think one needs to be very careful...about North Korea getting rid of their nuclear program.”

**Dr. Bruce Bechtol**
Professor

though, is that Russia, a longtime supporter, has stopped subsidizing them. Much of this subsidization was that of military support. Now that the United States and China are no longer supporting North Korea, they need an alternative route. Dr. Bechtol rationalized the United States’ role in the international arena, by reasoning that the United States should take serious caution with the North Korean military by advancing and pursuing new arms. These necessary upgrades for North Korea come with a huge price. Many of the tanks and heavy artillery in North Korea are no-match for that of the United States, to say nothing of each country’s air force. However, that is not to say that North Korea is indistinguishable — they have SCUD missiles with a super-long range, Special Operations exceeding 200,000 people and have been pursuing nuclear proliferation with some degree of success. In his opinion, Dr. Bechtol defends that Kim Jong-II has been successful in his military pursuits. Even with all the arms they wish to have, North Korea would still have substantial limitations diplomatically. Two or three main necessary supporters for North Korea are superpower, the U.S. and China and South Korea. China is an obvious choice: it has a powerful economy and it receives a great deal of autonomy from the world’s superpower, the U.S. Dr. Bechtol gives an example of how North Korea may lose Chinese backing. In 2008, the Summer Olympics will be held in China. However, Kim Jong-II does not have his own soldiers at the border between North Korea and China; hypothetically, many North Korean refugees could illegally immigrate to China. The Summer Olympics is a huge event that results in effective public relations for any nation that hosts the event. If thousands of poor, angry or disaffected refugees are roaming the streets of Beijing, China will not receive a great deal of popularity. In this way, Dr. Bechtol explains, North Korea must go out of its way to establish effective diplomacy with nearby nations. South Korea is also an important ally to have. In the Korean peninsula, one nation will find it difficult to...
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of what determines a cadet’s rank during assessment.

The year before a cadet graduates, he or she goes through an assessment. The ranking received, or the Order of Merit Listing (OML), is used to determine what jobs graduated cadets are seeking.

Physical fitness tests, GPA, involvement in extracurricular activities, sports, community service, leadership opportunities and performance in training camps all affect a cadet’s overall ranking. The ranking then affects the probability of receiving a position in a particular branch of the military as well as the first assignment.

Chapman recently returned from the Ranger Challenge, a competition in which teams from Georgia, Florida and Puerto Rico compete in eight different events. Tech was able to send a group of 12 cadets to the competition. The team placed first in its tier and seventh overall.

Chapman hopes to start his army officer training in January. He will go through three Basic Officer Leadership Courses (BOLC) before becoming an infantry officer and getting assigned a location and unit.

Chapman encouraged current students to keep a high GPA and become involved in community service.

“I would really recommend doing some kind of study abroad. You won’t understand the global perspective until you’ve experienced it firsthand,” Chapman said.

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act without the compliance of the other. South Korea itself already has strong backing, and according to Dr. Bechtol, North Korea cannot and will not go to war without backing from its counterpart.

Even among these obstructions to expanding their military might, North Korea still poses a threat with its future weapons of mass destruction.

According to Dr. Bechtol, they could theoretically hide the products of their nuclear proliferation in secret caches. “They have not even allowed us to inspect any of their nuclear weapons yet, only facilities that manufacture the weapons...and only the plutonium weapons. We need to be very careful,” Bechtol said.

Furthermore, the “dismantling” of their nuclear products has only extended to the factories that produce the weapons. These factories could only be the plutonium-based manufacturing facilities, where North Korea has publicly admitted to possessing a uranium-enriched program.

Even with the possession of these hazardous materials, North Korea has several years to go before it can truly expand its arms. Until then, the U.S. and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea can establish diplomatic guidelines by which to compromise and promote a nonviolent resolution towards each other.

“For those who don’t follow Korea, it might be a good idea to start doing so. A lot of people don’t realize that 28 percent of our commerce takes place in Northeast Asia,” Dr. Bechtol says. He recommends that people should keep up with the news because our governments will soon become involved very intrinsically.

Dr. Bechtol is an associate professor of International Relations at the Marine Corps Command & Staff College. A former Defense Intelligence Agency officer and Marine, Dr. Bechtol has lived in South Korea and returns there frequently. Also the former editor of the Defense Intelligence Journal, he now sits on the Editorial Advisory Board of the East Asian Review.

Dr. Bechtol’s book Red Bugle is published by Potomac Books, Inc. and is available at most major bookstores.
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climate of the region; the population demand for water in the state of Georgia; the legal processes and decisions made this year concerning the preservation of endangered species in the Apalachicola River and the ability for the political and legal systems to work together in a time of need.

Reflecting on all of the factors, one of the largest strains on the water source has been the subject of a legal battle between governor Sonny Perdue and the Army Corps of Engineers. Because of the presence of endangered mussels and sturgeon downriver in Alabama and Florida, the Army Corps releases approximately 5,000 gallons of water per second from Georgia’s Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River in order to sustain their environment and the preservation of endangered species in the Apalachicola River.

Sonny Perdue and the Army Corps have begun to conserve water and avoid using garbage disposals. Even small reductions in water usage such as these could save up to 750 to 1,500 gallons per month.

Student organizations and groups have begun to conserve water and “go green” in an effort to help the environment in even greater scales. For example, this year’s Honors Program has begun a project called the ‘Carbon Challenge’ to help alleviate tension on the environment.

‘[The students] are in the process of working out a plan of action students can use as a guideline to minimize their personal carbon footprints,’ said Dr. Monica Halka, associate director of the Honors Program. ‘An action item on the list is ‘taking briefer showers.’ Also, we are starting a ‘Sustainability Test Garden’ outside the Honors Program dorm, Howell Hall. For this garden, we will catch water from the downspouts in barrels to use for watering, faced with an imminent water shortage in the short-term and well into the future, the most important things we can teach and model for our students are conservation and innovation,” Halka said.

On an even greater scale, Tech can also do its part to help conserve water now, and invest in water-saving technologies and procedures for the future. “Our campus is a microcosm of the rest of the city. I think the university as a whole might need to think about how much water is used,” Georgakakos said. “I think the difference could be significant actually. It could be 1.6 liters or gallons versus 3 and a half, four or five gallons of water...the university as a whole could look into this and set an example for the city as well. I know this can make a difference. I just don’t know what the total volume of water we use here is. Whatever we can do to conserve, it’s a good thing.”

Georgakakos also commented on the use of water by the Tech community. “I don’t think we are over-using water, but I think it’s a good overall principle to live by. Water is a very precious resource...we, especially in this region, never thought of it as scarce, because we have a lot of it. But the truth of the matter is that in many, many parts of the world, people have that thought in their minds, and [are conscious] about how much water is used.”

After all, in the end a short, cold shower beats having no shower at all.

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making fridays lectures more interesting

technique
The Dalai Lama visits Atlanta to discuss philosophy

By Emily Chambers
Senior Staff Writer

The city of Atlanta had the great honor of hosting His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama this past week as he accepted a position as Emory Presidential Distinguished Professor.

The three-day long visit culminated in a public speech given at Centennial Olympic Park. Despite the rain, which every speaker jokingly attributed to the Dalai Lama as divine providence, thousands of attentive listeners gathered to hear native Tibetan music, Buddhist chanting and enjoy a traditional dance courtesy of monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery.

The Dalai Lama was formally introduced by James Wagner, President of Emory University, who spoke at length about the relationship between the Tibetan struggle for independence and American Rights. Daisy Harris, Alumni Intern for Emory Presidential Distinguished Professor, followed with a brief explanation of the Dalai Lama’s journey as a political leader and spiritual figure.

The Dalai Lama himself began his speech with an invocation of Dr. King. “I did not get to meet him, but I met his wife, and through the stories I heard of him, and his use of the nonviolent form of change, I am very moved,” the Dalai Lama said.

As first he spoke through a translator, humorously responding to flattering comments made about him in his introduction. Claims that he had ever studied medicine were quickly refuted, as he revealed that the most he knew about medicine was how to take it. He then switched into English, and began a well-practiced speech on human potential and the moral future of humanity.

“We all have the same potential for anger, hatred and jealousy; these things are part of our nature. On the other hand, compassion, harmony and brotherhood are also things we share together,” the Dalai Lama said.

The great potential of humanity lies in our ability to show affection for other human beings, said the Dalai Lama, explaining the need of compassion that all human beings share. This potential is not divinely given, but inherited through the love of our mothers, given to us by those who raise us. As humans our very survival as infants depends on the affection of others, as such we are able to show compassion toward fellow human beings that other creatures cannot.

The Dalai Lama believes that this potential for compassion should be used to maximize human capabilities and transform society. Religion is not even a necessary in order to achieve this potential, for religion is about a love of humanity, and while it is a positive approach, it is not the only one.

The human values of affection and compassion can be taught rationally without religion as well, as the foundations of self-confidence in contemporary society. This self-confidence brings inner strength, reduces fear, and eventually leads to inner peace.

“Firstly we individuals should build inner peace. Through inner peace, outer peace can be achieved.”

Tenzin Gyatso
The 14th Dalai Lama

The idea of one truth one religion is good for your faith, but for society we must acknowledge many truths, many religions.”

Tenzin Gyatso
The 14th Dalai Lama

“We all have the same potential for anger, hatred and jealousy; these things are part of our nature. On the other hand, compassion, harmony and brotherhood are also things we share together,” the Dalai Lama said.

On the concept of war, his Holiness holds a staunchly pacifist view. “War is outdated. Our global community is interdependent, and in reality the rest of the world is now a part of your home, so destruction of your so-called enemy is destruction of yourself,” said the Dalai Lama.

He closed his speech with a charge to both America as a nation and to university students in particular. “In the request of Emory President James Wagner, he explained his views on the integration of western science and Buddhist knowledge.

“We are facing a mental crisis at this time, a crisis of morality. We have so much technology, with neuro-biology and psychology and such. I believe that the integration of Tibetan and Western knowledge will help us cope with the problems of this era, and hopefully the focus on that great nation will highlight the human rights issues at hand and be a catalyst for change.

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“We are facing a mental crisis at this time, a crisis of morality. We have so much technology, with neuro-biology and psychology and such. I believe that the integration of Tibetan and Western knowledge will help us cope with the problems of this era, and hopefully we will have many things to bring each other,” the Dalai Lama said.
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