

First Lady of Tech

When President G.P. "Bud" Peterson came to Tech he brought his one-of-a-kind wife, Val. ▶ 15



SGA passes 11th hour budget changes

Student stipends slashed across Tier 2 orgs. but SGA spares its own

By Corbin Pon
News Editor

A stipend committee formed last week by the Student Government Association's (SGA) Joint Finance Committee (JFC) introduced to Tuesday's legislative sessions a last-minute student stipend policy affecting many Tier 2 organizations. The policy, which included significant cuts to paid student positions in Student Publications and Interfraternity Council (IFC), made its way into the 2009-10 fiscal year budgets approved in the Tuesday meetings of the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) and Graduate Student Senate (GSS). Since each branch passed different versions of the budget, they will be reconciled by a conference committee today.

The temporary stipend committee, formed last week after the initial release in March of the JFC budget recommendations, established new payment levels for Tier 2 student organization stipends being funded by SGA. Tier 2

organizations include DramaTech, graduate and undergraduate SGA, IFC, Intramurals, MOVE, Musician's Network, ORGT, President's Council Governing Board, Student Center Programs Council, Student Publications and WREK radio. Unlike Tier 3 organizations, Tier 2 organizations may fund student positions and are not required to collect membership fees.

The JFC's Student Stipend Committee outlined six different spending tiers for student stipend funding. The maximum pay for each tier is calculated from in-state student tuition and fees. For next year, this amount has been set at \$6,480. Positions in the first stipend tier will receive a stipend equaling 100 percent of tuition and fees, second-tier positions will receive 75 percent, all the way to sixth-tier positions at five percent.

The SGA student body presidents are the only two Tier 1 positions. Some of the Tier 2 positions include the SGA executive vice presidents, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Technique* and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) president.

At the bottom, Tier 6 positions include assistant editors, staff writers and photographers for the *Technique* and *Blueprint*.

The impact of these new rules was that both the UHR and GSS recommended that most positions in Tier 2 would receive less than the amount their student organizations requested.

All SGA stipend positions saw no reduction in payment, and in the GSS, the senators recommended that the SGA president and executive vice president positions receive raises of \$621 and \$1,804, respectively.

This is the second week that SGA discussed next year's budget. Last week the budget for Tier 3 organizations was up for debate, and this week, Tier 2 and Tier 1 organizations were debated.

In a move that prompted an appearance by former, current and newly-selected future editor-in-chief of the *Blueprint*, the *Blueprint's* printing budget had

See Budget, page 4

MAJOR FUNDING REVISIONS

Increases

+10%

GSS recommendation for raise in SGA president stipend.

+61%

GSS recommendation for raise in grad. exec. vice president stipend.

+\$40k

UHR approved restoration to *Blueprint* printing. GSS held it at \$0.

Cuts

-93%

GSS recommended reduction of IFC budget compared to UHR.

-30%

UHR, GSS approved reductions in Student Publications stipends.

-\$224k

UHR recommendation for reduction in Student Center and CRC budget.

SGA ELECTION RESULTS

Undergrad presidents to run off; Harley wins graduate presidency



Undergrad president runoff candidates
Kristie Champlin



Alina Staskevicius



New grad president
Linda Harley

By Craig Tabita
Editor-in-Chief

For the third straight year the race for the undergraduate student body president position is going to a runoff. On the other hand, election results released Wednesday produced a new undergraduate executive vice president as well as a new graduate student body president and executive vice president.

The undergraduate presidency runoff will pit Alina Staskevicius, undergraduate vice president of Administrative Affairs, against Public Policy Representative Kristy Champlin. Staskevicius collected 1,428 of the 3,397 votes

cast (42.0%), while Champlin received 1,016 votes (29.9%). Robert McEntyre, undergraduate vice president of Campus Affairs, finished third with 953 votes (28.1%).

"The race definitely isn't over," Staskevicius said. "[The campaign has been] exhausting, but [the runoff] is something we were anticipating this year with three really qualified candidates running."

The graduate student body presidential race was narrowly won by Linda Harley, graduate executive vice president, who edged out Public Policy Senator Rick McKeon by a tally of 277-274. City Planning Senator Justin

Chapman won the graduate executive vice presidential race unopposed.

"I've been working really hard this past year learning the ins and outs of student government and getting to know all of the administrators on campus," Harley said. "It's an amazing feeling to be able to know that students have confidence in me and I can really stand up for what is right for graduate students."

In the race for undergraduate executive vice president, Parker Hancock, chair of the Internal Development Committee, came out as the winner with 1,878

See Elections, page 7

OIT moves to WPA for wireless security

By Sijia Cai
Senior Staff Writer

Over 15,000 people on Tech's campus use the Local Area Walkup and Wireless Network (LAWN) to access the Internet every day. Now, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) is planning to transfer this wireless network from the Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) system to the Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) system.

Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) is an algorithm designed in 1997 to provide the confidentiality and privacy of a traditional wired network. However, cryptologists quickly found numerous weaknesses in the system that could easily lead to security breaches.

In 2003, WPA officially superseded WEP as the wireless security protocol standard. Despite this action, many systems still utilize the WEP protocol for wireless communication.

Currently, in order to use the wireless network at Tech, a person has to first connect their laptop, PDA or phone to GTWireless with a web key. Then the person is redirected to a captive portal for LAWN, where they have to login to the network with their GT account username and password.

The main issue with this system is inconvenience experienced by the user. For security reasons, the user is logged out

of LAWN every time the device is shut off. This means that during the course of a normal day, a typical student or faculty member will have to log into the network several times.

"There were many complaints about this aspect of the network. [That is] why the GTLogin application for iPhone was created," said Ron Hutchins, associate vice provost for Research and Technology and chief technology officer at OIT. "The problem with this application and [others like it] is that it necessarily makes your private information less secure."

According to Hutchins, another purpose of the LAWN captive portal is to ensure that the state of Georgia's resources for the wireless network are not being used by persons not affiliated with Tech.

Since its first introduction in 1999, LAWN has been constantly updated and improved, but even though it has worked so far and is continuing to work for the campus community, OIT is planning on turning over to the WPA system because it is both more convenient and more secure.

In the new WPA system, the username and password of the student or faculty member is stored in the device itself, and each time he or she accesses the wireless network, the WPA-

See WPA, page 4

The *Technique* congratulates **Emily Chambers**, who was selected last Friday by the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications as the *Technique* Editor-in-Chief for the 2009-10 academic year.

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.

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From the files of the GTPD... Campus Crime

By William Brawley
Assistant News Editor



That's my oil!

On April 5, at around 2:40 a.m., police responded to the Perry and Matheson residence halls and observed a male student threatening other students by attempting to start a fight. The student appeared to be intoxicated.

When the police approached, the male student called back to the police officer that he didn't deserve to live and wanted to be shot. The student also pleaded with the police to take him to jail. The police quickly notified dispatch and called for an ambulance.

Once the female EMT responder arrived, she attempted to

take the student's vitals, but was unable to do so because of the student's rage toward her. The student, of Arabic descent, called the EMT worker a "white bitch" and kicked his feet at her. The student was then put into restraints.

The student continued to spout other statements, including comments like "the whites in America just wanted to steal my country's oil" and "Bush was a bitch." He also called his mother a whore. "[My] mother was a terrorist that helped blow up 9/11," said the student.

He was transported to Grady Hospital.

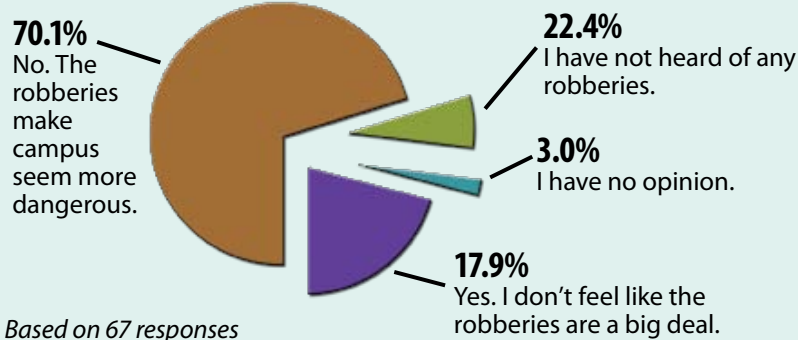
420 throw away

On the morning of April 4, a police officer responded to the intersection of Tenth Street and Hemphill Avenue regarding a suspect who was seen wearing a white shirt and blue jeans, waving around a handgun. The police officer observed and subsequently approached a black male suspect. He saw the suspect throw a small clear plastic bag into the bushes. The suspect was ordered to stop, who then cooperated and laid down on the ground.

The police identified the suspect, who stated that he was just trying to get back to a party, and said that the drugs in the bushes were not his and that he did not throw them. Upon further investigation, the bag was found to contain marijuana. The suspect was placed under arrest and was transported to Fulton County Jail without incident.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you feel safe on campus after the recent robberies?



Next issue's question:

How do you feel about GTwireless moving to WPA?

Tell us at niquenet.net

When the Whistle Blows

GEORGIA TECH'S REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

*Blow on, stern Monarch of Tech's mighty crew,
Be always firm and staid:
To your compelling call we'll e're be true
Till each his part has played. ~ A.D.A.*

Taken from "A Tribute to the Whistle," as printed in the 1914 Blueprint, Georgia Tech's yearbook.

- Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2009 • 5:00 p.m.
- Location:** Green space west of Tech Tower adjacent to Cherry Street
- Welcome:** President G. P. Peterson
- Speaker:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Gary B. Schuster
- Honored Guests:** Family and Friends of the Deceased
- Rain Location:** Alumni House Ballroom, 190 North Avenue

There is nothing that can replace the joy that a loved one or cherished friend brings to our lives. Each year the Georgia Tech community is deeply saddened by the loss of members of our own community. This spring we will honor the memory of each student, faculty, and staff member who has died in the last year. Join us as we pay tribute to these individuals who have touched our lives and contributed to our community.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Olen R. Ashe III
Undergraduate Student,
Industrial Engineering | Sheila R. Jackson
Architectural Designer,
Facilities | Qadir Siddeeq
Undergraduate Student,
Architecture |
| Sheila Estraghi
Undergraduate Student,
History, Technology,
& Society | Paul J. Liedberg
Associate,
Accounts Payable | Jason L. Vellinga
Undergraduate Student,
Aerospace Engineering |
| Sergio Gonzale Navarro
Undergraduate Student | Pamela P. McAllister
Technical Manager,
Parking & Transportation | Zachary E. Winsley
Undergraduate Student,
Civil Engineering |
| John C. Handley
Principal Research Engineer,
Georgia Tech Research Institute | Christopher Russell
Graduate Student,
Chemical Engineering | Joyce A. White
Custodian,
Facilities |
| Michael T. Hutts
Undergraduate Student,
Management | | |



Council Clippings

This week in Student Government

Each Tuesday, elected members of the two houses of the Student Government Association, the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), convene to consider allocation bills and discuss issues facing campus. Here is a summary of those two meetings.

By Ben Keyserling, Assistant Photo Editor

This edition of *Council Clippings* covers the UHR and GSS meetings from April 7, 2009.

New UHR Positions

UHR discussed a bylaws amendment to restructure the organization. The bylaws change created a new position, director of communications, to enhance transparency and communication with students at Tech. The newly created position will preside over Public Relations and Student Lobby committees. In addition, the information technology chair position has been eliminated and

will be replaced by two positions, a webmaster and a graphic designer. The amendment also removed the position of the vice president of Administrative Affairs.

The house bill passed UHR 43-2-0 and did not require a GSS vote.

Emergency Funding

Rowing Club approached SGA this week seeking emergency funding for one rowing shell. In October, the club's boat trailer was involved in an accident after the trailer brake failed, destroying nine boats as well as the trailer.

The club used insurance money, fundraised and negotiated to replace the majority of the damaged equipment.

Under current financial policy, SGA finances two-thirds of all capital expenditures, unless the expenditure qualifies as an emergency.

After reviewing the situation, SGA officers determined the Rowing Club request to be reasonable under an emergency and commended the club for its efforts to raise replacement funds from external sources.

In GSS, the bill passed 22-1-1. In UHR, the bill passed 44-1-0.

SGA shoring up Dead Week policy

By William Brawley
Assistant News Editor

Ever since Tech switched over to the semester system, there has been a Dead Week policy that stipulates professors should not assign work or give tests the week before finals. However, especially since last semester, there have been a large number of complaints about professors ignoring the Dead Week policy.

According to Corey Boone, committee chair for Academic Affairs in SGA, the idea behind the formation of a Dead Week policy was to give adequate time to students to prepare for their final exams the following week. Dead Week was meant to be a time in which there were no meetings, no sports activities and no official business in classes, such as tests and quizzes.

The current policy in place

states, "No tests or quizzes may be given during the week proceeding final exams week." While this has been beneficial to students, with many professors adhering to the rule, the policy is not encompassing enough to ensure students' rights as stated in the Student Bill of Rights if violations occur.

The Student Bill of Rights states that students are granted

See *Dead Week*, page 7

Breaking the Bubble



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.

U.S. admits power grid was infiltrated by spies

According to the *BBC*, the U.S. government has admitted that the nation's power grid is vulnerable to possible attacks after being infiltrated by foreign spies. *The Wall Street Journal* first reported on this story, stating that Russian and Chinese spies were behind this breach of security. The report said that software had been implanted that could shut down the power grid.

The U.S. Homeland Security Secretary, Janet Napolitano, admitted that they had been aware of this vulnerability for years. However, she refused to comment on the *Wall Street Journal* story.

Dan Kaminsky, a cyber security analyst and director of penetration testing for IOActive, stated that there is a pretty strong consensus in the security community that the class of the technology used to monitor and

manage critical infrastructure, called SCADA, has not kept pace with the rest of the industry.

This breach is very influential from a geo-political standpoint. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the intruders had not sought to damage anything. However, this could change in the event of war.

"Sims" creator leaves EA

The *USA Today* reported that game developer Will Wright, who worked with Electronic Arts (EA) to create such games as *The Sims* and *Spore*, has left the company to form a new start-up company. The company, called Stupid Fun Club, a start-up think tank, aims to develop intellectual property for a variety of different games and entertainment including movies, TV and Internet programming. EA is making an equity investment in the company.

Wright stated that the idea behind the Stupid Fun Club is to explore the new possibilities that are emerging from the changes happening in the entertainment industry. The new start-up will focus on creating new forms of entertainment for a variety of platforms.

SPRING 2009 COMMENCEMENT

PhD and Master's Ceremony

Date: Friday, May 1

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Georgia Dome

Speaker: Chancellor Erroll Davis



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Undergraduate Ceremony

Date: Friday, May 2

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Georgia Dome

Speaker: John F. Brock, Chairman
and CEO of Coca-Cola
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www.gatech.edu/commencement**

Budget from page 1

been cut in the original JFC recommendations to \$0, down from \$60,000 requested. According to a member of the JFC at the UHR meeting, the \$0 recommendation was meant to prompt the organization to develop a plan to reduce their printing costs. The organization was encouraged to submit a finance bill in the fall. There was some debate in the UHR on restoring some of the funding for printing. In the end, UHR granted the *Blueprint* reduced printing costs while GSS maintained that the *Blueprint* would receive no money in the budget and should submit a funding request in the fall.

In another high-dollar move, the GSS cut most of the recommended funding for IFC. UHR recommended that IFC get \$29,078, but the graduates cut the amount to \$1,974.

WPA from page 1

enabled device will send a "signature" to an access point. The access point checks the "signature" and confirms the identity against the Georgia Tech Active Directory.

This system is more secure, because unlike WEP, the username and password of the person does not leave the device and thus cannot be intercepted by someone watching the communication between wireless devices.

It also means that the device itself will automatically connect to the wireless network whenever the user accesses the Internet. This makes the act of entering in usernames and passwords no longer necessary.

"It has been very successful so far in a controlled environment," Hutchins said. "We're working hard to be able to roll out the system as soon as we can, but of

course we can't expect it to be perfect on day one."

WPA at Tech is still in the testing stage and is available only in certain spots on campus. There is also the issue of some devices not yet supporting the WPA security protocol.

A group of "friendly users" is providing feedback to OIT, which is in the process of maturing the product for future mass implementation. These "friendly users" are working with the WPA to ensure that all safety measures are being handled in the correct fashion.

"Oftentimes, when a new system with tangible benefits comes out, everyone immediately wants to use it and become angry when they run into problems. What we're going to ask from students with WPA is that they be patient and allow us time to improve the system for them first," Hutchins said.



Photo by Ben Keyserling / Student Publications

Students work on laptops in the Flag Building. Tech will soon use WPA on GTWireless so these networks will be more secure.

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Budget cuts reduce Tech workforce by dozens

By William Brawley
Assistant News Editor

Given the current economic crisis, many state agencies are decreasing their workforce, and the University System of Georgia (USG) is no exception. While the USG has cut 55 more positions across the university system, Tech is taking the brunt of the layoffs with 51 positions in a variety of offices and colleges being eliminated.

The majority of the positions eliminated at Tech were from the administration or finance departments, but employees were laid off from other areas of Tech as well. These other areas included some of the academic colleges and the offices of the president and pro-

vost. The majority of the people laid off were under the age of 49, and about evenly split between male and female.

"Administration and Finance have the most [eliminated positions] because most of the positions were staff," said Chuck Donbaugh, associate vice president of the Office of Human Resources.

Donbaugh described that there was a selective method used to consolidate the workforce in the various departments.

"If, for example, they needed to eliminate one administrative support position, and there were five [positions], they would first look at seniority," Donbaugh said. "[The process for eliminations is following] a last-in, first-out approach."

For other positions, this method could not work. This would be the case if, for instance, there was a particularly unique position. In these cases, there was analysis done of the individual departments' budget requirements to find if there was a duplicate position or people that might be doing the same work. An effort was then made to try to consolidate the job responsibilities.

All the employees that are being laid off from Tech are eligible for a federal benefits package program, called COBRA, which provides laid-off workers with nine months of coverage. Also, there were some employees who were eligible for retirement and chose to retire and take their standard retirement benefits package.

Donbaugh further explained that all of the positions that were eliminated were due to the budget cuts, and not due to other personnel issues.

"These positions were the result of the budget issues," Donbaugh said. "The consequence of having a budget shortfall ... forces units to look at their broader organizations. When they realized they were facing these challenges, [they] looked at their work structure, tried to consolidate ... and the consequence was that some positions were then eliminated."

Despite the large number of job vacancies in the USG, there is in fact a moratorium on hiring, at least at Tech.

"Any position for which there is a request to fill needs to be re-

viewed by the appropriate office," Donbaugh said. "It may be on the academic or the administrative side, but someone in the office of the President [needs to review it]."

There is also the issue of student positions at Tech. Donbaugh explained that the Office of Human Resources (OHR) deals with student positions from an employment perspective, since these positions are not handled by the OHR, especially those that are hired by academic departments.

"To my knowledge, [the layoffs] had very little effect on student positions," Donbaugh said. "...[Departments] have tried not to [impact] their student employment base. They realize it's a form of aid, so they try to keep their student workforce intact."

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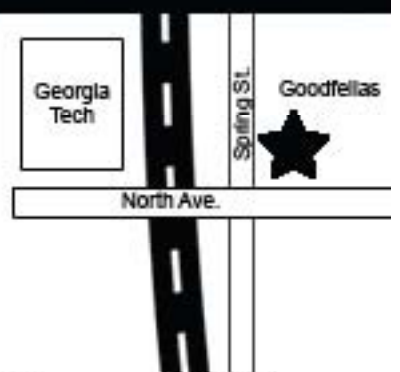


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- Go through the maze to receive a free organic cotton t-shirt featuring this year's design winner.

Prize Giveaways

- Sign up to win prizes like a bicycle.



Educational Opportunities

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- Visit all of the booths to learn more about what Georgia Tech departments and outside organizations are doing to be environmental leaders.

Maze

- Visit the maze to learn more about what you can do to follow this year's theme of "Lead the Way, Tomorrow is Today". Everyone that goes through the maze will receive a free T-shirt.

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Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs

- Learn about energy conservation and receive efficient light bulbs.



Dead Week from page 3

“the right to have reasonable time to learn course material prior to the administration of an examination.”

Given the large number of complaints that SGA received last semester, they are trying to restructure the Dead Week policy to make it more comprehensive and more fitting with the eighth amendment in the Student Bill of Rights.

In defense of the faculty, Boone mentioned that once faculty members are made aware of the policy, they tend to apologize. However, Boone added, by the time that happens, it's too late.

“I think it's an important policy that is often ignored by professors,” said Scott Sherman, fourth-year ME. “Having a test or quiz, in some cases less than a week before a final exam, is distracting and only adds to the stress I'm already under during exam week.”

“If we are mired in papers, lab reports and other laborious assignments, we have no time to review the course material,” Boone said. “Nevertheless, if all of our faculty followed the current policy, that would be a step in the right direction.”

SGA is working with upper level administration to better communicate the importance of this policy. “We've been doing this for two semesters,” Boone said. “Violations are down but not eliminated.”

Elections from page 1

votes. His opponent Brian-Paul Gude, sophomore class president, garnered 1,356 votes.

The election ended Wednesday at 4 p.m. An hour and a half later, after the SGA Elections Committee certified the results, the winners were announced in the Student Center Commons by Carlos D'Almeida, SGA elections chair, and Drew Weigl, graduate elections director, who also published these results.

Turnout was up from last year in both races. For those voting for undergraduate positions, 3,662 students voted out of the 12,069 possible undergraduates (30.3%). This figure is up from the 2,606 votes cast last year but down from 4,105 votes in 2007. In the graduate presidential race, 551 votes were cast out of the 5,937 possible graduate students (9.2%). This figure was up just one from last year's total of 550.

SGA election bylaws require a winning candidate in any student government race to receive a majority of the votes cast. When three or more candidates split the vote so that none receives more than half of the votes, a runoff is held during the following week between the two leading vote-getters.

The runoff between Staskevicius and Champlin will open today at 1 p.m. at www.elections.gatech.edu and will remain open until Wednesday at 4 p.m.

2009-2010 UNDERGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVES

These individuals have been elected to serve as representatives in the Undergraduate House of Representatives.

Sophomore Representative (4)

Laurel L. Derby
Dee Dee Kim
Melissa Parham
Alex Walker

Junior Representative (4)

Daniel Nussenbaum
John Rosenweig
Benjamin Smith
Jimmy Williams

Senior Representative (4)

Kaitlyn Frazier
Andy Jones
La-Trice Lambert
Priya Talaria

Athletic Association, Fall (1)

Dalton Hedberg

Athletic Association, Spring (1)

Will Woodworth

Co-Op, Spring (1)

Russell Ralston

Co-Op, Fall (1)

Margaret S. Anderson

Aerospace Engineering (2)

Elliot Mork

Architecture (2)

Colleen Jordan
Joseph Razavian

Biology (1)

Paige Cruver

Biomedical Engineering (2)

Ted Chen
Phillip Trusty

ChBE (2)

Jonathan Denis
Christopher Martin

Chemistry (1)

Brenda Morales-Pico

Civil Engineering (2)

De'Von Dixon
Ian Frame

College of Computing (2)

Victoria Lee
Michael Slaughter

EAS (1)

James Hite

Economics (1)

Nupur Patel

Electrical Engineering (3)

Malini Jagannadhan
Anurag R. Kadasne
Marcus Walker

HTS (1)

Kaitlyn Whiteside

International Affairs (1)

Maria Cleveland

ISyE (3)

Yash Ghogre
Raphael Rose
Jakeisha Smith

LCC (1)

Lindsey Hollenbeck

Management (3)

Nancy Bota
Meredith Roth
LeGaren Toomer

Mathematics (1)

David Lowry

Mechanical Engineering (4)

Pranav Gandhi
Tyler Jackson
Charles Shoemaker
Parker Hewitt

MSE (1)

Shawn Zhang

Modern Languages (1)

T.J. Kaplan

Physics (1)

(none)

Psychology (1)

Brooke McDaniel

PTFE (1)

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Public Policy (1)

Travis Horsley

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