Freshman enrollment rises
Increasing percentages reflect changes in admissions

By Vivian Fan
News Editor

At last Sunday’s Convocation ceremony, Tech administrators and current students welcomed the incoming class. In total, the freshman class is made up of approximately 2600 students, representing 45 different states and 51 different countries. The increased enrollment shows higher numbers with regards to female enrollment and also reflects the changes made by Tech’s admissions department throughout the previous year.

Since last year, the undergraduate admissions department has undergone administrative and protocol changes. Late last year, former Associate Director of Admissions Rick Clark became the Director of Admissions. In his first year, Clark saw percentages in female enrollment and out-of-state applicants rise for the 2008-2009 school year.

“We still saw 15% more students apply from outside the state of Georgia than last year. I was really surprised by that. I think a lot of that has to do with Georgia Tech and that with a degree, people who graduate from Tech can find a job,” Clark said. Of the students, approximately 40% are from out of state. In addition, the ratio of female to male students in the freshman class rose to its highest ever, with 33% female enrollees to 67% male students.

According to Clark, the increased percentage of female students could suggest the success of women’s recruitment programs and initiatives, including a new postcard campaign to prospective female students.

One of the most interesting changes to admissions protocol and application is reflected in this year’s enrollment statistics. In prior years, students marked ethnicities in categories with a new section that included African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and “Other” ethnicities. In this year’s enrollment of students, 6000 of which were reserved for individual seating. The traditional Waffle House layout will be used on the inside, with a few changes. The current plans for the interior include a row of booths and a bar attached to the food prep area. Rather than using the standard reverse-slope sign on the outside of the free-standing building, the plans for the Tech Square Waffle House include a reverse-slope sign hanging above the food-prep area. The plans for the space also include Tech Square will not be the first Waffle House that is part of a greater retail space. A restaurant was opened inside of Underground Atlanta last October, and a location is currently in development at Georgia State. The space in Tech Square will, however, have many distinct Tech elements.

“The booth seating will mimic the Ramblin’ Wreck, with old gold and white stripes instead of what I believe is the traditional red and black booth pattern. They will be using different tile, generally it is red and black tile stripes, and they will be using gold and black tile stripes, and an old gold color on the signs on the interior,” Steele said.

The traditional Waffle House logo layout includes images of what I believe is the traditional red and black with old gold and white stripes instead of the Georgia Tech logo. The plans for the Tech Square Waffle House include a reverse-slope sign hanging above the food-prep area. The plans for the space also include Tech Square will not be the first Waffle House that is part of a greater retail space. A restaurant was opened inside of Underground Atlanta last October, and a location is currently in development at Georgia State. The space in Tech Square will, however, have many distinct Tech elements.

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Next issue’s question:
Did you have Internet problems the first week of school? Tell us at nique.net

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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.

**Violence threatens Afghan vote**

As Afghans headed to the polls in what is only the second national election held after the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001, violence rocked various parts of the country. Gunfire erupted in the capital city of Kabul on Wednesday, only a day after a NATO convoy was attacked by suicide bombers, killing eight. The Afghan government ordered local media outlets to stop reporting on the surging election violence, fearing that coverage on the attacks would diminish voter turnout. The incumbent president, Hamid Karzai, faces strong challenges from two candidates, but is still widely expected to do well in the elections. Fair and smooth elections are seen as a key component to the Obama administration’s strategy in the war in Afghanistan.

**Lockerbie bomber to be released**

A Scottish court is expected to release Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, the man held responsible for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed 270 people, including 169 Americans. Megrahi was convicted in 2001 after a long and complicated extradition process from his native Libya. Megrahi was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer in 2008 and is expected to be released on compassionate grounds. It is yet to be determined whether he will be freed unconditionally or transferred to a detention center in Libya to serve out the remainder of his incarceration term.

**Baby boomers still getting high**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reported that the percentage of Americans aged 50-59 who reported use of illicit drugs rose 5.1% to 9.4%. Rates of illicit drug use among other age groups dropped or remained the same.

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New GI program aids veterans

By Vijai Narayanan
Assistant News Editor

Tech will begin to offer financial assistance this month to qualified U.S. veterans under the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program. Veterans who fully qualify for the Post 9/11 GI bill will receive tuition and fee benefits while seeking undergraduate, graduate, or a professional degree at Tech.

The Yellow Ribbon Program was introduced as part of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. In order to qualify, veterans must have served on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001 for a period of 36 months, or have served for a period of at least 30 continuous days and have been released for a service-connected disability. The benefits will begin for those training started after Aug. 1 of this year.

Tech became an Institute of Higher Learning for the program through an application based on a “first come first serve basis”, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Services website by providing for students through scholarships and grants each year. Since its introduction last year, the Yellow Ribbon Program allows institutions of higher learning to enter into a voluntary agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate.

By joining, Tech becomes one of over 1,100 institutions nationwide enrolled in the program. Other schools include University of Virginia, Mercer University and Harvard University.

More information about the program and veterans affairs at Tech can be found at the Office of Veteran Affairs in the Registrar’s Office.

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BP

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BP is an equal opportunity employer encouraging diversity in the workplace.
By Vijai Narayanan
Assistant News Editor

In light of recent events, crime on campus has become an imperative concern to members of the community. SGA is planning to host a “Crime Prevention and Awareness Night” on Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. at the IC Lawn in an effort to educate students about safety practices and inform them about crime prevention measures taken by the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) in conjunction with the Atlanta Police Department (APD).

“This event is about raising campus vigilance on safety issues and encouraging students to be safe, but it is also a celebration of the safety we enjoy as a result of the work of GTPD and the APD,” said Corey Boone, a 3rd year MGT student and Vice President of Communications for SGA.

Members from GTPD and APD will be present at the event to speak about campus crime and safety. While the event is targeted primarily towards students, members from across the campus community are encouraged to attend and learn about safe practices that can help prevent crime.

“We want to persuade students to feel compelled about this issue, to take it seriously and take matters into their own hands and be safe,” said Brenda Morales-Pico, a 3rd year BCHM major and the Institute Wide Committees Chair for SGA.

Crime on campus has become an unavoidable issue, with crimes becoming more violent and students being victimized frequently. Recently, a professor was robbed at gunpoint while checking on damage to his car. In March, two students were robbed at gunpoint in the center of campus while traveling along a detour setup due to construction around Skiles Walkway. Not only that, but crimes have also included vehicle break-ins as well as robberies occurring on campus.

In one of the more extreme incidents, on May 4 a student was shot and two other victims were robbed at gunpoint during a carjacking off-campus. While the student recovered from his injuries, the nature of the incident raised alarm among the campus community and in the greater Atlanta area about the safety of Tech students. The student who was shot during the summer will share his experience at the event next week and talk about how other students can deal with campus safety and prevent crime from affecting them.

The resulting impact on the community has led various campus organizations to take measures to improve safety on campus. For example, GTPD has increased its coordination with APD to help prevent crime and has made a greater effort to be present at campus events and raise awareness about safe practices on campus.

In addition to hosting this event, SGA has created the Campus Safety Taskforce, a committee made up of various campus leaders determined to spread awareness of campus safety.

See SGA page 7
While the model will be distinctly different than most Waffle Houses, operating as a space within Tech Square instead of as an independent building, the on-campus Waffle House will offer the standard menu and also maintain traditional Waffle House hours, open for business 24-7-365.

The restaurant’s ability to attract business outside of the college community was considered during the selection process. “We wanted something that could compensate for the fact that a college is very seasonal, something that could get more community involvement,” Steele said.

The retail and restaurant spaces in Tech Square operate with licensing agreements, so rather than owning the properties that they operate in, they obtain licenses to operate them through Tech’s department of real estate and auxiliary services.

Waffle House has a long history with Tech, with Tech alum Joe Rogers, Jr. at the helm as President and CEO, and Bert Thornton, former President of the GT Alumni Association as Executive Vice President. “The alumni connection was important here. It made a lot of sense, and we definitely value the alumni who have contributed to campus. We have also worked a lot with alumni, such as Jeff Carl, who is in charge of their real estate department (at Waffle House), and the woman who did the design and finishing is a Tech alum,” said Steele.

“We even heard they were bringing back a construction manager who was a Tech alum, since the other guy is a UGA alum and they were afraid he would bury a bulldog in the concrete somewhere,” he added.

The plans for the new Waffle House are still underway. According to Kelly Thrasher, a Waffle House spokeswoman, the restaurant is not scheduled to begin operations until early 2010.
Each year following the first few weeks of fall classes, the admissions department at Tech collects and analyzes data about the new freshman class. Used to compare the current freshman class to previous ones, the admissions department gathers information on gender, ethnicity, and in-state/out-of-state, and other numbers to study.

**Male to Female Ratio**

This year marked the highest percentage of female enrollment in Tech history. Approximately 33% of the freshman class is female, compared to 31.75% last year.

**In-State to Out-of-State**

Approximately 40% of this year's freshman class is out-of-state. These students encompass 45 states and 51 countries. Students from nearly every state applied, except for North Dakota and South Dakota.

**Miscellaneous Numbers**

1 in 5

- Students are legacy
- 2000
  - The average SAT score
- 2690
  - Approximate number of freshman

Enrollment from page 1

mandated by President Barack Obama’s administration.

“Students who have been previously categorized as Asian, Hispanic, or Black can be pulled into a multicultural bucket. The multicultural population is around 700% higher, but students in the old categories are down because they are choosing different ethnicities,” Clark added.

Because of this change, the admissions department has issued a student survey to the freshman class to clarify issues this change may have caused. This survey will be used to compare statistics for under-represented minorities and compare them to previous years.

Not only did the demographic information undergo changes, other criteria were altered greatly as well. Rather than reviewing only the verbal and math sections of the SAT, the admissions board began to take the writing section into account. Last year’s applications marked the first time Tech’s admissions department has used the three-section scale, and reported the average SAT score to be approximately 2000 (1365 on the old two-section scale).

“We looked at [the SAT writing section and essay] for this year’s class and we’re going to continue to do that. The last couple years we’ve been looking at it, but haven’t used it. We definitely tracked it more closely, because in looking at most other classes, it’s a better indicator of GPA and college performance,” Clark said. “We’re still going to use the admissions essay because it’s helpful and we get to know the students that way, but we’re slowly getting around the [SAT] writing essay.”

Admissions decisions have also changed and will continue to utilize a more standard rolling decision process.

“We released admissions decisions on three different days between mid December and mid March. I felt like when I became a director that it must be confusing for students because you might apply and someone finds out 2 weeks early. We felt like giving students a more definitive time when they find out, to help relieve students of that anxiety,” Clark added.

For this year’s admissions Clark and the admissions department hope to continue ushering change for applicants, but not with the support of everyone.

“One thing that’s kind of interesting, and I’ve heard a lot of alumni make comments about this. The President’s Scholarship deadline has always been Oct 31, but this year we’re changing it to Nov 1. It’s really funny because it really shows that some people really hate change. Some people really can’t believe we have the audacity to move it back one day. Most schools have deadlines on the 1 or the 15, not on the 31 so that’s what we decided to do,” Clark said.

Despite some criticism with the admissions department’s modifications, the statistics still continue to show upward trends.

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Ticketing

Students began registering under the new system on Saturday, Aug. 14, two days before the start of the semester. Group seats were parcelled equally among every class, and each standing was allotted 1500 tickets. Students then registered for online based on credit hours.

Students have raised concerns about the cost and availability of tickets. Students currently pay a $125 Athletic Fee every semester and many feel that the additional $36 fee is unwarranted. Previously, students had to pay $15 for guaranteed seating for each football game. “It’s exciting to have a ticketless system, but the new website and block system [are] confusing. I don’t like paying $36 for season tickets either,” said Matlock Rogers, a 2nd year ISyE major.

In addition, students must ensure that they have the proper RFID capability on their Buzzcards in order to ensure entrance to the game. If their Buzzcard does not have this capability or is lost, it costs $30 to replace the card, which could cost some students up to $66 in total for football seating.

Others feel that the policy was not made clear enough before the start of registration, and thought it was timed inconveniently. Registration started on August 14th, right before move in for many students. Students were also confused about what to do if they wanted to reserve tickets but were not part of an organization that was reserving group seating.

Students who did sign up for the student group were unhappy that they were not charged at checkout, and instead would have to wait until Aug. 29 to pay their fees, otherwise they lose their ticket reservations.

“For something that’s supposed to be fun like football, the ticketing system makes something that’s supposed to be enjoyable and exciting, complicated and frustrating,” said 3rd year CE major, Lindsay Morgan.

A point of contention for students was the fact that tickets were parcelled equally among the classes, putting some at a disadvantage. Students with senior class standing were forced to register at the earliest timeslot, during move-in.

Throughout the season we’ll be doing provision as to how it’s going, and looking at data from this year and how the games where and how the students perceived the new system to make it better for next season,” said Alina Staskievicus, Undergraduate Student Body President.

The new system, which went up on Friday for students with more than 90 credit hours, will be used for football ticket sales.

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SGA

SGA from page 4ness about crime on campus and improve safety for students.

A proposal has also been put forward by the committee to start an off-campus student association for individuals living in Home Park and other popular off-campus student residences.

“The organization would increase communication between students living off campus and give them the ability to lobby communities for increased safety precautions,” said Jimmy Williams, a 3rd year BMED student and the Vice President of Campus Affairs for SGA.

Another one of the initiatives taken by the taskforce is to work with Communications and Marketing to distribute flyers across campus that detail crime deter-

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