**Spotlight on: Undergraduate student body president**

By Chris Russell  
Staff Writer

Obama might have had his Hundred Days, but when your term’s up after a year, you’ve got to get stuff done a lot more quickly than that.

This past week, Alina Staskevicius, this year’s Undergraduate Student Body President, spoke with the Technique about her plans for student government and leading the executive branch of the SGA.

Staskevicius, a fourth-year HyE, is, interestingly enough, not a US citizen.

Born in Montreal, she’s only been living in Georgia for the past seven years.

“I went to school up in Woodstock, and I just heard that Georgia Tech was the place you went if you were good with math. I just fell in love with the campus, the environment, and most of all, the balance between the social and the academic,” Staskevicius said when asked how she ended up at Tech.

She says that her plans for her years after college aren’t quite as clear, though.

“I’m still not sure what I want to do with the rest of my life… I’d like to go into consulting for a couple of years, then come back for my MBA,” Staskevicius said.

Eventually, she’d like to end up in hospital management or somewhere else in the health care industry, she said.

Staskevicius’ role as the undergraduate student body president, she says, takes on two major parts: representing students to the administration and leading the executive branch of the SGA.

“I have a dual role. The first part is to serve as the main voice of students to the administration. The second part of that is to coordinate the activities of the executive branch of the student government,” said Staskevicius.

The other two branches of the SGA, Judicial and the legislative branch, are headed up by Zack Higbie and Parker Hancock, respectively.

Staskevicius’ voice to the administration involves meetings, meetings and more meetings; often with people students typically have very little interaction with.

“[I work with] pretty much everyone in the administration. Dean Stein serves as the advisor to student government, so he and I meet on a regular basis,” Staskevicius said.

“This year, with the Strategic Plan, I get to work a lot with the Office of the President, which is very different, but very fun,” Staskevicius said.

“We also deal a lot withCommunications and Marketing for communicating with students and off-campus communications,” Staskevicius said.

Staskevicius takes a brief break from work at her desk in the Student Government Association office in the Student Center.

By Fletcher Dostie  
Contributing Writer

This Aug. 22, Muslim students at Tech began their observation of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, by fasting from dawn to sunset.

Throughout the month of Ramadan, Muslims are required to fast starting at Fajr, the dawn prayer.

They may only eat again after Maghrib, the prayer done at sunset.

During the Ramadan fast, known as Sawm, they are also forbidden to drink, smoke, or have sex and must avoid cursing and obscene thoughts.

If a person were to forget to fast and accidently ingest food they are supposed to immediately spit out the food once they remember.

Muslims wake up early to eat the pre-dawn meal called Suhoor, which is usually heavy to avoid weakness during the fast.

After Maghrib, they break their fast with the meal called Iftar which is usually a social event.

Muslims often go to the mosque to pray and break their fast together at Iftar.

Food at Iftar includes dates, Chai, Noon, Panneer, fresh herbs, and halva.

The mosque nearest Tech, Al-Farouq Masjid, which is located off of 14th Street, offers free Iftars for the community.

A date is typically the first food eaten at iftar to break the fast.

One purpose of Ramadan is to bring one a raised awareness and closeness to God.

As Maha Hosain, President of the Muslim Students Association (MSA), said, “It makes you want to put all your attention toward God. You want to get together and pray. It reminds you to get your prayers in, then think about school.”

To some, the sacrifice of fasting on Ramadan helps practice self-discipline and generosity. It is also said to help keep the soul away from harm.

“As a Muslim you are supposed to ask your neighbor if he has had dinner before you eat,” said Farhan Fannoqui, a third-year EE in the MSA.

“The fast helps you feel all the people’s hunger. It’s also a reminder to abstain from lying and all other bad behaviors for the next year,” Farooqui said.

In this spirit of generosity toward those less fortunate, the MSA hosts a Fast-A-Thon during Ramadan to raise money for a cause.

This year, donations went to Grady Memorial Hospital, a hospital that often provides medical care for those without insurance, and is facing financial trouble.

Hosain also explained that all Muslim and non-Muslim students were encouraged to pledge to fast in order to raise money.

“We suggested that members ask non-Muslims to pledge to fast. Pledging was open to everyone,” Hosain said.

“This year, we had 75 pledges, and so far we’ve had 3 companies agree to donate $2 per pledge.”

“But,” Hosain said, “we plan to keep contacting companies to donate based on the pledges we had.”

Hosain also explained that the Fast-A-Thon was not hosted by just the Tech MSA, but was a joint effort with the Muslim Student Association.

CPU students were also encouraged to give money to the cause.

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As Maha Hosain, President of the Muslim Students Association (MSA), said, “It makes you want to put all your attention toward God. You want to get to-
Nine ways to be a consistently annoying Facebook user

By Kuan Tong
Contributing Writer

Sometimes it’s just downright outrageous how people can behave on the internet.

We’re all guilty of outrageous behavior, but some of them are so commonly done by people it could be categorized.

Here is a list of the most annoying types of people on Facebook.

The Vanity Fair

You know that people who think they are SO good looking they feel as if the only way to truly express their outer beauty is through the constant uploading of photos of themselves?

Well, it’s only natural to point out their vain ways, whether it’s the constant changes of their profile picture, or millions of albums created by them containing photos of their faces and not much else.

They are screaming I WANT YOUR ATTENTION or DON’T YOU EVER FORGET MY FACE.

It is perfectly healthy to feel good about yourself and flaunt your knowledgeable your friends are (or at least normal) your life is. To feel bad inside about how good your post is so disheartening, you begin to feel like you have just sat through a four hour lecture about determinism and its effects on modern society.

And you wonder, as you sit in your room alone, whether your level of intellect will ever match up to theirs in a debate about the purpose of life, and then bury your forehead in your hands, realizing the fact that you are but a speck in the medium known as existence.

The Intellectual

Do you ever wonder how knowledgeable your friends are in terms of Leninist politics and philosophy?

I didn’t think so, but these are the people who will be sure to let you know just how much more educated and cultured they are than you.

If you are ever lucky enough to be tagged in one of their notes and you read it, it is quite possible to feel like you have just sat through a four hour lecture about determinism and its effects on modern society.

And you wonder, as you sit in your room alone, whether your level of intellect will ever match up to theirs in a debate about the purpose of life, and then bury your forehead in your hands, realizing the fact that you are but a speck in the medium known as existence.

The Stalker

We are probably all guilty of this at some time or another, whether purposes were for that cute girl you happen to spot in a friend who you have spoken to your calculus lecture, a friend of yours who loves to chat about nothing but clothing, or a friend who you have spoken to your calculus lecture, a friend of yours who loves to chat about nothing but clothing.

They might even claim that they know you better than you know you, and they’ll leave comments on that photo of that haircut you got in 7th grade, reminding you that you were once Simple Plan loving loser, which brings all the more embarrassment and shame down upon you.

The Addict

Sometimes, people forget that they actually have a life in the real world and they simply forget to leave the computer to do some real interactions with people. Hence their 100% presence on Facebook chat 24/7.

This is the person that is constantly active on Facebook Chat and knows all of the latest news on your friends via their status updates.

The Emo Kid

These are the type of status updaters who do nothing but post depressing things about their life or express pessimistic views.

In fact, sometimes what they post is so disheartening, you begin to feel bad inside about how good (or at least normal) your life is.

The Intellectual

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The Frequenter

These are the type of people who love to document their every-day activities with a blow-by-blow recount through status updates.

It’s great. Oh gee, Wendy is brushing her teeth? How wonderful. Oh wait. Wendy is now putting on clothes! Now she’s walking to class.

Such superficial information should not be sent to all their friends as a status update. You would have spotted a Frequenter when you visit a profile and their status updates outnumber wall posts from friends.

The 2000+

How could one person actually remember and be friends with 2000 people?

Sure, you can say “Well, you’re just not popular”, but having 2000 friends is really unnecessary.

If you think you can keep up with 2000 people, even on an acquaintance level, it would be thoroughly impressive.

And what good does it do if you are the person with the most friends on your friends list?

If this is an attempt at a popular contest, then you are sadly mistaken.

Perhaps these people are aware of some special networking powers that arrive after one reaches the 2,000 friend request that the rest of us have not discovered yet.

The Chatterbox

I’m pretty sure the main reason some people choose to permanently stay offline on Facebook Chat is because there is always that friend who loves to chat about nothing at all.

They seem to instinctively know that you are online, and immediately attempt to come into contact with you, and no matter how nice of a person you are, sometimes you just get fed up and log off Facebook altogether, just to get away from their incessant rambling.

The Like Phantom

Since the addition of the ‘like’ feature to all comment accessible posts on Facebook, things have become very different.

There are those who follow the normal standards of interaction (i.e. commenting and such), and then there is that constant presence of someone there, listening, and enjoying what is being said. I’m sure there have been instances where you had just wanted to get in a conversation, and then there was that pesky ‘like’ that would show up on your feed.

It’s the cop-out for people trying to avoid the extra effort of typing down their thoughts but at the same time marking their acknowledgement of what is being said. In all, not a good way of expressing one’s feelings.

The economy sucks. Free pizza rations on Tuesdays.

Volunteers needed to play ATC game

Psychologists at Georgia Tech are looking for people willing to participate in a research study using simulated Air Traffic Control. Participation is open to students (normal vision, hearing, native English) between 18 and 31 years old. You will play an ATC video game 4-5 hours a week for 10 weeks. Performance, memory, comprehension, and decision making will be measured. You will receive $38 an hour plus a 10% bonus for completing all parts of the study, for a total of $400.

To volunteer or inquire about additional details, please contact the Cognitive Ergonomics Lab at (404) 894-6771 or email vlpop@gatech.edu

Cervical cancer starts with warts and Human Papilloma virus (HPV). Conditions can protect, but don’t stop the spread of HPV. You may never have symptoms or know that you became infected. HPV infection can cause genital warts and over time you can raise your risk of developing cervical cancer.

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Free pizza rations on Tuesdays.
By Hamza Hasan

The burdens of the average Tech student seem to be great, but most cope with their curriculum sufficiently. However, with the number of sick students on campus climbing daily, health concerns are often replacing academic ones, leaving many students struggling with the choice between attendance and wellness.

This choice is not easy, and it is one faced by many students that are experiencing difficult health problems every day.

Students with chronic illnesses work not just to complete their schoolwork but also to meet their personal health needs. “My spring break my sophomore year I was getting diagnosed with Lyme Disease in North Carolina,” said Lyndsay Sweeney, a 4th Year MSE.

Lyme disease is caused by a tick bite that could easily go unnoticed. Lyme disease traditionally presents with a red, bulls-eye shaped rash, although there are many atypical presentations of the disease.

Sweeney approached doctors about her condition, which seemed flu-like, they led her in the wrong direction. “I went to see upwards of ten doctors before I got diagnosed. Every single one of them said you don’t have Lyme disease. They said I was a girl who was young and when to hard school and I couldn’t deal with it. They said I needed to see a psychiatrist and that it was all in my head.”

By the time Sweeney was diagnosed, the chance to cure the disease had already passed. If the tick bite is discovered within the first thirty days, which is most easily distinguished by a common bull’s eye ring, the disease can be wiped from the bloodstream.

However, the disease can manifest itself into various tissues after a certain period has passed and then disease is more difficult to cure. The tissues that can be affected usually include connective, brain and heart tissue. Lyme disease has settled in all of the above tissues in Sweeney’s case.

“In the later stages [of the disease], you get arthritis in your joints, cognitive dysfunction, psychiatric problems, heart problems, and you can die from it if you don’t treat it,” said Sweeney.

The problems for Sweeney as a result are not few.

“The main problem with the diagnosis of Lyme disease is that it is stuck in a dichotomy over its chronic essence,” Sweeney claims otherwise.

Many people don’t believe there is a chronic illness with Lyme disease, but Sweeney claims otherwise. “Many people don’t believe there is a chronic illness with Lyme disease, but I’m living proof there is,” Sweeney said. As a result of this controversy, the treatment is elusive and difficult to come by.

“So many people don’t believe there is a chronic illness with Lyme disease, but I’m living proof there is,” Sweeney said. As a result of this controversy, the treatment is elusive and difficult to come by.

“Because of the dichotomy of it being chronic or not, you get screwed out of getting proper treatment, which you have to pay for by yourself,” said Sweeney.

Since her treatment requires accessible parking and coordination of special-format textbooks, ADAPTS also provides registration assistance, academic adjustments, special-format textbooks, accessible parking and coordination with faculty to help students cope with special needs. Students catered to by the ADAPTS services range from students with learning disabilities to students with chronic disease or mobility impairment.

“"If I can prevent any other person to go through what I went through, that’ll make me happy. I work with advocacy groups and awareness groups, and try to get funding to make those things happen”

Sweeney has advice for other students with chronic illness at Tech.

“Just know that other people are out there with similar situations, even if you think you’re the only one without it. Just stay positive about it, because that’s going to make it all go a lot smoother,” said Sweeney.

For more information about Lyme Disease, visit lymedisease-association.org, iadads.org and underourskin.com.

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**Silver Lives**

vivel, you are not holding a monopoly on the professor’s time. either read at home before attending class or study

worse

To the idiot in maulding who keeps setting the fire alarm off: I hate you. with passion. the fire alarms aren’t for your amusement, please find something better to do.

GT football ticketing = BANE OF MY EXISTENCE

alex shaw

Thank god for ESL Asians who slow down our profs with obtuse questions! Thank him, you philistines!

GTAA, sleep depriving students, one false ticket phase at a time it: the AA and football

the AA wont be getting my $36 for sure

AA: themselves first, students last

h1s

the new ticketing system is worse than reggie ball

eric berry

morgan burns

Football tickets dont work. Again. Im starting to see a trend. Can we please just hire a CS major to do the football ticketing?

Impeach all of SGA for ruining the ticketing system! Viva La Revolution!

furlough Paul Johnson

sexy pig

I heard two voices in my kitchen arguing in a whispering-tone in the kitchen. and they both told me I’m an idiot for submitting the same sliver 14 times (and they were right)

Ok I’m thinking like a broken record but it still doesn’t seem to get into your girls heads. IF I AM TALKING WITH YOU IT DOES NOT MEAN I WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH YOU. Please just talk with me.

Waffle House...aka the land of sobering up

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Staskevicius says that one of the biggest issues she hopes to tackle this year is communication, both between the administration and students, and between students and student government.

“I think that communication is always one of the key issues, and this year I think it’s more important than ever, with the new strategic planning process,” Staskevicius said.

“I really want to see student government reaching out to students more, and that’s going to start with the new SGA website which we’re launching in a few weeks,” Staskevicius said.

SGA will also be working closely with the administration on several academic issues, one of which includes Tech’s dead week.

Staskevicius said, “Our dead week policy right now is completely lacking. That’s one of our goals: to implement a new dead week policy by the end of October.”

“We’re looking at the idea of reading days, where we have two days at the end of dead week when we don’t go to class at all,” Staskevicius said.

“We’re also looking at re-evaluating our add-drop policy, and seeing how that can better serve our students,” Staskevicius said.

While SGA’s budget won’t directly be affected by budget cuts (since its funding comes from the student involvement fee that is a default payment all Tech students make as part of their tuition), she does expect to have to confront the issue over the year.

“What I think we’ll see is a lot more organizations and even campus departments coming to SGA for funding because their budgets have been cut,” Staskevicius said.

The first step towards preparing for this budget cut, Staskevicius said, is encouraging student representatives to become more fiscally responsible with the SGA budget.

With every change in leadership, there is a change in the way things run, SGA is no exception.

“This year, we’re holding our first ever freshman elections (which is a big change from the past), we now have an official vice president of communications, and we’re also looking at creating an ad hoc committee to analyze how we can improve our finance committee,” Staskevicius said.

Staskevicius again emphasizes, though, that the biggest change she’s pushing for is more student involvement in student government.

“I want SGA to be open to student opinion. I want students to know who their representatives are, and how they can contact them. That’s my biggest frustration right now,” Staskevicius said.

In order to achieve that, she encourages everyone to get involved both in SGA and in campus life.

“Find something on campus that you’re passionate about, and throw yourself into it. That’s the best way to really get into campus life, and that’s what you’re going to remember about college down the road, much more than what your GPA was.”

Ramadan

Associations at Georgia State and Kennesaw State as well.

“There is one night in Ramadan that is especially important. This night, called Laylat al-Qadr, is believed to be the night the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad.

As Hosain said, “For those who pray on that night, it is as if they had prayed for 10,000 nights.”

It isn’t known exactly when the night is, it thought to be one of the last odd-numbered nights. Because of this, Muslims often pray extra prayers during these nights.

After the last day of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate the end of the fast in a holiday called Eid al-Fitr. On this day Muslims usually feast and gather at mosques to pray together.

Eid is an Arabic word that mean “festivity” and Fitr means “to break the fast.”

Because of the emphasis on socializing, only a few mosques host Eid, so that there will be a large gathering at each one.

Those celebrating the feast are supposed to finish their feasting on the last day of Ramadan and then repeat the Takbir until the start of Eid prayer.

The Takbir is the Arabic term for the phrase “Allahu Akbar,” which is generally translated to mean “God is great.”

This year, the last day of Ramadan is Sept. 19, with Eid following on Sept. 20 or 21. The date of Eid depends on when the moon is sighted.

Mosque Al Farooq in AlFarooq,Mosjid off of 14 street, offers free Iftars, ceremonies fast-breaking meals, to community members during Ramadan.

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Love, the Sisters of Alpha Delta Pi
Legacy students share college decision process

By Sarah Malis
Contributing Writer

At some point or another, most of us tried our hand at rebelling against our parents. Whether it was ignoring those intolerable rules, staying out way too late on a school night, or pretending to lose track of time too late on a school night, or breaking curfew, we all have complaints with. Either way, being part of a Tech legacy makes it seem as though with each new school year, more and more legacies are making their way into Tech.

Devon Clifford, third-year MGT, is a triple legacy through her mother, father, and two great-uncles. Her uncle told me was that Tech is a really hard school. His advice was you can have fun here and work hard, but the work is more important,” Calender said.

It seems as though with each new school year, more and more legacies are making their way into Tech.

Some students with family history at Tech feel as though coming to campus was an easy decision, while others found it rather difficult.

For brother and sister Cathrine and Chris Chapman, whose father graduated from Tech in ’84, the choice was clear that they wanted to attend Tech.

“My father] said you can go wherever you want, so long as it’s Georgia Tech. Tech was really the only place I wanted to go through,” said Catherine Chapman, fourth-year AE.

Chris ultimately had a choice of schools but decided to come to Tech because of what Tech offers after graduation. “I had a choice but the options after Tech were a whole lot better than other colleges in general,” said Chris Chapman, second-year AE.

Having a parent, uncle, aunt, or grandparent to exchange college experiences with can lead to further bonding, or it could just be convenient to share similar complaints with. Either way, being part of a Tech legacy makes for an interesting set of experiences that can be shared across generations.

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