By Andrew Nelson
Contributing Writer

Tech has announced that it will be providing a scholarship to help cover health insurance costs for graduate research and teaching assistants (GRA and GTA respectively) for the fall and spring semesters of the 2009-2010 academic year.

Only graduate students that have Tech’s health insurance policy (under the insurance company Pearce & Pearce Inc.) as their primary health insurance provider will obtain the subsidies while those with health insurance from other companies will not receive any money. The Tech administration is still deliberating on whether the subsidies will extend into future semesters.

Annual health care costs for graduate students have been steadily climbing at a linear rate over the years, from $830 in 2006 to $1,003 in 2009. The subsidy is an attempt to remedy these ongoing increases in living costs faced by graduate students.

“I think this is a very good thing providing

Graduate students to have healthcare subsidies

By Andrew Nelson
Contributing Writer

The investiture comes after President Peterson’s arrival at Tech earlier this spring. The ceremony is used to formally hand over the position of Institute President from the incumbent to its successor. Among the guests were Governor Sonny Perdue, Congressman Phil Gingrey and Board of Regents Chair Robert F. Hatcher. Members of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and Tech alumni were also in attendance with students.

Board of Regents Chancellor Errol B. Davis, Jr. began the ceremony by introducing Peterson, who was welcomed with a round of applause. Peterson began his speech by thanking all of his guests on behalf of him and his wife, even making special mention of Tech’s own George P. Burdell by mentioning, “Although I have yet to meet him, I was told he would be here with us today.”

In his address, Peterson reflected on Tech’s long history of achievement not only in the field of student and alumni accomplishments, but also the work being done by all involved in the community. He also stressed the sources of pride Tech has in its national rankings, research and other successes.

“Before I came to Tech I was well aware of its reputation for excellence, but I did not realize what a truly incredible place it really was. I quickly learned of the tremendous impact it has had, and continues to have, on the lives of our students, the state’s economy and on the larger global community. In just five short months, I have come to share the tremendous pride we all have in this fine institution,” said Peterson in his address.

“We have before us today an opportunity to shape the future of, not only this great institution but also the many students who will pass through its doors in the coming years,” Peterson said.

Following the investiture ceremony at 1:30 p.m. at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, Peterson and his administration hosted an inaugural conversation, entitled “A Strategic Vision for Georgia Tech.” The talk was part of the strategic planning initiative hosted by the office of the President and the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. The committee was established Aug. 24 and is comprised of 75 Tech faculty, students, staff, alumni and other community members. The initiative looks into different ways to improve Tech’s academic,
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Equal Opportunity Employer
Undergraduate House of Representatives members review bills and issues at this week’s meeting.

By Vijai Narayanan, Assistant News Editor

This edition of Council Clippings covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Sept. 3, 2009.

**Six Flags Night**

SGA passed a bill disbursing funds to the Student Center Programs Council for Six Flags night. The event is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 25. Tickets are available online for a price of $13 until Friday, Sept. 11 at www.sixflags.gatech.edu.

Six Flags night was started in 2003 as a partnership between SGA and the administration in an effort to hold large campus events. In its first year, 7250 campus community members attended the event. Attendance is expected to be around 10,000 this year. The resolution passed 43-0.

**SGA Week**

UHR considered a bill to fund hand sanitizer bottles for distribution at SGA week. The purpose of the bill was to increase awareness of SGA on campus and help combat the H1N1 virus. The bill was dealt a blow following one representative’s revelation that most hand sanitizer combats bacterial diseases and would do little against the H1N1 virus. This led to a lengthy discussion on whether or not to still fund the bill for the sake of increased publicity and awareness of SGA amongst the student body.

Several members made the case against passing the bill purely for publicity reasons, and the bill failed to pass the vote.

**Campus Welcome Back Event**

SGA looked at a bill to increase funding for the campus welcome back event, held after Institute President G.P. “Bud” Peterson’s Investiture on Thursday. The event is open to all members of the campus community. The resolution passed with a vote of 38-3.

**Condolences**

SGA passed a resolution expressing condolences to the family of Justin Bellmor, a student who passed away on Aug. 26 from complications of a brain aneurysm. Bellmor was a sixth-year CS major from Marietta, GA who was entering his sixth year at Tech. He was employed as a system administrator at the Georgia Tech Information Security Center.

**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.

**New Japanese gov’t promises strong alliance**

The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) won a resounding victory in elections held last week, ending over half a century of rule by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The country’s economic crisis mobilized disgruntled voters to cast out the LDP. Despite an overwhelming victory, mandate for the new government seems weak. Polls showed that most voters were dissatisfied with years of LDP rule and did not necessarily agree with DPJ policy. The DPJ won over 300 seats in the country’s 480 seat lower house parliament.

Yukio Hatayama, the leader of the DPJ and Prime Minister designate, raised concerns about the future of US-Japan relations following an op-ed piece in The New York Times this past weekend. Hatayama suggested that Japan had suffered under US-led globalization and must turn to regional partnerships to strengthen economic ties.

Hatayama moved quickly to clarify his stance by speaking with President Obama over the phone on Wednesday and publicly stating that his comments were not anti-American.

**California wildfires viewed from space**

As firefighters continued to battle a giant wildfire ravaging forests just north of Los Angeles, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory released satellite imagery of smoke released by flames. While officials have yet to determine what caused the fire, nearly 219 square miles of the forest have been burned. Since Aug. 26, the fire has destroyed over 60 homes and killed two firefighters.

**Federal gov’t hit Pfizer with billion dollar fine**

The drug company Pfizer has been asked to pay $2.3 billion in order to settle federal criminal and civil charges over its Bextra painkiller. The settlement comes after a four year investigation into Pfizer’s business dealings for sending doctors on vacations and paying for massages in order to get them to prescribe Bextra, a drug which has since been removed due to safety concerns.
How To: Get Involved in Homecoming

1. Decide how to participate: individually, with friends, as part of an organization, or as a spectator.
2. Visit the Homecoming Website, www.homecoming.gatech.edu
3. Attend Homecoming (HC) 101, or become familiar with the rules book.
4. Fill out and submit applications, by Sept. 18, 2009
5. Buy tickets for the Homecoming Concert!
6. Prepare for your events!
7. Think competitively, but have fun!
8. Visit Skiles during Homecoming week, maybe you’ll see a juggler or two!
9. Attend the Homecoming Football Game, Go Jackets!

Have Fun, and remember that Homecoming is an event for the whole Tech community! Enjoy being a Yellow Jacket and take part in the exciting events during Homecoming!

If you have any questions please contact Heather Aquilino at ghomecoming@gmail.com, or visit www.homecoming.gatech.edu

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SGA elections chair Mike Donohue discusses the freshmen elections application and campaigning process to a prospective candidate at one of the eleven election orientations over the last two weeks. Students have until Sept. 4 to apply.

SGA Freshman Representative elections begin next Friday

Until 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, Tech freshmen will be able to apply for candidacy in the Student Government Association’s (SGA) freshman representative elections. The new freshman class will elect four representatives to SGA’s undergraduate legislative branch from Sept. 11-16.

The elected freshmen representatives serve with 53 other representatives from majors/schools, athletics, co-op participants and the other classes to discuss matters concerning the student body’s welfare. This may include passing resolutions expressing the general opinion on an important subject or determining the allocation of funds to student organizations. This year, the SGA’s coffers amount to over $3 million — collected as the $118 student activity fee paid by every student upon enrollment — about 90% of which is distributed to student clubs and teams for normal operation.

Another task of the student representative concerns the remaining 10% of the funds: discussing and voting on student-submitted bills. These bills are most often to fund additional projects or other financial requests by student organizations. “The main responsibility of a representative in SGA’s Undergraduate House of Representatives is to discuss bills each Tuesday night,” said SGA elections chair Mike Donohue, “but their duties go far beyond that once a week commitment.”

These duties may be most important to the freshmen: the chance to voice their concerns and
Megamod mass email policy revised by SGA and ODOS

The Student Government Association (SGA) has worked to create a new campus e-mail messaging policy, also known as megamod policy. The policy intends to provide students with information regarding student life opportunities on campus while decreasing the amount of mass emails being sent out on a weekly basis.

"Prior to this there was no standard policy," said SGA undergraduate vice president of communications Cory Boone.

Previously student organizations that wished to inform other students of campus and student life-related events and news would request the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) to send an e-mail to students informing them of the occasion. The result was that many students would often log in to cluttered inboxes with emails informing them of events that were not pertinent nor interesting to some of the students.

SGA has implemented a new policy regarding these emails as of July 1, 2009. The ODOS now requires that all requests for notifications of events be submitted through a standardized online form. The ODOS will then send a single email each Monday, with the exception of school holidays and days that the ODOS are closed, that is an accumulation of all of the requests entitled "The Weekly Buzz" along with the date that it was sent out.

"This effectively condenses all student organization announcements that would otherwise come to us as individual emails into one weekly digest," said, undergraduates student body president Alina Staskievicis.

In order to submit a request for an event to be added to "The Weekly Buzz" students can go to the ODOS website and click on the megamod link. After logging into the site with their Tech accounts, students can fill out a form with information, such as the primary sponsor organization of the event, the name of the event and description, the date, time and location of the event, contact information and options for which week the notification of the event should be sent out.

The policy restricts usage of these weekly digests to on-campus opportunities or events that are sponsored by on-campus student organizations. Announcements can be submitted, at latest, by noon the Friday before the Monday the weekly digest is sent out. Furthermore student organizations (except for student governing boards) are restricted to one announcement per week and per event, unless they are announcing that the event was cancelled. Organizations also are not allowed to send multiple announcements for events occurring multiple times each semester such as regularly occurring meetings.

"This new policy is intended to help students by making information on student life opportunities readily accessible while also controlling the number of emails sent out," Boone said.

To that end, SGA is accepting any student feedback on its new policy throughout the fall semester.

Investiture from page 1

The Road to the Investiture

President Peterson's Investiture marks him as the 11th Tech president

The Board of Regents announces Peterson as the next president.

The GTENS voice message is 30 seconds. Please do not hang up early. GTENS needs that it was sent out.

Weekly Buzz along with the date of the event, the name of the event and contact information and options for which week the notification of the event should be sent out.

A full-scale test of the Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System (GTENS), System to Create & Relay Emergency Action Messages (SCREAM), Georgia Tech Cable TV Alert System (GTCTAS), and outdoor siren warning system is set for:

Thursday, September 10 @ 11:00 AM

What you can do:

✓ Program your mobile phone to recognize the number 404-385-3637.
✓ Provide feedback. Those who have opted in to the system but do not receive the test alert should visit www.gatech.edu/emergency/notification to report your status.
✓ The GTENS voice message is 30 seconds. Please do not hang up early. GTENS needs that time to determine a live delivery or to your voice mail.

To sign up for Emergency Notification: passport.gatech.edu
NEWS BRIEFS

OSCAR System to be offline next week

Due to an upgrade of the campus Banner Student Information System, the OSCAR registration and campus services website will be unavailable from midnight on Sept. 9 through 8 a.m. Sept. 14. During that time, BuzzPort will be available, but links to Banner/OSCAR functions will be unavailable.

U.S. News rankings released for 2010

In addition to being one of the top five universities in the country, Tech’s engineering program maintained its high standing reputation. Industrial Engineering maintained its number one spot, while Aerospace stayed at number two and Mechanical, Electrical, and Environmental Engineering remained in three, along with Civil Engineering and Biomedical remaining in the top five programs in U.S. News rankings.

Rush from page 1

looking for an alternative option explored all opportunities. Over the long term, these organizations are generally cheaper when compared with IFC and Collegiate Pan-Hellenic Council (CPC) organizations.

“When you compare the cost of participating in Greek life over several years, it is actually cheaper to be in a Greek organization,” said IFC president Andrew deRussy. Another reason for the drop in rush numbers could be due to the lack of competitiveness of the men's GPA’s when compared with non-Greeks.

“We recognize that the IFC men’s GPA is not as competitive as it once was and we realize that is hurting us, but we’re taking steps to address that,” said deRussy. One of the plans proposed by IFC to boost scholarship is to issue a best practices manual with tips from different chapters to Greek organizations to help them achieve their scholastic goals.

Interestingly, the number of women attending recruitment and receiving membership this year increased.

“The number of women joining a Greek organization is up this year, but we’ve got to remember that the Freshman class has grown and that the proportion of women has grown as well,” Cooke said. With a growing number of women interested in Greek life Tech added a new sorority last year, 20 years after the previous sorority was added. Within the next two to three years, plans are in place to welcome another sorority to campus.

Greek Affairs is working with the administration to create more space for Greek organizations on campus.

“Currently, that is not part of the campus master plan, but we’re working on that. The Greek area planning committee will meet throughout the semester to see what is feasible,” said Cooke. One of the things that Greek Affairs is doing is to boost recruitment is to send out surveys to new members and determine what advertising tactics are most useful. They also plan to host focus groups with non-Greek students organizations for suggestions. IFC has also initiated fraternity rush tours that allow students to explore Greek life in a group setting.

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Scholarship Updates 2009 Campus Deadlines

• Fulbright
• Rhodes • Mitchell • Gates • Churchill • Marshall

September 10th, 12:00 p.m.

Contact Dr. Karen Adams
karen.adams@provost.gatech.edu
Graduate health care subsidies will be provided for research assistants and teaching assistants. The $100 subsidy will only apply to those with the Tech health insurance policy.

"It's not money that is going to have any noticeable effects, certainly not for [non graduate] students at Georgia Tech. It was a long hard decision because there certainly are fewer resources this year but nothing critical is not going to get done because of these subsidies," Vito said.

Vito also elaborated on long-term plans that will help reduce costs for graduate students even further.

"The plan would be eventually to build some of these [health insurance] costs into grants and contracts for GRA's, but that will take several years to happen. It is a legitimate cost of hiring a graduate student [since] the health insurance has to be paid for, so it seems to me if the student is supported on a grant then the grant at some point should be helping the students pay for their health insurance," Vito added.

"We have a fairly flexible set of rules in which you can work, so be creative with the ways you get your name out. Come out with one or two things you really want to do in SGA, and make that the cornerstone of your campaign. And don't give up," Donohue said.

"After the week-long campaigning ends, students vote in their 53 representatives Sept. 11-16 at elections.gatech.edu. Having freshman representatives elected by freshmen is a brand new thing for Tech, so this group of representatives is going to set the tone for years to come. I think that these representatives have an amazing chance to really help communicate to their class what SGA does and help their classmates to take advantage of everything that SGA can offer," Donohue said.