Beneﬁts of membership
Joining the AAU will open many avenues for Tech

Tech’s admission into the Association of American Universities signiﬁes the great progress the Institute has made. Tech’s push to broaden the academic offerings paired with a clear focus on the importance of research in education, no doubt helped trigger the move to include Tech in this elite group. Tech must continue to harness this momentum and not rest on the laurels of this honor.

Being invited to be a member of this inﬂuential organization should also open up many avenues for Tech in the future. With the AAU acting as a clearinghouse of academic information, Tech students and faculty now have an easier way to share ideas with other top academics and researchers across the nation. A freer ﬂow of ideas in and out of Tech should also help to grow our intellectual community. This membership will give Tech a stronger voice on the national stage. One of the major purposes of the AAU is lobby help to grow our intellectual community. The AAU inﬂuence within industry will also pay dividends to Tech, through notoriety on a more national stage with major corporations.

But AAU membership also gives Tech the opportunity to more fully contribute to conversations about the problems facing universities and the nation as a whole. The Tech community must use this opportunity to express ideas on some of the major issues Tech is tackling, such as sustainability and intellectual property as well as student’s rights and the decreasing affordability of education. Tech must utilize all potential beneﬁts from this new-found relationship to improve, including marketing the honor to potential prospective students and faculty. After all, Tech is the only public university in the state that is a member of this prominent organization.

The Consensus Opinion reﬂects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

TECHNIQUE EDITORIAL BOARD
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EDITORIAL CARTOON BY MAGGIE SMITH

PROPER TREATMENT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
About two years ago, I learned that an engineering company wanted to return to school to pursue a PhD. He is an excellent engineer—hard working and careful, a solid undergraduate foundation, and well-regarded across our organization. Of course, I engaged him to consider Tech. After applying, he was invited at Tech’s expense to visit. In spite of a more lucrative offer from another reputable school, he chose Tech.

You have embarrassed me. After nine months of personal insults and abuse, discouraging remarks, deception, and promises about his sexual orientation from his advisor, he chose to leave after obtaining his Master’s degree. Fortunately, he will return to work for us. You have lost an excellent student, and I will never again encourage anyone to consider attending Tech.

Hearing his story over dinner recently opened old wounds of my own. At the outset of my graduate program at Tech, I suffered similar abuses from an advisor (Dr. Nett, who has since left)—insults, hours of berating the lab group over minor mistakes, refusing to allow us to leave the lab for meals because work was not going satisfactorily, a 4 a.m. phone call to come to the lab so he could scream at me about an electric motor. Seared in my memory is the remark he once made while leaving the lab well after midnight: “Magill, your work is shit.” I withdrew his behavior for nine months, but, unwilling to tolerate it further, I changed major. I completed a Ph.D. in 1 year, and have had nearly 15 years of successful research career.

It is often suggested that a student can choose another advisor when a relationship is untenable. This, I’m sure, happens often. However, as in my case and the recent case of my colleague, faculty who are prone to abusing their students are likewise prone to threatening them. My friend, a professor who cannot leave rather than ﬁnding another advisor was partly driven by an assurance from his advisor that any other professor would surely ask for a recommendation from the ﬁrst. Finding a new advisor would be, he promised, more difﬁcult than one might expect.

I am asking you to consider ways to stop this kind of thing from happening. Teaching graduate students is not limited to choosing students you like and getting them to do research. The job is to teach, as best you can, everyone who is admitted. A professor who cannot lead someone of the caliber of my colleague through a graduate program is not qualiﬁed to teach at a school of the caliber of Tech, and should not be retained.

Department Chairs: are you monitoring the way students are treated by faculty? Do you have the courage to remove faculty who cannot be trusted to treat students appropriately? Or are you comfortable looming high-quality standards that you can avoid the tough choices?

Graduate students: you have a right to be treated with respect, a right not to be abused, belittled, or insulted. Encourage one another, and never let anyone convince you that you deserve to be mistreated. There are plenty of decent, skilled teachers out there.

I know there are great faculty; I found them. I was jointly advised by Drs. Dorsey(CEE) and Komert (AE). I am grateful to them for their kindness and professionalism, encouragement and support, guidance and instruction.

I regret that I needed to write this letter. I hope that it will prompt thoughtful review of faculty mentoring and oversight. I encourage other alumni to add their voices to this issue that is critical to the reputation of our school.

John Magill
1995 Ph.D. ECE

TAKE SOCIAL SECURITY OFF CHOPPING BLOCK
Your “Social Security Reform Key To Fiscal Health” (printed April 16) reads like a piece straight out of Wall Street, i.e. as if written by the same self-serving ideologues responsible for our current economic crisis, with its detrimen-
tal effects on public higher education, like Tech (tuition increases, furloughs, more fees etc.). As if written by the same elitists who want to privatize everything and turn America into a dog-eat-dog banana republic.

Why are these things happening now? As Dr. Paul C. Roberts, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan Adminis-tration puts it: “Bernanke’s writing to Congress is this way of adding Federal Reserve pressure to that of Wall Street and former Treasury Secretary Paulson for Congress to balance the budget by gutting Social Security.”

In case you haven’t noticed, no one in Washington or New York talks about cutting trillion dollar wars.

Write to us: letters@nique.net

We welcome your letters in response to Technique content as well as topics relevant to campus. We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis.

Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. in order to be printed in the following Friday issue. Include your full name, year (1st, 2nd, etc.) and major. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed per term.

YOUR VIEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPINIONS
You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

—Mark Twain

Friday, April 23, 2010

12
Opportunities and challenges face Tech

Emily Chambers
Editor-in-Chief

“to fulfill its mandate of progress and service we must remember that Tech was founded to serve students.”

Tech forces students to come full circle

A bit earlier this year I received a mysterious letter in the mail. Taking a second to examine the envelope, I was caught off-guard by the handwriting on the envelope. It looked suspiciously like my own. After opening and reading the letter I realized that I had written the letter myself actually, as an exercise in my GT1000 class in 2006 at the beginning of my freshman year.

You see, it was a blast from the past—a letter from my “former self” to the future. I found it both entertaining and interesting to read, as my “former self” described all my fears, hopes and dreams about college life.

Reading the letter was like jumping in a time machine back four years and meeting my former self.

My former self that was terrified of leaving the familiarity of high school and being thrown into a completely new environment. The former self that was filled with unbridled excitement to take the reins on life and get the most out of the present. The former self that had high hopes for the road ahead.

Wait a second. This “former self” doesn’t sound very much like my current self. My current self is the one that I am at the end of my career at Tech with a long list of familiar experiences. I’m excited yet terrified of what lies ahead in the working world. I’m once again back at the same spot that I was four years ago!” Well, yes and no.

While I might be experiencing some of the same feelings that I did coming in as a wee freshman, I know that Tech has left a mark on me, and I hope that I have been able to leave my own mark on Tech as well, as the thousands of us Tech alums have before me.

People say that college is supposed to be the best four years of your life. People also say that college is the hardest four, five or six years of your life. These two statements can be equally exclusive; sure, Tech is tough, but it is also a truly amazing place.

There are so many things that I will always remember—the coffee-fueled late nights, the bountiful free food, the thrill of screaming, “Fight, Win, Drink, Get Naked!”

None of us should leave Tech, or any phase of our lives for that matter, without making a difference.

We should all be striving to be active members of the Tech community. Yeah, Tech is super hard, but that should be no excuse for us to simply go through the motions and then leave four, five or six years later.

It could be answering a survey about what matters most to students. It could be attending an event for something you’re interested in, giving your feedback about where Tech should be in the next 25 years or even something as simple as casting a vote in a student election.

These are all examples of opportunities to get involved that a lot of people take for granted. What so many people fail to realize is that a small bit of participation and investment in the Tech community ultimately helps to shape the experience for future generations of Tech students.

We should make a conscious effort to maintain and improve the quality of the student experience, and that means being active in the campus community. To improve the Tech experience for others takes less time and effort than many people realize.

And trust me, the time flies by so quickly, so make the most out of your time at Tech. Even if you don’t think you will miss it, you just might.

Emily Chambers
Editor-in-Chief

“A bit earlier this year I received a mysterious letter in the mail. Taking a second to examine the envelope, I was caught off-guard by the handwriting on the envelope. It looked suspiciously like my own. After opening and reading the letter I realized that I had written the letter myself actually, as an exercise in my GT1000 class in 2006 at the beginning of my freshman year. You see, it was a blast from the past—a letter from my “former self” to the future. I found it both entertaining and interesting to read, as my “former self” described all my fears, hopes and dreams about college life. Reading the letter was like jumping in a time machine back four years and meeting my former self. My former self that was terrified of leaving the familiarity of high school and being thrown into a completely new environment. The former self that was filled with unbridled excitement to take the reins on life and get the most out of the present. The former self that had high hopes for the road ahead. Wait a second. This “former self” doesn’t sound very much like my current self. My current self is the one that I am at the end of my career at Tech with a long list of familiar experiences. I’m excited yet terrified of what lies ahead in the working world. I’m once again back at the same spot that I was four years ago!” Well, yes and no. While I might be experiencing some of the same feelings that I did coming in as a wee freshman, I know that Tech has left a mark on me, and I hope that I have been able to leave my own mark on Tech as well, as the thousands of us Tech alums have before me. People say that college is supposed to be the best four years of your life. People also say that college is the hardest four, five or six years of your life. These two statements can be equally exclusive; sure, Tech is tough, but it is also a truly amazing place. There are so many things that I will always remember—the coffee-fueled late nights, the bountiful free food, the thrill of screaming, “Fight, Win, Drink, Get Naked!” None of us should leave Tech, or any phase of our lives for that matter, without making a difference. We should all be striving to be active members of the Tech community. Yeah, Tech is super hard, but that should be no excuse for us to simply go through the motions and then leave four, five or six years later. It could be answering a survey about what matters most to students. It could be attending an event for something you’re interested in, giving your feedback about where Tech should be in the next 25 years or even something as simple as casting a vote in a student election. These are all examples of opportunities to get involved that a lot of people take for granted. What so many people fail to realize is that a small bit of participation and investment in the Tech community ultimately helps to shape the experience for future generations of Tech students. We should make a conscious effort to maintain and improve the quality of the student experience, and that means being active in the campus community. To improve the Tech experience for others takes less time and effort than many people realize. And trust me, the time flies by so quickly, so make the most out of your time at Tech. Even if you don’t think you will miss it, you just might. Emily Chambers
OPINIONS

HOT– or –NOT

Power of protest

The protest on campus last Friday over the way Sodexo treats its workers was a strong reminder the Tech community believes in workers’ rights and the importance of maintaining, a Tech community that includes students, faculty and staff. We encourage all members of the Tech community to speak of any injustice that is taking place on campus and work to correct such injustices.

Crime continues

The home invasion in Home Park and the robbery near the center of campus is again an unsettling reminder of the persistent crime problem that affects campus. Sooner or later the small tid-bits from GTPD will not calm the masses, and students will demand, as is our right, stronger and more active crime prevention in and around campus to keep students safe.

Mercy, mercy

The mercury spill on Wednesday evening in the MRDC gave a bit more of a scare than most students need as finals week approaches. The five oz. spill forced the evacuation of the building and forced the Atlanta Fire Department to respond with gas mask and quite the commotion. In general, chemical spills should be avoided, unless they cancel classes.

Green week

This week gave the Tech community a slightly different type of education as Green Week took over the center of campus. Along with teaching students how to recycle and live a more environmentally friendly life, students were showered with freebees that ranged from T-shirts to low-wattage light bulbs, reenforcing the importance of green education.

After receiving so much, it is time to give back to Technique

Like many others, I will graduate in two weeks. Unlike many others, I will take a one-week break and immediately start up classes again as a graduate student. I am coming back to Tech for another year to pursue a Master’s in Electrical Engineering, staying in the comfortable cocoon of academia for just a little bit longer.

I am lucky to be given the opportunity to further my education here, but the additional year (or two) that I will spend at Tech has also allowed me to do something I never thought I would do until very recently: become Editor-in-Chief of the Technique. It is scary to think that instead of helping shape the vision of the current Editor-in-Chief, I will be the one guiding my staff to build on the plan I have created. It’s a challenge I willingly accept. It certainly was not a challenge I envisioned taking on as a first-year.

Back then, I only thought about all I could get out of the paper. Taking articles would improve my writing ability, passes giving me access to the press box for football games and of course, the meetings and events provided enough free pizza to make my body course with marinara sauce. I’m sure many other freshmen had the same attitude toward new activities, usually joining a club because it could be fun.

Letters

As I familiarized myself with the paper and took on more responsibility, I saw there was more to the paper than going to a ton of basketball games and free food; it was an institution that represents the student’s voice. I started to shift away from the selfish motivations I may have had when I first joined the Technique. The paper had given me a great deal, but what could I do in return? It was the main question I asked myself when I set out goals at the beginning of the year for what I wanted to accomplish for the paper.

But now, on the eve of a new year of the paper under my leadership, I shift my attitude once again. Not only am I asking myself how I can help and improve the paper, but how those goals relate to benefiting the Tech community. After all, you, the reader, are the reason why the Technique is still here nearly 100 years after the first issue printed. So I ask readers to tell us what you want to see in the Technique. You can affect change without being a writer or a photographer or an editor. If you see a story happening and developing, What we may have missed, tell us. If you think we provided unfair coverage of a campus event, write us a letter to the editor. Even if you want to voice your displeasure over not getting enough slivers, we want to hear your valid complaint (preferably inside of the sliver box). Even if it seems that we are staying silent, we are always listening to whatever you want to say.

I must thank my predecessors and all they have done to influence me. I have worked under four different Editors-in-Chief, each very different from the others. They have put their stamp on the paper in a way that I have been given the chance to do. I hope this editorial board can continue to produce a paper of the highest quality and live up to the standard that has been set in the past.

Letters

“Not only am I asking myself how I can help and improve the paper but how those goals relate to benefiting the Tech community.”

Hahmning Lee

Business Manager

Letters

Attn: Student Organizations

This space could be your ad for only

$36

nique.net/ads
Success requires partnership between SGA, student body

With all of the opportunities that Tech has afforded us, there are still significant areas for improvement. That why I ran for office, and it is why today I ask for your help.

Corey T. Boone
Undergraduate Student Body President-elect

At the core of our school’s rich history are two words: Progress and Service. Founded in 1885, Tech’s purpose was for it to serve as a beacon of hope for a broken South grappling to find its place after the Civil War and rapidly industrializing American economy.

Since then, Tech has taken a very different role and has positioned itself as a global leader in developing the problem solvers of tomorrow. In 1885, we had one degree program. Currently, we have a host of majors that range from Industrializing American economy.

My fellow graduate students, let me say that I am honored to serve as your graduate president for the upcoming academic year. Throughout the course of next year, I have a number of ideas on things that the executive branch and legislative branch of Graduate SGA will tackle. One of the greatest issues that must be addressed is general communication across campus. There are definitely gaps in the way information is conveyed to the graduate student body for significant campus issues and events.

These issues stretch further than the boundaries of Tech and I have a plan to address this key issue. One of my ideas is the creation of the Board of Regents Graduate Student Committee including all the graduate student presidents from Ga. universities and colleges. This year’s conference was truly an accomplishment that showcased some of the best research and efforts of graduate students at Tech. As we continue to develop this program, we in SGA will take the feedback received from the participants and continue to develop gRiC for this academic year.

Another issue dear to

New year brings chance for improvements to grads

“I propose the creation of a Board of Regent Graduate Student Committee including all the graduate presidents from Ga. universities and colleges.”

Anthony Baldridge
Graduate Student Body President-elect

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USF Launches School of Global Sustainability

The University of South Florida has launched a School of Global Sustainability, with the goal of finding solutions that are both locally relevant and globally significant. The interdisciplinary faculty and students will lead cutting-edge efforts in areas of water resources, global health, renewable energy, climate issues, the built environment, the coastal environment, change policies and more.

Key Functions of the School:
- Utilizing a virtual research and education environment for faculty and students
- Finding new research paths for tackling pervasive and persistent sustainability problems
- Preparing students to become leaders in green careers with our unique distance-based (on- or residency period) Master of Arts in Global Sustainability. (Apply now at: www.usf.edu)

The USF School of Global Sustainability – A bold vision that cannot be confined by walls.

For more information, please visit http://www.sgs.usf.edu

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Graduate Student Body President-elect

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Another issue dear to
Undergraduate

I look forward to working with the administration to achieve significant progress for the students, but do so I need for every Yellow Jacket to commit to engaging with the SGA to help change campus for the better and push Tech to achieve more than people ever thought possible.

The coming academic year will bring us many challenges. We face very uncertain economic and political climates. There are threats of cuts and talk of fee increases still lingering and many other issues that faced students before still remain unresolved and must be tackled.

However, if you the students, commit to actively participating with your SGA we will always commit to representing you. I’m honored to serve as your next Undergraduate Student Body President and look forward to taking this journey with you.

Graduate

Sustainability is more than an avocation at Tech. It’s a commitment that we are diligently working to hard-wire into the culture of the Institute, an element so intrinsic that it is part of our mission statement.

In reality, Tech is a living laboratory of sustainability through implementation in education, research and campus operations. We have made inroads and achieved success in many aspects of sustainability, including recycling, water conservation, building construction and landscape design.

One of our most successful and visible efforts, the Game Day Recycling Program, diverts thousands of plastic, aluminum and glass containers disposed of during football games from landfills into recycling centers.

The program began in 2008 and collected nearly 12 tons of recyclable material during seven home games.

Last year, that number increased 64 percent to nearly 20 tons at only six games, an achievement we highlight with pride and are ambitious to build upon.

While games provide high visibility for our recycling efforts, the less dynamic but perhaps more important work occurs daily on campus. The Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling is expanding recycling and reuse initiatives in every campus corner, from academic buildings to housing.

These efforts toward a more sustainable campus have been acknowledged with an award from the National Recycling Coalition for Outstanding College or University Program, along with the Recycling Department being honored as the American Forest & Paper Association’s University Recycling Program in 2009.

Sustainability begins with the student health insurance. Next year will be a significant year for the student health insurance that Tech will be able to select an insurance provider for the coming years. It will be a significant task and of the utmost importance for the graduate SGA next year to explore all aspects and concerns of this decision and to have a transparent process.

These represent some of the main points that I hope to address during the upcoming academic year. As with anything, there will be things that are unforeseen, but I have recruited a superior executive team to tackle these issues of great importance. I want all graduate students to know that my executive team and I are here to represent them. In closing, I look forward to the coming year and working with undergraduate SGA to continue in the tradition of making Tech a great place to be.

Practicing what we teach: sustainability

“Tech is promoting sustainability...through the aesthetics and practices of campus landscaping”

Steve Swant
Ex. V.P. Administration and Finance

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