

Dr. Peterson

BuzzCard Center Opening

2-3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012, 2nd floor, Georgia Tech Bookstore

Glad you could join us as we celebrate this new BuzzCard center. Having the center in Barnes & Noble provides a central place for new students to come for books, supplies, and their new BuzzCard. Students, faculty and staff will enjoy this larger facility.

It is the official Georgia Tech identification card, and is a visible reminder that we're part of the Georgia Tech community. It's one of the first things you get when you join Georgia Tech, either as a student, faculty or staff member. Members of the Alumni Association and retirees have them as well as special visitors and summer campers. Since 1997, we have added 271,000 cardholders of which 91,000 are currently active.

The BuzzCard is an official government ID. In the state of Georgia, residents who are registered voters can use their student IDs from a public college or university to vote. And I do want to take this opportunity to encourage you to vote Nov. 6.

The BuzzCard something you take for granted, unless of course you forget it or misplace it. Then you understand the Visa commercial: "Don't leave home without it."

The BuzzCard gives access to places like campus buildings, athletic events, classrooms, residence halls, parking and the Campus Recreation Center.

Here are a few BuzzCard stats:

- There are 78,000 transactions per day, and
- \$6 million in retail transactions per year.
- Each year meal plan purchases total \$1.5 million.
- Based on data we have, there is the equivalent of one transaction every second in every day for 365 days per year.

The BuzzCard is accepted at more than 100 vending sites, and at 15 independent campus retailers including Tech Square - Tin Drum, Ray's Pizza, Chuck's Famous, Game Stop, and Waffle House. Of course it is good at all Tech Dining facilities.

(Tell story about student who thought all the food was free at North Avenue Dining.)

I was encouraged to share a personal BuzzCard story, so here it is.

(Story of rescue drill that Andy Altizer, Director of Emergency Preparedness was doing, and how you caused the turnstile to open by leaning against it with your BuzzCard in your pocket.)

It is worth noting that this is a year of celebrations at Tech. Co-op turns 100, and we're celebrating 60 years of women enrolled full-time at Tech. This is also the 85th consecutive year that George P. Burdell has attended classes. Now, with this larger facility, perhaps he'll have the anonymity he needs to come in and have a BuzzCard made. Thank you. Now we'll hear from James Pete, Director of Campus Services Information Technology Group, who will talk about BuzzCard history.