Shuffle at Athletic Association replaces Moore

By Michael Handelman Contributing Writer

The Georgia Tech Athletic Association recently appointed Colonel James Stevens, currently commander of the Georgia Tech Air Force ROTC detachment as the Academic Director of the Athletic Program. Stevens replaced Dr. Carol Moore who has taken another position at the Institute. Stevens will officially start his job in July once he retires from the air force in late June.

Colonel James Stevens cites his background as a student-athlete, arriving at Tech in the 1970s on a football scholarship, as valuable experience for managing and communicating with the network of players, coaches, and academic professionals that currently comprise the academic office.

Tech Athletic Director Dave Bratine believes these characteristics will contribute to the success of the new academic director, saying “with his military background, it goes without saying that Jim will stress discipline and accountability, and his leadership will immediately command the respect of our student-athletes. At the same time, he fully understands the challenges that Georgia Tech students face, particularly when combined with the demands of collegiate athletics.”

The appointment comes following the declaration of ineligibility of eleven student-athletes, ten of them in the football program. Criticism regarding the academic management system of athletes at Tech has placed the Association’s Athletic Services Department under scrutiny.

Stevens believes that ultimate responsibility for the academic performance of athletes lies with both coaches and players. His two goals include having a successful academic program and ensuring that all student-athletes graduate from the Institute. However, he also cites the responsibility of students to go attend classes, studying for tests and attending tutor sessions. He views the primary responsibility of the Athletic Association to make sure that they are enrolled in the right courses and major, and headed towards graduation.

If students are not attending class, they will face consequences that lead to suspensions and the possibility of ineligibility. The decision to place students on academic probation is in the hands of the student-athlete. The decision is made based on context, the student’s academic performance, and the potential for success in the upcoming semester.

Spring break dates finalized

Last year’s vote by the Undergraduate student body expressed the desire to move the date of spring break to later in the semester, and the Registrar decided to follow the student’s opinion.

The date for the 2004 spring break will be March 8-12. For 2004, some offices on campus had already made plans for 2004 and the date could only be moved one week. In 2005, the date will be March 21-25, two weeks after the old spring break date, which is what the students wanted, according to the results of the referendum.

Public Policy names new head

Diana Hicks, current senior policy analyst for CHI Research, Inc., has been named the new chair of Public Policy as of September 1. She will fill the position currently held by Susan Cozzens, who plans to return to her research career.

Before joining CHI Research, from 1988-97 Hicks was on the faculty of the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, where she taught graduate courses in the policy and science of policy and directed a graduate program.

Rise in break-ins alarms GTPD

The Georgia Tech Police Department has put out a bulletin about all the recent stolen cars being broken into. Since the beginning of the year, there have been 55 stolen automobiles and 220 automobiles that have been broken into.

The most common vehicle stolen was the Jeep-Cherokee, with the most common locations being the Woodruff lots, Clydeck and the O’Keefe lots. GTPD recommends the following steps to reduce the risk of your car being stolen or broken in to: secure your vehicle, secure your valuables, be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious activity immediately to GTPD by dialing 894-2500. The bulletin has been posted on www.nique.net.

GT CN approves new channel line up

By Arjun Subramanian Contributing Writer

Starting this July, students living on-campus housing will be offered a new channel line up. GT CN, the Georgia Tech Cable Network, has completely revamped its offering to the student community. The new line up will offer dozens of new channels and a custom mix of content just for the Tech community. International students will get a taste of home as channels such as India’s ZEE TV, TV Asia, China’s CCTV and Japan’s TV Japan. The new lineup boasts 22 International channels, making GT CN’s offering the most unique in the nation.

The lineup also includes all the previously existing channels and 40 additional channels. From HBO to Cartoon Network, the new offering is customized to meet the needs of the Georgia Tech community and reflects the demographics of the student population.

Despite the revamp and a big increase in channels offered, the cost to students is the same. Residents of on-campus housing pay for the service through the Housing fee, but will not face any increases due to GT CN.

This is possible largely due to switching from regular cable to Dish Network, called Direct Broadcast Satellite, bypassing traditional cable systems. The recent entrance of DBS into the market has forced the cost of content to come down as cable companies try to compete. According to Mark Adelman of GT CN, “in the past what we could offer to students and a big increase in channels offered, the cost to students is the same. Residents of on-campus housing pay for the service through the Housing fee, but will not face any increases due to GT CN.

“Hopefully this is a step in the right direction to improving student life on campus”

Mark Adelman General Manager

Ramblin’ Nights unveil fall 2004 schedule

By Shelly Hoyal STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Last year’s Ramblin’ Nights game gave students the opportunity to stay on campus for entertainment before every home football game. This year they hope to publicize the events in order to get more people.

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Stevens sees coaches as the first con- tact and primary enforcer of any attendance policies. Reporting re- sponsibilities regarding classroom attendance will fall on the Athletic Association.

Stevens believes that coaches should be “intimately involved in how well the athlete does in an area of studies.” Coaches will be notified if they have players in who are either at risk, or are struggling academically.

Braine agrees with this assessment, saying “the position of Di- rector of Academic Services will report directly to the Director of Athletics while jointly reporting to the pro- vost’s office. Jim will work very closely with our coaches and athletics admin- istrators to ensure that the aca- demic progress of our student-athletes is appropriately monitored and main- tained.”

Although there have been alle- gations that there were systemic is- sues with the academic monitoring system that the Athletic Associa- tion uses, Stevens does not current- ly plan on changing staff saying, “there are no plans to replace anybody…we are going to work as a team, and the way I look at it, we are a team of academic advisors.”

Regarding the academic rigor that athletes face in classes at Tech, Stevens acknowledges that “every college in the United States that is a Division 1 college is going to admit athletes that are not going to have as high of SAT scores or GPA as a typical student….that doesn’t mean they are less capable, that means that most of their energies are going towards sports.”

Regarding maintaining the eli- gibility of the players, “I want them to graduate, but also want them to be eligible…if I can get them to graduation, they are going to be eli- gible,” says Stevens. He acknowled- ges that the majority of student-athletes in the Athletic Associa- tion will not be playing their sport professionally. Therefore, “the Georgia Tech degree is going to mean something to them” says Stevens.

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Students were fairly limited. As a re- sult, we were not able to pick and chose as a result it was severely under-serving the campus. But with the advent of DBS, not only do costs come down, the ability to cus- tomize content becomes a reality.

Despite the hype about DBS, Adelman is quick to point out that GTCN does not restrict itself to Dish Networks. The real concern is access to the right content, and if something is available on cable, GTCN is more than willing to go out and purchase it.

“The reason for providing such a diverse lineup is one, for the target demographic and two, more im- portantly to bring different news perspectives to the campus. The cur- rent political climate makes such an initiative all the more important,” says Adelman.

In the long-term, GTCN sees itself in a very advantageous posi- tion when compared to other uni- versities across the nation. One of the or main factors for this is the excel- lent quality of the cable infrastruc- ture, which GTCN hopes to maintain the quality of in the future. Most universities have prob- lems with their networks, which are generally old and poorly maintained, unlike Tech.

Adelman says “There are plans to expand into the fraternities and sororities but expanding to offer the service to all students regardless of residence location is impossible due to laws that restrict distribution rights to specific areas”. It also aims to improve student life by delivering quality entertain- ment into every dorm room. Adel- man says, “Hopefully this is a step in the right direction for improving student life on campus.”
Board of Regents makes exemptions in testing policy

By Ajru Subramaniam
Contributing Writer

On April 16, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia adopted a policy modification on the 30-year old regents testing program.

The program, which is designed to test all students in the university system on college level writing and reading competency, will no longer be compulsory for all students in the University System of Georgia, which oversees all public universities in the state.

Students who match a cut off based on SAT or ACT scores will be allowed to skip the exam. Students who have a minimum 510 SAT score or 23 ACT score will not have to take the exam.

A publicity committee is working to address last year’s complaints of poor advertisement.

In order to be exempt from the essay section of the test, students will need to have a minimum score of 650 on the English SAT II exam or a minimum score of 4 on the International Baccalaureate higher level English Exam.

If not eligible for the exemption, students still must take the Regents test after accumulating 45 hours and pass, or they will be forced to take remedial reading and writing-class.

According to Debbie Williamson, of the Registrar’s office, “Based on the new testing policy over 96% of the Georgia Tech Student Community would be exempt from taking the Regents test.”

The new policy, which was implemented at the beginning of the current summer semester, will save students not only time but also save the hassle of taking another standardized English exam.

Supreme Court upholds affirmative action

The Supreme Court on Monday ruled that colleges could favor minority students in the admissions criteria. The sharply divided court made its first statement on affirmative action in over a quarter century.

The justices voted 5-4 to uphold the University of Michigan’s Law School to favor minorities, but struck down by a vote of 6-3 the point system used by Michigan’s undergraduate programs.

The court stated that the point system was too rigid and blindly gave applicants extra points because of their race, and did not, like the Michigan Law School, look into the background of each candidate. Although the critics of affirmative action vow to continue the fight, universities, corporate leaders and civil rights activists applauded the decision.

Former Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson dies

Maynard Jackson, mayor of Atlanta from 1974-1982 and 1990-1994, died of a heart attack in Washington, D.C., at the age of 65. Jackson’s accomplishments as mayor range from the major expansion of Hartsfield International Airport, allowing it to become the world’s busiest airport, to leading the effort to bring the 1996 Olympics to Atlanta. Jackson was the first African-American mayor of any major Southern city. In 2001, Jackson made an unsuccessful bid to become president of the Democratic National Committee, but was named National Development Chair instead.

Harry Potter casts his spell on the world

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, written by J.K. Rowling, was released Saturday June 21 at midnight, and sold over 5 million copies within 24 hours. Amazon.com sold over a million pre-orders, which made Saturday’s shipment of Harry Potter the largest distribution day in e-commerce history. Over 8.5 million copies were printed in the original printing, but bookstore chains are expressing concerns that they will sell out before more books can arrive. Many bookstores sold out in the first weekend and are still waiting more shipments.

The $870 page, fifth installment of the Harry Potter series was released three years after the forth book, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Fans of the series and all of the major newspapers alike give the latest book a very favorable review. Rowling’s first four books sold an estimated 192 million copies in at least 55 languages and more than 200 countries.