OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

AA Shake-up

Despite bringing about improvements in Athletic Association academic support, Dr. Carol Moore was recently politely shuffled to a new position with the Vice Provost’s office. In almost six years serving as the Director of Academic Services for the AA, Moore’s improvements have been evidenced by improved graduation rates, higher GPA’s, and sustained academic progress for student-athletes,” according to President Wayne Clough.

But if Dr. Moore was indeed largely responsible for these improvements, why was she moved to another position? The recent turmoil over the academic ineligibility of 11 Georgia Tech athletes has had alumni and Georgia Tech supporters looking for someone to blame. The AA has been professing that the unfortunate occurrence is not the fault of any one person, but is simply a break down in the system. But it seems that Moore has become the scape goat just to answer the complaints.

The AA contends that these failings only occurred after policy changes with the departure of former Head Coach George O’Leary which took coaches out of the academic loop. There is almost certainly a connection. And it is suspicious that 10 out of the 11 athletes were on the football team. Why was Moore the only person directly affected by the failure of the new system?

And as Moore herself has stated, much of the blame of the ineligibilities lies with the student-athletes themselves. It was the new system?

If the blame is being placed on Moore, and the problems only arose after the policy changes, why wasn’t she given a chance to correct them by reverting back to the old system that seemed to work so well? It is also odd that she was so quickly replaced after being moved. Why wasn’t a more extensive searching process conducted to replace her as is usual done for vacant administrative positions? This is especially pertinent in the academic support system, so it would seem that Tech would want to search extensively for the best possible person.

President Clough has made promises of changes in the academic support system under Moore’s replacement, Col. James Stevens. But why couldn’t Moore, with her experience and past success, have undertaken the new changes?

Further, we lament that someone who has made such positive contributions to academics at Georgia Tech should be so suddenly removed from her position with no real explanation.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Tony Kluemper, Editor-in-Chief
Justin Parbo, Managing Editor
Kim Rock, Sports Editor
Scott Muehlen, Photography Editor
Andrea Thompson, Opinions Editor

Copyright Notice

Copyright © 2003, Tony Kluemper, Editor-in-Chief, and by the Board of Student Publications. The Technique is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. No part of this paper may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the Editors or from the Board of Student Publications. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Student Publications, the students, staff or faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University System of Georgia.

Quote of the week:

“In real life, I assure you, there is no such thing as algebra.” — Fran Lebowitz

Reading encourages the imagination

Most of you reading this article probably know that the newest book in the Harry Potter series came out this past weekend. Sales of Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix began precisely at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday morning. And as many of you know, millions of runs around the world gathered at their local bookstore to grab their copy.

Well, I was one of those carts. No, I wasn’t dressed in a cloak and brandishing a wand or anything. I thought I’d leave that to the 12 and under crowd. I didn’t participate in any of the activities, as they were geared to a slightly younger audience.

But I still had fun waiting expectantly with my friends and half of metro Atlanta, knowing that in only a few hours I’d be able to read a book I’ve been waiting for nearly four years.

I know a lot of you are scoffing and saying it’s just for little kids, or it’s all just a big merchandising franchise. While the Harry Potter books certainly have generated a great deal of money for author J.K. Rowling and the companies that sell the books, movies and numerous toys, clothes and other items, there is something more to it all - the books get people excited about reading.

I think this excitement is extremely important in a society so inundated by television, movies and computer games. It’s especially nice to see children so excited about reading. Reading was a huge part of my childhood, and I’m glad that this next generation of children have found something to spark their imaginations.

I think that reading encourages your imagination, which is a very valuable asset. Instead of having images fed to them, children can imagine the worlds and characters that they are reading about.

The Harry Potter books are particularly good at encouraging a child’s imagination. Rowling is one of the most creative writers I have ever had the pleasure of reading. When you pick up one of her books, you simply cannot stop reading.

Now, for the skeptics among you, I wasn’t always a fan. Three years ago, a friend of mine who had the books told me how good they were. I had never really heard of them, so I shrugged and said that I might read them sometime.

That summer, the trailer for the first movie came out. When I saw it, I thought it looked really interesting, but I decided I wanted to read the book before the movie (as they always are better). When I finally got the book, I couldn’t put it down. I stayed up late reading and finished the book the next day.

I was fortunate enough to begin reading the series when the first four books had already been published, so I didn’t have to wait to read the next three books. But this just made the long wait for the fifth book even harder.

But finally, on Saturday, my waiting was over.

When I got home, I began reading the book immediately. I made it through 700 pages of the 806-page book before the weekend was over, staying up until about 4 a.m. each night to read. I finished the book last night, and now I can’t wait until the sixth book is in print.

My point in writing this editorial isn’t to convert more people into Harry Potter fans, it is to encourage more Tech students to pick up a book and just read for the sheer pleasure of reading.

Andrea Thompson
Opinions Editor
“While it’s still bright and sunny out, we all should combat the summertime blues and class stresses.”

Kim Rieck
Sports Editor

How to prevent the summer doldrums

At the end of Spring Semester I could not wait for summer vacation. I couldn’t wait to get off of Tech’s campus and away from Java and my 8 a.m. classes. However, my break was too short, exactly a week. I had decided earlier in the semester to come back for summer classes. Summer is supposed to be a time for fun and excitement. Unfortunately for many Tech students like me, summer classes have hampered that notion. But it hasn’t been any different for many of my friends who are working at home. I hear horror stories about how boring their 9 to 5 jobs really are. Sure I know there are people out there who are having fun, but they’re all in Europe this summer, or, as I feel it, at GTL or backpacking in the Swiss mountains. (Bear with me for the exaggeration please.)

I’ve come to the conclusion that summers for me started to go different when the concept of “summer reading” was introduced to me. My lackadaisical free days of chilling out on the couch and watching reruns of “Salute your Shorts” ended after teachers began assigning me work when school wasn’t even in session.

But it’s in the middle of what’s supposed to be “the best years of my life,” just like many of you reading this editorial. So while it’s still bright and sunny out, we all should combat the summertime blues and class stresses. Just because we’re taking summer classes or working doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t have an occasional break and fun at the same time too.

First off, let’s avoid the pale faces and get a tan. Instead of studying at the library or in your dorm room, go outside with your books. If you’re living on the east side of campus, you can relax in the freshman quad. On west campus, there are great areas to relax by ULC and also the garden by Fulmer. My favorite spots that are easily accessible to all are the grass by Tech Tower, Skiles Garden or by the Shaft. If you have work that requires the internet, bring your laptop or borrow a friend’s and bring it to Skiles walkway to study.

Next take advantage of what the campus has to offer during the summer. There’s a lot to do on campus if you look in the right places. At the Student Center Craft Center, you can indulge your artistic nature or bricks impales by making sculptures, developing your own black and white photos, etc. The Student Center Programs Council also has planned a few events for July. On July 3, there will be free ice cream for students, T-shirt die- ing and a remote control car race.

The week after that the council is putting on a sidewalk chalk contest. Besides these events, the student center has the game room recreation center complete with the bowling alley.

If you have an urge to get off campus every once in a while, you’re in luck because Atlanta is in full swing this summer with events ranging from free and cheap to those requiring a little bit of money. Despite the fact that I’m a techie, I still love the areas I’m especially excited about this weekend’s Cow Parade. At Centennial Park from 12-4pm on Saturday, there will be over 150 painted fiberglass cows on display from different local artists. The sale of the cows will go to benefit the American Cancer Society. A more permanent feature is the High Museum of Art, which you can get to by Marta and they offer student discounts.

Besides checking out the latest summer blockbusters like the Hulk or finding Nemo, you can see older films at the Fox Theatre through the Coca-Cola Summer Film series on Thursdays. But if sitting in a theatre on a warm summer day isn’t what you had in mind, there’s the outdoor film screen on the Green at Piedmont Park. The last showing is Tuesday, July 1.

Since Tech sports are not in session, why not check out some of Atlanta’s pro teams? The Atlanta Beat and the Braves are playing all summer long. The Beat is relatively cheap with seats for the women’s soccer team going for under $10 in some of the sections. The Braves are a little bit more but definitely worth the price to see Javy or Chipper.

Definitely on the cheap side are the On the Bricks and the Big Rock concert series. The best acts are yet to come this year with the Bricks featuring Everclear, Goo Goo Dolls, and Better Than Ezra in the coming weeks for only $20.

Scream for ice cream

We’re in the middle of the summer and the only place to get a really nice ice cream is at Marble Slab creamery that has just opened in Technology Square. The handmade ice cream with nice portions for just a few bucks is a cool break from the hot Atlanta summer. Just across the intersection on 5th Street, it’s an easy walk from campus. And they take credit cards! Other restaurants will soon join the Marble Slab, including Moe’s, Starbucks and Great Wraps, and more.

Make up your minds

I can’t believe how many times I’ve heard the phrase “I’m a techie, I still love the arts” in my life. According to theBeat and the Braves are playing all summer long. The Beat is relatively cheap with seats for the women’s soccer team going for under $10 in some of the sections. The Braves are a little bit more but definitely worth the price to see Javy or Chipper.

Definitely on the cheap side are the On the Bricks and the Big Rock concert series. The best acts are yet to come this year with the Bricks featuring Everclear, Goo Goo Dolls, and Better Than Ezra in the coming weeks for only $20.

Scream for ice cream

We’re in the middle of the summer and the only place to get a really nice ice cream is at Marble Slab creamery that has just opened in Technology Square. The handmade ice cream with nice portions for just a few bucks is a cool break from the hot Atlanta summer. Just across the intersection on 5th Street, it’s an easy walk from campus. And they take credit cards! Other restaurants will soon join the Marble Slab, including Moe’s, Starbucks and Great Wraps, and more.

Make up your minds

I can’t believe how many times I’ve heard the phrase “I’m a techie, I still love the arts” in my life. According to the Beat and the Braves are playing all summer long. The Beat is relatively cheap with seats for the women’s soccer team going for under $10 in some of the sections. The Braves are a little bit more but definitely worth the price to see Javy or Chipper.

Definitely on the cheap side are the On the Bricks and the Big Rock concert series. The best acts are yet to come this year with the Bricks featuring Everclear, Goo Goo Dolls, and Better Than Ezra in the coming weeks for only $20.

Hot or Not

Technique • Friday, June 27, 2003 • 5

Letter Submission Policy

The TECHNIQUE solicits all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Jody Shaw, Editor-in-Chief, 3025 CLCC, Mail Code 0290, Atlanta, GA 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising content, and length. Only one submission per individual section editors. For more information, visit http://www.majn.net/tairc/gtpa.html.
Summer from page 5

$5. The Big Rock will have Hoobastank, 3 Doors Down and Our Lady Peace next month. Other big acts like Metallica, 311, Limp Bizkit, Deftones, Incubus, Ozzy Osborne are all making stops in Atlanta before the summer is over.

Last but not least is the local comedy scene. Besides the regular nightclubs, Atlanta has a plethora of comedy clubs to choose from where you can see improv, stand-up comics or comedic plays. Dad's Garage and Whole World Theatre are two places nearby campus worth checking out.

With everything there is to do this summer, you owe it to yourself to take a break from your studies every now and then and enjoy the sun or the offerings of the city. Otherwise, you'll find yourself hopelessly waiting for the summer to be over, only to find out that your next big time to have fun won’t be till Thanksgiving or Christmas break.

A Few Reasons why I love (and hate) Georgia Tech

It is my last semester at Georgia Tech, and I have been really hating this place. This is not a typical feeling for me. I have always loved my academic path as well as had a love/hate relationship with my extracurricular activities. But this semester, both seem to be weighing down on me. I’m really unhappy with one of my courses; I’m fighting with the registrar’s office to get my WST minor approved; and I picked a difficult topic for my senior thesis.

Today my boss was talking about how someone should write about all the things they love about Tech. After just professing my recent hatred of the Institute, let me backtrack and take Kim’s suggestion. Even though I hate Georgia Tech at the moment, I have to remember the things that have made me stay here, the things that made me smile, and the things that made me say “I love this place!”

Here are just a few:

1. Trying to figure out what I wanted for breakfast at Junior’s with my friend Lauren.
2. Walking down Skiles walkway and being greeted with a smile and a “hi” by almost everyone I passed.
3. Heading into the Student Publications office stressed about deadlines and finding my staff working away on their sections.
4. Taking shots in honor of our favorite professors.
5. Hearing through the grapevine that someone in some meeting was praising you for something you didn’t even know was all that great.
6. The opening of the LWC (Library West Commons) and finding all those beautiful iMacs.
7. Sitting in the Ferst Center with my mother as the curtain rose to the Vagina Monologues and seeing the line of Tech women ready to share their feelings.
8. Miss Diane’s omelets.
9. Long and hilarious staff meetings in Jodi’s room.
10. And a booth and basket of hot chicken fingers from Junior’s.

“In preparation for graduation, I am more saddened at the prospect of leaving than I ever thought I would be.”

Ginny Bacon
Technique columnist

As I prepare for graduation, I am more saddened at the prospect of leaving than I ever thought I would be. I get so tired of everything that happens at work sometimes, but I will miss those lunches in Kim’s office listening to the staff and learning from them. I might not be enjoying taking Intro classes that I missed, but I will miss the majority of my profs and classes. I have been lucky enough to absolutely love my academic career. I have whined about the Blueprint for all four years of my Tech career, but I am going to miss that Thursday night pizza. When all is said and done and I become an alumnae, I will remember the things listed above and forget all the parking tickets I received and my battle with the Registrar’s office.