**TECHNIQUE** "The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

News

# RHA elects new officers

*Officials take over after year marked by presidential resignation*



Dale Russell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Amar Chanani, who was elected as president last week, and the rest of the Residence Hall Association board look on at Wednesday night's meeting.

**By Matt Gray**
*Assistant News Editor*

Last Wednesday, the Residence Hall Association held their annual elections, electing a new president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. RHA is a student organization that represents all of Tech's students that live in a Residence Hall.

Amar Chanani was elected president, along with Michael Burkhart for vice president, Ryan Spanier as treasurer, and Joni Lakin as secretary.

"Elections went very well," said Amy Lewis, the previous RHA president. "We had a lot of great candidates, and everyone ran a great campaign. The Legislative Council voted in spectacular officers, and everyone is looking forward to an exciting year next fall."

RHA has been in a state of limbo since the middle of November due to the sudden resignation of former president Hemanth Meka for personal and academic reasons.

Lewis, then the vice president, took over and a new vice president was appointed to fill the position until elections could be held.

The new set of officers will be the first set of fully elected officials for this semester.

"We really have a great team this year," said Chanani. "We have hit the ground running, and we plan to ensure that RHA will spend the next year becoming responsive to the needs and wishes of the residents."

Past programs run by RHA include skydiving, trips to Panama City Beach,

the freshman experience's sports orgy, intramurals, trips to SpeedZone, and paintball.

The money for the programs comes from a $14 fee included in the cost of housing.

"I look forward to working with RHA and their new officers through hall council," said freshman Nick Maser, a hall council representative for Fitten Hall.

The new officers will serve on the executive board, the top level of RHA. After the executive board, RHA is broken down into various hall councils, which each represent just a few residence halls.

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

# TECHNIQUE

News

# Family Housing waits for building evaluations

**By Angela Swilley**

*News Staff*



Richard Badell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Calloway, a Family Housing dorm, is located on North Campus across Tenth Street and was built in 1947.

The 300 family housing units at Tech comprise some of the oldest buildings used for housing on campus. Healy, which is 35 years old, is the youngest. Calloway was built in 1947 and is 53 years old, the same as the Freshman Experience dorms of Glenn, Smith, and Towers. Burge, which is the oldest of the family housing buildings, was built in 1945.

Most of the older dorms on campus have had major renovations performed recently. However, the family housing dorms have not had the same level of major renovations.

The family housing dorms do not have Ethernet; something many people feel is essential for the large number of graduate students residing in family housing.

In the early nineties, renovations were performed on some of the buildings of Calloway, which has left some buildings in better condition than others. Last year, Calloway also underwent a large-scale roof repair.

According to Rosalind Meyers the Associate VP of Auxiliary Services, housing is "not planning to renovate Calloway apartments or Burge. We do think they are probably in a condition that it would be better economically to demolish those and build new [dorms]."

She states that "they're old buildings and they're showing their wear."

To be sure that it does not make sense to renovate the buildings, Tech is

planning to hire an engineering firm to carry out an evaluation of family housing and provide a professional opinion on the state of the dorms.

After this evaluation is carried out, which will most likely occur in two to three months, housing will face a lot of planning if their intuition is correct.

In addition to the planning required for tearing down the existing dorms and building new ones, many students and their families will have to be displaced and will need to be housed elsewhere on a temporary basis.

Meyers says she has no idea when the buildings will be knocked down if it is determined that they should not be renovated.

She states that "the wheels of progress move slowly, but this is a topic under active discussion." Tech will start with the engineering firm's evaluation and go from there.

One possible problem is whether or not the land that Calloway now occupies is large enough to satisfy Tech's needs. However, land is hard to find so the family housing will probably end up in the same location it is now.

Meyers declares that Housing does maintain the buildings regularly to ensure that they are livable based on a ten-year plan that is reevaluated annually. However, many family housing residents have complaints.

Scott McCrickard, President of the Family Housing Council, cites the imbalance between costs and services as his main problem. He feels that family housing residents are forced to pay for benefits they never receive.

He states, "The Administration tries to justify this by saying that family housing resides in older buildings and needs more repairs, but...these sort of costs must be amortized over the entire age of the building not just tacked on to those who are unfortunate enough to live in the buildings late in their existence."

Cara Wogsland, a resident of Burge, feels that the apartments are "overpriced for what we get."

She says they have no carpeting and the playground is old with rocks and dirt. She believes of family housing in general that "it's like we're the slums of Georgia Tech and they don't really care about us because we're such a small percentage."

One anonymous Burge resident complained of a lack of organization. When she moved into her apartment, the former residents had not returned their keys and were able to walk into her apartment late at night.

It took Housing three to five weeks to change the locks.

She also states that one of the residents before she moved in had carpet. Housing pulled up the carpet, but neglected to remove the tacks, which caused her kids to cut their feet. Other problems cited were filth, pests, leaking plumbing, and missing filters.

A meeting was held yesterday to discuss family housing issues. Housing officials and Graduate Student representatives were present. However, the results of the meeting were not available at press time.

# Individuals focus of Sophomore Summit



Courtesy of Sandi Kaye

A group of students at the fourth annual Sophomore Summit work on a project involving building Legos to symbolize the ways in which people can work together and what ways of interaction work best.

**By Alex Salazar**
*News Staff*

Last weekend saw the fourth annual Sophomore Summit, a leadership summit for second year students, being held at Berry College. This retreat was more involved, especially on the part of the students attending it, than an average get together with a few speakers.

Four years ago, Wendy Horowitz realized that there would be a void in leadership that would be created by the graduation of the then juniors and seniors. To counteract that, she came up with the concept of a Sophomore Summit. With the help of Randy McDow, coordinator of the President's Scholars program, she was able to make it a reality.

Although the form of the selection process is evolving, this year's members were nominated by organizations as active second year students, who had "demonstrated initiative in leadership."

Approximately forty students were invited to the 24 hour retreat.

After being reviewed by the members of the Steering Committee, which consists of eight students who are in charge of organizing the event, students were invited to participate.

This year's Steering Committee was headed by Anna Fincher, a second year chemistry major who saw it as the Summit's goal to "unify campus."

She was hoping to counteract the tendencies many students have to be involved in only one or two organizations and to ignore the other organizations on campus because they, as individuals, were not involved in them.

As a result, the Steering Committee selected students who were involved in a wide array of activities, and thus offered a large sampling of the rich extracurricular life of Georgia Tech.

The result? Everyone met members of organizations that they had had no particular interest in joining, and, in Anna's opinion, grew as leaders and gained a lot of perspective on aspects of campus that they had known very little about.

Every year, the Sophomore Summit seems to be a little different from the year before: the direction changes so as to keep up with changing conditions and attitudes.

While last year's Summit focused vastly on improvements that could be made by students to the campus (both the physical and the administrative aspects), this year's devoted itself almost entirely to the individual aspects of leadership.

Each participant was asked to look inside him or herself and decide what they wanted to do or achieve. Perhaps the question they were asking themselves was posed best by a poet: "Who am I, what have I done, and what must I still do?"

Sandi Kaye, second year chemistry major and member of the Steering Committee declared that "all left knowing something different."

In her opinion, the summit was a great success, and she was enthusiastic both about her work on the Steering Committee, and the effect the Summit had on the students.

Of course, the students attending also shared the experience. Dipika Jain, a sophomore in Computer Science, said that it was a wonderful experience, that ended up building trust between the various participants.

One aspect that she mentioned was the opportunity to meet people whom she had heard of in conversation or other forms of communication, but whom she had never encountered in person.

Through all sorts of activities, which ranged from listening to speakers and thinking about themselves, to going through a rope course to work as a team, the twenty-four hours seemed, to her, to encompass a longer time as far as learning was concerned.

She also noted that the summit was more introspective than she expected.

The Sophomore Summit has for four years "brought together people who wouldn't have met otherwise," according to Fincher.

Page 1:1

News

# Parking, Housing, and possible OIT changes



John Purvis/ STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Two students address the Undergraduate House of Representatives at the meeting this week. Elections for UHR will be later this month.

**By Kim Spuller**
*UHR Correspondent*

There were many news briefs told to the Undergraduate House of Representatives during their meeting last Tuesday.

The Academic Priorities has been asked to put together a presentation on Friday for Dr. Clough that will push the idea of extending the library hours of operation.

OIT is dealing with a printing problem in the clusters. With the majority of classes at Tech going to a web-based structure, students have been printing a lot more items, such as online notes.

With that, though, has come an increase in the printing of non-academic material.

In order to make up for what this is costing, OIT wants to have a policy where a certain amount of free pages will be allocated to each student. After a student has used up his or her free pages, they will have to page a fee per printed page.

OIT is also starting to talk about putting a big computer cluster on central campus. This would bring together all the computer clusters around campus. As of now, though, the idea is very premature.

It is now also possible to check your mail on your GT account from off-campus. All students have to do is visit www.walksideways.com/temp/ssh.html and download an SSH program. Then go to www.walksideways.com and click on the telnet link under the Mail heading.

This year, there is a new housing selection process. Applications, along with a $300 application fee, were due today.

As far as selection goes, priorities are as follows: the protected students, who are guaranteed housing, are freshman, new transfers, and students who were new to Tech in either the Fall of 1999 or the Spring of 2000.

All other students are put into a lottery, where they will be assigned a number. In the lottery, priority goes to seniors, juniors, and then third year sophomores.

Selection numbers will then be given to the protected students and the other students who made it through the lottery. Selection number are arranged by class, seniors to sophomores, and ranked within classes by earned credits at Georgia Tech.

After the first wave of registration passes, numbers will be assigned to a new group of students based on remaining vacancies.

The Parking Office gave a presentation presenting their new website where students will be able to apply for parking without having to stand in a long line.

There are many advantages to this online process. First of all, it can be accessed anywhere. Also, there will be no more paying for parking in the spring. The fee will be billed to the student's account.

It is also easy to cancel or change a request for a permit after you've already signed up as long as it is done in the two-month periods that are allotted.

The site will be available on April 16 at www.applyparking.gatech.edu. There have been no changes to the priority system for receiving parking permits, but there have been some changes in the carpooling option. For two people to share a permit, the cost will be $150. For 3 people, there won't be any charge. For 4 or more people, there will be no charge, and they will get a reserved space on campus.

In old business, several allocations were made to various student organizations. Among these was an allocation to the Athletic Association to help them put on an alcohol awareness program to be offered to the entire student body.

In new business, a resolution was adopted commending and thanking Bobby Cremins for his outstanding career at Georgia Tech. A copy of that resolution will be given to Coach Cremins by the Executive Vice President, Chris Young.

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"
# TECHNIQUE
News

# Graduates pass allocations, debate changes

**By David Peters**
*GSS Correspondent*

The Graduate Student Senate primarily considered allocation bills this week. Following the recommendations of the Joint Finance Committee the GSS failed an allocation for the Swim Club for a trip to a tournament last weekend.

The Cricket Club was awarded $1981 out of the Capital Outlay account to pay for equipment for their club, which is relatively new on campus.

The Spanish-Speaking Organization was then allocated over $2000 for a Hispanic Film Festival that will include five films. The Festival will take place from March 16 to April 1 and will be open to all Georgia Tech students for free.

A pair of bills were then debated to consider lowering the Student Activity Fee. One bill called for lowering the fee by $5 per year, while the other would have lowered the fee by $10 per year.

The Senate debated both bills. The majority thought that the impact of a $10 cut would be detrimental to many of the student groups on campus; the bill was defeated.

The $5 per year decrease was deemed to have more merit and deserved further consideration as the effect on most campus groups would be minimal. That bill was tabled for further discussion next week.

Finally a bill was considered to give the Athletic Association $1172 to put on a program related to alcohol awareness. The bulk of the money, $1000, was for a skit put on by the Screaming with Pleasure Production Group. The remainder of the money was for advertisement.

The Senate amended the bill to pay only for the advertisement, the general argument being that if the Athletic Association wants such a program they should spend their own money on it, as they have more to spend than there is Student Activity Fee money for the semester.

The bill then narrowly passed as some Senators did not want any funding going from the Student Activity Fee to the Athletic Association.

The Senate also approved the Elections Code for he upcoming Presidential and Vice Presidential elections. This code sets the acceptable limits of campaigning for the candidates. Those interested in running for either of these offices should stop by the SGA office. Applications are due Monday, March 13.

Page 1:1