GT SMART fights binge drinking

By Jennifer Hinkel
News Editor

GT SMART, or Students Managing Alcohol Risk at Tech, began in 1998 after Tech received a grant to address high-risk drinking on campus.

"Primarily, GT SMART really is a coalition of faculty, students, and community people that are looking at ways to help reduce high risk drinking on campuses," said Sam Becknell, Project Coordinator for the program.

Housed in the office of Student Affairs, GT SMART spends more than two thirds of its budget on personnel salaries, in comparison with the sixth of the budget is spent on "other direct costs," including advertisements such as those recently seen in the Technique, which run from $550 to $700. Another sixth of the budget is spent on outside consultants.

The initiative has spent over two weeks of campaigning, the SGA elections for both the Undergraduate and Graduate offices came to an end on Wednesday, March 28 when the election results for next year’s offices were announced. Over 2000 students voted from March 26 until March 28 for numerous positions in both the Undergraduate House of Representatives and Graduate Senate.

Tech’s consistent voter turnout rate of around 25% or more is among the highest in the nation.

This year’s election saw five students vying for the position of Undergraduate student body president, and in the end candidate Chris Kavanaugh came out on top of the vote with a landslide victory over the other four candidates.

"I am shocked that I won in the way that I won; winning 57% if the vote with five people running," Kavanaugh said. "I never expected to do that."

Kavanaugh felt that his genuine love for Tech helped him to capture a majority of the vote.

"I would like to think that people know that I have a genuine love for Georgia Tech and the student body," Kavanaugh said. "And people have confidence in my ability to achieve what I set out to achieve."

"I am serious about getting points of my platform accomplished along with listening to the Georgia Tech students," he said.

The other major election this year also ended in a landslide victory. UHR executive vice presidential candidate Nate Watson captured 1280 of the 2050 votes cast to become Tech’s next undergraduate vice-president. Watson was excited where he wants to take SGA in the upcoming year.

"I’m passionate about what SGA can do for the students. I believe my prior work with SGA allows me to bring students back to the center, as the focus of SGA."

Kavanaugh reacts to the election results; bystanders offered their congratulations outside the student government office.

In field of five, Kavanaugh receives 57% of the vote

By Tony Kluemper
Assistant News Editor

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Opening stalled for new deck

The recently completed State Street parking deck will be further delayed in opening, according to a March 23 press release.

An inspection of the deck has revealed cracks in the structural components, and to ensure safety, the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission has contracted with a consultant to conduct an independent review of the facility.

The full extent of any problems is unknown at this time, but opening will be delayed until the review of the facility is completed and we are convinced that it is safe now and throughout the life of the structure, according to the press release.

Students pass graduation referendum

Students voted in a referendum to not delay graduation ceremonies for a week following finals, but to instead receive dummy diplomas in a commencement immediately after the conclusion of finals week.

The result of the referendum resolved a debate over graduation scheduling and the Tech tradition of presenting diplomas at the ceremony that had been at issue since the Academic Senate decided to stop senior exemption from final exams.

Weekends at Tech Winter Buzz

Students joined in a conga line at the Biltmore Hotel last Friday evening for the annual campus-wide semiformal, Winter Buzz.
number of incidents is decreasing,” said Brandon.

Some students have raised concerns about the privacy of off-campus living; GT SMART’s methods for identifying student residences have not appealed directly to students.

“Georgia Tech currently does not have a good set of information of where students are living who live off campus… so we have to go beyond that, we have to go to the communities,” said Brandon.

“For Home Park, Berkeley Park, and Underwood Hills, which are the most vocal of the communities, it’s easy to identify the ‘hot spots’ because they’re the apartment buildings in the communities,” said Brandon.

“We have a database based on tax records that we actually put together with a community workshop that we did on November of 1998 with Home Park… so we could tell, with some degree of error, the owner of a specific property in the community and what their home address is, so we can tell if they live there or if they are an absentee landlord. If they don’t live there, then it’s a rental property, and chances are pretty great that it’s rented to students,” Brandon said. Becknell calls the GIS system “a tool to help neighborhoods see what’s going on.”

Along with using tax records, GT SMART also scheduled walk-throughs of Home Park. On Saturday, October 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the group was to meet, break into teams, and survey Home Park.

“Living off campus doesn’t give you the freedom to act in a way that [the administration] is from page 1

first, then Berkeley Park looking for alcohol distribution points, alcohol messages on ads and billboards, ‘high-density areas where we believe students live,’ and ‘hot spots,’ according to minutes from an October 5 meeting of the community relations committee.

“We’ve documented those addresses, which had one or more of the following indicators,” reads a report from the October 21 neighborhood survey. “GSU or Tech markers on cars; out-of-state plates, duplex or multi-unit dwellings, multiple electric meters, and multiple ‘Herbie Curbies’ were among the indicators listed. The team of surveyors then snapped pictures of various parts of the neighborhood, including both commercial establishments and residences where signs of alcohol use were observed.

Along with analysis of geographical data, GT SMART has been involved with attempting to identify specific dates as “potential problem dates where there could be increased party activity in the community,” according to minutes from the same October meeting. Some dates included all football games, home and away, the end of mid-term week, and dead week.

“GT SMART has also been involved in discussions on extending the student code of conduct to off-campus situations. ‘It’s not targeted necessarily at off-campus students,’” said Dean of Students Gail DiSabatino. “Our hope is to discuss behaviors. What impact do those behaviors have on us as a campus and as a community?”

“Extending the code to off-campus situations could help students in some regards, such as discouraging neighborhood residents from taking matters into their own hands. ‘One of the ways off campus behavior becomes so disruptive is when neighbors start taking action to gather info on the rights of your neighbors,’” said Brandon. “I’m for extending the code of behavior only as much as makes sense, to protect the rights and the safety of people living off campus as well as those living on campus.”

“If something happens, if there’s a situation where something’s out of control, I would like for the community members to be able to call Georgia Tech, and Georgia Tech would have the opportunity to intervene at the appropriate time,” said Brandon.

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Election

“T’d like to see an SGA that is more dynamic, more responsive, more representative, and more diverse,” Watson said. “I’d like us to have succeeded in many initiatives and laid the groundwork for some long-term initiatives.”

The elections not only covered president and vice-president but UHR representatives for next year as well. EAS representative Brandon Lenfest was excited to be given the opportunity to serve his fellow students next year in SGA. “I am excited that my fellow students voted me into office,” said Lenfest. “I hope to have a wonderful term next year.”

The Graduate Student Senate also held elections this week for next year’s officers. In the Graduate Presidential election, Trey Childress defeated opponent Chuck Mull by only eleven votes, while in the vice-presidential race Camille Foster won the position after running unopposed.

“It was a good, close race, and I look forward to working with the Senate next year,” said Childress. The Graduate Senate will host a luncheon and a swearing in ceremony for Childress and Foster on April 19. The undergraduate offices will be sworn in at the SGA banquet later in April.

In addition to choosing officers and reps, this year’s elections featured a referendum allowing students to decide what option they preferred for future graduation ceremonies. The referendum asked students whether they would prefer to graduate with dummy diplomas immediately after final week or wait a week to receive actual diplomas at commencement.

With over 2,000 votes cast, Tech students decided that they would rather have dummy diplomas at graduation than delay the commencement ceremonies for a week. Real diplomas will be mailed after grade verifications are complete.

Election results for Undergraduate House Representatives were not official at the time of publication. Until the processing of possible election violations is completed, the results will not be finalized. All unofficial results are posted outside the SGA office.

Council Clippings Undergraduate House of Representatives

Cell phone bill fails, allocation bills pass

By Mary DeCamp News Staff

The March 27 meeting of the UHR was brief, but the representatives were able to review several bills. In his report, President J.R. Spriggle announced that comedian Jay Mohr will be performing at the Ferst Center on April 8 at 8 p.m. Student tickets are $5. On April 10, Angie Aparo will be performing at the Ferst Center. Tickets for her show are also $5.

Spriggle also mentioned that the Team Leader Advisory Board is looking to improve the current Psych 1000 program. Anyone interested in working with freshmen as a team leader should contact Lindsay Daly at gte1976@prism.gatech.edu for more information.

He also said that there would be an Intramural Table Tennis Tournament at SAC tonight from 6 to 10 p.m.

Director of Housing Dan Morrison spoke to the reps and gave some statistics about this year’s housing selection process. He said that, by the time the entire process is over, approximately 200 to 300 students would not be able to get on-campus housing. 821 students were put on the waiting list, and of that number, several are withdrawing their bids. He also mentioned that Housing is constantly trying to figure out ways to be able to house all students that want to be housed on campus.

ECE Representative Brian Laseter authored the bill that was presented first. This bill stated that students should be more responsible about their cell phones in class, making sure to turn them off. It also stated that faculty members should not overreact when a cell phone goes off in a classroom. Many reps felt that this bill stated common sense rather than a new initiative, and, therefore, the bill failed.

Management rep Allen Coye authored the next bill. It proposed the allocation of money to the Society of Women Engineers to help pay for its annual Hispanic Film Festival. The representatives amended this bill to comply with what the Graduate Senate did, and the bill was passed allocating about $2600 to the group.

The final two bills presented were brought in front of the reps for a second time. The first bill dealt with the allocation of money for the Culture Fest Food Fair, and the second bill dealt with the allocation of money to SAC for six new machines. In the case of both bills there were minor discrepancies between the totals that the undergraduates voted on and the totals that the graduates voted on. The reps changed their versions of the bills to match the graduates’ versions and passed both new versions of the bills.

In upcoming events, Greg Foster, who served as Undergrad President from 1994 to 1995, will speak at the April 3 meeting.
SPORTS

Don’t get caught
The Star-Spangled Banner is something sacred. Find out what two students did to destroy that. April Fool’s... Page 32

Don’t know that words?
Can you believe that guy? He doesn’t even know the words to the song! We sing it all the time, please! Inside... Page 32

Swimmers earn All-American honors
Georgia Tech sophomore swimmers Shilo Ayalon and Tomonori Tsujii each earned honorable mention All-American honors after last week-end’s NCAA Tournament. Tsujii captured 22nd in the 100 breaststroke prelims with a time of 54.98 seconds and was joined by Ayalon who finished 26th with his time of 3:56.52 in the 400-yard individual medley. Tsujii’s time set a new school record in the event.

Men’s Tennis blanked by Duke
On the men’s side of the court No. 23 Tech dropped a disappointing 7-0 contest with ACC opponent Duke. Duke is currently ranked No. 5 in the NCAA and has a 10-2 record. The Jackets now head to Virginia to take on the Cavaliers this Saturday.

Women split away matches
The Lady Jacket tennis players scored the 6-1 win over Furman Saturday but dropped a 6-1 contest to No. 3 Georgia Tuesday. Tech’s only win in the match with Georgia came in the number two spot by Jamie Wong who defeated the Bulldog’s Lori Grey 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

Track and Field returns from Al. Relays
The Jacket men ran for three top-10 finishes in the relay events and finished ninth in the 32 team field at last weekend’s Alabama Relays. Tech track heads to Gainesville, Fl. next weekend to compete in the Florida Relays.

Swingboat tops Harvard one in Buzz Classic
The Lady Jacket softball team scored a 13-3 win (3-2, 4-1) in their Tuesday doubleheader with Harvard. Pitcher Erin Voelz (9-8) picked up the win in both contests for the Jackets. Sus Ann Miller finished the day with 3 hits, 1 run and 2 RBI.

The golf team captured its third straight win and Bryce Molder took his third first place finish of the season in this past weekend’s Cleveland Golf/Morris Williams Intercollegiate.

Baseball right at home winning 7-of-last-8

Molder, golf grab third win on season
The golf team captured its third straight win and Bryce Molder took his third first place finish of the season in this past weekend’s Cleveland Golf/Morris Williams Intercollegiate.

“Victor [Menocal] is a guy who works very hard and takes a lot of pride in his game”
Danny Hall
Head Basketball Coach

By Derek Haynes
Assistant Sports Editor

Sometimes a little rain isn’t bad.
The 2nd-ranked Georgia Tech men’s golf team, who led 23rd ranked Oklahoma State by shot heading into the final round of the Cleveland Golf/Morris Williams Intercollegiate, won the tournament after 36 holes as officials were forced to cancel the last round due to inclement weather.
The win is Tech’s third in a row, following victories over the Puerto Rico Classic and the Las Vegas Intercollegiate.

Senior Byr-rette hardened David Duval for career Tech tournament victories with eight as he won his third victory of the season, shooting rounds of 67 and 68 to finish 9-under-par.

Molder, currently ranked atop Golfweek/Saginari’s Collegiate Individual Performance Index and last season’s player of the year, has only finished outside the top 5 once in eight starts during his senior campaign.

Kris Mikkelson, who finished 6th in Las Vegas, finished 9th shooting a 1-under-par 70-73. Senior Wes Latimer finished in a five-way tie for 25th, shooting 3-over-par 71-76-147. Junior Matt Watz-er, finished in a tie for 57th place shooting 6-over-par 73-77-150. The Jackets barely finished the second round, as the cold and rainy weather caused play to run almost till darkness.

As a team, the Jackets shot 281-292-573, finishing 3-under-par.

Franklin Hackett of Southern Methodist finished two shots back.

By Derek Haynes
Assistant Sports Editor

Tech bounced back from last week’s loss against Georgia, tak- ing the final four games of their eight-game homestand includ- ing a three-game sweep of Mary- land.

The baseball team (21-6), ranked number three in both Baseball America’s and Colle- giate Baseball polls, wrapped up their homestand with a 10-4 win over Mercer (18-10) on Tuesday.

Freshman Matt Lorenzo (2-0) tossed 5 innings of shutout relief against Mercer, retiring 13 straight batters between the third and seventh innings.

The Jackets followed only two runners to advance past first and lowered his ERA to 1.50, tied for first on the team.

Tech jumped to a 4-1 lead, but a three run homer from Mercer’s Brandon Blair, his sev- enth of the year, tied the game at one run, three hits, and striking outs.

Menocal was the only multi-hit player in the game.

The Jackets head to Charlot- teville, Virginia to take on the Cavaliers (16-10, 4-5 ACC) this weekend in a 3-game set.

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