By Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer

While most Georgia Tech students are staying in the classroom this semester, a group of students has seized an opportunity to help shape Georgia’s future. Six undergraduate students from the Ivan Allen College are participating in the Georgia Legislative Intern program for the Georgia Legislature’s current session.

Each year, thirty undergraduate students from across the state are selected for the competitive program where undergraduates intern full-time for the annual session of the General Assembly. According to John Havick, professor in Georgia Tech’s School of Public Policy, each school is allotted a certain number of students to participate in the program—Georgia Tech has been actively involved for the past 20 years.

Havick, professor in Georgia Tech’s School of Public Policy, first started running the program for Tech in 1980; he then took a break in 1986. This year marks his first year back running the program. Even when he wasn’t there, though, Havick said the number can vary from year to year. Havick first started running the program for Tech in 1980; he then took a break in 1986. This year marks his first year back running the program. Even when he wasn’t there, though, Havick said the number can vary from year to year. Havick first started running the program for Tech in 1980; he then took a break in 1986. This year marks his first year back running the program. Even when he wasn’t there, though, Havick said the number can vary from year to year.

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McAlhaney is working in the House, interning for Rep. Richard Royal in the Ways and Means Committee office. The Ways and Means Committee deals with all taxes and tax laws. McAlhaney actually received a B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Tech before deciding to re-enroll as a re-admission student to the School of Public Policy. In the House, he’s a part of a small minority of Georgia Tech graduates; only two representatives are Georgia Tech alumni.

McAlhaney said the issue of housing, that to do this didn’t make any sense, because it just was displacing more students. But how much of the statistics are hype and how much is true? Dan Morrison, Associate Director for the Freshman Experience Program. “But at Georgia Tech, we have such a short-"See Roommates, page 19"

By Jennifer Lee
Staff Writer

For most college students, having at least one roommate is a way of life. However, this may be changing; the New York Times recently reported that more and more college students are requesting housing that offers more privacy. As a result, colleges are responding by building new dorms or renovating existing ones to create more single-person rooms. However, this trend doesn’t include Georgia Tech.

“"There was a time when we considered turning Towers [a tradi-

By Christine Ritz
Contributing Writer

In the past six months, every student’s walk to class has been impacted by the numerous construction projects on campus. The areas surrounding the new ES&T building and College of Computing are continuously changing; new fences and barriers seem to appear overnight. For many students, the barriers simply are a nuisance that occasionally makes them late for class. However, for some students, the construction poses a more complicated and serious problem. Students with disabilities often find that their preset routes to class have been eliminated or made much longer and inconvenient.

Dawn Alford, a senior in Chemical Engineering, is one such student. Since she began at Tech, Alford has used a wheelchair to get around campus. She has found that the construction on campus has made it extremely difficult and “very frustrating as far as her trek to class goes.”

She explained that, “the difference between my ability to get around and the able-bodied student is… for able-bodied students the construction is an inconvenience; but for students with mobility problems it makes it impossible to get around.” Alford elaborated, “I don’t have the luxury of being able to cut through grass or go up any steps.” Instead, Alford has to find wheelchair accessible sidewalks, curbs, and ramps, which has proven to be quite difficult with the constant re-routing of streets. She said that one of the major problems is that she doesn’t know in advance which sidewalks will be blocked off. Alford explained that if she knows in advance, she can plan an alternate way to get to class, but so far that hasn’t happened yet.

She had one exceptionally unfortunate experience at the beginning of the semester. Of spring semester 2003, all of the ChemE classes and labs have been moved to the new ES&T building (from Bunger-Henry). Therefore, when she arrived to the ES&T building for the first day of class, she was astounded to discover that there was no way for her to enter the building.

Alford consulted the project manager for the ES&T area, who informed her that the building would comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines when all the construction was complete. The wheelchair accessible entrances were blocked due to more construction in the surrounding areas. When she inquired as to why the building had been opened for class if students using wheelchairs could not get to classes in the building, the management told her that in their opinion

Disabled face increased construction roadblocks

Privacy or proximity dominate dorms?

50 years of women at Tech

In this installment of our series highlighting the 50 years of women at Tech, Joshua Cuneo explores the many Tech women in sororities, and what impacts that involvement has had on the Institute. Page 15

Did b-ball earn a road win?

After their impressive and unexpected win against Maryland on Sunday, how did the Jackets fare against NC State’s Wolfpack? Check our sports for a full review. Page 36

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page 13

See Intern, page 15

See Construction, page 16

contributing writer
The legislative process is one that’s of interest to me.

Alan Bakowski
2nd year PubP major

Rodman are leaning towards careers in law. Havick said the internship is a great way to build up a resume, obtain references from top legal professionals in the state to graduate and law school and provide you with contacts in the Georgia Legislature.

The program is open to students of any major. However, Havick recommends that students take at least one course in American government and have an interest in politics.

Georgia Tech’s selection process for the program begins in the fall.

For more information, contact
john.havick@pubpolicy.gatech.edu

When women first enrolled at Tech in the early 1950s, one of the first things they did was establish a sorority.

Eleven of Tech’s women established the Tau Sigma sorority in 1953 with the assistance of Ms. Van Leer, the wife of the then-President of Georgia Tech. It provided the resources to help Tech women be active with campus events and seek academic help. Through it, Tech women quickly established several annual social functions of their own and participated in campus activities such as the Campus Chest and the World Students Funds.

Women were encouraged to take leadership positions, and one woman made an attempt to become the first woman in history elected to the Georgia Tech Student Council.

More importantly, Tau Sigma provided a forum through which the Tech women could socialize with another without the pressures of their disapproving male classmates and faculty. A function that sororities continued to serve over the next fifty years.

“...We had women in the sorority who had graduated from Georgia Tech,” recalled Nancy Jan Davis, a 1975 graduate. “Shirley Mewborn was one of our advisors, and she was one of the first women graduates, so she mentored us. She helped us through the tough times and she was a role model in that we could see that we [thought that] we had it tough...That provided the nurturing, I think.”

The local sorority soon became a chapter of the national Alpha Xi Delta sorority. The sorority was so popular among the women that most of Tech’s female students throughout the mid-1950s were members.

The benefits that sororities provided to Tech’s first women still remain the constant attraction of sorority life for women today. Of particular significance is the attraction of a close-knit social/support group that offers to entering students. “Honestly, I wouldn’t know very many girls, especially upperclass girls, if it wasn’t for pledging a sorority,” said Karen Donaldson, a first-year International Affairs major and Purchasing Coordinator for Alpha Gamma Delta.

Friendships often form particularly quickly due to a sharing of interests.

“So sororities provide you with a quick sense of comfortableness,” said Colleen Baun, a third-year Industrial Engineering Major and President of Chi Omega Tau. “You [are] around girls that are similar to you and share common goals and values.”

Furthermore, sorority life still helps women escape the complications of being in a male-dominated university. “During my freshman year, I found it hard to form a circle of good girl friends because there are mostly guys in your classes,” Baun recalled. “Being in classes with all men can sometimes be intimidating. As part of a sorority, you can usually find at least one other person that you know to go to class with and study with.”

Donaldson also recalled coming into Tech with concerns about the ratio, but “Tech is also a large research institute. It’s easy to come out from high school and fall through the cracks here. I think that’s why so many students here are unhappy.”

Sororities have helped women ease this burden caused by the transition into Tech, providing their members with the experience of upperclassmen, academic support for their classes (including TAs in most of the popular majors), community service options and connections after graduation. “Joining a sorority is not the only way, but it is...
increased difficulty of mobility for disabled students.

The proliferation of construction projects around campus has resulted in the building ready enough for classes to be held there.

After that incident Alford met with several higher-ups in Georgia Tech’s administration to discuss the problem. She said that she believes that a focus group or perhaps SGA action could help solve the problem for good by establishing firm lines of communication between the construction managers and the ADAPTS (Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students) program.

Improved communication between the construction project managers and GT disability services will continue to raise awareness for the needs of students with disabilities.

Alford was quick to explain that there are certain different concerns for different types of disabilities, noting that, for example, someone who walks with crutches, a shorter route is obviously the solution. She believed that a focus group consisting of students with a variety of disabilities would be very effective in making construction routing decisions.

Tameeka Hunter, Program Coordinator for Disability Services, said that all construction must meet the minimum ADA requirements, but that the blocked roads "create hardships for students with disabilities.” If a disabled student encounters a problem in getting to class, he or she contacts Hunter, who helps by stepping in to speak with the student and the administration to rectify the situation. When Alford had her unfortunate experience with the ES&T building, Hunter helped by participating in meetings with Alford, GT Facilities and the construction managers.

Alford ended up rearranging her class schedule such that she would not have any courses in the ES&T building because of her inability to access the building. Although her professors assured her no direct penalties, she felt that the missed classes were too much to make up, and she enrolled in courses located in more accessible buildings. She hoped that the issue with the ES&T building has been handled appropriately and that "what happened to me does not happen to another student.”

Alford said that she simply wants to raise awareness about how students with disabilities deal with changes in campus terrain in hopes that this will improve the way construction decisions are handled in the future for students with disabilities.

Campus construction and the blocked sidewalks have affected all of us, but particularly those students who already have some difficulty in getting to class. Students with disabilities will hopefully see many improvements in the way that these road closings are conducted and communicated.
Women from page 15

a great way to meet people and to be exposed to activities and opportuni-  
ties you wouldn’t have otherwise  
found,” said Donaldson. “Alpha Gam[ma Delta] helped me over- 
come a lot of the problems I faced my first semester here, and I really  
feel like it has opened up a lot of things to me both this semester and  
in the years to come here.”

Such opportunities also in- 
clude leadership positions. A number of women at Tech who  
assume leadership positions are  
also sorority members, and wom-  
en who are eager to do more  
with their sorority may have sev-  
eral opportunities to assume a  
variety of positions within the  
Greek system.

Baum, for instance, a found- 
ning member of Chi Omega Tau  
in spring 2001, wanted to make  
a bigger difference and took over  
as president of her sorority last  
month. “The benefits are that I get  
a huge opportunity to contribute to  
my sorority,” she said. “I have the  
opportunity to improve things that  
need work and work with my sisters  
to make our organization into what  
we want it to be. I also have the  
opportunity to work with other cam-  
pus leaders through Panhellenic and  
come up with ways to improve the  
overall Greek system for women at  
Tech.”  

Donaldson had similar motiva- 
tions for becoming the Purchasing  
Coordinator. “It was a way for me  
to become more involved, and that  
has helped me by giving me more  
input in various aspects of the deci-  
sion-making within the organiza-  
tion, as well as getting to know some  
of the older sisters and obtaining  
some experience with finance as well.”

She hopes to remain actively in- 
volved and has her eye set on Vice  
President-Finance for the next term.

Yet the entire Greek system at  
Tech is probably most famous for  
its social functions. The aforemen- 
tioned annual events such as Home-  
coming and Greek Week are the  
most well known, but each sorority  
sponsors a number of other, smaller  
activities throughout the year, giv-  
ing members of the sorority an op-  
portunity to congregate and socialize  
among themselves as well as among  
members of the other fraternities  
and sororities on campus.

At Chi Omega Tau, for instance,  
Baum was able to list sisterhood  
retreat and bonding activities,  
date nights, formals, dinners,  
crush parties, weekly business  
meetings, a variety of philanthropic activities and study hall. “Date nights are times  
when each sister gets a date and we  
all do something together: dinner,  
movie, something like that,” she ex-  
plained. “For crush [parties], we  
rent out a place, and then each sister  
invites up to five guys to come and  
hang out. It’s all anonymous, so  
you can invite guys that you have a  
crush on.”

During the 1960s, there was a  
full student enrollment that startled  
the advancement of women on cam-  
pus, and a second sorority—Alpha  
Gamma Delta—wasn’t established  
at Tech until 1973. As the number  
and diversity of women on campus  
increased during the 1970s and be-  
yond, however, more sororities—  
some local, some chapters of national  
organizations—were and con- 
tinue to be launched.

The Panhellenic Council offers  
other benefits to sorority  
members, and sororities often work  
to call attention to these issues by inviting  
Speakers from the Health and Coun-  
seling Centers as well as from sources  
outside Georgia Tech to talk to their  
members. Furthermore, “so- 
orities themselves…provide a sup-  
port system for girls that are going  
through problems. Usually, there is  
at least one person within your  
sorority that has gone through similar problems and they are there to help you. All of your other sisters are also there to offer support,” said Baum.

The other three sororities are members of the National Pan  
Hellenic Council, an organization  
establised in 1930 that consists of both  
African-American fraternities and sororities. Originally established to  
encourage African American participation in  
Greek life in an era when blatant racism might have  
scared it away, the National Pan-  
hellenes and sororities at Tech uphold the same ide-  
als and events as those under the  
Panhellenic Council.

This kind of growth in sor- 
ority life reflects the rise in  
female student enrollment at Tech and the diversity that it brings to  
the Institute. The nature and con-  
sistency in the benefits of sorority  
life over the past fifty years are indi-  
cations that Greek life works for  
women and has been a major factor  
in their success at Tech.

The president of Pan Hellenic Coun- 
cil, a sister of Zeta Tau Alpha and a  
sister of Phi Mu were all asked to  
contribute to this article; all of them  
decided to speak due to time restraints  
and personal reasons.
Winner of the Tech Up Close contest receives a *Technique* T-shirt and a coupon for a free student combo at Li’l Dino’s.

Last week’s Tech Up Close:
Worm gears on the MARC building.

Last week’s winner:
Jon Swarner
Roomies from page 13

The question of whether a single room is better for a first-year student has been debated for years. While some students prefer the solitude of a single room, others prefer the social aspect of living with a roommate.

For example, Kelly, a second-year EE major, prefers a single room. "I like Hefner, too, because it's a lot of fun being around lots of people," he said. "When you go into a room and shut the door, you're isolated, and unfortunately being isolated, it's a little bit harder to find help."

However, most students agree that the sense of community developed in traditional style dorms outweighs the occasional distractions. "We try never to put freshmen in a room by themselves...but the older you get, the more you have a need for privacy," said Perry Entwistle, a third-year EE major.

"I like Hefner, too, because it's almost like an FE dorm, with the open door policy," said Xu, who is good friends with his roommate. "When you get older, life gets more crazy, and my roommate and I have such different schedules, she said. However, despite her experience first semester, she wouldn't have wanted to be in a single then. "As a freshman, I want to meet new people," she said.

According to Bob Morton, it's difficult to tell whether bad roommates are contributing to the overall trend. "It's like a roll of the dice," said Morton. "You never know—some years it's great, some years it's really bad, in terms of roommate relationships."

Entwistle does prefer living in a non-traditional dorm: "The ULC was a lot better than Fitten was. I moved in with some good friends, and we were lucky enough to be across the hall from some other friends and some cool people we ended up getting to know well."

Morton noted, "Your life in the residence hall can be great even if you don't feel like the facility meets your needs. Most students know what they're getting into [in terms of facilities] when they come here. He acknowledged, "Most people would like a single room. The question is whether they need it."

Bob Morton concluded, "The older you get, the more you have a need for privacy. It's the same as being at home: students coming in to live in a traditional space and then working their way to privacy—-the apartments and suites—the farther the student gets."

To read the Times article, go to www.nytimes.com

By Chris Raabe / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Some roommate relationships can be rocky, and filled with angst. Looking beyond the occasional personality clash, most freshman say they are happy to live with a roommate during their first year at Tech.