**Housing restructures FE, cuts PAs**

By Narayana Varahabhatla

Contributing Writer

This week, the Department of Housing announced a major restructuring of Freshman Experience (FE). All 20 peer advisor positions as well as 11 co-advisers are now assigned to cover FE, traditional and suite-style dorms will be eliminated. The changes were announced to Housing’s student staff at a meeting Monday night.

A new position, hall director, will be created to replace the peer and staff advisors. Hall directors will handle full-time employees, not students. Eight hall directors will supervise the activities of peer leaders in the FE dorms.

The restructuring also replaces four existing residence life coordinators, as well as community advisers who report to these area managers.

The reorganization creates a new Assistant Director for Student and Community Development position and four graduate assistant positions. All changes are planned to take effect by July 1, 2004.

Under the current structure, peer leaders (PLs) help entering freshmen move in and understand housing rules. So, we want to turn supervise PLs and help them adjust to their responsibilities. In suite-style dorms, community advisers (CA) do the same job as the PLs, with staff advisers (SAs) supervising several CAs.

Dan Morrison, Associate Director of Residence Life, explained the reasoning behind the changes.

“The FE program has been around for 12 years. We had 400 students in its inception, and now it has grown to about 1900 students. The program was very well regarded – we’ve made a lot of progress in this area. But we’re moving to a more personalized system,” Morrison said.

In spring 2002, Rosalind Meyers, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, initiated a review of FE. Three committees were formed to conduct independent reviews. One

**TEAM Buzz finds donors generous**

By Daniel Amick

News Editor

TEAM Buzz may not be rolling in cash, but compared to this time last year, the organization’s finances are much improved.

Last year, corporate sponsors were few and far between, leaving the Tech service organization struggling to find alternative sources of funding.

“It’s the economy,” said Katie Twist, chair of TEAM Buzz Steering Committee. “That was the excuse.”

Last year, TEAM Buzz was only able to raise about $2,500 in corporate sponsorships. Organizational leaders were forced to seek additional funding from other on-campus organizations like the Residence Hall Association and the Georgia Tech Student Foundation.

A year later, the situation is improving, and companies are more willing to give.

“Twist said the funding situation is ‘Better. Definitely better.’ We weren’t sure about money at all (last year).”

It is not perfect yet,” Twist said, “but companies are a little more willing to donate.”

So far, TEAM Buzz has raised $8,500 from corporate sponsors.

Twist credited organization members working in TEAM Buzz’s development section who began fundraising efforts in January.

“We picked things up this year, and they really got a jump on this early,” Twist said.

The buzz was provided by Kimberly Clark and SSL Logic. Other companies have offered in-kind donations like food.

**EAS prof wins top AMS recognition**

Professor Peter Webster of both the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering has been selected by the American Meteorological Society as the winner of the Carl Gustaf Rossby Research Medal.

The society presents the medal, its highest honor for an atmospheric scientist, each year for contributions to the understanding of Earth’s atmosphere. Webster made “fundamental contributions to tropical meteorology and oceanography.” He will receive the award Jan. 14, 2004.

**Prof wins $20,000 doctoral grant**

Tech graduate and assistant professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering, Samuel Graham recently received a $20,000 grant from FACES (Facilitating Academic Careers in Engineering and Science), a Georgia Tech program meant to guide minority students to careers in academia. The money is meant to help newly graduated minority doctoral students foster a research program to help initiate their academic careers.

Other Tech graduates awarded the award this year include William Robinson, a doctoral student in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Chekeda Liddell, a doctoral student in Materials Science and Engineering.

**COE administrator dies of heart attack**

Tech alumnus Douglas Ray Holley, 54, died Sept. 25 after suffering a massive heart attack. He graduated in 1973 with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering and joined the faculty at Tech in 1977 to raise funds for the School of Polymer, Textile and Fiber Engineering.

He was recently appointed director of development for the College of Engineering. Holley is survived by wife Becki Holley, daughters Hope Holley, Heather Hamby and Hayes Willett; two granddaughters; mother May Holley; and three siblings.

**Wilcox appoints interim CRC head**

Kirk McQueen will serve as interim director of the Department of Campus Recreation. Vice President of Student Affairs Lee Wilcox announced McQueen would handle the position until a committee can complete a nationwide search for a permanent director.

For former director Burch Stanphill.

Stanphill left his position Sept. 26 after serving at the Institute for 21 years. Stanphill left to take a similar position at Clemson.
**Technique Online** Voice Your Opinion!

Last week’s question garnered 64 responses:
What are you doing over fall break?

**Voice Your Opinion!**

From the files of the GTPD...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME REPORTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entering auto</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCATION: Tech Parking/CRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCIDENT: Report that a green 1995 Honda Accord was entered and items were taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3/2003 14:41:00 hrs.</td>
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</tbody>
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| **Criminal damage** |
| LOCATION: 733 Tenth Street/4th Street Apartments |
| INCIDENT: Report of damage to a door. |
| 10/2/2003 9:37:00 hrs. |

| **Suspender license** |
| LOCATION: Fifth & Williams Street |
| INCIDENT: Offender arrested for driving while license suspended. |
| 10/3/2003 2:56:00 hrs. |

| **Criminal damage** |
| LOCATION: 711 Techwood Drive/Perry-Matheson |
| INCIDENT: Report of damage to a thermostat. |
| 10/3/2003 9:54:00 hrs. |

| **Motor vehicle theft** |
| LOCATION: 749 Fowler Street/Peter’s Parking |
| INCIDENT: Report that a 1993 Ford Mustang was stolen. |
| 10/3/2003 2:56:00 hrs. |

**CRIME REPORTS**

| **Fire** |
| LOCATION: 555 8th Street/8th Street Apartments |
| INCIDENT: Report of an electrical fire. |
| 10/2/2003 4:19:00 hrs. |

| **Criminal damage** |
| LOCATION: 890 Curran Street |
| INCIDENT: Report of a garbage bin on fire. |
| 10/4/2003 15:09:00 hrs. |

| **Information** |
| LOCATION: 260 Ferst Drive/Pi Kappa Alpha |

| **Health-safety** |
| LOCATION: Ferst Drive & State Street |
| INCIDENT: Report of an injured person transported by ambulance to Crawford Long Hospital. |
| 10/4/2003 10:12:00 hrs. |
Representatives use issue meeting to discuss grade forgiveness

By Daniel Amick
News Editor

Representatives held their first issue meeting of the semester Tuesday night. Issue meetings are extended open forums in which representatives and guests discuss a given topic.

Up for consideration this week was grade forgiveness or “grade substitution.” A grade substitution policy is one that allows students to retake failed classes and substitute the second grade for the first.

Several members of the Academic Affairs committee studied the issue before Tuesday’s meeting, and the group reported that grade substitution is already being discussed by the administration.

“It’s been considered, researched and suggestions are in the works,” said one group member. The group reported that several peer institutions have substitution policies. They also stated that grade substitution was “not a student idea” but that it was generated from within the administration.

Representatives raised a number of questions about the final form any such policy might take.

Sophomore class President Mindy Park raised a concern about abuse of substitution. Freshman representative Tiffany Schoenhoff wondered whether students would be required to take the course with the same instructor or not.

One representative asked why many administrators seemed to favor a grade substitution policy. Student Body President Nate Watson said Tech’s graduation rate is 69 percent after six years, which is very low compared to other universities.

“A 69 percent graduation rate devalues all our degrees,” he said.

If the graduation rate were higher, Watson said he believes Tech could be ranked the 16th best school in the nation. Employers see the low rate as a sign that “something is institutionally wrong.”

Sophomore representative Andrew Howard said he opposed any form of grade substitution. He said there are other things wrong with Tech that contrib-

Senators try to clear bill backlog

By Daniel Amick
News Editor

Last week, constant moves by individual senators to bring bills from new business to old caused a lengthy meeting. Senators had to leave for class, and quorum was lost before all the bills in old business had been considered.

This week, Vice President of Campus Affairs Ben Lawder confers with CS representative Adam Bernstein Tuesday. Members examined problems and issues of grade forgiveness.

“A 69 percent graduation rate devalues all our degrees.”
Nate Watson
Student Body President

Senators untabled and passed a joint allocation to Mid-Autumn Festival. Electrical and Computer Engineering Senator Eric Clopper spoke against the bill, saying that it happened whether the Senate funded it or not. Clopper said he wanted to give priority to organizations that come to SGA as a last resort. Another senator said that the organization has already been charged for the event, and thus the senate should help them.

Senators also passed an allocation to the Society of Women Engineers so that a group of students could attend nationals in Birmingham.

Senators untabled a joint allocation to Interfraternity Council. The bill was to fund the grand opening of Technology Square later this month. Organization

write a sliver ... nique.net/sliver
Important to limit your activities to what you’re actually interested in. You can make a broader impact that way — getting to know people while you’re here,” said Gibbs. Gibbs also expressed admiration for her fellow Ms. Georgia Tech participants.

“I was really just honored to be considered for that class of women because I think that most of the people who were nominated are pretty stellar leaders on campus,” said Gibbs. Gibbs was nominated by her sorority, Phi Mu, while Alpha Chi Omega appointed Paxten. Gibbs will be graduating in spring 2004, and Paxten will follow the subsequent spring. Both are planning to attend medical school.

Gibbs, who has a 4.0 GPA, participates in such clubs and activities as Ambassadors, Executive Round Table and Omicron Delta Kappa. She is a Psych 1000 leader and is president of the Panhellenic Society.

Michael Paxten also actively contributes on campus through activities such as the Executive Round Table, intramurals and Ambassadors and he is the Administrative Vice President of Interfraternity Council, as well as former president of Beta Theta Pi. He currently has a 3.76 GPA.

“Don’t limit yourself. Try to go out and do the things you want to do — get involved on campus.”

Michael Paxten
Mr. Georgia Tech

Paxten also has a similar view about making Friday lectures more interesting. "I think that almost all international students hope to gain some work experience after they graduate," said Yuliya Pokhodnya, a graduate student from the Ukraine.

Pokhodnya said her degree in business administration will not help her to find a job back in the Ukraine unless she has several years of work experience in the United States. "The new visa cap will mostly affect international students," said Tom Arkell, a Bloomingston, Ill., immigration lawyer.

The University international staff and faculty are exempt from the new regulation, he said.

According to Julie Misa, associate director of the Office of International Student Affairs, international students can apply for Optional Practical Training, which allows them to stay in the United States after they graduate from the University while looking for a job without changing their visa status. Normally, an F1 visa only allows international students to stay in the United States as long as they are enrolled in an institution of higher learning.

“Career search has become more difficult for everybody. But international students have been impacted more greatly by the economic downturn.”

Margaret Schrock
Assistant Dir. Career Center
"PLs will have access to staff devoted to this job...this helps place the focus back on making the most out of the FE experience."

Dan Morrison
Associate Director of Residence Life

PLs will have access to staff devoted to this job...this helps place the focus back on making the most out of the FE experience."

PL "Peer advisers served as mentors to peer leaders...A peer leader is not going to want to bug a Hall Director at 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning, whereas they could have talked to a PA," said one SA who did not want to be identified.

"Inexperienced PLs will lose the benefit of communication with someone who is always there for them [on the floor]." PA Tanner Hallo- way said.

Morrison said he expects resistance to the changes.

"I realize some folks will be upset by the elimination of peer advisor positions," he said.

However, entering freshmen will notice the change because freshmen have direct contact with PLs, not PAs, Morrison said.

"From the student’s perspective, this is going to be a positive change," the SA said.

Morrison points to other benefits of having full-time professionals instead of part-time student PAs.

"Since each PA gets a single room, this means that there will be 40 additional rooms for incoming freshmen," Morrison said.

Morrison also pointed to rushed supervision, and the affected staff will be able to move into CA, PL or SA positions.

Some Housing student staff members disagree. They say PLs would be more comfortable speaking to supervisors if those supervisors were students as well.

"The hardest part of a PL's job is in the first three weeks, adjusting to move-in and the new responsibilities," said Joe Dant, a second year resident advisor. "It’s a great opportunity to work with students and make them feel at home."

Morrison sees advantages with PL training program as an area that received students. The money could have gone towards better Calc. 2 and CS prerequisites in applications," Hayes said.

"[Connexxia] are very important...We want to be able to offer as much information for that student to make the correct decision."

Ingrid Hayes
Dir. Undergrad. Admissions
Northwestern College.

Hayes said she hopes that a more personalized and dynamic admissions process will help recruit better qualified students while simultaneously cutting back on cost.

"The college admissions decision is a very important one for students and we want to be able to offer as much information for that student to make the correct decision. Hopefully we will get lots of interest and increased prospects in applications," Hayes said.
GSS

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representative Adam Bernstein said that failure to pass the bill would effectively kill the event.

Senators also approved a bill reallocating a portion of last year’s budget. The organization requested that the money be allocated for a specific purpose, but during the budget-making process, it was allocated for another. Technically, the organization needed approval to spend the allocated funds for what they originally intended.

The Senate also approved members Eric Clapper as Graduate Senate Coordinator and Trag Haugan as Treasurer.

An allocation bill to GTCCOW was withdrawn.

Visas

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not be able to pay back working for a Ukrainian employer.

Nevertheless, some students remain optimistic.

Marc Dequesnes, a second-year graduate student from France, said he had noticed positive changes in the employment situation.

“I think it is getting better,” he said. “Compared to last year, definitely much more companies are willing to hire (international students).”

Career search has become more difficult for everybody. But international students have been impacted more greatly by the economical downturn,” said Margaret Schrock, Career Center assistant director.

TEAM Buzz is a service organization that will coordinate 55 service projects around the Atlanta area for the coming year. The organization was founded seven years ago by Tech student Tony Chan.

“Any event that gets Tech guys close to Tech girls in togas is a good event.”

Ben Lawder

VP of Campus Affairs

“Career search has become more difficult for everybody. But international students have been impacted more greatly by the economical downturn,” said Margaret Schrock, Career Center assistant director.

A portion of the source code to Half-Life 2, the sequel to a popular PC game, was pirated and released into piracy circles last Tuesday. The leak of information may delay the release of the game until spring 2004. It was originally scheduled to be released this fall.