Academic misconduct numbers show increase

By Mary DeCamp

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By Judy Shaw

The Office of Information Technology recently unveiled the first in a number of new services available to all members of the Tech community. Spectrum mail offers prism users a number of services previously unavailable, including web-based e-mail access and off-campus access to the access server to ‘pop’ e-mail to a reader such as Outlook or Eudora. “In response to input from our campus constituents, we selected web access to e-mail, a service which will positively affect the most customers, as the first step in this process,” said John Mullin, Executive Director of the Office of Information Technology.

The spectrum system creates a new account for the user, and individuals who wish to take advantage of the services must first register for spectrum at www.spectrum.gatech.edu/activate. Once activated, the spectrum mail service places a forward file in the user’s prism account to send the mail to the spectrum server, but it also allows the user to keep a copy on the prism server as well. Once the mail is placed on the spectrum server, students can then obtain it either through the web or a standard e-mail reader program. The web interface will be available at www.mail.gatech.edu. The web interface to spectrum mail will include the ability to view and compose mail and maintain folders to sort e-mail. Users will also be able to lookup Tech e-mail addresses, download and send file attachments, and edit signatures.

The Office of the Dean of Students recently made revisions to the code of conduct governing all students at Georgia Tech. The code of conduct was instituted “to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity and honor.” Revisions were made by a five-member workgroup including: Karen Boyd, Senior Associate Dean of Students; Bill Barnes, Assistant Dean of Students who handles non-academic discipline; Bob Morton, Freshman Experience Director; Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet Chairman Charles Vodicka, and Karen Wash of Georgia Tech Legal.

The process was prompted by a recent request to the Vice-President Lee Wilcox’s charge to review the code. Over the course of about a year, Boyd compiled a long of all the conflicts and problems that came up when dealing with the code of conduct as it stood. The list was presented to the workgroup to address when re-writing the code. The bulk of the changes in the code as it stands now are mostly in the wording of definitions and statutes.

“We just needed to clean it [the code] up. We needed to make it concise. It wasn’t easy to understand what was happening to you if you were a student… what was written made sense, but it wasn’t easy for somebody who had never interacted with the code of conduct as it stood.”

The results of this survey showed an increase in the number of students who would report witnessing an instance of academic misconduct as compared to students surveyed in 1997.

This survey also found that 81.2 percent of students surveyed believed that students caught cheating in a class should be given a failing grade for that class.

Overall, the results of this survey found that a greater number of Tech students are becoming less tolerant of all forms of academic misconduct and are more willing to report these instances now than in the past.

The Dean of Students believes in the results of this survey, and attributes the increase in academic misconduct numbers to a change in student and faculty attitudes.

The survey also showed that there was less tolerance of cheating by students and more awareness on their part of cheating occurring. This in contrast to a high faculty commitment to address cheating explains the high number of reported incidents of cheating,” said Karen Boyd, Senior Associate Dean of Students.

“As an institution, more of our...” See Honor, page 3

With the promotion of Jean-Lou Chameau to Provost, J. Narl Davidson, former Associate Dean of the College of Engineering was recently named interim Dean of the College. This marks the second time in his Tech career that Davidson has served in the position of Interim Dean. He previously served in that capacity before the hiring of Chameau as Dean of the College in 1997.

A national search began for a candidate to serve as the next Dean, but administrations do not expect that selection to be made until January 2002.

Long to chair Nunn school

William Long was recently named the chair of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs. Long has helped a number of administrative positions within the school, and he holds both a Ph.D. in political science and J.D. with a focus on international law.

Long follows in the footsteps of Linda Brady, who chaired the school since its creation in 1990. Brady became Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at NC State.

Davison named interim Dean

Friday, June 29, 2001

For the past year, Tech graduate Chris Young held the newly created Student Life Fellow position. The position provided the Institute with a representative from the student body to address issues involving the quality of student life. Young’s recent decision to return to his graduate program leaves the position vacant and Tech with a number of questions about the future of the position—if it can be paid for and who would occupy the fellowship.

While a number of individuals feel Young made an important contribution to the campus through the Student Life Fellow position, it lacks funding in the school’s upcoming budget, and it is not scheduled to continue.

Young worked closely with Lee Wilcox the Vice President of Student Affairs, who created the position in 1997. Young is the model recipient.

“As much as I would like to continue this and to find somebody, not that anybody could replace Chris, we just don’t have the money. I wish I had an endowment that the earnings from it would support having somebody like this every year. Somebody who just graduated who wanted to stay around and do great things. Chris did great things for us,” said Wilcox.

Young agreed that the position should be continued.

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I want a nerf dart gun too.