

TECHNIQUE

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AE student starts company to publish minority-themed comic books.

CAMPUS LIFE page 7

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ENTERTAINMENT page 9



Opinions 4 • Campus Life 7 • Entertainment 9 • Comics 12 • Sports 16

Academic misconduct numbers show increase

By Mary DeCamp
Senior News Staff

The Dean of Students office recently indicated that it expects its academic misconduct numbers for the 2000-2001 school year to show an increase in the number of honor offenses. According to the most recent statistics, the number of reported incidents of cheating at Tech has increased over the past year.

During the 1999-2000 school year there were 137 cases of report-

ed academic misconduct at Tech. This is compared to 257 cases of academic misconduct for the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years combined. The specific numbers for the previous school year are still being processed, but they are expected to show a substantial increase.

There are two possible explanations for this rise in the number of reported incidents—either students are cheating more, or more students and professors are reporting instances of academic misconduct.

In April of 2000, the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Institutional and Research Planning conducted the Academic Integrity Survey to see how the Tech community regards honor code issues.

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 in the fall... showed that there was less tolerance of cheating by students and more awareness on their part of cheating occurring. This in conjunction with 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

OIT introduces new mail services

By Jody Shaw
News Editor

The Office of Information Technology recently unveiled the first in a number of new services available to 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 acme 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.

Campus Construction Brittain Beautification



By Marques McMillan / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Renovations to Brittain Dining Hall—one of Tech's most historic landmarks—will be completed for fall. Improvements were made to both the structural and cosmetic elements of the building.

Initial conduct code changes complete

By Mike Comer
News Staff

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, Freshmen Experience Director; Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet Chairman Charles Voelker, and Kate Wash of Georgia Tech Legal.

The process was prompted by Boyd as an answer to the Vice-President Lee Wilcox's charge to review the code.

Over the course of about a year, Boyd compiled a log of all of 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 revising 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

See *Conduct*, page 3

Davidson named interim Dean

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 administrators do not expect that selection to be made until January 2002.

Long to chair Nunn school

William Long was recently named the new 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.

Post-Young era of Student Fellow remains in question

By Ty Gailey
News Staff

For the past year, Tech graduate Chris Young held the newly created position of Student Life Fellow.

The position provided the Institute with a representative from the student body to consult on matters involving the quality of student life.

Young's recent decision to return to school for graduate studies 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 with Young as the model recipient.

"As much as I would like to continue it 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.

"We entered this fellowship realizing that this was a one-year experiment of sorts," said Young.

"Did it work? I believe so. Would it work again? It all depends. It takes a special person with a certain dis-

position, zeal, and passion to fill this role. And it takes someone who will stay for the benefit of the students, not just as a stepping stone in their life. But if we can find such a person, then absolutely, the position should be continued."

Young worked on numerous programs, plans, and events over the course of the year including this spring's When the Whistle Blows memorial service for faculty, staff and students who died over the past year.

"[Chris] took the idea and went with it. It was an incredible ceremo-

ny [and is] a new tradition that just got started this year with Chris Young at the core," said Wilcox.

Much of Young's work at Tech can be described as "intangible." He maintained an open-door policy throughout his term and counseled both individual students and student organizations. Young also spoke at a variety of engagements—both formal and informal—around campus, and he held seminars and workshops and taught a section of Psyc 1000.

See *SLF*, page 3

Conduct

from page 1

with the process to get what was going on," said Boyd.

The current revisions are part of a three-phase process to bringing the code up to par. The first phase, which consisted mainly of setting up a firm foundation of clear and easy to understand rules, included some substantial changes but did not generally change the way the office handles things.

"We've put in writing a lot of the things that we've been doing all along," said Boyd.

The second phase of revisions will include sanctioning models, review of the actual sanctions available, and revisions to the appellate process. Phase three will include the formulation of any other policies that the revision committee realizes in the process need to be developed.

"I do think that especially if you're in trouble or going to come to this office you're going to find what you're needing more readily. Students aren't always at a place where they feel entirely comfortable asking everything they need to to successfully wade through the discipline process with authority figures and it shouldn't be that arduous for students," said Boyd.

The full text of the code is located at www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/conduct/code.htm

Honor

from page 1

students and faculty are committed to academic honesty, and we are addressing, through the judicial system, proportionally more of the actual violations than we have in the past," she said.

The implementation of the Academic Honor Code six years ago also played a part in making students and faculty more aware of the problem of cheating and how to deal with it.

Technique Online Voice Your Opinion!

Last issue's poll garnered 83 responses to the question:

"Where should Tech store wreck?"

- In the new SAC II expansion: 15.66 %
- In an atrium in front of the stadium: 69.88 %
- In a garage on-campus: 13.25 %
- In a garage off-campus: 1.20 %

This week's poll is about academic integrity. Have you ever cheated in a course at Tech? Yes? No? Do you know someone who has cheated? Ever been caught cheating? Voice your opinion at <http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique>.

SLF

from page 1

Young also worked to revamp the Student Affairs webpage to better suit student needs. He served on the bookstore allocation committee and contributed at cabinet meetings with Dr. Wilcox. Young also engineered endowment opportunities that would directly benefit the quality of student life.

"[Chris] helped me develop a menu of fund raising opportunities. He consulted widely in the division and came up with a list of endowment opportunities that we are going to take to the development office," said Wilcox.

"Most donors are thinking about the academic side but we wanted to make sure there are opportunities to improve student life—he helped

me with that," said Wilcox.

The fund raising opportunities developed by Young are intended to directly benefit the quality of student life. None of the funding sources Young identified, however, were tapped to help sustain his position.

Young received approximately \$3,000 per month for his duties as the first Student Life Fellow, which averages to about \$36,000 per year. Similar funding would need to be obtained to renew the position for this year, which at this point seems unlikely.

As for Young, he plans to study law at the University of Georgia in Athens, but hopes to return to Georgia Tech as a type of education lawyer specializing in student affairs.

Along with more awareness on the parts of students and faculty and the introduction of the Honor Code, advances in technology help some of the colleges at Tech detect possible academic violations.

"We have software in place in some courses to notify us of similarities in homework assignments that are submitted for evaluation. Then faculty makes determinations as to whether the similarities might be the result of academic misconduct," said Kurt Eiselt, Associate Dean of

the College of Computing.

The College of Computing is not the only college that considers software such as this to be a viable option. Ivan Allen College administrators are also exploring this possibility.

"Each year we find three or four clear cases of plagiarism. There are several software applications that claim to be able to detect plagiarism by comparing the suspect content with the content of likely web sources. We are testing one of these packag-

es. If it works as claimed, we will implement it throughout the department," said Peter McGuire, Associate Chair of the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture.

Louis Bloomfield, a physics professor at the University of Virginia, used such a program in his physics classes at the end of the Spring semester. After reviewing the results, he then initiated honor charges against 122 students, including some graduating seniors.

Missing Student Update Joe Morse

Over a year has passed since Joe Morse left Tech campus on May 6, 2000, but the parents of the freshman Mechanical Engineering student still hope that they will see their son again.

According to residents of the Towers dormitory where he resided, Morse left the residence hall at approximately 8:30 a.m. while still packing his belongings to move out for the summer. They expected him to return and complete his activities, but Morse never did.

The Cincinnati native was captured on video at an automatic teller machine near Lenox Mall at 10:30 that same morning, but since then, no one has seen the 19-year-old male.

Morse's parents planned to pick him up from the Cincinnati airport that evening. Morse planned to take a bus if he was unable to obtain a standby flight, but he did neither.

No one is certain where Morse was headed, though his family frequently vacationed around the Southeast, so he was familiar with a number of locales.

Morse's mother said, in an interview last spring, that she believed his son was mostly likely "depressed and homesick...and

just totally overwhelmed."

Students, however, did not report any change in Morse's behavior. He maintained a 3.4 GPA and served as the president of the Harrison-Towers Hall Council. During spring semester, Morse frequently missed lecture, and even some tests and exams, but according to his friends, his demeanor remained the same. He maintained an attitude described by his friends as "happy-go-lucky."

Morse apparently was dealing with some issues however, as he told both his friends and family he had registered for summer classes—something he never actually did.

The Morse family is asking for continued assistance in trying to find their son. Morse is 5'8 and weighs approximately 130 pounds. He has blond-brown hair and green eyes, and he wears glasses. Morse's high school yearbook photo, as well as photos from the ATM camera can be found online at www.police.gatech.edu/msjm.html.

Anyone with possible information about Joe Morse can contact GTPD at (404) 894-9966.

The use of this technology brought national attention to the UVA, home of the nation's oldest student-run honor code.

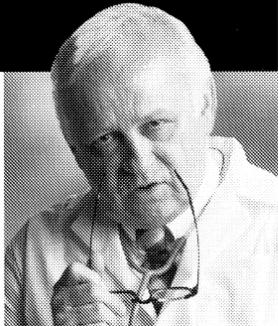
Boyd insists the numbers increase that the school has already seen and could see with the use of computer programs does not imply that a greater number of students are cheating.

"Just because we have a higher number of violators does not mean that we have a higher number of cheaters. It means we have more possible cheaters caught," said Boyd.

**When you burn the candle at both ends,
it goes out too soon**

Sleep deprived Americans have a 70% higher death rate.

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page on the web.**

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* 70% higher mortality in a 9 year follow-up period for people getting 6 hours of sleep or less per night. Wingard, D.L., Berkman, L.F., Mortality risk associated with sleeping pattern, *Sleep*, 1983; 6(2): 102-7.