Interns see government in action

Tech students obtain legislative internships with the Georgia General Assembly at the state capital. Participants experience government firsthand while earning college credit.

Karen Whelatche
Staff Writer

Participating in a successful internship program can be a rewarding experience. Yet finding such a program can be difficult and time-consuming. Tech students had the opportunity to take part in such a program by obtaining an internship position at the Georgia General Assembly. This internship, considered one of the most prestigious in the state, was begun thirty years ago as a service to college students who wanted to experience the state government firsthand while simultaneously earning college credit.

Aside from keeping in contact with Dr. Gordon Kingsley, the Tech larvae liaison for the program in the School of Public Policy, the academic requirements are light.

To apply for the program, students should first contact the School of Public Policy. The basic requirements include an essay on why you want to become an intern, three to five recommendations from employers or professors, a transcript and a general information fact sheet. Once Dr. Kingsley has accumulated all of the applications, he then makes the decision as to which student applications will be sent to the Legislature for final approval. Simply being selected as an intern does not mean that you will be one of the thirty students that actually obtain internships, and for this reason, notification is not sent until the final selections are made at the Capitol.

Once students have been selected as interns and have notified Dr. William Thomas at Georgia State University that they will be accepting the internship, they must wait until the start of the session, generally the first or second week in January.

Upon arrival at the Capitol, on the first day of orientation, students are briefed on the do’s and don’ts of life at the Capitol and instructed in their basic duties. They later listened to speeches from the major players at the Capitol, including, Representative Larry Walker, the House Majority Leader; Senator Charles Walker, the Senate Majority Leader; and Majority Leader; Senator Charles Walker, the Senate Majority Leader; the Speaker of the House, Speaker; and the Speaker of the House, Tom合适的

Tech students selected as legislative interns at the Georgia General Assembly traveled daily to the Georgia State Capital to assume their duties as assistants to senators, representatives and committees.

CAMPUS LIFE

Need an internship?
Learn how to obtain a legislative internship at the Georgia General Assembly. Students acquired valuable experience while earning college credit. Page 7

Buzz Around the Campus

“How should students caught stealing the “T” be punished?”

By Alisa Hawkins

Joe Gezo
Physics Junior

“Off with their heads!”

Stephen Burks
CCE Senior

“Pay the cost to put “T” back.”

Katherine Clarke
Central

“Nothing at all. Good for them!”

Ravi Rudderaju
CMPE Junior

“Expelled so no one takes that risk.”

Feature and photos by Alisa Hawkins

The rules to road tripping

John Rafferty
Tech has class!

Road tripping is a quasi-required part of college life because at all schools, taking a break is a needed and welcome activity. Whether you’re following Madonna on her latest tour or following Tech sports, the rules are similar. You are going to need reliable transportation, tickets, some money, some friends, and some way to pass the time. Here are a few suggestions.

Depending on the number of people going, you need to make sure there will be adequate room for all of them. Fitting four 6-footers into a Ford Probe isn’t recommended, but doable. If there are more than four people planning to ride in a compact car, it might be smart to look into renting one of the Tech transportation vans or renting a friend with a Blazer. It may sound cliché, but check to make sure the fluids in the car are up to snuff and that the brakes, blinkers, etc. work before leaving, since they can be a major hassle if they need fixing on the trip. Bring along a cell phone if problems arise, especially when you’re taking highways with long distances between exits or driving through unfamiliar territory.

Getting tickets to the event is something to think about before heading out. If you know that the concert is sold out, make sure you have tickets before you leave. Nothing would ruin a road trip more than not having tickets at a concert, once you get there. If, however, you’re going to something that’s not going to fill up, you can probably get a ticket at the show for a fraction of the price.

If you’re going to a Tech football game out of state, expect to be able to do this at the Kudloff Classic against Syracuse, and against Navy, Duke, Virginia, and Wake Forest. Florida State tickets for non-students are already sold out, so don’t expect to get cheaper tickets in Tallahassee than at face value from the Tech ticket window. If you want to have your tickets guaranteed for the away games, you should be able to buy them from the AA about two weeks before the date, at face value. The tickets reserved for students are generally some of the best seats in the TECH allotment, usually in the lower rows of the end zone block that Tech receives.

You should also know what other events are happening the same weekend in the region you’re tripping to. That way you can book a hotel reservation well in advance and not worry about NASCAR fans taking up all the hotel rooms since the Brickyard 400 is the same day. If nothing is going on, then drive into town and pick out a place that suits your needs. Expect to pay about $50 a night, which is pretty cheap split four ways. The driver should make it clear in the beginning of the trip how much gas money the riders are responsible for. In my opinion, the driver shouldn’t pay for any of the gas.

Choosing the friends that will go with you could be hard at Tech, since very few people are available for weekend trips due to classes and job responsibilities.

See Road Trip, page 8

DNA research

If DNA research strikes your fancy, Dr. Schuster employs undergraduate students and advises anyone interested in this field to speak with him. Page 7
DNA loses an electron, and the vacancy created or “hole” runs amuck along the molecule. In the giant sea of electrons, a hole is like an air bubble that behaves kind of like an anchor—it resists oppositely charged particle, and this can be bad. Electrons are everywhere, so we’re not too surprised when one gets lost; however, molecules called “antioxidants” normally exist by themselves and fill these vacancies immediately. Vitamins E, vitamin C, and beta-carotene are all antioxidants and may actually reduce the risk of cancer, as you’ll see in just a moment. In contrast to these other molecules called “oxidents,” they tend to remove electrons, causing holes to be formed, which, as we’ve said, can be bad. When an oxidant gets past these antioxid- ants (possibly because the latter are occupied with neutralizing cigarette smoke or other chemi- cal toxins) and oxidizes a DNA molecule, the resulting hole runs up and down the chain wreaking general havoc on the base pairs. A favorite target is the base guanine, which looses an electron and turns into 8-oxoguanine. Your body can fix this, but if the DNA chain is read before the error is repaired, then the guanine will appear as the base thymine. Functionally this is a mutation, and it will cause your offspring to have webbed feet and large wings. Or it can cause cancer. Now before all the electrical en- gineers complain too much, we’d better explain a few other things. Negative charge like electrons don’t normally exist by themselves; there is usually a positive charge some- where nearby to balance things out. Since DNA is negatively charged overall (due to all the phosphates in the backbone), positive sodium ions float around in solution near the DNA. Because sodium ions can move freely through the solution, the holes can move pretty easily as well, traveling fairly long distances down the DNA molecule, especially since DNA is a fairly good electrical con- ductor. This mechanism is how DNA can be damaged far from where the hole was initially created. Professor Schuster has presented some fairly clever ways of testing all these theories. Researchers can at- tach a particular light-sensitive chem- ical to the DNA that removes an electron when it’s excited by ultraviolet light. They can then analyze the DNA to deter- mine the extent of the damage caused by the electron loss and determine how far the charge imbalance trav- eled. So far, the computer models and the experiments match well.

This theory concerning electron transport may help to explain another question about DNA: why is so much of the molecule not used for genetic information? Dr. Schuster conjectures that certain non-genet- ical sites are used as decoys to attract and trap the holes that would other- wise go on to damage genetically important base pairs. He calls this the “Jupiter Effect”—analogous to how Jupiter’s gravity snags some of the galactic debris that would otherwise pummel the Earth, these large areas of useless DNA could serve to take abuse from oxidants and minimize the destruction to important base sequences.

“Scientists have deter- mined that over half of the errors that cause cancer may be initiated by something that sounds simple—a misplaced electron.”

Habitat for Humanity from page 7

Leader, and Representative Terry Coffman, the House Appropriations Committee Chairman. “All were enthusiastic to meet us and were, we found out later, deeply concerned about what interns would do with this experience,” Karen Whirlatch, a Capitol Intern, said. “I was among the twelve who were selected for the Senate and the remaining twenty students were assigned to the House.”

Once the selections were made, the groups split up and went to interviews to determine which committees each intern would be assigned to. “I remember coming out of my interview feeling as though this was no way that I would get either of my preferred committees, Appropriations or Transportation. Fortunately for me, I was assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of which is Senator George Hooks of Ameri- ca,” Whirlatch said. The intern- ship is not so much about the jobs that you do with the committee that you are assigned to as it is about being a firsthand witness to history and mingling with the most powerful men and women in the state of Georgia.

“Through my assignment as the intern for the Appropriations Com- mittee, I was able to be a part of the budgeting process and be present at many of the negotiation sessions,” Whirlatch said.

Overall ten Tech students were selected as interns, including, Ted Bryan, Sara Cane, Andrew Hamil- ton, Nicole King, Laura Lott, Khal- doum Maha, Heather McGlinchey, David Moeller, Nate Watson and Karen Whirlatch.

At the end of internship, students are required to write a fifteen- page paper on their experience and an aspect of the law or proceedings that they found to be especially interesting. They then earn six hours of public policy elective credit.

Road Trip from page 7

to Excess Studying Syndrome. If you are somewhere and want some company, ask your current friends or make some more. Some- thing I’ve learned is that a lot of people will plan on going, and then about half will cancel. If you’re in charge of getting tickets, make sure all people do plan to go pay up front, so you’re not stuck with their tickets.

Pasing the time on the trip is very important. Usually some CDs will do, just make sure you’ve got stuff that your friends will listen to. Otherwise, the occupants will waste no time making fun of the amount of country albums you keep in the car. Driving while tired or intox- icated are two of the top reasons for highway accidents across the U.S., so always make a decision that you would let drive your car in case you need a break.

Other important things to re- member are to carry a AAA card for towing (or bail), print up some maps from the net to where you’re head- ed, and put up those car flags, win- dow clings, or whatever else you can to show your spirit. Go forth and travel the world. And a must for away games, keep up the tradi- tion of paging Mr. Burdell.

An alumnum and child celebrate an upset away victory at last year’s Clemson game. Students and alumni alike participate in the “road-trip.”

Student Center Programs Council Weekly Activities

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Saturday, June 16
Time: 7:30am - 4:30pm lunch and transportation included must register a space by calling 4-2002 or e-mail at aux.gatech.edu/move/ Sponsor: MOVE Committee

RECYCLABLE ART Demonstration & Creation of Art using recyclable products Thursday, June 21
Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm Location: Skiles Walkway Sponsor: Arts Committee

“AMERICAN HISTORY X” film viewing Monday, June 25 Time: 7:00pm location: Student Center Theater Sponsor: Ideas & Issues

PAINT CEREAL BOWLS Tuesday, June 28 Time: 1:00pm - 8:00pm Cost: $1.00 Location: Crafts Center Sponsor: Crafts Center

Join the Student Center Programs Council If you enjoy programming events, get involved in the Student Center Programs Council. The Student Center Programs Council involves 11 student-run committees who plan educational and entertaining programs for the Georgia Tech campus community. Call 894-2805 or visit www.studentcenter.gatech.edu

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