

FOCUS

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Who's gonna play?

After you read about how Tech garners its football recruits with Solid Gold's help, find out who will actually be putting on the white and gold next season to play for the Jackets. Page 30

One on one with Ali Larter

The *Technique's* Art Seavey goes in-depth with Ali Larter, the star actress of the new movie, *Final Destination 2*. Larter claims the sequel is even better than the original. Page 19



Solid Gold: Tech's priceless recruitment tool

The members of Tech's hostess program, Solid Gold, act as representatives of the student body to football recruits. Several girls gave the *Technique's* Jennifer Lee the real story on the program, not the one in *Sports Illustrated*.

By Jennifer Lee
Staff Writer

With National Signing Day having taken place just this past Wednesday, there has been a surge of press recently about a relatively unpublicized aspect of college football: recruiting hostess programs.

Sports Illustrated ran an article last week that debated whether hostess programs were just a way of using sex to lure recruits. And just a few days afterward, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* ran an article titled, "Recruiting becomes women's work," profiling several hostess programs around the South, including UGA's Georgia Girls and Tech's own Solid Gold.

No wonder the people at the Athletic Association were hesitant when I first contacted them for this article. In order to get approval to speak to anyone, I had to explain that I wanted to talk to some of the ladies of Solid Gold in order to get the real story behind Tech's recruiting hostess program—not to give them any bad press.

"Did you see that *Sports Illustrated* article?" Solid Gold sponsor Shanny Burge, who works with recruiting at the Athletic Center, asked me. "Well, it made them look terrible. I told Carroll [Rogers, of the *AJC*], I don't want you to quote us at all, I don't want anything disparaging about our group, because we're very proud of them and the way they conduct themselves."

Indeed, the more I investigated, the more I became convinced that the real story behind recruiting host-



esses, at least at Tech, was very different from the picture *Sports Illustrated* was trying to paint. Yes, the ladies from Solid Gold that I interviewed were pretty, but they were

also open, articulate, opinionated and friendly.

Not that I was surprised, of course. As Burge pointed out, unlike some other schools, Tech doesn't really

have any rules, such as prohibiting them from going to parties with recruits, that govern their hostesses' behavior. "The problem has never come up," Burge explained. "Our

girls aren't really interested in that—they have their own things going on. They're busy; they don't have time for all that kind of stuff."

Melissa Durley, a third-year Biology major who has been a member of Solid Gold for three years, said of the recent press coverage, "Honestly, it's just the media spin on it—Signing Day is the fifth, so what can you bring up to get another story in another newspaper? This is a different side of recruiting that most people don't know about, so [the media says], let's do it the negative way." She added, "I'm sorry, you won't get a very juicy story about people from Georgia Tech, because we do act like what we're supposed to act like."

Caroline Clayton, who is a junior majoring in Textile Enterprise Management, said, "We've always had a great reputation; we've always been classy young ladies from nice families, and we're serious about our schoolwork." She admitted, "I know that when people ask if I'm involved in anything, and I'll tell them, 'Oh, I'm a recruiting hostess,' some people just roll their eyebrows, but I'm like, 'You have no idea.'"

"It also depends on the way the coach wants to use you," said Kirsten Macam, a fourth-year Chemical Engineering major. "Other schools might want [their girls] to be little Barbies on the side, just to prove they have good-looking girls that go to that school. But Coach Gailey has us do important things, instead of just stand there and smile pretty,

See *Gold*, page 14

Pre-law program popular Does affirmative action exist at Tech?

By Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer

As the job market continues to decline, graduate school admissions officers have seen record increases in applications over the past year. More students are beginning to look into graduate schools, especially law schools; law school admission officers have received a record number of applications for a limited number of spots. Last year Emory University School of Law received 3,000 applications for 205 spots.

A common assumption is that law school is only for liberal arts majors, such as political science or history majors. Andrew Doherty, a fourth year Industrial Engineering major and research assistant for the pre-law program, said he was not even aware that engineers could go to law school. He said he had assumed that you had to have a special degree for law school until a senior IE classmate had been accepted to law school.

Afterwards, Doherty decided to take a few pre-law classes. "I wanted to see what it was like and if it was something I could do or that I was

interested in. I took a couple of Professor [Roberta] Berry's (director of the pre-law program) pre-law classes and I just wanted to take more. I found the material really interesting and exciting," said Doherty. Doherty plans to attend law school next year, after he graduates from Tech in May.

The recently expanded pre-law program is providing Georgia Tech students with an opportunity to learn more about the growing law field. "There have always been pre-law classes but the minor is brand new this year and the certificate has been around for a year or two now," said Doherty. Based in the School of Public Policy, students can earn a Pre-law certificate or a minor in Law, Science and Technology.

The program is designed to help students find out if law school is the right option for them. The classes also prepare students for their first semester of law school. Even if a student does not intend to go to law school, the pre-law courses will teach students important legal facts and issues.

See *Pre-law*, page 17

By Christine Rutz
Contributing Writer

With the recent events relating to affirmative action occurring at the University of Michigan and the University of Georgia, it has been a hot topic of late.

The University of Michigan came into the limelight again this past week, when President Bush asked the Supreme Court to oppose the university's affirmative action program. The administration filed a "friend-of-the-court" brief, stating "the method used by the University of Michigan to achieve this important goal is fundamentally flawed."

The method that Bush is talking about is a point system used by admissions officers for the university's College of Literature, Science and the Arts. It uses a 150-point system to rank applicants. The objection raised in the suits stem from the 20 point bonus given to students of an "underrepresented racial-ethnic minority."

The lawsuits pending in the Supreme Court were filed by white students who are opposed to the policy. The Supreme Court's deci-

sion will be a landmark one for current and future affirmative action programs.

Georgia Tech is well known for its diverse student body. However, while Georgia Tech is "committed to diversity," the admissions policy has never included an affirmative

action program. Georgia Tech students are selected on four criteria—high school grades and course selection constitute the primary considerations. Standardized test scores, leadership and activities and the per-

See *Action*, page 16



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A diverse freshman class explores the organizations fair at a summer FASET. Currently many universities are debating the role of diversity.

Gold

from page 13



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Will Glover goes for a catch over a Vanderbilt defender. Solid Gold helps recruit athletes like Glover throughout the school year.

so that's why we're not portrayed as those types of girls."

What is expected of the ladies of Solid Gold, then? Their job requires them to give up most of their Saturdays: they are required to meet their recruits three hours before each home game.

The girls mainly help out at unofficial visits, when the recruits come to experience game day, although occasionally they are present at official visits as well. But as a recruiting hostesses, Burge said, "Their main job is to... act as their liaison to student life, and tell [the recruits] what it's like to be a student at Georgia Tech."

Clayton said the job of hostess involves "A lot of walking around, lot of smiling. Mainly, we talk to the moms more than anything—the moms and the sisters."

"They want to know whether

their baby's going to be safe here," Durley added. "The dads want to know the football history here. But the recruits just want to watch the game. So you have to be able to talk to all three different people, and know what to say."

"By the time the prospects get to us, they've talked to coaches, they've talked to academic advisors," said Clayton. "So we're just there to provide kind of a student aspect of life."

There are about 40 girls in Solid Gold. Many of the girls are also involved with other hosting programs, such as Connect With Tech and FASET. The variety of majors, hometowns and student organization involvement in the group of girls is diverse, as well, so that each hostess is paired up with recruits to be able to be as informative as possible.

"If half [the girls] are engineers

and the others are science majors, what can you talk about to someone about who's going to be public policy? It makes a big difference," said Durley.

To become a member of Solid Gold involves just an application and interview, and Burge attributes current membership numbers to not getting the word out enough, rather than any sort of selectivity based on physical appearance.

"We'd like to have as many as we can apply, because it is a fun opportunity: you do get to be involved with the football program and get to know the coaching staff, and it's [a] good way to support your school." She even mentioned that it is open to both sexes, although they haven't had any men apply yet.

When asked about their motivation for applying to be a member of Solid Gold, Clayton said, "I've always been interested in Georgia Tech athletics, and I wasn't involved with anything else here on campus, so I thought it would be a fun thing to do. I could spend time helping out the football team, being a part of the great tradition."

Clayton added, "This will be our third year, so our second class is about to sign. It's neat if you're there from the beginning to see them grow and develop, and if you see them around campus, they'll say hi."

"That's the reason I do this—to meet people that I wouldn't normally meet," said Durley.

Both Clayton and Durley have been a part of Solid Gold for three years now. Macam, on the other hand, said, "I didn't apply actually until my last year here, but I always saw them out in the field, before the games, and they seemed like they were having a good time. They got to show around the recruits, and got to get behind the scenes of the whole recruitment process."

All three girls affirmed that it was definitely a way to build connections with the people who work at the Athletic Association. And, adds Melissa, "You always have tickets to the football games."

Inevitably, though, the girls do have to deal with the occasional out-of-line recruit.

"If I'm around a guy and I just don't care for him at all, then first, you tell him so, and then you go and tell the coach," said Clayton.

"Because the coaches want to know, how are these guys? Are they jerks? How are their families? If you look at our football team, every single one of them are great guys, so our coaches want to make sure we can see that."

"Especially with this new coaching staff and Shanny [Burge], if the guy's a sleazeball, then they want to

know, because it's a liability," added Durley.

Durley concluded, "There's a huge difference between a 17-year-old boy flirting with you and being silly, and being abrasive. Of course you always have the one jerk, but if I only have to deal with one, that says a lot for the other people that come here. Georgia Tech's not going to recruit that type of person, anyway."

Well, while there isn't any dirt on the girls, they do have some stories to share.

"My very first official visit that I did last year," Clayton told me, "I was eating breakfast with two or three recruits. And the whole time, one of the recruits was talking about how he was in the show choir at his school, and I kept having this image of this big defensive tackle tap-dancing. He was so funny, I could hardly eat my breakfast, I was laughing so hard."

Also, being a female is usually an advantage when it comes to the mothers. "Some of the moms are absolutely adorable," said Clayton. "Mel and I became really good friends with one of the moms toward the end of the season. She only had sons—four sons!—so she didn't have any girl time with anyone. So we were kind of like her daughters for the day."

Durley added, "She was like, '5'3", weighed a hundred pounds, but she had these huge, huge sons."

"They were centers!" said Clayton.

"And one of them was like, 'the only person I'm afraid of is my mom,'" finished Durley. "So it's just the little things like that."

"I kept having this image of this big defensive tackle tap-dancing."

Caroline Clayton

Third-year, Textile Enterprise Management major

Economy takes hit on most endowments of late, but not Tech's

By Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer

According to the Wall Street Journal, the average university endowment lost 3.6 percent on its investments in 2001. It is the first time since 1984 that university endowments have seen a negative return, according to a study by the National Association of College and University Business Officers. The result has been the loss of billions of dollars in endowment funds across the country.

The University of California lost over \$353 million from its endowment funds from WorldCom Inc. investments and an additional \$145 million investments in the Enron Corp. Harvard University has the nation's largest endowment, valued at \$18.3 billion. In 2001, Harvard had a negative 2.7 percent return rate and lost \$800 million.

Typically, an endowment's contribution to a college budget is calculated as a percentage of an endowment's average value over a three-year period.

Mike Condon, Chief Investment Officer for the Georgia Tech Foundation (GTF), said most endowments use the multiyear formula in order to smooth budget fluctuations that result from investment performance and gifts.

The amount of gifts that a college receives each year varies. Condon said GTF's contribution to the Institute is equal to about four to five percent of the endowment annually. By not using 100 percent of the Endowment's projected earnings in the annual budget, it allows the endowment to increase in val-

ue, thereby having more funds available for support in future years.

GTF has a hand in providing funding for all aspects of campus life and academics. Pat Wichmann, Chief Administrative Officer of the Georgia Tech Foundation, said the Foundation's endowment is managed in support of Georgia Tech. President Clough and other departments make annual requests for a certain percentage of the endowment's average value. The Foundation reviews and approves those requests each fiscal year.

The heart of the foundation is the senior management team of five people that runs the daily operations. Besides Wichmann and Condon, there are John B. Carter, Jr., president and COO; Mark Long, controller and corporate secretary; and Jerome Posatko, the chief information officer.

The Foundation's Development Committee works with Georgia Tech's Office of Development to raise funds for the Institute. Donations were at an all-time high for the past several years, especially during the capital campaign, according to Condon. However, this past year the amount of donations to the Foundation fell to \$60.8 million from 90.4 million.

During the fiscal 2002 year, GTF fared better than most colleges by having its most successful year in its history. GTF invested \$111 million in programs, faculty, students, land, buildings and operations. In twelve years, the foundation has invested \$525 million into Georgia Tech and the Foundation grew its assets from \$179 million to \$1.1 billion.

The investments are in spite of the fact that the stock market has experienced huge losses. In his letter, Stith credits the "astute financial management" of the Investments committee for the Foundation receiving a -2.7 percent return, lower than the national average and the same level as Harvard. "At the same time, donations to the Foundation fell from an all-time high of \$90.4 million to \$60.8 million. The net result was a \$95.7 million decline in net assets. In view of the economic circumstances, we think we did great," said Stith.

The diversification of the Foundation's portfolio helped protect Tech's endowments from the huge losses that other universities had.

While in comparison to other colleges Georgia Tech has done well, the effects of the minor loss of donations to the endowment and the Institute can be felt in small programs. The President's Scholarship Program receives 25 percent of its annual amount for scholarships from endowments and the other 75 percent comes from unrestricted gifts, according to Randy McDow, director of the President's Scholarship Program. As a result of the loss of donations this past year, the program will reduce the number of president's scholars in the incoming fall 2003 class to an estimated 40-50 scholars.

McDow said the significant impact would be that top students who may have received a scholarship in previous years when the number of awards was higher might not come to Georgia Tech and contribute in the classroom and campus life. The semifinalists so far in the competi-



By Andrew Saulters / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Georgia Tech Student Foundation's Executive Board meets to discuss their latest plans for their endowment, which has not been significantly impacted by the recent downturn in the economy.

tion have the highest SAT score in history for the program; the average is 1520 and the average unweighted GPA is a 3.99. McDow said the final scholars will be chosen later this year in a rigorous process based on scores the individuals receive from their interviews and applications.

On the other hand, the Georgia Tech Student Foundation has not been substantially affected by the recent stock market declines. GTSF is a student organization that awards grants to students and organizations whose ideas and projects have the potential to enhance Tech. GTSF's endowment is around \$500,000. Students oversee the investment and development committees. Nicholai Dessypris, president of the Georgia Tech Student Foundation, said the Student Foundation has performed well over the past year and above the NASDAQ and Dow Jones Industrial averages. Dessypris said

GTSF will be able to allocate its annual \$25,000 to student organizations and to hold its annual contests including the \$1,000 grant to a student with the best idea for improving Tech and the \$250 J. Erksine Love Scholarship for philanthropic service at Tech.

"Our country's economic fundamentals are basically strong. But current events, fear, uncertainty and global conflict make us aware that next year will, in all probability, be even more difficult than this year. If the markets remain in neutral or decline, it will be extremely difficult to maintain the assets of the Foundation at the current level. Nevertheless, we will always try to balance our investment outlay to Georgia Tech with out investment and gift income. We think next year will test us all, but we will be up to the challenge," said Stith, in the annual report.

Action

from page 13

sonal statement round out the selection process.

Ingrid Hayes, interim director of undergraduate admissions, said "Tech does value diversity, but we achieve it in a different way." She explained that Georgia Tech spends time recruiting students who are underrepresented on campus in order to widen the pool of applicants for admission. Only qualified students are selected, but this recruit-

ment increases the chance that a qualified student from one of these groups will apply. The underrepresented groups include not only racial and ethnic minorities, but women as well.

Although there have never been any official complaints against Georgia Tech for any type of discrimination based on admissions, Hayes did say that the number of inquiries about the issue has increased since the University of Michigan suit, but that those inquiries are about Geor-

gia Tech's policy, not about denied admissions.

The Georgia Tech application, for those of you who don't remember, does have an optional race/ethnicity section, but this information is used for statistical purposes only. The admissions office is required to report the race, gender and ethnicity statistics to the Georgia Board of Regents.

The reaction of Georgia Tech students to the University of Michigan lawsuits and similar suits closer

to home, such as the University of Georgia admissions controversies, varies from indignation to cautious support of such measures.

"In an effort to level the playing field, you're really creating an unequal system," said INTA fourth year John Turner. He called Michigan's system nothing less than reverse discrimination. Other students believe that affirmative action is simply "too little, too late" in some of the inner city schools.

Many Georgia Tech students hold

the opinion that affirmative action was necessary in the past, but now is creating more problems than solutions. They acknowledged that the idea was well intentioned, but has now gotten to the point of reverse discrimination.

In the next few months, the United States Supreme Court will be making the landmark decision concerning affirmative action. Although it will not directly affect Georgia Tech, it will affect our student body as far as morale and opinions.

Pre-law from page 13

"I think the importance of the pre-law program is to take some classes and give you information about how you study legal affairs because you get to know whether or not you like that. The program isn't so much for people who definitely know they have to go into law, it's just to get you exposure so you can make the decision about whether or not you want to try to apply to law school with more information on your side.

"For me that was a big factor in taking Dr. Berry's Constitutional Issues class and studying cases. It really showed me that I wanted to pursue the [legal] path," said Liz Hollander, a fourth year INTA major who has recently been accepted to Georgetown University for law school.

While law schools mainly base their admission standards on the LSAT, letters of recommendation, GPA and leadership activities, tak-

ing classes in law would demonstrate that a student has shown an active interest in the area for several years before he or she applied to the particular school. With today's competitive admission processes, any competitive advantage can come in handy.

To earn a certificate, a student has to complete six hours of coursework in two classes, which include the Pre-law seminar course (PUBP 3610) and Constitutional Issues (PUBP 3000) or Judicial Process (PUBP 3016).

The rest of the coursework is six hours of free electives spanning law issues in a variety of subjects, from International Affairs courses to Economics. A few examples of the free electives offered are Introduction to Computer Law, Environmental Policy and Regulation and History of American Business.

For the Law, Science and Technology minor, a student has to complete the six core hours aforementioned and twelve hours

of free electives. In addition, twelve of the eighteen hours must be in 3000 level classes. A student also has to earn grades of C or better in all classes for it to count towards the certificate or minor.

Other options for students include special topic classes. Recently, there was a special topics class where students did mock trials throughout the semester. For special topic classes, the school of Public Policy will occasionally bring in attorneys from Atlanta to teach the courses.

Currently, there are 108 people registered for the pre-law certificate and five for the minor. Berry, the coordinator of the program, has over 200 students subscribed to her pre-law newsletter.

Doherty said it is hard to gauge the actual number of students from Tech interested in law school because many students choose to only take a certain number of the pre-law classes without earning the certificate or apply to law school without

any pre-law classes on their resume. "A lot of people also don't know about it, so we're really trying to get the word out," said Doherty.

Of the students that are enrolled in the program, forty percent come from the College of Engineering, the College of Computing and the College of Sciences. Engineers can typically go into areas of law such as patent law that liberal arts majors would have difficulty entering into. Another forty percent of the students are from the Ivan Allen College. Doherty said the final twenty percent of students are from the College of Management.

Besides the pre-law classes, there are a few extracurricular activities students interested in law can join as well. Georgia Tech has a chapter of the Phi Alpha Delta fraternity, which offers a practice LSAT each spring, that provides a social network among students interested in law school and legal careers and offers students the opportunity to learn about the legal profession directly

from lawyers.

There are between forty and fifty members in Tech's chapter. Last year, the Tech chapter received an award from PAD's national headquarters for its guest lecture series which included a talk from former Attorney General Janet Reno. Doherty is the president of the fraternity and said it is open to anyone, regardless of GPA, gender or major requirement. In addition, Georgia Tech has a Mock Trial Team and a Philosophy Society as well.

To register for the prelaw certificate, send an email to Doherty at gte597n@prism.gatech.edu. Doherty also has office hours in room 310 in DMSmith from 9-12 on Mondays and 12-3 on Wednesdays. For the minor, contact Professor Roberta Berry, the head of the program, at Roberta.Berry@pubpolicy.gatech.edu, to have her approve the petition. For more information, see the pre-law site, www.spp.gatech.edu/academics/prelaw/main.html

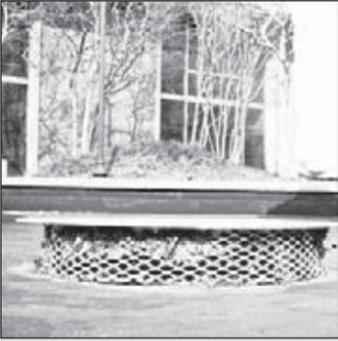
Tech Up Close

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

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:
Drain in the library fountain.

Last week's winner:
Wes Angel



By Brian Oxford / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS