Our Views
Consensus Opinion

Summer Session

The new summer school policies designed for next year’s freshmen could greatly benefit the incoming class. Dismal freshman year GPAs that result from students not being prepared for the academic rigor of Tech are an all-too-familiar story. At a school where students come from diverse academic backgrounds, it is inevitable that not all students can live up to the academic standards set by their peers and faculty members when they step on to campus. Also, adjusting to the college lifestyle can be a struggle for the time-management-challenged. Thus, it is understandable that many freshmen struggle academically, especially while taking difficult core courses such as calculus and chemistry.

The new short summer session is designed to help those students who have an easier transition to the world that is college and Tech. It will also give ambitious students a proverbial leg up on their academic careers and allow them the possibility of graduating earlier or taking more electives throughout their college careers. Lastly, the program will also aid athletes in their transition to college, as athletes face more time constraints when selecting classes. Freshman athletes also face the added stress of competition and training on top of the normal college adjustment issues, while working to comply with NCAA regulations that are blind to the difficulty of the school they attend. This would aid in that process without compromising academic standards.

Having an option to begin their college careers early could be a great way to prepare students for college. A short summer semester would be less demanding of incoming students’ time, and class offerings such as pre-calculus and the 22-week bridge course in chemistry could provide substantial help for promising students who need some extra attention to get up to speed with Tech’s demands.

It’s also great to see that administrators are doing their best to provide the full college experience to the freshmen who choose to come early. Forcing all those who enroll to live on campus and be a part of the Freshman Experience program means that those students will be put into a provably successful support network.

One valid concern is whether the program will be able to generate more student life activities during the summer session. A common complaint among students taking courses over the summer is that the campus is generally “dead.” Throwing freshmen into such an environment would negatively affect their view of student life at Tech, which the administration is constantly working to improve, and may make getting involved in the Fall more difficult for these students.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

Editorial Board

Kyle Thompson, Editor-in-Chief
Stephen Bachl, Development Editor
Joshua Duigan, Online Editor
Amanda Duigan, News Editor
Halley Epp, Executive Editor
Lauren Griffin, Advertising Manager

Copyright Notice
Copyright © 2018, Kyle Thompson, Editor-in-Chief, and by the Board of Student Publications. The Technique is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. No part of this paper may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the Editor or from the Board of Student Publications. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editors or the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Student Publications, the students, staff or faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University System of Georgia. First copy free. Subsequent copies $1 each.

Quote of the Week:
“Morality, like art, means drawing a line somewhere.” — Oscar Wilde

Technique • Friday, November 18, 2014

“Cultural bubble refuses to burst”

At precisely noon every weekday, the second floor of the Student Center becomes a meeting place for 100 Indian-American students.

Perhaps that number is a slight exaggeration, but it seems that the place is never midday with my tan-skinned peers. They always take up at least half a floor.

These students, despite attending a diversified university, miss out on the benefits of diversity by limiting themselves to hanging out with friends of the same ethnicity.

Rarely can a non-Indian be found amidst the throng of subcontinental. Although these people are all unique, the bottom line remains that they are not interacting with people of other cultures. They are not exposed to a diversity of viewpoints and philosophies.

I must confess that I have been guilty of staying within a cultural bubble in the past; most of my friends were Indian-Americans and I made little effort to meet people of my own. Indian bubble. Breaking out can be difficult.

Why is it so hard to befriend students of other cultures? Many would argue simply that because people from other groups are so alike another, they can relate to each other more easily. For instance, in the case of Indians, the argument would be that specific traditions, curry, and festivals like Garba would be the binding forces.

Yet others, such as Dr. Beverly Tatum, would argue that racism keeps us in perpetual segregation. Beginning as early as elementary school, she argues that children belonging to minority groups separate themselves because they recognize that they are different.

In her book Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? she writes, “In racially mixed settings, racial grouping is a developmental process in response to an environmental stressor, racism.”

Racism segregates us because not only are the oppressors racist, but the oppressed are also racist. The presence of racism against certain groups in this country is aided by the groups themselves.

For instance, the stereotype that women are less capable than men exists partially because these women accept the stereotype to some degree, asking for handicaps in the work force.

However, racism does not even have to be in the form oppression to segregate us. For instance, assuming that all Indian people are vegetarian is a racist assumption. Within the country are different regions harboring a variety of traditions, some of those being non-Hindus or non-vegetarian (not that all Hindus practice vegetarianism, another misconception).

In one example, a white student makes the assumption that his new Indian friend will not eat beef and does not invite him to eat at a steak house with his other friends. The Indian also assumes that the white student would not enjoy Indian food that is vegetarian and does not invite him over for a home-cooked meal.

As can be seen from this example, another reason for the prevalence of racism is that people want to avoid confrontation.

Dr. Tatum points this out in her book. Out of the fear that they might make offensive comments, neither party tries to discuss what they assume as differences. It is quite possible that both students eat meat but enjoy vegetarian food as well.

By Erin Gatto •學生出版

Keeping this in mind, it is undoubtedly easier to befriend students of the same race; confrontation is avoided. Even though this is done subconsciously, the results are visible. Even worse, the creation of large racial groups furthers a harsher kind of racism. Because the group is so used to accepting members of its own race, members of other races find it hard—even intimidat-

—to attempt to assimilate into the group.

Such an experience is deeply impressed in my memory; it is this experience that finally made me break out of my cultural bubble. When I tried to bring a couple of my Korean friends to a party consisting mostly of Indians last year, the reaction of my India friends was aghast. Although they didn’t do it on purpose, they stopped talking to my two Korean friends fifteen minutes after they were introduced.

Turning back to the other members of my group, they acted as if the Koreans weren’t there. One of my Korean friends asked me when I was going home. Ashamed of my other friends, I vowed that I would do my best to break out of my cultural bubble.

In conclusion, missing out on the diversity of Tech heavily detracts from the experience that this campus could provide. Learning to step out of a comfort zone, if not learned in college, could be a skill that is never be acquired.

for someone who is about to

See Bubble, page 8

By Erin Gatto • Student Publications

Cultural bubble refuses to burst

“[I] must confess that I have been guilty of staying within a cultural bubble in the past... breaking out can be difficult.”

Nikhil Joshi
Assistant News Editor
**Clones true understand of life**

Small, exclusive groups of friends or associates, affectionately referred to as clones, are prevalent on Tech’s campus—there are fraternity clones, sorority clones, organization clones, couple clones, Indian clones, Chinese clones, Latino clones, clones within clones and even anti-clique clones.

Building support networks and healthy relationships is a very important part of success in college and in life. Finding ‘kindred spirits’ and fun, interesting people to spend time with is a wonderful and spending time with them does provide security and an affirmation of your choices.

Clones can create positive, stimulating environments and provide a family away from home. But more often than not, people in these clones, due to a comfort level and complacency they feel, become totally absorbed in their circles and stop pushing boundaries or even stepping outside their comfort zone.

Aside from limiting personal growth, this is dangerous because one falsely begins to believe that the world revolves only around one’s chosen beliefs and opinions and it makes people unable to look beyond stereotypes. From being around a group of people who believe in the same ideals and behavior in the same ways, these people’s beliefs are merely affirmed rather than questioned or analyzed. As a result they start looking at the world with the base premise that it revolves around them and begin seeing things solely through their viewpoints.

Dealing with differences really stretches your mental capabilities because you’re dealing with something outside your understanding of the world and this challenges your views. Personal growth is not really possible without challenges of different sorts.

Globalization and technology has only added to the problem and in a way, made us falsely secure in our comfort zone. We drive Japanese cars, order Chinese food, watch French films and dance to Latin music—we’re globalized, right?

This clique or sub-group phenomenon broadens to encompass an entire culture and results in a lack of cultural exposure in the world.

**“Sticking to familiar terrain for the entire trip is contrary to the core purpose of traveling.”**

_Swathy Prithivi  Focus Editor_

**Avoiding Facebook okay**

By Erin Meczacken
Daily Colleague

(U-WIRE) U-Penn—I am a minority. Yes, I am a middle-class Caucasian female at Penn State, but sometimes I feel like part of a minority—I am not on Facebook.

I have come to expect a certain type of reaction when I reveal this deep, dark secret. People usually seem confused/surprised and ask, “Why?” with such alarm/horror that you would think I kicked a puppy. They call me a freak and say I’m “out of the loop”—but I think I’m okay with that.

I shut off pleas and pressure to join Facebook because, just don’t understand why it’s such a big deal.

I’ve always been a late-bloomer when it comes to communication technology. While most of my peers started using AOL Instant Messenger in seventh grade, I didn’t start using AIM until I came to college, when the Ethernet hookups in the dorms made it possible to be online 24/7. I avoided sending e-mails until—lo and behold—Penn State gave me my own WebMail account. So, when Penn State’s extensive Facebook community was created, I decided that, like sororities and country music, it just wasn’t for me.

First of all, I have heard many first-hand accounts from Facebook users that it’s addictive and distracting, which makes me wonder why it’s so flippen. Sweet. I know you can keep in touch with people, look at funny pictures and join groups. But would joining the “I like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches” group really make me more popular?

Facebook is funny and cute, sure, but I don’t like to be associated with anything labeled “cute.” Maybe not joining is my own way to avoid conforming to societal norms. Or maybe I’m full of crap.

Honestly though, Facebook scares me. I don’t fancy the thought of a complete stranger knowing my every move.

**See Facebook, page 8**

**Advertising Information**

Information and rates cards can be found online at www.technique.gatech.edu. The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is Monday at 5 p.m., one week prior to publication date. For rate information, call our offices at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved over the phone. The Technique office is located in rooms 146 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief or to Kyle Thomason, Editor-in-Chief. Letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Wednesdays in order to be printed in the following Friday’s issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the Technique to be of valid interest will not be printed. Editors reserves the right to edit for style, content and length. No more than ten submissions per person will be printed each term.

**Coverage Requests**

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the Editor-in-Chief or to individual publications. For more information, email editor@technique.gatech.edu.
Facebook

reading details about my life and wanting to "poke" me. Making my profile accessible only to my friends doesn't make me feel any more secure. There's always someone who will find a way around the system. And I've heard people admit that they use Facebook to "stalk" people. This kind of creeps me out.

I'm content in my anonymity. I value my privacy and considering that the police are now using Facebook to aid their investigation into those who rushed the field at the Ohio State game, I'm glad mine is not being violated.

People should have been aware that the government and corporations have access to people's Internet activities before they posted incriminating information.

For example, Echelon, a huge intelligence and analysis network, uses computers to sort intercepts such as phone calls, faxes and e-mails all over the world. It is important that people realize the stuff they write online is not as safe as they may think it is. Don't let this keep you up at night, it could be worse. At least we don't live in China where the government censors Internet content and access and information.

To all you Facebook-ers at large, don't be offended when I get drunk in the "I'm under 21 and like to get drunk" group.

And if you ask me why I'm not on Facebook, don't be offended when I ask you why you are.

Ah, Thanksgiving, the time of year we eat things we rarely ever eat, like turkey and cranberries.

The time of year we stuff our turkeys with cranouts and our mouths with the turkey. We dress our kindergartners as little pilgrims and Indians, teaching them the importance of unity and love.

But in some ways, Thanksgiving can be a real pain in the wattle.

There's the sleepiness that overtakes you, caused by an essential amino acid called tryptophan, in turkeys. That's why the ingrade science teacher told us right before Thanksgiving break one year, though he may have been a vegetarian, I'm not sure.

And then there is the airport. For those of you who live within driving distance of Tech, be thankful it could be worse. At least we don't live in China where the government censors Internet content and access and information.

Traveling on Thanksgiving Day means your flight will most likely be delayed and very noisy children means your flight will most likely be delayed and very noisy children will be in the aisle behind you, kicking your seat throughout the flight. Not to mention the obligatory strip search now required at most security gates.

In all seriousness, except for holidays, I actually like flying. I like seeing the top of the Bank of America building as the plane departs, and I enjoy seeing Atlanta's skyline as I return from my parents' home in Maryland.

The Thanksgiving after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center was the only time I was afraid to fly.

I was flying into Washington-Dulles airport, which flight 77 departed shortly before it eventually crashed into the Pentagon.

I was very scared. Suddenly my world of coursework and trivial concerns became serious. Death, destruction, confusion, and revenge plagued the air. Fear was definitely a part of the equation.

"The Thanksgiving after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center was the only time I was afraid to fly."

Alexandra Pajak
Columnist

Shuttle coverage skims over issue of cost

Your news item "Shuttle shifts to Atlantic Station Publix" dodges around the main issue of the Kroger-Publix debate: the prices.

There is only passing reference to students thinking the prices at Publix will be higher. Andersen's comments justifying the move are totally bogus; shopping for groceries has nothing to do with enjoying movies at Atlantic Station. Also, your article by Meyer's statement is totally irrelevant to the discussion.

The "regular users" of the grocery shuttle interviewed are apparently not regular users as seen from their comments and own admissions.

The grocery shuttle is of critical importance to me and others who don't own a car, so I appreciate your reporting this on the front page and highlighting the issue. But your reporting would be fairer if you did a more in-depth analysis and engaged real stake-holders for feedback.

Rahul Ranade
2nd Year Graduate Student, CE
grg226w@mail.gatech.edu

DO YOU HAVE A SPRING INTERNSHIP?

Come in and register with the Undergraduate Professional Internship Program before January 13!

Ensure you receive the credit and recognition you deserve on your transcript!

Stop by the 1st floor of the Savant Building, Room 103.
www.profpractice.gatech.edu

The Thanksgiving after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center was the only time I was afraid to fly.

Alexandra Pajak
Columnist

I was very scared. Suddenly my world of coursework and trivial concerns became serious. Death, destruction, confusion, and revenge plagued the air. Fear was definitely a part of the equation.

"The Thanksgiving after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center was the only time I was afraid to fly."

Alexandra Pajak
Columnist

Shuttle coverage skims over issue of cost

Your news item "Shuttle shifts to Atlantic Station Publix" dodges around the main issue of the Kroger-Publix debate: the prices.

There is only passing reference to students thinking the prices at Publix will be higher. Andersen's comments justifying the move are totally bogus; shopping for groceries has nothing to do with enjoying movies at Atlantic Station. Also, your article by Meyer's statement is totally irrelevant to the discussion.

The "regular users" of the grocery shuttle interviewed are apparently not regular users as seen from their comments and own admissions.

The grocery shuttle is of critical importance to me and others who don't own a car, so I appreciate your reporting this on the front page and highlighting the issue. But your reporting would be fairer if you did a more in-depth analysis and engaged real stake-holders for feedback.

Rahul Ranade
2nd Year Graduate Student, CE
grg226w@mail.gatech.edu

DO YOU HAVE A SPRING INTERNSHIP?

Come in and register with the Undergraduate Professional Internship Program before January 13!

Ensure you receive the credit and recognition you deserve on your transcript!

Stop by the 1st floor of the Savant Building, Room 103.

Business from page 6

go into the post-university world, analyzing this important lesson could have huge consequences. Some of the experiences that college should provide should be new ones, ones that force us to adapt. Lacking the ability to adapt, the progress of members of segregated groups is greatly hindered.