

BIRMINGHAM AREA GEORGIA TECH CLUB

# Birmingham

# BUZZ



MARCH 2004 EDITION

## Club Buzzes with Excitement A Successful Year in Review

No doubt about it — our Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club has been **buzzing with excitement, successes and plenty of good news during this past club year!** You might remember that back in July 2003, we adopted chef Emeril Lagasse's motto of *"Kickin' it up a notch."* And, boy, did our local alumni respond!

Your support over the past year has been impressive! **The Alumni Association, club officers and board members thank you.** We ap-

preciate all of the involvement from so many of you; we are humbled by your generosity to the scholarship fund and for your membership in the club. **We had 46 people contribute \$7,800 to the club's efforts — that's a 511% increase in participation and a 410% increase in donations compared to the year before.** But it doesn't stop there. **We had 41 alumni and friends join the club. That is a 455% increase over the previous year.**

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### Coach Paul Hewitt to Speak at Spring Banquet

Come hear Tech's head basketball coach Paul Hewitt speak at our **Spring Sports Banquet on Monday, April 12, 2004.** You and your family are invited to attend this event. We expect to hear some great news from Coach Hewitt, as he talks about Tech's successful basketball program. Our **2004 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year** and **Young Alumnus of the Year** award winners will be announced at this banquet. Our slate of 2004 – 2005 officers and board members will be voted on and introduced.

**Location:** Richard's Bar-B-Q & Grill,  
2409 Acton Road, B'ham 35243  
(205) 979-6057

**Time:** 6 p.m. social time  
dinner begins at 6:30

**Cost:** \$17.00 for guests  
\$12.00 for club members

**Contact:** Richard Sanders at:  
[events@birminghambuzz.com](mailto:events@birminghambuzz.com)

Please note that **reservations are required**, and your check must be received by Friday, April 9, 2004.

### The Buzz About Club Membership

Thank you to everyone who joined the club this year. An impressive **41 alumni contributed \$840 in membership dues this club year.** As stated earlier, that is a 455% increase in membership over last year. **Membership dues underwrite all club events, help pay for the *Birmingham Buzz* bi-annual newsletter, fund the Birmingham Area Club Scholarship program and cover the club expenses.**

The following people have paid membership dues: Jerry Abbot; Lauren Barret; Charles Brasfield, III; Matt Brewer; James Chalket; Geoff Clever; Jonathan Cole; John Collins; Marc Corsini; Ralph Daily; John P. Darnall, IV; Barry Davis; Walter Dean; Fred Ehrensperger; Don Everett; Jan Fridrichsen; James Goodson, Jr.; Bruce Grasso; Grady Gunn; Harold Hite;

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Providing  
alumni with  
support in  
academics,  
athletics,  
community  
relations  
and the  
recruitment  
of students  
— in true  
Yellow  
Jacket  
spirit.

# Club Buzes with Excitement

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This overview will offer a closer look at what all the buzz is about for the Birmingham Area Club:

We kicked off the club year in July 2003 with our first-ever **Young Alumni Wine and Appetizers** mixer at the Five Points South restaurant Ocean. We had a good turnout of officers, board members and young alumni. Preston Hite, our young-alumni representative was able to form a committee that night to direct all of our club's young-alumni events.

Next, we had our annual **Freshman Sendoff Party** at Richard's Bar-B-Q & Grill. As always, we enjoyed a good showing of Birmingham area students (and their parents) who are about to go to Tech. We also had a fair number of upperclassmen who are returning for another year. **Clif Cochran** and **Taylor Narewski**, our 2003 Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club Scholarship winners, and their families were able to attend, too.

October was a busy month for the club. Once again, our club participated in the **National TEAM Buzz Community Service Day**. This year, we focused on a landscaping project at Shades Cahaba Elementary School in Homewood, AL. We racked up more than 20 service hours and donated over \$250 in plants and shrubs. Marc Corsini IM '80 (club president), Bruce Grasso IE '72 (vice president) and Preston Hite M. Arch '01 (young-alumni rep.) participated in the **Leadership Georgia Tech** alumni conference at Georgia Tech's new Global Learning Center at Technology Square on campus.

While at the conference, the officers accepted, on behalf of the club, the institute's **President's Award**. This award is based on points accumu-

lated during the club year for participation in Roll Call (the Georgia Tech Foundation), student recruitment, scholarship fundraising, community service and creative activities. **Only 14% of all alumni clubs across the country received this prestigious award.**

The club also earned first place in the Alumni Association's **56<sup>th</sup> Annual Roll Call** competition in the Dodd League by achieving 27.07% participation among local alumni. The Dodd League is for clubs with 600 to 900 alumni living within the club area. Currently, there are 17 Georgia Tech clubs in the Dodd League.

At the awards luncheon, Marc Corsini, president of the Birmingham Area Club, and Daren Pietsch, president of the Golden Isles, GA, club, were named the 2003 Ramblin' Wreck Volunteers of the Year.

While some of the officers were at Leadership Georgia Tech, Harold Hite EE '70 (Yellow Jacket rep.) and Richard Sanders IM '81 (events coordinator) hosted the **Yellow Jackets vs. Maryland Terrapins Football Viewing Party** at PT's Sports Grill. We had a good turnout, and everyone was excited to see the Yellow Jackets win over former Tech coach Ralph Friedgen in a hard-fought game.

In November, the club held our annual **Holiday Season Academic Banquet**. **Bob Harty**, Tech's Executive Director of Institute Communications and Public Affairs, updated us on what's going on at Tech. His presentation included a video of the new Global Learning Center at Technology Square. You could hear a "buzz" in the audience as we saw that Tech finally has crossed over 1-75 due to growth of the institute.

In January, the Young-Alumni Committee sponsored a **Financial Planning for Young Alumni** seminar for all Tech young alumni and their guests. Preston Hite reported to the board that we had 10% of the young alumni from our area attend our second-only YA event. Jimmy Cash ME '81 once again coordinated the **President's Scholar Program interviews** at Southern Company. For two nights, he and several other alumni interviewed 14 impressive candidates who were vying for the prestigious scholarships. Our club also selects winners of our local scholarship from this pool of qualified and extraordinary candidates.

We ended January with a **Yellow Jackets vs. Duke Blue Devils Basketball Viewing Party** at PT's Sports Grill. Thanks to all who came out to this event. We happily have established a core group of people who now attend these gatherings. Thanks again to Harold and Richard (club hosts) for all you do for our club.

In March, we held our first-ever **Accepted Students Reception** for all seniors (and their families) from the Birmingham Area who have been accepted to Tech. Working with the admissions office, we used the event as a recruitment tool for undecided seniors and a "welcome to the Tech family" for students and their families who are planning on entering Tech in the fall. We hope to see many of them at our **Freshman Sendoff Party** in August.

And finally, in May, we will announce our **2004 Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club Scholarship Award winners**. **Two local area seniors each will be awarded \$3,000 scholarships for the upcoming school year.** We also will be **adding \$2,500 to our club's endowment fund; this will bring us \$3,500 closer to our \$25,000 goal** for the initial endowment. Once we have \$25,000, our club will be able to draw on the interest from the endowment to fund scholarships.

## The Buzz About Club Membership

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Preston Hite; Robert Holbrook; George Jackins; Joseph Latimer; Kolo McCall; Thomas McEwen; Walt McMahan; Joe Murphy; Bob Patrick; Charlie Person; Conrad Ponder; Greg Robertson; Ty Robin; Fred Rodgers; Richard Sanders; Diana Scripps; David Sheldon; Dudley Smith; Jack Stanbery; and John Q. Williams.

# About Those Scholarships ...

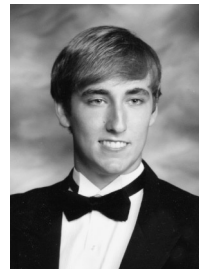
One of the cornerstones of our club is our local club scholarship program. It's our club's way of investing in the next generation of "leader bees." Our club's desire is to financially help deserving, bright future leaders from our community who have a burning desire to earn a degree from Tech. In this club year, our alumni responded generously to our call to help fund the scholarships. We're proud to announce that **46 alumni and friends of Georgia Tech contributed more than \$7,000 to our scholarship fund.** That generous amount and the \$2,000 matching funds from Georgia Tech are going to allow us to provide two \$3,000 scholarships this fall and to add \$2,500 to the initial \$1,000 in our club endowment. Once we have \$25,000, we will be able to draw off the interest to fund these scholarships.

The following contributed to the club scholarships: **Jerry Abbot; Uday Bhat; Richard Burleson; Geoff Clever; Marc Corsini; Ralph Daily; John Darnall; William Ferguson; Jan Fridrichsen; Alan Fuller; Bruce Grasso; Jim Griffo; Grady Gunn; Harold Hite; Robert Holbrook; George Jackins; Cornelia LaRussa; Joseph Lamar Latimer; Raymond Lee; Fred Martens; Thomas McEwen; Walter McMahan; Chris Mitchell; Edward Parrish; Charles Person; Anita Pressley; Greg Robertson; Ty Robin; Fred Rodgers, Jr.; Southland Tube, Inc.; Benjamin Weil; John Q. Williams; and Eddie Wilson.** Those people and groups contributing in memory of **Alice W. Corsini** (mother of club president Marc Corsini) were: **Alan Berman; Cobbs, Allen & Hall, Inc.; Conzelman & Associates; Ferlisi Jolley & Associates; Gallet & Associates; Linda Levin; George and Diane McGrady; Alan Pizzitola; Anita Pressley; Saginaw Pipe Co.; Richard and Teace Sanders; Southland Tube; and Ben and Allison Weil.**

# News from Club Scholarship Winners

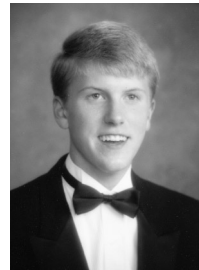
We've been keeping up with **Clif Cochran** and **Taylor Narewski**, our two 2003 Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club Scholarship winners. Here's some information from some of the emails we've received from these bright, young men:

*"So far this year, I have been having a wonderful time and cannot imagine myself anywhere else. I am taking 17 hours of classes this semester - my first civil engineering class, calculus III, physics, computer science and economics. In addition to the schoolwork, I have two jobs. On campus, I work as a lifeguard at the recreation center, and off-campus, I work cleaning carpets and chairs in skyscrapers. I would like to say thank you again for the Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club's support in my attending this institution."*



— **Clif Cochran**

*"I love Georgia Tech. I currently have all A's in my classes. I am a sprinter for Coach Grover Hinsdale on the varsity track team. I have been involved at Northpoint Community Church at Buckhead and a small group Bible study here on campus. Also, one of my most enjoyable activities is ushering at the Fox Theatre. I am a volunteer usher, and in return for my service I can see any show. So far I have seen Les Misérables and look forward to seeing my first opera in November. I would like to thank all the great members of the Georgia Tech Club in Birmingham for your generosity. I couldn't have chosen a better school to attend. God Bless."*



— **Taylor Narewski**

**Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club**



## 2003-2004 Club Officers and Board Members

### President

Marc Corsini, IM, '80  
president@birminghambuzz.com

### Vice President

Bruce Grasso, IE, '72  
vp@birminghambuzz.com

### Treasurer

David Sheldon, ME, '93  
treasurer@birminghambuzz.com

### Secretary

Grady Gunn, CE, '83  
secretary@birminghambuzz.com

### Young Alumni Representative

Preston Hite, M.Arch, '02  
preston.hite@ssainc.com

### Yellow Jacket Rep. Board Member

Harold Hite, EE, '70  
hhite.ee70@gtalumni.org

### Past-President & Scholarships

John Q. Williams, IM, '69  
williajq@westinghouse.com

### President's Scholar Board Member

Jimmy Cash, ME, '81  
JPCASH@southernco.com

### Roll Call Representative Board Member

Ty Robin, Ph.D., ME, '61  
robint@theragenics.com

### Club Events Board Member

Richard Sanders, IM, '81  
events@birminghambuzz.com

### Scholarship Fundraising Board Member

Walt McMahan, TECH, '61  
wcmcmahan@energen.com

### Board Member

Jack Stanbery, IM, '59  
ljstanbery@aol.com

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**Birmingham**

**BUZZ**



**Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club**

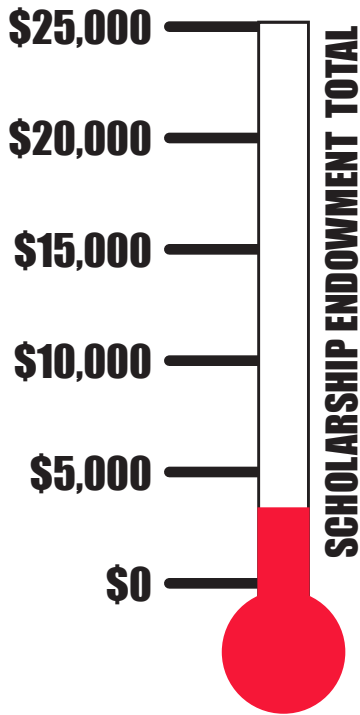
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## Make Plans Now

Here are some of the upcoming events for your **Birmingham Area Georgia Tech Club**:

July 1, 2004

**Kickoff of club year and club membership dues**

August 7, 2004

**Freshman Sendoff Party**

October 23, 2004

**National TEAM Buzz Community Service Day**

October 28-29, 2004

**Leadership Georgia Tech**

October 28, 2004

**Yellow Jackets vs. Virginia Tech Hokies Viewing Party**

**TBA Fall Academic Banquet**

## Inaugural Club Scholarship Golf Tournament

**Date:**

Monday, May 3, 2004 (sign up deadline is Sunday, April 25)

**Time:**

1 p.m. start; Scramble Format

**Fee:**

\$85 per golfer (includes cart, fees, range balls, prizes and dinner) mulligans (1) and power drives (1) for \$5 each

**Course:**

Tannehill National Golf Course (exit 100, I-20/59 south, turn left off exit)

**Participation:**

Tech grads and all friends of Tech are welcome.

**Dinner:**

To follow completion of play

**Chairman:**

Bruce Grasso 823-4655; vp@birminghambuzz.com

**Contacts:**

Richard Sanders (h) 967-5210; events@birminghambuzz.com

Grady Gunn (h) 879-0838 (w) 970-7690; ggunn@lehighcement.com

