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Alston, Young, Trotter win SGA elections

New officers plan improvements for student body

By CAROLYN HECK
STAFF WRITER

Applause exploded through the crowd that was gathered Thursday in the courtyard of the Student Union Building as the results of the Texas Tech SGA elections were announced.

Alex Alston won the position of president, Reed Young won the vote for external vice president,

and Noelle Trotter was named internal vice president.

Alston, a junior restaurant and hotel institutional management major from San Antonio, said he could hardly believe the election results.

"Honestly, I was shocked," he said. "I was running against an awesome competitor, and he's just as qualified as I am, and I'm just, I mean, I'm thrilled."

The first thing Alston said he plans on doing with his new position is restructuring the student government and reforming the constitution to better suit the Tech student body.

"We definitely want to make this student government for you," he said to the crowd. "We want to give students more of a voice, allow you guys to have a say with policies and implementation within

the student government. We definitely feel like this student government is for you, and we want to serve you."

Policy changes will also be implemented during the summer, he said, so students can come back to Tech and have the new policies already in effect.

One of Alston's running mates,

Young, a junior agriculture and applied economics major from Abilene, said he enjoyed the campaign from the start and admired his team's competitors.

"I was really excited, you know," he said. "It was a great campaign ran by both sides and, you know, it really came down to the wire yesterday. We ran against some

great competition and it was really satisfying to see hard work and determination pay off."

Young's platform during the campaign was based on ideas to improve transportation and safety, including increased lighting on campus.

SGA continued on Page 2



ALSTON



YOUNG



TROTTER

Bailey releases long-term tier one goals

Plans include increased faculty, staff, tuition, research funding

By CAITLAN OSBORN
NEWS EDITOR

The Texas Tech Board of Regents met Thursday to discuss major changes to the university over the course of the next 10 to 15 years, including additional faculty and staff, increased research space and more scholarship funding.

The university also presented plans to increase tuition rates starting this fall, with an extra \$88.75 for 15 credit hours.

Tech President Guy Bailey presented his "Stairway to Tier One," the top of which has Tech becoming a member of the Association of American Universities, much like Rice University, Texas A&M University

and University of Texas.

In 2004, Tech received Emerging Research University (ERU) designation. Between 2010-11, Tech had \$24,373,549 through the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP).

Tech is currently waiting to hear if the university will receive National Research University Fund (NRUF) designation. The Texas Higher Education Governing Board is currently reviewing Tech's audit to see if the goal is achievable.

Regent Jerry Turner said he expects the university will have no problem achieving approval for NRUF status or any of its other goals.

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Sonic Sanctuary



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/ The Daily Toreador

AMY DEVOGE, THE sound engineer for the Crossroads Recording Studio, plays back a recording of drums played by Alex Sanchez, a junior business marketing major from Odessa, as part of his song, "Words Can't Explain," in the Crossroads Recording Studio on Wednesday. It is located in the basement of the Texas Tech Library.

Tech library becomes crossroads for music artists

By NICOLE MOLTER
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Library is no longer strictly a quiet study place.

The library hosted its grand opening of the Crossroads Recording Studio on Saturday in an attempt to attract more media users.

"Recorded information, to me, is just another kind of information," said Donald Dyal, dean of the Tech library. "You

know what the library is about? We gather information. It doesn't really matter whether that information shows up in film, or a map or in a recording studio."

Dyal came up with the idea of having a recording studio in the library. Construction began last summer, and the studio began testing in the fall.

"When I first came, I traveled around talking to people," Dyal said. "I knew a bunch of students who approached me for diverse

reasons about problems that they perceived in their ability to get a job. A lot of these students were students in the music department."

The cost for making a demo CD was about \$2,000 a decade ago and has more than doubled since then, he said.

"Why should students have to pay thousands of dollars just to get a job?" Dyal said. "It's one thing to recognize that there's a problem. It's something else to

figure out a solution."

After speaking with a Tech alumnus, who owns a professional studio in Austin, the idea of having a recording studio on campus became a reality.

"I spent some time with him, a day with him," Dyal said. "I said, 'What would it cost to buy the equipment?' He gave me some numbers and I talked to some people. It became doable."

CROSSROADS cont. on Page 2

Vanstory investigation ongoing

According to a letter to the Texas Attorney General from the Lubbock District Attorney Matthew Powell, the investigation into the death of Mason Vanstory is still open, and the Lubbock Police Department is objecting to the release of investigative documents to *The Daily Toreador*.

Vanstory fell to his death Sept. 25, 2011, from Raider Park parking garage, located at 2522 Marsha Sharp Freeway.

Vanstory was a 19-year-old student from Dallas in the College of Mass Communications and was an active member of his fraternity, Delta Tau Delta.

The *Daily Toreador* asked the Lubbock Medical Examiner's office for all documents related to Vanstory's death, which the ME ruled a suicide.

The Lubbock District Attorney cited an exemption in the Texas Public Information Act,

which states the release of the information "would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime," and sent *The Daily Toreador's* request for records to the Attorney General for an opinion.

The letter, written by Donna L. Clarke, assistant criminal district attorney, stated LPD investigator Tad English said "this death investigation case is still open, is under investigation, that the enclosed documents are law enforcement records and evidence in the case."

The Attorney General has 45 days to issue an opinion.

The autopsy was conducted Sept. 27, 2011. However, the report was not released to *The Daily Toreador* until approximately five months later.

imakris@dailytoreador.com
ccourtney@dailytoreador.com

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Students use resources to choose professors, courses

By **PAIGE SKINNER**
STAFF WRITER

Every semester when registration rolls around, Texas Tech students are given choices of what professor to take with what course.

Many students use a website called ratemyprofessors.com to help make the decision easier.

The website states it is the "largest online destination for professor ratings." It states, "RateMyProfessors.com is built for college students, by college students. Choosing the best courses and professors is a rite of passage for every student, and connecting with peers on the site has become a key way for millions of students to navigate this process."

Tanner Ford, a sophomore engineering major from Wichita Falls, said he uses the site every time he registers for classes.

"There's different categories and I usually look for overall teaching," Ford said. "I cross-reference their overall performance."

As well as using the site as a reference, he said, he also talks to older mechanical engineers to hear what they have to say about different professors.

Ford said he considers a professor for a course more heavily than the time slot.

"I choose my schedule off of teachers," he said. "Some people do it on the times, but I'd rather have weird times and good teachers and a better GPA than have crappy teachers and a good time and a bad GPA."

Cathe Brooks, lead academic adviser for the department leadership team, said she and her advising team never make judgments on professors when advising students.

"We suggest they use the tools they

have available," she said. "Including the instructor evaluations and GPA distributions in Raiderlink."

Students can log onto Raiderlink and click on the "TTU MyTech" tab. From there, students can click on course and instructor evaluations.

Students can view evaluations on professors at the end of each semester.

"What's on Raiderlink is from those anonymous course evaluations that are done at the end of the semester," Brooks said. "Those become public record within the next semester, typically. It depends on how long it takes to get it uploaded."

Courtney Bray, lead academic adviser, said she advises students to use Raiderlink, opposed to ratemyprofessors.com.

"I don't recommend it," she said. "I don't not recommend it, though. When we have a preference though, I'd prefer them use the Texas Tech tools that they have, talk to folks who may have taken the class before, ask them specifics like, 'Does the professor use Blackboard? What kind of teaching tools do they use? Does it fit with the way they learn?'"

Students should find a class and a professor who fits the way a student learns, Bray said.

Brooks said she trusts Raiderlink more because it is a Tech system.

"The data that is in Raiderlink is from course evaluations and that kind of data and is immediate and I don't have to worry about whether or not it's been compromised," she said. "What we suggest is when a student brings up the course evaluations, we suggest that they look at the questions and how those questions were answered, not just, 'Is this course difficult,' but 'Did the instructor

allow for questions? Was the instructor available after class?'"

Some students use ratemyprofessors.com as a resource, but do not submit reviews or comments onto the site.

Austin Baker said he has submitted a review for the website twice.

"I submitted a review for a teacher who had just come," said the junior retail management major from Conroe. "She had just graduated and was teaching English part time and she was one of the best professors I had ever had. Nobody knew about her, so I went online and submitted the first review. I also submitted a review for a political science professor that I had and he was just awesome. I didn't like the subject, but I could sit in his class every day."

Baker uses ratemyprofessors.com along with the Raiderlink course evaluations, he said.

"I use them in conjunction with each other," Baker said. "The one online (Raiderlink), it's really cool. They don't update the semesters as frequently, so I guess you can only see a year or a year and a half ago what happened, but being able to select the college and department and seeing the grades the students gave and the end-of-the-year evaluations is important because you can always tell on the evaluations who was the kid who didn't go to class and rated the professor horribly and it stands on their evaluation."

While he uses them both, Baker said, he trusts the Raiderlink system more.

"I probably trust the Texas Tech system more, only because it's unbiased," he said. "It's just the grade they were given and the university puts it out there. You can really see if the professor gave this many As versus Bs and Cs and Ds and Fs."

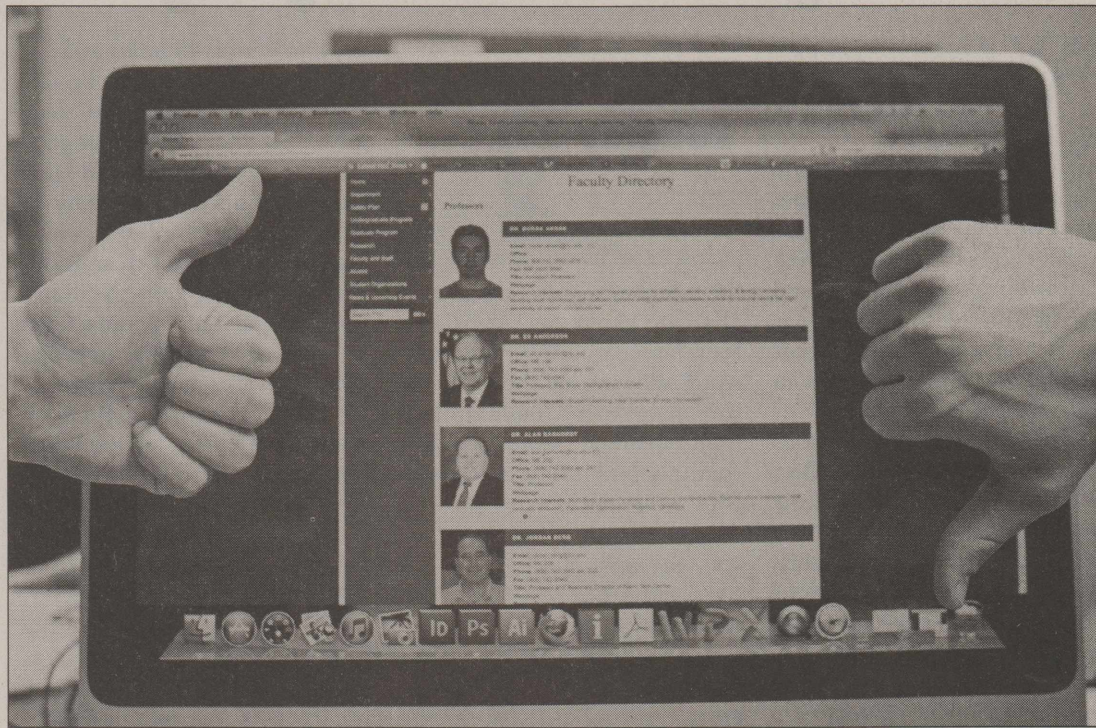


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

RAIDERLINK AND RATEMYPROFESSORS.COM are just two websites students use to choose professors or courses for the next semester.

Spencer Anderson, a junior electronic media and communications major from Sugar Land, said he uses sites like ratemyprofessors.com and myedu.com to learn more about a professor.

He said he uses those sites around registration time, but did not find help with the Raiderlink system.

"I've used that before," Anderson said about Raiderlink's course evaluations. "But, it's a bit tedious looking for the type of professors because you have to sort through."

Brooks and Bray said they also advise students to talk to students who have taken the course to find out what

professor is best for their style of learning.

"A lot of students are already friends in their major, so those students are going to have a shared experience and common bond," Brooks said. "But, we also suggest they talk to upperclassman, maybe in the residence halls or nearby."

But no matter the resources, Brooks said, students should gather as much information as possible before signing up for classes.

"We tell them communication and gather information," she said. "And the more information you can gather from the more sources, the better you can determine valid information. Gathering

all your information from one source isn't any more valid than getting your political opinions from one newspaper.

"So, you use a variety of resources, you gather a variety of information and then you begin to instill it into what you're looking for. So, we suggest they use a variety of tools. Talk with the instructor, talk with people who have taken that professor, talk with the advisor in the department. Who knows who is teaching that class more than anybody else than the advisor who's scheduling it? Talk with the instructor."

► pskinner@dailytoreador.com

Professor, students share opinions on texting while drinking

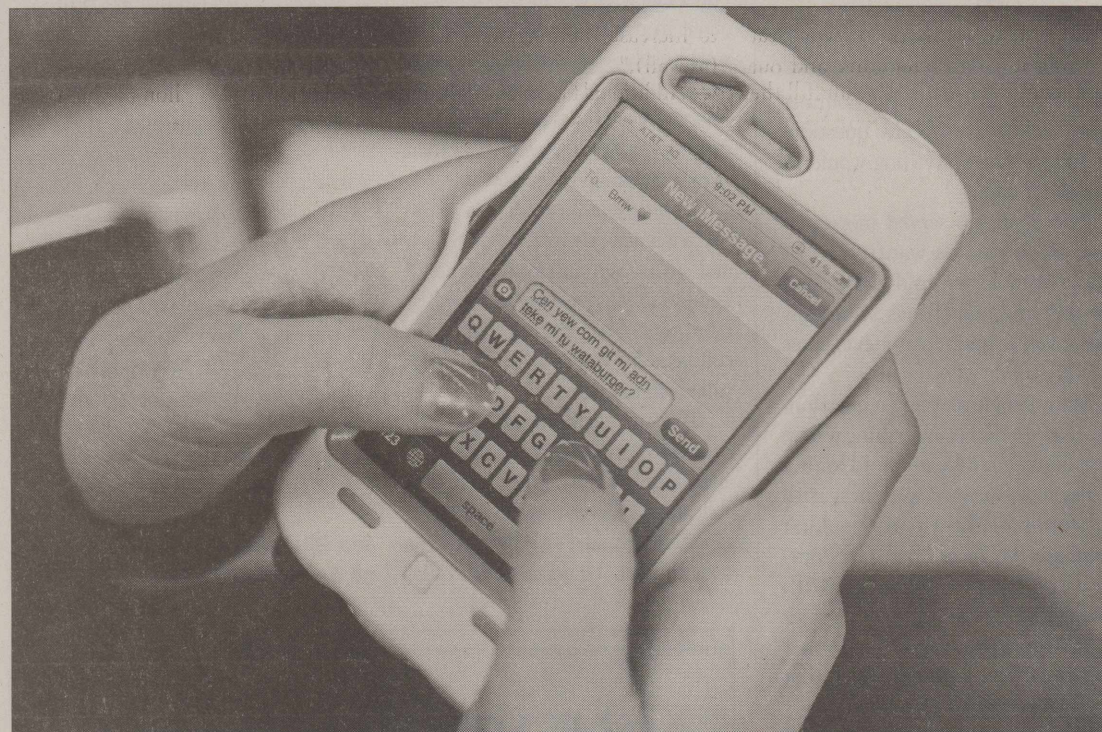


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

TEXTSFROMLASTNIGHT.COM IS A website people use to post text messages they've sent or received after a night out.

By **ASHLYN TUBBS**
STAFF WRITER

Late nights can turn into awkward mornings.

After staying out all night, many students will grab for their phones — if not lost — first thing after they wake in order to search for evidence of what the previous night entailed.

The results can be devastating, humiliating or flat-out hilarious.

"(781): I was just told by a cop that my party was the most epic party they ever crashed."

This quote was pulled from the website textsfromlastnight.com, in which people share their unforgettable moments, if even remembered.

Linda Kaye Larrabee, an instructor of sociology, said texting and talking on the phone while under the influence is a huge issue among students.

She said alcohol intensifies

emotions and causes people to send messages they would never sober.

"You can send someone something and never look them in the eye or hear their voice," she said. "There's more freedom to a text."

Larrabee said one of her male graduate students has shown her messages from another female graduate student who sends him sexual invitations while intoxicated.

She said these types of mes-

sages can cause problems forever, because recipients can save the messages and share them with others.

"When you talk to someone and they hear what you say, maybe they're drinking too, and the next day you can go, 'Oh, I don't know what was wrong with me,'" she said. "But when you've got ugly or sexual stuff in writing, it makes it seem much more serious."

Larrabee said students have developed a habit of hiding behind technology. Instead of face-to-face interaction, she said, her students have testified to ending relationships and admitting their sexually transmitted infections to sexual partners through text messages. She worries about students ruining current and future relationships through this process.

Larrabee also said her students have admitted to sleeping with their phones in case of an emergency.

"That's not the reason," she said. "It's so they can get those text in the middle of the night, or those booty calls or whatever. Past a certain time, you probably shouldn't text or probably shouldn't answer the phone."

One student who understands the hazards of texting under the influence is Aren Dobbs, a junior history major from Houston.

He said although the website is funny to read and repost on

Facebook, there is a huge duality present.

"Granted, so often you get one that is autocorrected or a bunch of gibberish and that's funny," he said, "but at the same time I think people also need to realize how destructive texting people when you're drunk can be, and how things might be interpreted the wrong way or said incorrectly and how it is divisive towards friendships and relationships."

Gavin Haynes, a freshman computer science major from Houston, is another student who disagrees with drinking and

texting.

"Texting while drinking is misleading and unsafe," he said. "It can make somebody believe something else and cause bad situations."

Larrabee said the only way for students to stop texting under the influence is for phones to have breathalyzers.

"I think students will learn from their mistakes because that's how we all learn," she said. "However, if I could fix it to where no one could text when they're drunk, it would make me happy."

► atubbs@dailytoreador.com

'Idol' semifinalists perform same song

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There wasn't only one performance of Adele's "One and Only" on "American Idol."

Elise Testone, the soulful 28-year-old teacher from Charleston, S.C., and Jen Hirsh, the soaring 25-year-old singer from Agoura Hills, Calif., both tackled the same jazzy Adele tune during Wednesday's performances from the top 12 female semifinalists on the Fox singing contest — and both were lauded by the judges for their take on the Grammy darling.

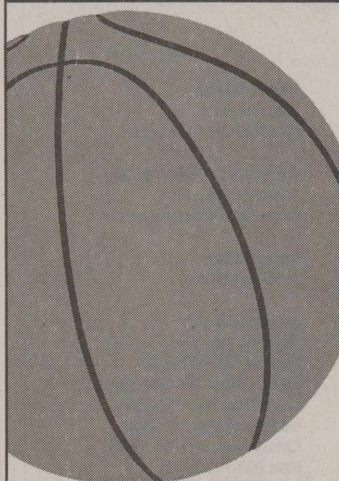
Hirsh was the first to perform "One and Only," compelling Randy Jackson to note that she was "one of the greatest singers in the competition this year." Testone was seated behind a piano when

she closed the show with her rendition, prompting Jackson to repeat himself. He told Testone she has "one of the best voices in the competition."

"For me, you're one of the best singers, maybe the best singer here," Jennifer Lopez echoed to Testone.

Several other contestants also felt the love from the panel, including 26-year-old disc jockey Erika Van Pelt of South Kingstown, R.I., with Heart's "What About Love," 18-year-old Hollie Cavanaugh of McKinney, Texas, with Christina Aguilera's "Reflection," and 16-year-old shopaholic Jessica Sanchez of San Diego with "Love You I Do" from "Dreamgirls."

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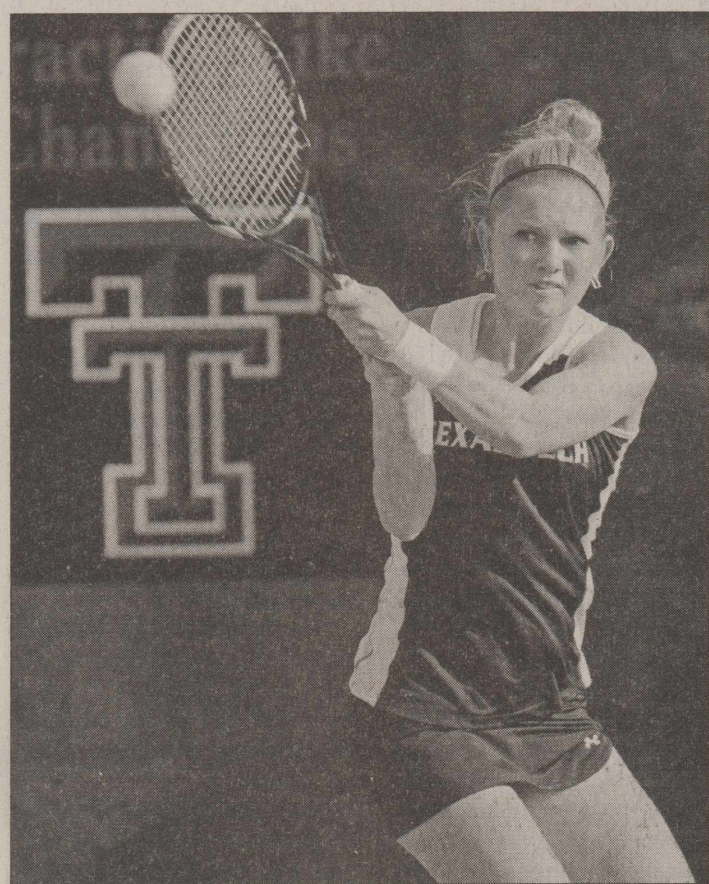
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BRILLIANT BACKHAND



NO. 20 TEXAS TECH'S Kenna Kilgo returns a serve during her doubles match with Samantha Adams against No. 12 Baylor's Nina Secerbegovic and Megan Horter on Thursday at the Don and Ethel McLeod Tennis Center. Kilgo and Adams' match won a tie break that resulted in an overall victory for the Red Raiders. This marked the first win for Tech against a top 20 team in school history.

Tech softball set to play in first home games

By **MATT VILLANUEVA**
STAFF WRITER

After finishing as the runner-up at the Texas Shootout tournament in Waco, the Texas Tech softball team will play its first home games this weekend at the second annual Jeannine McHaney Memorial Classic.

Already three weeks into the season and boasting an 11-5 record, the Red Raiders are thrilled to finally be playing in Lubbock, head coach Shanon Hays said.

"It's nice to finally get to play at home," he said. "You know, the past couple of years we've been able to have a couple of tournaments by now — so going on the road was a good experience for us."

The past three tournaments in Tempe, Ariz., Las Vegas and Waco have shown the positives and negatives the team intends to

both build and improve on. An area that has shown a vast improvement compared to years past has been pitching.

The two-headed starting rotation of underclassmen Britany Talley and Cara Custer have pitched well so far this season, compiling a combined 10-5 record, 57 strikeouts and a 2.27 ERA.

With 55 innings pitched in 11 appearances, two of which were shutouts, Custer has become the pitcher Hays goes to the most.

Hays spoke high praise of his left-handed freshman, as, he said, she is the hardest thrower he has had in his time as head coach of Tech.

"Her ball moves and she's hard to line up and the ball goes down a lot," he said, "and that's what you need in a ballpark like here in Lubbock."

Custer said her first few games playing were definitely an adjustment from her high school days, but the support from upperclassmen has been a major confidence boost for her.

"Sandy (James) has been talking to me a lot, saying 'Relax, breath. We're all behind your back. We're a good defense,'" Custer said, "and I believe that and just go out and try and pitch it, and I trust them behind me."

An area Hays said he has been dissatisfied with is the team's lack of offensive production.

Tech finished last season ranked fourth in the nation in batting average and runs per game, but has yet to show its potent bat across the lineup on a consistent game-to-game basis.

Hays said players such as Adriana Perez and James carried the team offensive load for certain

stretches, as the two have the highest batting average in the starting lineup, respectively. But, he said, he is not satisfied with the overall team's performance.

"The thing that's disappointed me is we haven't swung the bat near as well as I thought we would right now," Hays said. "I'm waiting on our offense to kind of take off a little bit ... We've had just enough hitting to get us by."

This week, Tech welcomes Binghamton and UT Arlington to play in the three-day round robin Jeannine McHaney Memorial Classic. Founded last year, the tournament is named after Tech's first female athletic director.

Tech will open the tournament today with a doubleheader, as it plays Binghamton at 1 p.m. and then UT-Arlington at 3:30 p.m., at Rocky Johnson Field.

» mwillanueva@dailytoreador.com

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AP sources: No deadline for deal on MLB playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) — The Braves are remembered for one of baseball's epic collapses.

Too bad for Atlanta the playoffs weren't expanded a year earlier.

Negotiators for baseball players and owners are working toward an agreement to increase the postseason field to 10 teams this season. They had hoped to reach a deal by Thursday, but both sides said talks could continue if they needed additional time to deal with the details of adding a second wild-card team in each league.

The sides spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the talks have not been public.

If there had been additional wild-card teams last season, the Braves would have made the play-

offs in the NL, while the Boston Red Sox would have qualified in the AL. Instead, each missed the postseason by a game, both going down with historic September swoons.

"I would've taken it last year," Atlanta manager Fredi Gonzalez said Thursday.

The sides have said for weeks a deal is likely. When players and owners signed their agreement for a new labor contract in November, the section covering the postseason established a March 1 goal for deciding whether the playoffs would increase by two teams for 2012 or 2013.

The deal would establish a new one-game, wild-card round in each league between the teams with the best records who are not division winners, meaning a third-place team could win the World Series.

Don't count on it, said Braves pitcher Tim Hudson.

The wild-card winner would face a major disadvantage going through the rest of the playoffs,

according to Hudson. Last season, St. Louis passed the Braves for the wild card on the final day and went on to capture the World Series. Hudson said it would've been much harder for the Cardinals or the Braves to advance if they had played an extra game against each other first.

"The only good thing about it is one more team (in each league) gets in the playoffs," he said. "But it totally handicaps the wild-card team. Both teams will probably have to expend their best pitcher to win that game. Plus, it's another day they have to use their bullpen. Even if you get by that one game, the chances of winning the next round are not very good."

The Cardinals became the fifth wild-card team to win the World Series since the playoff field doubled in 1995, going from two division winners in each league to three division winners and a wild card. Other wild-card champions were the Florida Marlins in 1997 and 2003, Anaheim in 2002 and

Boston in 2004.

Adding two more playoffs teams this year has been complicated because the regular-season schedule was drafted last spring and summer, and the extra game has to be put in place in a manner that doesn't disrupt the World Series schedule. In a further complication, the sides reached a consensus that ties for division titles would be broken on the field with a tiebreaker game under the new format, and not by head-to-head record.

Head-to-head record has been used since 1995 to determine first place if both teams are going to the postseason. But the sides decided with the start of a one-game, winner-take-all wild-card round, the difference between first place and a wild-card berth is too important to decide with a formula and that a tiebreaker game should be played.

"It's our answer to March Madness where you have single elimination, I guess," agent Scott Boras said.

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