



# HONORS

## PROGRAM

November 22, 2006

## THE VIEW FROM HERE

BY DR. MONICA HALKA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

November comes but once a year – thank goodness!! Registration confusion is in full swing once again, with some students unable to choose among our exciting new interdisciplinary seminars, described below by Carola Conces.



Not only are we delighted to welcome new faculty from departments across the campus, but several new HP students as well. Late in October, some thirty applications arrived at our doorstep from students eager to join us. Eleven were selected for their diversity of interests and depth of engagement with the world around them. Their pursuits run from salsa dancing and drama to chess and equestrian activities. So you'll be seeing new and lively faces around HP activities. Don't be shy – say hi.

Speaking of lively, Liam Rattray's talk on the Bioneers Forum he attended made it sound more like an exuberant celebration of sustainability than the depressing news we've all been hearing lately regarding energy and the environment. Be sure to ask him about current efforts in that regard. It looks like we've got a mover and shaker in our midst.

Lastly, keep in mind that with final exams and the holidays lurking just around the bend, the next few weeks could stress you out. When it happens (and it will) stop by the office and chat, vent or moan before you resort to primal scream therapy in Howell.

And have a Happy Thanksgiving holiday!

### Seminar Topics Met with Enthusiasm

BY CAROLA CONCES

Students came to the HP Seminar Faculty Reception early this month expecting to be well-informed and well-fed. Most, however, probably weren't expecting to take part in a live demonstration of duality. The seven professors only had a few short minutes to outline their spring seminars, but it was plenty of time to build excitement among the audience. Dr. Craig Tovey initially faced a tentative crowd when he requested the help of 28 volunteers to introduce the topic of his seminar "Duality: An Interdisciplinary Exploration." But soon enough,

*See pg. 2*

You must learn day by day, year by year, to broaden your horizon. The more things you love, the more you are interested in, the more you enjoy, the more you are indignant about, the more you have left when anything happens.

- Ethel Barrymore

# FEATURED STUDENTS

## Matt Flaschen

Computer Science major Matt Flaschen has a passion for news and politics. Perhaps that's why he decided to "Geaux to the Gulf" for fall break. Students involved in the program committed their free time to travel to the Gulf to help clean up debris and rebuild homes devastated by hurricane Katrina. Many don't realize how much work is left to be done in the region, but Matt does, here pictured in front of a sadly common sight. It wasn't all work, though, as shown by Matt's photo of volunteers dancing to "Noma Noma" at the end of a day's labors (see page 3). We're pleased that an HP student chose to spend his time for such a worthy cause.



## Jing Li

Born in Tucson, Arizona, Jing Li has traveled far to major in electrical engineering and become an important member of the swim team here at Georgia Tech, where she hopes to qualify for NCAA in March. She's made a good start – early this month, in Charlottesville, she tallied three top-two finishes for the Jackets. Academically, "Right now, I really enjoy my Political Science class and the Mock Congress that we're doing." Jing also enjoys playing the violin and (you guessed it) paintball. Another highly diverse and active student, Jing fits the HP profile to a tee.

## *Seminar Topics (cont.)*

students linked hands and formed pathways between chairs to demonstrate how a minimization problem can simultaneously be considered a maximization problem.

The other intriguing topics to be offered include "Race, Space, and Architecture" with Dr. Benjamin Flowers, "The Origin of Life" with Dr. Nicholas Hud, "A Balance of Power" with Drs. Kim Cobb and Monica Halka, "Technology and Disasters" with Dr. Joe Hughes, "Games and Cognition" with Dr. Ute Fischer, and "Biomedical Laboratory Rotations" with Dr. Paul Benkeser.

Students rushed to get spots on the signup sheets as if trying to get tickets to the Notre Dame game. With unique and timely topics from a wide range of disciplines, there are courses to match any student's interests. The seminars are intended to become a central aspect of the Honors Program.

Dear HyPatia,

## Ask HyPatia

I have a burning question that keeps me awake all night waiting to hear the whistle blow, waiting for the sun to blast its rays through the pallor of smog and traffic noise, a burning flame-covered inquiry....and in the morning when I've forgotten that question, I wonder: What is the meaning of life?

Please help,  
Eileen Ahnabarr, confused HPster

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Dear Eileen,

I've been asked many questions over the years: "Why is Calculus 2 so hard?" "Can the Honors Program have a Go-Kart?" "If they do 'Save the cheerleader' will they really 'Save the world' on Heroes?" But no question pops up as many times as I've been asked to reveal the meaning of life. For some, finding the meaning of life means finding a purpose on earth, while for others, discovering who you are both inside and out provides answers. For me, finding the meaning of life comes down to two things – how well you deal with pain/disappointment and how well you deal with happiness.

Coping with pain & disappointment is more than just rubbing your ears when you burn your fingers or screaming after you fall out of your bunk bed. How do you handle failing that first, second or even (gasp) third test? Do you throw your book from the top of Howell, drop kick your calculator onto I-75/85 or cover your windows in black cloth

while you huddle under your comforter? (These may seem far fetched, but I've seen computers floating in the Campanile.) I suggest this: ask your professor during office hours to walk you through everything you did wrong. Also, form a study group (keep in mind you can't be the passive group member) and for every hour you spend in the classroom, spend two studying. Most importantly, talk about how you feel. Everyone has failed at least once. Donald Trump filed for bankruptcy numerous times. Tyler Perry (Madea for those who don't know) used to live in his car, and Britney married Kevin. There is no shame in failure if you use it as a tool for improvement.

Whether you know it or not, it's difficult to be happy. Do you recall the last time you were truly happy? I don't mean being-the-first-in-line-to-purchase-the-PSP-3 happy or finding-your-size-in-perfect-black-strappy-sandal happy. I mean when all is right in your life, spiritually, mentally and physically. Will you be able to go with the flow, or stay on pins and needles wondering if this is the calm before the storm? I say don't worry, be happy & thankful that you're able to experience something that few people ever achieve. By sharing your joy, in the form of volunteering & tutoring, listening to friends in need or simply smiling at anyone you meet, you help plant the seed of happiness in others.

So Eileen, with this you have to decide do you want to LIVE or simply exist? The choice is yours!  
~ HyPatia



Students celebrate the end of the day in New Orleans

### Did you know?

The President of the United States officially pardons a turkey on Thanksgiving and sends it off to live a long and oven-free life.



## November 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5 pm GT Choir "Lux Aeterna" St. Luke's Episcopal Ch.				THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	GT football at Georgia Athens
26	27	28	29	30		
				8 pm Variety Tech DramaTech		

## December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>Happy Holidays!</i>					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4-6 pm HP party			3-5 pm Boeing 787 Talk Ferst Center		8 pm Variety Tech DramaTech	8 pm Peter White Ferst Center
					Last Day of Classes 10 pm - 4 am Ramblin Nights- Fri. Nt. Lights CRC	11 am & 2 pm Dan Zane & Friends Ferst Center
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Final exams	Final exams	Final exams	Final exams	Final exams	Final exams	HAVE A GREAT BREAK! 
					8 pm Boys of the Lough Ferst Center	
						ACC Chmp. Game Jacksonville, FL

# Arts & Leisure

## High Expectations

by Sarah Gilbreath



The long-awaited Louvre exhibit is finally on display at the High Museum of Art. The well-publicized event draws quite a crowd. Combined with the fact that it is located not on the top floor, where traveling exhibits typically go, but is instead in a separate building, it all builds up to something very exciting. Unfortunately, the exhibit proved to be a huge letdown.

The audience enters first through a gallery of busts, all of which are obviously replicas of the original (large alphanumeric scribbling on the backs rather destroys the art of it all). While there are a few recognizable pieces, a good number are of unnamed people by unknown artists.

After the busts, the crowd begins with the framed art. Sepia-toned sketches line the walls on yellowing paper, and for a while, it looks nice. In order to get close, however, guests must endure a long, single-file line that wraps around the rooms and moves at a steady pace. It gives the guest only about thirty seconds to look at each piece if they don't want to block the line. Sadly, this is more than enough time to contemplate the simple sketches. According to the audio tour that accompanies all the High's traveling exhibits, almost all of the drawings were only practice for the real paintings, making nearly all simple, incomplete, and obviously not the artists' best efforts.

Continuing on through the badly laid-out exhibit (upon entering each new section, it's easy to get confused as to which room to enter), the visitor is confronted with more sketches...and more sketches...and still more sketches. There are a precious few figurines, but most of the art remains casual drawings (or, as in one case, a flat-out doodle). It is not until the very last of the rooms that the guest gets to see finished artwork in the form of paintings – there are about eight of these, total.

In short, the exhibit was a disappointment. Few of the works are finished, and so many sketches of the same size and hue grow tiresome. It was a weak way to start a partnership between the Louvre and the High, but hopefully future exhibits will be better...much, much better.

### Heard in Howell (or thereabouts)

“Wow, it's 5 already? Do you think Brittain is still serving breakfast?” (That's 5 p.m., folks.)

“I'm not kidding! I've been making absolutely fabulous, spectacular, amazing mistakes!”

*Do you have an “absolutely fabulous, spectacular, amazing” Heard quote? Send it to monica.balka@gatech.edu. Include “Heard in Howell” in the subject line.*



Leaves, Forsyth County, Georgia

Photo by Maddie Stoddart

## Message from the Director

BY DR. GREG NOBLES, DIRECTOR

Some students may still not know about one of the best benefits of the Honors Program – the Student Challenge Fund. Thanks to the generosity of the Provost's Office, we have a decent-sized pot of money available to HP students for special activities and start-up projects. One student, for instance, has already tapped into the fund to support his participation in a conference on sustainability. Another will draw upon the fund to help him organize an on-campus concert of New Orleans music to benefit Habitat for Humanity in Louisiana. These are exactly the sorts of projects for which we created the Student Challenge Fund, and we look forward to supporting similar examples of student imagination and initiative.

The application process is easy. Any HP student or group of HP students (which can include non-HP students as well) simply submits a written proposal for some intellectually or socially useful activity, describing the nature of the project, laying out a plan of implementation, and providing a budget. Ideally, the request for HP funding will help match or supplement funds secured elsewhere, either from another campus group, an off-campus source, or one's own pocket. The proposal will go to the Honors Program Advisory Committee for review, and the response should come quickly and reasonably free of red tape. The Student Challenge Fund represents a wonderful and uncommon opportunity for HP students to find financial support for good ideas, and we look forward to seeing more proposals in the near future.

Let me also take note of the good words President Clough had to say about the Honors Program in his recent State of the Institute address:



**“This fall we have begun an Honors Program for outstanding first and second year students who want an intense education experience that extends beyond the classroom. As we launched this program, we were simultaneously recruiting this year's freshman class, and we quickly realized that the Honors Program was helping us recruit outstanding students who otehrwise would not have chosen to come to Georgia Tech. I met with the Honors Program students and their parents last week, and came away very impressed wth the caliber and energy of these young people. And I realized that we had opened yet another door of opportunity for students to expand their talents and abilities. The Honors Program is brand new, so we will be learning from our early experiences with it and will continue to shape it as we go, but it is off to a very exciting start.”**

Once again, we do appreciate the energetic and engaging participation of the many HP students who made such a positive impression on the president – nothing surprising, we realize, but certainly very gratifying.



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