



HONORS

PROGRAM

October 13, 2006

THE VIEW FROM HERE

BY DR. MONICA HALKA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Former Princeton president Robert Goheen said, “If you feel that you have both feet planted on solid ground, then the university has failed you.” On that basis it’s pretty clear at midterm here that Tech would earn an A+. After six weeks of exposure to all the angst and stress the transition to college life entails, it’s no wonder that many new students feel like they’re treading on shaky terrain. Fortunately, Honors Program students have a refuge in Howell Hall, as depicted by student Dani Slaton in her essay excerpted below. It has turned out to be a place to vent, to share and to calm down and get re-centered.



No, our students aren’t sailing through their courses. The classes are tough and the homework is tough. But we have heard so many kudos for the teachers, teaching assistants and tutors that we’re not worried. Enthusiasm for the program is also high with a great turnout for our recent reception with President Clough, described by Carola Conces in this issue. We have had student proposals for activities ranging from rooftop gardens to skydiving research to helping at a soup kitchen. Plans are in the works to help turn these diverse ideas to realities.

Proposals from faculty to teach Honors Program interdisciplinary seminar courses in the spring have been pouring in. Our next reception, tentatively scheduled for noon on November 2, will fill you in on the details. So tune in, read on, and get hyped.

Honored Spaces

BY DANI SLATON

“I’ve got it!” a student cries as he steps away from a large whiteboard covered with Greek lettering and red scribbles of frustration. Several heads turn and nod congratulations while a few students in the corner chuckle and give a soft, short-lived round of applause. The smell of Chinese takeout and fresh coffee mixes with the aroma of whatever new concoction has boiled its way onto the stove in the kitchen. The lights and sounds of the city flood carelessly through an open window and silhouette a trio of students gazing out into the

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Heard In Howell

Say What??

Have you ever been surprised by your ears in and around your dorm, dining hall, and classes? Want to share the classics with others? Email appropriate funnies to monica.halka@gatech.edu for inclusion in future newsletters. Include subject line “Heard in Howell”.

FEATURED STUDENTS

Kim Hill

A new member of the Competition Step Team, Kim Hill hails from Atlanta and is majoring in mechanical engineering. She loves music of all genres, bowling, sudoku puzzles and quad-living. “We all get along extremely well and hang out together like sisters.” Her favorite GT Class? Honors Calculus I. “I really can’t believe that this is my favorite class. It requires the most time and causes the most headaches and is probably my lowest grade, but I love how I am learning calculus. I know that I will truly understand the concepts. I get excited when I realize that I have just learned something completely new.” This passion for learning combined with her many extracurricular activities – Admissions Office Freshman Blogger, member of the African American Student Union, National Society of Black Engineers Academic Excellence Committee and Admissions Office Minority Recruitment Team – motivated us to feature her in this issue. You go girl!



Liam Rattray & Daniel Soloway

Prospective engineers, Liam Rattray and Daniel Soloway, are working to start a Rooftop Garden Initiative here at



Georgia Tech with the goal of spreading sustainable design principles. “We believe that Georgia Tech is in a unique position to create a model campus of environmental and social consciousness and we hope that this catches on with campuses and communities around the world.” Rooftop gardens, especially in urban areas, are beneficial to society and the environment in many ways. Urban rooftop gardens can provide fresh produce for local food banks, act as pollution sinks, increase thermal and therefore energy efficiencies, reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce storm-water runoff, and add to the aesthetic values of the building. Their hope is that the gardens, once implemented around campus, can be further utilized for sustainable design research and will set an example for the greater community of Atlanta and communities around the world.

Honored Spaces (cont.)

night. Entering Howell study lounge I am surrounded by students; some dressed in sweats and pajamas finishing homework, and others arriving exhausted from a long day of classes and looking to unwind. This space has the power to unite one-hundred college freshmen like no other—this is a sacred space.

Sacred spaces “exemplify, typify, reinforce, and perhaps even extol everyday life patterns and special rituals of community life.” They not only unite a group of people, but do so in a way that the people feel they could not do without them; they become necessities for comfort and stability. These spaces exist in all communities of all sizes; the central landmark in a large city, the silent movie theatre in a budding small town, the non-smoking section in every local restaurant, or the three-foot radius surrounding the water cooler in an office break room. Each of these spaces holds the sacred quality in a local community; the Howell study lounge does so with its freshmen honors residents.

(Coming soon: read the rest of this compelling essay by clicking on “Articulations” on the HP website.)

Arts & Leisure

RAVE Review

by Sarah Gilbreath

It's official: "Rocktober" is here. This month was kicked off to a great start with this year's first Bro-Ho rave on Friday the 6th (naturally, the night of the full moon). The familiar Brittain Rec center was transformed into a club complete with a strobe light, fog machine and glowsticks, which were handed out to attendees as they entered. With snacks aplenty and music expertly provided by the deejay of the night, RJ, everything was set for a wild party.

Unfortunately, there was one major snafu: the heat, which was apparently stuck at 85°. While tolerable if standing still at the snack table or being a wallflower, the temperature made it practically impossible for anyone to dance for more than a few songs before needing to escape outside to the cool air for a few minutes. It also kept the room from filling up, as the added body heat made the situation barely tolerable. Many people left, making dancing (often as one of only four or five people on the floor) somewhat less than thrilling.

Still, the music was awesome, the fog machine was cool, and the strobe light gave the breakdancing contest extra pizzazz. Overall, it was a great idea on the part of the Bro-Ho Council members, and provided a fun, free activity that required little advanced planning (which can be an issue, considering how busy HP students are). Had it not been for the heat, which was no one's fault, it would have been an all-out success. A few suggestions for next time: see if the heat can be fixed, have a little more variety in the snacks (candy is always good), and get MORE GLOWSTICKS!



Foreverland

a poem by Chris Olson

The children wake every morning and laugh,
for tomorrow they will be children.
Compounding day upon day,
forever time is with them.
In a land without time,
the sun lacks its cession.
The day-to-night cycle has halted progression.
The adults are content.
The monotony will please them.
Their minds are at ease and their hearts are at peace since
the certainty of tomorrow is forever guaranteed.
From worry, hope, and potential loss they have all been freed.
The sun will sit in silence, a menacing display,
to light the sky and sear the land with everlasting day.
The oceans, seas, and rivers are tortured by the sky,
as water breaks free of its earthly cell and, in pieces, learns to fly.
Scars run deep within the land as flesh cut with the driest knife.
The wound takes time, but time they had,
for time is the essence of life.
And slowly, but surely, the adults fade.
The children cry for want of shade.
This is Foreverland, where all are saved:
Preserved in silence under eternal day.

Conversant with Clough

BY CAROLA CONCES



The Honors Program was honored (fittingly enough) to receive Georgia Tech's President Wayne Clough on Thursday, October 5. A large group of Honors Program students and faculty gathered in Brittain Rec to hear the President's advice and aspirations for the program and the university. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and introduce themselves after President Clough's speech.



The crowd appreciated President Clough's story of what makes a Georgia Tech graduate unique. When he was a PhD student at the University of California, Berkley, he needed to enter a building for a meeting, but the door was locked. Everyone else attending the meeting just stood helplessly at the door, while Clough used his Tech resourcefulness to walk around the building and find another entrance: a window.

President Clough is pleased with Tech's growth and changes in recent decades. He emphasized his pride that Tech is no longer the "cookie-cutter institution" it was when he graduated with a B.S. in civil engineering in '64 and an M.S. in '65. He hopes that the breadth and depth of opportunities for Honors Program students and all students will continue to expand.

Sports Spot



The Georgia Tech women's cross country team traveled to Louisville, KY, on September 30 for the Greater Louisville Cross Country Classic. The Lady Jackets finished first out of 31 teams! Honors Program student

Carola Conces was the Jackets' sixth runner, finishing the 5k race in 19:03.

**"Try not to write nonsense"
- Dr. Fred Andrew**

GeT HyPed

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