

FOCUS

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BAMBOO CEILING

Is Eastern culture and tradition actually holding Asian-Americans back from success in corporate America? Page 14

PHANTOM AT FOX

The drama, action and romance of *The Phantom of the Opera* hits the Atlanta theatre scene. Page 23



Tech explores educational prospects in India, China

Students may soon take classes in East Asia thanks to planned overseas campus expansion forays

By Usha Kantheti
Contributing Writer

"Georgia Tech will define the technological research university of the twenty-first century and educate the leaders of a technologically-driven world," said President Wayne Clough in his State of the Institute address in 2004.

So it comes as no surprise that Tech embarked on this very mission by exploring educational opportunities stretching far beyond U.S. border and into China and India.

Tech's initiatives in China began earlier this year. Dean Terry Blum of the College of Management, along with other faculty members, made the trip to China in May.

They visited Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai and Tsinghua University and Peking University in Beijing—China's elite universities.

The faculty at the College of Management was "very interested in bringing a two-way handshake between China and the United States in terms of educational opportunities and other collaborations," Blum said.

The Georgia Tech team was well received at the Chinese universi-

ties, who were eager to build an educational relationship with the United States.

"They couldn't have been more cordial [in their reception]," Blum said. "Georgia Tech's reputation [in China] is absolutely outstanding."

A university delegation has since returned the visit. "We have two colleagues from Shanghai Jiao Tong who are in residence here for the semester...taking some classes

"Georgia Tech's reputation [in China] is absolutely outstanding."

Terry Blum
Dean, College of Management

and collaborating with the faculty. So the relationship is moving along quite quickly," Blum said.

Although there are currently study abroad programs in China, Blum said that this new initiative will be much more in-depth and will involve learning the language and culture as much as learning

field-related courses.

"It's not just an add-on to the degree; it's a different flavor of a degree," Blum said. "I think this is going to change the content of what's being learned."

The team expects to open a Tech campus in China; however, no plans regarding the scope of this program are final.

"We will go everywhere from the possibility of Georgia Tech degrees all the way down to a year...or a week experience," Blum said.

"It's the continuum of possibilities and opportunities for students to experience learning for the new world order; it is not a one-size-fits-all."

There are similar talks underway between Tech and the Indian government to open a Tech campus in India.

GT in India, a committee appointed by the Provost to head this initiative, visited the country in December 2004.

The Committee toured several cities in India and met with state and central government officials.

"We see ourselves as a partner with the [Indian] government and the industry to facilitate economic development, research, and joint benefits," said Vijay Madisetti, Pro-



Photo courtesy of Terry Blum

Dean Blum recently visited China to talk to the country's top three universities about possibilities of expanding Tech's campus to Asia.

fessor and Chair of GT in India.

"Georgia Tech is highly regarded as a technological university," Madisetti said.

"Tech is uniquely positioned because its focus adds to its advantage. They know exactly why we're there: for technology."

Many companies, such as Mo-

torola and Texas Instruments, have thousands of engineers in India, Madisetti said, but lack the supporting infrastructure in research and development.

"By positioning ourselves so that we are on the ground there first as a

See India, page 13

Students move garage sales to new domain—cyberspace

eBay, USPS aid students in selling anything from textbooks to campers in online business ventures



Photo courtesy eBay

A high-tech renovated school bus is used outside an eBay Small Business tour with special presentations by experts. It is used to teach budding entrepreneurs to use eBay and the USPS for small businesses.

By Swathy Prithivi
Focus Editor

Worried about the mounting textbook costs? Concerned about low buyback prices for used textbooks? Well you're not alone.

The findings of a recent survey in August 2005 by Half.com by eBay showed that about 55 percent of college students this year will dip into savings to pay for textbooks.

The survey also showed that one in six students avoided taking or dropped a class because the textbooks were too expensive.

It also doesn't help having two-thirds of the students surveyed classify themselves as "financially breaking even" or "flat broke" in

spite of having more than 75 percent of students working full-time or part-time.

Starting a small business buying and selling used textbooks would be an ideal way to earn or save some money.

Students can now do that, with relatively less effort than other entrepreneurial ventures, through eBay and Half.com. Over 724,000 people are currently earning a primary or secondary income selling on eBay.

eBay and the United States Postal Service (USPS) recently conducted a Small Business Tour in the Atlanta area to teach and train their customers in methodologies for growing their online business by bringing in experts from eBay, USPS and

Entrepreneur magazine.

"I've sold ten and thousands of items on eBay ranging from very small tiny things to vehicles, motor cycles. I've even sent a 40-foot camper to Paris, France. Just illustrates that a world wide market is there," said Robert Kopczynski, a postal employee and a trainer, said.

"I think students have a great head start to the general public because of their computer skills."

"College textbooks are a huge market on eBay and with college kids paying for their own books, I would not hesitate in selling them on Half.com or eBay immediately since they go out of date," Kopczynski said.

"Enough textbooks sell in a year on Half.com to place a book on

every seat of every Division I-A & I-AA college football stadium in the U.S.," said Ali Croft from eBay and Half.com's Corporate Communications team.

"Find the best way to sell your books, depending on the condition of your book and how many other books are out there," Croft said.

"I would say start small. Just plan on the growth because as much work as you're willing to do, there are people out there who will come and buy your item," Kopczynski said.

"The trend I've noticed among college students is that after a summer job or a break job they come home and talk to their parents. They raid the attic or basement and find suitable items to sell on eBay and work out some sort of split

lars over the summer doing it."

Randall Pinson is another believer. He was a junior in the University of Utah when he discovered eBay.

When stuck with a large load of cell phones that were worthless to the cell phone store he was working in, he set up an account on eBay and posted his merchandise. His phones quickly sold netting him a profit of \$100 per phone.

"As a student it was fantastic because I could do business 24 hours a day, seven days a week and I didn't have to be there. The computer system managed the whole thing. Rather than waiting tables, I worked about four to five hours a day on this," Pinson said.

He began selling on eBay full-time shortly thereafter and later started his own company, starting first with a sole proprietorship which later on became 'Rocket Auctions, Incorporated'.

Pinson continues to manage his business and has now expanded to training new users to sell and develop their own businesses.

"Running a small business isn't all that difficult, just the technicalities of setting it up," Pinson said.

Both Kopczynski and Pinson have plenty of tips to pass on to budding entrepreneurs.

"Do market research, probably the most important thing if you are buying newer items. Don't price your items too cheaply. Begin your auctions at a price that you're comfortable getting for that item," Kopczynski said.

"Research first and then sell.

See eBay, page 12

"As a student, it was fantastic because I could do business 24 hours a day, seven days a week and I didn't have to be there."

Randall Pinson
Founder, Rocket Auctions Incorporated

with them."

"I had one student tell me that his grandmother said, 'Honey, take whatever is in the attic and sell it on eBay' and he made about 5000 dol-

eBay from page 11

Researching is the key to understanding the market value of a product,” Pinson said.

He also warn students of the many dangers of doing online business.

“Make no transactions off of eBay. When someone emails you and says they want to make the transaction off of eBay that should raise a red flag as that would probably turn into fraud,” Pinson said.

“Get a tax ID number and report taxes. There are rules, follow them.

eBay and Paypal are secure and if you go outside the protection zone, you lose money.”

“Manage risk. Making a big mistake at the beginning dampers one’s spirit.”

Both of them do advocate trading internationally but urge exercising

caution.

“The major pitfall would be not recognizing the world market. It is certainly worth the couple of extra steps to post a package overseas anywhere for the amount of profit you’ll make by opening up to say, Asia,” Kopczynski said.

“Be careful when conducting business internationally as you make a lot of money but you can also lose a lot of money internationally,” Pinson said.

“Be extra careful on international deals. If it’s too good to be true it probably is.”

Come to the *Technique* Photo meetings
Thursday at 6 p.m. in Room 137
of the Flag Building.
It too has pizza, drinks and no experience
necessary.

India

from page 11

research university...we are able to work with these leading companies and establish relationships long before others can get there," he said.

But why China and India?

Growing economies and the demographics of both countries certainly play a major role.

With the major portion of the world economy shifting toward China and India, "there is a Western interest to go where the action is," Madiseti said.

"It's an area of the world where things are happening and we need to remain competitive by learning about that," Blum said.

"The economy is growing, it's more open than ever before, and there are also issues related to environment and sustainability that are very important to Georgia Tech."

Language was also a key factor in helping build relationships with

the two countries.

"...I have several Mandarin-speaking [members of] faculty in the College of Management and they were very keen on making the partnership," Blum said.

With India the lack of a language barrier adds to its advantage.

Having English-speaking graduates is a key benefit for research as well as industry according to Madiseti.

Both Madiseti and Blum foresee a plethora of opportunities in Asia for Tech students.

By going abroad to areas where there is a large market Tech gains intellectual property.

"When you have an idea such as Google, you can convert it to money and jobs," Madiseti said.

Incidentally, Tech graduate Krishna Bharat (Ph.D. in Computer Science, 1996) did exactly that as the inventor of Google News and the current head of Google India's R&D Center.

Current students are already seeing a potential of opening Tech campuses in Asia.

"We see ourselves as a partner with the [Indian] government and the industry to facilitate economic development, research, and joint benefits."

Vijay Madiseti
Chair, GT in India

"One of the plus points of having a campus in China is that there's a lot of industry, [which gives students] a lot of practical experience," said Anirudh Mathur, a third-year Industrial

Engineering major who took part in the study abroad program in Beijing last summer.

"There's a 'what's in it for us' question when we have graduates who truly understand that they could be leaders," Blum said.

"They need to learn about the forces changing the world and the applications to make it a better and more secure world."

"Things are developing so rapidly," said Katherine Fong, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering major, who also studied in China over the summer.

"In order to work nowadays, you need to have a more international background," Fong said.

Blum and Madiseti said that the leadership of Georgia Tech has been a guiding factor in these endeavors.

In encouraging educational opportunities abroad, Tech is making progress in its strategic plan.

The plans for both India and



By Ayan Kishore / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Professor Mitra visited India to explore potential educational opportunities for Tech in Asia.

China are still in the developing phase and are not final until announced.

"We have a lot of units [at Tech] doing things independently...but we're all keeping each other informed of what's going on," Blum said.

"We are retaining the possibility of going alone as a college or going as part of a bigger Georgia Tech phenomenon."

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Bamboo ceilings for Asian-Americans: reality or myth?

By Yang Lin
Contributing Writer

Cultural differences between Asian cultures and the Western world are abound.

“Asian students usually try to give correct answers whereas other students try to express their opinions on the subject matter,” said Dr. Minjae Song, an assistant professor in Economics.

“When I ask questions, Asian students are worried that the answers are not something I expect, and they are ready to modify their answers on my reaction; [other students] care less about what I think, they just want to express their opinions.”

“I think this is something Asian-Americans should learn, to be unafraid of being wrong. I think it makes a big difference.”

“It comes down to the ability

to present to people, to appeal to higher level of management, and that’s something lacking in Asian cultures in general,” said Abhay Saboo, a Tech graduate who works

“I think this is something Asian-Americans should learn, to be unafraid of being wrong ”

Dr. Minjae Song
ECON Assistant Professor

for GE Healthcare.

However, Dr. Yadong Wang, an assistant professor of Biomedical Engineering, thinks modesty, or lack of self-promotion, will not stall

one’s career for very long.

“[It] will hold you back in the short term, maybe for a couple of years,” Wang said.

“In the end, it’s what you have done that sets you apart, either in a corporate environment or in academic institutions.”

How do Asian-Americans find a balance between preserving cultural values and succeeding in corporate America?

“My manager encouraged me to take more risks. In a corporate environment, [it is] important to be aggressive and assertive,” said Hua Mei Chai, a Biomedical engineering senior.

“Basically, you have to be clear and show what you have accomplished and in cases where people are trying to take credit away from you, you should definitely fight for it,” Wang said.

A recent book titled *Breaking*

the Bamboo Ceiling by Jane Hyun, a former human resources executive, provides assessment for weaknesses,

“In the end, it’s what you have done that sets you apart, either in a corporate environment or in academic institutions.”

Dr. Yadong Wang
BME Assistant Professor

success strategies and case studies that can guide Asian Americans corporate success by leveraging their Eastern core values and traits.

However, climbing up the corporate ladder is really a two-sided effort.

According to Hyun, companies are putting heavier emphasis on diversity and inclusive leadership in today’s globalized society .

Employers are more conscious of the multicultural work environment and dynamics.

“We should educate Asian-Americans about self-promotion. But as a society, we should also educate employers to understand these cultural differences,” Song said.

“There are cultural differences that we cannot ignore. If you think the difference is inferior, then you lose confidence in yourself.”

“But when you are ready to accept the differences, you are ready to succeed.”

“Difference might be a factor to help you succeed in today’s society,” Song said.

WRC director finds 'inner geek' through work

By Swathy Prithivi
Focus Editor

Yvette Upton is the Assistant Dean of Students and the Director of the Women's Resource Center (WRC). She joined Tech in 2000 with a masters in women's studies from Georgia State University.

How was your experience of fitting into Tech, sometimes called "North Avenue Trade School" in jest, as a member of the staff with a liberal arts background?

It is very different from my college experience. But most of us working at Tech like finding our "inner geek" as [we] call it.

I have a lot of interest in science fiction, crazy TV shows and I actually found it easy to connect with the people on campus as we have a lot of things in common.

Are Tech students really nerds?

I think Tech students are very smart. In our culture, that can be perceived as being nerdy.

But I think Tech students are also really fun and interesting and they're good at a lot of different things so I don't know. Maybe.

What are the drawbacks of Tech students as you see it?

I think the drawbacks can be that some Tech students don't communicate as well.

I think that can be challenging in working with relationships.

If we can help people have a better understanding of how to communicate then that could help

address some of those issues.

In all the years that you've worked with students, what frustrates you the most about them?

I think the thing that annoys me the most about working with students is hearing the same issue from the women that I work with.

It's really frustrating that I continue to have women who come into our office because they have been assaulted or harassed; that members of our community will disrespect other students in our community because they feel that is okay in some way...that's really challenging.

What about flippant annoyances?

The overwhelming optimism of students who think "we can do too much, we can do one more task, take one more class, volunteer or be president of one more organization."

I've seen students get really burnt out from that and I identify with it because I do it myself.

But I think that is a huge annoyance because it's challenging for them, it stresses them out and they usually don't do as well as they could do because they are doing too much.

Your master's thesis in women's studies explored the lives of 19 Tech women. What drew you to the subject of Tech women in particular?

Tech women were not my stereotype of what I thought they would be like. I thought I would come in and see a lot of women who were trailblazers, who knew they were going to an all male environment and were comfortable with it, very strong and tough women.

What I saw was that they were very normal and just like every woman out there with a wide range of personalities and characteristics and not realizing that they were walking into a place that was a lot harder than they were expecting it to be.

Men reading this will probably be frustrated and say "It's hard for men too. Tech is just a hard place." And that's true.

But there things about our cul-

ture here at Tech that are just very masculine and because they are men, it's harder to see that.

It was very interesting for me to try and figure out who are these women I [was] trying to work with and how I reach out to them and make sure that they are having a great experience here at Tech.

So that's why I chose it.

Do you think that it is hard being a woman at Tech today?

Women here at Tech are very capable of doing the level of work that is required of Tech.

I think what makes it harder is this masculine environment, most of which is not overt sexism.

It's really more the climate or the culture of how our campus operates and that's a lot harder for students to identify, which might be making it a bit more challenging for them.

Of course a lot of women here go through their entire time at Tech and don't feel that they've had any problems here as women. That needs to be said too.

How do you think the men at Tech perceive the WRC?

We have a lot of men involved in the Center. A lot of our events have about 40 percent male attendance.

I think there's certainly interest from them about what we do. I hope that men would see it as a place that is trying to make Tech a more supportive campus and not a place that is, in any way, negative towards them.

Are women superior to men?
No.



By Julia Bunch / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Yvette Upton, Assistant Dean and Director of the WRC poses in front of the beaded curtain in the WRC office. Her five years at Tech have served to change her perception of the typical Tech woman.

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE ON CAMPUS THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN?

Email focus@technique.gatech.edu if you think you know the answer; check to see if you won in the next issue.

Answer to previous Tech Up Close:
Bell next to ROTC building on East Campus
Last week's winner:
Matthew E. Guidry

Tech Up Close

THIS WEEK'S PHOTO:



By Ariel Bravy / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

Kilroy was here
name one cheerful fact
about the square of the hy-
potenuse.
with blood, hunger and lust, I
succumb to my mortality
Where's Dave Barry? I miss
him...
I rule...
that was one sexy pirate on
skiles...
I am the skiles pirate
"Proud and insolent youth,"
[Tech] said, "prepare to meet
thy doom!"
"Dark and sinister man," [I]
answered, "have at thee."
The above quotes were pil-
laged from JABArrie without
his permission.
How moral is it, to offer the
truth, even when it is unwar-
ranted?
cactus and stuff
whatever happend to gtf?
I thought Auburn was sup-
posed to be good at foot-
ball...
Alcohol is the answer... 42
was wrong
Housing Maintenance is SO
SLOW
does georgia tech have some-
thing against hiring profes-
sors that speak english?
using speach recognition to
their native language and then
using an online translation
service to
convert it to english would be
easier to understand
who's gona get
igotshafted@gatech.edu?
I cling because I know bet-
ter.
Eeewww! That dorm fur-
niture needs to be thrown
out! Couldn't Housing put
some dehydrating elements
in the unused dorms to dry
them out?
Dear idiot tech fans, YOU
DONT PULL OUT YOUR
KEYS AT AN AWAY
GAME
If you must pull out your
keys at a home game, DO
IT WITH LESS THAN A
MINUTE LEFT, NOT 4
Do you honestly expect to sit
in your designated seat in a
student section? get real

See page 22 for
more Slivers

Students seek best study spots across campus

By Melissa Cataldo
Senior Staff Writer

A separation between your relaxation space, such as your room, and your work promotes psychological well-being and a sense of peace for some, or at least that's what the ancient art of Feng Shui seems to say.

So here are the best study spots around campus outside of your dorm room:

Barnes & Noble at Tech Square

Starbucks - the aroma of coffee floating in the air, comfortable couches, wireless connection, pastries and drinks on demand. Does one need to say more? The tables and couches near the fireplace on the second floor provide a calming alternative to the incessant chatter and the noisy coffee mill.

Love Building

With its multi-story windows and several tables to work at, the common area of the Love building on West Campus makes a convenient and bright study spot.

This spot is especially good if you hate fluorescent lights (there's lots of natural light) and need a table to lay out your materials. It is one of the more pleasant and attractive academic buildings.

Bleachers over the CRC pool



By Andrew Saulters / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sam Ozburn (left), fourth-year Public Policy major and Luc Castera (right), Electrical Engineering graduate student, get some studying accomplished at Tech Square Starbucks and the library respectively.

A little weird but some people study here nonetheless. The pool may offer some change of scenery to the extremely bored. It's quiet and there are plenty of seats, just don't get distracted watching the divers.

Top floors of the library

If you keep climbing those stairs, you will notice a) the upper floors of the library are empty, and b) you are somewhat disoriented since the floor-plans just keep repeating them-

selves, but with slight deviations, so you think you're always in the same place, just a different, quieter dimension.

Empty conference rooms

Unlocked conference rooms have big tables, comfortable chairs, and a large white board. They are easy to get into and are in major buildings like the IC, MARC, Woodruff etc. Make sure to put up the occupied sign that most of the rooms have.

One drawback would be angry or confused professors, who may stumble in.

City Café

A relatively decent dining establishment famed more for its hours and convenience than its coffee, which tastes like they filter the grinds with dishwater. Except for late on weekend nights, this 24-hour diner is relatively quiet and not crowded, but still active enough to keep you from

slowing down. The coffee can keep you awake, and there are heaping platters of food if you get hungry. This is a good meeting spot if you need to discuss a project with teammates. The blue neon lighting and giant cakes make this diner cooler than the library.

Deck outside Einstein's Bagels

This relatively quiet deck connected to the side of the Student Center Commons offers one of the best views on campus. Tucked back among trees, flowers and lawn, you can watch the people on Skiles Walkway and still feel semi-secluded.

There are tables, chairs and benches, and this is the perfect spot to go between classes during the morning to early afternoon to read or study.

The deck is conducive to both quiet discussion and solitary reading.

Sometimes you just need to escape your room when you have to do work. A little fresh air and the walk to a new spot may be all you need to refresh your brain.

Tech offers countless unconventional and quiet spots in which to steal away, so don't let a noisy roommate or an aversion to the library be an excuse when it comes to studying.

Make Tech yours by seeking out odd or new places; studying can be an excuse to explore more in and around campus.