



HONORS

PROGRAM

October 25, 2007

THE VIEW FROM HERE

BY DR. MONICA HALKA

Midterm has come and gone without nearly as much panic as might have been expected, so our new students must be adjusting fairly easily. This can surely be attributed mostly to the dedicated, if informal, mentorship by our second-year students. The HP Freshman Retreat, planned and facilitated by about a dozen of our second-years, was a giant success and we hope to do it again next year. Another first this year is an HP section of GT1000. The HP staff and team leaders are really enjoying these meetings. Our new students have as much vigor and engagement as we expected. Many have a strong interest in sustainability on campus and “greening” the Honors Program. To that end, lots of projects are in the works: a carbon reduction student committee has been formed; a site adjacent to Howell Hall has been selected for a sustainability test garden; six bicycles are available for HP student use; and recycling initiatives are up and running. If you have other ideas (and we know you do), please bring them to our attention!



Sophomores dish up food and fun at HP retreat

Spring '08 HP Course Offerings

An informational luncheon :
November 6 at 11am
D.M. Smith 105

Information will be presented
regarding both core and
special topics classes.

Fifty Years in the Final Frontier: *Half a Century in Space*

BY SARAH GILBREATH

This month reminds us of a momentous occasion – a very special anniversary indeed. You may not have any clue why, but your parents probably do. Fifty years ago, on October 4, humankind broke its terrestrial constraints when a group of “Comms” hurled a black beeping ball into the night sky. It may not have made that many contributions to science, but that ball was the original small step for man, and this year marks its golden anniversary: fifty years since the launch of Sputnik. Not only is this month a landmark for Sputnik, but it’s also the 49th anniversary of NASA, which was established on October 1st, 1958. Now if only

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Speaking out with One Voice

BY CAROLA CONCES

Several weeks ago my roommate and HP student Beth West walked into our apartment carrying a bag of scrap fabric. She told me that the scraps were wrist bands for a human trafficking awareness campaign and handed me one as she listed some shocking facts. In the United States, 300,000 children are victims of sexual exploitation each year, and no city is worse than our very own Atlanta. In fact, one of the street corners with the highest incidence of human trafficking is the intersection of Peachtree and North Avenue, just blocks from Tech's East Campus. She directed me to the website www.womensagenda.com/Child_Prostitution.pdf to read more.

I previously knew almost nothing about human trafficking, and certainly didn't consider it a local problem. It was surprising and horrifying to learn that this tragic crime is occurring right here in our community. It is an issue that deserves a lot more attention than it gets. Awareness is the first step to change, and awareness levels are far too low. Now, Beth and others are aiming to change that.

In addition to the wrist bands, they are planning a rally in conjunction with the Honors Program. The event is called "One Voice," because it is an attempt to speak out for the voiceless victims of human trafficking. It will feature guest speakers, informational displays, and computers or paper for students to write emails or letters to their representatives. It is set for October 25 in Brittain Rec. You are highly encouraged to come by any time between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to lend your support and learn more about what you can do to help.

Going Green on Game Day: HPsters Pitch In

BY DARIN MCKENNA

At 9:45 AM last Saturday, five HP students met to save the world (or at least block or two). Sari Wolmer, Tristan Chin, Ben Keyserling, Darin McKenna, and David Akhigbe met before the homecoming game to help jump-start a new Game-Day Recycle Program. Joined by around eight student members of GT MOVE and SGA, they circumnavigated tailgaters, providing them with bags to recycle their cans and bottles and asking them to place their full bags on the street to be picked up at a later time. Their effort was welcomed warmly by the many tailgaters! There are plans to continue this program for the rest of this season and future seasons. All are welcome to participate, and we hope you will join us in this worthy effort. Watch for further announcements!

2007 Honors Program New Student Retreat



Prof. Joe Hughes provides words of wisdom to new HPsters

Arts & Leisure

Final Frontier (cont.)

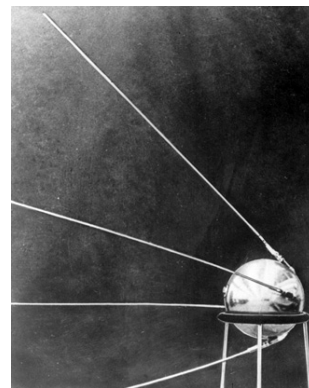
Global Drum Project

BY DR. MONICA HALKA

If you feel down in the dumps, low on energy, or generally lackadaisical, there's a cure. Just find a performance of Global Drum Project for an energy boost that beats several double-shot cappuccinos. But be cautious – it may be just as addictive.

Former Grateful Dead drummer, Mickey Hart, has gathered a group of percussionists from around the world to bring together rhythms that may never have been connected before. Sikiru Adepoju, from western Nigeria, enthralled the audience with the novel talking drum, so called because of the variety of pitches the drummer can produce by squeezing or releasing the strings that make up the body of the drum. We were also privileged to hear the world's preeminent tabla player, Indian Zakir Hussain. The unique sound of these drums comes from the unusual membrane with a clay circle near the center of the drumskin. The most amazing performance, however, was offered by the great Puerto Rican percussionist, Giovanni Hidalgo, whose handspeed on the congas was breathtaking.

Together, the Global Drum Project offered an hour of high energy, sometimes manic, sometimes zen-like thrumming. Just what I needed at the end of a long week. The show is highly recommended, but comes with a caveat – if you don't want to find yourself searching for a conga drum on ebay or Craigslist the next day, maybe you'd better stick with lighter fare.



Neil Armstrong had first set foot on the moon in October as well, we'd have had a real humdinger of a celebration on our hands (it was July 20, 1969). But in those fifty years humankind has done some amazing things. Our ships have seen the other side of the moon, have landed on other planets, have taken trips around our solar system...in fact, there's even one vessel that's currently in the process of leaving it. Perhaps it was a coincidence, but recently campus has been brimming with space-related events. Captain James Lovell, who was aboard the infamous Apollo 13 mission and was portrayed by Tom Hanks in the popular film made about it, recently came to campus to give an award and a speech. If you didn't attend the lecture, you missed out – he told the story of what it was like to really be in that spacecraft when everything was going wrong. Additionally, a few days before Capt. Lovell's arrival, a new club sprang up on campus – the Ramblin' Rocket Club. They're still getting started, so if you'd like to join, you'll be getting in on the ground floor. And of course, ongoing throughout the whole semester, we have an HP special topics course: The Challenges of Outer Space. From Atlanta, you could travel 150 miles north and get to Oak Ridge, Tennessee. You could go 150 miles west and end up in Sumiton, Alabama. You could go 150 miles east to Trenton, South Carolina. You could even go 150 miles south and be in Albany, still in Georgia. Or you could go up. 150 miles above the ground, just outside the upper atmosphere, is space. And, really, if given the choice, which would you pick?

