

FOCUS

Technique • Friday, March 2, 2007

WOMEN CONTINUE TO WIN

Women's basketball won their last two games against Longwood and Virginia. Next, they face Miami in the ACC tournament. **Page 25**

FAMOUS ACOUSTIC AT FERST

Jazz pianist Bela Fleck and banjo player Chick Corea played a sold out acoustic show at the Ferst Center for the Arts last Friday, Feb. 23. **Page 15**



Missing a step: DanceTech faces troubles

By Aileen Li
Staff Writer

Tech has a reputation for being one of the best and most challenging engineering schools in the nation, but its students can bust a move as well as solve differential equations.

There are currently several dance-oriented clubs on campus such as the Ballroom Dance Club, the Salsa Club and DanceTech.

Unfortunately, DanceTech is currently facing serious troubles due to various problems, including a lack of student participation.

Founded in 2003, DanceTech is a non-exclusive, stu-

dent-based dance club that seeks to bring dance and movement to Tech.

It is composed of an executive board and an ensemble, which includes dancers and choreographers.

DanceTech offers weekly dance workshops in ballet, jazz, modern dance and hip hop and produces a show every semester. There are no limits to how many classes a member can take, and all shows are open to Tech students, faculty and family.

"DanceTech is a performing dance organization. We focus more on show choreography and production, and each semester choreographers announce what skill

level their dance is

tailored to and what type of dance it will be," said Kristie DeLiso, second-year

Chemical Engineering major and vice president of DanceTech.

"DanceTech brought in a few very talented ballet-trained freshmen, but we also have an old-time shim sham dance and capoeira [a Brazilian martial arts style that is centered around dance]," DeLiso said.

Although DanceTech has planned a bright future for Tech's dancers, it is now facing significant problems in making that future a reality.

"Our main challenge right now is building a strong base of choreographers, dancers and leaders that are committed to putting on a great show and ensuring the financial and membership aspects of DanceTech," DeLiso said.

One of the major issues DanceTech is facing is the lack of a dedicated team and financial support.

"The members we have right now are great. But most club members just want to dance and not lend a hand in helping to run the club [or do things] like fundraising. Since the CRC started charging for studio space, we are at a loss for good practice rooms,"

DeLiso said.

However, the DanceTech team is working together to find solutions to these problems so the club can continue on campus.

"We are holding more regular teaching workshops to try to increase the diversity of our dances and interest in DanceTech from beginner dancers," DeLiso said.

DeLiso outlined other plans to improve the organization's situation.

"To raise money and increase attendance at our shows, we plan on holding raffles at our shows and better publicizing our club," she said.

Many DanceTech members think it is absolutely crucial to have the organization around on campus. They say that dancing is not only fun, but it is a great way to relax and get away from books and labs.

"I think that creativity is the basis for innovation, so why not start with the most creative outlets there are? [Being creative] helps build rounded and cultured people who are aware of the importance of every aspect of life," said Joanna Futral, a second-year Applied Mathematics major.

See **Dance**, page 12



By Julia Bunch / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A modern ensemble dances for a DanceTech production. The club's new show is in April.



By Julia Bunch / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

DanceTech members perform a fun, vibrant Latin dance at the Student Center ballroom.

Math contest recruits for future

By Giles Santomauro
Contributing Writer

Find the units digit of the following expression: $2007^{2007^{2007}}$.

Finalists had two minutes to solve this problem in the decisive tiebreaker round of the 2007 Tech High School Math Competition, which was held this past Saturday in the Instructional Center (for the mathematically-minded, the answer to the tiebreaker is seven).

More than 270 talented high school and eighth grade students from seven states competed in a series of math tests for trophies, bragging rights and, most notably, a total of \$10,000 in scholarships to Tech.

This year's event was hosted by Pi Mu Epsilon, Club Math and the School of Mathematics, and was meant in part as a recruitment tool to attract high-quality students to Tech and its math department.

Besides the stipulation that the awarded scholarships can only be used if the recipients matriculate at Tech, the event organizers also offered campus tours and admissions information for students who were not yet convinced that Tech is the right school for them.

First held in the fifties, the competition has changed significantly. Back then, the top prize was a brand new television set; last week, it was a \$2,500 individual scholarship.

What has stayed constant over the



By Amanda Thomas / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Chinua Shaw, a student from Sculley Academy, ponders a problem during the ciphering round of Tech's High School Math Competition.

years, however, has been the caliber of the contestants.

Harrison Brown, a junior at Centennial High School, won the top individual prize for the varsity competition, but only after grueling practice and preparation for the long day of testing.

Brown had to arrive at eight in the morning, take two hour-and-a-half long exams before being posted as a semifinalist and endure another

rigorous, two-hour, proof-based exam afterwards to be declared the winner.

"[However, it] was well worth the experience and the scholarship," Brown said.

Not surprisingly, Brown's high school also won the first place team award, besting the efforts of top contenders Rockdale Magnet and

See **Math**, page 12

Students work on Blue Planet Run for clean water

By Siwan Liu
Contributing Writer

For every problem there is a solution, and in a world where problems seem to increase exponentially, solutions are hard to come by. So what if someone told you that a cure for the world's single largest cause of human sickness and death had been discovered, and that 25,000 people a day, 400 children an hour, could be saved?

The problem: water is essential to life and supply is scarce. The solution here is the Blue Planet Run, an international relay event developed by the Blue Planet Foundation.

"Awareness is the biggest problem with this issue right now, because we have a solution. We have the ability to solve the problem, but in order to solve the problem we need funds, and you don't get funds unless people

know about it," said Patricia Breed, a former Tech student who now works as communications coordinator for ignition Inc., the experimental marketing agency hired to market and produce the Blue Planet Run, which will raise money and awareness for the water issue.

"Awareness is the biggest problem with this issue right now, because we have a solution."

Patricia Breed
Communications Coordinator, ignition Inc.

The Blue Planet Foundation itself is a non-profit whose main goal is to provide clean, sustainable water to third-world countries. It transports drinking water to areas in need through a structure called the Pure Water Exchange, which works with small, local non-governmental organizations as well as larger ones.

These organizations facilitate getting the water out to villages that pass the application process and are then reviewed on a yearly

See **Planet**, page 13

Tech celebrates Chinese New Year with gala

By Shikha Choudhury
Contributing Writer

Although New Year's celebrations may be over in the Western world, the parties are just beginning in much of the Eastern hemisphere. Chinese New Year, which is based on the lunar calendar, started Feb. 18 this year and lasts until the Lantern Festival two weeks after.

Also called the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, it is also celebrated in Korea, Vietnam, Mongolia, Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Tech students took a break from their rigorous coursework to usher in the new year, Asian-style, at the celebratory gala held in the Student



By Michael Skinner / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Dancers perform at the Chinese New Year



By Michael Skinner / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A pianist plays at the gala celebrating the Chinese New Year which was held in the Student Center Theater last Saturday evening.

Center Theater last Saturday.

"For the Chinese, the celebration is as extravagant and important as Christmas is to Christians," said Changshi Lao, a fifth-year Material Sciences Engineering graduate student and current president of the Chinese Friendship Association, which organized the gala.

According to the Chinese

zodiac, this year marks the Year of the Pig, which means that it will be a year of business, wealth and prosperity. Lao vividly described how in China, the streets are adorned with lanterns of exotic shapes and paraded by lion dancers while the skies are set ablaze with firecrackers during the New Year.

Tech's gala was meant to bring a taste of this celebratory flavor to campus. The gala featured a number of traditional Chinese dance and musical performances.

Daranhdara Hun, a fourth-year

See Chinese, page 14

Dance

from page 11

Futral joined DanceTech not long ago. Before coming to Tech, she was a part of Augusta Ballet's second company.

"[Dance] can be used simply to keep in shape in an interesting way, or it can be used to create something to express meaning," Futral said of her love for dance.

"I was a part of a dance team last year, but didn't find it as fulfilling as using dance to create an emotion... I think [DanceTech] has amazing potential, but it is hard to get people who want to commit time and effort to a dance group," Futral said.

DanceTech's upcoming spring performance, themed "A Blast from the Past," is free of charge to all Tech students and will be held April 20 in the Ferst Center for the Arts.

"I think the best thing that the student body can do to help is to show up to the performance and participate in the raffles. More than 80 percent of campus doesn't even know we exist," Futral said.

"If we can get over 500 people at our show in the Ferst Center we have a better chance of getting future SGA funding for renting out the Ferst Center. We just want the student body to know that we welcome everybody's membership, and it is never too late to join," DeLiso said.

To find out more about DanceTech, visit www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/dancetech or e-mail Kristie DeLiso at k.deliso@gatech.edu.

Math

from page 11

Athens Academy.

Professors and students from the School of Mathematics volunteered for the event, helping to grade the proof-based exams.

In addition, Club Math's Brian Benson, a second-year Applied Math major, put on a special presentation about collegiate-level math for the contestants while they anxiously awaited competition results.

Benson discovered his passion for mathematics while finishing his first bachelor's degree at Kennesaw State University. He drew from personal experience as he stressed the importance of considering a math degree to the competition's high schoolers.

"The idea is to get [these kids] to think about a major in math be-

cause so many of them gloss over it and don't realize its opportunities," Benson said.

Throughout the presentation, students were shown examples of graph theory, topics of current

"The idea is to get [these kids] to think about a major in math..."

Brian Benson
Second-year Applied Math

research and the broad range of career paths a math major has to choose from.

"A lot of students who excel in math see engineering as the only

practical outlet of their ability," Benson said.

He encouraged the students to explore the many opportunities that a degree in mathematics provides, such as pathways to graduate studies in law, finance and other sciences as well as engineering.

Has Tech's recruitment efforts toward these students paid off?

In some cases, that seems so. Jonathon Joe, a senior at Mount de Sales Academy, will be attending Tech next fall.

"The undergraduate discrete mathematics ranking of seventh in the nation made my decision especially easy since I plan on that being one of my dual majors," Joe said.

Participants spoke of other things that attracted them to Tech.

"I like the atmosphere, the people and its academics," said Emilio Saladar, a Centennial High School

junior, as he balanced a trophy in one hand and a notebook full of math work in the other.

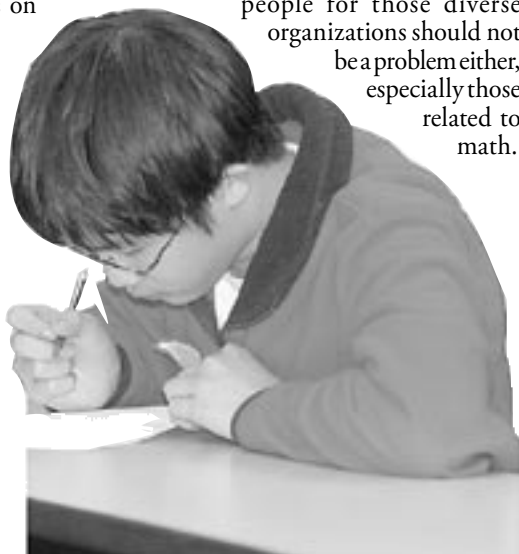
Saladar was impressed by the event and now plans on joining Club Math.

Other students said they are looking for a college that has a large diversity of organizations and clubs that can meet all of their individual interests.

At Tech, which offers more than 350 organizations, that should not be a

By Amanda Thomas / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Eric Chang works to solve a difficult problem during the math competition.



problem. And with events like the Tech High School Math Competition attracting talented students to campus every year, finding enough

people for those diverse organizations should not be a problem either, especially those related to math.

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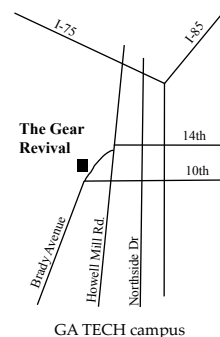
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GA TECH campus

Planet from page 11

basis.

Currently, the Blue Planet Foundation is looking into global expansion. With 23 water projects already under its belt, the foundation is trying to set up more programs.

Although the Blue Planet Run itself does not track into Georgia, the foundation is looking for ways to engage the people in the state, especially on college campuses, and it is also looking for people who want to contribute or maybe even start their own local relay for the cause.

The reality of the matter is that thousands of people die every day for lack of something as simple as clean water.

Also because of this, women are locked into roles that require them to walk up to six hours a day to find food and fresh water.

"It's very dangerous. Sometimes these women have to leave late at night or early in the morning, because they can't afford to be late. The water might run out," Swanburg said.

The foundation encourages people to help by donating to its cause. Just 25 dollars has the potential to provide safe drinking water to a person for the rest of his or her life.

"Twenty-five dollars is like going to lunch two days a week, and

"...if you can sacrifice going out to lunch two days a week to save a life, that's a pretty huge contribution."

Vicki Rokhlin
Third-year Management

if you can sacrifice going out to lunch two days a week to save a life, that's a pretty huge contribution," said Vicki Rokhlin, a third-year Management major.

Other things, little things, will also help, such as simply turning off

the water when brushing teeth or just telling a friend and spreading the word about the Blue Planet Run.

Last year, Rokhlin was invited to work as an intern on the Blue Planet Run project at Ignition Inc. Immediately after being introduced to it, she realized that this was what she wanted to do.

"It's a dream come true. You only hope that something can be so moving and so inspiring. I never knew you could combine philanthropy with business in such a cohesive way. To feel like what I'm doing, like the hours that I'm putting in, is working towards a common goal that will make a difference in the world is all that I can ask for," Rokhlin said.

So what exactly is the Blue Planet Run, and how does it work towards solving the problem?

The concept of this global relay challenge was devised by the Blue Planet Foundation's founder and chairman, Jin Zidell, who was inspired by the FIFA World Cup to use a sporting event to promote awareness, raise funds and draw people to the cause.

"[Jin] said that running is the



Photo courtesy of Blue Planet Foundation

Participants in the upcoming Blue Planet Run train for the world relay, which will raise money and awareness for the clean water issue.

simplest thing. It's actually really symbolic because women spend hours walking to get clean water, so the physical act of running really has something to do with it. Also, running is something someone can relate to on every continent; it's kind of like a universal non-verbal gesture," Rokhlin said.

Starting June 1st of this year in what is to be the first official Blue Planet Run, 20 qualified runners from all walks of life will join together and embark upon a journey that will take them through 16 countries and approximately 14,000 miles around the world in less than 100 days.

"The whole idea behind this project is incredible. The fact that there are people who want to do this, who believe in this, is amazing. [The Blue Planet Run] is something that's never been done before, and it sets the stage for events in the future," said Matt Swanburg, a fifth-year Management major at Tech and an Ignition Inc. intern who is also working on the Blue Planet Run project.

The 20 runners were chosen out of hundreds of applicants from around the world.

The current runners hail from six different continents, and the countries that they will blitz through include the United States, Poland, Belarus, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia, China, Japan and Russia.

Beginning the relay course in New York, the athletes will work their way east, roughly across the

41st parallel.

They will run through countries that are in need of water as well as countries that are not. According to Breed, the relay will essentially include five teams of four runners, and it will operate in an almost leapfrog-like system.

When one team is running, another team will be sleeping, and there will be an entire support force that travels alongside the runners.

The daily routine of the relay will vary slightly. Typically, the runners will get up, have breakfast and run.

Each participant must run for 90 minutes and then will ride in the van for four and a half hours. After the group runs, they will return to the hotel, rest and eat, and by the time they are finished running, the other team will start.

The athletes will run for four days and then rest for one. The course in any given 24 hour period will cover 160 miles, and each team will be responsible for a six-hour block of running every day.

Because of this coordinated system, the support team will always be readily available to any of the participants, and there will be time for sponsor talks, activation and media.

The Blue Planet Foundation is planning to hold the relay every other year for the next 20 years, so this upcoming 2007 Blue Planet Run will be the first of many to come.

To find out more, check out www.blueplanetrun.org.

"[The Blue Planet Run] is something that's never been done before, and it sets the stage for events in the future."

Matt Swanburg
Fifth-year Management

GOT WATER?

- One in five people on this planet lack access to safe drinking water
- Water related diseases are the single largest cause (80%) of human sickness and death in the world
- 25,000 die every day due to unsafe water
- 400 children under 5 years old die every hour due to diarrhea
- Many women and children spend up to 6 hours a day fetching water
- Families often spend 25% of their income to purchase water and carry it home



Photo illustration by
Jon Drews / STUDENT
PUBLICATIONS

The Blue Planet Foundation is an organization that works to provide safe drinking water for people around the world. Millions of people lack access to this simple resource, a situation that creates many physical, social and economic hardships.

Specifically, the Blue Planet Foundation seeks to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the allocation and distribution of funds to programs that target rural and semi-rural communities that are otherwise overlooked by large drinking water projects.

To raise more awareness and money for its cause, the Foundation is hosting the first ever global relay, the Blue Planet Run, this June with 20 runners.

Just how dire is the global water situation?

Check out the facts in the water glass pictured at left. All statistics come from www.blueplanetrun.org.

sliver

www.nique.net/sliver

American religion is poisoning the world.

Yesterday I remembered why back in high school people used to think I ate souls.

sliver

To the guy who said religion is responsible for all deaths, sorry your dog died, grow up.

Getting a girl at tech is the right combination of facebook stalking, patience and luck, mostly the latter

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scientific progress is being slowed down by people who refuse to let go of the disproven fantasy of evolution

See page 14 for more Slivers!

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Chinese from page 12

Civil Engineering major who is originally from Cambodia, compared the celebrations here to those at home.

"Obviously, one of the major differences is that back in Cambodia, everyone celebrates the Chinese New Year and it's a holiday. To try and keep that spirit alive in a country which is many miles away from there becomes a challenge, especially in the absence of most of our family during this special festival," Hun said.

Like the other New Year, the Chinese New Year is centered around family and friends.

"This occasion brings us closer as a family. We say prayers for the New Year and make resolutions. Also, we try not to kill anything or be critical of other people on the first day of the year so that our new year is positive and peaceful," Hun said.

Most people share a family dinner on New Year's Eve, when traditional Chinese dishes like dumplings and "yuan xiao," or sticky rice balls, are prepared. Some Chinese houses put up proverbial sayings on their doors, which they refer to as "fook," and

pictures of legendary guardians that will protect the family. Elders give children "hong bao," which are red envelopes that contain money or words of wisdom. Families and close friends also play games like "rittoe," a word game, and spend time telling Chinese folktales and stories and singing traditional songs.

"This event will...help other communities learn about the importance of the Chinese New Year..."

Daranhdara Hun
Fourth-year CEE

"One of the Chinese legends that I remember my mother telling me is about why we burn "bian pao," or firecrackers, for the New Year. There used to be a monster that attacked villagers in China and so the villagers would burn the firecrackers to scare the monster away. Ever since then

it has become a part of our custom to celebrate the New Year with firecrackers," Lao said.

Chinese and Asian associations on campus strive to uphold these traditions and celebrate important festivals like this one in order to increase Asian awareness on campus.

"This event will not only bring the Asian community closer, but will also help other communities learn about the importance of the Chinese New Year and many other aspects of Asian culture," Hun said.

Hun, who is president of the Chinese Student Association (CSA), has also been actively organizing events to revive and acknowledge Asian culture on campus as part of CSA's Asian Awareness Week, Feb. 26–March 2, the first one to ever be held at Tech. The events planned out for the week, range from cultural performances like the lion dance to light-hearted stand-up by comedian Eliot Chang.

"[Asian Awareness Week] isn't about just knowing about the existence of Asians, it's about learning more about the different cultures of the Asian community and appreciating them," Hun said.



By Michael Skinner / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Dancers decked out in bright ethnic dresses help to bring an authentic flavor and mood to the recent Chinese New Year celebrations.



By Michael Skinner / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Color and music swirl together in a traditional Chinese folk dance that was performed by a young woman at the Chinese New Year gala.



By Michael Skinner / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A group of young ballerinas link hands to dance in a special performance for Tech's Chinese New Year celebration gala, which was sponsored by the Chinese Friendship Association last Saturday afternoon.

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