



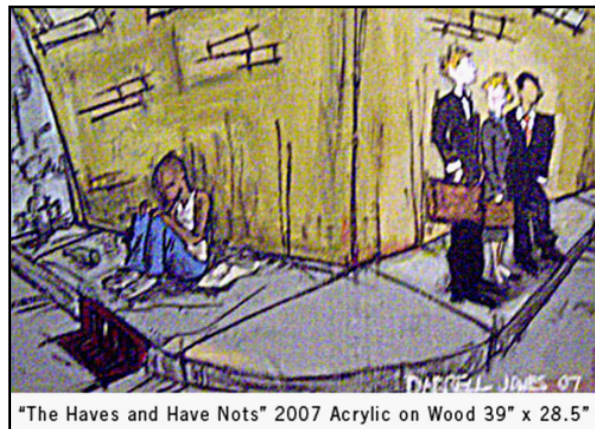
Honors Program

February 2010

THE VIEW FROM HERE

BY DR. MONICA HALKA

The first thing I heard when I woke up this morning was the radio alarm telling me that NPR is supported by Kroger, a caring company that is collecting donations to help the Haitian people. That's nice. I guess that's nice. It's important to help people in trouble, and there's a lot of trouble there. But I can't help thinking about the trouble I can practically see from my office window. Just a few blocks away, at Peachtree and Pine, a small group of dedicated people spend their time every day helping hundreds of Atlanta's homeless eat, sleep sheltered, and improve their lives. I have toured the Task Force for the Homeless facility and seen gardening classes and legal help for those unfortunate enough to have nowhere else to go. I have watched homeless artists at work in the shelter's street level studio, producing incredible pieces. (See, for example, the work above by Darrel Jones.) This is a shelter with a vision, an effort that gets no help, but a good measure of scorn, from some of the city's prominent political figures. Their water was shut off for a few days last year because the bill wasn't paid. Same for the electricity a while back. Now the building faces possible foreclosure later this month. What makes people rush to help natural disaster victims in remote places while ignoring the needy around the corner? There must be some psychological research or philosophical line of thought that can explain such a dichotomy. Perhaps large-scale sudden catastrophes can't help but get attention, whereas ordinary everyday tragedies are easier to sift out of the public consciousness. Or maybe the media could be a bit more egalitarian. Either way, I'm going to a benefit for Haiti victims tonight. But that bag of supplies I packed up to send? I think I'll take it over to the Task Force instead, where I know it won't get lost in the shuffle, but will be greatly appreciated by some of the nicest people you'll ever meet.



Angels For Haiti

BY GAELLE BELHSEINE

Unimaginable. Death. Gloom. Poverty. These are words we might hear but give little thought to unless it directly affects our community. On January 12, 2010, Haiti was the epicenter of an earthquake that registered a 7.0-magnitude. Some of the news reports are of possible death tolls in the hundreds of thousands, and this may be a conservative estimate of the mortality that has occurred in our neighboring country to the south.

After hearing about the devastation that hit Haiti, some concerned students have gotten together to raise

See Haiti pg. 2

EAT&SPEAK

HP Student Advisory Board hosts...

Town Hall Meeting!

Come voice your opinions on the Honors Program, from courses and professors to residence life and special events. Let your voices be heard!

Tuesday, February 16, at 6:30pm
Brittain Rec. Hall on East Campus

Save the Date: HP Special Event

Karlovitz Lecture Series

The Honors Program and the College of Sciences present...

Dr. Nalini Nadkarni

Forest Canopy Ecologist

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30pm

LeCraw Auditorium, CoM

Dr. Nadkarni is a member of the faculty at The Evergreen State College, in Olympia, Washington, where she teaches in the Environmental Studies program. She received her PhD in Forest Ecology from the University of Washington (1983). Her research is focused on the ecology of tropical and temperate forest canopies, particularly the role that canopy-dwelling plants play in forests at the ecosystem level. She carries out field research in Washington State and in Monteverde, Costa Rica, with the support of the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. She has published two books and over 55 scientific articles in scientific journals in the area of forest canopy ecology and forest ecosystem ecology and has presented a number of endowed lectures at academic institutions around the country. A 15-minute presentation by Dr. Nadkarni is available at youtube.com.

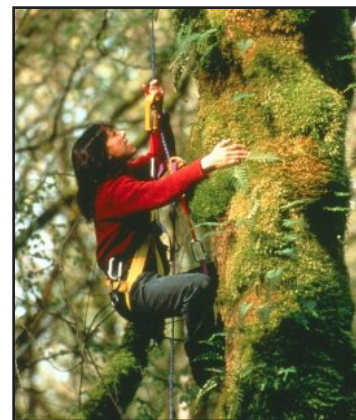


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FORUM ON SCIENCE, ETHICS, AND POLICY

Haiti *(Cont'd from Page 1)*



PHOTO BY SHAUL SCHWARTZ OF TIME MAGAZINE

A group of women stand near their possessions during a looting spree in the downtown business district of Port-au-Prince.

support for a few non-governmental organizations that are currently focusing their support on this Caribbean island. We created the organization Angels for Haiti through the Caribbean Student Association.

From January 16–29 we managed to get some donation projects and bins together around the campus. We took monetary donations on Skiles walkway as well as at the basketball games. Donation bins for itemized items were set up in the CRC, dining halls, housing offices, and every floor of Field for the last two weeks. So far we have made almost \$5,000 and collected countless item donations.

I still have family in Haiti. Fortunately most of my family does not live in Port-Au-Prince (the capital city where the earthquake hit) and the three cousins that do live in Port-Au-Prince are safe. Stanley Guillaume, a fellow Haitian- American Honors Program student, also has family there, and they are OK, but unfortunately a lot of his family's friends did not survive. Many Haitians are not as lucky as Stan or myself and have lost many loved ones. Our efforts at Georgia Tech and around the world will definitely make a great impact on Haiti. We are currently working on making Angels for Haiti a chartered organization here at Georgia Tech because the road to reconstruction in Haiti will be a bumpy one with many trials and tribulations.

Arts & Leisure

HP Arts Café to Return!

BY CHRIS OLSON

Last semester saw the birth of a fresh and exciting display of HP students' talents: The HP Arts Café. Students shared their photographs, poetry and even comedy routines while enjoying fresh coffee and homemade biscotti.

So now HP Dancers, let's see what you've got!

We'll be returning within the next few weeks, with a special showcase of our diverse and talented Honors Program dancers. From hip-hop to salsa, cultural dances to primitive shuffles... we want to see it!

If you'd like to participate, please contact Neha Shingane or Siri Yellamraju (syellamraju@gatech.edu). Also, contact us if you'd like to provide baked goods, or if you have other ideas for Arts Café themes.



HP student, Kenny Taylor, performing at the last poetry-themed Arts Café.

African American History Month in Arts



To commemorate Black History Month, the Fox Theater will be showing Matthew Rushing's "Uptown" about the golden era of black arts, set to the music of Fats Waller, Eubie Black and others. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater presents this look back into important moments in African American music history. According to New York Times critic Gia Kourlas, the must-

see part of the night is Rushing's "glittering love letter to the Harlem Renaissance." The show also includes a performance by Paul Robeson, excerpts from writings by W.E.B. DuBois and a reading from Zora Neale Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

The show can be seen February 18-21 at the Fox Theater. Tickets start at \$20 or attend the 2pm matinee on Feb. 20 to get one half-price ticket with each full price ticket purchased.

"Let your motto be resistance! Resistance! RESISTANCE! No oppressed people have ever secured their liberty without resistance."









—Abolitionist Henry Highland Garneto in 1843

These words provide the title and theme of the newest exhibit at the Atlanta History Center entitled "Let Your Motto Be Resistance: Exploring 150 Years of African American History Through Photography." The exhibit features 69 portraits that "illuminate the creative and courageous ways that African Americans redefined the history of the United States through struggle, accommodation, and resistance" and cover more than a century of U.S. history through the lives of well-known African Americans, including abolitionists, artists, scientists, authors, statesmen, entertainers, and sports figures. Tickets are \$12 for students. www.atlantahistorycenter.com











February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Valentines Day 	14 7pm W Bball vs. FSU – Alexander Coliseum	15 Mardi Gras! 6:30pm HPSAB Townhall Eat & Speak! Free Moes! – Brittain Rec 	16 Commencement Fair –SC Ballroom 7:30pm Chinese New Year Party – SSC Pres. Suite 	17 11am GT Lorraine Info Sess. – Van Leer Bldg Rm. 218 4pm African Am. Speaker Dr. Leroy Davis – Neely	18 Progress Reports 4pm Zombieland Movie – SC Theater  8:30pm W Bball v. Duke – Alexander Coliseum	19 11am Thoreau House Frame Raising –CoA 8pm "The Pillowman" – DramaTech Theater	20 11am Guthman Musical Inst. Performance 12pm Bball v. Boston – Alexander Coliseum 
21 11am Red Cross Blood Drive – Ferst Center 	22 11am Optimal Algorithm Talk – ISyE Exec. Classroom 8pm GT Wind Ensemble – Ferst Center	23 4:30pm Impact Spkr: Mary Mazzo – LeCraw Audit. 8pm GT Concert Band –Ferst Center 	24 12pm Future of Turkey? – Wardlaw, Gordy Room 7pm Public Night at GT Observatory – Howey Bldg.	25 6:30pm W Bball v. UNC – Alexander Coliseum 8pm Masters of Persian Music – Ferst Center	26 11am Thoreau House Frame Raising –CoA 8pm "The Pillowman" – DramaTech Theater	27 11am Guthman Musical Inst. Performance 12pm Bball v. Boston – Alexander Coliseum 	

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Last day of Snow Mtn! –Stone Mtn. Park 	1 Deadline to Apply for Fall 2010 Housing!!	2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday! 	3 11am Terror Queues Talk – ISyE Exec Classroom 7:30pm Dr. Nadkarni Talk – LeCraw, CoM	4 11am Dr. Nadkarni Q&A –HP Office 11am Nat'l Scholarship Info Session –Succ. Ctr Suite C	5 Drop Day! 8pm Arlo Guthrie Concert – Ferst Center	6 1pm Mens Rugby v. GSU – Burger Bowl 4pm Mens Bball v. VT – Alexander Coliseum 
7 3pm Red Cross Blood Drive – CRC	8 7pm Thrashers v. Predators –Phillips Arena 8pm Take Back the Night –Campanile 	9 10am Romeo & Juliet Student Matinee – Shakespeare Tavern	10 7pm Spring Awakening – Fox Theater 	11 8pm Eileen Ivers (Fiddler) – Ferst Center	12 1pm Harlem Globetrotters – Phillips Arena 7:30pm King Lear – Shakespeare Tavern	13 First Day of Spring! 
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins	15 The Ides of March 1pm IAC Founders Day – The Biltmore Voices across Color Line Exhibit – ATL History Ctr	16 11am Course Rollout Lunch –Wardlaw Bldg 1pm UROP Spring Symposium –SC Ballroom	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 7pm Wired on Refuge concert – Under the Couch	19 8pm Atif Aslam and Stars – Ferst Center	20 1pm Mens Rugby v. GSU – Burger Bowl 4pm Mens Bball v. VT – Alexander Coliseum

AIESEC Winter National Conference

BY AMIRA CHOUYEIKI

For Tech students, winter break is always a great time for relaxing at home, seeing family, and finally getting caught up on sleep. However, this was not the case for some of the Honors Program students who are also members of AIESEC.



AIESEC at Georgia Tech Executive Board 2010 at AIESEC Winter National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia (not pictured: Victor Lesniewski)

AIESEC, the world's largest student organization, was started after World War II as a program that would provide both a platform and a network to build international understanding for the future leaders of the world. AIESEC works as an exchange program: more than 35,000 students in over 100 countries raise internships in their hometown for international students, put them all into a database, and "AIESECers" can hunt through and find the internship that's right for them. Combined with conferences and training for professional and leadership development, AIESEC provides an incredible chance for collegians to grow and make friends around the world.

Atlanta played host to the AIESEC United States National Conference this year from Dec. 27-Jan 3, bringing more than 200 delegates from around the country. Crucial to the strategic planning of our organization for the following year, Winter Conference acts as a transition for executive boards for chapters across the United States, and helps combine goal setting to determine the national standards for the upcoming year. Sessions include high level training for the J-1 Visa program AIESEC uses in conjunction with the State Department, branding and marketing of AIESEC International, and how to run preparation seminars for outgoing interns. All help to train the US AIESEC local leadership.

An exciting event this year was the announcement of Coca-Cola Enterprises (CCE) as not only a national,

but also international partner of AIESEC. This was an account landed by the Georgia Tech chapter, and is a huge contribution, as CCE will be working to start an internship program in Europe through AIESEC. They will also be sponsoring both U.S. and international conferences. John Brock, CEO of CCE and Tech alum, actually started similar partnerships with AIESEC while he was at Cadbury and InBev, and the hard work of GT students helped renew his interest with AIESEC this past spring at our International Ball, where he was the headlining speaker. Not only was Georgia Tech represented well at the conference through our amazing work this past year and top 5 ranking of chapters in the U.S., but HP students took on leadership roles as well. Priya Nakra served as the Organizing Committee President of the entire conference. Priya Malhotra also served on the Organizing Committee; former GT chapter president Amira Choueiki led the re-writing of parts of our national compendium; Amanda Drescher worked in the Outgoing Exchange training track; and Elle Creel developed her skills on the Business Development training track.

All and all, the conference was an incredible success, and the HP'sters who work so hard during the year at the local level truly enjoyed participating in the bigger picture. AIESEC GT has big plans for the upcoming year, so be sure to check out www.aiesecgt.org for upcoming events and learn more about how you can go abroad through AIESEC!

The GT Honors Program would like to welcome Fall 2009 semester addition Akhil Modi!



Akhil is a first year student majoring in Mechanical Engineering. If you see him around campus be sure to say "Hi"...or feel free to email him at akhilmodi@gatech.edu!

Campus Spotlight: Women's Resource Center

BY AMANDA DRESCHER

Georgia Tech is famous for many things—the Ramblin’ Wreck, its “clean, old-fashioned hate” with fellow Georgia university, UGA, and, of course, the ratio. The ratio refers to the number of boys to girls within Tech’s student body. Currently, Tech’s ratio sits somewhere around seventy percent male and thirty percent female. As a female student at Tech, these numbers can seem daunting, but there is a place for the women of Tech to go where the ratio no longer exists—the Women’s Resource Center (WRC). The program coordinator for the WRC, Colleen Riggle, is in charge of putting on programs for women around campus. She works closely with Women’s Awareness Month (WAM), a new officially recognized student group on campus, and serves as the faculty advisor as well as the financial coordinator for the organization. Within WAM, Colleen helps to showcase Women’s Day of Service, Take Back the Night, the Red Dress Fashion Show, and, every other year, the Vagina Monologues, all of which are sponsored through the Women’s Resource Center. Sexual violence survivors can turn to the WRC where Colleen sponsors



topic-specific initiatives as well as training for other members of Georgia Tech’s community regarding how to properly show support to the victims of such heinous crimes. Not only does the WRC serve as a haven for those in need, but it also can supply a bit for those in want—in want of feminist literature, that is. A little-known gem, the growing, donations-only feminist library tucked in the back of the WRC holds volumes and volumes of books for women from all walks of life. Even better than the main campus library, the Feminist Library has no due dates and requires no Buzzcard scanning, so rentals are hassle- and worry-free. The Women’s Resource Center is ever-full of kindred spirits, brilliant voices and baked goods. Women of Tech: you are always welcome.

FIMRC: Three Perspectives

BY JOSEPH KIM

During the past winter break, I had the privilege of going to Costa Rica as a member of the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children. For one week, we worked in a small clinic that served about 15,000 women and children. The work in Costa Rica was great because not only were the sick treated, but also the children were taught how to take care of themselves, which is equally important. Each day provided a different task—working in the waiting room and making charts, shadowing the doctor in the examination room, re-filing the medical records, or preparing the medication as the doctor prescribed. Also during the week, we went to a soup kitchen nearby and performed a skit for the children as a way of promoting health awareness. Although I was only in Costa Rica for one week, the experience that I gained from exposure to this community taught me more about this culture and the medical problems it faces and gave me a broader perspective and deeper understanding of life in the world that we live in. Pura vida!



Joseph Kim and James Iocozzia (back row) at soup kitchen in Costa Rica with some of the children and other members of the FIMRC group.

See FIMRC pg. 5

FIMRC: Costa Rica *(Cont'd from Page 4)*

BY JAMES IOCOZZIA



James Iocozzia helping to paint a health clinic wall.

With winter break looming and the wounds of a hellish exam week only a recent memory, I was bound for the warm, relaxing, and enlightening experience of a FIMRC volunteer trip in Costa Rica. FIMRC, The Foundation for the

International Medical Relief

of Children, is an organization dedicated to providing necessary medical attention in countries where these services would otherwise be absent. It does so through the establishment of medical clinics.

I volunteered at the clinic in Alajuelita, Costa Rica, which primarily handles children. During my time there I was able to engage in many different healthcare operations. A few that I particularly enjoyed were filling prescriptions and observing medical diagnoses. The former gave me a first-hand experience into the most common ailments afflicting the children of the community—upper respiratory infection, malnutrition, and parasites. It served as a grim reminder of how fortunate we are and how indispensable relief organizations like FIMRC are to less fortunate communities the world over. In the latter case, I was able to observe the medical diagnoses of Dr. Reinhart Stedam. Friendly and very enthusiastic, Dr. Stedam explained the techniques he employed in each diagnosis as well as the treatment options.

Ultimately, if you are looking for something different and out of the ordinary, volunteer on a FIMRC trip. You will learn a lot, make friends, have fun, and sleep soundly knowing that you are making a difference on the lives of those less fortunate than yourself. Pura vida!

BY RUCHIR KARMALI

Over my winter break, I had the opportunity to go to El Salvador with FIMRC. I volunteered at a clinic in Las Delicias with 8 other Georgia Tech students, and it was one of the most remarkable experiences of my life. Everyday for a week we travelled 40 minutes to the clinic. We visited houses that sat on top of the mountain and learned what it meant to live like the Salvadorian people. After shadowing two doctors and a nurse, we learned how to perform a physical exam and give vaccinations to children and pets. Perhaps the most interesting thing we did in El Salvador was teaching the community. Each day we held charlas, or meetings, to discuss community. Topics for the charlas varied from senior citizen care to prevention of Dengue fever. The charlas demonstrated how a community can work together to become a better and healthier place to live. Afterwards, each of the charla attendees made a speech thanking us. It was wonderful to see that our presence made them happy. Because our group was so moved by the trip, we are now working to collect donations for hospital materials for the next trip that will be leaving in the spring.



Ruchir Karmali with a high-ranking citizen in a Salvadoran village.

Message from the Director

The First “Yes”

BY DR. GREG NOBLES



The Student Challenge Fund is one part of the Honors Program that means a lot to me personally. It traces its origins back to a time even before the Honors Program came into existence, and it stems from the challenges that perplexed one particular student – my daughter Sarah.

When Sarah was an undergraduate at an unnamed Ivy League university, she became the head of a well-meaning student organization on her campus, and she wanted to bring in a guest speaker for a special event. The person she had in mind didn't want a huge speaking fee, just airfare, a night in some local hotel, and a few hundred bucks for an honorarium – in all, maybe a thousand dollars or so, tops. Sarah's organization had a little money of their own, but she thought they could get a few modest contributions from a couple of academic departments to help cover the costs.

Wrong. Not a chance. Every department chair or academic administrator she turned to turned her down. Nope, sorry, like to help, can't do it, no money in the budget – and on and on, not even a couple of hundred dollars from anyone at this well-heeled university with an enormous endowment.

OK, I've been in academic administration for more than a few years, and I know how university budgets work and how money gets allocated. But I also know how money gets loosened up, especially in modest amounts. One small “yes” can lead to another, and then

another, and eventually the small bits add up to enough, and then something good can happen. That's particularly important for undergraduates, whether as individuals or as groups. Students can be creative at cobbling together the resources they need, and sometimes it's just that first “yes” that gets them going. They'll work to find the rest elsewhere.

When we started the Honors Program, I wanted to be sure that we could say “yes” to our students – and that's why we have the Student Challenge Fund. In small increments of two, three, maybe five hundred dollars, we've been able to provide start-up funds for new student organizations, support for student research and community service projects, travel funds for academic conferences and study abroad programs – all told, over forty small grants to get students started, and more in the works.

We don't give money away like Halloween candy, of course. Every grant begins with a two-page proposal that requires students to lay out the basic idea, the benefits for themselves and for the Honors Program and/or Georgia Tech, and a budget that includes possible sources of additional funding. That's the “challenge” part, to encourage students to generate good ideas and then to explain them effectively. It's a useful exercise in grant-writing, very good practice for the future.

But the Student Challenge Fund also has its roots in the recent past, with one student, one challenge, and no funds. Sarah's “no” became the basis of the Honors Program's “yes,” and I'm always happy to see our students make the most of it.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:	Dr. Monica Halka, Associate Director Georgia Tech Honors Program
WRITERS:	Gaelle Belhseine, Amira Choueiki, Amanda Drescher, James Iocozzia, Ruchir Karmali, Joseph Kim, and Chris Olson
LAYOUT:	Lindsay Anglin
PHOTOS:	James Iocozzia, Ruchir Karmali, Joseph Kim, Priya Malhotra and Chris Olson

GT
eT
HyPed