

FOCUS

Technique • Friday, September 30, 2005

TWIN TALES

Think having family in another state is troublesome? Twins have each other, constantly, as sources of support and annoyance. Page 11

WALLACE AND GROMIT

The cheese-loving inventor and dog duo, Wallace and Gromit, hit silver screens with their first full-length feature film. Page 15



Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff rocks Skiles



Photo courtesy of Alex Escudero

Claudia Leiseca, Yandra Pulido and Paola Hernandez, from the Spanish Speaking Organization, dance to Latin music at the Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff.

By Trevor Stittleburg
Contributing Writer

What do fried bananas, tango dancing and the music of an Argentinian band called Los Rodriguez have in common?

They are all representative of Latin culture and could be found at the Hispanic Heritage Month opening celebration this past Tuesday at Yellow Jacket Park.

The event featured Latin music, dancing, food and information for anyone interested in Hispanic organizations.

It was hosted by the Spanish Speaking Organization (SSO), the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and Lambda Theta Alpha, the only Latina sorority in the country.

Alex Escudero, an Industrial Engineering major, took a break from DJing the event to comment on Latin music and the significance of the celebration.

"The purpose of this event is to unify the Latin community and to promote our culture to everyone. Latin music like Los Rodriguez is getting to be mainstream," Escudero said.

Rodolfo Camacho, an attendee at the event, concurred.

"This lets people hear something they don't hear quite often. People usually hear maybe pop or techno music but not Latin," he said.

Camacho plans to become more involved in Latin orga-

nizations.

"The Hispanic population here is growing and this lets people learn more about the culture," Camacho said.

This event was not just about free food and music, however.

"Hispanic Heritage Month celebration is meant to encourage all Hispanics to feel proud of [their] heritage as well as to give an opportunity for non-Hispanics to learn more about our culture."

Katherine Fong
President, Spanish Speaking Organization

Passer-bys navigated a maze on the lawn and were rewarded free t-shirts for answering trivia questions about Latin culture and being brave enough to enter the competition.

"The maze is a nice educational way to learn about the different flags and cultures. It really shows

the diversity [of Hispanics]. Everyone isn't Mexican," said Sebastian Bercerra, who joined SSO at the celebration.

Bercerra hopes to take advantage of the social offerings of the organization.

"I heard about this basically through word of mouth, and Latino Welcome Weekend," he said.

"Hopefully I can meet more Hispanics through these organizations, or maybe just get some good food, we'll see."

The SSO and SHPE have planned several events throughout October, including a movie night on Oct. 10 with the showing of a Chilean film titled *Machuca* about two young students in politically unstable Chile.

SHPE has planned a skydiving event for this Sat., Oct. 1.

Later in the month, International Affairs professor Kurt Bowman who is a director of summer study abroad programs in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Cuba, will give a lecture on Latin America.

In addition to kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month, the festival allowed students to see all that the Hispanic organizations on campus have to offer.

"It's about being more visible, for Tech students to be aware of our presence and what we're all about," said Lucas Posabo, exter-

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French Building has unique history, old world flavor

By Chanchala Kaddi
Contributing Writer

Some students are familiar with the A. French Building only as the site of the French computer lab.

Others may just recognize it as the building across from Junior's.

For those who have never been there, the French Building, the original home of the school of Textile Engineering, is located on Cherry Street.

The French Building was constructed in 1899, making it the fourth-oldest building on campus.

Only the Academic Building (Tech Tower), the Shop Building and the Knowles Dormitory were built before it.

The French Building is part of the cluster of historic buildings near East Campus (the Hill District) that have a student-friendly environment.

"It's nice to have a mixture between modern and traditional structures on campus," said Brandi Flanagan, a fifth-year Architecture major.

"It's a refreshing contrast to the new buildings."

"I like to see some older buildings on campus. I think it gives our

campus character and charm," said Hillary Coor, a fourth-year Mechanical Engineering major.

The construction of the French Building and the Textile Engineering program are recounted in *Engineering the New South: Georgia Tech, 1885-1985*, a history of Georgia Tech by Dr. Robert McMath, the former vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and Student Affairs.

It is also presented in *Splendid Growth*, the library's online exhibit.

During the late nineteenth century, the textile business was growing rapidly in Georgia.

Tech's second President, Lyman Hall, decided that starting a degree program in

textile engineering would have wide appeal and increase enrollment.

In 1897, the state legislature agreed to contribute \$10,000 to the project if Tech raised an equal amount from other sources.

In 1898, President Hall sent identical letters to Aaron Samuel French, a Pittsburg industrialist, and John D. Rockefeller to request funding for the textile school, promising both that the school would be named after the benefactor.

French donated the funds, and the French Building was completed the following year.

As Hall predicted, the school of Textile Engineering was an immediate success.

More than 125 students enrolled in the program during 1899.

The French Building housed the school of Textile Engineering until 1949, when it was moved to the newly constructed Harrison Hightower building.

The school of Polymer, Fiber and Textile Engineering was moved to its present location, the MRDC I Complex, in 1995.

The current occupants of the French Building are a diverse group.

They include the offices of the associate provost for Institutional Development and the assistant to the vice provost.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies, which handles prestigious scholarships such as the Rhodes and Marshall, and the Office of Assessment are also located there.

The Georgia Tech ADVANCE Institutional Transformation program, a National Science Foundation-sponsored project that promotes the participation of women in science and engineering, is housed in the building.

There are also several classrooms on the first floor of the building.

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By Scott Medway / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The A. French Building, named after a Pittsburgh industrialist in 1889, was first home to the then new Textile Engineering School.

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nal vice-president of SHPE.

"You don't have to be Hispanic to join SHPE. You just have to have an interest in Hispanic culture."

"The SSO will provide the cultural component to the event in the form of an Argentine Tango performance, Latin music and food from different countries prepared by

our own talented members and board, as well as the overall warmth that is very characteristic of us Hispanics," said Katherine Fong, President of the SSO.

Kathryn Stucki discovered at the celebration that the SSO offers a Spanish-speaking partner program that she plans to take advantage of in practicing her Spanish.

The SSO is an organization that brings together Spanish-speakers for their common benefit.

"When people come to the U.S., there's some loss of the correct grammar and [the SSO] helps reinstitute the correct form of speaking," Stucki said.

"It gives people the opportunity to see how regular Spanish speakers speak."

Sebastian Guerrero, who was born in Columbia, decided to join both the SHPE and the SSO at the event.

"I plan to help out with Latin events throughout the year. I think the main motive [of this event] is to bring back Latin ambience," he said.

"There are a lot of memories for students [from other countries]. It's a fun experience."

Amanda Bryson plans on joining SSO as well.

"My goal is to learn more Spanish. I think these events are important in general because it keeps variety on campus," she said.

Bryson and others enjoyed small cups of *dulce de leche*, a sweet-milk dessert food from Argentina.

"I think it's really cool that all these organizations are showing their faces and coming together [as] it promotes unity," said Courtney Murray, a member of the African American Student Union.

"It's important to bring everyone together as a whole," Murray said.

"We hope this to be an ongoing trend in benefit of our entire Hispanic community," Fong said.

"It's important for all Hispanics to get together and for students of other

"Some people think that Hispanic organizations are just [about] salsa dancing. We don't want students to believe the stereotypes."

Judianne Medina
President, Lambda Theta Alpha, Latina sorority



By Julia Bunch / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students on Skiles Walkway get a variety of Latin food and drink from the different Hispanic organizations such as SHPE and SSO, who had tables during the Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff this Tuesday.

racers to be in these organizations and learn about their cultures," said Judianne Medina, president of the newly founded chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha, the Latina sorority.

"Hispanics are the fastest growing minority population here at Tech."

"Some people think that Hispanic organizations are just salsa dancing. We don't want students to believe the stereotypes," she said.

"The Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebration is meant to encourage all Hispanics to feel proud of our heritage, as well as to give an opportunity for non-Hispanics to learn more about our culture," Fong said.

Medina and others sold pina colodas while promoting at the event, which was one of the first strongly cooperative activities organized by the Hispanic organizations on campus.

"We don't usually work together.

This year [we're] going on a different level and trying to focus on that," Medina said.

Earlier this semester, SSO and La Unidad Latina, the Latino fraternity on campus, together organized Latino Welcoming Weekend.

Interested students can find more information at these websites:

SSO: <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/SSO>

SHPE: <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/SHPE>

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Having twin on campus doubles fun, excitement

By Yang Lin
Contributing Writer

Family is much missed and valued by college students.

Some people are lucky enough to have a sibling attend the same university.

Perhaps even luckier are people who have a twin who goes to Tech too. Do twins really have double the fun?

Twins around campus talk about the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of being a twin.

Sometimes, twins receive twice as much attention as an average student.

"[People] are like, 'Oh look, there are two of you,' and start a conversation," said Erin and Molly Clark, Biology freshmen.

"Or people I don't even know would walk by and say hi to me," Erin said.

"If we weren't twins, we probably wouldn't be doing this article," said Bryan Antic, a senior Management major, grinning.

Other times, their "twin-ness"

goes unnoticed.

"No one ever knows [we are twins] for the first time. We've had to show our driver's licenses," said Chetesh Devchand, fraternal twin brother of Chetan Devchand.

They are both seniors in Electrical Engineering.

However, some inconveniences are associated with looking alike.

"[Sometimes] people think of us as one person, 'Molly and Erin,'" Erin said.

"I respond to both Brandon and Bryan. It's like having two first names," said Brandon Antic, twin brother of Bryan Antic, also a senior in Management.

"It's not a big deal if you can't really tell the difference. But if you've known us for a while and you can't tell the difference, then that gets annoying."

"People [usually] ask what it's like being a twin. Well, I mean, what is it like not being a twin? You don't really know. You just go with it," Bryan said.

"Until we are separated and far

away from each other, I won't know what it's like to be on my own. Right now it's like I have an older brother who's really not older than me," he said.

"The Antics are often confused by people who first meet them," said Meredith Ray, Director of FASET programs.

"After knowing them for two years, I can easily tell them apart, but for the first few months, I continued to reverse their names," she said.

But the benefits of having a twin on campus outweigh the inconveniences.

"If you don't understand something, you always have someone to call or ask question about," said Chetan.

"We take the same classes together for the most part, and it helps to have someone to help take notes, or be lab partners."

"It makes it easier to always have somebody to go through things with," said Bryan.

"You always have someone there pushing you, because you don't want to be the slacking twin who's not doing anything. So there's always someone to keep you going," Brandon said.

"It would be weird [if Erin were not here]," Molly said.

"We are just so used to being always next to each other."

One wonders, did the twins decide to come here solely based on whether their twin was coming here or not?

"I don't think the decision [of coming to Tech] was necessarily weighed upon whether or not my twin decided to come here," Brandon said.

"[Tech] is one of the top schools in the country. The reputation speaks for it."

Bryan agrees: "I was actually pretty set on going to UGA, but changed my mind after attending



By Andrew Saulters / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Jessica and Megan Kirk, both Industrial Engineering graduate students, are one pair of identical twins who can be found on Tech campus.

a couple Tech functions."

Erin and Molly have a different reason: "[We] wanted to go somewhere with Zoology, and Tech is the only school in Georgia that has it."

"We both like Tech a lot," said Molly.

"I love our campus, it's so pretty. And we are close to home but far away at the same time."

"I think life is different for them because they always have a sense of family everywhere they go," said Ketan Mehta, a good friend on the Devchand twins.

"I think that their college experiences would be vastly different if they had chosen to go to different schools because their primary relationships would become friends. I think having family around keeps one more in check as well."

"It is a feeling of home to have a sibling on campus. It is great to have someone to support you and understand where you come from,"

said Carly Wescott, a Management major, who was a FASET leader for the Antic twins.

Wescott's brother just graduated from Tech and their two years on-campus served to strengthen their relationship.

"It has been interesting for me to see how two people so alike in appearance can be very different, yet similar in personality," Ray said on the Antics.

"[Erin and Molly] get along really well. I am always surprised that they do not get into fights or anything like that," said Alison Hood, an International Affairs major who lives down the hall from the twins.

"We don't get treated differently than anybody else because we are twins," Bryan said.

"I enjoyed it. There were ups and downs, the good and the bad, but when you come to a school that's this hard, you don't expect anything easy."



By Matt Emerick / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Juan and Miguel Amador, freshman twins, show off their tattoos of the 'Gemini' astrological symbol in front of their dorm, Caldwell.

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Tech Up Close

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

Email focus@technique.gatech.edu if you think you know the answer—and check to see if you won in next week's issue!

THIS WEEK'S PHOTO:



By Ben Keyserling / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Last Tech Up Close:
Air-conditioner
outside the Bunger-Henry Building

Last week's winner:
No correct responses

French from page 10

The basement hosts the French computer cluster, which is noteworthy for being quieter and less hectic than some of the other computer labs.

"Usually you have to wait in line at the library or the Student Center for a computer, but the computer cluster in the French Building is nice and not too crowded," said Gopika Suraj, a second-year Biology major.

Engineering Computing Services also has two classrooms in the building, one of which has CAD workstations.

Students feel that the historical character of the Hill District should be preserved.

"I feel that buildings such as the French Building need to hold onto their roots," said James Turnbull, a second-year Biomedical Engineering major.

"However it does need to be updated with the times in a style and manner that is befitting to its history."

Renovations of the French Building have kept this attitude in mind, both modernizing the building's interior and restoring its exterior.

"About a month ago, a new elevator system that will provide safe and convenient passenger service was installed in the French Building," said Bradley Satterfield, the Campus Architect.

The main entrance was also renovated.

"About two years ago, we completed the Hill Area Landscape Project, Phase Two. We found that the entry steps to the building were in poor condition," he said.

"Architect Steve Cseplo researched historic photographs and designed the stairs that are a near-perfect replica of the original stairs of the building."

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