

Students respond to end of shuttle program

By Gaines Halstead
Focus Editor

On Friday, July 8, the Space Shuttle Atlantis made the final ascent from space not only for itself, but also for NASA's 30-year-old shuttle program as it concluded STS-135, the Shuttle program's final mission.

Following a successful landing at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., NASA will be terminating the employment of some 8,000 Shuttle-related workers, many of whom are Tech alumni.

With no replacement human-operated program in sight for NASA and the concept of manned flight on hiatus, this cancellation has and will affect many current alumni while also affecting an even greater majority of future alums with hopes of pursuing careers in the aerospace industry at the same time.

"My entire life I've imagined working first-hand on the shuttle program as an astronaut. While I knew the end of the Shuttle would be inevitable, I never guessed NASA would not have some sort of manned space program waiting to replace it," said Taylor Green, a third-year ME major.

While many are saddened by the Shuttle's departure, some see its cancellation as a greater economic improvement to areas outside of the publicly funded sector.

"I fully support NASA in all its endeavours, but I am glad to see that the large amount of money being used by the space program is going to be used to help out in different sectors of the nation, especially considering the current state of the economy," said Taylor Davis, a fourth-year CM major.

"I think that the end of government-led exploration will definitely impact the job market for certain fields of engineering as a



Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing

The Space Shuttle Atlantis lifts off from Kennedy Space Station during the launch of STS-135, the final mission of NASA's 30-year shuttle program. This flight will be NASA's last manned operation until future manned spaceflight programs make further progress.

whole, but at the same time, this will also open the door for private companies to expand into the sector with the end result helping to create more jobs," said Kellian Morrissey, a first-year MGT major.

Stuart Donnan, Tech alumnus, EE '09 and a current NASA employee, describes the end more as a beginning.

"When the Bush administra-

tion canceled the Shuttle program, it was in order to free up resources for a new wave of space exploration. The U.S. space program is in the middle of a great change at the moment, and it is an exciting time...but [it] can be confusing to people who just see the Space Shuttle being retired with no concrete system to take its place," Donnan said.

Donnan stated that if he were currently a Tech student, he would be excited for the new possibilities in the still-vast area of space exploration.

"The space program hasn't been canceled. It has been re-born," Donnan said. "The challenges before us will require the engineering talent of Tech to succeed. If I were student today

I would be very excited about the prospect of being involved with the next generation of space exploration. If you are passionate about human spaceflight, I would encourage you to write your congressmen. NASA's vision is guided by Congress, and by making your opinion known to those who shape space policy you can actually make a difference."

Campus farmer's market blossoms at Tech once again



Photo by Basheer Tome / Student Publications

By Lauren Townsend
Contributing Writer

With the growing backlash against highly processed foods, eating locally-grown, organic food is becoming an ever-increasing health trend among much of the American society.

However, as a college student, eating healthy and well-balanced meals can be a challenge. For many, it can be a difficult task to find organic, fresh produce at a relatively cheap price without leaving the metropolitan Atlanta area.

Yet Tech and the Atlanta community have come together to offer a solution to this conundrum plaguing Tech students by bringing a farmer's market indoors to the convenient location of the Student Center.

The farmer's market is held in the Student Center Commons every summer and remains a big hit among students who enjoy fresh foods.

"I've been coming to the farm-

er's market every summer for the past two years," said Lisa Dudkrow, a third-year ME major. "I love the diverse selection and the new things that people bring every year. All of the produce is always fresh and really good. I think my favorite thing at this year's farmer's market would have to be the honey stand."

Vendor Melanie Garr brought a large variety of honey from a family member's farm to sell at this year's market.

"My sister and I have been attending the farmers market for the past two years. I really enjoy working this market because it's fun to meet all of the diverse students and the business is usually good," Garr said.

The honey at Garr's stand included a diverse range of flavors from lavender to wild berry.

"We keep the hives near different plants to get the different flavors of honey," Garr said.

Aside from honey, the market

Two shoppers talk to a vendor at a campus farmer's market about the various selections of bread. Many of the tables set up within the market specialized in particular goods found on store shelves.



Photo by Basheer Tome / Student Publications

With small tables offered by merchants, shoppers have the opportunity to talk with vendors on a personal level, allowing the potential buyers to understand how and where the produce was grown.

Market from page 7

also contained stands selling various produce, jelly and assorted baked goods. The table with baked goods was part of a business opened relatively recently by Allison Macedo, CM '10.

"I graduated in Dec., and after I graduated some of my sorority sisters, and I decided to start a business," Macedo said. "We started the business in Jan., and we have been working hard ever since. We don't have a store or any facility yet, but we are continuing to grow and expand."

At the market, Macedo was selling sweet bread and cinnamon rolls.

"We started the business selling things that are fairly basic to make so more people could get involved. All of our profits go to sending a different person to do humanitarian work. I'm very excited about the potential for our business because I've always wanted to help people and I think this is a very significant way to reach

that goal," Macedo said.

Next to Macedo's stand was a produce table run by merchant Coco Collins. As was the case with many others at the market, Collins' produce was grown in the confines of her very own garden at her house.

"Now here we have some day lilies and blueberries. Everything I'm selling today was freshly picked from my private garden. I have been attending the Tech farmer's market for two years. I really like to come because usually business is good, and I think it's good to offer fresh produce to college students," Collins said.

Besides selling produce, Collins also provided several recipes and samples as well.

"I will definitely come back next year," said Aaren Masando, a second-year BIOL major. "I loved looking through all of the fresh foods that were brought in, and the merchants were extremely nice and helpful. I thought it was a great event, and in such a covenant location too."

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 25

Summer Camp: Explorers IV (Story telling with scratch and robots)
[Across campus, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.]

JULY 26

Tech band & percussion ensemble performance
[West Architecture Building, terrace facing Clough Center, 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.]

JULY 27

Flicks on 5th - Source Code
[Tech Square 9 p.m.]

JULY 28

The Left Heart Tug of War: Engineering and Medicine Join Forces lecture [U.A. Whitaker Room 1103 12 p.m.]

JULY 29

Public Policy Luncheon Series [Cox Enterprises Corporate Headquarters, 6205 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd., NE, Atlanta 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.]

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