

THE VIEW FROM HERE by Dr. Monica Halka

*W*e're too bright at Georgia Tech. I don't mean that in a good way. Every day I pass classrooms, conference rooms, suites, and offices with all the lights on but nobody home. (Actually, I don't pass them by if the door is open: I go in and turn off the lights.) It irritates me. I find myself wondering if everyone is just dumb and dumber. Halka thought bubble: How could you be the last person to leave the room and not turn off the lights? But I know it's not stupidity—all you people have high GPA's and SAT's and even PhD's and fellowships in important intellectual societies. So, other possibilities: Lack of awareness? Apathy? Thoughtlessness?

Lack of awareness is in no way a defensible plea. Everyone knows that lights cost money and reduce natural resources that we can ill afford to waste. Personal apathy is a possibility, though I doubt many would admit to indifference about such waste, especially since Tech claims to be a leader in the sustainable campus effort. Not everyone seems to feel this is a high priority, but we should all try to help. When I noticed last May that Peters Parking Deck has 204 light bulbs burning 24/7, I calculated the approximate annual energy cost, water consumption to provide that energy, and CO₂ footprint of this one structure (\$9,000; 47,000 gallons; and 200 tons, respectively), thinking that the administration might want to look into reducing this load. Although parking and facilities received my emails and said they'd get back to me, the silence has been deafening. Meanwhile the non-fluorescent bulbs in the parking deck sparkle merrily on (and on and on), though several have probably had to be replaced in the past seven months.

It's true that Tech has made some great steps forward in energy reduction, with several LEED-certified buildings and a plan for motion and light-level sensors in the new Clough Center, but attention to the new and the big should not blind us to the ongoing everyday ways we can do something about energy waste. Fifteen thousand Tech students could help. Five Tech students could help. A couple of faculty, too. Maybe even an administrator.

Last one out? Turn off the lights, please.



What's wrong with this picture?

Photo by M. Halka

Georgia Tech HP Student Advisory Board



The Georgia Tech Honors Program Student Advisory Board (GTHP SAB) is looking to add new members from all classes to its roster beginning spring 2011. The GTHP SAB acts as a bridge between HP administrators and the students, planning events and fielding suggestions on the direction and goals of the program from a student point of view.

Those interested in applying should contact Nicole Leonard, nicole.leonard@carnegie.gatech.edu, before February 15th.

AN INTERNSHIP IN NUREMBURG by Bill Bridgers

This past fall I interned with Siemens in Nuremberg, Germany. A multinational corporation with roughly 400,000 employees, Siemens is quite complex in personnel structure and incredibly far-reaching in the scope of its products. I worked under the industry sector in the Automation Systems Strategy Division. The majority of my time at work was spent researching and analyzing contemporary market strategies for selling enterprise software most effectively. To boil it down, the software I am talking about is what runs, or automates, the factories that produce anything from automobiles to textiles (and every physical product in between) that is to be mass produced at the flip of a switch. Concerning sales methodology, the automation software arena is currently undergoing significant changes due to the last decade's sweeping advances in information technology. The companies that can respond to the market demand with the most innovative, reliable, and practical sales method will capture significant market share. My job was to help Siemens figure out the best way to move forward with their software business in this regard. I studied extensively and produced deliverables covering the topics of software licensing, consulting, and business models. On a personal level, being abroad for the semester was immensely enriching. My coworkers loved to give me advice

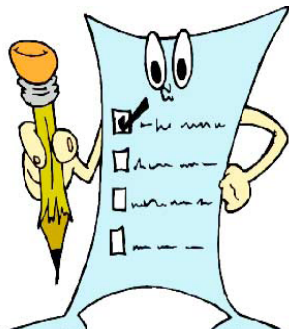


about where to go and what to see on the weekends! I took this advice wholeheartedly and spent my weekends doing anything from backpacking through the Alps to cruising the streets of many famous European cities including Salzburg (three times), Vienna, and Prague, as well as getting lost in the tiny towns of southern Germany. After my internship was completed, I stayed in Europe and spent a week touring Italy—sightseeing Venice, Rome, Florence, and, yes, the leaning tower at Pisa! As any experienced traveler knows, being in a foreign land is like normal living intensified. I met so many fascinating people, shared so many inspiring conversations, and thoroughly enjoyed the ample time to reflect and allow the meaning behind the experience to really sink in. My perspective on practically every aspect of life was deepened and

enlarged. I would highly recommend work or study abroad to all of my fellow classmates!

[Bill is a Business Administration major in his 4th year at Tech.]

A Special Request to 1st and 4th Year Students: Please Take the NSSE!



You will soon be receiving an email from the Georgia Tech Office of Assessment asking you to fill out the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). We're asking you to spend just a few minutes and take this important online survey. It will help us immensely in our efforts to assess the program. Thanks!

Arts & Leisure

THE KARLOVITZ LECTURE: SAVE THE DATE

by Dr. Monica Halka

One of the founding goals of the Honors Program was to bring exciting speakers to campus—not only to lecture, but to meet and talk with our students on a personal level. So, every year since its inception, we have been on the lookout for cool and interesting characters to invite. From science writer Jonah Lehrer to forest canopy climber Nalini Nadkarni, these scholars of the world have brought fresh questions and new perspectives that foster lively discussion among our students and faculty.



Dr. Erich Jarvis will speak at Tech in February.

Each spring, in collaboration with the College of Sciences, we are happy to be able to present the “Karlovitz Lecture.”

Part of the Karlovitz Science Seminars, it is named in honor of Les Karlovitz, the former director of the School of Mathematics who was dean of the College of Science and Liberal Studies beginning in 1983. Karlovitz left Georgia Tech in 1989 and died in 1990. His widow established the seminars in his memory.

Since the Honors Program assumed responsibility for this series in the fall of 2007, we have hosted Dr. Alan Lightman, physicist turned novelist, who gave a talk entitled “The Crossroads of Science and the Arts,” NPR science correspondent Joe Palca with “How to Explain the Universe in Two Minutes or Less,” and Dr. Nadkarni, who spoke on her research experiences in the jungles of Costa Rica.

This semester, we are excited to present Dr. Erich Jarvis from Duke University, whose research may just change the way you look at the world and other species. A neuroscientist interested in vocal learning, Dr. Jarvis will explain how your brain is more like that of a hummingbird than a chimpanzee and why he chose life as a scientist over a promising career in dance. Interested? Be sure to mark your calendars for Wednesday evening, February 23, at 5:30 pm, when Dr. Jarvis will give the 2011 Karlovitz Lecture in the Clary Theater of the Bill Moore Student Success Center. Invite your friends. It will be free and open to the public.

First Years: Thinking About Next Year’s Housing? Try the Sophomore Option!

Beginning next fall, the Honors Program will offer a new and exciting residential experience for up to sixty second-year students—The Sophomore Option. We’ve secured a designated floor in a wing of the North Avenue Apartments, where you can deepen the social and intellectual relationships you established in your first year.

To help you make the most of the Sophomore Option experience, we’ll also reserve a portion of the Student Challenge Fund to support innovative programming that you design--particularly activities that promote sustained interaction with your favorite professors.

To reserve a place for you and your roommates in the Sophomore Option, follow the instructions in the email notice that was sent out in late January, or request more information from Dr. Monica Halka. First come, first served.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Do new opportunities excite you? If you're like most Honors Program students, we know they do. But we also realize you may not know just what's out there to try. So, we have introduced a new HyPe column (this one!) that could enhance your social life and improve your community relations around Georgia Tech. First year student Hal Zhao will be reporting on various ways to get involved and have some fun. And if you have an idea for an opportunity he can tell about, he's all ears!

This Month's Topic: Relay for Life. Get Pumped.

by Hal Zhao

Many of you have probably heard of Relay for Life, but do you know its origins, understand what it symbolizes, or what benefits both you and your community can gain from it? Relay for Life is a fundraising opportunity that is the brainchild of the American Cancer Society. As of 2010, cancer has risen to be the #1 killer in the United States. Through joining Relay, you can show your willingness to stop this deadly disease from taking many more lives.

In fact, Relay for Life's core philosophies are to celebrate achievements over cancer, remember those who have been harmed or lost due to cancer, and develop a dedication to fight back. Every person joins the Relay for his or her own reason (whether he/she is a cancer researcher, a cancer survivor, or has someone close who has been afflicted by the disease). During Relay, individuals or teams find friends and family to pledge an amount of money for each walk/run around a track—the goal being to see who can raise the most funding. This year, Relay within the Georgia Tech community will take place on April 15th at the Campus Recreation Center track field. This is an all day event with a registration fee of \$10. So far, over 40 teams have signed up to take on Relay this year. To learn more or sign up for Relay, please visit: www.relay.gatech.edu.

On an additional note, the Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) organization is planning a huge fundraising project for Relay this year. If you are interested in supporting the Relay efforts in more than one direction, you are encouraged to visit the CAC executive board meetings, which occur regularly at 9 p.m. on Mondays in Instructional Center, Rm 105.

See you with your running shoes on the 15th of April!

ALMOST THERE

The new North Ave. dining hall is nearly ready. It was designed and built for energy efficiency, including efficient water use and food composting.



HIGH HOPES FOR SUMMER by Karen Redmond

Enrichment—it is something everyone wants in life. How we go about enriching our lives, however, can be very different. Some choose to volunteer at children's camps while others may work a dream job. Right now, I've decided to enrich my life through summer internships. Internships will give me the opportunity to learn and grow in a low-stress environment. I expect it will be a great way to meet people while having a lot of fun.

I started my applications for this summer in late December. Since I am studying Biomedical Engineering here at Tech, I sent my applications to research labs like the National Institutes of Health, Institute of Cellular Engineering, and university research programs. In all, I applied for seven internships this summer. I had initially planned for more, but this is easier said than done. Each application required essays, letters of recommendation, and a resumé, among other things. I spent a good portion of my winter break writing essays and tweaking my resumé. If I am offered an internship it will have been well worth it. Today, economic times are tough, so fewer opportunities with organizations are offered and the competition is stiff. While I'll be thrilled with even one offer, choosing between several would be challenging. If I am offered multiple opportunities, I

will base my choice on a few factors. The most important factor to me is interest. I will look at the research project that the internship is based on, and choose the topic that I am more interested in. I will also consider the company that is sponsoring the internship. If it is a company that I would like to work for in the future, starting as an intern will help me get a job with them in the future. A summer internship can truly alter the direction of my future career but once I make the decision, I won't look back. I'll have everything to gain!



LOOKING BACK by Perry Shuman

One of the scariest moments in life is when you realize that you're not who you thought you were. This past winter break supplied one of those moments for me. My family's Christmas tradition has, for the last few years, included



a week-long trip down to Marco Island, Florida, to visit relatives. This had always been an enjoyable time, a time of good food, hot coffee and late breakfasts. This year was pretty normal in that respect—relaxing, and quiet. I got to read a lot of books, and catch up on sleep and socialization. But in the midst of all this I had the sudden realization that everything had changed and that

what I had expected from Christmas was not what I was ever going to get anymore.

Probably the biggest change was the realization that the entire rhythm of my life had altered. I had gotten used to my entire life being governed by the casual social arrangements of college life. It was a difficult adjustment to go back to a more formal social structure, re-learning the traditions of after-dinner conversation, the adjustment of my sleep schedule back to something more closely resembling the hours normal people sleep. I really have no idea at what moment things changed, but now that I've been back, I don't know which I enjoy more—going home and coming back were both hard adjustments.

College is supposed to be a time of transitions, where your life adjusts from childhood to adulthood, and like all transitions, it's inevitably awkward and easily unnerving, but it's an essential part of growing up. My future life is going to end up being some combination of what I was and what I've become, and noticing the difference between them is the first step to working out my own identity. It's hard to go back to what my life used to be like, but there are important lessons to be learned through the effort. Realizing you're not who you were is scary, but discovering who you are is one of life's great accomplishments.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Who Makes Tech Work? by Dr. Greg Nobles

Who built Thebes of the seven gates? . . .
Where, the evening that the Wall of China was finished
Did the masons go? Great Rome
Is full of triumphal arches. Who erected them?
-Bertolt Brecht, "Questions from
a Worker Who Reads" (1935)

One cold morning right after the recent snow-closing, with the temperature around 30 and the wind chill making it feel a lot lower, I was heading out of Einstein's for my office, happy to have a cup of coffee and an indoor job. Just outside, though, I happened to stop on Skiles Walkway for a while to watch the workers fitting some of the pieces onto the upper level of the soon-to-be-completed Clough Undergraduate Learning Center. Sure, the CULC may not be the monumental equivalent of the seven gates of Thebes, but it's the biggest construction project on campus these days, and as we watch it rise, we ought to pause to think about who's actually making it go up.

In our Information Age institution, most of us deal with ideas and data, and words and numbers are the tools of our trade. But while we're doing what we do, other people are working around us with other sorts of tools and doing other sorts of things, not just building new buildings, but fixing up old ones, driving our buses, serving our food, and taking out our trash. They make up the army of sometimes unseen, largely unnoticed, and too-often underappreciated campus workers, the folks who work for hourly wages while the rest of us pursue the sort of professional success that carries an annual salary.

How many of them do we know? How many can we call by name? Probably not as many as we should. We'll probably never have a good chance to meet the people building the CULC, because they're working in a fenced-off area, and

when the building's done, they'll be gone, maybe on to another job, or maybe onto the unemployment rolls. I can only hope they'll be invited to the grand opening.

When Darrell McClure, the friendly entry guard at the Library, died last year, it was good to see a handful of students and a few faculty members come to his memorial service, and yet it also made me think

about how much we took his daily greetings for granted. With that in mind, I try to see what's up every day with Ray, the custodian in the A. French Building, or shoot the breeze a bit with Jessie, who serves coffee at Einstein's, or at least have a quick word with Miss Yvonne at her cash register in the Student Center. Those are just a few of my non-academic colleagues, though, and there are hundreds more who help make this campus work.

You ought to get to know some of them on your own. Say hi, say thanks, see how they're doing. You might even meet, as Brecht put it, a worker who reads, someone who could give you the sort of insight you won't get from your professors—including me.



French Building custodian, Mr. Ray Williams.

Photo by M. Halka

HP Recruitment Team

Interested in meeting prospective Honors Program students?

Then apply for the HP Recruitment Team!

We are looking for students who would help with all admissions related events such as Connect with Tech, Women's recruitment, and Preview Georgia Tech. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting opportunity, contact Nicole Leonard, nicole.leonard@carnegie.gatech.edu.

<http://www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu>

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