FOCUS

Technique • Friday, August 27, 2004

ALL'S NOT WELL IN THE ACC

The ACC expansion is great for football, but basketball coaches are complaining. The *'Nique* takes a closer look at the issues involved. **Page 24**

SNEAKER-PIMPIN' IT

Sneaker Pimps, a traveling exhibit featuring quirky sneakers and other shoe art, came to Little Five Points for the weekend. **Page 15**

Junior's struggles to match competition

Despite loyal patrons, Junior's expands hours, food offerings in hopes of increasing business

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

"Junior's is awesome!" said Andrew Pilsch, a fifth-year Science, Technology, and Culture/Computer Science major. "The chicken fingers win at life."

Students like Pilsch are why Junior's Grill—that classic restaurant with a permanent foothold in Tech's campus since 1948—is holding its ground in the face of increasing competition from Technology Square and the new Student Center Commons. Pandini's, Jackets, Moe's, Tin Drum Asian Cafe and other restaurants are offering students a slew of new on-campus dining options for the first time in decades.

But Junior's, tucked away neatly behind Tech Tower, is still alive thanks to a fiercely loyal fan base of sophomores and upperclassmen.

Nevertheless, Tommy Klemis, the restaurant's owner, did report numbers that dwindled in correlation to the campus expansion. Junior's now averages only 200 to 250 customers during the day, with another 100 in the evening.

Some of Junior's regular customers have also noticed a drop in business.

"I do feel like the crowd size has lessened since I was a freshman," said Keyur Vimawala, a fourth-year Computer Science major. "I think the addition of the research buildings and classrooms around Tech Square have made students take advantage of the convenience of eating [there]."

This has prompted Klemis to introduce some changes.

"[We're trying] to change our menus and other alternatives to make Junior's a destination place, especially at night," he said. "We're adding a coffee bar, Junior's Juice and Java...We've introduced…turkey burgers and veggie burgers. We now have five fresh-made salads daily."

> "I do feel like the crowd size has lessened since I was a freshman."
>
> **Keyur Vimawala**
> Fourth-year CS major

Junior's has also expanded its hours to include Sundays, when it is open from noon to 8 p.m. to accommodate students studying in the library. The Juice and Java will be open daily and will serve smoothies in addition to cappuccinos and other traditional coffee drinks. Klemis said that he hopes this will attract students who don't have time to make it over to the restaurant during the day.

There will be utilitarian changes as well, including a new floor and ceiling tiles slated for installation in December. Klemis is also actively seeking student music groups to provide afternoon and evening entertainment "for our customers to help us to create a relaxed culture for the east side of campus."

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

With the opening of new restaurants in Technology Square and the Student Center Commons, Junior's Grill is trying to update its menu, decor and atmosphere to attract more students, especially freshmen.

"My hope is that the freshmen, who usually don't discover Junior's until their sophomore year or later, will get to know that there is an alternative on the East Campus," Klemis said, "and that they could find it to be a relaxing and friendly place where they could meet with…their fellow students."

Freshmen are a special target because, he said, new students usually hear about Junior's through word of mouth. These are the customers who will replace the graduating seniors.

"We'd like to let them know that Junior's is very cheap," he said. "The food is cheap and good and fast and

See **Junior's**, page 13

Economy up, but grad school still attractive

By Marcela Musgrove
Staff Writer

"What do I do next with my life?"

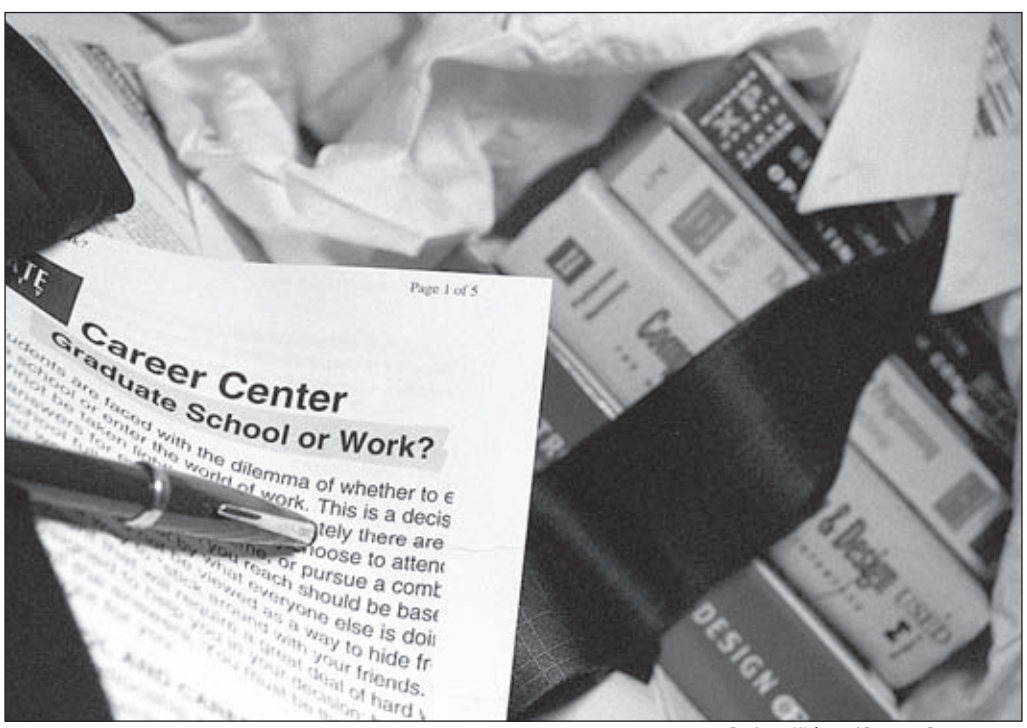
This question is very much on the mind of graduating seniors. Around this time last year, many college seniors were fleeing the job market by applying to graduate school instead, and this was evident in Tech's graduate admissions statistics for 2003.

"[The economy] is definitely part of the trend in seeing graduate students coming back," said Gail Potts, director of graduate admissions. "Any time the job market decreases, the trend is to come back to school."

However, it looks like this year's post-graduation job market is getting better. Though it can be hard to separate fact from fiction during an election year, it seems like students are having less trouble finding jobs than a year ago.

Ralph Mobley, director of Career Services, also agreed that going straight to graduate school may not always be the wisest decision. "If you put the same time and energy you'd use for graduate school into finding a job, you'll find a job," he said.

In 2004, according to Potts, "Things settled down and went back to a more normal number of applications." This is in contrast to 2003, where, Potts said, "We did see...a very substantial increase in applications and...we heard from schools all over the country that they also saw a very large increase in the number of graduate applications."



By Ayan Kishore / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A rosier economy in 2004? Regardless of the hype, this year's seniors still have to make a choice: take up the books and go to graduate school, or don a shirt and tie for job interviews.

> "There are still some trends leading us to believe there are still job market issues."
>
> **Gail Potts**
> Director of graduate admissions

Michael Dance is one student who took the graduate school route last year. A current

See **Jobs**, page 13

Racecar, students make dynamic team

By Joshua Cuneo
Senior Staff Writer

Tech broke new ground last February in the field of professional racing when it announced its affiliation with The Spark, a race car that sports the Institute's logo and colors. Larry Huang, the car's owner and driver, turned the affiliation into an educational opportunity when he invited three Tech students to join his racing team.

"We had the GT Motorsports car out on display for the unveiling of Tech Square last fall, and Larry saw our car…and noticed that we run the same engine controller and data acquisition system as The Spark," said Scott Flanagan, who graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering last May. "I was invited to become part of the team."

Flanagan extended the invitation to Matt Stephens, also a recent Mechanical Engineering graduate, and Kevin Bray, a third-year Mechanical Engineering major.

The trio joined Silverstone Racing—the car's manufacturer—as trackside engineers and members of the pit crew.

Flanagan oversees engine tuning, fuel economy, and traction control, among other electronic systems. He also directs the suspension setup of the car during practice sessions. "I have been creating some software tools to make more efficient use of our time at the track."

See **Racecar**, page 14

R&D Roundup:

The Science of Sex

By Lisa Brown

Stress is unhealthy, but this is ridiculous

Stressed out? It seems that most species are these days. According to a report in *Science* magazine, round alga Volvox, which are spherical balls of green cells found in pondwater, protect themselves from environmental stresses such as free radicals by switching from asexual to sexual reproduction. Free radicals are reactive oxygen species found in cells all the time, but when certain environmental stresses, such as a water temperature increase, occur, the radicals increase, causing a gene in Volvox to activate sexual reproduction. Some people bite their nails or pull their hair when stressed—hey, not so bad when compared to Volvox.

Fidelity? Don't get your hopes up, ladies

Voles, or meadow mice, have been known for their promiscuity, but scientists at Emory University reported in *Nature* that they may have found the solution for their frustrated female counterparts. It seems that high levels of the hormone vasopressin in their forebrain can cause male voles to leave their promiscuous lifestyle behind for their soul vole. By increasing the levels of vasopressin expression in voles, male voles stuck by their woman when tempted by other females. However, this has not yet been tested on higher-order animals.

I love the smell of pheromones in the morning

There's no designer perfume that can compete with a woman's natural body odor, according to a study conducted in Finland at the University of Jyvaskyla.

Eighty-one women were asked to wear T-shirts to sleep for two nights and return them with details concerning their menstrual cycles and birth control usage. The T-shirts were then sniffed and rated in attractiveness by 43 volunteers of both genders.

The results revealed that men found a woman's natural body odor to be most attractive when mid-cycle (during ovulation) while women reported no difference in attractiveness. T-shirt participants taking birth control pills left both genders of sniffers clueless, indicating the ability of the pills to suppress those hormones that make ovulation so attractive.

Julia Kubanek, an assistant professor in Tech's School of Biology, said, "Scientists have shown that people react to smells but, what do they smell? The actual chemical that elicits this response is the real mystery here."

FACES AT GEORGIA TECH

Badminton, Barbados only part of story

By Kristin Noell
Senior Staff Writer

There is more to graduate student Joy Brathwaite than meets the eye. The stories she tells are both engaging and charming.

An international student from Barbados, Brathwaite received her undergraduate degree from Tech in Aerospace Engineering. She is now getting her Master's degree in Economics.

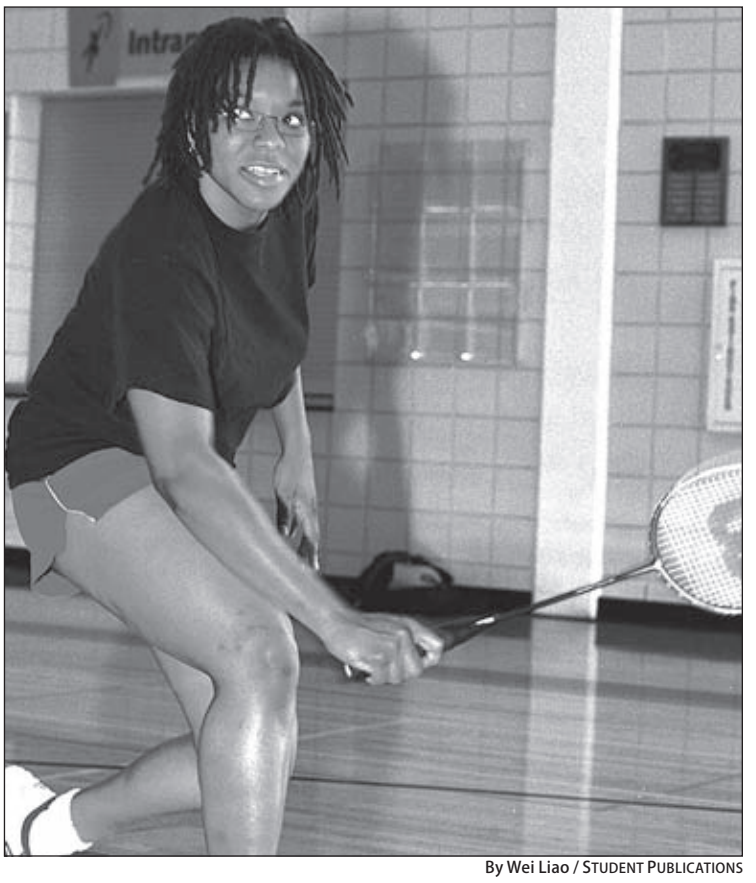
"I honestly don't think I had ever really liked engineering," Brathwaite admitted, "but I didn't fully realize it until probably my third year of engineering when I took an economics course...It was really interesting to me."

At the time, she was on a four-year scholarship, paid for by the Barbados government, to attend college abroad. Brathwaite was one of five students out of approximately 2,000 who got the scholarship that year.

However, because the scholarship only covered four years of school, and changing a major involved a hassle of paperwork and phone calls, Brathwaite went ahead and finished her Aerospace Engineering degree.

Brathwaite chose to attend college in the States because, she said, she needed a change from Barbados. There, "You go to school with the same people from the time you're 11 until the time you're 18," she said, "Some people I went to school with from the time I was three, literally."

However, Brathwaite hasn't entirely been able to escape the people she grew up with: on several occasions, she has recognized people in the United States that she's seen around the island. Surprisingly, there are two or three Barbadians at Tech. Most go to Florida, however, where there is a strong Caribbean culture, or to New York.



By Wei Liao / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Joy Brathwaite, a graduate student in Economics, is a badminton champion. She's also an international student from Barbados, where, she says, things are "more relaxed" than they are in the States.

When she arrived in the States, Brathwaite first went to North Carolina A&T State University, where the transition was "a slight culture shock...here you have things like fraternities, sororities, etc. We don't really have that kind of cliquey stuff [in Barbados]."

That was not the only change from life back on the island.

"I think we're a bit more relaxed, laid back and sometimes not as driven, necessarily," she said, though she said this may be because of economic opportunities available on the island, "We're not, 'Oh man, I'm going to be a CEO.' It's like, 'Okay, I'm just going to go get a job and enjoy my life'...it's also not as stressful. And that's awesome."

On the other hand, she said, "because it's a bit more relaxed, it takes forever to get anything done." In Barbados, "People have no concept of time."

Barbados is also a primarily tourist island. "It's interesting living on a tourist island," Brathwaite said, "because when you're young, they're always telling you the island's great-

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Jobs

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Chemical Engineering student, Dance said, "I know many people in my program who applied, since the 2002-03 job market was pretty bad for engineers." Though Dance said he would have gone to graduate school anyway, the lack of positions motivated him to go ahead and get an advanced degree to better his skills and job chances.

But Dance feels that this year's atmosphere has changed. "Now it looks like the market is picking up," he said.

However, it may still be too early to tell whether the optimism is justified. This year, the Office of Graduate Admissions still saw a slight increase in graduate applications as compared to 2002.

"There are still some trends leading us to believe that there are still job market issues," Potts said.

For example, the number of graduate applications from U.S. students, as opposed to international students, is significantly higher this year than in 2002. "That would indicate that something within the country was the trend," Potts said.

However, Mobley noted that for many Tech students, the motivation for going to graduate school may be for reasons other than a bad economy.

Mobley said the percentage of Tech students planning to go on to an advanced degree is well above the national average as well. In addition, many technical fields, such as biomedical engineering, may almost require an advanced degree.

Marleigh Norton, a master's student in Human-Computer Interaction, spent several years working before going back to graduate school. "After a bit in industry, I realized there [are] some things I needed to learn in order to progress," she said. "People kept expecting me to know graphic design, how to write a paper, how to design an experiment, etc, and I didn't, so I came back to school. The industry experience gave me a very grounded set of goals for grad school, which would help me in the ultimate goal of being highly employable in industry when I was done."

Stephanie Lucero, a December 2003 graduate in Civil Engineering, had a full-time job offer, but turned it down to start a master's in Environmental Engineering. "I've co-oped and been in the real world," Lucero said. "I really like the student lifestyle and being in a learning environment."

Graduate school may also be more necessary for those needing a visa. Mobley said, "The job market for international students is very difficult and particularly so for undergraduates. For them, graduate school is more necessary to be competitive in the job market and to be eligible for sponsorships."

> "I would say that the job market looks much better than it did a year ago. I do not think people are starting grad school to escape the rough job market."
>
> **Nisha Javia**
> Recent EE grad

The job market may be getting better for these students as well, however.

Nisha Javia, an Electrical Engineering graduate from May 2004, is optimistic. "I have been getting numerous responses from companies for interviews; I have also gotten four job offers so far with a decent starting salary and good perks," Javia said. "I would say that the job market looks much better than it did a year ago. I do not think that people are starting grad school to escape the rough job market."

"In fact, I know a couple of friends who...want to enjoy the carefree student life for a bit more before entering the boring and monotonous work life," Javia said.

Junior's competes with Tech Square, SC Commons restaurants

Junior's

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friendly." The prices even include drinks with unlimited refills, "so you can get a grilled cheese and drink Coke until [you] slosh out of here."

This is not the first time that Junior's has adjusted its strategy to accommodate competing businesses. Pizza parlors, delis, and other restaurants that have opened up near campus have impacted the customer base, and Junior's has responded with improved prices, customer service, and employee friendliness.

"Sometimes the friendliness is the one item that differentiates your business from a business that [sells] the same thing," Klemis said. "And at Junior's, I feel our employees do that naturally, or it comes naturally."

Many students who frequent the restaurant agree that this strategy is what makes Junior's a continuing success.

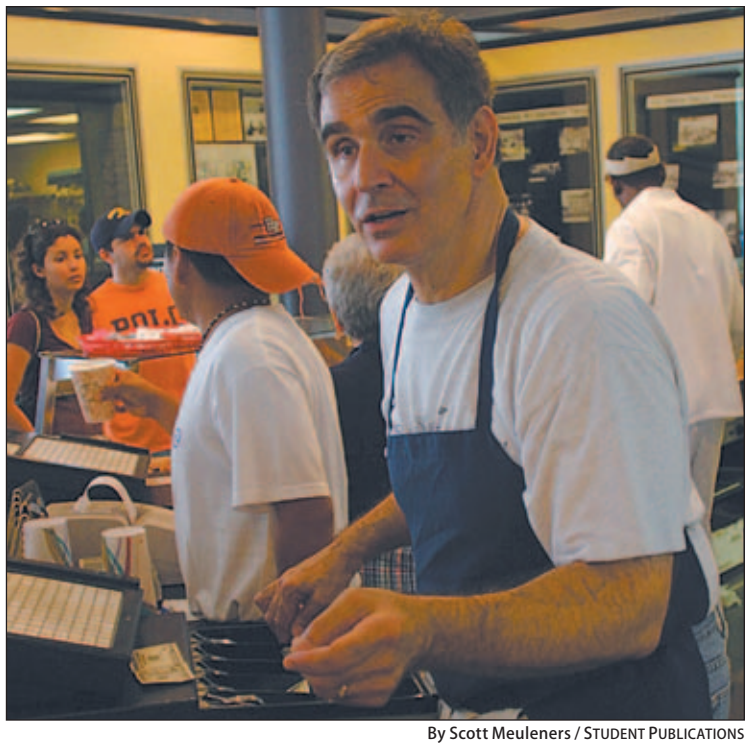
"I like the food they offer (especially breakfast and lunch), and the service is very personal," said Ashley Smith, a fourth-year History, Science and Technology major. "When I come back after a break, they ask me what I've been doing. They also have nice treats like warm chocolate chip cookies."

Vimawala agreed. "It's peaceful, when there's not a crowd, and the booth seats have good lighting from the windows," he said.

"When it gets cold, Junior's is the place to go for a warm cup of soup," Smith added. "Everyone should go by and say hi to [Klemis]!"

Some students cite its convenient location to study or to hold group meetings.

"Junior's is a great place for student organizations to meet up," said Chelsea Morrissey, a sixth-year Computer Science major. "Omega Phi Alpha regularly has dinners at Junior's before our meetings… [Also,] the atmosphere at Junior's is relaxed, which makes studying easier."



By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tommy Klemis, the owner of Junior's, is thankful for the loyal students, faculty and staff who frequent his restaurant. However, the number of customers has dwindled to around 300-350 each day.

But avid fans of Junior's have not justified their loyalty without doing their homework, and some can systematically discount the other restaurants one by one.

"St. Charles is over-priced, and the service is horrible," Vimawala said. "Ribs N' Blues has okay food, but the environment is very appealing. Moe's has good prices for bad food."

"Tin Drum is really boring. I think the Student Center has better burritos. The iced tea place was kind of strange. Starbucks is Starbucks," Pilsch said.

While some students argue over how much business Junior's will lose in the long run, most agree that the restaurant is not going anywhere.

"As more students have classes in Tech Square, Junior's will become less convenient," Smith said. "However, there are still lots of students and faculty who like what Junior's has to offer. I think that organizations will still get together for dinner there, and students who need something quick between classes will keep going to Junior's."

Klemis echoed the common sentiment that Junior's is an important Tech tradition.

"What I would like to do is [use] our walls to show Tech scenes of the past…Traditions can evaporate very quickly if you don't spend the energy and the effort to keep [them] alive," he said.

Despite the increased competition, Klemis applauds the recent campus expansions. "It's definitely a great campus with great student life now," he said. "And, of course, with that culture thing, we're trying to find a way to be part of that student life."

"It's more personal," Pilsch agreed. "The places at Tech Square seem really corporate."

Furthermore, he added, "The chicken fingers, they are awesome."

THIS WEEK'S PHOTO:

By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tech Up Close

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

If you think you know the answer, email
focus@technique.gatech.edu
for a chance to win a *Technique* T-shirt.

Last week's Tech Up Close:
Cabling on the outside of the Student Health Center

Last week's winner:
Linda Whitenton

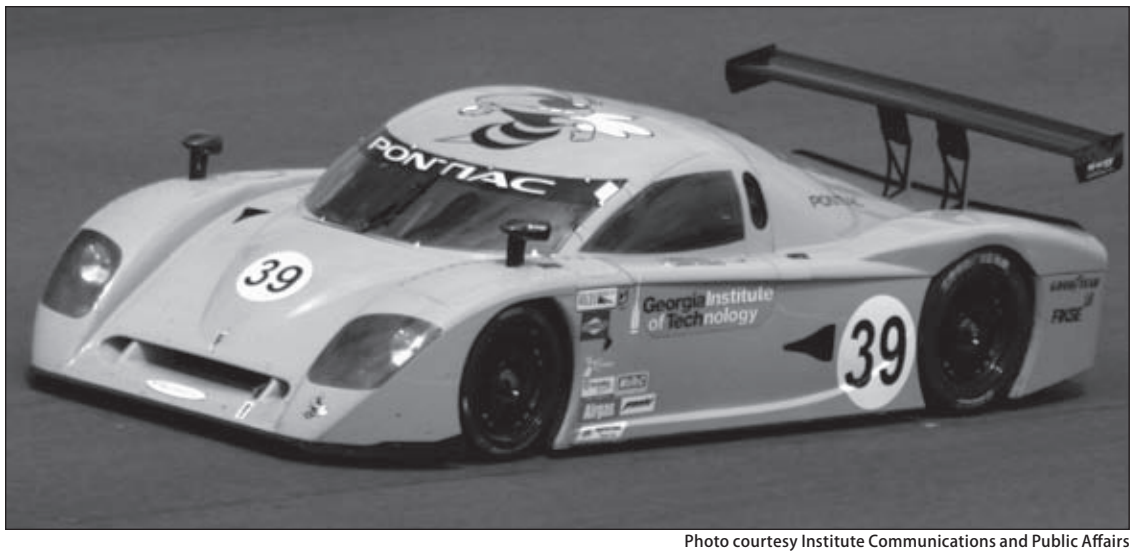


Photo courtesy Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Three Tech students, Scott Flanagan, Matt Stephens and Kevin Bray, got a chance to join the Silverstone pit team. Their racecar is called the Spark, and sports the Institute's logos and colors.

Racecar from page 9

Stephens, who has since left Silverstone for a position with Honda Performance Development, assisted Flanagan in some of these endeavors, but much of his attention was on the crew itself.

"I was the re-fueler on pit stops, and I did whatever needed doing in the garage to prepare the car," he said.

While Stephens was busy with refueling, Bray manned the fire extinguisher. "I also suggest changes to the spring rates, shocks, anti-roll bars, and aerodynamics to decrease lap times and improve drivability," he said.

The Spark is a number 39 Crawford-manufactured Daytona Prototype. Racing at speeds up to 190 miles per hour, the Tech car is a flat-bottomed, closed-cockpit vehicle with a 5.4 liter, 500 horsepower, V-8 engine. It has appeared in the Miami Grand Prix, where, according to Stephens, it finished 10th, and at the Phoenix International Raceway, where it qualified for 10th place.

"The car currently finishes midfield," Bray said. "Both the team and the chassis manufacturer are working hard to improve the performance."

"For being a relatively new team with not a lot of crew members, I thought we did very well," Stephens said, echoing the sentiments of his two classmates.

Stephens, Bray and Flanagan also spoke highly of their own experiences. Flanagan credited his experiences for helping him get accepted to the Masters in Motorsports Engineering and Management program at Cranfield University in the UK. "This experience has really gotten me ready for a full career in professional racing."

Bray cited similar benefits. "It has added to my experience with testing and tuning race cars," he said. "This will help me with my role as chief engineer for the GT Motorsports [Formula Society of Automotive Engineers, a collegiate race car design competition,] team, which I consider my most important endeavor into Motorsports."

For Stephens, the benefits are more immediately tangible. "I'm sure this experienced helped in my getting a job with [Honda] as a Race Engineer in the Indy Racing League," he said. "I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a part of the Silverstone team."

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est resources are its people...we're taught to be friendly [and] polite to tourists," Brathwaite said.

One of the most interesting things about Brathwaite is her badminton skill.

Badminton is my first love," she said. She started playing at age 11 when she started secondary school. She had wanted to play tennis, but they did not have a tennis team. They did have badminton. She was really bad at the beginning, she recalled. "I couldn't even hit the shuttle."

> "It's interesting living on a tourist island, because... we're taught to be friendly [and] polite to tourists."
>
> **Joy Brathwaite**
> Econ grad student

That didn't stop her from making the Junior National team around age 14, however. In her third year, the team got a bronze in the Caribbean Championships. Brathwaite continued to improve: towards the end of her time on the junior team, she won the National Mixed Doubles title; she made the Senior National team around age 17, and during her first year, she won the doubles title.

Most impressively, she finished second in the Junior Girls' Doubles at the Pan-American Championships in 1996.

While on the National team, Brathwaite got to do a lot of traveling, visiting Trinidad, Curacao, Puerto Rico and California for tournaments.

Brathwaite also remembers being in Puerto Rico during a hurricane, which she and some of her friends watched from their hotel balcony while coconut trees were snapping in half and winds were howling. "I thought it was spectacular, [but] some people were scared."

The hurricane may have reminded her of life in Barbados. "That's what I think of, growing up in Barbados," she said. "Just being in the sea and stuff like that…I remember one time I was in the middle of the sea [with] these little fish, and they started diving out of the sea, and I was in the middle of them and all the sudden I saw this flying fish chasing them, and he came out of the sea and spread his wings right in front of me. It was awesome; it was spectacular."

Both of those adjectives could describe Brathwaite, who is now involved in Tech's badminton club, hapkido, and her job at the Center for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), which pairs grad students with high school teachers. She works at Tri-Cities High School, and she describes herself as a resource for the teachers and the students, who she encourages to attend college and helps prepare them for the challenge.