

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## Copenhagen, here I come!

Get all the travel facts and Netherlands nightlife scoop Fall Semester in a continuing column by our very own study abroad correspondent.

## Freshman Issue

Catch the first issue of Fall Semester that will give a heads-up on programs, special events and goings-on for not just the freshmen.

# NASA and Tech team up to teach high school rocket scientists

By Becca Cutri-Kohart  
Errant Rocket Scientist

Recently, researchers across campus are seeming younger and younger. It's not just an illusion. There are actually high school students on campus performing innovative and cutting edge research under the supervision of professors all summer through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) SHARP Plus program.

The NASA program takes top high school students from all over the country who are part of under-represented groups in engineering (women and minorities) and pair them with professors and researchers to participate in hands-on research. The eight-week program (June 12 to August 4) takes place at 14 universities all over the country.

At Tech, the program is administered through the Georgia Space Grant Consortium (GSGC) office, under the direction of Dr. Erian Armanios and Wanda Pierson. Participants are selected through a highly competitive application process.

The NASA SHARP students at Tech are paired with professors and doing research with them on topics that include smart spacesuit design, polymers, flight simulation, thermal protection systems, interplanetary shipping companies, computational fluid dynamics, flight mechanics, and autonomous aerial vehicles.

NASA SHARP alumni have gone on to study engineering here and at other nationally recognized engineering and science universities, including MIT, CalTech, Princeton, and Stanford.

For many, this summer is their first introduction to college life. High school senior Sarah Wilhoit said she has toured colleges



Photo by Carter Green / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

High school student Sarah Wilhoit (left) and mentor Dr. Carolyn Ruppel (right) of EAS are studying the permeability of soil samples

before, but her discussions with the professor and students she works with have given her "guidance in college selection and how [universities] actually go about their research."

All the NASA SHARP participants are required to continue their work into the academic year as well as present both written and oral reports about their progress. Wilhoit will enter her research in the International Science Fair Competition.

The high school students aren't the only ones who benefit from this program. The professors they are working for have found the students to be useful and able assistants.

"It has been really eye-opening. When you are told you've got a high school student coming, you don't know what to expect. She's really bright and sharp," said Dr. Carolyn Ruppel, Wilhoit's advisor.

Armanios echoed the sentiment, "[The professors] are all in awe... the quality of the stu-

dents is outstanding."

The students rapidly integrated themselves into both the Tech and Atlanta communities. They live in Cloudman and dine at Brittain, and they can often be seen playing volleyball in the East Campus Courtyard. They take cultural and educational field trips to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Lockheed Martin, Delta and more.

The students' chaperone and live-in advisor, Micaela Culbreth, said the students are adapting well to college life, since they are all "very disciplined and doing fine... they are learning to be more responsible."

The final outcome of the program is college-bound engineering students who have been exposed to university-level research and college academics. The participant's opinions of the program, however, can be summed up in the words of Sarah Wilhoit, "This is worthwhile. I'm glad I did it."

## Real World Digest Weeks 5 and 6

### 'Real World' adventures continue

Jamie Schulz  
Will not strip for Melissa

Since I had nothing better to do on the holiday weekend, I watched the "Real World" on MTV, for you, dear reader, probably while you were out doing something more interesting.

It seems our own Tech ambassador to N'awlins, Matt Smith, still isn't warming too well to Julie. He practically shot her down when she asked him to go to the drag show. His excuse? "I don't like that; it's not normal."

Wise up, Matt; you attend school in the city that has been labeled as being the gay hub of the south. It's an everyday occurrence in Atlanta. Tolerate it, and have fun. Need we remind you that you're in New Orleans? She's going to give up sooner or later.

But Melissa seems to be the one to watch. She broke up with "Frat Matt" because she felt they were too different, and that he only used her for the glamour associated with the house.

The show seems to be focused on just three people right now. Very aggravating.

But if it doesn't get ratings, why show it? And why do they all have to be so two-dimensional? Take Jamie, for instance. He seems to have no

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depth. He's been out with quite a couple of girls and has expressed his attraction to Kelley, but he has nothing more to say.

Matt still doesn't play a pivotal role going into the sixth week, but David has taken the place of Melissa as the problem child. He's gotten a job as a bartender. A bit hypocritical, since he says that alcohol doesn't solve anything.

The show they're producing has had some snafus. Everyone was supposed to be working on the show, and as producer, Kelley was wanting to see David's work.

He claims he has it, but has no hard data. Tempers flare and expletives fly again in the board room when David shoots down everyone's ideas, but he takes the defensive every time someone mentions his music.

Seems Davey-boy is making friends, though he did win back Melissa when he stripped for her at her birthday party. Exciting, even if Melissa tried to hook up with *everyone* in the house after her party.



Cartoon by Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

# Buzz Around the Campus

A Special with FASET Leaders



Question of the week

"How do you scare Freshmen?"

Feature by Becca Cutri-Kohart & Julia Trapold,  
Photos by Dale Russell



Rajiv Saigal  
EE Senior

"Turn them upside down & shake 'em til they give me their lunch money."



Trey Baltz  
CE Junior

"Tell them how long I'll be at Tech."



Matt Mason  
ISyE Senior

"Introduce myself."



Ryan Reynolds & Kate McGarity  
ME & ChE Sophomores

"Take them to Brittain."

## Battles

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The agility of Blood Clot, a two-wheeled double wedge painted bright red, came as no surprise. However, its builders, Jason Brown and Kenny McKenny from Chattanooga, had also packed quite a wallop under the hood. The little robot easily fought at close quarters with opponents twice its size, leveraging itself under their bodywork or slamming hard enough to knock them apart. When the pieces stopped flying, Brown and McKenny had earned the title.

The RoboJackets, Georgia Tech's robotics club, made their debut in the middleweight division with a low-profile rig christened RoboBuzz. Built close to the ground in a four-sided wedge design, the robot was designed to sweep in and knock opponents off balance, then quickly get itself out of harm's way.

A combination of equipment breakdowns and women's

undergarments would do RoboBuzz in, however. Up against Stealth Wedgie, a single large wedge with a pile of panties dumped on top, it fought to a draw in one bout and was pushed out in two others.

After the competition, team captain Kevin Reim said, "Considering all the bad luck and the mishaps we've been having, I think we did pretty well... We didn't get the right parts that we wanted, that needed to be on there, and the speed controllers were kind of cheap and were failing anyway. But at least we were able to get up on stage with all the things that were going wrong."

Stealth Wedgie, driven by Brian Craig of northeast Atlanta, would go on to win the division championship. Jim Craig, his uncle, later won top honors in the Battle Royal. For this event, all functioning robots were put in the ring at once and turned loose against each other, and the last one standing was declared the winner.

The heavyweight fights were all

about one thing: doing a lot of damage in the shortest possible time—and Tin Lizzie Borden handled most of that. Locking up with Stingray II in the division's first face-off, Lizzie did an admirable job of ventilating its opponent's bodywork before shoving it out of the ring twice to reach the finals.

Across the ring in the day's last head-to-head match was Heap, a big, flat, black monster with a circular saw mounted in front. Cameramen and reporters were cleared out of the area behind the stage for their own protection as the two combatants came out fighting.

When their cutting weapons failed, there was nothing for them to do but slug it out at point-blank range. Smoke began to rise from the stage and the carpet blackened as Lizzie gradually pushed Heap over the edge to win the first round. The saw was replaced by a drill for the second, but Lizzie paid no mind and chopped its way to another victory and the division title.



Photo by Alan Back / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**RoboBuzz (left), representing Tech, locks up with Stealth Wedgie during Robot Battles at Dragon\*Con 2000. Kelly Lockhart referees the match.**