

Hanson "Takes a Walk" with students

Band visits to raise awareness about poverty and AIDS

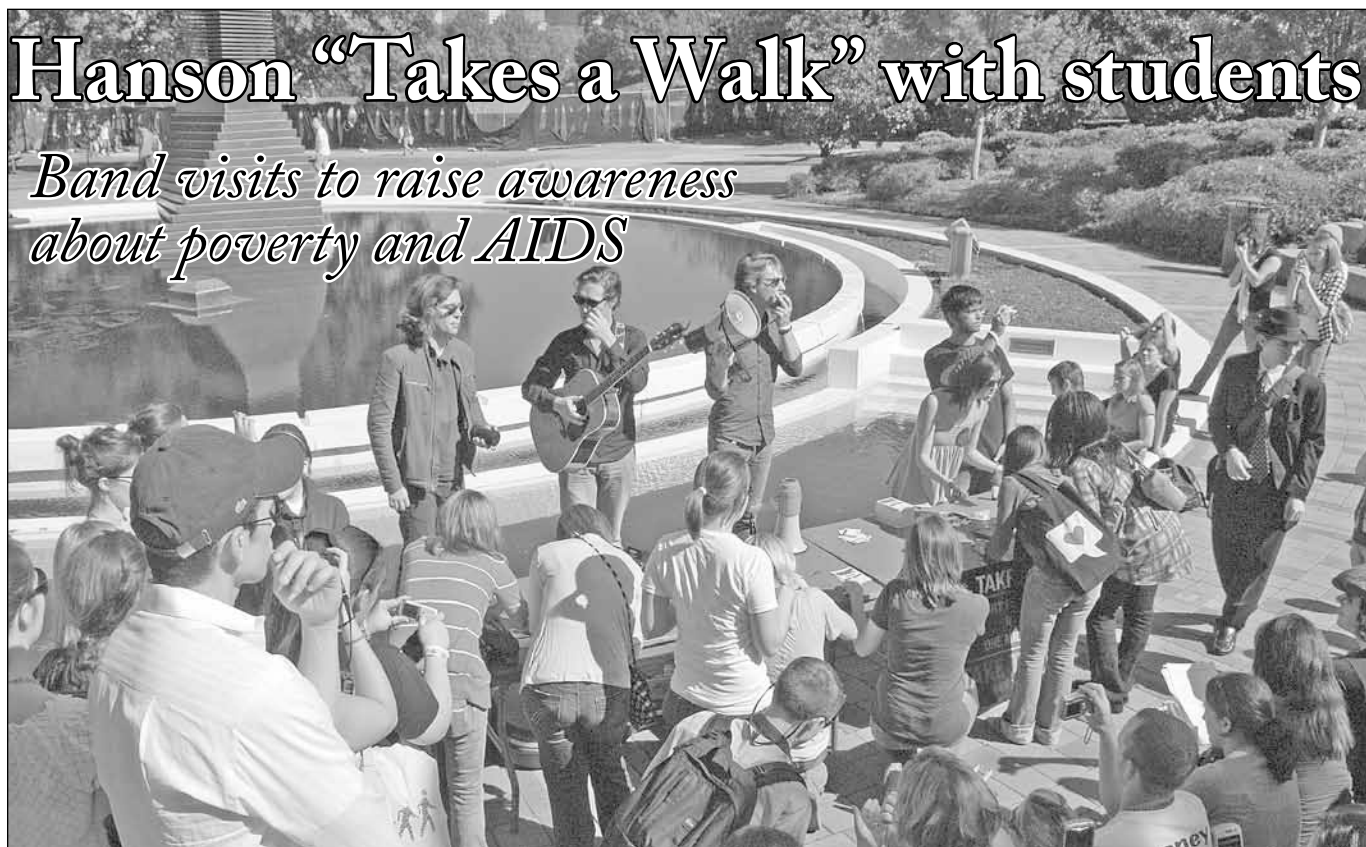


Photo by Vania Ho/ Student Publications

Students attend "Take a Walk" with Hanson at the Campanile to walk barefoot and help raise awareness about poverty and AIDS around the world. The event was sponsored by GT H.E.R.O.s and One, a charity that is closely affiliated with U2.

By Chris Russell
Staff Writer

Imagine walking a mile through Midtown Atlanta. It might take a few minutes, but it's certainly doable. Fresh air, fairly interesting scenery and, if you plan carefully, you could probably even avoid any major hills. All in all, a pleasant afternoon.

Now, imagine taking that same walk, barefoot. Things get a bit more interesting. Even just thinking about it, you can still feel the crunch of fallen acorns beneath your soles, the sizzle of hot asphalt, the poking and prodding of loose gravel and the splashing puddles of I-really-hope-that's-

just-water-I-stepped-in.

All in all, a not-so-pleasant afternoon.

How about if you threw in live music, charity and rock and roll band Hanson?

This odd combination of bare feet and loud music is precisely what students who passed the Campanile on Wednesday encountered, however.

Sponsored by GT H.E.R.O.s and One, Take the Walk was a chance for students to take part in the fight against poverty in Africa and experience some of the conditions children in underdeveloped nations face daily.

Hanson regularly partners with TOMS Shoes, a for-profit

organization known for donating a pair of shoes to children in need for each pair of shoes sold, to assist with events like this.

In a phone interview, Zac Hanson said, "We felt the walks were a way to do something real, to experience something that's action-oriented: being present and taking off your shoes for something that's affecting our generation."

The events are largely targeted at ending extreme poverty and lessening the plight of AIDS.

The goal is to provide access to clean water, shoes, anti-viral drugs and medical technology to those who need them, as well as building schools.

Hanson said he and his brothers felt TOMS epitomized how people could give back. He points to the fact that TOMS is a company, not a charity but still manages to help out.

Hanson said, "It's a way to help out without quitting and being a non-profit. They just decided that, from day one on, they were going to give back."

Hanson, along with others, got involved in this kind of activism early, inspired by a company from their hometown of Tulsa, Okla.

Hanson said, "It goes back a few years. We were originally inspired by some guys

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GT Coming Out Week supports LGBT community

By Chris Russell
Staff Writer

Students walking down Skiles this week might have noticed a bit more color than usual. For most of the week, students in white and plum shirts stood next to a wildly-painted closet door surrounded by brightly-colored balloons and passed out flyers stamped with pictures of cows and pink triangles.

This Technicolor display was set up by the Georgia Tech Pride Alliance to advertise for their annual event, Coming Out Week, an event the organization hosts annually to advocate for and educate the public about lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans gender (LGBT) issues.

According to Ryan Epp, second year EE and president of the Pride Alliance, the event is typically hosted around National Coming Out Day, which occurs every Oct. 11 but, due to Homecoming, was postponed, so the events asso-

ciated with each didn't collide with each other.

The week kicked off Monday night, with a presentation by Dr. Suzann Lawry, a psychiatrist who works extensively with the LGBT community on the state of marriage in the United States.

Lawry's presentation spanned a wide range of topics, covering everything from a brief history of the gay rights movement in the US, from facts combating stereotypes of gay couples, to the rights that gay couples lack in comparison to straight couples and the importance of legalizing gay marriage.

Lawry first presented several reasons arguing for the legalization of same-sex marriage from both a social, legal and economical standpoint.

When not protected by marriage, gay couples (and their children) don't receive many tax benefits straight couples do and can't claim social security or veterans benefits upon the death of their part-

ner. Moreover, she mentioned gay couples having to deal with issues like a lack of input in critical medical procedures, lack of child visitation rights for split couples, and the lack of federally-protected time off from work to take care of an ill loved-one.

Lawry said, "We've learned from history that, by default, separate is not equal...Being gay doesn't cause pain. Discrimination causes pain. Oppression causes pain."

Lawry then presented several slides on stereotypes often associated with being gay and combatting common beliefs about the quality of gay relationships.

She mentioned studies that

showed gay couples stand toe-to-toe with straight couples in terms of quality of life, relationship satisfaction and relationship skills, and even surpassed straight couples when it came to division of labor, as they didn't have to deal with traditional gender roles.

Lawry said, "As you can see, the research really doesn't support the stereotypes."

Tuesday night, the Alliance held an event on what they called "coming out as an ally," or how to be a straight ally of the LGBT movement and how to help friends who come to you.

The event started with an-

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Tech Hillel sponsors guest lecturer

By Sarah Malis
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 27, Tech Hillel, Tech's Jewish organization, sponsored a guest lecture given by Amos Guiora.

Guiora is a professor of law at the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah, where he teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, International Law, Religion and Terrorism and other courses dealing with international conflict.

Many college students in the United States may not exactly follow news reports discussing global conflict, counterterrorism efforts and international freedom and religion issues. However, explanations and debates pertaining to these concepts have taken the media by storm.

Television, the internet, newspapers and other modes of media constantly hawk the religious and political conflicts of the Middle East.

Guiora also served for 19 years in the Israel Defense Forces Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps), where he held multiple senior command positions, including Commander of the Israel Defense Forces School of Military Law, Judge Advocate for the Navy and Home Front Command and the Legal Advisor to the Gaza Strip. Some of Guiora's areas of expertise include legal and policy aspects of counterterrorism, morality in armed conflict and the Middle Eastern peace process.

During the Tech lecture, the professor discussed his ideas of freedom and religion. Guiora discussed the importance of these ideas for Tech students, not only in terms of insights into the problems of freedom, religion and terrorism nationwide in the Middle East, but he also explained how these problems are affecting our generation's lives, and our generation's lives on an international scale.

"The messages is one, to be open to asking these kinds of questions. Two, to understand your responsibilities as future leaders to engage in discussion about these issues. Three, to understand the threats that are out there. And, four, to understand that there are threats, to ask yourselves how to we respond to these threats and how do we protect ourselves," Guiora said.

One theme of the professor's lecture discusses the limiting of religion within Israel's and the Middle East's borders. He explained that there must be restrictions of not just religion, but also free speech.

When these two crucial elements of life are strained, trust in government and terms of security subsequently will be challenged. Israeli citizens and other international states' populations must address these obstacles and religious extremism.

"I think that by directly addressing religious extremism, the state would be making an effort to more effectively protect, for instance, national leaders in the way that Yitzhak Rabin [an assassinated Prime Minister of Israel] wasn't protected. It will send a strong message to religious extremists that their words are unacceptable," Guiora said.

"You know, there's a theory in which I believe in that religious extremists, in whichever culture, what they are really doing is de-legitimizing the state, because they believe that religious law is supreme to state law," Guiora said.

"If the state were to address this directly, it would send a powerful message to those that are de-legitimizing the state. And I think that states, religious and secular alike, would be the beneficiaries [of that]. The idea that sending a powerful message to religious extremists, one: it would more protect the state, and two: it would make it clear to religious extremists that there

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Illustration by Siwan Liu/ Student Publications

Students, administration collaborate to meet green goals

By Andrew Nelson
Staff Writer

In early October the Sustainable Endowments Institute released its College Sustainability Report Card. The report card grades universities on their efforts to improve energy efficiency and dedicate sufficient resources to environmental issues.

This year Tech earned a “B,” the highest grade yet, thanks to the initiatives undertaken by Tech’s Office of Environmental Stewardship and student organizations like Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS).

The only two categories of the report card where Tech didn’t earn an A were in endowment transparency and shareholder engagement.

Marcia Kinstler of the Office of Environmental Stewardship disagrees with how these areas are evaluated, since Tech invests more in money market funds than dealing with “proxy wars” with the companies other schools may invest in, as she indicated the report card more directed toward.

At the forefront, both the Office of Environmental Stewardship and SOS collaborate on projects that improve sustainability in areas of energy use, land use, water use, food, and recycling.

SOS regularly meets with staff from Sodexo, Tech’s integrated food and facilities management service provider.

“When we sit down with So-

dexo, they’re really receptive and enthusiastic about our suggestions,” Nell Fry, president of SOS, said, “We’ve had a lot of success with them, and they’re constantly working to improve sustainability with dining.”

Earning Tech an “A” in the student involvement category of the report card, SOS’s current major projects in sustainability are the bike rental program (which will soon go into action with 70 donated, student-repaired and re-assembled bikes) and zero-waste campus dining through composting and recycling.

Since last March, Tech’s Sustainable Food Committee – including Fry, Sodexo officials, and campus administrators – meet to collaborate on reducing food waste, purchasing local foods and improving the sustainability of dining options on- and off-campus.

“We’re meeting with repre-



Photo by Adebola Adedire/ Student Publications

Buildings like the LEED certified Klaus building helped the institute gain a Sustainable Endowments Institute report card grade of a “B.”

sentatives from Coca-Cola for a round table discussion soon regarding our concerns with plastic bottled beverages, especially water bottles, on campus,” Fry said.

SOS has initiated a strong anti-bottle campaign to reduce the waste of both plastic and money. Vending machines on campus sell 20-ounce bottles of water for \$1.50 (\$9.60/gallon), whereas tap water costs on average only a fifth of one cent per gallon (\$0.002) as well as avoiding plastic waste. SOS strongly encourages everyone to use reusable bottles, like the free

sample is the management building, where there are three or four bins on every floor, with individual bins for paper, cans, plastic bottles, newspaper and trash,” Fry said, “Yet I’ll look into the trash bin and there are bottles and paper in there. It’s not like it’s any harder to put them in the appropriate recycle bins.”

Pamela Chi, first-year BME, encounters similar problems with her friends, and she would like to see more recycling bins near garbage cans.

Chi said, “I was at the library

mugs distributed by the dining halls.

Fry pointed out that student involvement is one of the most important issues of sustainability, as nearly all the sustainability initiatives by SOS and administration hinge on student interaction.

“We have these great recycling bins all over the place.

One exam-

with my friend, and when he finished his can of Monster he tossed it in the garbage can, even though the recycling can was a couple feet away, the trash can was closer.”

Both Fry and Chi believe that students generally want to recycle, but the slight inconvenience of the effort is the main deterrent. If a trash can is closer, that’s where the used soda can will likely go.

Sustainability awareness is SOS’s mission, and this mission is directly aimed at students through initiatives like recycling and the Campus Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

Dozens of students are members of CSA, which orders fresh, local, organic, family farm food such as produce, vegetables, cheese, milk, pasta, and meat (Fry is a big fan of the apples).

Members can order as often as they like or subscribe to a regular share.

Each box of assorted foods lasts about a week depending on how many people eat from it. A regular “farmer pick box” for about two people is \$20, a large box for three to four people is \$30, and a custom box costs an additional packing fee of \$4, annual registration for CSA is \$25.

SOS meetings are open to all of Tech, and Fry strongly encourages people to come. Students can also be involved in discussions with administrators, Sodexo and even Coca-Cola when they meet on Nov. 16 to discuss plastic bottle use.

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are limits," Guiora said. Guiora deems that the limiting of free speech and religion must be neutral between the state and the individual, in order to promote counterterrorism.

"So, counterterrorism is the 'b' word, which is balance. The rights of the individual are equally legitimate to national security rights. Individual rights are not a zero-sum gain. Some people articulate it as maximizing rights, I articulate it as balancing rights," said Guiora.

"Some call it 'what price freedom'. The line drawn is extremely difficult here. On the other hand, excess is very easy. Look at the immediate aftermath of 9/11. I'd say that the Bush administration largely engaged in the paradigm of excess. And did that lead to effective counterterrorism? I'd say probably not," Guiora said.

"But the line drawing is abso-

lutely essential. I can say, based on my own experiences, is that it's very difficult, because in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack, the public, the media, leadership wants a tough response. And that's when the balancing test has to step in. So the line drawn is difficult, but it's essential," Guiora said.

Another issue that was examined in Guiora's presentation was how American Jews currently relate to Israeli politics. With the mounting terrorism and political and religious tensions, there appears to be a subsequent disparity between American Jews and Israel.

Guiora said, "I think that maybe 30 years ago, in very broad strokes, there was greater instinctual sympathy to Israel than there is today, there was greater instinctual understanding of Israel than there is today. And I think that on some level, there was a greater connection to Israel."



Photo by Tim Nowack / Student Publications

Amos Guiora, Professor of Law at The S. J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah, visited and lectured at Tech on Oct. 27.

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other guest speaker, Jeff Mackenzie, a member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and father of a lesbian daughter. Mackenzie discussed how being a straight ally has changed over his lifetime, and why combating prejudice amongst older generations is so difficult.

Mackenzie said, "People of my generation had our values instilled in us by the previous generation, whose attitude was, 'There are no gay people and, if there are, they're all perverts.'"

Mackenzie describes PFLAG as a support group that's open to anyone in the community, but mainly geared towards helping parents with homosexual children accept their lifestyle.

Mackenzie said, "[I've] seen parents come to their first meeting sobbing and weeping because they believed their son or daughter was going to burn in hell. Then, six months later, I've seen those same parents marching in a pride parade."

Mackenzie's presentation was followed by several students' stories about friends and crushes coming out to them, as well as several students' stories about how they got involved in LGBT rights in the first place.

Early Wednesday, the Alliance hosted a similar event, but with more focus on how people in positions of authority—particularly professors, TAs and RAs—can help homosexual students who come to them with problems they're having. Epp described this Safe Space training session as, "a training session for how to be an effective ally and what to do if people come to you with issues they are having trouble with."

Later that night, the Alliance hosted an alumni panel, where a handful of gay alumni discussed what it's like being out after college.

Epp said, "It [was] an interest-



Photo by Jarrett Skov / Student Publications

Students attend "Being Out After College Discussion Panel" during coming out week, the week offered support to LGBT students.

ing experience, listening to people who have been in our shoes before, and seeing what kind of experiences they've had since they entered the workforce."

The counseling center helped out by hosting a Coming Out Workshop on Thursday. Austin Lawry, second year IAML major, public relations chair of the Alliance, and daughter of Dr. Lawry, attended the event last year.

Lawry said, "It was really nice, in that it wasn't aimed just at gay students, but also was about how to be receptive to friends coming out to us."

Lawry said a major part of the event was how students could handle each part of the coming out process. "We tackled each of the different kinds of coming out. We talked about coming out to friends, coming out to your parents and family, and coming out to your colleagues and coworkers," Lawry said.

It was about what is the right time to come out, how to be calm about it and how to be understanding of the feelings of the person they come out to."

Thursday night, the Alliance

did things a bit differently than in the past. Normally, there is a discussion of homosexuality in the Bible, but this year, the Alliance expanded the topic to cover attitudes towards homosexuality in several different religions, with particular focus on Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

The Alliance's next major event is their annual charity drag show in the spring, though they host several awareness drives and smaller events throughout the year.

According to Epp, for every month when there isn't a major event, the Alliance will typically have two days where they try to raise awareness and support for LGBT issues.

Topics covered in the past have included the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and the fact that in several states, Georgia included, it's still legal for employees to be fired over sexual orientation.

The Pride Alliance will also be marching in Atlanta Pride march this weekend at Piedmont Park, as a happy accident placed the Atlanta Pride Festival right at the end of Tech's Coming Out Week.

sliver

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To the person who has the LOST hatch lockdown sticker in the W24 lot: you make my day. everyday
 Haven't been happy in over three months... How did my life get to this point?
 Oklahoma
 Hokie Pokey? More like Hokie Smokey!
 All the way turnt up!
 Delta Co-ops Get High For Free!
 GT PARKING STILL EFFING SUCKS.
 True Life: I have a crush on my TA.
 I know I'm pathetic, but I'm just a sucker for cute Asian girls in tight jeans and uggs...
 my stuff never gets published...
 Bible Crusage? these people really didn't learn anything...
 Apparently the only thing holding T-square up was a goalpost
 To Bored Asian Girl - Where and when?
 Who decided it would be acceptable to whore out an entire sliver box to the SAB? NOT COOL.
 Especially after 3 weeks of no 'Nique.
 I will punch my radio, next time "party in the USA" comes on!
 Stop sucking all of the fun out of GT, Bud.
 new ticketing system = more trouble than it's worth
 "let me tell you about the red wings"
 awww sick! football team getting crunk and students don't know how to join them!
 awkward white people
 Why can't we get our goalposts down in under 5 minutes? Engineered too well?
 we can't even get on the field in good time
 Unathletic students: wait in the back while WE tear the goalposts down.
 I heard that they were cutting the posts up in the Nanotech center.
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from our hometown that developed some medical technology and software for cell phones that would be a convenience in this country, but a lifesaver overseas.”

The band’s interest in Tech’s walk was due partly to fortunate timing—they were touring in the area—but the band says that technology is something they see having more and more of a role in global activism.

Hanson said, “More and more,

technology is giving [everyday] people a louder and louder megaphone than they’ve ever had, or, in some cases, the first megaphone they’ve ever had.”

According to Hanson, the company in question designed software for cell phones that allowed patients to keep in touch with their doctor at a moment’s notice, allowing them to get medical advice in areas where modern medicine isn’t readily available.

On campus, the event was largely spearheaded and organized

by Ali Kimm, second-year Mgt, Sharad Gopal, second-year EE and Maysa Nasserredin, second-year CE.

After hearing about Hanson’s activism during a trip to Washington D. C., Gopal was contacted by TOMS about being a campus rep for Tech.

TOMS then contacted him about hosting an event with the band on campus. After running into a bit of trouble over a non-chartered organization hosting the event, GT H.E.R.O.s joined,

and the event was set.

When asked what the event was all about, Gopal said that the focus was letting people who normally couldn’t help out get involved.

Gopal said, “A lot of people are really passionate about [helping] Africa, and a lot of them want to help, but they just don’t know how.”

In addition to recruiting students, the organizations hosting the event also recruited a great deal off-campus, so Tech students

weren’t alone in their walk. Gopal expected somewhere between 120 and 150 participants.

Gopal toyed with the idea of chartering a TOMS Shoe’s campus organization for a while, but is now on the fence. He is now leaning more towards chartering a campus branch of One, a charity organization with the similar goal of eliminating poverty and strong ties to the band U2.

Those interested in learning more can visit the Take the Walk website at takethewalk.net.

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