

FOCUS

Technique • Friday, February 29, 2008

DAWGS DOWN TECH

Women's tennis dropped a heartbreaking match to hated rival UGA, 4-3. It was the first loss of the season for the Lady Jackets. **Page 24**

JERRY! JERRY! JERRY!

Jerry Springer, infamous talk show host extraordinaire, is coming to Tech for the Jerry Springer Goes Back to School Tour. **Page 15**



Photo illustration by Robert Combier / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



Getting Involved

Student organizations look ahead

By Vivian Fan
Staff Writer

While spring semester for some marks the close of a year of classes and extracurricular activities at Tech, for many others the months of January, February and March mean the start of the application rush for organizations across campus.

Spring recruitment and applications prepare for leaders, membership and positions in various student organizations for the upcoming year.

"Students should get involved so that they feel like they have a role in making Georgia Tech the excellent institution that it is. It's hard not to feel proud and excited knowing that you're helping to introduce the future leaders of Georgia Tech to the school that you love," said Lacey Sprague, a fourth-year Mechanical Engineering major and Connect with Tech Recruitment Chair.

These organizations vary in size, purpose and shape. Some organizations such as Connect with Tech (CWT), Women's Recruitment

Board (WRB) and FASET focus on interaction with prospective first-year and transfer students. Others are responsible for governing and administrative decisions such as Undergraduate Judiciary Committee (UJC), Student Government Association (SGA) and President's Council Governing Board (PCGB). The last include spirit and event organizations such as Ramblin' Reck Club and Homecoming Board.

Applicants to these organizations range from 15 to 300 in number and from those applicants typically 20% to 50% are accepted.

Although each of these organizations is different, the applications show a trend. Each application asks for major, year, GPA and activities involved, but the applications beg the question that many students ask themselves: am I qualified? Am I on the "track" to one of these organizations?

For first and second-year undergraduate students, applying for organizations is important to "getting

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E-Week kicks off at Tech

By Hamza Hasan
Staff Writer

Last week Tech celebrated the nationwide Engineers Week on campus. Recognized across universities and the engineering industry, Engineers Week highlights the impact engineers have on society. With this year's motto "Engineers Make a World of Difference," the week enhances many perspectives on engineering.

Quite a few organizations and majors worked together to create a singular event to showcase the talent, research and importance of the fields of engineering.

"The idea is that people are presenting things that demonstrate their field of engineering. It's something [they] like to do," said Ryan Westafer, an Electrical and Computer Engineering grad student and member of Tau Beta Pi, the honorary engineering fraternity that coordinated the event.

With additional participation from groups such as Materials

Science and Engineering (MSE) students, the Institute for Industrial Engineers, Omega Chi Epsilon (the chemical engineering honorary fraternity) and several others, the event provided enjoyable insights for both engineering and non-engineering

"The idea is that people are presenting... something [they] like to do."

Ryan Westafer
ECE graduate student

majors alike.

"What I told everyone was, 'Now's your chance to show everyone the excitement you have for your domain of engineering,'" Westafer said in regards to the participants in the fair.

Another ideal behind the

event included the popular trend of sustainability. "One of the things we wanted to do was make the event sustainable," Westafer said, describing the reusable banners and materials.

The Engineers Week event included fun but informative demonstrations of engineering and refreshments and prizes. From a homemade Van de Graaff machine to refreshing hot chocolate supplied by OXE, the event educated and entertained people simultaneously.

As the Society of Women Engineers gave free t-shirts to quiz participants, Westafer commended the sponsors of the event, along with the advisor for Tau Beta Pi, Professor Jane Ammons, associate dean of Engineering and ISyE professor.

"[Lockheed-Martin] made it happen for Tech students," Professor Ammons said while enjoying the cotton candy from a nearby stand. Westafer and Professor Ammons both agreed

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By Jon Drews / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Engineering Week participants set up various exhibits underneath Skiles. The week was a collaborative event hosted by several different engineering-related student organizations.

Tech hosts annual HSMC

By Vivian Fan
Staff Writer

The National Mathematics Honor Society Pi Mu Epsilon, the Tech School of Mathematics and the Tech College of Sciences hosted its annual High School Mathematics Competition (HSMC) on Feb. 23.

This year's HSMC marks the 40th competition since its inception by the Georgia Tech Math Club and the 5th hosted by Pi Mu Epsilon.

Competitors last Saturday included over 350 students from more than 75 different schools, some in state and some out of state.

"[HSMC] happens every year, and it's to give away scholarships to students who want to go to Georgia Tech. There are three competitions—the multiple choice, the ciphering and the proof. Whoever the finalists are

in the multiple choice [section] move on to the proof, and are considered for the scholarship," said Kathy Robinson, a second-year

"[HSMC] happens every year, and it's to give away scholarships to students who want to go to Georgia Tech."

Kathy Robinson
Second-year Math

Applied Mathematics major.

The students began the competition's events at the Instructional Center on Saturday morning. Participants, parents

and volunteers were treated to breakfast and then divided up between competitions and Q&A sessions with Tech professors. Competitions were divided into the junior varsity and varsity levels.

Students completed a 20-question multiple-choice test in ninety minutes. From there, the tests were scored and semifinalists were invited to participate in the second round of the tournament for ciphering, a 10-question round that counts toward both team and individual scores. The top 50 participants of all the competitions then competed in the proof-based exam, a five-question long exam completed individually.

"The subject areas attached [to the test are] basically [what students] understand with high school mathematics, but

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The Leap Year Lowdown

Students discuss calendar oddities

By Reem Mansoura
Staff Writer

The calendar year is divided into 365 days. It is supposed to match up with the solar calendar, which is the time it takes for Earth to orbit around the sun. However, a solar year is actually 365.25 days, so the calendar year is a quarter of a day short.

The Egyptians initially created the idea of a leap year to remedy the problem. This concept was later adopted by the Romans, so their calendars included an extra day every four years.

Although it seems like a simple solution, the math does not exactly add up. The solar year is actually 11 minutes and 14 seconds less than 365.25 days. After 128 years, the minutes and seconds would add up to add an extra day.

This problem was corrected in the Gregorian calendar which was introduced in 1582. The Gregorian calendar is the standard calendar for most of the world. In this calendar, years divisible by 100 are not leap years unless they are also divisible by 400.

This correction has almost perfectly aligned the solar year and the calendar year. The two calendars are only half a minute off, so it will take 3,300 years for the calendar to diverge by a day again.

Feb. 29 is a day that occurs during years that are evenly divisible by four, such as 2000, 2004 and this year, 2008. These years are known as leap years. The only exceptions to this rule are century years, such as 1700 and 1900, which are not evenly divisible

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E-Week from page 9

on the generosity of Lockheed for their support of Engineers Week at Tech.

While Tau Beta Pi hosted the array of various engineering organizations and majors for Engineers Week, an ISyE Ph.D. student received honors for her work in humanitarian relief logistics. The National Engineers Week Foundation asked its members to choose a group of engineers up to 30 years of age for its prestigious New Faces of Engineering accolade.

Jessica Heier was the only student among the New Faces of Engineering 2008, representing Tech and the work of industrial engineers in humanitarian relief.

Collaborating with PhD students Aykagan Ak and Clarence L. Wardell III and professors Ozlem Ergun and Pinar Keskinocak, Heier's project dealt with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The project covered vaccinations and their transportation costs while simultaneously reviewing disease



By Jon Drews/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students chow down on some cotton candy, which was given out free as a part of Engineers Week at Tech. The week is a nationwide initiative that recognizes the contributions of engineers to society.

prevention processes. Covering supplies in 37 nations in Central and South America, the project shed a great deal of insight into the field of humanitarian relief logistics.

"The skills I have developed through my coursework and the interaction with faculty and students have been vital to pursuing my goal of improving humanitarian logistics,"

Heier said.

With the Humanitarian Logistics Research Center at Tech's Supply Chain and Logistics Institute, Heier has found essential opportunities to further her research in humanitarian relief.

Her biography on the National Engineers Week website states that for "Heier...two powerful influences

guided her decision to become an industrial engineer. On the one hand, she enjoyed applying mathematics to system problems. On the other, she wanted to have an impact on important societal issues. Those two forces came together when Heier recognized that she could apply logistics methodologies to help humanitarian organizations plan

and...improve people's lives."

As she continues to work on her doctoral dissertation, Heier looks into the systems with decentralized decision making, which obviously need improvement. According to Heier, "this work is needed because in disasters there are many entities making decisions with localized information and differing objectives, but these decisions impact the entire system."

After completing her PhD, Heier plans to pursue professorship in ISyE and continue to do research in humanitarian relief logistics while teaching new students. Heier is grateful for her recognition and the impact it makes on the realm of engineering by creating awareness.

"Tech students have a tremendous opportunity to help others understand what engineering is all about and to use their education to positively impact society in many diverse ways. I challenge them to do just that," Heier said.

To find out more about Engineers Week or to learn about the New Faces of Engineering and Heier's recognition, visit www.eweek.org.

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by 400.

Statistically, a person's chances of being born on a leap day are about 1 in 1500. About 187,000 people in the United States and 4 million people worldwide were born on a leap day. For legal purposes, a person born on a leap day, often called a leapling, turns a certain age depending on how different countries count time intervals. For example, in England and Wales, a leapling turning 21 during a non leap year, legally turns

21 on Feb. 28.

A simple Facebook search showed that at least 16 people from the Tech community had birthdays on Feb. 29, and over 250 people had leap day birthdays in the Atlanta network. When it is not a leap year, how and when do these 4 million people celebrate their birthdays?

"On the years that I don't have a 'real' birthday, I usually celebrate my birthday on Feb. 28," said Sneha Patel, a second-year Management major.

"It would feel strange to celebrate my birthday on March 1 since I

wasn't born in March. My friends and family usually help me celebrate my birthday, even when it is 'fake.' However, they try to make it extra special and plan bigger parties when it is a leap year and I have a real birthday," Patel said.

Patel mentions the special feeling of celebrating her birthday on the actual calendar day during a leap year, like this one.

"I feel so different when my real birthday rolls around because it is the actual day I was born. I still feel special on the 28th, but I feel as if everyone should have at least one

day in the year when it is their day to stand out from the crowd. This year is going to be extra special for me since it is a leap year," Patel said.

Feb. 29 has been an interesting day throughout history. In some countries, there is a tradition that women may propose to men during a leap year. This tradition is sometimes restricted to only include the leap day. The French publish a periodical called La Bougie du Sapeur (The Sapper's Candle) every Feb. 29. The eighth issue comes out this year.

Many famous historical events also occurred on a leap day. On Feb.

29, 1720, Queen Ulrika Eleonora of Sweden abdicated the throne to her husband who became King Frederick I.

In 1956, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced that he was running for a second term. In 2004, Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigned as President of Haiti. In the Bahá'í Faith, day four of Ayyám-i-Há (Intercalary Days) is celebrated only during leap years.

Some famous births include Pope Paul III, American serial killer Richard Ramirez and Emma Barton, a British actress.

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"Dear Victoria, nice boots. "
 "that was kinda sketch, i know. "
 JACKET HUFFER!!!
 "I did *not* huff the jacket, I just sniffed it! A natural reaction! "
 to the creepy jerk red-head at chi psi: you're a creepy jerk.
 i love vacuum cleaners
 paramore is coming march 29th!
 my PL yells about quiet hours too much. she should probably be quiet. since it is past 10PM.
 GT EMERGENCY ALERT: Purple squirrels are invading. Please evacuate.
 RUN AWAYYYYYY!
 why am i the only one in a coma?
 i'm a huge part of the black parade.
 I hate rain.
 "So, uh, how much would we have to pay for a ""Best of Slivers"" edition? "
 Don't like the ratio? Go to KSU!
 Why do three meaningless greek letters make a club respectable?
 Does writing slivers make me a published author?
 I bet Robert Murdoch want's to buy the 'Nique
 poke
 "And now a message for our friends: John has a long mustache, I repeat, John has a long mustache "
 Wounds my heart with a monotonous langor...
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Involved from page 9

involved" early on in the college years. A majority of applicants fall within the first and second-year range. However, many students have the misconception that after the second-year, it is too late to get involved, which may not always be the case.

"I myself did not get involved with any student groups until my sophomore year, and now I would consider myself fairly involved. Students have gotten the wrong idea about organizations...it isn't necessary to have 'prior experience.' If you come to an interview for UJC and you blow it out of the water, I don't care that you haven't been in another organization or not," said Adam Swett, fourth-year Electrical Engineering major and UJC Recruitment Chair.

"There are other ways to tell if a student has the potential to be a good leader. What other organizations

do provide is practice. Practice for interviews, in time management, and in some cases practice in social settings," Swett said.

While age, race and other demographics do not play a factor in choosing applicants, some organizations have shown to have more representation than others. While gender does factor into some organizations more than others (i.e. WRB), other factors such as previous organizational involvement have a greater showing in accepted applicants than others. These organizations include freshman leadership organizations (FLOs) and Greek life.

"FASET has always had a strong Greek community representation, however I think you could find at least one representative from most campus organizations on the leader staff," said Stacey Mahaffey, a Management major and FASET Recruitment Chair. Despite some possible trends, each organization is quick to dispel any overt favoritism to a certain kind of person or

organization.

"We want diverse backgrounds. We want hosts from every major. We enjoy having co-ops and interns as well as students participating in

"We accept the most qualified candidates...we will not sacrifice a quality candidate for a certain type of student."

Adam Swett
Fourth-year EE

undergraduate research. However, it is definitely not required that you be an intern or a co-op to participate as a member of the host team," Mahaffey said.

"We accept the most qualified candidates for the UJC. We have the advantage of being a small organization allowing us to track our members and graduation dates. This allows us to project the kinds of members that we will be lacking and we can specifically target students in that group...[but] we will not sacrifice a quality candidate for a certain type of student," Swett said.

Regardless of the background of the applicant, organizations still look for the same kinds of qualities, and similar characteristics turn them off to potential members.

"One of the biggest turn-offs in an applicant for FASET would be an inability to step out of their comfort zone...as FASET leaders, you have to set the example for the incoming freshmen of being adaptable to different situations and getting along with all sorts of people," Mahaffey said.

"Inability to think on their feet. There are no wrong answers to questions in our interview or on the

application, but [UJC] wants...to see that someone can formulate an argument and then present it. If they can't that is a big negative," Swett said.

In the end, although applying to these organizations may be time-consuming and at times difficult, the result pays off. Getting involved promotes time management and gives students opportunities to increase their social and academic skills.

"I think being involved on campus can help students academically. Most organizations...have GPA minimums in order to apply or be members, which can encourage students to work harder in order to be members of those organizations that they enjoy. [Involvement] can also provide a support group if a student is struggling...it helps to be around other students who are balancing the same things. However, of course as with everything in life, it is good to keep everything in moderation—including your involvements relative to your classes," Mahaffey said.



Photo courtesy of Rena Brakebill

Buzz peers over the shoulder of a high school math student. After using their brains in competition, many played chess to de-stress.

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problems require multiple steps and require no college calculus," said mathematics professor Tom Morley.

Morley and another professor edited all questions for the tournament, which were mainly written by members of Pi Mu Epsilon.

"There are some problems that are difficult that they should be able to do. What some of these 8th graders are doing is way beyond what [many] Tech students were doing in 8th grade," said Cindy Phillips, a fourth-year Applied Mathematics major.

While the competition is mainly focused on the students, Pi Mu Epsilon also takes parents into consideration. The coaches and parents who attend the competition have the option to do the same exams their

children do.

Otherwise, Tech mathematics professors and faculty members talk to the parents about the programs at Tech and the Institute itself in a separate waiting room.

"We have probably 10 or 15 faculty members who are hanging out here today to talk to the students, grade the tests, and give rewards," said Mitch Keller, a Math Ph.D. student.

"That's my job. I sort of just hang out and talk to the parents...I'm always excited to see how many bright students there are, and the children which come here," said Michael Loss, a Mathematics professor.

In addition to exams and competitions, the event also gives students an opportunity to explore Tech and the more relaxed side of campus life. Afternoon activities include outdoor and indoor games such as soccer, chess, football and Frisbee, campus

tours and a comedy show.

Organizers made an effort to keep the participants busy, scheduling fun activities in between events.

"I added a new contest this afternoon, and it's nine stations that people can go around. It's something for students who are not in the proof test. It's something for students not to get discouraged," Phillips said.

While Pi Mu Epsilon has successfully organized the event for five years now, the organization is still looking for more help for HSMCs to come.

"We really need volunteers to help organize this because you see the students [are] graduating, and what we really need [are] students to come in and help [with] the competition," Loss said.

"I really enjoy it, and it's great to see all these high school students on campus and how they enjoy the competition," Keller said.

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"if I remembered what happened last night, I would do more. " no one ever remembers hooking up with schlo
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"2 bits man is a waste of space, everyone hates it "
"To the person so upset about the Textile Conference, why didn't you speak up during the meeting? "
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Please update the nique.net site quicker some of us rely on it.
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"It's the second month of the year, I can't wait to feel the heat when the weather outside is hot, too. "
What is Vicky Dean paid to do? Not respond to e-mails or phone calls?
"to all ppl pissed off with the textile fraternity getting money... think logically... im not part of it, and neither do i support paying for that thing, but sga has been trying to get closer to the student body, and no one has responded. (continued) "
"(continued) i mean, about 60% of ppl say they dont pay attention to sga, but these guys did apparently, and went thru the system. maybe if we paid more attention to sga, an insignificant fraternity (in terms of size) wouldnt get so much money.
sun and jin. take that!
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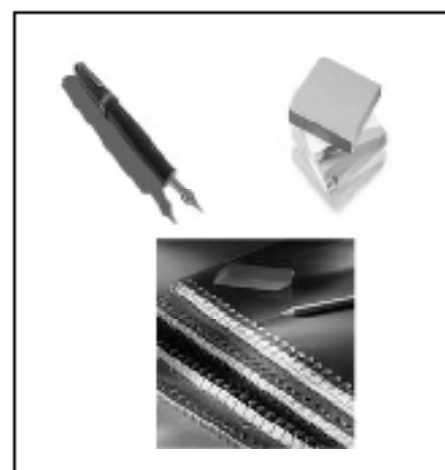
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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF married Tech students

By Maria Carter
Contributing Writer

While many are familiar with long-term relationships and co-habitation, college undergrads rarely take their relationships to the next level of commitment while still enrolled. Married students may be a minority on campus, but with the entire housing facility of Tenth & Home dedicated specifically to family residences, they are still a significant part of the community.

One perk of being a married undergrad? "In-state tuition," said Stephen Miller, a fourth-year Management major from South Carolina who is married to a life-long Georgian.

Miller proposed to his wife Ashley after two months of dating. "The first time I physically met [Stephen's parents], we were telling them we were engaged," said Ashley Miller, a fourth-year Math major.

The Millers, who met freshmen year after a mutual friend introduced them in CS class, will celebrate their second wedding anniversary this April.

Stephen's father was against the marriage at first. "Until he found out that... I would become in-state and I would be saving money," Stephen said. At that point, he urged Stephen to go ahead and marry if he was sure that Ashley was the right person.

At the request of their parents, Ashley and Stephen held off get-

ting married until the end of their second year.

They may wake up next to the same person every morning, but a day in the life of a married student does not have to differ much from that of a single student.

"The day progresses as it would for any college student, especially any other college student in a relationship... I guess the difference would be that we cook dinner for each other, we eat together every day instead of just when we're going on a date," Ashley said.

"We found that going through changes together and growing up together has really strengthened our relationship."

Shelly Alderman
Second-year Physics

Making meal-time a priority helps college newlyweds to balance school, work and marriage. Ashley works nights so Stephen brings dinner to her and they eat together.

"She cooks better than I do, though," Stephen said.

Ashley says now that she is married, she offers more support to

her spouse in his academic work. "My dad [said], 'You get married and you better not drop out of school. School is number one.' It's like, I know. And I think it was a distraction more when we were dating," Miller said.

Over time, Stephen and Ashley learned to give each other space and to encourage each other to focus on school when necessary.

Shelly Alderman, a second-year Physics major, also became engaged during her freshman year. Her husband, Xander, is in the Marine Corps.

"He's been in training, which



By Michael Skinner/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Ashley and Stephen Miller tied the knot at the end of their second year at Tech after two months of dating. Currently fourth-years, the Millers live in family housing in the 10th and Home apartments.

means he's been in a couple different places, each place not for very long... since I am in college it didn't really make sense for me to follow him around," Alderman said.

Next semester, Shelly will transfer schools and join Xander when he is finally stationed in Hawaii.

Shelly and Xander Alderman met in high school and credit their close relationship to the experiences they have shared as young newlyweds. "We found that going through changes together and growing up

together [has] really strengthened our relationship, and it's different for people who meet when they're older... they've settled into living and have their habits," Shelly said.

According to Alderman, marriage provides a consistent source of support and encouragement for both partners as they work toward their degrees. "You have somebody who says, 'You know, you finished the last project you said you couldn't finish. I believe in you and you can do this.' That helps a lot," Shelly said.

John Lennon once wrote the famous Beatles song, "All You Need is Love." For the Aldermans, this is not necessarily true; wedded bliss takes more than love.

"I've found if you have a lot of respect for your partner, you're more likely to communicate well [and] you'll probably be more faithful," Shelly said.

"[Marriage] is easier if you have a lot of respect for the person you're with."

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 Michael Fisher
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