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Freshman Issue



LINK

Welcome to Link

The link is the premier Ivan Allen College Undergraduate Newsletter created by and for IAC students. The Link was created by the Student Advisory Board 4 years ago and is run by a voluntary group of IAC students.

GET INVOLVED!

Interested in showcasing your work, exercising your writing skills or just want to get involved in your new college then email Landon Reed lreed3@gatech.edu.

By The Numbers

- 266 Incoming IAC Freshmen and Transfers
- 58% Female Freshman
42% Male Freshman
- 51 Non-Georgia Students
- 12 Largest number of incoming IAC Freshman from one HS- Peachtree Ridge
- 16 number of Honor Students
- 2 number of perfect SAT Scores
- 3rd largest incoming freshman class of the 6 colleges at Tech

Ciao from Italia!

by Jenifer Vandagriff (STAC)

The Italian Film studies program in Italy has been an intense experience in video production and Italian culture. We stay in a small town named Gorizia, which is a border town between Italy and Slovenia. It is literally split in half, with one part of the town in Italy and the other in Slovenia. The small town community of Gorizia is a sharp contrast with the big tourist cities like Venice, Rome, and Florence. On the weekends, we take trips to see the tourist sites and they are amazing because Italy is full of culture, art, history, and fabulous food, but to me the relationships and people I have encountered in Gorizia have been the best experience of the entire trip.

While we are in Italy, we take classes on Italian Cinema and documentary filmmaking. For our video production course, four short films were made this year. They are all centered around the location and people of Gorizia. While we make our films we are also given the opportunity to learn more about the city, culture, and people. This year's films were about a film restoration laboratory, a jewish synagogue, a row of street shops, and love in Italy!

Everybody has had an amazing time on this trip. We travelled all over Italy, ate well, made great Italian friends, and earned academic credit. Our only complaint is that it is too short!

How to Get Job Experience

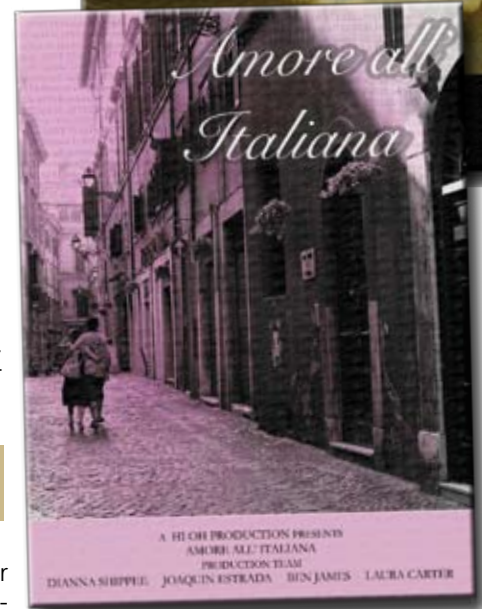
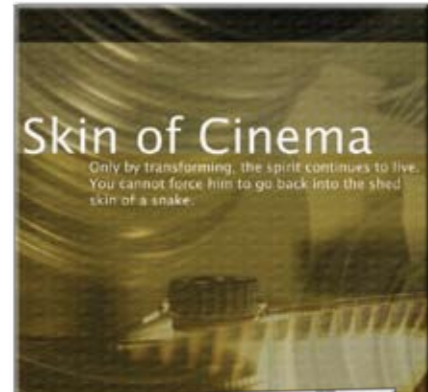
by Sarabrynn Hudgins (INTA)

Everyone at Georgia Tech shares one piece of advice with incoming students: **get involved**. In particular, advisors and administrators explained that "real world" on-the-job experience is what separates well-educated college graduates from well-educated and sought-after graduates. And in a school where students commonly say that they expect to earn a high-salary job after graduation, this is obviously important. The most well-known method is participation in the co-op program, which allows students to alternate between semesters of classes and working a paid job in their field of study. The popular program has been rated "one of the "Top Ten" co-op programs in America" by the U.S. News & World Report, and employers rave about the

career prepared-

ness of students who complete it. Internships are similar, offering one-time, semester-long stints rather than a commitment to working every other semester. With different career plans and interests, IAC majors are prepped to find and enjoy a wide array of co-ops and internships.

But how can IAC students get career experience appropriate to their needs? Several resources can help narrow the options, most notably The Ivan. The Ivan is an online database (accessible at www.advising.iac.gatech.edu) for IAC students featuring (Cont. Page 2)



Seasons and Semesters-Ramblings from my first year

By Landon Reed (IAML)

Spring is my favorite time of the year. There is no better time...until summer arrives. At that point, summer assumes the position of favor, but only for about a quarter of the year. With each approaching season, I look forward with great anticipation as the new weather and state of vegetation mesh into a seamless mood. It is as if I am wired for the changing seasons of nature.

In the same way that my idea of the perfect season changes, my preference for academic semesters seems to change as the year progresses. The combination of classes, activities, and sports casts a spell that lures me with wide eyes to a promising feast. I often overload my plate, yet, despite a sometimes-demanding schedule, I always leave the table happy, full, and ready for more (after a short break). This unconditional joy I experience must be a product of my *optimistic nature because no matter how little I enjoy my classes, how sick I get, or how small the social section of my wellness triangle becomes, I still look forward to the possibilities of next semester.

This past year's freshman experiences, however, will not soon exit my memory. It is striking how easily you can involve yourself on the Tech campus. Nearly every televised Tech football game, my parents would call me when they saw me

playing cymbals with the drumline (my hair was uncontrollably long and impossible to miss). Acting in DramaTech, the theatre production club, began for me when I learned of an audition about five hours before it started, decided to check it out with my roommate, and, in a stroke of magic, was cast. One of my most treasured memories is creating a five-minute film for Campus MovieFest (a student film festival) and winning the Best Freshman Film at Tech. Operating on whims is, well, boss.



The opportunities latent in fall semester '07 and the following spring could keep me daydreaming for hours. The thoughts of an apartment with friends, studying abroad, running through Piedmont Park, and engaging in new classes are enough to boost me through to the end of the summer. Don't get me wrong – my dreams of the future are not utopian. I know that money i.e. (job) is necessary to fund the expenses of studying abroad and that my classes will not be pleasure cruises, but that is not enough to quell my excitement. I also know that not everything is always going to fall into place the way I want it to. So I'll wait for the season to change and for my hope to regrow like the flowering buds that envelop our campus each spring.

**Optimistic nature=trauma-induced thought repression*

How to Get Job Experience (Cont. From Page 1)

by Sarabrynn Hudgins (INTA)

descriptions and contact information for a plethora of internships. But other steps are equally important. Look for jobs on your own by exploring the websites of companies that interest you. Well-publicized internships like those with CNN are eye-opening and educational, but so are lesser-known ones

Don't necessarily ignore an internship because it is unpaid. Sometimes the work experience and the connections you gain from a job are worth doing a summer's worth of unpaid work. Many internships predominantly look for junior and senior undergraduates, but don't let this stop you from thinking

"...don't worry about being a liberal arts student at a technological school. It's actually the best of both worlds."

with small companies, governmental agencies and organizations abroad (and time spent working overseas helps fulfill the study abroad requirements of the International Plan). Even groups that don't typically offer student jobs may be willing to hire someone with enough initiative to call and inquire.

There are several more tips that could make the job search a little smoother for new students...**It is never too early to start exploring your options.** Students can work the summer after their freshman year or any semester afterward, but earning a position usually requires applying well in advance. If a specific in-class subject piques your interest, search for a job that lets you learn about that topic. Use your connections; ask faculty members, family friends and fellow students if they know of any job openings or local companies that have previously hired IAC students. I got my current gig when I called a GT faculty member to ask if she knew of any on-campus secretarial openings for the summer. Instead, she offered me a job on her research team.

about work until your third year. Apply for these jobs anyway, because seeing that you've applied more than once will show a company that you're genuinely interested in working for them. Apply for many jobs. Not only does this provide back-up options, but it will help you see what's available. The beauty of interning is that you can do several different jobs over several semesters, thereby gaining experience in each area that interests you. Lastly, don't worry about being a liberal arts student at a technological school. It's actually the best of both worlds. Stress that being an IAC major at GT gives students the in-depth liberal arts education of a small institution and the professional benefits and technological edge of a big research school.

The  van

Graduation, Now What? One 2007 Graduate Shares His Next Adventure

By Raisa Simoes (IAML)

I had the pleasure of recently interviewing a brand new Ivan Allen College alumnus, Rizwan Ladha –who was preparing for his next adventure in India.

Rizwan graduated with an International Affairs and Modern Languages (IAML) degree with a concentration in Spanish and certificate in European Affairs. This summer Rizwan will be on his way to India for six months of training with a company called Infosys. Infosys provides technology and software solutions for Fortune 2000 companies, and Rizwan will be one of its newest technology consultants. The company operates in 18 countries in ten different languages, but its global headquarters are in India, which is where all new hires go for training.

What is the connection between an IAML-Spanish degree and a job as a technology consultant? "At first glance, there really is none," says Rizwan. However, he stresses that a closer look into Infosys shows that they recruit from a number of different fields. They

are looking for more than just computer scientists and engineers.

"What they want is within their organization, under their umbrella...a very wide and deep pool of knowledge that they can tap into." Thus a Tech graduate with a liberal arts education and a knack for interpersonal and business-savvy relations is just as ideal for the job as a math or science major.

I asked Rizwan what he would miss at Tech, and his response was simple "Everything..."

Rizwan reports that taking a Java-based computer science course helped in the preparation for the job and in the application. The first four months of his training will be dedicated to learning how to program in Java. But he applauds Georgia Tech in teaching him to think both analytically and conceptually.

Rizwan is not sure how long he will stay with this job, but he feels that for now it is ideal. One of its greatest appeals to him is its global scope. When he returns from his training in India, he will work in the United States for a couple of years, then he will be allowed to work abroad. He would like to fulfill that appointment abroad in Madrid, where he will be able to make full use of his IAML degree. But Rizwan does not want to retire with Infosys, for there are so many opportunities to make use of.

Opportunities are something Rizwan stressed, especially those offered at Tech. He spent five years at Tech because he was a co-op for two years at MBNA, a credit card firm. He emphasized the importance of

If I were a CM Freshman again I would...

By Angus Perkerson (CM)

- Pick a PROFESSIONAL email alias, not hotDudz36@hotmail.com.
- Make my resume the first semester and update it every day since.
- Keep a copy of every single homework and project in case I needed to show off my works to employers.
- Create a personal website to show employers my portfolio of works, my resume, and how to contact me.
- Get to know my profesors and advisors outside of class and meetings by talking to them after class, and whenever I see them.
- Join Mediatech: www.mediatech.gatech.edu and get to know my fellow CM majors
- Take plenty of breaks when I can and try to have fun inbetween big projects.



Rob Fitzpatrick, CM Alum, presenting at one of IAC's student showcases.

either completing a COOP or internship for their ability to make a graduate much more marketable to both employers and graduate schools.

I asked Rizwan what he would miss at Tech, and his response was simple "Everything..."

Rizwan Ladha is an IAC graduate to take pride in, and he accredits much of his success to Georgia Tech and the Ivan Allen College. New and current students shall certainly regard him as a source of inspiration for their own futures. And take his advice for a successful college career:

"Take advantage of every opportunity available to you because you have no idea how fast time flies by." Thanks and will do, Rizwan.



The Value of a Liberal Arts Education, One Student's Perspective

By Gi Sun Burke (HTS)

In our society people who are driven by peer pressures often trade aspects of their humanity for trivial pleasures. They spend their hard earned money on products that are not strictly necessary for their survival or happiness, such as a big screen television or a cute new pair of shoes. I have felt dissatisfaction for this mode of living. I have begun to listen to my inner voice and focused on developing my mind in order to better understand what forces have changed our society and our role in the global village. By studying History, Technology and Society I have learned to reconcile the disparate forces that shape our world into a more just and peaceful society.

One of our recent alumnae, Sarah Edwards, who graduated Summa Cum Laude with B.S. in HTS, shared her experience of studying a liberal arts education: "I think the most important thing in choosing a major is to study something that you're passionate about, whether that's engineering, eco-

nomics, history, or any of the other areas of study available. For me, that was much more vital than deciding which career might make me the most money. In HTS, I found classes which inspired me and professors who took the extra time to know me as an individual, and to help me develop into the best student I could be."

Making an individual choice for one's career path certainly begins with questioning what we can do that is the best for ourselves and for others. Meaningful and successful careers certainly are part of our personal progress, but today, as personal and global networking becomes more central to our life styles, it may be time for us to gaze into the core of this network and begin to shape it into a "good-minded" network. This good-minded network will come from cultivating our positive self images and mentoring a society of human dignity. A study in liberal arts surely offers the best value to humanity-minded future leaders.

"I think the most important thing in choosing a major is to study something that you're passionate about..."

Did you know...? Fun Facts about the IAC

- Before IAC was created in 1991, Tech had a "College of Sciences and Liberal Studies."
- The first Business and Economics courses at Tech were taught as part of the English Department, now LCC.
- Ivan Allen is one of the few Liberal Arts colleges in the nation to offer the Bachelor of Sciences degree.
- Sue Rosser, Dean of the Ivan Allen College, is the first female dean in Tech History.

From Argentina Summer Program in International Affairs

We have just finished our 5th week in South America! We've spent 3 weeks in Buenos Aires, 1 in Santiago, and 1 in Rio de Janeiro. We are studying Argentine History, Politics, and Culture and Security Issues in Latin America. We have visited embassies, think tanks, congressmen, the Foreign Ministry, and a Boca soccer game. Things to know about in BA: dulce de leche is like caramel but even better and so tasty, people are out at all hours (seriously, the clubs don't open till 3am), if you're ever in town you must eat alfajores, milanesa, and superpanchos!

From Argentina with love!
Ashley Bliss (EIA) and
Amanda Meng (GEML)

