FOCUS
Technique • Friday, September 15, 2006

Welcome home
RHA seeks to improve the quality of student life on campus, providing a “home away from home” at Tech

By Aileen Li Contributing Writer

Life on campus inevitably revolves around the place that students call home. The typical college student spends a large part of his life in a dormitory or apartment, and he undoubtedly wishes that part of his life to be as comfortable and “homey” as possible.

Tech’s Residence Hall Association (RHA) seeks to accommodate those wishes, doing its best to ensure all students have an enjoyable life when living on campus.

RHA is a student-led governing board for Housing residents. It also serves as an umbrella organization for the various hall councils and has three primary branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.

The executive branch does everything from generating ideas for campus-wide events to reviewing financial transactions. The legislative branch discusses issues that affect campus and also authorizes funding for different events put on or sponsored by RHA. The judicial branch is responsible for hearing cases of Housing violations and handling inter-branch conflicts.

“All of these branches work together to ensure that the residents’ needs and issues are represented to the rest of the student body and the administration,” said Tim Gallagher, president of RHA. “[We also] promote leadership development for the residents by offering countless ways to get involved with RHA and make a difference on campus.”

In the past, RHA has worked with numerous organizations and hosted a number of significant events on campus to make students feel more at home. Among these events are Poker Nights, Bingo Night and campus beautification events.

“Traditionally, we host at least one campus-wide event per month. Some of our favorites have been our Rambunctious Night, twoformals, Trivia Nights, Towers Haunted House and annual RezFest event in the spring,” Gallagher said.

In addition to the events we host on our own, RHA co-sponsors many large events around campus including Team Buzz, Tech Beautification Day, the Campus Safety Walk... and we work with the Women’s Resource Center for the Women’s Poker Night,” Gallagher said.

In addition to big events hosted by the entire organization, smaller weekly events are hosted by residence halls’ own Peer Leaders (PLs) and Community Advisors (CAs), who are hired by Housing.

“As a PL, I host events for just my hall, floor and building. They range from weekly TV show nights to review sessions in the basements, movies in Brittain Re, Halloween trick-or-treat and Haunted House night,” said Mallory Williams, a

Students impress at Career Fair

By Shrutii Kumar Contributing Writer

Normally scruffy-looking students cleaned up to look their best this past Monday and Tuesday at Tech’s annual Career Fair, held at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

The fair is an effective recruitment tool for many companies as well as an opportunity for undergraduate, graduate, Ph.D. students and a gateway to explore employment options. It was well attended by job-seeking students and even experienced some crowding problems.

Over 300 companies sent 1,400 representatives to recruit at the fair this year. Among those represented were Honda, Walmart Group, Microsoft, Ruralist Systems, Siemens, Rolls Royce, Cisco Systems, Schneider Electric, MathWorks, Capital One, Amazon.com, Trinity Consultants, Turner Broadcasting, Authentics and the CIA.

Students registered for the fair at the door and were able to gain access to everything the fair had to offer by showing their buzzcards. The fair was split into 35 sections in a unique circular setup that proved popular with both students and recruiters.

A representative from Amazon.com said that, “the circular format... was a very effective idea. Many students came and asked us our advice.”

Students were able to engage in conversations with recruiters and left employers with many favorable impressions.

Julie Williams of Wattman Group, Inc., a civil engineering firm, said she was “very impressed with [students] who seemed ready to enter the real world.” Dustin Stries of Amazon.com said that Tech students were “highly intelligent, [had] received a well-rounded education and had some of the best diversity in the nation.”

Students likewise enjoyed their interactions with representatives.

Melissa Watkins, a second-year Electrical Engineering major, said that “some representatives made students feel very welcome and comfortable—they see the potential in you and are able to provide you with a better response.”

Career Fair was an opportunity for students to explore various industries and also to refine and polish their presentation and technical communication skills.

Employment recruiters offered tips for successful recruitment meetings and interviews.

Williams recommended that students brush up on their techni-

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See Career, page 15
DISC teaches about personalities

By Anish Desai
Contributing Writer

Having relationship problems? On Sept. 13, thirty female Tech graduates participated in the DISC personality profiling workshop, which was designed to help them connect better with others and improve their relationships in the workplace.

The workshop was sponsored by the Alumni Association’s Women Alumni Network, which supports similar activities that encourage career development. The organization also offers opportunities to hear educational speakers, as well as to learn about career and personal growth.

Based on the work of psychologist William Moulton Marston, DISC is a four-quadrant behavioral model that considers behavior in the context of a person’s environment or the situations they are placed in. In other words, it examines behavioral preferences and styles.

The personality profile is determined by a group of tests dealing with word association. There are four personality classifications that make up the acronym DISC: Dominance, which relates to control and power; Influence, which deals with communication and sociability; Steadiness, which measures patience and persistence; and Compliance, which has to do with structure and organization.

The DISC behavioral profile only includes four personality aspects, which makes it a lot easier to understand than other personality profiles such as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator,” said Deborah Covin Wilson, the director of Career Development.

Wilson pointed out that DISC profiling can be beneficial in every aspect of a participant’s life. “Many things that the women who attend this workshop will learn they will be able to apply to improve their performance in relationships, both at work and at home,” Wilson said.

Still, Wilson pointed out that simply understanding personality styles is not enough. Participants must be willing to be flexible and take people’s differing personality styles into account when working with them. “I would encourage those who [were] not able to attend this workshop to get in touch with their career counselors and advisors,” Wilson said.

“ ”

“We are working on...diversifying and unifying...we are trying to bring programs other than purely social [ones],”

Tim Gallagher
RHA President

Peer Leader.

Every year, RHA looks for ways to improve the on the past and bring new and exciting things to integrate the student body and improve residence life. “We...just rolled out our newly designed website. That will provide the residents with more information about what RHA is doing,” Gallagher said.

“We are working on what I call diversifying and unifying our programs. This means we are trying to bring programs other than purely social ones, while ensuring that our programs reflect our goals of building community and improving residence life,” Gallagher said.

“We are trying to target upperclassman apartments to ensure that they stay involved on campus through programs that focus on their needs.”

One example of such a program is the Life Series, which will bring educational events to student apartments that focus on teaching life skills such as cooking, car maintenance, financial responsibility, resume writing and so on.

Gallagher added that these programs take many different shapes, ranging from guest speakers and workshops to a “much more light-hearted and fun Iron Chef night.”

“This year we are helping with the summer reading program by facilitating discussion groups around campus,” Williams said.

Since RHA is a residence association, student participation is an integral part of its function, and there is not a better time to get involved in making a change to improve campus life than now. “This is a very exciting time not just for RHA but for all student governing boards on campus. The makeup of campus is changing and new issues are arising every day. There is nowhere to go from here except up, and I have great confidence that all student leaders and student organizations are going to make tremendous progress towards improving student life and ensuring that the needs of the students are heard as we advance through these changes,” Gallagher said.

There are numerous ways for students to have a voice in RHA activities. The easiest way is to attend hall council meetings and express concerns. Additionally, residents can join committees and have a direct impact there. They may also attend Legislative Council meetings (Wednesdays at 9 p.m. in the Flag Building) and bring up any relevant issues.

The best way for students to advocate change is to attend hall council and submit bills. Hall council is the governing body over the residence halls. It is run by residents who work with their fellow residents and they can decide what to change. They decide everything from their quiet hours to what their money will be spent on,” Williams said.

“The issues are not just limited to Housing; if there is any concern the residents have, we are here to address them. If it is an issue RHA is not set up to handle, we will ensure that the resident is referred to the people who can handle it,” Gallagher said.

For more information on RHA, check out www.rha.gatech.edu.
Cooking things up

Three new chefs join staff in dining halls, bringing their own unique cooking styles, tastes to the table

By Gopika Suraj
Contributing Writer

Until recently, Brittain and Woodruff dining halls were each headed by one chef. This semester, Dining has hired two new chefs to take over—Kari Smid for Woodruff and Michael Gumbert for Brittain. This is the first time either of them will be working in a traditional dining hall, but they plan to bring variety and excitement to the table.

A third new face at Woodruff is Darrell Gardner, the Monday stir fry cook. Gardner came to Tech after evacuating his home because of Hurricane Katrina.

So who exactly are these new chefs? Focus finds out.

Michael Gumbert

An Atlanta native, Gumbert grew up in a self-proclaimed “food family.”

“Since I was three, I’ve eaten at some of the top restaurants in the world. I’ve been cooking as a job since I was 14, and I put myself through college as a History major through cooking,” Gumbert said.

Gumbert has worked in catering for 20 years. He worked at Proof of a Point, Atlanta’s only all-Norwegian restaurant, for 10 years, so he is used to large-scale food preparation.

“Here, you have about 21,000 meals a week. There, they have the same amount in a weekend, and at five-star quality,” Gumbert said.

Gumbert also worked at the Carter Center, where he has cooked for every living president and countless dignitaries.

“I had to learn how to cook in cuisines from all around the world,” Gumbert said, naming Thai food as his favorite cuisine.

Concerning working in Brittain, Gumbert said, “It challenges me to be creative with the food materials that we have and with the budget that they give us. You have to see what you can do in this particular framework. It’s fun being here at Tech, but it does make me feel old sometimes.”

Kari Smid

Smid, an excellent cook herself, will be taking over in Woodruff dining hall.

“Originally, I’m from Norway, but my food is not Norwegian. This is my first time in a traditional dining setting. I can’t imagine one person in charge of both of these dining halls,” Smid said.

In 2005, Smid won a Creative Loafing People’s Choice award for Best New In-Town Restaurant and Best Brunch. Smid came to campus after hearing people she knew speak about how much they loved Tech.

“The more I heard, the more interested I got. I’ve never worked in a place that turned out such large volumes of food,” Smid said.

Her favorite foods to cook? “Asian foods…because I love to eat them! But I love everything, from meat and potatoes to shi. I also have a lot of experience with vegetarian foods.”

Smid’s philosophy of cooking centers around love. “Food and feeding people is love…people can feel the love in your food as long as you love it and believe in it. Kids here, they go to a hard school; they’ve left home. It’s very heartwarming to feed them,” Smid said.

Darrell Gardner

Woodruff’s new Monday stir fry cook, Darrell Gardner, relocated to Tech in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

“It’s a new beginning, since I was born and raised in New Orleans…[but] there are days where there’s really nothing like home,” Gardner said.

In an effort to improve student dining experience, Tech has hired three new chefs for the campus dining halls. Kari Smid will be taking over at Woodruff, while Michael Gumbert will be heading up Brittain. Darrell Gardner, another new face at Woodruff, has signed on as the Monday stir fry cook.

Describing his experiences surviving Katrina, Gardner said, “I evacuated…to a house…where I lived with nine other people. We ate food out of cans [and] warmed it over candlelight. We shared water; we shared everything. We lived by candlelight for five or six days, there was water up to our necks [and] we were getting eaten alive by mosquitoes. It was seven days before we were rescued…There were a lot of days we didn’t eat…[and] my family has been displaced all over the place.”

Speaking about his job at Tech, Gardner said, “Everything I do goes with my signature, to the best of my ability. I don’t mind the hours I put in, as long as it gets done the right way. I do it from the heart. I like it here. I like the people.”

Students have responded warmly to Gardner since he started cooking at Woodruff.

“I think every day I walk in to get food, it doesn’t matter what my day was like, he’s there with a smile on his face,” said Pratik Dash, a first-year Biomedical Engineering major.
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Student offers his expertise on safety

Third-year INTA major Chris Dorn is an expert on school safety and terrorism issues. He has worked with the FBI and Secret Service.

The average student at Tech usually does not think about assisting the FBI or the Secret Service. Chris Dorn, a third-year International Affairs major, is the exception.

Along with his usual coursework at Tech, Chris Dorn researches and gives presentations about issues such as weapons concealment, emergency preparation and terrorism in schools.

His work has received recognition all over the world. Dorn has assisted the FBI, Secret Service, Israeli Police, Transportation Security Administration and the British Intelligence and Security Services (MI5).

One of his most famous demonstrations about weapon detection and concealment entails hiding weapons in normal jeans and a T-shirt. Up to 171 weapons, ranging from a small pocket knife to a M-16 or AK-47, can be concealed this way.

Dorn began his career in middle school by helping his father, who was a police chief, in school safety demonstrations. "We traveled around the state presenting to school boards, teachers, parent groups, school police departments, government commissions and other groups," Dorn said. "Gradually our reputation grew and we were requested to train groups at state, national and international conferences on safety and emergency management issues, and my expertise has grown as we find new issues to cover or gaps in existing emergency preparation." Dorn said.

Dorn has branched out from weapons detection to cover topics like emergency operations planning, schoolbus safety for drivers, bullying, student drug abuse and workplace safety. His current research focuses on sexual predators in schools and extremist and hate groups.

According to Dorn, the results of his ongoing research on terrorism are that "terrorist attacks on school targets are statistically unlikely events, with only about one incident in the world since 1968, and the best way for schools to prepare for terrorist attacks is to continue to improve the existing measures that are already in place."

"In a nutshell, many schools dropped money from existing, much-needed programs to prevent against deaths and violence that currently occur each year to attempt to prepare (often ineffectively) specifically for one type of event that is very unlikely," Dorn said.

Instead of elaborate new procedures to deal with terrorist attacks, Dorn’s presentations help school staff and police officers prepare within current emergency planning processes so that they don’t have to begin new and separate planning processes.

By Christina McMillan
Contributing Writer

"...the best way for schools to prepare for terrorist attacks is to continue to improve the existing measures..."

Chris Dorn
Third-year INTA major

Typical College Spirituality Wesley Foundation Spirituality

Think deeper.
The Wesley Foundation at Georgia Tech
http://www.gtwf.org

“Sunday Celebration” (traditional worship) – 11:00 AM, September 19th
“Koinonia” (dinner, contemporary worship) – 6:00 PM, September 18th
“A Look at the Book” Bible Study: Jeremiah – 11:00 AM, Tuesday, September 19th
“Joan of Arcadia” Study – 6:45 PM, Tuesday, September 19th
(Watch an episode, and discuss!) "Artos" – 11:00 AM, Thursday, September 21st
(Prayer / communion service, free lunch served)

Weekly puzzle: Take the phrase "a correspondent." Change one letter in it to a new letter, and rearrange to get the name of a famous correspondent who is still at work. Who is it? (Find the answer at http://www.gtwf.org/puzzle.htm.)

The Weekly Puzzle was originally broadcast on National Public Radio’s “Weekend Edition Sunday” on August 27th, 2006. Copyright 2006 NPR. All rights reserved.

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See Dorn, page 15
Teach from page 11

Career Fair this week and met with potential applicants. Both were former members of the Teach for America corps.

Chandriani joined after seeing firsthand the educational problems in western Pennsylvania, where she taught as a volunteer during her undergraduate years at the University of Pittsburgh. The disparity between her own educational experiences and those of the students she worked with spurred her to action.

“I saw that I could make an immediate impact to help with Teach for America,” Chandriani said. She ended up teaching ninth grade biology in the Mississippi Delta for two years.

Thompson worked in the same region. He began teaching high school mathematics in 1998, covering seven classes that ranged from Algebra I to AP Calculus. Teaching was far from easy, and Chandriani and Thompson had to overcome many challenges, including helping their students overcome the low expectations others had for them.

“It’s hard work,” Thompson said. “It takes a lot to lead students to the academic goals that we reach for. But it’s worth it...it’s life-changing.”

Darcy Thompson
Recruitment Director

Thompson struggled to bring his AP Calculus students up to par when he discovered they were starting the class with only an Algebra I skill level.

“In our training, we learn not to set students for less than what’s expected nationally,” he said.

By the end of the year, all of Thompson’s students had progressed far enough to be competitive on the AP exam.

With results like these, Thompson and Chandriani hope the gap in academic achievement can be bridged.

“I had to make sure the students felt they could be successful,” said Chandriani. “Once you build them up to that standard and they know they can do it, they run with it.”

Career from page 11

logical know-how. “Computer skills are key,” Williams said.

She also advised students to “speak up” and express themselves in a refined manner. According to Williams, strong voice projection develops confidence and a sense of professionalism that helps to increase hiring potential.

Andy Hixson of Trinity Consultants, an environmental consulting company that focuses on air quality, said that “background research is vital.”

Not doing your homework on the companies you speak with may make you appear uninformed and unprepared.

Students also need to be “flexible, quick learners [who are] able to adapt to different situations,” Yang said.

All of the recruiters agreed that experience is necessary, since it solidifies skills and allows employers to determine the abilities and capabilities of their potential employees.

Dorn from page 14

Dorn has authored two books, Farming School to Student Partnerships and Reducing Weapons of Mass Destruction.

His first book on partnerships was published when he was a senior in high school. His second book is not only about terrorism, but also deals with instructing schools on how to build a solid emergency preparedness program to address any possible hazard, rather than focusing on specific hazards that may or may not occur.

He’s currently working on several other books on related issues.

Jane’s has recruited Dorn as a trainer and as a member of a four-person author team to write an updated book on school safety.

“Jane’s is a 105-year-old British company with offices in nine countries that publishes and provides consultancy on security, defense and intelligence issues. They have a wide variety of products and services that range from books on topics like counter-terrorism and school safety to their consultancy services,” Dorn said.

Recently, at Vietnam National University, Dorn gave a two-hour presentation about drug and weapon concealment and an overview of the American approach to preparing for emergencies.

The lecture had a broad range of topics that included things like “bullying and trip hazards that we have found to be an important part of creating a better learning environment,” Dorn said.

September 27
Student Center Ballroom
11:00 am to 3:00 pm

"Real world student research opportunities"

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Have Some Fun

fri. 9.15
12:00 National Lampoon
2:00 16 Blocks
4:00 Campus Calendar
5:00 UVA Newsmakers
5:30 Campus Calendar
6:00 Classic GTCN
6:30 Somethin’ Fresh
7:00 Basic Instinct 2
9:00 V For Vendetta
11:30 16 Blocks
1:30 Derailed
12:00 Syriana
2:30 Derailed
4:30 Match Point
7:00 Basic Instinct 2
9:00 Derailed
11:00 16 Blocks
1:00 V For Vendetta

tue. 9.19
12:00 National Lampoon
2:00 Match Point
4:30 Campus Calendar
5:00 UVA Newsmakers
5:30 Campus Calendar
6:00 Classic GTCN
6:30 Somethin’ Fresh
7:00 Basic Instinct 2
9:00 16 Blocks
11:00 Derailed
12:00 Zilo Network
2:00 Syriana
4:30 Campus Calendar
5:00 World Business Review
5:30 Campus Calendar
6:00 Planet X
6:30 Campus Calendar
7:00 Basic Instinct 2
9:00 Match Point
11:30 V For Vendetta

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2:00 Match Point
4:30 Campus Calendar
5:00 UVA Newsmakers
5:30 Campus Calendar
6:00 Classic GTCN
6:30 Somethin’ Fresh
7:00 Basic Instinct 2
9:00 16 Blocks
11:00 Derailed

sun. 9.17
12:00 Derailed
2:00 V For Vendetta
4:30 Syriana
7:00 Basic Instinct 2
9:00 Scary Movie 4
10:30 Match Point
1:00 16 Blocks

sat. 9.16
12:00 Derailed
2:00 V For Vendetta
4:30 Syriana
7:00 Basic Instinct 2
9:00 Scary Movie 4
10:30 Match Point
1:00 16 Blocks

What’s On?

WEEK OF 9.15 - 9.21

Have Some Fun

Get Your School On mon., tue. & thurs.

6:00  ME 6201
7:00  ECE 6557
8:00  Math 6701
9:00  Tutor-Vision
11:00 RHA Tonight (Thursday Only)

wed. & fri.

6:00  ECE 6273
7:30  Math 6580
9:00  Tutor-Vision (Wednesday Only)
11:00 SGA Tonight (Wednesday Only)

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