Salsamor II event spices it up

By Maria Carter
Contributing Writer

Last Friday, nearly 150 people flooded the Student Center Ballroom for the second annual Salsamor II event. The Salsa Club, Society of Women Engineers, Women’s Multicultural Society and Lambda Upsilon Lambda hosted Salsamor II, which combined Latino dance and the celebration of Valentine’s Day.

Attendees received a complimentary salsa lesson, enjoyed desserts and refreshments and watched performances by the Salsa Club and the UGA Ballroom Performance Group.

The Valentine’s Day-themed salsa party lasted roughly four hours. “The event was a great way to bring in couples who wanted to learn or practice salsa as well as a good way to showcase the talents of both performance teams,” said Andres Rodriguez, a third-year Mechanical Engineering major and Vice President of Lambda Upsilon Lambda.

Salomar II offered students a much-needed interruption from the sometimes monotonous academic life at Tech. “We wanted to give students Friday night with this party... [allowing students] to meet people from other organizations, majors,interests as well as other schools,” said Fei Hoai “Jessey” Lee, a third-year Industrial Engineering major and co-chair of the Social committee for the Society of Women Engineers.

Advertisements for Salsamor II noted that no partner or prior dancing experience was needed. Amateur and experienced dancers alike shared the ballroom floor.

“As a Hispanic student who refused to learn how to salsa dance growing up, I finally learned the basics and am now even interested in joining the GT Salsa Club,” said Ginah Colon, a second-year Electrical Engineering major and treasurer of the Women’s Multicultural Society.

Salsamor II drew a crowd from other schools as well. “I was surprised by the participation of students from other schools. Holding campus events like this is a way of promoting the other side of our school as well as to widen up the social circle of GT students,” Lee said.

Members of each host organization devoted numerous hours to the preparation and execution of the event. The Salsa Club, Society of Women Engineers, Lambda Upsilon Lambda, Mechanical Engineering major and student employee in the Craft Center.

The theme of the night was models. Huynh acted as the coordinator for the event, planning for models to come to Tech for the night. “The event is about providing a model and rich assortment of mediums at a low price so people can feel free to experiment with new forms of creativity or advance their technique through the study of the human figure,” Huynh said.

Models are rarely used for models are rarely used for art lessons because they are very expensive and difficult to obtain. Huynh consulted with Diana Talley, an Aerospace Engineering graduate student and administrator of the Craft Center.

Huynh and Talley thought up the idea of providing existing subjects at an inexpensive cost to the students. Many different mediums were also provided for the students to try out. “The Art Studio Night will, through providing students with access to a model, clay, charcoal, pastels, watercolors, acrylic paints, and pencils in order for students to freely experiment with, draw more attention to the unknown and untapped resource to most of the student body,” said Monica Huynh, a second-year Biology major and student employee in the Craft Center.

“The Craft Center] is an unknown... resource to most of the student body.”

Monica Huynh
Second-year Biology

Baseball Preview

Baseball kicks off the season with a game against Youngstown State. Read up on the stars and outlook for the upcoming season. Page 27

Something to Shout About

Minutes from Tech’s campus, Shout has a wide variety of eclectic fares. From sushi to tapas to steaks, Shout has something for every taste. Page 15

Forum promotes religious debates

By Hamza Hasan
Staff Writer

The Veritas Forum’s Big Questions Week began last Monday. As a non-profit and Christian-based organization, Veritas explores philosophy and religion, particularly in the academic context of college campuses. By bringing to light different ideas and artists to common in modern ideologies of objective truths, social issues and beliefs in general, Veritas attempts to find answers to some of the most pertinent questions of the day, even though these questions tend to escape criticism and scrutiny.

Veritas began at Harvard in 1992 when a visiting student named Kelly Monroe noticed a striking disconnection between the students and the motto of the school: veritas, which is Latin for truth. Harvard students began with the search of truth through Christian faith and the religious community. Thus, the Veritas Forum began as a Christian organization in search of truth, and it spread from Harvard to Yale, Stanford and eventually Tech. Veritas began at Tech in 2006 when several students heard about the organization and felt that Tech needed its own. One of those students is Stephen Kump, a third-year Management and Economics major and campus director of the Veritas Forum.

“We know that Tech needed this badly, as we all seem to go about our business day to day... but we never seem to stop and ask why we’re working so hard. Or even why we’re here on earth,” Kump said. “We are a Christian organization, and unashamedly so, but we definitely welcome all worldviews and ideas into our discussion.”

The organization attempted to assemble the multifaceted views at Tech at their events. “The purpose really is to get people talking about these big questions, like ‘Does God exist?’ or ‘What is the purpose of life?’”

See Veritas, page 11

Art Studio Night provides creative outlet for participants

By Shawn Kim
Contributing Writer

This past Wednesday evening, the Craft Center hosted Art Studio Night. The event was held to let the student body know that a great way to just let loose is right above their heads.

Located in the often-unexplored regions of the third floor in the Student Center, the Craft Center is a largely underutilized part of campus, offering many opportunities for projects or simply just for fun.

“The Craft Center] is an unknown and untapped resource to most of the student body,” said Monica Huynh, a second-year Biology major and student employee in the Craft Center.

The theme of the night was models. Huynh acted as the coordinator for the event, planning for models to come to Tech for the night. “The event is about providing a model and rich assortment of mediums at a low price so people can feel free to experiment with new forms of creativity or advance their technique through the study of the human figure,” Huynh said.

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Monica Huynh
Second-year Biology

See Craft, page 13

See Veritas, page 11
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF the Dean of Students

By Reem Mansoura
Staff Writer

On the morning of Feb. 19, 2008, a much harried looking Dean of Students ushered me into his office, a little late for our interview. Setting down his cup of coffee, he briefly organized the large stack of papers cluttering his desk while consulting the printed schedule that lay in front of him. With an encouraging smile, the Dean of Students (who happens to be a twin and a Billy Joel fan) finally sat down and waited for my questions.

John Stein was named Dean of Students back in October 2006. He has worked with college students for 27 years and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a Master’s degree in Counseling and Educational Psychology. Before becoming Dean of Students at Tech, he was Dean of Students at Manhattanville College and at Sarah Lawrence College. As Dean of Students, his job entails remaining available to students at all times.

“My job is to advocate and support students,” said Dean Stein. “It is a position that was established 85 years ago, with that being the premise of the role. Part of the job is to hold on to that tradition and not lose sight of it in spite of other obligations. Once you become disconnected from your students, you lose the essence of the job.”

A typical day in the life of Dean Stein begins around 7:30 a.m. For an hour, the Dean orientates his day, follows up on emails, takes care of any emergencies that came up overnight and connects with the dean on call.

“This morning I came in and read a few emails from students who had to leave campus for different reasons,” Stein said.

After taking care of overnight issues and any problems that arise in the morning, Dean Stein then meets with several different types of people. The Dean’s office works with various departments including GT Smart, Greek Affairs, Student Involvement and the Women’s Resource Center. Everyday, Stein meets with the directors of these departments individually.

Holding up to the tradition of being a friend of the student, Stein also meets with students throughout the day. He works with students on issues of absence, since notifications of absence go through the Dean’s office. The Dean’s office also assists students in resolving their problems by providing information and referrals about campus resources. The office tries to promote initiatives that address students’ needs and interests.

The Dean of Students also interacts with parents on a daily basis. “Parents are a big part of my day. I make myself available to answer any questions they might have concerning how things work at Tech. For example, anyone you have a crisis such as the Northern Illinois University shooting, parents will call to ask about the safety of our campus and how we would have responded to the situation,” Stein said.

Every Tuesday, Dean Stein advises the Student Government Association’s (SGA) weekly meetings. As their advisor, he meets weekly with Undergraduate Student Body President Anu Parvatiyar to discuss the concerns of the students.

“My day also consists of interacting with different departments: Financial Aid, the Counseling Center, Housing, and the President’s office…my goal is to try and make myself available to the many,” Stein said.

“Represent the Dean’s office on a number of different committees, and teach a freshman seminar class. It gives me a good way to stay connected with students, and I really enjoy it. I’ve been teaching a class for the six years I have been at Tech,” Stein said.

Dean Stein truly portrays the image of a friend of the student and upholds the tradition of support and advocacy. To learn more about the Dean’s office, or to make an appointment with Dean Stein, visit www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu.
is morality..."If we can start some conversations about these questions, it will be mission accomplished," Kump said.

While Veritas may initially seem like another religious organization trying to spread a holy message, its intent is considerably different. "We want people there that aren’t Christians. A discussion is obviously 100 times more interesting when you have different ideas being shared," Kump said.

Veritas has worked on Big Questions Week since last fall, organizing and gathering resources for the four-day event. From Monday through Wednesday, events were held at 7:30 in the Student Center Theatre and Ballroom, and at 8:00 on Thursday in the Ferst Theatre.

On Monday, Veritas presented a DVD that covered the Richard Dawkins and John Lennox debate on Dawkins’ bestselling book The God Delusion and the subject matter covered by Dawkins. After greeting the audience, Kump yielded the stage to Larry Taunton, the founder and executive director of Fixed Point Foundation, the producers of The God Delusion Debate DVD.

After the presentation of the video, the audience was opened to debate the producers of the DVD, video, the audience was opened to discussion about the DVD, video, the audience was opened to discussion, and Veritas continued discussion outside among the various parties at the event.

Several members of the Campus Atheists were present. Mahmoud Abouelnasr, a fourth-year Chemical Engineering major and an officer of Campus Atheists, expressed his views about the event on Monday. "It seems like a very well put together event...we are just as excited about this event as our own future events," Abouelnasr said, describing the sentiments of the Campus Atheists.

On Tuesday, Veritas presented Stuart McAllister at a discussion and Q&A session. McAllister is a renowned Christian philanthropist and international speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. He discussed many topics, including morality, culture, relativism and truth, among others.

On Wednesday, award-winning Christian author Robert Bowman was the subject of discussion and was questioned about his beliefs and ideas concerning religious theory, as his specialty is in theological studies. On Thursday, William Lane Craig made a presentation at the Ferst Center about morality outside the realm of religion or the belief in God. Craig is a Research Professor of Philosophy at the Talbot School of Theology.

With active participation and engaging discussion with prominent leaders explicating on cutting edge ideas, Veritas provoked some interesting discussions among Tech students.

Ultimately, Veritas reached its goal in the communal exploration of these philosophical questions through Big Questions Week. Kump reviewed his objectives for the event.

"I hope people really see the importance of these type of events and that they get behind the vision of Veritas—whether Christian or not. We all want truth, and we should definitely seek it out together," Kump said.

To find out more about Veritas, you can go to http://veritasgt.blogspot.com.
PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE, STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT HAS ADOPTED THE NEW YORK ATTORNEY GENERAL’S NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DIRECT MARKETING OF STUDENT LOANS.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT GIVES STUDENTS IMPORTANT PROTECTIONS WHEN THEY SHOP FOR STUDENT LOANS DIRECTLY FROM MARKETERS AND LENDERS. HERE ARE SOME WAYS THAT YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN SHOPPING FOR STUDENT LOANS:

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2. Don’t be fooled by mailings from marketers or lenders that are designed to look like they come from the federal government.

3. Don’t be enticed to take out loans from marketers and lenders who offer you prizes or sweepstakes. These incentives could distract you from learning the key terms of the loans these marketers and lenders are offering.

4. Beware of “teaser” or introductory interest rates; find out the actual interest rate and whether that rate will change.

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   ✓ Will the interest rate change? If it will change, is there a cap on the interest rate?
   ✓ What fees must I pay when the loan is disbursed?
   ✓ What is the Annual Percentage Rate (APR)?
   ✓ What will my estimated monthly payment be?
   ✓ What is the total amount I will have to repay?
   ✓ Is there a penalty if I repay the loan early?
   ✓ Can I defer payments when I am in school, or if I am having financial difficulties?
   ✓ How is unpaid interest capitalized (that is, added to the principal amount of the loan) during periods when I am not paying interest?
   ✓ What benefits or rate discounts are offered, and what conditions do I have to meet to obtain the benefits?
   ✓ If benefits are offered based on a certain number of “on-time” payments, how is “on-time” defined?
   ✓ What will happen if I am late with a payment?
   ✓ Will my loan be sold to another lender?
   ✓ If my loan is sold, will the borrower benefits and interest rate discounts be lost?
Craft from page 9

Craft Center as whole and what it has to offer,” Huynh said.

Huynh expressed her hope that the first Art Studio Night is not the last.

“My hope is that everyone that attends Art Studio Night will find something new they would like to pursue in subsequent Art Studio Nights,” Huynh said.

The Craft Center is going to continue to hold monthly Art Studio Nights, with more models and different themes.

Evaluation forms were also available as the Craft Center was very enthusiastic about collecting feedback from the students for potential ways to improve, following Art Studio Nights.

During the course of the night patrons were free to do whatever they wanted with any of the materials that were there. Though models were the centerpiece, no one was limited to them.

“People that come usually keep coming back,” Huynh said.

On an ordinary day, many of the same students return to utilize this great way to relax and explore their creativity. There are also many staff members in the Craft Center to guide students who might not be familiar with the tools and resources available.

The Craft Center also holds workshops that can help students get started in a variety of different artistic mediums. The workshops offer free materials and topics include sewing, stained glass and pottery.

The Craft Center hopes to get the word out there and Art Studio Night will help them with promotion.

“This event is all about allowing college students the opportunity to expose themselves to new things in an inexpensive way. Those unable to afford splurging on art lessons, models, or even materials, can find a least a starting place for discovering or developing their passion for art at Art Studio Night,” Huynh said.

For more information about the Craft Center and the different opportunities available, visit www.foef.gatech.edu or look for the Facebook group called GTCraft.

Upcoming events and the latest developments can be found at both sources.

“This event is all about allowing college students the opportunity to expose themselves to new things in an inexpensive way.”

Monica Huynh
Second-year Biology

A student paints the vase he created at the Craft Center’s first Art Studio Night. Art Studio Night will be a free monthly themed event.

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