HOW WE IGNITED THE FIRE

By Mansi Sharma

The FIREwall is an idea that was initially thought to be used as a tool for informing the college about the recent updates regarding academics, technology and facilities. The newsletter was to include event coverage for all the student organizations and have computing related entertainment. After getting a tremendous amount of support and encouragement, we are proud to present to you, the FIREwall!

This newspaper shall take and give FEEDBACK about any topic of relevance in the College of Computing. It shall INFORM you about all the events in the college and REPRESENT its entire student body. Last but not the least, all this serious material will be complemented by ENTERTAINMENT in the form of whatever you want!

The journey towards making the FIRE-wall happen was initiated by Mansi Sharma, a third year CS major. Ajai Karthikeyan, a second year CS major, arrived next having had previous experience in journalism. Terris Johnson, a

Academics Follow Up

By Ajai Karthikeyan

Several academic concerns were raised by the students during the Town Hall held by the UCouncil last Spring and many more have been brought to our attention recently. As Academics Chair for the UCouncil, I have followed up with Associate Dean Charles Isbell regarding these issues and he is currently working to resolve them.

The first major concern raised by the students was with regards to scheduling whereby there seemed to be an uneven distribution of classes with regards to MWF or TR and also in timing with a majority of the classes be scheduled for Tuesday/Thursday afternoons. Dean Isbell said that the administration was

The Who’s Who Of The College Of Computing

By Mansi Sharma and Nitya Malhotra

This year we have had quite a few changes in our faculty and staff at the CoC. This section will show some of the old as well as new faces that everyone must know and hopefully interact with more in the future, as these immensely helpful people lead us students towards a successful career. To add to the fun and to get to know them better, we asked them the following three questions:

1. What is the one thing you really want to achieve at your current position?
2. What do you enjoy the most about your job?
3. If you could be one animal, what would you be?

And here are their responses!

James “Jim” Foley
Interim Dean of the College of Computing
1. Continue and strengthen the College’s leadership position in defining new approaches to computing education and research.
2. Helping others succeed.
3. An eagle, so I could fly above Atlanta’s traffic.

Charles Isbell
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Affairs
1. A coherent organization and set of processes that will outlive my tenure in that position.
2. The same thing that I enjoy about being a professor in general: the opportunity to solve problems that have an impact on others.
3. I already am an animal.
To Freshmen, From Seniors

By Victoria Au

The beginning of a new school year brings in a flood of new talent, better known as freshmen. This talent, although raw, merits some attention and this article is dedicated to aiding them through their college experience and to ensure them a successful four, five, six or seven years at Georgia Tech.

As the ones with the most experience, CoC seniors were asked to provide some counsel for Computer Science and Computational Media first years. Much of the advice was academically related; Antonio Salazar (CS) recommends that you, “Take classes you need early so you can take classes you like later.” While Matt Gwaltney (CS) says, “Get to know the advisors.” Some seniors offer more specific advice for classes. Donna Yoo (CS) encourages you to “Take Morley for Combo. Take Morley for any classes he teaches if possible”, while Carlos Rios (CM) says, “For CM, I suggest User Interface Design as a CS specialty course because it deals with both visual and interactive design, which is relevant to our major.” When dealing with academics it is important to be aware of degree requirements and where they are located.

Our academic advisors (Kathy Earwood and Cathy Dunnahoo) are very helpful and are located in CCB 119 and 115 respectively. Other resources regarding academics include the Georgia Tech catalog, Oscar and the SGA course critique; all of which can be found online.

Besides focusing solely on academics like many Georgia Tech students are inclined to do, Doug Morgan (CS) recommends that you “Don’t take classes too seriously”, while others, such as Brian O’Conner (CS) are more persistent in that regard with his recommendation “Get a life. Do something else besides CS.” What is important to remember is that in college, besides growing intellectually, students should also grow socially. Being social introduces a balance between work and play; which leads to less of a burn out from all night coding sessions, current known record is 34 hours.

The best way to be socially active is to be around people; this includes joining an organization, going to events or taking an options class. Advertising for options classes and organizations often happen at the beginning of each semester. Most options classes have a deadline for registration but fortunately, most organizations are happy to accept members any time of the year. Events happen throughout the school year and it is helpful to keep an eye out for flyers or chalkings that might be in the area.

Vinutha Prabhakar (CS) says “Try to meet as many people as you can. Make a lot of connections!” Networking is one of the most important things that one can do. Make acquaintances and build relationships; you never know when you’ll need them. In the vein of professional development, Johannes Liem (CS) recommends that students should “Start researching or working early.” Whether you are heading off to graduate school or jumping right into the work force, research and work experience are important assets to your resume. Besides giving a boost ahead of other candidates, it shows employers that there is an initiative to do more than what is required. For work opportunities, be aware of upcoming career fairs and such through the CareerBuzz website. Besides those resources, look into the Co-Op Program which interweaves three semesters of work into four years of school. Research is a popular option with many Georgia Tech students and CoC students should look at UROC (Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Computing); the research program devoted to computing.

College will be one of the best chapters of your life and while Georgia Tech is an institution of academia, it does have other things to offer. If you’re not sure what you are passionate about, join some extracurricular activities because the time to discover that is now. Challenge yourself because after you leave, you might not have that chance. Dare to push yourself further and do something different but also know your limits. At the end of your undergraduate years, I hope you would have found your life’s direction. Good luck and have a great first year.
Technology + Activism = Computing For Good

At the College of Computing, a values system is emerging that centers on the use of computing as a platform for improving the human condition. This convergence, of a culture of philanthropy and computing’s history as an agent of change, has a name: Computing for Good (C4G).

“In spring 2008, the College of Computing offered a course in C4G. About two dozen graduate and undergraduate students formed teams to tackle challenges in public health, society and politics as close as downtown Atlanta and as far away as sub-Saharan Africa. The course will be offered again in spring 2009.

“When students create practical solutions for socially relevant problems, they feel more enthusiastic because they can actually see the impact of what they are doing,” says Professor Ellen Zegura, who co-taught the class with Vempala and Associate Professor Michael Best.

The College has formed a steering group made up of faculty, staff and students to explore the meanings of C4G and identify current and potential research and teaching initiatives that encompass it.

For more information, go to http://groups.google.com/group/computingforgood

FIREWALL contd.

third year CM major, helped us by creating the FIREwall logo. These are only a few names that deserved a shout out. There are so many students that contributed in making this a success, which is truly heartwarming; Vinutha Prabhakar, Vicotria Au, Stephen Hilber and Chris Stuckey to name a few.

The initial push from Dean Cedric Stallworth and Beth Collums( If you don't know who she is, read her blurb in the Who’s Who article) and consistent encouragement will always be remembered and appreciated. A very special thanks to Dean Tom Pilsch for his support during our low times. We would like to thank everyone at the College of Computing for its first ever student led newspaper!

We appreciate all our sponsors without who the FIREwall would not have been on paper( we literally mean that).

The journey has just begun; we need more people to take this newspaper to a higher pinnacle. If you are interested in being part of the FIREwall team or just want to write an article, step up and make your newspaper the way you want it to be; Email: ccfirewall@gmail.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

SAB: Crash the Rec 10/17 16:00 Tech Rec
Speaker: Leslie Valiant, Harvard 10/21 9:00 Klaus 1116
Ucouncil: Mini Town Hall 10/21 19:00 Klaus 1116W
GVU Research Demo Showcase 10/23 13:00 TSRB
GT Vs. Virginia 10/25 15:50 Bobby Dodd
ACM: Cool Stuff 10/26 12:00
ACM: Movie Nights 10/27 12:00
Spring Registration 10/29
CC Dist. Lecture: Joseph Traub 10/29 Flag 117
Women@CC: Spooktacular 10/30 17:00 Outside CoC
ESP: Live Action Puzzle Game 11/7 17:00
ESP: Brawl Tournament 11/7
ACM: GT Gamefest 11/8
SAB: Game Night 11/19

Events on and after 21st November will be in the second issue
UCCouncil made arrangements to follow up with the Technology Services Organization (TSO) of the CoC on several issues raised in Town Hall last year. The director of TSO, Russ Poole, and the rest of the TSO staff have been very helpful in answering the concerns raised by the students. This section will cover several topics that all College of Computing students should be aware of, including those initiated via last year’s Town Hall.

AD Switch and Lab Access

As many of you are aware that TSO has made the switch to Georgia Tech’s Active Directory (AD) system allowing all undergraduates to log in with the Georgia Tech (PRISM) ID. This is because the CoC provided ID system is being phased out. As a matter of fact, anyone who has come in this year did not get a CoC account, unless one was specifically requested.

The AD switch has also created many additional changes to the CoC. The major one being that there are now only 3 labs that are publically accessible to general computing students. They are the Commons Area (outside the Student Services office on the 1st floor of CCB), the Thin Client Lab located in CCB 130, and the Baird Lab located in CCB 107A. Access to the States Lab in CCB 103, the Mac Digital Media and Gaming Lab in CCB 107 is restricted to students who are taking a class where a Professor has made a request for class access. If you would like to see a list of software that currently is allocated to these labs, you may go to the following link: http://support.cc.gatech.edu/facilities/instructional-labs.

Students with CoC Accounts

For students who still have a CoC account one of the only resources generally available for you is SSH access to gaia2.cc.gatech.edu. Most students have lost all other SSH access. If you currently have a CoC account you should be aware of an impending switch from the CoC Zimbra mail server over to OIT’s Zimbra mail server. Students should be notified before the switch occurs, there will be some minor things for students to do; which will be mentioned via e-mail. While you will still keep your @cc.gatech.edu e-mail it will now be on the same server as your general Georgia Tech e-mail, and accessed via the same interface as before.

After-Hours Buzzcard Access

All CoC students should have after-hours buzzcard access to the CoC. For CoC Freshmen who did not have access to the building, know that this issue should have been resolved by now, and it was related to difficulties with changing the system in the AD switch. The Klaus Academic Computing Building (KACB) after-hours access is only reserved for those students who have a class inside of Klaus.
Workshops

As briefly mentioned in Town Hall there are currently a series of workshops being conducted in the Mac Digital Media lab under the instruction of Hafez Rouzati. The Cocoa Programming Workshops can be taken by anyone with at least one semester of programming. If you are interested in working on design please visit http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/projects/appledev to sign up.

TSO Initiatives

TSO has been conducting monthly meetings with the Faculty to coordinate and vote on several TSO initiatives. TSO has graciously allowed UCouncil student representation on the Faculty Computing Committee. Many of the decisions of these meetings have already been mentioned here, but some deserve a brief note.

- The internals of the CoC website are undergoing an upgrading process in order to address the latency issues that have occurred. This should be finished by the end of October.

- A phone directory of all CoC Faculty and Staff is now available on the CoC intranet under General Documents.

- MetroLaser has upgraded all Laser Printers in the CoC to allow notification and proactive replacement of low toner.

Lastly, you may visit TSO’s website for up to date information and contacts for any TSO related issues: http://support.cc.gatech.edu/

If you have any comments/concerns about Technology in the College of Computing, show up at the Mini Town Hall on October 30th, voice your opinion because it matters!

WHO'S WHO contd.

Cedric Stallworth  
Assistant Dean of Outreach, Enrollment and Community

1. Creating a positive student community in the college.
2. Teaching and working with the students.
3. Haven’t given that much thought. Ask me again later.

Thomas “Tom” Pilsch  
Assistant Dean of Students

1. I would like to help create an environment where every student who comes into the College of Computing leaves with enthusiasm about computing and their future in it and with a positive feeling about the college.
2. It is the "Ah Ha!" moments that are special - when I see the light come on in someone's eyes when I have been able to help them understand something or open some new perspective or when I see the look of relief on their face when we have found a solution to some seemingly insurmountable bureaucratic obstacle. That is what it is all about.

Elizabeth “Beth” Collums  
Program Coordinator

1. My goal is to build a greater network of community within the College of Computing focusing on the development of the collective group and extending to the individual.
2. The most enjoyable aspect of my job, is working with students and student organizations to increase their scope of reach and progress.
3. I would be a penguin.

Kathy Earwood  
Head Advisor

1. Helping all students to achieve their goals in life and being the best advisor and advocate for students that I possibly can be for all students not just those in our major.
2. Working with students and watching them get to graduation day.
3. A dolphin - spending all day in the ocean, what more could one want!

Barbara Ericsson  
Director of Outreach

1. I would really like to double the number of women and underrepresented minorities that major in computing at Georgia Tech in the next 5 years.
2. I like seeing how excited kids get when they get a program to work like getting a robot to correctly complete a course.
3. A horse.

1. An eagle. I have been interested and involved in flying all of my life, and the eagle epitomizes the freedom and grace that we can only begin to experience in a man-made flying machine. It is fascinating to watch them circling over a lake or river and then swoop down to snatch dinner on the fly from the water below. I’d like to give that a try. And besides, the eagle proves that bald can be beautiful!
1. I would like to be so great at my job, that when I have to leave, people will look at my successor and say, "OH! You must be the 'new Morgon!'"

2. The daily interactions with students, faculty, and staff that always keep me on my toes. I am also exceptionally excited to be a part of the CoC/ECE Career Fair team!

3. A Peacock or a Great White Shark.

1. I want to find the secret to effective higher-ed communications and then scale it. Academia is very complex. My background before GT was in corporate and political communications and neither was as consistently challenging as what I’m doing now.

2. It is the first position I’ve worked in where I feel I am working for something deeply important: science education. This is the key to and foundation of progress, and believing you have even just a small role in something so big is very satisfying.

3. My dog Chompsky. He is the most spoiled and loved dog in Atlanta, plus I envy his life of leisure.

1. Most importantly, I would like to make certain that every student at the College of Computing is well informed regarding all of the international opportunities that are available to them while studying at Georgia Tech. Additionally, we know that study abroad is such a rewarding experience both personally and professionally that we want to ensure the highest participation possible among the students of the College of Computing.

2. The most enjoyable aspect of my position is seeing the impact that the study abroad experience has on each individual student. The exposure to cultural, economic and social differences does truly change who they are, how they perceive the world and how they interact with those around them.

3. My dog Chompsky. He is the most spoiled and loved dog in Atlanta, plus I envy his life of leisure.

1. Retirement, and prior to that, the satisfaction of helping students.

2. Working with students. GT has the best!

3. Raccoon.

1. Balance, Process, Service and World Peace .....all continuing after I am long gone.

2. It is never boring and I am always challenged.

3. Tigger (not tiger TI double G err).
October 17, 2008 - 7

TECHNOLOGY

Internet Radio And
RIAA Seek Agreement
By Terris Johnson

On September 25, 2008 Congress prepared to amend section 114 of title 17, United States Code, to provide for agreements for the reproduction of sound recordings by webcasters. The agreement was formed from rising concerns of Webcasters in regards to steep copyright royalty charges by music artists and record labels. Unlike AM, FM and Satellite Radio, which pay no performance royalties for playing music from record labels; Internet radio services have had to pay royalty rates that risk putting the internet services out of business; these rates had increased due to the Copyright Review Board’s ruling in March 2007.

The new rates were especially taxing to unpaid Internet radio services like Pandora (Music Genome Project) which are not generating subscription-based income that could support the increased charges. Pandora’s Tim Westergren states, “The industry right now is wrestling with, ‘What is a sale?’ – whether that’s 99-cent singles, or CDs, or whatever. As the retail impact [of Net radio] becomes better known. I hope the RIAA will start to be able to recognize a friend.”

Due to a shaky history with internet music piracy, the Recording Industry Association of American has a distorted view on internet radio and interactive nature. “The perception of RIAA is that interactivity equals cannibalism. But the only thing that should matter is data around purchase habits.” Webcasters are looking forward to seeing the legislation pass in hopes of developing a new business model that supports artists, record labels, and Internet radio.

Adobe Launches
Creative Suite 4
By Terris Johnson


Adobe is marketing six software bundles catered to specific disciplines of media production—Creative Suite 4 Web (premium, standard) for web designers, Creative Suite 4 Design (premium, standard) for print artists, and Creative Suite 4 Production Premium for video and film producers, and the Creative Suite 4 Master Collection, which includes all thirteen Adobe applications.

New features include a streamlined user interface shared between all of the applications, Multitouch controls for Macintosh, 3-D rotation in Flash CS4, the ability to create interactive documents in InDesign CS4 for use in Flash CS4, amongst a myriad of other features.

Adobe Creative Suite 4 is in production and should be available for retail within the next few weeks— you can pre-order any of the editions on Adobe.com

Please submit articles for the Technology section to ccfirewall@gmail.com

WHY SEE THINGS IN BLACK AND WHITE WHEN YOU COULD SEE PURPLE?

Pioneers. Pedals. Pranks. We’re letting our purple shine. Meet surfing and entertainment mavericks. Check out solar-powered, GPS-enabled, camera-equipped bikes. Find out why people are singing in elevators. It’s all a celebration of the energizing, creative and charmingly eccentric spirit that makes Yahoo!, well, uniquely Yahoo!

See purple come to life at startwearingpurple.com.
By Victoria Au

Each edition of The Firewall will feature one undergraduate student and one graduate student at the College of Computing in an effort to recognize the achievements attained by our fellow classmates.

This edition’s undergraduate spotlight is Roger Pincombe. He is currently a third year Computer Science major at the College of Computing and hails from Peachtree City, GA. Pincombe is actively involved in student activities such as GTACM and CoC Boot Up. His latest achievement includes winning the national Yahoo sponsored HackU competition in which he represented Georgia Tech, beating other students from schools such as Carnegie Mellon, UC Berkeley, UIUC, and Stanford. We talked to Pincombe about his background, his experience at Yahoo, and his aspirations.

How long have you been interested in Computer Science?

I’ve always been interested in building things. Legos and stuff like that and once I figured you can build computer programs and websites, my focus kind of switched onto that. So in elementary school, I started doing some programming. I’ve been doing web design since middle school and I designed my middle school’s website. So it seemed like a natural choice for a major because I’ve been in the field for so long.

Your project, DialPrice, recently won the national HackU competition. What is it about and what was the inspiration for it?

Well, DialPrice is a system that allows you to call a phone number when you’re in a store and look up pricing for products at other stores and online so you know if you are getting a good deal at that store or somewhere else. You can use it from any phone without a data plan or anything else special. It’s just a phone number you call.

Inspiration…basically I had been doing a lot of work with voice over IP...

The HackU competition led to a summer internship with Yahoo. How was the atmosphere, people and location?

It was actually an amazing experience altogether. The atmosphere was really laid back. I could get to work anytime between 9 through 11 and stay until I finished my stuff for today. There were parties and events every week if not more than one. So between the intern events and the normal Yahoo employee events, there was always something going on that was fun and interesting. So the people were pretty cool. The other interns were pretty interesting. The other people on my team were very easy to work with. They understood it was my first time in that kind of environment but they still gave me important tasks. I worked on an SDK on their mobile platform which allows developers to plug in and write their own apps[ic] with it. As far as location, it was in silicon valley near San Francisco which was a really great place and I’d say that’s one part of the country that I’d like to move to because of the location and the people. Just the general atmosphere, it was a great place.

Were there any amazing people that truly inspired you to be where you are today?

Hmm...that’s a tough one. I can’t say particularly. I can’t say I’ve had a mentor or role model that has inspired me but one person that has been very helpful at the College of Computing was Merrick Furst. I guess you can call him a mentor. He’s been very helpful with guiding my personal projects and where I want to go in the future.

DialPrice number: (650)-273-4514
Svetlana Yarosh (who prefers to go by Lana) is a third year Ph.D. student majoring in Human-Centered Computing. She recently represented the college at the prestigious Grace Hopper Conference funded by a scholarship from Google. She is also the Co-Chair of the Graduate Women@CC and provides academic mentoring for the class of new HCC Ph.D. students.

Lana was awarded the first prize for the College of Computing, Graduate Student Symposium in March 2008. This year she has presented her work at various places like CSCW2008, USER Seminar and the CHI in Florence, Italy. For the future, she has submitted a paper on her summer 2008 IBM internship for CHI2009. In this interview Lana tells us about her research interests and what/who inspired her to be where she is presently. Presenting Lana!

The UCouncil nominated you for the grad, how do you feel about that?

I’m honored!

As a female student in CS, especially in graduate school, do you have any advice to give?

Two things:

1. Never let anybody intimidate you. Even the most distinguished professor was once where you are. Be ready to learn and unabashed to ask for help.

2. Grad school is as much about people skills as it is about academic skills. Go to seminars, meet new people, have lunch with older students and professors, go to conferences, volunteer for academic community service positions. You want to get the reputation of an energetic, friendly researcher.

Where did you go for your undergrad years and why did you choose to specialize in this area?

I went to undergrad at University of Maryland, College Park. I’ve always felt a draw to HCI (Human Computer Interaction) – in fact, I majored in Psychology and C.S. as an undergrad. HCI appeals to me because it is about solving social problems through creativity and innovation.

As a PhD student, what sort of research are you working on and how do you think it will help?

I’m glad you asked, I’m really excited about my work! I design technologies to help children and parents who live apart stay in touch. I’m focusing on divorced families now, but I think there are applications in other domains as well (e.g., military families, business travelers, etc.). Children really benefit from being able to interact more closely with their parents. I think if my solution becomes commercialized, it would really make a huge difference in what it means to be a long-distance family!

What do you plan to do in the future?

I know I want to continue doing HCI research, but I’m not sure yet where. I would love to be a professor at a school like Georgia Tech, but I also see the advantage of doing research at an industry lab. I did an internship with IBM research this summer and that was great! I could see doing that for a living!

Were there any amazing people that truly inspired you to be where you are today?

Too many to list! My mom has definitely been a huge inspiration – she completed her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 3 years from the best university in Russia! Did I mention that she had me her first year? Amazing woman! My dad is also a huge inspiration in the way he risked everything and moved to America with nothing but $50 in his pocket to make a better life for us. There have also been countless teachers and professors along the way! And of course, my advisor, Prof. Gregory D. Abowd, has been the greatest inspiration and support here at Georgia Tech!

ACADEMICS contd.

Many students also expressed a desire to have all their class websites accesible from a centralized location. This was mainly brought up by the freshman who found it difficult to keep up with the half a dozen or so different websites they needed to go to to check their homework and such. Dr. Isbell is working to resolve this by working with TSO to embed all CS class websites on T-Square.

Another issue the faculty is currently working on is the extensive workload of the LCC 3401: Technical Communications Practices class.

If you have any academic concerns, please voice them out at one of the UCouncil Town Halls or email me at ajai@cc.gatech.edu.
The Ladies Are Back From Colorado
By Vinutha Prabhakar

Situated in the beautiful Colorado Rockies, 2008 Grace Hopper Celebration took place in Keystone, Colorado. Grace Hopper Conference of Women in Computing, inspired by Admiral Grace Hopper, is designed to bring the research and career interests of women in the field of computing to the vanguard. It is the largest technical conference for women in computing, and it showcases the results in collaborative proposals, networking and mentoring for young women. It also increases visibility for the contributions of women in computing. Conference presenters were leaders in their respective fields, representing industry, academia and government. Top researchers presented their research with special focus on the role of women in today’s technology fields.

It is beyond inspiring to be in a place with only women who have made tremendous differences in their field, ranging from academia to research. It was also the best time to find out information about other schools for those who wish to pursue higher education. The women that I connected with have had a huge influence on me in regards to the career path I have chosen.

This year’s conference was from Oct 1-4th. On Wednesday, along with 19 other undergraduate and graduate students, we attended the Technical poster session to get a feel of all the research that is being conducted by women around the world. On Thursday, we attended a variety of workshops, topics ranging from technical to outreach and international development. Friday was by far the best day for me because being very passionate about international development work for women and children, I attended two workshops on these topics. I chatted with few great women who work in top companies such as Cisco, Intel and QualComm, and they were working in the international development for women in developing countries. It’s very heartwarming to discuss something I am so passionate about with those who have accomplished so much in that field.

The whole experience was remarkable, although the sponsor party definitely did not reach my expectations compared to the one from previous year. Last year, Grace Hopper Conference was held in Orlando, Florida. The sponsor party was hosted at Universal City Walk. What more could you want when the party had taken up three-fourth of the City walk? It was a mix of Disney life with Grace Hopper, truly brilliant! However, this year’s party was supposed to be held at the Lake side at Keystone, but because of the weather, they held it in a ballroom. Regardless of the location, it was still fun hanging out with fellow classmates. If you get a chance, go to Grace Hopper, you will definitely be inspired, just as I was!

Successful Fall 2008 Women@CC Kick-Off

On September 10 2008, the Women@CC kicked off this school year with a delicious dinner at Figo’s Pasta, sponsored by Avanade. Thank you to everyone that came! Over 20 women attended the event, and it provided the returning women to catch up with each other, while also meeting some of the newer, younger women. Jesselyn Beattie of Avanade also gave an enjoyable talk about IT consulting in the real world. All in all, it was a success, and the Women@CC look forward to their next big event: Spooktacular!

New Women@CC Website!

Thanks to two of Georgia Tech’s undergraduate computing majors, Sweta Vajjhal and Steph Yang, the Women@CC have a new and improved website! This website features the organizations events, news, photo galleries, corporate sponsors, alumni information, a blog, and so much more. Check it out! You can find it at www.cc.gatech.edu/women
M@CC IS B@CK

By Michael Slaughter

M@CC ‘n’ Mingle! Bake ‘n’ Barter? In case you missed it, these are just a few of the innovative series of events held by the Minorities @ The College of Computing during their weeklong celebration which lasted from September 7th through September 9th titled “M@CC is B@CK Week”. The weeklong celebration started off with a career information session co-sponsored by The Women @ The College of Computing with Union Pacific. Union Pacific representatives talked to attendees about internship and work opportunities within their company and answered questions about work in general while everyone enjoyed lunch from Mellow Mushroom Pizza.

On Wednesday the 8th, M@CC and the Student Activities Board @ The College of Computing (SAB@CC) held the first ever “M@CC ‘n’ Mingle Game Night”. Attendees snacked on wonderful dips, chips, salsas and baked goods in a relaxed environment while listening to music and playing classic games such as Uno, Scrabble and Apples 2 Apples. Over 30 computing students came out and made this event a great success.

Thursday, M@CC held their weekly collaborative study session (Klaus 1202, 6PM) in which students from all levels, graduate and undergraduate, come together to work on computer science homework and projects in a relaxed environment that offers free food. The open collaborative study sessions, which are one of M@CC’s trademark events, are extremely productive and are appreciated by all.

Finally, throughout the entire week, M@CC held the “Bake ‘n’ Barter”, which was a fundraiser for Families First of Atlanta at where baked goods were traded for school supplies or sold with the money going towards the purchase of more school supplies. M@CC would like to thank each and every one of you who stopped by and purchased or traded for a delicious baked item. M@CC is proud to have collected over 10 pounds of school supplies worth over $100 dollars in cash for this wonderful charity. The week of events provided just a taste of the type of events that M@CC prides itself on providing to the CoC community so make sure to be on the lookout for more events, because it is official, M@CC is B@CK!
The Student Activities Board @ CC

By Daniel Grim

The Student Activities Board is an organization in the College that is here FOR YOU, that’s right, YOU. Whether you are a CS student, CM student, renowned professor, dean, or any other member of the College of Computing, we are here for you. Everybody within the College has a schedule that causes them to be very busy. This tends to be very time consuming and stressful, and we are here to help.

The purpose of this organization is to provide all of the members of the College of Computing with opportunities to be relieved from these hectic schedules. We create social and academic events for you and your fellow College of Computing members in order to encourage, promote, and foster a greater sense of community within the College. In the past, we have had social events such as Mafia Night, Drop Day Cookout, and Murder Mystery Dinner. As far as academics go, we provide opportunities for study and refreshment every dead week through CSta.

This organization has been around since 2005 and we are always trying to make bigger and better events for the College. If you would like the opportunity to make things happen, please don’t hesitate to come check us out. We have weekly meetings every Monday at 6:30PM in the Student Organization Room 104b in the CoC. We are always looking for new members and we’d love to have you. The more people we have, the more we can do. Our next event is the Computational Invitational on October 17th at Tech Rec. in the Student Center from 4-6pm. Bowling, Pool, Video Games, Food, Prizes and more! Be on the look out!

If you have any questions or want to know what’s going on, feel free to check out our website: http://www.sab.cc.gatech.edu.

Mafia Night 2008

By Daniel Grim

One of our biggest events last year was “Mafia Night.” Mafia is a very entertaining game that you play with a circle of people. You have “Townspeople” who are citizens and you have “the Mafia” who are out to sabotage the Townspeople. The object of the game is for the Townspeople to figure out who the Mafia are, and for the Mafia to eliminate players. Every person is randomly assigned (usually through cards) a role (Townsperson, Mafia member, or other) and they must play that role and try to help their team win. It’s a game of wits and is very entertaining, so we had a night dedicated to it!

Along with M@CC and W@CC, we were able to provide several hours of Mafia while having raffle prizes, pizza, The Godfather playing downstairs, and also plenty of space for many games of Mafia. It was a great event, and we hope to do it again in the Spring.

SAB@CC

Fall schedule

October 17 - Computational Invitational @ Tech Rec (4PM-6PM)
November 19 - Game Night
Dead Week - CSta III

Come join us!
sab.cc.gatech.edu
Industry talks, social events, an internationally ranked programming team, company tours, and huge LAN parties: what do all of these have in common? They are part of GT ACM, Georgia Tech’s chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery. In case you haven’t heard of it before, ACM is a student-run professional organization for students of computer science and related fields.

We often organize Tech Talks, most recently held was a Tech Talk with Amazon, in which Amazon came to GA Tech and discussed some of the pressing issues of a corporation of their magnitude, as well as interesting technologies such as Amazon’s Elastic Compute Cloud. But beyond the interesting talks, companies like Amazon that come to campus, are always looking for bright students to recruit, so if you have a dream of working for Amazon, Google, Yahoo, or any other tech company, keep a lookout for the upcoming tech talks.

On that note, ACM is a great way to network with industry corporations and help align yourself towards an internship or a full time job. This past year, ACM provided the means for multiple students to achieve positions at Google, Yahoo, Microsoft, and others. We have large events planned with Microsoft and Yahoo this spring, as well as a Google campus tour, so join in the fun, and start building a network of professional contacts.

But it’s not all business. ACM knows how to party... LAN party, that is! Our bi-annual LAN parties are fun ways to relax, play some casual games, or battle to the death in heated tournaments. This semester’s LAN party will be on Saturday, November 8 in the first floor of the Klaus building. Casual play is free, and tournaments are $5 for one or $10 for unlimited entries. There will be everything from Smash to Halo to Counter-Strike, so stop by and show us your skills. Check out www.gttgamefest.com for more information.

Most ACM events are open to anyone, members and non-members, and you can find out more about membership at any of our events or at our website. So be sure to check out www.gtacm.org for more information, and watch this space in future editions of the FIREwall.
Are you a fan of Japanese culture? Do you like watching anime? Is pocky or sushi favorite foods of yours? Do you know what MomoCon or AWA are? If so, then this is the place for you.

Here at Anime O-Tekku, we help supply you with a way to watch anime in a fun and immersive way. Our club has over 60 members, and we have meetings around twice a month where we show anime that the club has voted to watch. But that’s not the only thing we do. We also hold showings of anime, anime OVAs, live action or Asian movies a couple of times a month. Both meetings and showings are free to attend and membership is not required (but greatly appreciated). Being a member does give you great perks though! Like free pizza at every meeting, and access to our club library.

We also host the completely free anime and gaming convention, MomoCon, here at our very own Georgia Tech. Last year we had 4700 people attend, so it’s kind of a big deal. It’s a great experience for any anime lovers, or video game players out there and you don’t even have to travel! If you are interested, MomoCon is March 14th and 15th; and will definitely be one of your best experiences on campus.

Interested? If you are, check us out at our website: http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/anime

We run open meetings and showings, so feel free to drop by anytime during our next 3 events which are listed below, including a meeting this Saturday:

5th Meeting: Saturday October 18th, 2008 Noon in Klaus 1443

6th Meeting: Saturday October 25th, 2008 Noon in Klaus 1443

3rd Showing: Wednesday October 29th, 2008 6PM in Klaus 1456

Free Pizza and Drink

Bring this coupon to any Anime O-Tekku meeting in October, for a (2) free slices of pizza, and drink.

Members get (1) additional free slice when presenting this coupon.
(ESP) is a student organization dedicated to the creation and enjoyment of entertainment software. We hold weekly meetings where members are free to relax, discuss the game industry, and collaborate on game development projects. We also organize parties, tournaments, and many other events for our members and the entire student community.

Don’t worry about coming in with a certain skill level; there’s plenty of opportunities to get involved regardless of how much prior experience you have. If you just want to sit back, relax, and enjoy everything ESP has to offer, that’s fine by us as well. As long as you’re having a good time, you’re set!

Meetings: Every Thursday, 6:30 PM, Klaus 1443
Drop Day Party: Oct. 10th, 6:30 PM, Student Center 343
Murder Mystery: Oct. 31, 6:00 PM, College of Computing
Smash Bros. Tournament: Coming In November
Games Showcase: Coming In December

For more information, visit our website at http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/esp
Undergraduate Council, A.K.A. UCouncil, is a student led organization at the College of Computing, which facilitates communication between students and faculty on academic concerns, technology updates and the facilities provided by the college. We are the umbrella of the student organizations, students and administration. Our goal is to solve the concerns students or faculties have about the college of computing. Our main event is the Town Hall, which occurs every semester where students and faculty come together to discuss the issues that may irk them. However, due to the new structure, which Vinutha Prabhakar, along with Cedric Stallworth are implementing; UCouncil has decided to have a mini-town hall and a big town hall. The mini-town hall is only meant for the students to discuss their thoughts or concerns with no faculty present. However, the big town hall is where the students, faculty and staff are present to converse about the issues.

UCouncil is being held together by committee chairs and executive board. There are three committee chair currently: Academic, Student Life and Technology. Our amazing members are: Vinutha Prabhakar (President), Tommy Smith (Vice President), Krishnan Purushotham (Treasurer), Mansi Sharma & Victoria Au (Student Life Co-Chairs), Ajai Karthikeyan (Academic Chair), Chris Stuckey & Tapan Sabnis (Technology Co-Chairs), Nitya Malhotra (Freshman CS Rep) and Zach Dreybus (Freshman CM Rep). We are striving to find new ways to get people to express their opinions other than just at Town Hall, for instance, the Dean Foley’s picture in the CC Commons. If you have any questions or concerns about the College of Computing, come talk to us, we will be more than willing to hear you out and work with you!

FIREwall Survey

One lucky survey entry will win a $20 gift certificate to Starbucks

Name:_____________________ Major:____ Email:__________________________

Which section/article did you like the most?

____________________________________________

Name one article you would love to see in your college’s newspaper?

____________________________________________

On a scale of 1 to 5 rate the articles written by UCouncil (Academics and TSO)

Did they answer your questions and did they provide a solution to your concerns raised at Town Hall?

(Waste of Time) 1 2 3 4 5 (Awesome)

Any suggestions/concerns for the FIREwall or UCouncil:

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

Please drop this survey into the suggestion box found in the CoC Commons next to Dean Foley’s picture

Would you like to be a part of the newspaper? If yes email: ccfirewall@gmail.com