

## Cultural celebrations mark Chinese New Year

By Kalpi Desai  
Contributing Writer

The aroma of sesame fried chicken filled the air. Hundreds of people swamped the area, eating food while enjoying the entertainment.

After watching beautiful dances, listening to sweet voices sing and watching in awe at a sword dance, finally the moment that everyone was waiting for came on: the dragon dance.

People enthusiastically applauded and cheered on as the dragon danced around. This festive event was a celebration of the Chinese New Year that took place February 13th in Chamblee, Ga.

As the most important of all the Chinese festivals, the Chinese New Year was on Jan. 29 this year. The date of the

Chinese New Year is determined from the lunisolar calendar, whose dates depend on moon phase and the time of solar year, and, thus, the Chinese New Year does not fall on the same day each year on the Gregorian calendar.

For the Chinese, the New Year represents a new beginning. They believe that what happens on the New Year will correspond to what happens for the rest of the year. Therefore, people eat healthy food, invite friends over, and pray to bring about good fortune for the following year.

They wear red clothes, put up red decorations and give money to children in red envelopes. The Chinese New Year is often considered a religious ceremony as people commemorate Heaven, Earth, their ancestors and household gods on the multi-day festival.

Traditionally, the Chinese New Year is celebrated for 15 days. On the first day, the Chinese worship and welcome the gods.

The second day the Chinese pray to their ancestors while the third and fourth

days are reserved for men to pay respect to their parents-in-law. The fifth day is called Poo Woo and the Chinese pray to the god of wealth.

From the sixth to the tenth day, the Chinese celebrate by visiting friends and family as well as temples to pray.

The seventh day is considered the day that humans came into existence. Farmers present their produce and make a special drink made out of seven vegetables.

There is another family reunion on the eighth day and offerings are made to the Jade Emperor on the ninth day.

Between the 10th and 14th days, people invite friends and family over. Finally, the 15th day is when Lantern Festival occurs. On this day, people go to temples at night with paper lanterns and solve riddles written on the lanterns.

The dinner on Chinese New Year's Eve is one of the most important meals prepared. Traditional foods include eight treasures rice, chicken, duck, fish, pork and "Jiu Niang Tang."

Eight treasures rice is typically made out of rice, nuts and dried fruit. "Jiu Niang Tang" is a sweet soup made out of wine that contains rice balls.

The Chinese New Year began as a myth. The Chinese believed that Nian, a beast, preyed on hu-

manity the night before the New Year. However, a wise old man placated the people by challenging the beast to prey upon other animals.

Afterwards, the man was revealed to be a god. He took control of Nian and vanished while riding on the beast.

But before he left, he advised the people to put up red decorations and create loud noises to scare the beast away in case Nian ever came back. The tradition of putting up red paper and firing fire crackers still continue today as the Chinese celebrate the conquest of Nian.

Twelve animals in the following order represent the lunar Chinese calendar: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

According to legend, the 12 animals fought over who would head the succession of years. The gods finally

See Chinese, page 13



Photo by Benny Lee/ Student Publications



Photo by William Brawley/ Student Publications



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## CETL-trained professors offer different learning experience

By Aaron Parkman  
Staff Writer

Have you ever sat through a boring lecture wondering, "Does this professor know how to teach?" If the answer is no, then you might also be wondering, "How are they going to improve?" CETL, the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, is asking the same questions.

If you have filled out a CIOS course survey, you have already contributed to CETL. Although you might not have realized it, CETL has been in operation since 1986, collecting surveys,

storing results and analyzing the data which can be extracted from those bright yellow screens.

Sure, all of that is great, but the question is where those surveys are going and what good they are doing. This is where CETL becomes relevant.

CETL offers a plethora of resources to faculty, including individual consultations, development seminars and New Faculty Orientation (NFO). Faculty who choose to take advantage of these resources open themselves to observation and evaluation for the purpose of improving their teaching strategies.

CETL also promotes many

types of information systems, all aimed at finding solutions to Tech's most common information challenges. Since one of the biggest challenges has been professors' ability to communicate with students, T-Square has been implemented as a means of making that communication much easier.

Furthermore, if you have taken a course that utilizes PRS clickers, you have experienced CETL's attempt to help students more effectively communicate their learning progress to their professors.

By taking various classes, many students have already experienced CETL's learning strategies—some of them obviously beneficial while

some are not as useful.

Taking T-Square and PRS clickers as the example, T-Square has been very well received, whereas PRS clickers are only used when students are bribed with extra credit.

The difference between the two, of course, is not necessarily the utility in the systems but rather the obviousness of their benefit. And that brings up the question, what other strategies have students become testers for by landing in a course where the professor is involved with CETL?

Some say the main things that CETL-trained professors offer are different amounts and types

of work. "It will be less lecturing and a lot more group work," said Will Morgan, fourth-year CE major. "There are more little assignments." But at the same time, these are given "so that you will be more prepared when you come to class," Morgan said.

If you have ever taken a course with "mini quizzes" or "check-ups," you might have CETL to thank for that. But the extra work may not always be a bad thing.

"In my experience, CETL professors make an effort to teach in a more dynamic way," said Tauhira Hoossainy, fifth-year ME major.

See CETL, page 13

# Campus community observes Black History Month

By Yameen Huq  
Contributing Writer

Every February, Black History Month is observed across the United States. First originated in the early 1920's, it was celebrated during the second week of February to include the birthdays of the two most accomplished civil rights activists to that point: former president Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

February also marked several other milestones in black history. For example, the fifteenth amendment which granted blacks the right to vote, was passed on Feb. 3, 1870, and Hiram R. Revels, the first black senator, was sworn into office on Feb. 25, 1870.

This celebration came at a time when Ivory Tower intellectuals had published very little work on populist struggles, especially the black struggle. Most history books would only refer to the African-Americans' low social status despite their freedom.

Black history is a subject that rises in leaps and bounds from the abyss of oppression. Since their freedom from state-institute slavery, blacks have had to fight against privatized slavery.

Not only that, but the struggle against state-instituted inequality in schools and restaurants also continued.

This affected all aspects of American life, from Jackie Robinson breaking the racial barrier in Major League Baseball during the

1940's, to the Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" speech that shook the foundations of private inequality and the government's tacit support.

Black History Month is a time to embrace and celebrate aspects of African-American culture, such as its writers, poets, and musicians. It is a celebration of a flourishing artistic history found in periods such as the Harlem Renaissance.

Recognition of the month is



Photo courtesy of Candace Mitchell

The Onyx Ball is an annual celebration of black history put on by AASU at the end of February.

often done with young people in mind, particularly in elementary and middle schools. In this situation, all types of young students learn about the struggles and accomplishments of African-Americans throughout history.

The celebration has now grown to a nation-wide scale, in which all people reflect upon the journey of blacks towards a fairer society.

It is a reflection of civil rights in which politicians, entertainers and academia all comment on the past, present and future of black society.

This year February is particularly important, with the election

of a black president symbolizing the great strides and accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement as well as a taste of what the future holds. The new president's administration is not only a symbol, but also a real-life situation which will allow blacks and other races as well to achieve greater equality.

In recognition of this month-long event, Tech's School of History, Technology and Society has invited Douglas A. Blackmon, author of *Slavery By Another Name* to host a lecture pertaining to the enslavement of African Americans from the Civil War to World War II on Thursday, Feb. 12 in the First Room in the Tech Library. Blackmon's work covers the indentured servitude that African-Americans were forced to undergo long after slavery had ended.

His work covers the primary sources depicting slaves and their descendants from the ante- and post-bellum eras of American history as well as the untold stories of human labor trafficking and brutal exploitation from corporate capitalism until the Second World War.

Blackmon will also be covering the nature of race and politics in the South including contemporary corporate exploitation of black laborers.

This celebration is an important time to remember oppression and consequences that follow unjust actions. It is also important for recognizing the oppression that continues today and the people who fight against it.

## Black History Quiz

Did you snooze through history class or ace the final? Find out how much you really know about black history by taking our quiz.

- How many slaves reached freedom on the Underground Railroad?
  - 1,000-3,000
  - 5,000-30,000
  - 40,000-100,000
- In what year did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation to free slaves?
  - 1863
  - 1864
  - 1865
- Which Supreme Court case overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine and made segregation in public schools unconstitutional?
  - Plessy v. Ferguson
  - Brown v. Board of Education
  - Regents of the University of California v. Bakke
- Who were the "Little Rock Nine"?
  - A popular Motown group of the 1960s who originated from Little Rock, Ark.
  - The nine judges of the Arkansas Supreme Court who voted against desegregation in 1957
  - Students who integrated Central High School after federal intervention
- What did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 not do?
  - Outlaw racial segregation in schools and public places
  - Outlaw discriminatory voting practices
  - Create the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- What was Jackie Robinson most famous for?
  - Being the first black player for a major league baseball team
  - Leading the Brooklyn Dodgers to two World Series victories
  - Condemning Jim Crow segregation laws
- The first African American to win an Oscar was
  - Halle Berry
  - Dorothy Dandridge
  - Hattie McDaniel

Source: www.history.com

Answers: 1. c, 2. a, 3. b, 4. c, 5. b, 6. a, 7. c



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**CETL** from page 11

“They’re willing to use a greater variety of [teaching] methods within their classes. This can be a great help to students because everyone learns in a different way.”

Ultimately, CETL professors seem to offer more structure in their classes than non-CETL professors. For some people, more structure is preferable, but an important thing to consider when signing up for a CETL professor’s class is how much time you can devote to it. “If I was setting up a schedule, I wouldn’t sign up for more than one or two CETL professors,” Morgan said.

If your learning style is less independent, you should definitely check out some classes that have been influenced by CETL. However, if you would rather figure the material out for yourself, you might want to avoid those classes.

While the jury may still be out on whether CETL trains better teachers, the important thing to remember is that many professors on campus have a desire to improve their teaching, and CETL offers them the support to do that.

**Chinese** from page 11

came up with a contest to end the argument.

They said that each of the animals were to cross the river and whoever was to reach the other side first would start the cycle of the years, and the rest of the animals would get their years in order of who reached the shore.

The rat was able to reach shore first by riding on the ox’s back and the pig ended up last.

Conceptually, the twelve animals represent a cycle as opposed to the Western linear concept of time. This year represents the year of the ox.

The ox represents success that can be achieved with hard work and determination.

As this is an important time for the Chinese, many Tech students described what they did for the Chinese New Year.

“I called my grandparents because during New Year’s, you are supposed to pay respect to your elders.

“This act of goodness is supposed to bring happiness and prosperity in the following year,”

said Christina Dwan, second year BME major.

“I called my grandma. I also went to a fair over the weekend for Chinese New Year at the Chinese Cultural Center. I ate moon cake and watched the traditional dragon dance,” said Tony Chu, third year IE major.

In addition, Tech’s Chinese Student Association (CSA) held a Chinese New Year event in the Student Success Center. Over 200 members showed up including CSA members, non-members and language professors.

The CSA held performances, food, games and handed out red envelopes with chocolate coins which is tradition in China.

Performances include Wushu, a Chinese dance and Muay Thai demo. Furthermore, a full Chinese dinner was prepared including roasted pork, lo mein and chicken.

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the ox holds great strength and will. As the year of the ox, it is a year of hard work and effort. But then again, this statement holds true every year for every Tech student.



Jan. 26 kicked off the year of the Ox, but what else do you know about Chinese New Year? Check out the traditions that are part of the Chinese New Year season.

- Cleaning house is said to sweep away last year’s ill fortunes and make way for incoming good luck.
- People give their doors and windowpanes a fresh coat of (usually red) paint. They also decorate their doors and windows with paper-cuts and characters for “happiness,” “wealth” and “longevity.”
- Jiaozi (dumplings) are often eaten at Chinese New Year feasts. Literally translated as “sleep together and have sons,” jiaozi represent the wish for a family.
- For Chinese New Year, children receive red paper packages from their parents and elder relatives. It’s a prosperous time for children of large families—every package contains cash.
- For the first few days after the new year, people visit their families and friends, eating at each other’s houses and exchanging gifts.
- The Festival of Lanterns concludes the Chinese New Year season and features lantern shows and folk dances.

Source: www.123chinesenewyear.com



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FC Love does not exist. Date auction is Feb 11. Bring friends! Thank you FC for not doing anything for this school. You too FAB  
 Bobby Knight to UGA??? ...oh brother...  
 Due to economic conditions and cost containment actions, your mom will no longer be offering her usual group discounts. for the last year and half i discussed the 5 years masters program with my advisor.  
 2 semesters to graduation and the new advisor tells me that program isn't in my department.  
 i hate tech right now.  
 miami, welcome to atlanta  
 i need to start reading syllabi  
 Willy <3's Japan  
 mac that!  
 pick up a real guitar  
 meedely meedely meedely meeeeeeeeeeee!!!  
 Omg this is the week from hell  
 ferst center director search  
 Missy and Chelsea: frat boys in girl's bodies. you know how we do  
 le sigh. FML  
 PSYC 2020 blows. Has anyone here even heard of the programming language "R"?  
 Ticketing is getting weird! Also, the Sodexo monopoly with the BoR will actually negatively impact Cultural food fairs! Dum-mies!  
 Hmm... A general-purpose mandatory fee??? Talk about potential mismanagement!  
 I love you Livestrong app  
 In ur face, Wake !!! TIMMY !!!!  
 Why does EE have no hot chicks ?  
 Wouldn't it be interesting for Kucinich, Paul, & Obama to come and speak @ Tech about stuff like the Purdue's plan???  
 Did you know that any highly-popular YT vids criticizing ISR were "censored" by claiming a so-called "terms of use violation!"  
 Even many israelies were riling against the bombings, but the MSM didn't show it!  
 I'm sick of being addicted to you, but I can't let go.  
 Live for Jesus today, instead of counting on tomorrow  
 Funny when you can talk to your roommate in a sliver but not in person...  
 Yes, I mean YOU.  
 Ticketing changes caused by GDIs who don't want to work/pay for tickets  
 New ticketing policies are as cool as a roommate with herpes who borrows your towel a lot.  
 we didn't want "improved" ticketing, thats why we elected you, Nick.  
 GDIs care little for GT football. If they did, they'd actually congratulate players when they see them, instead of ignoring them.  
 Save the world: kill a 'bro'.  
 Ambassadors 09! We're all gonna get laid!  
 Obama? Hah, more like 'Bro'-bama!  
 We need to pull a Berlin and tear down that freaking green fencing.  
 Fritz isn't as lame as he sounds in the hockey article  
 Didn't go to your formal; instead went to our band party? Very Cool!

**technique**

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