

Celebrating Teaching Day ignites passion

By Aaron Parkman
Staff Writer

Tri-boards and posters lined the Student Center ballroom this month, showing off teaching research done by some of Tech's top professors.

Hosted by the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), Celebrating Teaching Day began with a teaching research exhibition and was followed by a word from Interim President Gary Schuster and a presentation from Johns Hopkins University professor Ronald Berk.

"People know that this is a research university... We are seeking to ignite professors' passion in teaching," said Donna Llewellyn, director of CETL and past associate chair of ISyE at Tech.

About 20 percent of the exhibits focused on peer-assisted learning, including Eric Moschella's Peer Led Undergraduate Study (PLUS) program. Moschella is the director of Academic Support and assistant director of Success Programs at Tech.

Moschella started the PLUS program at Clemson University in 2003, and it has since grown exponentially, now employing over 130 students as PLUS leaders at Clemson.

"The way these sessions are structured is designed to help students learn from each other... You can help a relatively small number of people with a tutor, but with this program, you can target the entire class," Moschella said.

PLUS leaders must be current students who have previously made an "A" in the targeted class.

These leaders are paid to attend the class and design PLUS sessions that reflect the lecture content and student needs, which differ between classes.

According to Moschella's exhibit, PLUS is also different than tutoring because it supports high-risk subjects rather than high-risk students. One of the most heavily targeted classes is General Chemistry.

One teaching research project that deals with General Chemistry exclusively is Charlie Cox's "Remodeling the Transitional Recitation Paradigm using a Variation of Cooperative Learning."

As assistant director of General Chemistry with a Ph.D. in Chemical Education, Cox seeks

See Teaching, page 13

THINKING GREEN?

CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS FIND WAYS TO BE ECO-FRIENDLY IN THE FACE OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

By Chris Russell
Staff Writer

Though it has been a bit overshadowed by the current economic crisis, one of the day's biggest buzzwords is still "the environment," and Tech is doing its part to protect it through various methods. Be it through recycling, saving water or even just unplugging a lamp, Tech students across campus are doing their part for conservation.

One of easiest ways for individual students to get involved in conservation is by simply recycling their trash. Then again, one of the best ways to prevent tooth decay is by simply flossing, yet dentists still manage to stay in business filling cavities. Many students don't recycle simply because they don't want to make the effort.

The trick, says Jonathan Effgen, second-year ME and vice president of the Environmental Alliance at Tech (EAGT), is simply forcing yourself to start.

"The key to recycling is to make it a habit. If a student starts by simply recycling in their dormitories, in no time, recycling will become a part of their everyday life," Effgen said.

Several resources are available for green-minded students, with recycling bins located a short walk from all the on-campus residence halls and apartments and others scattered in high-traffic areas across campus.

Larger drop-off areas where cardboard, magazines and glass bottles can be left are available on East and West campus at the end of 6th Street and outside of Woodruff, respectively.

Sinan Sinharoy, the president of EAGT, says that students interested in recycling can also find new ways to recycle by employing a bit of creativity and common sense.

"Although we don't accept plastic bag recycling, most major stores like Publix and Wal-Mart will take your old plastic bags and recycle them," Sinharoy said.

"Another tip is to get a reusable water bottle like a Nalgene instead of purchasing bottled water. It ends up being much cheaper in the long run and much more environmentally friendly," Sinharoy said.



The Recycling Services website at www.recycle.gatech.edu also offers information for faculty and students to recycle larger items—like cell phones, computers and toner cartridges—as well as contact info for companies that offer these services. It also offers ways for students to simplify the way they recycle, like crushing cans so they can fit more in their room bins or putting two different bags in the same bin to make sorting recyclables easier.

Sinharoy is quick to point out, however, that recycling is by no means the only way students can help protect the environment.

He notes the competition the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is currently holding, Wasted Watts, as important in that it brings to students' attention the importance of

conserving electricity.

"We tend to take all of our energy availability for granted, but 75% of Georgia's electricity comes from coal-fired power plants, which emit an incredible amount of CO₂ and other dangerous substances into the atmosphere," Sinharoy said.

Sinharoy also gave a few quick tips on how to cut electrical waste.

"Make sure to unplug chargers from the sockets if they're not being used. These still pull some electricity, even if your phone or iPod isn't being charged. Also, make sure to use compact fluorescent bulbs instead of regular incandescent. CFLs use a quarter of the power that normal light bulbs use. Students can find more really helpful tips about energy conservation on the Wasted

See Recycling, page 14

Greek Week promotes sense of community and spirit

By Aaron Parkman
Staff Writer

With finals just around the corner, Greeks are not only preparing for mental tests, but for physical ones as well. Tech's annual Greek Week begins this Sun-

day after weeks, if not months, of preparation.

"The purpose of Greek Week is to bring Greeks together to compete in a variety of events with pride in your chapter and your Greek community," said Stephanie Lyons, third-year STaC major

and Spirit Chair for Greek Week.

First on the schedule of events is Tug, which will take place in the Burger Bowl at 12 p.m. this Sunday. Just as it sounds, Tug is a tug-of-war event in which teams of between ten and 14 athletes compete in head-to-head compe-

tion.

Historically, Tug has been monitored more closely than other events because of the potential health risks involved due to over-exercising and over-dieting during months of training.

Like wrestling, teams must

limit the weight of athletes, which can sometimes lead to health risks, such as dehydration.

"[One] event we are constantly learning from is Tug. The rules have changed over the years [to

See Greek, page 12



Tug participants typically create their own uniforms with their letters in order to boost morale, express their pride in their chapter and embody the spirit of Greek Week.

Greek from page 11

address health concerns] and there is [now] a mandatory health seminar [for the athletes]. Also, the weight limit [is now] based on an average of all those who weigh in the morning of the event rather than a solid number," Lyons said.

Last year, after several intense rounds of Tug, Alpha Xi Delta and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Greek Sing is another event that will draw a crowd. Occurring on Tuesday, April 7, at CW Live, the event will end Greek Week on a high note, at least in terms of points. Greek Sing is an opportunity for chapters on campus to showcase their musical and dancing talent.

Including preliminaries, Greek Sing is tied with Tug at 22 possible points for fraternities and 20 possible points for sororities.

"Greek Sing can be just as in-

tensive as Tug depending on how committed a chapter is. Greek Sing routines are written and rehearsed well ahead of time for the preliminaries [which are] held a few weeks before the event," Lyons said.

Ticket distribution for Greek Sing will occur on Friday, April 3rd, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lobby of the Flag Building.

Other events include a dodge ball tournament, egg toss, arm wrestling, catapult wars, chariot race, slam dunk contest, Greek God/Goddess competition and many more.

For a complete schedule of event times and locations, visit cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/greekweek.

According to Lyons, one aspect of Greek Week that brings people together is the level of cooperation that it takes to prepare for and participate in events.

Out of over 30 events, more

than 80% require participants to work in teams.

"The best part of Greek Week is the chance to work with other members of your organization to a common goal. Most events heavily rely on team work and participants need to be able to trust each other to succeed," Lyons said.

In addition to the preparation done by teams and participants, planning for Greek Week as a whole is done by the Greek Week Executive Board, which consists of nine fraternity members and nine sorority members.

"The executive board has met on a regular basis since the end of fall semester to put together a great week of events. They have worked hard to collaborate on ideas [concerning] how to raise participation levels for field events and the Greek social night," Lyons said.

Another aspect of Greek Week

is philanthropy. As a way to give back to the community, fraternities and sororities volunteer for different service projects, including Atlanta Community Food Bank, Project Open Hand and Tech Beautification Day.

As a way to rally service, Greek Week allots up to 15 points for chapters in which at least 90 percent of members volunteer.

Non-athletic Greek Week events include dessert and a movie night, a banner contest, T-shirt design contest and attending a Jackets baseball game.

Chapters will accumulate points over the week, and the top three will be announced at Greek Sing.

Two new awards that have been created this year include the Most Improved Chapter award and the Spirit of Greek Week award.

"To promote good relations among the Greek chapters, the

Spirit Committee is sponsoring this award. It works off nominations from participating chapters," Lyons said.

"A chapter can recognize positive attitudes and sportsmanship in another team by letting the Executive Committee know through an e-mail," Lyons said.

This award is only part of the effort being made by the Spirit Committee to improve the sportsmanship displayed during Greek Week. New policies addressing sportsmanship have been added this year to give members more incentive to maintain positive behavior.

With about a fourth of Tech's campus being Greek, this week is sure to be a big week for the campus as a whole.

Greek Week is just one of the traditions students continue at Tech as a part of the rich history that everyone has come to love.



Photos by Ben Keyserling and Michael Schneider/ Student Publications

Greek Week is an opportunity for Greeks to come together to compete in a variety of events such as the human pyramid, Greek Sing, Tug and philanthropic events.



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Photo by Jonathon Garza/Student Publications

With its office located in Tech Tower, CETL recently hosted Celebrating Teaching Day in order to inspire a passion for teaching.

Teaching from page 11

to improve the way that students learn in general chemistry recitations.

Evidence for the effectiveness of his method was displayed at the exhibition, which included a consistent ten percent increase in average exam scores for exams that followed the PLUS method.

Cox is one of three professors at Tech who have degrees in education rather than traditional science degrees.

One of the other professors also has a degree in Chemical Education, with the third holding a degree in Physics Education.

In Schuster's remarks, he spoke about how, as provost, he is deeply involved with teaching research. His comments were outlined by the "three main objectives we have in the knowledge business," which include the preservation of knowledge, the transfer of knowledge and the discovery of new knowledge.

Berk, a professor of biostatistics and measurement at Johns Hopkins University, made a lively presentation to faculty called "A Tribute to Teaching: Multimedia Teaching with Video Clips for the Net Generation."

Berk's presentation focused on

the need for more multimedia in the classroom. According to Berk, students today belong to the "Net Generation," and are less interested in traditional lectures than were previous generations of students.

It was clear from the beginning that his presentation would be comical because of the skit in which he "transformed" from a cocooned traditional lecturer into a butterfly-shaped modern lecturer. The flashing lights and booming sound of Berk's presentation also made it very engaging.

Berk's list of uses for video clips in class included the presentation of alternative viewpoints, motivation and inspiration, opportunities to critique and the presentation of real-world applications to abstract concepts.

Llewellyn said after the presentation that she had chosen the topic because it was "relevant across disciplines," and it would be easy to implement in such well-equipped classrooms.

She also said that she was looking forward to a new group of excellent teachers being hired in the fall.

"My philosophy is: Our faculty teach, and if you're going to teach, you might as well teach well," Llewellyn said.

CETL TEACHING AWARDS

CETL celebrates professors in more ways than merely hosting events in celebration of teaching. Several awards are presented to professors at the Celebrating Teaching Day.

• **CETL Undergraduate Educator Award**

This award acknowledges exemplary contributions to undergraduate education and is given to any non-tenure track faculty member who teaches undergraduate credit courses and has completed two semesters in a qualifying position at Tech.

• **CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award**

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Recycling from page 11

Watts website,” Sinharoy said.

Students interested in going above and beyond for the environment can look into joining an organization like the EAGT or Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS). Aside from encouraging general good stewardship of the environment, organizations like EAGT and SOS also work to forward campus-wide initiatives aimed at helping reduce Tech’s mark on the environment.

Currently, one of their biggest projects is focused on encouraging the use of solar power on campus.

“One of the most exciting things that our student organizations are working on is the use of thin-film solar cells for roofing on existing buildings. We’re working with Mike Leasure at Georgia Tech Facilities to look into the possibility of solar roofs on campus. This would reduce our reliance on fossil fuels like coal and focus more on clean, sustainable energy for Tech,” Sinharoy said.

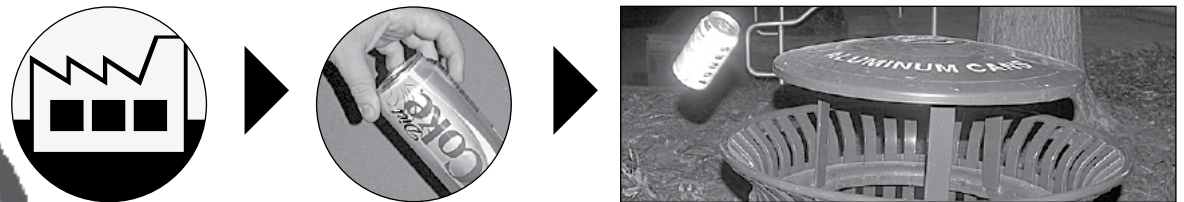
Organizations like these also put on a few events throughout the year. The night of March 28, for example, is Earth Hour, and Freshman Council will be hosting a Blackout Party at the Campanile to commemorate it.

In April, several student organizations, working in conjunction with the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling, will put on the annual Earth Day at Georgia Tech celebration and commemorate the entire week beforehand with Think Green Week.



FROM BOTTLES TO BINS

THE JOURNEY OF AN ALUMINUM CAN



Recycling is one of the easiest ways to protect our environment and save energy. When an aluminum can is recycled, 95% of the energy used to make aluminum cans from virgin ore is saved. These recycled cans are usually returned as a new can to store shelves within 60 days. As a result, it is possible to buy the same can at least six times a year. As a world leader, the United States is leading the recycling scene. In 2005, the U.S. recycled 51.4 billion aluminum cans. Do your part to help the environment—recycle.

When aluminum cans are recycled, their journey to becoming a new can has just begun. From recycling bins, aluminum cans travel to recycling plants and are first torn into miniscule pieces. With hundreds of other cans, the recycled aluminum can is melted and turned into molten aluminum. The melted aluminum is placed in an ingot and taken to a rolling mill. There, the aluminum is rolled into sheet and new cans are formed, thus ending the recycling journey.

THE JOURNEY OF GLASS BOTTLE



The journey of a recycled glass bottle differs from that of an aluminum can. Glass first needs to be separated by color so that green bottles only produce new green bottles. Glass contaminated in any way is used to insulate fiberglass or as an ingredient in concrete. Broken glass, cullet, is melted down and then used to create new glass containers.

Photos by Ben Keyserling/ Student Publications

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