Athletes from around the globe are gathered in China once more to celebrate competition and sportsmanship, with contenders from a variety of countries and vast crowds in attendance to bear witness. This is not a repeat of the 2008 Summer Olympics however, but an event that is quickly drawing more and more countries, participants and spectators for a perhaps unlikely new sport.

The World Cyber Games (WCG) is an international event for cyber athletes (video game players who compete at a professional level) to pit their skills against one another for the chance to win glory and prizes. It just so happens that one supremely swift-fingered Tech student is going along for the ride to represent the U.S.

Robert Michaels, second-year NRE, has earned the right to take a place among 20 other video game players from the U.S. to attend this year’s WCG in Chengdu, China.

Michaels and one other American player will be competing in the Guitar Hero: World Tour Tournament against 23 other players from other countries.

“I started off on the Play Station One with classics like Crash Bandicoot, Spyro, and from there it’s something I’ve always done to blow off steam,” said Michaels about his first gaming experiences.

Michaels doesn’t see himself as a hard core gamer and only started playing the Guitar Hero series right before the second installment Guitar Hero 2 was released in Nov. 2006.

“I actually started off with some skill in the game. When I started the first game (Guitar Hero 2), I beat it on Expert mode in the first three days of playing. I was classically trained in piano for seven years before doing any of this and I think that’s the single factor that made it so that I was any good at this,” Michaels said.

Michaels tried out for the qualifying rounds last year, but did not move on to the regional tournament.

When asked about why he attempted again this year, Michaels said, “One of my friends online sent me an e-mail saying they were qualifying for the World Tour competition and might as well sign up.

I hadn’t played World Tour at all until that point, so I had to learn all the songs, but apparently it didn’t turn out too poorly.”

More than 10,000 players in the U.S. attempted to qualify for the USA National Final held in New York City where only 150 reaching that point. From there only 20 players remained to represent the U.S. at the WCG.

“It was kind of surreal. I was still coming to grips with the fact that I was getting flown up to NYC to stay in a three star hotel for a weekend just to play fake guitars, essentially. I wasn’t really planning on winning or anything, I was just going up there for fun. If all else fails, I’d meet some cool people and have a fun time, though it turned out better than that,” Michaels said.

When Michaels won a spot on Team USA however, his reaction was anything but casual. He has never been anywhere outside of the U.S. other than Canada, and yet he was still coming to grips with the reactions of his friends, family and professors.

“I’m still not over the novelty of being able to tell professors that, ‘Oh, I’m sorry that I’m missing class for a week because I have to go to China to play video games.’ As for my friends and family, there are two reactions. The first party thinks it’s the coolest thing ever, while the second party thinks I’m the biggest nerd ever.”

See Here, page 12
Diverse

from page 11

here learning to value other people and their differences. For many of these students, they’ve never met anyone different or outside of their own group until they’ve come here and gone to that morning group. It’s always so exciting to see them talking to all the other students.”

One incident in particular that caught Ray’s attention was watching students from a predominately Muslim school working on a project with students from a predominately Jewish school.

Each session kicked off with a speech by Leon Bass, a retired school principal and renowned humanitarian.

Bass discussed his background growing up in a segregated community and how segregation even followed him into the Army in World War II, where he and his white friends were forced to register in separate lines for separate divisions.

Bass spoke about his experience in seeing the results of the Holocaust upon entering the death camp at Buchenwald.

“He feels like it’s his job, even though he’s not Jewish, to tell that story. He knows that he’s one of the few people left who actually experienced the story first-hand,” Ray said.

Bullying, which Ray said is something she really wants to see schools address, played a large role in the curriculum for the Summit.

“People are usually bullied because they’re different in some way, so it’s very much tied to diversity. It could be because of your clothing, it could be because of your size, it could be that you’re too fat or too short, it could be that you have funny eyes, or whatever. Kids will always find a way to target each other based on some minor consideration that really doesn’t matter in the larger scheme of life,” Ray said.

To help make students more aware of the triviality of typical targets for bullying, one of the day’s events was the Dot Exercise. Students had a colored dot placed on their forehead and were told to, without speaking, group together with students with the same color. What the students didn’t realize, however, was that one student was given a unique color and, as a result, was excluded from each group he attempted to join.

Accompanying the students and counselors were approximately 100 facilitators, many of whom were Tech students, who directed discussions and helped lead activities for the day. Before, though, all participants underwent the same curriculum as the student’s, and a rigorous training session on how the idea of diversity is understood by the middle-school age group.

Ray said that the fact that the program has been located on Tech’s campus for 13 of the past 14 years means that many current Tech students have memories of attending the Summit themselves when they were younger.

Ray said, “I was in line at Dunkin’ Donuts yesterday getting my morning coffee, when a Georgia Tech student behind me said, ‘Oh, it’s Power Over Prejudice time again.’ I turned around and [asked her] how she knew about that, and she said, ‘I came here when I was in the 7th grade,’ Ray said.

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I had to take my roomie to the emergency room. I can’t take the exam I missed. This is why we hate Tech. at Cornell, there are no classes the week before finals. registration is like going to a flea market, you never know what you’re gonna get.

GT Crew jackets remind me of high school tebow time tebow time tebow time tebow time tebow time tebow time...oh did I forget to mention tebow time???? welcome to teh derry, dilly, NASouth NASSID is pushing his hand.

The GT precinct had 6.47% turnout in today’s election. That’s just sad.

season ticket holders only allowed in GATE 7 for Wake and UGA
If you have a single game ticket, you better go to gate 10 Season ticket guests through gate 7 for wake and UGA Better have that voucher out and ready if you plan on getting in gate 7 at the game!

I can’t cake cuz I got diabURRtes

I swear, if someone asks why there aren’t clones of Mr. Darcy running around one more time... the guy came off as a pompous ass, he’d be invisible here.

Thought they were handing out candy on Skiles- It was condoms

I seem to be in trouble. I don’t think that I could like any girl who finds me interesting. Any suggestions?

humor

Steve Cross

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Dr. Gary Schuster announced on Oct. 21 that he will be stepping down from his position as executive vice provost for Academic Affairs as soon as his replacement is found.

The Institute hopes to find a replacement for the position by July 1, 2010. Schuster has served as the provost since August of 2006 and will be returning to the faculty in the College of Science.

"I spent 12 years as Dean of Sciences, and when President Clough asked me to step in as Provost, I saw it as an exciting opportunity to continue to advance Tech’s academic reputation," said Schuster. "I have a lot of satisfaction as Provost by working with students — in particular, putting in place opportunities for them to expand their intellectual horizons."

The provost office, nestled in the middle of campus in the Carnegie Building, is the direct link between students and upper administration, making it their duty to report and resolve all student concerns.

"We [the provost office] deal with everything at Tech on the education side from budgeting, to deciding who gets to hire who, and, especially in this economy," said Vice Provost Dr. Anderson Smith. "We also meet with the deans and associate deans to accomplish more specific tasks with individual schools."

Vice Provost Mark Allen added that the provost is someone who can earn the respect of faculty and present Tech well.

"In fact, when former President Clough resigned last year, Schuster served as interim president until President Peterson assumed the office."

Allen said Schuster did a tremendous job guiding Tech through the last year of the nationwide financial crisis that has seriously affected Tech’s operating budget.

Smith covers affairs more closely related to students ranging from freshman experience to PhD students. Issues include undergraduate studies, international programs like study abroad, faculty/curriculum review and meeting with his Student Advisory Council.

"Dr. Smith is always very eager to help students with any issues they are having with their professors and is constantly telling us to encourage our peers to notify him of any such issues. I personally reached out to him one day and he responded and acted upon my request with 24 hours," Robbins said.

The council is composed of SGA-affiliated students and members of other prominent student organizations who share their thoughts and concerns with the provost.

"When the students wrote this year’s White Paper to President Peterson, I dealt with those concerns," said Smith. "One of the big concerns there was that we’d finally get a student portal, and there are now plans in place to get that running."

This term, Smith has dealt with developing a plan for summer term, potential plus/minus letter grading, and graduate health insurance; all these he strongly based his work and decisions on opinions and requests of students.

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The Student Advisory Council meetings, Dr. Smith is trying to get a feel for how students are feeling about various issues, questions, and initiatives on campus, and we members of the committee give valuable input throughout the discussions," said Steph Robbins, fifth-year IsyE.

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In the area of undergraduate and graduate research, Allen is the key player in the provost office. A major initiative of the undergraduate research program, is the In-venture Prize, which incentivizes undergraduate students as groups and individuals to develop entrepreneurial skills and innovative inventions in a fun, high-profile event.

The winning team earns $10,000, and the winning individual earns $5,000 for their inventions, and both are able to patent their products for free and present their invention and findings at an international innovation competition.

Last year's winner of the prize was Roger Pincombe, third-year CS, for his DialPrice phone service that compares prices locally and online via a free phone service.

The office of the provost is even negotiating a contract for broadcasting the event and awards ceremony throughout Georgia and possibly nationwide via public television.

Both Smith and Allen devote their time—after their duties as psychology and microelectronics/microsystems professors, respectively—to bridging the student-to-administration gap by inviting all students’ opinions and concerns about their experiences in academia and research.

“My primary goal is to be responsive to whatever the concerns of students are,” said Smith, “I don’t ever want to hear that the upper administration doesn’t care what the students want.”

The Office of the Provost also has other provost positions to assist Schuster.

The office of the Vice Provost for Distance Learning and Professional Education is filled by Nelson C. Baker.

According to the office of the provost’s website, “the Vice Provost for Distance Learning and Professional Education is responsible for Georgia Tech’s Distance Learning, Professional Education, and English as a Second Language, or ESL, programs.”

The vice provost for academic diversity office is filled by Gilda A. Barabino. Barabino advises campus leaders in regards to diversity issues, both academic and demographic, that are pertinent to Tech.

There are also several other provost positions. For more information visit the Office of the Provost website at www.provost.gatech.edu.