Focus

Focus Editor:
Kate Comstock

Focus@nique.net

Organization Spotlight: WREK Radio
Georgia Tech Student Radio Station: Music you don’t hear on the radio! Tune in to 91.1 FM.

Contact: jacketpages.collegiatelink.net

Technique
11
Friday, April 16, 2010

Greek Week focuses on collaboration

By Julia Turner
Contributing Writer

Under the beating waves of the sun, troops of twelve marched into the freshly raked pit of sloshing mud to face each other across a hot pink marked rope and square of caution tape. Hands worked fast to wrap and fasten the sopping towels to the rope and then waited, tense, for the sound of the horn that initiates the competition.

So maybe Tug, the first event of Greek Week, wasn’t quite as epic as the Illiad’s Achilles-Hector face-off, but that’s not to say the two didn’t share a few similarities. Just like that battle, this opening event signaled the beginning of the success of a united Greek effort.

Unified seems to be the imperative term during this week of fierce but amiable competitions, especially this year, which has proven to be the most widely participated in and integrated week yet.

“Our goal was to make it easy and fun to try to encourage all Greeks to compete,” said Mary Piantadosi, fourth-year INTA and one of the overall chairs of the week, “and now we have a Greek Week where all fraternities and sororities regardless of affiliation can come together and compete for fun.”

This year’s Greek Week has undergone several changes from that of previous years. For instance, the duration has decreased from its former ten days to its original week-long time frame, and two new events, corn hole and a donut eating contest, have been added.

In addition to these minor changes, many of the modifications from previous years “geared around increasing participation,” said JD Ingraham, third-year AE and logistics chair-man for the week.

One of these type of alterations includes a new prize category, the “Greek Cup,” which Ingraham said “is comprised of spirit points, excellence in a few select even points, and the willingness to work with other chapters for the larger events.” These independent score evalua-tions facilitate collaboration between chapters, the executive committee’s main focus for the week. Kyle Taylor, fourth-year ARCH and the other overall chair, explained that the Cup

Night Market

Night Market, sponsored by the Taiwanese-American Student Association, gave the opportunity for students to experience a traditional Taiwanese market and learn more about the Asian cultures that are represented on campus.

By Chris Russell
Online Editor

You’re surrounded by strangers on all sides, not one of whom is speaking the same language. Red paper lanterns swing overhead, casting everything and everyone around you in a warm, eerie glow. Vendors man stalls on either side of you, aggressively advertising their wares to anyone who stumbles within earshot. Each stall boasts a variety of food, none of which looked familiar to me, but all of which smelled quite tasty.

Looking away from the stalls, you step out just in time to be cut off by a man carrying a tray of banana spring rolls and his assistant, sporting a half-dozen batter-fried banana-on-a-stick in each hand. Dodging them, you look behind the stalls, where you see a row of pans, grills, barbecues and ice cream machines manned by frantically working cooks, all busily making the goods being hawked up front.

And then you turn and see that you missed the Stinger and you realize that you are on the Tech campus.

Friday, April 9, the Taiwanese-American Student Association (TASA) hosted its annual Night Market in the biotech quad. Students from Tech’s Asian student associations got together and sold food, trinkets and games from their home countries.

The event’s focus, however, was undeniably the food. While a few stalls did have carnival-style games, the vast majority chose to bring dishes from their home countries.

There was sushi from Japan, fried rice from China, barbe-cue from Korea, and dozens of dumplings from pretty much

Night Market allowed students to taste a variety of global foods like frozen yogurt from Juicy Green.
"makes it easier for our chapters in all four Greek Councils that have limited resources to still compete on the same level as our chapters that have a larger membership and/or budgets."

These efforts in making Greek Week open to every member of the Greek Community seem to have proven fruitful, for participation in the events is way up this year, especially for chapters who in the past have been less involved in Greek Week in the past.

"Never have we had so many fraternities participating in all the events," said the technology chair, Kris Jurgowsky, fourth-year CS, "and although it creates quite a challenge for the executive board, we are all thrilled to witness the unity of Georgia Tech's Greek life." Bridgette Krauter, the events chair and a third-year IE, agrees that the increased participation "makes for a very successful Greek Week."

As ironic as the unification theme may at first appear for a week dominated by competition the main objective for the week is for members of different fraternities and sororities to realize their similarities rather than their differences. "When chapters meet members from other chapters they realize how similar they are to each other and are less likely to have the blanket stereotypes of the other houses," said the fraternity philanthropy chair, Memphis Geisert, fifth-year PTFE.

In fact, Geisert's position represents one aspect of Greek chapters that they already have in common: philanthropy. This year Geisert and his sorority counterpart, McCall King, third-year IAML are focusing on two larger philanthropies, Tech Beautification Day and Relay for Life.

One problem with hosting these two big events was the lowered participation or perhaps exclusion of smaller philanthropic concerns, but the chairs were not discouraged. "We have tried to have this remedied by a display of the philanthropies that each Greek organization supports on Skiles walkway," Geisert said. Philanthropies are only one way the Greek community tries to give back to Tech.

"We are always appreciative of our faculty and staff members that help us each year," Taylor said, and the executive committee has taken some great steps to show it. This year, in addition to the creation of an Alumni/Faculty committee to aid the planning process, there will be an alumni/faculty banquet to show the committee's and all the participants' appreciation for the help and support they received.

"We could not have Greek Week without the support of our amazing faculty, staff and alumni," Piantadosi said.

More than ever, this year's executive committee has committed to reveal that Greek Week is a time for the Greek community to celebrate being Greek, but also to show its positive impact on campus life. I hope this week reaches out to the non-affiliated students and shows them that Greek life is not about drinking and paying for friends, but about the networking and positive involvement on campus and beyond," Jurgowski said. Piantadosi summed up the goals of the event with "Everyone gets something different out of Georgia Tech Greek Life, and Greek Week is a chance for individuals to come together within their respective chapters as one cohesive unit: a strong, passionate, unique group of students that cannot be found at any other school in the country."

This year, the focus for Greek Week has been to keep the event open to all members of the Greek community and there have been many efforts to try to create an even playing field during the competitive events. This year saw the most participants ever in the event. Greek from page 11
IsraelFest showcases ‘Israel in a modern society’

By Andrew Nelson
Staff Writer

Following last week’s CultureFest and TASA’s Night Market, Tech’s Jewish student organization GT Hillel hosted its IsraelFest Tuesday, April 13, at the Campanile, attracting approximately 600 people to the free activities and cultural information opportunities.

“We wanted to give the appeal of Israel in modern society,” said Eran Mordel, first-year ISyE and Israel programming co-vice president with GT Hillel. “Our focus of IsraelFest, unlike many other campuses, was about Israel and technology, because that’s what applies to Georgia Tech.”

The attractions throughout the four-hour event were a live musical performance by Axum, informational booths staffed by about 25 GT Hillel officers and members, Israeli foods, henna tattoos, Kacey (a dromedary camel from Sam’s Path Petting Zoo) and Matkot, a tennis-like game played on the beach with large wood-en paddles.

Axum—a hiphop duo from Netanya and Tel Aviv, Israel—performed from 11 p.m.-12 p.m. The duo is currently on tour campuses with chapters of Hillels of Georgia, such as Tech and Emory University. Their music page, with several songs, can be found on Myspace at myspace.com/axumisrael.

While they performed, foods such as falafel, Bissli, Bamba, hummus and pita bread were available to snack on as students visited various booths showcasing different facets of Israeli culture and life. Booths showcased cultural landmarks and social issues as well as scientific ventures and products unique to Israel, such as Ahava—an Israeli cosmetics company that derives its products from compounds from the Dead Sea.

“If you look at the displays it talked about water conserva-tion, new energy development, and... there were no political displays other than information displays about the military. It’s an all-inclusive, non-partisan event,” Mordel said.

IsraelFest is GT Hillel’s largest event of the year. Their two Israeli programming vice-presidents, Mordel and Mitchell Blenden, assembled a committee of about 20 people, officers and Hillel members alike and met periodically throughout the semester. The group spent most of the Spring semester and some of Fall semester brainstorming, making calls and ordering services to take care of IsraelFest.

"[IsraelFest] has been going on for at least six years, and it’s evolved over time. It used to be that IsraelFest was an event on a Thursday night and now it’s a huge event during the day with a band," Mordel said.

The IsraelFest committee sponsored the event with outside grants, funding from SGA, the Israeli Consulate, the David Project (a national Jewish leadership organization), Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and the members’ own resources.

Mordel contributes to general events for GT Hillel about once every three weeks, like providing Kosher meals for Passover and monthly Friday services. As co-vice president of Israeli programming, Mordel and Blenden are now working on bringing a speaker to campus and possibly planning an Israeli game night.

GT Hillel is the Tech chapter of Hillels of Georgia, which itself is a subgroup of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life—also known as Hillel or Hillel International. Hillel-oriented organizations provide opportunities for Jewish students at over 500 universities all over the world. Hillels of Ga. include Hillel at Tech, Kennesaw State University, University of Georgia, Georgia State University and Emory University, and it partners with students at these universities to provide programs and grants for academic and community events.

“We have a lot of philanthropic events, and we work with other campuses with Hillels of Ga.” We had a party in January at Emory at their new house, and to plan the party all the [Hillel] groups came together and raised money,” Mordel said. “We all hold the organization together and plan events throughout the year, but as far as different campuses go, we are autonomous.”

GT Hillel in particular is sponsored by faculty member Shira Rothman, Director of Jewish Student Life. Rothman often helps them with legal matters, professional ties and personal experience with planning events such as IsraelFest.

“[Rothman] is a fabulous person, extremely helpful, and we would probably fall apart without her help,” Mordel said, “She’s the backbone of our organization.”

Students at IsraelFest visit with Kacey the camel while participating in other activities at the event like playing Matkot and eating Israeli food.

Think Green Week
Tuesday: Eco-Fashion Show

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
at the Campanile

Rain location: Student Center Commons Stage

Yellow Jackets!
Earn college credit this summer on your own campus.

Georgia Tech offers summer classes that apply to your degree.

The Summer 2010 Schedule of Classes goes live on March 24, 2010 at: https://oscar.gatech.edu/

Classes are scheduled for May 17 – Aug. 7, 2010.

Celebrate Our World
www.earthday.gatech.edu
Graduation: When you did not fail, but the job market might have

By Chris Russell
Online Editor

With a less than thrilling job market to look forward to, many students are taking stock of the alternatives to finding a job right after college. Below are some options for those seeking answers about what their plans after graduation.

**English Language Teacher**

Often, schools in foreign countries look for native English speakers to teach English classes either as night classes for adults or classes for young children. While requirements from country to country vary, foreign language skills aren’t always a necessity. The programs that hire for these positions often pay airfare to and from the host country, housing and a stipend, as well as subsidizing things like insurance. While not a great deal for long term employment, it’s a great way to spend that year or two of “finding yourself” time after college.

**Travel**

Once you get a solid job, it’ll be decades before you get the chance to take a six month tour across Europe. Unless you have a hefty nest egg squirreled away somewhere, you obviously won’t be staying in five-star accommodations, but hostels, cheap local eateries and a Eurail pass combined with courageous standards make it possible to spend at least several weeks abroad without completely bankrupting yourself.

The options here are almost limitless. Do you want to spend a month backpacking across Europe? A summer hopping around east Asia? Or even just a few weeks road-tripping around the states? Any of these will give you a chance to see the world you’re not likely to have again for a long time.

**Teach for America**

Teach for America is an organization that, with the help of recent college grads, attempts to correct education discrepancies by sending teachers to educationally underprivileged areas. After an intense few weeks of training, participants head out for two years to teach at schools in historically underprivileged areas—particularly inner-city and rural schools. If you have any leanings toward education, this would be a great opportunity to get hands-on experience, and, even if you’re not, it’s still a good way of giving back. The program however, is very competitive, and applicants can apply for the 2011 program, at http://www.teachforamerica.org/.

**Peace Corp**

If you want to make a difference in the world while seeing more of it at the same time, the Peace Corps might be worth looking into. Volunteers sign up for a term of service just over 2.5 years to help with development efforts around the globe. Volunteers contribute in a member of ways, ranging from improving education, providing health services, fighting HIV/AIDS and stabilizing and improving food production. Perhaps more relevant to Tech students is the Information and Communications Technology branch, devoted to spreading technologies to the developing world and educating people about their uses.

**Start a Business**

If you have any desire to own your own business, right out of college is the time to give it a try. Without bills hanging overhead, a family to support or a boss to ask for time off, you have less to risk by giving it a shot. Financing opportunities for socially or environmentally sustainable projects, as well as ideas for general start-ups can be found at the Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship, http://ile.gatech.edu/.

There are many alternatives after graduation that students can explore without having to commit to a job or career.
A student acting as a vendor at Night Market serves a scallion pancakes, a large amount of the food served at the event were lesser-known items, meant to inform students about Asian cultures.

Night Market featured a number of different dishes from all over Asia. Here’s just a taste of what was on the menu:

**MEAT ON STICK**

**PEACH BUNS**

**FRIED BANANA**

**MOCHI**

Any Asian country imaginable.

One of the more popular items for sale was bubble tea—a popular drink made from milk, sweetened iced tea and large tapioca pearls and drunk through a straw large enough that the pearls can be slurped up.

Some items were a little less common than others. For example, while Japanese students brought well-known items like sushi and rice balls, they also brought a few lesser-known Japanese treats.

One table had a tool for making tako-yaki—battered octopus dumplings—and another brought a large collection of mochi dumplings—rice gelatin dumplings often stuffed with sweet bean paste and flavored with green tea or sesame seeds.

Other atypical items included SunO—a frozen dessert similar to ice cream made from shaved ice, condensed milk, and toppings—from Korea; fish dumplings from China; and savory scallion pancakes from Taiwan.

The event worked on a ticket system, where students could buy tickets for $0.50 apiece at the entrance and trade them for food. Prices ranged from one ticket for small things like two mochi or two fruit jellies, to three for a serving of curry rice, to six for a Korean vegetable roll.

Tech students were also joined by several Asian student organizations from other Atlanta colleges as well. Emory’s TASA co-hosts the event each year with Tech’s TASA and held the event last year on-campus at Emory. Ten organizations from Tech, eight from Emory and, a new addition, one from Georgia State took part in the event.

The Night Market is based on the traditional Taiwanese night market, which functions a lot like TASA’s. Vendors simply set up booths or carts in the street and sell whatever food they happen to be making to passers by.

TASA’s purpose on campus has two sides to it, in that they both spread Taiwanese culture and provide a community for Taiwanese and Taiwanese-American students. Ginger Tsai, fourth-year BME and president of TASA, said, “What we do is try to share the culture of Taiwan, without any kind of political leanings. [We do] movies, games, food, music, etc. We try to empower our members identities... and just make a community where they fit in.”

The purpose of the event mirrors that of TASA.

“It’s for all the organizations to network [and] do a joint project that’s really big on campus. It’s also to get all the organizations names out there, get the publicity, and just hold a really fun event for everyone on campus,” said Tsai.

Currently, TASA claims about 65 members. According to Tsai, the split between native-born Taiwanese students and Taiwanese-Americans is about even. Night Market is one of TASA’s two big events of the year.

“Our other signature event is called Taste of Taiwan. It’s off campus, typically at the Chinese Cultural Center in Chinatown. That’s when we combine with the other TASA’s—from Tech, Emory and Georgia State. It’s kind of like the India Club Holi Show; we have games, we have performances, and we have lots of food,” said Tsai.

TASA also hosts several smaller events throughout the year, many of them also centered around Taiwanese food. Movie showings, mahjong, and games are some of their more popular events that showcase their culture.
Introducing Domino's New Pizza

WE'RE SURE THERE ARE MORE WAYS TO PROVE IT'S BETTER.
BUT WE CAN'T THINK OF ANY.

We listened to our critics to make an inspired new pizza, with new crust, sauce and cheese. We guaranteed it or your money back. We took it to the door of some of our harshest critics and won them over. And last but not least, our new hand-tossed pizza beat Papa John's and Pizza Hut in a national taste test of pepperoni pizza, sausage pizza and extra-cheese pizza. But if you really want to be convinced, order one and taste it for yourself.

ORDER ONLINE DOMINOS.COM

Downtown / GA Tech
44 10th St.
404-872-3000

Delivery Charge May Apply.