

CAMPUS LIFE

Technique • Friday, March 2, 2001

WAM activities for March

March is Women's Awareness Month. Look for a complete list of activities, speakers, and workshops. Page 12

Who?

It's not where you go, it's who you go with. See who your classmates want to travel with on Spring Break. Page 5

Women's Leadership Conference Friday Night



By Rob Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

At the Friday night reception for Women's Leadership Conference, President Clough welcomed students to the two days of workshops and networking.

Lucky Tech barely impacted by recent economic changes

By Michael Barton
Newbie Campus Life Staff

The overall job market economy for technology jobs has decreased in the past few years. Many layoffs in dot-com businesses has many employees across the nation worried if and when they will be laid off.

Internet Companies are going out of business or facing lawsuits, such as the world-famous Napster and the Microsoft anti-trust case, which has many debating about their future in these technological businesses.

The Dow Jones has been decreasing an average of 100 points per day as well as the technology-dominated NASDAQ average decrease of 50 points per day due to constantly dropping stock values in many Internet companies.

The government reported that the economic growth in the final three months of last year slowed to an annual rate of just

"It is probably too early to determine whether or not the economy will have an adverse impact on Tech students."

Ralph Mobley
Director of Career Services

1.1 percent, its worst performance in more than five years.

Many large corporations have been depleting their employees

or hiring rate to help lessen the impact of decreasing sales and product value.

Tech students are concerned whether this decreasing economy will affect the expected jobs and job salaries of Tech graduates, interns, and cooperative education (co-op) students.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan announced that the economic slowdown has not run its full course and encouraged that the central bank is ready to cut interest rates to boost economic growth.

Students usually believe that graduating from Tech guarantees wonderful, open job opportunities, which is true in some respect, according to Ralph Mobley, Director of Career Services.

"It is probably too early to

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FACES at Georgia Tech

- Profile on E. Diane Guice -

By Rina Bala
Newbie Campus Life Staff

Anyone who has experienced breakfast Brittain-style at the main East campus dining facility is no stranger to the broad smile, friendly chatter, and scrumptious omelets of Brittain's very own "Diane — The Omelet Lady."

Although known by everyone as "Diane," it is just her middle name. According to her, her mother was the only person who could pronounce and spell her name correctly, so she prefers going by Diane.

Technique struggled long and hard to extricate it out of her until we finally made a deal that if this writer could spell it correctly, it could be printed in the paper.

Unfortunately, the mission failed, so all the student body will ever know is that it starts with an "E." If you still have an unexplainable nagging curiosity about it though, you are welcome to ask her yourself. Until then, however, she will be known as either "Diane — The Omelet Lady" or E. Diane Guice.

Originally from Daytona Beach, Florida, she moved to Atlanta on October 23, 1998, because of her husband, Carl. He had fallen twenty-five feet off a building and had broken his leg in seven places, and they had to get it treated. The treatment was successful, and "if you saw him you wouldn't even know it."

With that youthful face of hers, one would not guess that Diane is a grandmother. With five children, five grandsons, and one granddaughter (ages ranging from two to thirteen), she has definitely got a lot of loved ones.

Yet despite that fact (or maybe because of it), she calls all her Geor-



By John Jewel / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Diane is known as the "Omelette Lady." Many students who see her at Brittain every day think of her affectionately as a surrogate grandmother.

gia Tech students "my kids." In fact, her granddaughter, Shawn Drika Louis, even gets jealous of the students because the amount of affection and time her grandmother spends on them.

Diane started working at Georgia Tech in 1998 after finding the

job through an agency, and she has been the omelet lady here ever since.

She has many fond memories of this place, especially the students, she said. One of the students that she never forgot was Greg Miller,

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Spring Break trips scam students, steal money

By Damita Chambers
The Daily Free Press

(U-WIRE) UNIVERSITY OF BOSTON—When Brian Hoffner and his four college friends shelled out more than \$1,000 each for a trip last spring break, they expected to fly to sunny Acapulco and stay at a reputable hotel.

Hoffner, who was a senior at Dickinson College, discovered instead that the flight he was told left from Baltimore actually departed from Newark, N.J. In trying to catch the plane, Hoffner and his friends missed a day of their break.

When the plane arrived in Mexico City, he assumed they landed at their final destination—until a driver took them on a \$30 bus ride to the hotel.

The students shared a king-size bed during the trip and alternated sleeping on the floor.

"I definitely was the victim of a spring break scam," Hoffner said.

Hoffner shared his story Wednesday at the University of Massachusetts at Boston at a press conference about a survey called "Spring Broke?," which reveals the business practices of 11 spring break travel agencies targeting college students.

The study, conducted by the Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research Group, describes the "hidden fees" added

to some trip packages, gives advice for students and travel agencies and includes a chart comparing advertised prices to actual costs.

Juliette Lee, MassPIRG campus organizer for UMass-Boston, said hundreds of Massachusetts students who plan spring break trips every year may pay up to 40 percent more than the advertised trip price.

"The price advertised on a company flyer is not the price that you will pay for a trip," Lee said.

In addition to the advertised price, such travel companies may require students to pay international, credit card and late booking fees — sometimes even a \$30 fuel surcharge to offset

rising gas prices, she said. The credit card fee, which can range from \$15-25, may deter students from using "the payment method that offers the most protection" in legal disputes, according to the report.

Agencies such as Springbreaktravel.com require students to cancel trip arrangements at least 60 days in advance for a full refund, an option not feasible for most students, Lee said.

Although only two surveyed companies provided Web access to their policies, Spring Break Travel does provides hyperlinks

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"The price advertised on a company flyer is not the price that you will pay for a trip."

Juliette Lee
MassPIRG Campus Organizer

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an architect now, who even asked her to come to his graduation.

Diane says that as much as she wants to quit, the thought of leaving the students she “fell in love with” makes her keep coming back. Which is the very same reason she gets up every morning at 4:15 a.m. to keep us “fed and happy.”

Diane said she also loves it when all the “kids” dress up for Halloween and come to Brittain, which she thinks is pretty funny.

In terms of food, Diane’s personal favorite is Churches Fried

Chicken. She said she could just keep eating it all day. If stuck on a desert island, Diane said she would choose to take her husband Carl.

If she had two wishes, she says that firstly, she would wish for all her children and grandchildren to move to Atlanta, and secondly, that all the students at Georgia Tech be truly happy.

So, here is to our own, special, and very loved Omelet Lady!

You can visit Diane at Brittain Dining Hall every morning.



By John Jewel / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Diane has been working at Tech since 1998. She is originally from Daytona Beach, and has a family full of children and grandchildren.

Women's Awareness Month Schedule

Thursday, March 1 — 9:00 p.m., Under the Couch
“Venus Envy” — A Karaoke Kickoff Party

The kick-off event of Women’s Awareness Month and Women’s History Month will include karaoke and snacks and will be open and free for everyone.

Tuesday, March 13 — 11:00 a.m., Skiles Walk
“A Vroom of One’s Own”

Local car mechanics Catherine Simpson and Nora Carter will show Tech students, faculty, and staff how to avoid being taken advantage of at the car repair shop by showing us what to ask, what to look for, and what to pay.

Thursday, March 15 — 7:30 p.m., Skiles 368
“Bandit Queen”

A lower-caste girl sold into marriage by her parents escapes and joins a gang of bandits, ultimately overthrowing their power structure in a bloody coup. A critically acclaimed action picture from India.

Saturday, March 17 — 2:00 p.m., Glenn Field
Georgia Tech Women’s Softball Game

Join us to support the Georgia Tech Women’s Softball team as they battle it out with Samford in an amazing game of fast pitch and serious athletic talent.

Monday, March 19 — 8:00 p.m. - Brittain Rec
Women’s Health Panel

Experts from the Wellness Center, Women’s Clinic, and Counseling Center will briefly educate us on exercise, nutrition, birth control options, eating disorders, and gynecological issues, and they will then open the floor for questions and answers to women’s health concerns.

Monday, March 19 — Sunday, March 25 - All day
Student Center TV
“Fried Green Tomatoes”

A chance encounter in a nursing home between a dowdy housewife and a spry octagenarian leads to an unexpected friendship.

Tuesday, March 20 — 9:00 p.m., Under the Couch
Doria Roberts

A regular on the national folk circuit, Philadelphia-bred and Atlanta-based singer/songwriter Doria Roberts will perform.

Thursday, March 22 — 7:00 p.m., Campanile
Take Back the Night

Take Back the Night is a worldwide protest against sexual assault and sexual violence of all people. The evening will also include a candlelit walk through the campus to warn against especially uninviting areas.

Monday, March 26 — 7:30 p.m., Skiles 368
“Divorce, Iranian Style”

Set in an Islamic divorce court, Kim Longinotto and Ziba Mir-Hosseini’s documentary looks at some of the reasons people are seeking a divorce in a culture quite unlike our own. In Farsi, with English subtitles.

Tuesday, March 27 — 4:00 p.m., Clary Theatre
“Enhancing Campus Climate at Georgia Tech” — A Women, Science, and Technology Panel

Panelists Pearl Alexander, Jonathan Duke, Mary Frank Fox, Dina Hafez, Mary Jean Harrold, Bob McMath, and Sue Rosser will discuss the status of women at Georgia Tech and the campus climate surrounding them.

Thursday, March 29 — 7:30 p.m., Tennebaum Auditorium

Judy Chicago

For nearly four decades, Chicago has remained steadfast in her commitment to the power of art as a vehicle for intellectual transformation and social change and to women’s right to engage in the highest level of art production.

Friday, March 30 & Saturday, March 31 — 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m., Student Center Theatre
“Erin Brockovich”

Erin Brockovich is an unemployed single mother who successfully browbeats her lawyer to give her a job. While no one takes her seriously with her trashy clothes and earthy manners, she begins to investigate a suspicious real estate case. As she digs deeper, Erin finds herself leading point in a series of events that would involve her lawfirm in one of the biggest class action lawsuits in American history against a multi-billion dollar corporation.

For more information on Women’s Awareness Month, visit <http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/wam>.

Campus briefs

Sophomore Summit retreat coming up in March

Sophomore Summit is an annual retreat designed for sophomores by their fellow second-year classmates. Each year the Summit takes on a different focus, and this year's chosen theme is "Escape your Mind."

The activities will be planned to broaden your perspective of your college experience and stimulate your enthusiasm to pursue your passions on this campus while you still have a few years to do so. The Summit will be held from Friday, March 30, until Sunday, April 1. If you are interested, applications are available online at <http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sophomore>. They are due Friday, March 2, and chosen attendees will be notified on Friday, March 16.

Honors Recognition Program looking for leaders

In its second year, the Honors Recognition Program will recognize Georgia Tech students who exhibit success in academics, extracurricular activities, service, and effective campus leadership. Eligibility for this award includes being a full time student with at least a 3.2 cumulative GPA. All recognized students will receive guaranteed priority selection for on campus housing and priority class registration. The application is available from the SGA website at <http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/sga>. This application is due to the office of the Student Government Association, located on the first floor of the Student Services Building, on Monday, March 19, by 5:00 p.m.

Impact Speaker Series on March 16 with CEO

The Program for Engineering Entrepreneurship is sponsoring the Impact Speaker Series, which is held every Friday during Spring Semester from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The series is located in the Wardlaw Building, at 177 North Avenue. The speakers discuss their experiences and offer advice on starting high-tech or bio-tech companies. Many of the speakers are Georgia Tech graduates. The next speaker will be Dr. William Johnston, CEO and President of Inhibitex, on March 16. For more information, visit <http://www.entrepreneurship.gatech.edu>.

Tech Beautification Day Committee needs members

Tech Beautification Day began several years ago as an effort to clean up the Tech campus. Now the Student Government Association Freshman Cabinet is looking for several students to form a committee to make Tech Beautification Day a self-running Tech Tradition. All chair positions are available and need to be filled, including chair/co-chair of the entire project. If you are interested, e-mail Melissa Oellerich at melissa.oellerich@sga.gatech.edu. There will also be an information session on March 13 at 6:00 p.m. in room 301 of the Student Center.

Beginning photography class offered after spring break

Daniel Uhlig, the Photo Editor for the *Technique*, is offering a photography class after spring break. He will cover basic camera and photography terminology, composition, exposure, film, and lighting. He will also focus on learning through hands-on experience. The Intro to Photography class will be held on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

The first class will be on March 15. There will be a charge of \$30-\$40 to cover film for the class. If you have a camera and are interested in improving your photography skills, contact Daniel Uhlig at gte226i@prism.gatech.edu.

Ruthie Black 50 Years Working for Tech



By Daniel Uhlig / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

March 2 will be Ruthie Black's fiftieth anniversary working for Tech. She was honored last Friday as Employee of the Month for dining services and for her longtime devotion to the campus community.

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on its website to its cancellation policy and disclosure notices.

Spring Break Travel also lists tips on how to avoid scams and on companies that have had legal action taken against them by the Federal Trade Commission or the U.S. Attorney General.

Some companies, such as Student Travel Services, may include in their contracts that students must relinquish their legal rights and settle all disputes through arbitration, Lee said.

In fact, the company states that complainants can only present their claims to an arbitrator in its Maryland office, according to the report.

To prevent spring break scams, students should read the fine print, pay with credit cards, understand the cancellation policy and contact

the Attorney General's Office before choosing a travel agency, Lee said.

Students should read the fine print, pay with credit cards, understand the cancellation policy... before choosing a travel agency.

Attorney General Thomas Reilly suggests in his office's travel tip guide that consumers ask company

representatives about the reputations' of the travel service providers.

UMass-Boston student trustee Sandra Karahalis said the university stamps approved spring break flyers before companies post them, in accordance with school policy. The school developed this policy in response to advertisements offering fraudulent offers to students, she said.

However, it cannot prohibit companies from posting flyers because it is a public university, Karahalis said.

At Boston University, outside travel agencies can set up tables in the George Sherman Union Link only when sponsored by student groups or departments and with the permission of the Reservations Office.

Career

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determine whether or not the economy will have an adverse impact on Tech students," said Mobley.

However, the results indicate that the Fall semester was one of the busiest recruiting periods in Tech history.

The economic downturn is not expected to be as dramatic for Tech students as for some other schools.

According to *U.S. News and World Report* statistics and Career Services many companies consider Tech to be one of the top institutes from which to recruit, so the job opportunities are as strong as they ever were, if not better.

Apparently, the larger industrial leaders, such as General Electric and Ford Motors, continue to recruit many students from Tech so the worry in finding a career is not as rough as for the rest of the nation.

Nonetheless, Career Services advises that students should still research companies before accepting offers.

The student should determine whether a company is fiscally sound, has a growing market, or good, stable products compared to the struggling companies.

The career search should begin in a student's freshmen and sopho-



By Marques McMillan / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Career Services reports that hiring is still going well. Even though the economy is shrinking, and many technology companies are failing, recruiters still rank Georgia Tech as one of the top places to recruit new talent.

more years in order to make the process of finding a good career easy.

Students usually wait until their senior year to look for opportunities.

Waiting like this usually decreases

their chances in finding a job due to lack of experience or relations with a growing company.

Amy Shutts, a Career Specialist with Career Services, said, "getting relevant career experience during

the undergraduate years is one of the best things a student can do to help with the full time job search, whether in the form of an internship, a co-op, or a part-time summer job."

Correction

In the February 23, 2001 issue of the *Technique*, we incorrectly reported that Jill Polyniak has worked in over thirty countries. In fact, she has traveled to thirty countries, not necessarily worked in them.

The *Technique* regrets this error and any misunderstandings it caused.

Join the Campus Life Staff!

We need writers—new or experienced to write about a huge range of campus topics.

For more information, e-mail Becca Cutri-Kohart at campus.life@technique.gatech.edu, or come to our staff meetings Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

There will be free pizza, fun, and many many story assignments for you to start your writing career!

Buzz Around the Campus



Dr. Prasad Tetali
Math Professor
"My daughter."



Star Bradley
IE Senior
"My bikini."



Hal Davis
ME Freshman
"My inhaler. It's life in a can."



Todd Lankford
CE Freshman
"Jack Daniels. Life in a bottle."



Question of the week

"What is the one thing you want to take with you on spring break?"

Feature and Photos by Sarah Graybeal & Carter Green



Brandy Murray and Shara McClendon
"My best friend (not her)."



Alex Reed
MGT Sophomore
"Good friends. There's not enough beer to make up for bad friends."



Jill Martell
Bio Freshman
"A bottle to collect sand in so I can remember my break in Panama City."



Harley the dog
UEC Freshman
"Kitty."



Technique

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Theft

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cash and other valuables from the Student Center, Steele said. Monies from retail operations are securely removed, and the building holds a vault for the storage of cash and valuables.

Student Center Associate Director for Programs Sally Hammock also believes the perpetrators may have been looking for cash when they broke into the two locked cab-

inets, which contained only paper and office supplies, none of which were removed.

"I think we've all got to be more alert, more aware," said Hammock. She asks students to question people who seem suspicious as to what they are doing in a building, especially in areas such as the Student Center, which are open 24 hours a day.

Another campus break-in occurred later that night at the Campus Christian Fellowship on East

Campus. Aerospace Engineering senior Gary Gross awoke at 4:00 a.m. when he heard strange noises.

"I grabbed my hunting knife and proceeded to go downstairs to see what was causing the noises," said Gross.

"When I got to the bottom of the stairs, I saw the guy standing in the room with a backpack full of books and folders that he had obviously taken from downstairs. At first he tried to talk to me, like 'Hey, man, what's up?' but then he took

off out the back door," said Gross.

"I chased him out the back door and across the parking lot with the hunting knife. When he realized that I had the knife, he shed the backpack and kept running."

Gross then gathered the stolen items and returned to the CCF building to check its security and call the GTPD.

When the police arrived, Gross was able to make a positive identification of the suspect from a police sketch.

UHR

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allocating \$2,413 to this group.

Aerospace Engineering Representative Kent Siebeneck authored a bill asking for the allocation of money to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics for an upcoming conference. The bill passed, allocating \$180 to the AIAA.

After these bills were voted on, the House no longer had quorum, so the meeting was ended early.