Aerospace and Student Center project brings Mars to campus

By Becca Castro-Kuhbart
Going to Mars someday

Last week, aerospace students and other campus space enthusiasts gathered in the Student Center to hear a presentation from Dr. Robert Zubrin. The presentation was made possible by a unique conglomeration of Student Center Programs Office and the School of Aerospace Engineering.

Dr. John Olds, a professor in the department and Director of the Space Systems Design Laboratory, approached the Student Center Ideas and Issues Committee about joint sponsorship of Zubrin’s presentation. The presentation was made on the Committee’s monthly program designed to encourage students to think about new ideas. Upcoming programs for this year include the Student Government candidate debates and the AIDS walk. But this particular presentation doubled as a Design Seminar, part of an ongoing graduate class in the aerospace engineering.

John Parsons, Chair of the Ideas and Issues Committee, said that attendance at the presentation was extremely high. Though the Student Center knew there would be involvement from students and faculty of the School of Aerospace Engineering, Parsons said that the attendance was “about double what we expected,” mostly because of the interest generated through advertising to the student body.

Part of the reason for the attendance was the dynamic nature of the Zubrin, who was described by students as “funny” and “intelligent.” “You didn’t have to be interested in the content to really enjoy the presentation,” said Parsons.

Kim Lovelace of the Student Center worked out the details of working with Zubrin’s publicist and the logistics of getting him to campus.

Faces at Georgia Tech
- Profile on Wes Younger-

By Julia Trapold
Lucky enough to get a date

Wes Younger describes himself as a “typical Tech student.” If a typical Tech student has changed majors five times, owns a house, and spends much of his time testing air quality, then he definitely is one.

Younger entered Tech in Fall 1996 with an undecided major. He soon switched to Electrical Engineering after deciding he should have a major. Before taking a single EE class, and after taking Physics of the Weather, he decided Earth and Atmospheric Sciences might be his major. However, he could not get by the math courses, so he switched once more.

Wes Younger is a self-described “Jack of all trades,” as an undergraduate, he deals with logistics of advanced air quality research. Graduation, he deals with logistics of advanced air quality research.

Wes Younger took 1999 off to work full-time. He had been working for the EAS department in computer support, and he was soon offered a full-time position after inquiring.

Younger rededicated to Tech in Spring 2000 as a Public Policy major—his fifth major. He found out he could graduate sooner as a Public Policy major because, unlike INTA, the department would accept his science credits.

“My problem is that everything is interesting to me,” said Younger. “So it’s hard to settle on anything. My mind is going in all directions at once.”

Younger realized after his year of full-time work that he had some money to spare. He decided to buy a house. Because he had worked full-time for a year while not in school, and he also owned property in Georgia, Younger soon began receiving in-state tuition. “You can get in-state tuition, and, if you play your cards right, you can buy a house before you graduate,” he said. “I was willing to work in Georgia for a year while not in school, it’s possible.”

Younger still works as a student assistant in the EAS department. He is essentially computer support for his workgroup, although he does many other tasks. “I consider my job title ‘jack of all trades,’” he said. “Everything that doesn’t require an advanced science degree ends up being my work.”

“I was at one time a free-standing purchasing department. I went out and bought everything we needed,” he said. “I probably spent $100,000 that year. That was one of my favorite times.”

In his department, Younger and his co-workers do advanced air quality research. Younger spent...
Buzz Around the Campus

Question of the week

“If you could vote one person off the GT island, who would it be?”

Andrew Scott
ME Freshman
“The chemistry department. I just don’t like the subject.”

Divesh Patel
ME Freshman
“Brittain.”

Jennifer Johnson
ISyE Junior
“All of my non-English speaking teachers.”

Karen Souther
ISyE Senior
“The parking Nazi.”

Feature and Photos By Carter Green and Sarah Graybeal

Aaron Lovitz
INTA Sophomore
“My roommate from my first semester, he stole my stuff.”

Archie Azmitia
EE Sophomore
“Brewer. Tomas Brewer, ECE 3041 and ECE 3042.”

Mike Rhodes
AE Senior
“Can I vote Ralph Friedgen back on the island?”

Gil Edwards
ME Senior
“All the people I’d vote off have graduated.”

I have a condom key chain!
Campus briefs

Be a part of Homecoming by planning activities

Students interested in planning next fall’s homecoming activities may become a part of the Student Center Homecoming Committee. Applications are available in the Student Center Prosek and Area on the third floor of the Student Center. They are due back to the programs area by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 23. For more information on the Homecoming Committee, contact Andy Burnham at gte889p@prism.gatech.edu.

Residence Hall Association needs a few good leaders

Interested in impacting housing policies at Tech? Applications for the Executive Board of the Residence Hall Association are now available. Students who wish to be considered for election can pick up an application at http://rha.gatech.edu and at the RHA Office in the Student Success Center, next door to Central Housing. Applications are due by 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28.

Help encourage volunteering through TEAM Buzz

The TEAM (Tech Enhancing Atlanta Metropolitan) Buzz Steering Committee is looking for students interested in serving on one of its planning committees. These committees work throughout the year to lay the groundwork for TEAM Buzz community service day, which takes place each fall. The Steering Committee will hold an information session for all interested students February 20 from 6:45 to 7:30 in the Student Center ballroom.

Civil rights activist speaks at Ivan Allen anniversary

Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP, well-known civil rights activist, and former Georgia state legislator will speak in honor of the Ivan Allen College’s tenth anniversary celebration. Ivan Allen, a Tech alumnus who served as mayor of Atlanta from 1962-70, is credited with easing racial tension during the turbulent years of the civil rights movement. Bond’s remarks, entitled the “A Just Society: Civic Responsibility in a Technological World,” will be given in the D.M. Smith Lecture Hall at 3:30 p.m. on February 28, the engagement is free and open to the public.

Golden Key Honor Society is inviting new members

Golden Key International Honor Society is currently conducting its annual membership drive. If you are a second semester sophomore, junior, or senior of any major with a cumulative Georgia Tech GPA of 3.3, you should have received an invitation to join Golden Key. Representatives from Golden Key will be outside the Student Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on February 20-21. Interested students may drop by the information tables or contact the advisor, Billiee Pendleton-Parker at billiee.pendletonparker@oars.gatech.edu.

UCLA group still working to desegregate

By Kelly Rayburn

(U-WIRE) UCLA—The University of California at Los Angeles was different place in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In its early years, the African Student Union struggled for social equality, racial justice and educational opportunity by emphasizing group survival and academic achievement.

The group faced much adversity, including FBI infiltration, police brutality and the fact of segregation.

They were a group of just phenomenally young men and women,” said Berk Nelson, director of the Center for Student Programing, who was a professor of history when he first arrived at UCLA in 1969.

In many respects they were the impetus for all sorts of change on campus. They broadened the campus to be receptive of people of color.”

In 1964, two years prior to ASU’s establishment, UCLA had fewer than 100 African American students, according to ASU’s Web site. Then in 1966, ASU was founded under the name Harambee—Swahili for “working together”—and was made up mostly of NCAA athletes, including basketball star Lew Alcindor, who later changed his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Harambee sought to promote culture and togetherness and boost academic achievement.

In 1967, most of its members belonged to the Black Panther Party for Self-defense, which had been declared Public Enemy No. 1 by FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover. The FBI infiltrated the Black Student Union and the United Slaves Organization, another African-American group, turning them against each other.

In January 1969, members of the United Slaves Organization killed BSU and Black Panther Party members Bunche Carter and John Huggin’s inside Campbell Hall. Brothers Larry and George Stiner were convicted for the murders, but they escaped San Quentin correctional facility and remained fugitives for 20 years. Later BSU came out in support of Angela Davis, an African-American philosophy professor who was fired by former Gov. Ronald Reagan because of her membership in the Communist Party. Some BSU members were expelled for their vigorous support of Davis.

Even though most of the campus programs for people of color were located in the same building, Nelson said the campus was not as segregated as one might assume.

“People tended to gravitate to people of their kind, sure,” Nelson said, “but students of all colors jointly supported Davis for many of the same goals.

In May 1970, after Ohio National Guardsmen fatally shot protesters during the Kent State University massacre, the FBI infiltrated the Black Student Union, the United Slaves Organization and the Black Panthers.

FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover. The FBI infiltrated the Black Student Union, the United Slaves Organization and the Black Panthers.

By emphasizing group survival and academic achievement, the African Student Union became largely educational-based and ended the Vietnam War. But students of all colors jointly supported Davis for many of the same goals.

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I would rather be tired than sick during deadline.

Younger also learned how to work in unusual situations. “By my traveling I was taught to work in high places,” he said. “When we were working at a site and putting instruments at the top of a 50 meter tower, you have to clip on your harness and go, and figure it out as you go along.”

Younger also does computer programming while on the job. “I have never been trained to program—I just had to figure it out,” he said. Currently, Younger and his group are doing research in Macon, Augusta, and Columbus because the three cities are falling out of compliance with the Clean Air Act. The cities got the state to give them a grant to research the problem.

“I would rather be tired than sick during deadline.

Younger considers himself an environmentalist, but “not so much as a function of the work I’m doing as a function of my belief system and the kind of thing I’ve been studying in Public Policy.” For his degree, he is focusing on environmental issues.

“The more I learn about the history of environmentalism, the more sense it makes to me,” he said.

Younger enjoys the Public Policy department because of its smaller size. “With 50 undergraduates majors [in the department], everyone pretty much knows everyone,” he said. “It is more interactive than some of the big departments.”

While in his position, Younger has come into contact with many of the bureaucratic agencies on campus, including purchasing, shipping and receiving, and the police department, to name a few.

“Most of Tech’s bureaucracy, I think, is actually reasonably efficient,” he said. “People’s frustration with the bureaucracy is generally a sign that it is doing its job.”

Besides his involvement with the EAS department, Younger is an active member of GALA. After doing assorted activities his freshman year, he decided to narrow his focus. Since then, he has held every officer position in GALA except secretary.

“I’ve known that I was gay for a long time—before I knew there was such a thing,” Younger said. “I would not have come to Tech had GALA not had a web page. It was not safe for me to come out at home, so college was going to be my escape.”

He has been happy with his decision ever since, saying he has faced almost no prejudice or bias while displaying his sexual orientation openly.

You can look forward to seeing Younger around campus doing his part to improve the air quality in the southeast and encouraging his classmates to be tolerant of different lifestyles for a long time to come—he sees his future career in a field similar to his present work.
Mixers

houses on campus are Theta Xi and Phi Delta Theta, although many houses have plans to go dry in the near future. Due to this new Panhellenic Rule, most of the mixers last semester were moved off campus to clubs and bars, the majority in Buckhead. However, with a new Atlanta City Ordinance forbidding admittance to bars for those under 21, mixer planning is being even more affected.

The city ordinance was passed unanimously by the Atlanta City Council on January 16, and went into effect when the Mayor signed it on January 23. “From a social stand point, this [ordinance] makes it very hard for us to have any functions at all,” says sorority Social Chair Johnna Spivey. “While mixers can be fun without the alcohol, some other events we hold, like Crush Party, have to be held off-campus somewhere. It’s not fair to punish those that are under 21 and say they can’t go.”

Under the city ordinance, bars can actually admit those under 21 if it is a private party. However, in reality, most bars are allowing 18 to 20 year-olds admittance only if it is a private party on a Monday or Tuesday night. Additionally, having a private party requires renting out the entire bar and can often times be very expensive for the fraternity that foots the bill for the mixer.

“Mixers cost too much as it is, and, if it gets more expensive by having to have private parties, we won’t be able to have them as often. Having to have private parties, we are concerned with how the increased cost of renting private party rooms will affect the rest of their social calendar.”

Other fraternity members, like Kevin Hsu, are concerned with how the new law banning people under 21 from bars will affect us too much. “From a social stand point, this will severely limit our options of safe places to have mixers. I think this will encourage drinking and driving since the likelihood of us taking buses to some off-campus house is slim to none,” said Hsu.

Since the new Panhellenic rule, most fraternities have chartered buses in order to get to and from the mixers in Buckhead. Most of the sororities’ National Offices passed the off-campus rule in order to have a more controlled environment and decrease underage drinking.

However, Wilcox says that now with the new Ordinance, “mixers will no longer be in a controlled environment, for example at a bar that has security to check I.D.’s, and drinking will be completely unregulated off-campus houses.” Panhellenic President Susanne Hsu says, “I don’t think this new law banning people under 21 from bars will affect us too much. Not every school has a Buckhead where they can find bars to have mixers in, and they have been forced to find other alternatives like renting out halls at places like an Elks Lodge or at a VFW.”

As far as safety is concerned, these places may offer a happy medium for Greeks between the Buckhead bars and off-campus houses. So while some, like Spivey, may feel that “Whoever made this law obviously didn’t take into account the number of people involved in fraternity, sorority, and other campus organizations that are underage,” it appears that the sororities and fraternities are going to have to learn to adjust to the new policies affecting their social events.

As Douglas explains, “A national group is not going to change their mind or make exceptions for member groups based on local law in the area around a campus.”

The women of Alpha Chi Omega enjoy an off-campus mixer with their dates at the Buckhead Saloon. New rules from national organizations combined with local ordinances may bring an end to on-campus greek events.