

NAACP

Who likes potholes? Stefan sure doesn't. He especially hates the ones on campus. Check it out his rant.

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The Sting

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Excited about the iPad? Well, Louis Alderman isn't. Find out why with his pre-view within

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Due to Budget Cuts, this issue is made from Recycled Daipers

Volume 64, Issue 7

BUDGET CUTS WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT SPSU

Jarrett Bell & Zachary Baab
Senior Staff Writer & Staff Writer

SPSU president Dr. Lisa Rossbacher sent out an email message on February 25 urging people to come to the Student Center Theater the following day at noon for a special meeting of faculty, staff, and students. The topic of the meeting was on the proposed budget cuts that the state legislature is considering. The interest in the meeting was evident as the theater was filled to the brim with people. There were people standing up, sitting on the stairs, on the stage, and a large crowd of people standing outside in the lobby of the Student Center listening to the events inside of the theater over the loudspeaker.

Dr. Zvi Szafran, the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA), opened up the special meeting in place of Rossbacher, who was down in Atlanta meeting with gubernatorial candidates and discussing with them the impact of these proposed cuts on the school. He started with going through the numbers. The state has proposed cutting \$300 million from the budget of the University System of Georgia (USG), which all public colleges and universities within the state are apart of. To offset those proposed cuts, tuition would have to rise 77 percent. Szafran stated that the proposed cuts is on top of the \$265 million that has already been cut from the governor's fiscal year 2011 budget. To make the situation much more complicated, the state told the USG to deliver a plan on cutting the budget by Monday, March 1. In the case of SPSU, the school itself must submit a plan on cutting expenditures by Saturday, February 27 at noon.

How much of a cut would SPSU have to make? The school would need to cut \$2.7 million out of the budget. SPSU has already cut \$3.7 million out of the budget previously. This yields a total amount of \$6.4 million. The previous and now proposed cuts are in the face of a 7 percent student enrollment increase from last year. To give one an idea of how large these figures are, the cuts amount to the tuition of approximately 3,000 students for any given semester. All of these cuts are to come from the operating budget and will not affect new facilities, such as the new suite-style student housing, the Engineering Technology Center and the new 1 building annex. However, these cuts affect the pay of faculty, staff, equipment, and utilities.

Cuts have "been extremely painful," says Szafran. However, these cuts have the potential to bring about

major problems for everyone. The cuts will constitute less accessibility to faculty due to more furlough days. Szafran said that the school cannot absorb a cut of this size, as the cuts amount to 20 percent of the money the school gets from the state, as well as it being 10 percent of the school's operating budget. He said emphatically that these cuts will "decimate the budget and decimate how we operate." He said to the packed theater gravely, "every area of the university will be affected."

In addition to the reduction in courses and increased furlough days for faculty and staff, there will be no new hiring of faculty which combined with increases in furlough days for faculty and staff, there will be less courses available. Less courses available translates into graduation taking place later than expected. The school will not be able to accept many new students for the upcoming year. Tenured faculty will also feel the push from the force of the knife slicing through the budget. The sharpness of the budget-cutting knife may even result in loss of all of the school's part time faculty and 20 full time faculty members, which is the equivalent to the entire Biology, Software Engineering (SWE) and Industrial Engineering Technology (IET) programs, Szafran noted. Moreover, 25 out of 231 staff members will also have to be cut. Aside from the faculty and staff being lost, 160 courses will not be taught due to the reduced amount of faculty members. There will also be larger classes to help compensate for the loss of sections and faculty members. The budget cuts being proposed will "set higher education in Georgia back 20 years," Szafran said.

What can the legislators do? They have multiple options- a hospital bed tax, a tobacco tax, and USG cuts. Szafran dubbed each of these doors 1, 2, and 3 respectively. "Do not choose door number 3," Szafran said, in referencing the legislators making a choice on addressing the budget imbalance. He told all of those in attendance to get involved starting on Monday, March 1. In getting involved, Szafran stressed the importance of getting the word out to friends, family, and colleagues, as that is the only way the legislators at the Gold Dome in Atlanta will know the impact of the proposed action. A Facebook group was started for this cause- USG Students for Quality Education. Everyone is encouraged to join the group and get others to join. At the time of this writing, there is over 1,200 members in this group. The legislators listen to voters, Szafran noted.

Szafran is counting on the crowd to do their part and let their voices be heard to their local legislators in their respective counties of residence.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

When Szafran was finished, there were many questions. Dr. Ron Koger, Vice President of Student and Enrollment Services, went around with the microphone to a couple of students. A student asked on who are the legislators for Cobb County. Szafran said that a list will be posted for everyone to see and contact. Another question was on how will other taxes, such as the hospital bed tax and the tobacco tax, will be implemented. Szafran explained the choice the legislators are facing- either cut the budget or increase revenues. Obviously the fat in the budget must be cut, he said, but critical things cannot be cut. Another asked on how certain will the legislators choose cuts in education. It's "not certain at this point," says Szafran. Budget hearings are ongoing at the Gold Dome. Stressing the point to the crowd a second time, Szafran said that the legislators listen to voters and to get out there and let their voices be heard.

The Mechatronics program, which just started at SPSU, became a topic of discussion. One student asked if this program would be "destroyed" by the budget cuts. Szafran answered by saying the program will not be eliminated but less faculty being available to teach the courses required for the major will make it "challenging." This means that the quality of the courses will be challenged, as well as the amount of classes available and faculty accessibility will be affected. On the same topic of programs being cut, another asked which programs have the highest possibility of being cut. All tough decisions are made together and when cuts are considered, the most sensible ones with the least impact are made, according to Szafran. He stressed the importance of decisions involving cuts being made together- that those decisions will be made not just by administrators, but also by faculty, staff, and students.

Given the turmoil in the state balancing its budget, one person asked about getting more money from the private sector. The school has been working very hard to get money from the private sector through the Advancement office, Szafran responded. Funds have been raised for scholarships and grants. Cuts of this magnitude, he said, cannot turn around "on a dime" to raise money. With the budgets of all other schools being cut, the other colleges and

universities in Georgia will be trying to raise money as well through the private sector.

One student asked about the proposal to hike tuition and whether or not it will be done all at once or in phases. Szafran responded by saying the legislature decides how to balance the budget and it is mandatory by law that they do so. Once the budget is balanced, the USG will know how big of a cut must be made to be in line with the balanced budget. At that point, decisions will be made on what programs will be cut, adjusting salaries downwards, the decreases in benefits. All of this is expected to happen in late March or in April, as well as knowing whether or not tuition will increase. He brought up HOPE, as it is funded by the lottery. However, the lottery is not producing enough income to balance the expenditures of the HOPE program. "We don't know if tuition will go up," Szafran said. On the other hand, he is sure the amount of funds for buying books with HOPE will go down.

Combining efforts of resisting cuts to the budget with other schools was a question asked by a member of the audience. Szafran said that he sent word out to other academic Vice Presidents of other USG schools so the information can be distributed. He noted that from a call made by the USG Chancellor, that SPSU is in the lead on the effort to resist budget cuts. However, he said that the effort to resist the budget cuts must be a statewide effort and the level of activity against this action must span across other campuses.

Could construction funds be used to plug the operating funds gap? That one question was answered by Szafran with a no, since these two funds are from separate budgets. Construction on campus is being funded by bonds, in which these bonds are sold to investors to cover the cost of construction and are paid back over time. Even if transferring funds from construction to operating budgets was possible, it would not "begin" to plug the operating funds gap.

Dr. Patterson, Department Chair of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (BCP) asked the last question- could the school leverage the fact of higher enrollment against the cuts? Szafran's answer constituted a no. He stated that the school has 5,200 students and "is in the moment right now" as far as the massive growth and construction. The degree programs that the school offers is critical to the Georgia economy, present and future. However, leveraging in this particular case will not work, accord-

ing to Szafran. Other universities will believe they are critical to the state economy just like SPSU and none of the others will want their budgets cut. He wrapped up the question with the idea that we must "collectively protect higher education."

March 15, 2010 will be the day to collectively protect higher education with a march on the State Legislature in Atlanta. Check your SPSU email frequently, as more details are expected to follow.

REACTIONS FROM THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Following the meeting in the Theater, there were many reactions from various people in the Student Center. Here are some of those reactions:

Jasmine Daniels, a senior studying Civil Engineering Technology (CET) says the budgetary situation and the idea of cuts is "bad." Close to graduation, she said, "if we don't have classes, we can't graduate." Daniels believes that there are many options for fixing the budget issues facing the state. However, "there is no one solution that can solve this," she said.

Susan VandeVen, a professor in the School of Computing and Software Engineering (CSE), said the information presented to everyone today was discussed at a faculty meeting on February 25. She said that meeting lasted one and a half hours and the faculty "didn't even touch the agenda." VandeVen said that the administration is "trying hard to make everyone aware of the situation." She stressed the importance of everyone working in unison to get their voices heard. The fat has been cut out of the budget but now we're cutting "skin and muscle," says VandeVen. She says that the impact on the community will be negative and there must be other ways to solve the budget issue without the proposed cuts.

Christopher Antonio Smith, a junior and an Industrial Engineering Technology (IET) major, says "it's selfish of the governor, the state, and representatives" to issue such a budget proposal. He believes that the state "can raise taxes slightly on people to cover the deficit instead of cutting education."

Amy Phaiboun, also an IET major and a senior, says the budget cuts is "ridiculous." She says that Atlanta is a young city and the budget cut proposal affects higher education and hurts the future. On a possible solution, Phaiboun says "I'd rather raise tuition instead of shutting down schools and not getting a degree."

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The Silver Lining

Stefan Seville
Sports Editor

After the rosters for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Men's Hockey tournament were announced, every analyst and blogger predicted a Russia vs. Canada 'clash of the titans' gold medal match. The only question coming into the round robin play was who would snatch the bronze medal – the defending champion Swedes? The sneaky Finns? No one – at the most maybe one or two published journalists from the US – picked the United States to win ANY medal. The Russians had too much offensive firepower, with the names of Ovechkin, Kovalchuk, Malkin, and Datsyuk leading the offense and one of the best goaltenders in the world in Evgeni Nabokov. They were picked to win silver at least. Canada was the no-questions favorite, being the home team and all. Their top line (Patrick Marleau, Joe Thornton and Dany Heatley) plays together in San Jose, making them one of the biggest threats on the ice. Their roster was so deep that a 30 goal scorer from this season was left off the roster. Their defensive corps, led by their captain Scott Niedermayer, was comparable to a team assembled in a video game – every player you could want from solid stay-at-home defenseman Dan Boyle to big hitter and shooter Chris Pronger.

Then there were the Americans. Sure, they could score some goals (Patrick Kane, one of Chicago's leading scorers, and Dustin Brown, likewise for Los Angeles) and they had a goaltender who's season was on fire (Ryan Miller, with a goals against average of less than 2.5 per game and save percentage over 92%, both tops in the league going into the Olympics). But where Canada had a basically unlimited pool to choose from, the US was in more of a "make do with what's there" situation.

The Performance Tax

Zachary Baab
Staff Writer

The Performance Tax is a new tax that Congress is trying to pass. It is a tax on songs, especially new ones. The Performance Tax will force radio stations to pay everyone involved with the creation of a song every time they play it on air. This has not passed, but is said to be going through Congress now. There are many effects that this tax will cause, which are both economic and cultural.

The cultural effects seem bad. Many of the radio stations that are dedicated to minorities and local areas will have issues. These radio stations are just barely getting by now. They have a hard time getting sponsors, because the big radio stations have most of them under contract. With little income, they will pay more for songs than they can afford. This will cause many of them to shut down and go off air.

General Manager Brian Burke did his best, and apparently it wasn't very far from being the best in the Olympic Games.

A 3-1 win to open their tournament over the surprising Swiss team gave the United States some confidence heading into their second match against Norway – who the US defeated 6-1 two days later. Now turning some heads, the United States made the most of their next opportunity – facing the home crowd favorite, Canada. With all the pressure on Canada to uphold the expectations surrounding them, the United States came out strong and fast, scoring within the first 2 minutes of the game. From there, Team Canada was on its heels and Ryan Kesler (who ironically plays for the Vancouver Canucks of the NHL) scores an empty net goal to seal the game and the monumental upset of the Canadians. With the win, the United States received a bye in the elimination stage of the Olympics, and again put the pressure on Canada, who now had to compete in a play-in game in order to even have a chance for a medal. The bigger implication of the US win over Canada was that either Canada or Russia would not medal, as they were both in the lower bracket of the elimination play-offs. Canada smashed Germany 8-2 and advanced to play Russia in the quarterfinals. Canada continued its rampage with a dominating 7-3 win over the supposedly strong Russians. That dominant showing restored Canada's poise as they rolled over Slovakia in the semi-finals to set up a rematch with – guess who – the United States for the gold medal.

The problem with the US now was the players didn't know how to mentally prepare for the final match. Coming into the Games, they were picked to do no better than fifth place. Now, after upsetting the favorites in convincing fashion and rolling

over Finland to advance to the finals, they did not know whether to think of themselves as the underdogs or the favorites. Because so much of hockey is the attitude and mentality of the players and coaches, this may have played a part in the eventual outcome. Canada jumped out to a 2-0 lead before Ryan Kesler shoveled one past Canadian goaltender Roberto Luongo to cut the lead in half. That score stood until the final minute of the game when New Jersey's Zach Parise collected a rebound and put it behind Luongo to send the game to overtime. The euphoria of Parise's goal lasted only minutes into overtime when NHL poster boy Sidney Crosby picked up a loose puck near the corner and threw it past Ryan Miller to win the gold medal. Suddenly, with the previously impossible gold medal so close and then snatched away in a matter of seconds, the US could not be satisfied with the results and the team sulked in line while waiting for their consolation in silver medals.

If someone had said that the US would win the silver medal before the Olympics started, they would have been laughed at. Somehow, that doubt and uncertainty turned to disappointment when everyone realized just how close they had gotten to becoming the 'Second Miracle' after the 1980 gold medal team. The United States hockey team should be proud of themselves for getting as close as they did, and for making the gold medal match the second-most watched hockey game ever in history – not just the Olympics. That is not the feeling with many of these youthful players – but due to that young age, most of these players who came so close to pulling off an unimaginable feat this time will be back with a vengeance in 2014 at the Sochi Winter Olympics.



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This limits the voice of a particular group of people. In doing so will cause many of these groups to try and find a new way to get out their voice, which may lead to legality issues.

The economic effect is similar. Many of the big radio stations will have to get more sponsors or charge their sponsors more. This causes

the economy to have to help either the sponsors or the radio station, which in turn will affect the people in society. This will cause radio to potentially to no longer be free. Also there are laws against the station from charging the record companies who broadcast promotions for these promotions.

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USG Students Rally at Gold Dome in Atlanta

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

As we all know, The University System of Georgia is facing massive budget cuts which will result in large class sizes, layoffs of professors and longer graduating times, just to name a few of the effects. USG students, in the middle of these proposed cuts by the State Legislature, had enough and scheduled a rally in downtown Atlanta on March 15, 2010. Representatives from 35 USG schools across the State of Georgia participated in this massive event that caught the attention of Channel 2, 5, and 11, as well as some state politicians.

The event started at 8:30am, with students meeting in Hurt Park, located directly adjacent to the Georgia State University (GSU) campus and bounded by the streets Edgewood Avenue SE, Courtland Street SE and Gilmer Street SE. The crowd started off small but quickly grew to hundreds of students as buses full of people from schools in south Georgia such as Georgia Southern and Savannah State unloaded. (Please see The Tenstone Papers – Observation Deck article for an opinion about the turnout.) Signs were already made for students from various schools to use during the rally. Other students brought their own signs; others made their signs right on the site before the 10am march to the Gold Dome, which was a

short walk down Courtland turned Washington Street SW in front of the building.

Before marching to the Capitol, Student Government presidents from the largest schools in Georgia gave short speeches in front of the rapidly growing crowd of students on what they believe needs to be done to solve the problem the USG system is facing. The Student Government presidents of Georgia State, Georgia Tech, UGA were some of those that spoke to the crowd of students. Once the bigger schools made their statements, the march began down Courtland Street, passing some GSU buildings, crossing over Decatur Street and through Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Within ten minutes, the crowd of rallying students made it in front of the Gold Dome. On the way to the Dome, all of the students were chanting. One of the chants were “Education is under attack, what do we do- Stand up, Fight back!”

Once arriving in front of the Dome, the chanting continued with “No more cuts, no more furloughs – chop from the top!” After three or four times, the chant changed to something new or cycled back to a previous one. Regardless of what chant was being used, the crowd was hyped up, holding up their signs and chanting loudly and proudly. After some time chanting, the Georgia Students for Public Higher Education (GSPHE), who

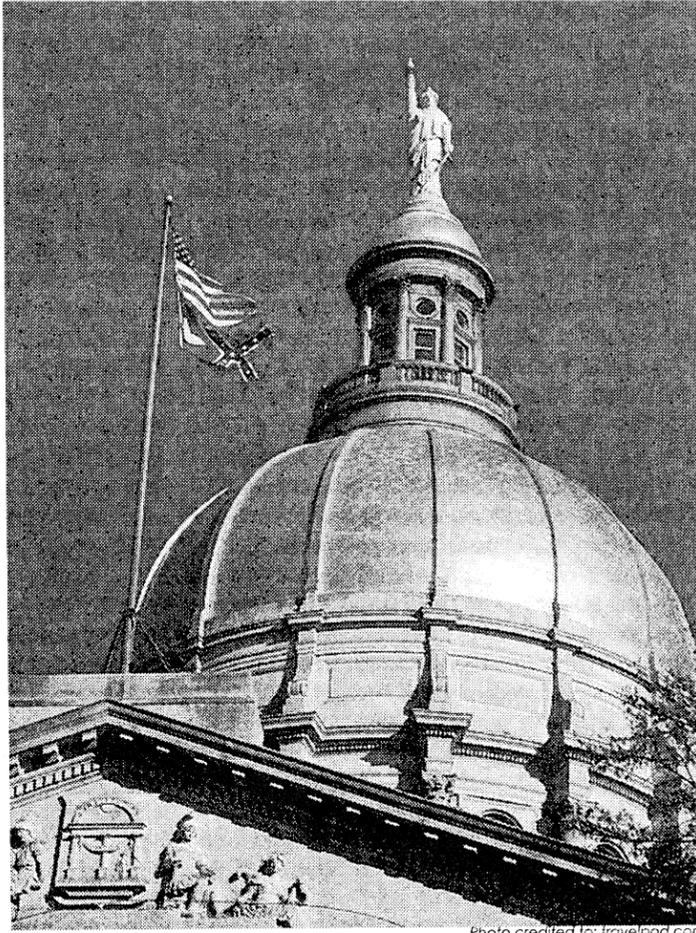


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established and coordinated the event, began to introduce speakers.

There was a tremendous amount of speakers. Of the politicians that were present were House Minority Leader DuBose Porter (D-Dublin), Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benfield (D-Decatur), Sen. Nan

Orrock (D-Atlanta), Sen. Vincent Fort (D-Atlanta), Sen. Gail Buckner (D-Jonesboro), and R.J. Hadley, Democratic U.S. Senate candidate who is challenging current incumbent Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA.) Other speakers that spoke included Steve Golden, Young Democrats of Georgia Chief of Staff, Trevor Southerland, Vice President of the Young Democrats of Georgia, Dr. Ian Fletcher, professor at GSU, and a assortment of other professors and students who took the microphone. Each speaker engaged the crowd to loud applause, screams and chants. Halfway through the speakers, word was released to us that the state legislators canceled their session. Due to this cancellation, the rally ended considerably shorter than expected.

Nonetheless, statements were made by the speakers that were memorable. Dr. Fletcher made the statement that “today, you are the teachers,” in the context of all of the students demonstrating the democratic process and informing the legislators that the cuts that are being proposed will have a detrimental effect to the schools that people attend. House Minority Leader DuBose Porter said “we must build a firewall around education in Georgia.” Another memorable statement came from Sen. Vincent Fort, who said that there is no more time for eloquent speeches and that action must be taken. He also asked everyone in attendance were they ready to fight. That question drew a raucous and passionate applause, cheering, whistling and screams from the entire crowd.

The most memorable statement came from a student from GSU who spoke last. She is the first one who is currently in college in her family and that she was using the experience to improve herself and provide for her family. However, the school put charges on her account due to the increased fees after she paid her tuition. Within

a week before classes began, GSU dropped all of her classes. Her story resonated with the crowd and drew another round of passionate responses from the crowd assembled.

While she gave her story, two students brought a black casket through the crowd. The black casket at the top had the words “R.I.P. Georgia Education.” The casket was symbolic statement meant to be portrayed to the legislators that the budget cuts that are being proposed on top of the \$265 million that was already factored into the fiscal year 2011 budget will put higher public education in the coffin. This symbolic statement was used on the march back to Hurt Park after more than an hour of inspirational speeches from politicians, party leaders, professors and students.

Before marching back behind the casket, the crowd chanted again under the leadership of the GSHPE. After chanting briefly, the crowd proceeded back to Hurt Park. At this time, Washington Street SW, the street running in front of the State Capitol, was shut down by Atlanta Police to vehicular traffic. During the trip back to Hurt Park, all persons in attendance was chanting and flashing their signs to motorists. The chants and the signs caught the attention of many motorists, as drivers rolled down their windows to wave, honk in support, and give thumbs up to all that were in the procession. Traffic slowed to a crawl on Courtland Street, just north of the Capitol, as police diverted traffic away from Washington Street onto Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW.

Upon arriving back at Hurt Park, all in attendance held a meeting. The meeting was to get ideas from the students who participated. At first, a great deal of male students got up and made statements. However, female leaders from GSHPE pushed for more female students to let their voices be heard. After making that push, more female students stood up and offered their suggestions. The passion emanating from the people who spoke was contagious, as people were cheering and clapping. R.J. Hadley gave his support for higher education and pressed the crowd of students to continue their cause to prevent cuts to higher education.

With a final series of chants, the rally was over, just around noon. The rally was originally scheduled to last till 5pm. However, with the cancellation of the session by the state legislators, it appeared that the rally did not need to continue after marching back to the park. GSHPE collected the signs from people who used their signs so they can be reused at later rallies. There is a potential for GSHPE to hold a convention this summer. People are encouraged to join the GSHPE's Facebook group for more information. Stay tuned to this group for future rallies and how you can get involved to prevent or minimize the budget cuts that will affect universities all over Georgia.

Students Demand a Designated Computer Lab in the J-building

Victoria Allen
Staff Writer

Aggravated part-time students enrolled at Southern Polytechnic State University have organized a protest in the Atrium Building! There are several groups of students from different majors, blocking the entrances of different computer labs. These labs are designated for specific majors like Computer Science (CS), Software Engineering (SE), and Information Technology (IT).

This would be a disturbing headline if students from the Technical Communication (T-Com) or Business Administration (BA) majors wanted

to express themselves by organizing a protest. Gaining access and using a computer lab in the Atrium (J-building) has presented a major problem for part-time evening students.

In order for part-time students to access the computer labs in the J-building, they have to request an access card from the Humanities and Technical Communications Office. This card only allows the student access to one specific lab in the building and the card only works for one semester. These labs double as a class room which restricts student use as well. Other program majors like CS, SE, or IT have several designated labs in the J-building for use and it is

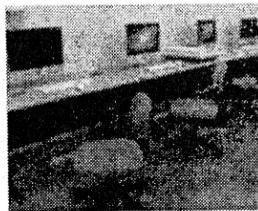


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limited to only students in that major. The T-Com, BA, and students in other majors are upset with the restricted lab requirements.

Considering the J-building contains the most computer labs on campus, most students in the T-Com and BA majors feel that it is unfair that the CS, SE, and IT students have numerous lab option and they don't. Not having a convenient choice of lab use in the J-building is a frequent frustration. “It's a long walk back and forth,” said Lamar Smart, a BA student. “We are not allowed to print in the J-building.” This is a growing problem on campus and it doesn't seem to be a real solution.

Although there are other labs around campus for student use, the J-building needs a designated lab for the students who are not in the CS, SE, and IT majors. Transforming one of the large classrooms into an open computer lab for anyone to use would be greatly appreciated. The lab could be stocked with paper and allow free printing. Providing a convenient source of computer use in the J-building would increase moral among the students in all programs.

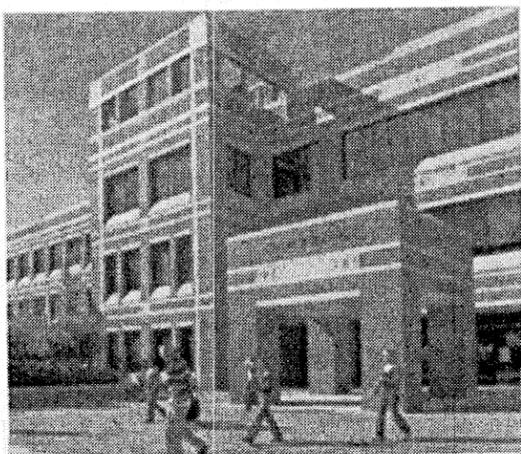


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E-WEEK LUNCHEON RECAP

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

During the week of February 18, 2010, Southern Polytechnic State University celebrated Engineers' Week 2010. The week culminated with a E-Week Luncheon at the Student Center in the ballroom. This event focused on building green on the SPSU campus. This event had special guests of Rick Fredlund, Associate Director of Cooper Carry; Henry Cantwell of Niles Bolton Associates; William Norris, also from Niles Bolton Associates; Michael Sizemore, Founding Principal of The Sizemore Group; Lily del C. Berrios, Principal of The Sizemore Group. The event was attended by professors, alumni, campus administrators, and students.

People filed into the ballroom, which was set up with many tables and chairs. The food was at the back of the room. People who attended the event was served with a choice of two meats, pasta and salad, among other choices. Tables were called up one at a time to ensure an orderly line to be served. Once everyone was served, the program began with Professor Lance Crimm from the Division of Engineering giving the Invocation. After his invocation, SPSU President Dr. Lisa Rossbacher gave the welcome.

Rossbacher stated that the school has partners in industry that are supported. She noted that graduates from SPSU are "well prepared for life and work." The partners in industry advise the school on programs. Finally, Rossbacher enumerated the reasons for holding the luncheon. Those reasons were to recognize the achievement of the faculty and staff, recognize support of industry, and recognize the efforts of many people for the practice application of knowledge.

Dr. Jeff Ray, Dean of the School of Engineering Technology and Management, was next up. Ray recognized all of the teams and groups that were present at the luncheon. He recognized the Engineering Student of the Year, Nick Thornton, who was in attendance at the event. (To read more about this important accolade and to read more about Thornton, please see the Sting Exclusive on him.) Thornton stood up and was recognized by all that was in attendance.

Dawn Ramsey, the Regional Coordinator, was next up, who spoke on the Future City Middle School Outreach and Queen of Angels program. Ramsey gave a brief background on Future City by stating that the program was started in 1993 by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE.) This program involves all of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors. The program also involves seventh and eighth grade students. Teachers from those grades mentor in Engineering.

According to Ramsey, the next Future City event is scheduled for January 22, 2011. The winner from the Georgia regional competition will go to the national competition. The program has been active

in Georgia for five years. Ramsey said to the packed ballroom that the program has experienced "great growth." The team contains five members with three of them being seventh graders. "They represented Georgia well at the nationals," says Ramsey to all in attendance. The team has to design a city 150 years in the future with a population of 100,000. The students had to build a scale model and then do a presentation in front of a panel of judges in an effort to sell the city they built.

Brian Smith, a team mentor, spoke about the team. He participated in judging the projects last year and was "blown away" at the understanding of the students on topics such as zoning and utilities. Smith said that three things impressed him- the project itself, the Future City organization and how it is managed, and student teams. He noted that the kids were enthusiastic and wanted to be in first place. However, he noted the challenge of preparation. The preparation also brought about franticness, which was highlighted when Smith noted that he heard one boy scream in a nearby hotel room "I have no idea where my pants are." While the crowd had a bit of a laugh, the example was to highlight the stress levels of the teams that that were participating.

Ramsey said that all children should have an opportunity to be involved. She stressed the need for mentors for the teams. She concluded her presentation by informing everyone that 20 teams dropped out before the competition due to not having mentors and advisors.

The Executive Director of Strategic Marketing and Sustainability Initiatives, Jim Cooper, spoke on the topic of building green at SPSU. He noted that Rossbacher was the first university president to sign the climate commitment document. He said that all new buildings that are being built on the SPSU campus will meet LEED's silver certifications. The Engineering Technology Center (ETC) and the Architecture Building Annex (Building I), special interest housing, and the Library project are currently in the stage of being built or proposed, will meet the silver certification.

Cooper introduced the four panelists- Fredlund, Cantwell, Norris, and Sizemore. Fredlund started off by talking about the ETC and the LEED aspects. His company, Cooper Carry, is the design architect of the ETC, parking deck, and the Building I addition. He said that the ETC and Building I addition will be transparent and will meet the LEED silver certification at minimum. Currently, the ETC has 38 points and the Building I addition, will be 40 points, thus meeting the LEED Gold certification. Fredlund noted that these two buildings were designed to be energy efficient.

Specifically talking about the ETC, Fredlund said that the first floor will be labs and large lecture halls. The second floor will contain computer labs and lecture rooms. Finally, the third floor will have faculty offices, a gallery and

student meeting spaces. For Building I, there will be six galleries. In addition, the building is designed to have natural sunlight beam down into the studio. This addition to the original building I will have a main floor that is twelve feet below the lowest floor of the existing building. Setting aside this information, once the ETC and the building I addition is completed, this area of campus is expected to be very busy.

Once Fredlund finished, Cantwell took up the next part of the program- the discussion of the suite-style student housing. The new suite style housing will have an overall floor plan space of 59,209 square feet that will produce 284 beds. The dining hall will be 2 stories with a total floor plan space of 16,329 square feet that will produce 600 seats. The special interest housing will contain ten houses, each two stories apiece with twelve beds in each house. Each house will be 3,256 square feet.

Cantwell said that special interest housing and the suite style housing is rated 2 different ways in the context of LEED. There is LEED style for homes, which applies to the special interest housing and there is LEED N.C., which applies to the suite-style student housing. LEED N.C., according to Cantwell, is meant to avoid development on unsuitable sites. Moreover, the team inspects the construction site to make sure all systems are installed correctly to be in compliance with the LEED N.C standard. Cantwell said that LEED N.C is the whole building approach. He also stressed the importance of architects and engineers working together. "Architects must rely on our engineers," he said.

The next up was the discussion on the library. Dr. Currin stated that the library was designed back in 1985. He also gave everyone in the crowd an interesting fun fact- that the honor graduate gets a glass replica of the bell tower, which is visible if one approaches the library from the front of building H or if one is walking towards building H from G or E. Currin noted that the school has contracted with Sizemore to recapture the green elements and take those elements to the "next level." At that point, Sizemore took over the presentation.

Sizemore asked a compelling question to everyone- how can we incorporate new technologies in buildings such as the library? We "will need to do more and more collaboration," he said, as students go through their careers. As the original architect of the library, Sizemore said that when one quits working on a facility, the facility's life begins. Now since the life of the library has been in progress for the last 25 years, how will the changes be made? He stated that we must understand the consequences of the choices that are made. Doing more with less is becoming more important. In addition, he stated that there was no master planning of the campus at the time and thus the campus has an irregular layout of buildings.

Political and organizational

issues also play a part in the building of the library. A fascinating fact that Sizemore brought to everyone's attention was the Board of Regents allowing anyone with a pickup truck to bid on the construction of the library when it was first being put out for bid. In addition, the Board of Regents did not have a favorable opinion of two story buildings at the time. Nonetheless, the number of bidders eventually was shrunk down to five "good contractors." Sizemore made quite a comical joke, saying "politics and sausage- how did it get that way?"

The technicals of how the library was built became the focus of the discussion. Among many different elements of the library discussed, Sizemore pointed out the windows and the blinds at the top of them. When light enters the library windows, the sunlight is bounced off to the ceiling which keeps the general area cool. While this can be seen as functional and beautiful, "beauty can be its worst enemy," he said. However, this functionality of the windows helps during the summer as it keeps the inside cool. This function can be amplified by giving the library awnings over their

windows but the awnings having solar panels to collect energy from sunlight.

After the technically detailed presentation given by Sizemore over the library, there were some questions from those in attendance. One of the questions that was asked is how students can participate in the building process on the campus. Observing and bringing information on what was observed to the attention of administrators, said Cantwell. Fredlund had an even simpler answer, by saying there was a cultural issue with turning off lights and recycling and overcoming that issue will be a significant help.

Ann Lay and Cinthia Barnett were both responsible for putting the E-Week Luncheon together. According to Lay, the event was started before she was an administrative assistant in the Department of Engineering in 1995. She stated the program expanded this year with the idea of familiarizing the students with the event and getting them to participate. With that in mind, students take note- this event will happen every year and Lay and Barnett are looking for many students to participate.

Career Fair. Feb 2010

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

The Career and Counseling Center put on its Career Expo on February 24, 2010. The event started at 12pm and lasted until 4pm in the Student Center Ballroom. People came filing in early- sophomores, juniors, graduating seniors, and many alumni. Attires for the potential employees included classy suits and ties for the men and dressy and professional pant suits and dresses for the women. Everyone appeared to be prepared by having many copies of their resumes, portfolios and knowledge of the companies that they wanted to target. When the doors officially opened, an avalanche of professional, intelligent, and employable SPSU students and alumni canvassed the tables and mingled with the various companies on site.

If you were in the market for an internship or a co-op, this was the event for you to attend. Many companies came out to look for qualified candidates, such as recently relocated NCR Corporation and traditional visitors, such as Aflac, AirTran, Turner Broadcasting and Southern Company. There were a couple of newcomers, such as Orasi Software Inc., and Obvient Strategies, Inc. People who are

Construction Management majors were arguably the biggest winners at this event, as a good portion of the companies attending were looking for people of those majors.

Unlike the October event, the room was cooler and did not require you to leave and get some air due to the sheer amount of people in the room and the heat everyone generated. Also unlike the October event, people were in the ballroom much quicker. Lines at the tables formed quickly, particularly at Southern Company's table. However, like the October event, everyone was asked to fill out a survey on what they thought of the expo. Volunteers and staff of the Career and Counseling Center then collected the surveys once completed.

The Career and Counseling Center did a great job on getting the word out and letting people know what was taking place. The efforts of all of the staff involved clearly showed by the mass turnout of professionally dressed students and the companies that came looking to meet the professional, ready-to-work students of Southern Polytechnic. We should all commend them for their efforts in putting the event together. So, if you missed this event, do not miss upcoming events! You may just end up getting hired.

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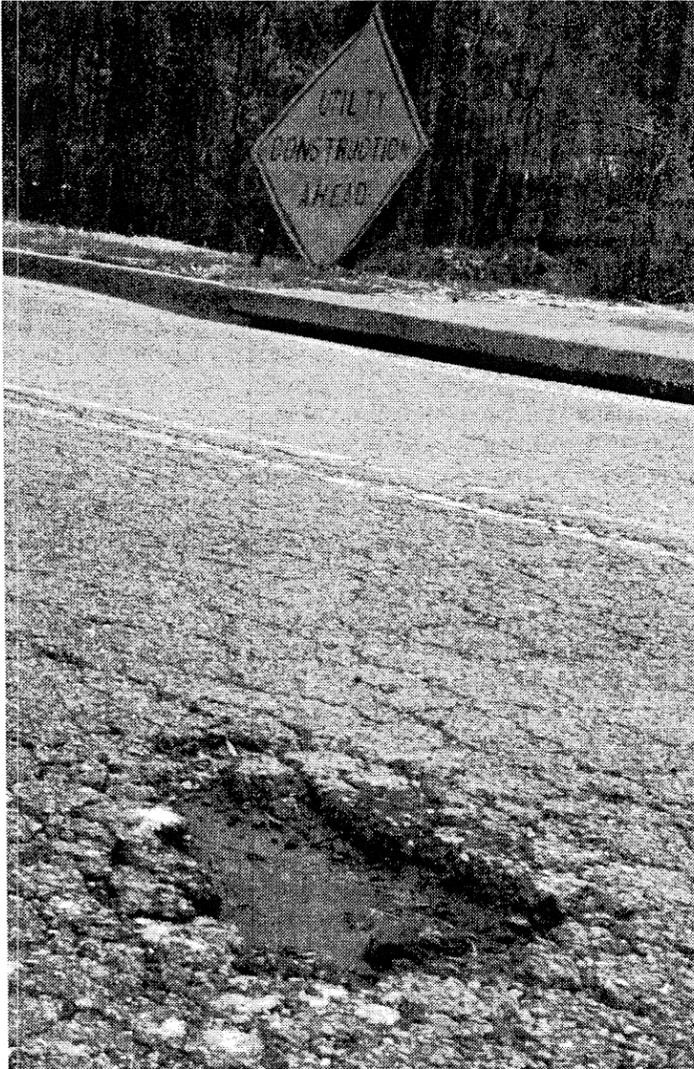
Stefan Seville
Sports Editor

With the recent rise in fuel costs, it is not often my childhood fantasy of owning a monster truck resurfaces. Whenever I enter SPSU via the entrance on South Cobb Drive, however, that dream comes vividly rushing into my mind as my car bounces over, into and through the massive potholes the size of Chik-Fil-A platters in Alumni Drive. I know I'm not alone in the SPSU community when I say it's only a matter of time before my mind is playing the Geico commercial of the talking pothole as I stare at a hopelessly flat tire.

Several factors have contributed to the gaping absence of road over the past few months. One that is beyond the control of anyone is the weather.

One of the more harsh winters in recent history has brought several nights of ice or freezing rain, which has helped stimulate the growth of the holes. The other main factor is the construction efforts on campus.

The large utility and transport vehicles have been using the South Cobb entrance for access onto campus which may have started the potholes in the first place. There's nothing we can do about the vehicles either; they're quite necessary for the improve-



The ongoing campus construction is one factor that has led to the appearance of potholes on Alumni Drive.

Photo credited to: Stefan Seville

ment of the school. What really does not sit well with me is the handling of the issue by the school's Transportation department.

Amid the recent fear of budget cuts on an already tightened financial belt, I can understand the hesitation to fix the potholes on this road. I do not understand, however, the decision to fill one of the potholes with – guess what – packed sand and gravel.

I am not a civil engineering student, so I would like to understand why it makes more sense to do the quick-fix (and quite shoddy) solution of dirt over filling the initial, small pothole with a 40 pound bag of Quikrete (or something better - again, I'm not an engineer).

It pains me to see a school the prides itself for its engineering program having such problems with what should be a simple issue.

When the Cobb County government can fix a pothole in my small neighborhood one-tenth the size of those found in Alumni Drive within TWO WEEKS of it appearing, it's a good indication the ball is being dropped by the transportation department. I don't know if they're just waiting for a formal complaint; if so, I'll be in line for that upon finishing

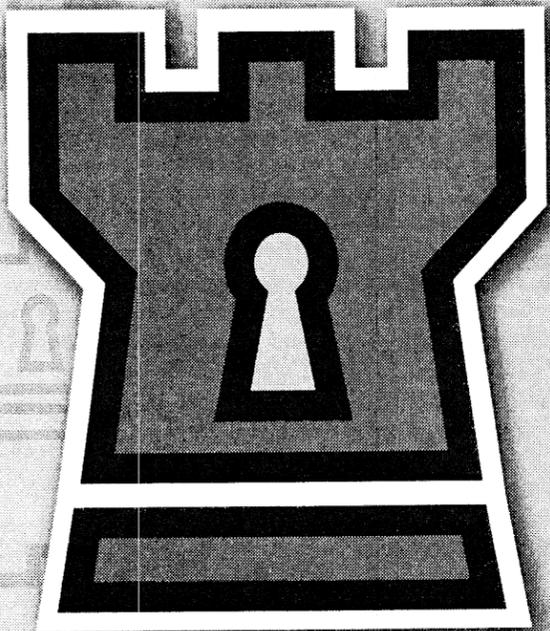
this article.

No doubt at least a few of the members of the school's administration have had to dodge between the potholes and an oncoming 20,000 pound dump truck.

Call me a whiner or pansy, but I think something should be done before the potholes get much bigger and incur even higher costs for the university.

I welcome your praise, comments, rebuttal and critiques at sseville@spsu.edu. Kay bye!

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How to Etch Your Own Circuit Boards

David Sluder
Staff Writer

In this edition of The Sting, I'm going to walk you through a way to easily and cheaply etch your own circuit boards for prototyping. And not only that, we're going to do things "green," in more ways than one. Read on to find out what I mean.

First thing you'll need is a bill of materials. I'll give them to you in the order that you'll use them: a brilliant idea that requires a custom printed circuit board, Eagle Light circuit board software, glossy laser paper, laser printer, copper clad board, some rubbing alcohol, an iron, a container big enough to hold your circuit board, hydrochloric acid, hydrogen peroxide, a couple non-metallic measuring cups, and plenty of patience.

Here's the breakdown of what we're going to do: you'll create your circuit, print it out on glossy laser paper on a laser printer, clean the copper board off well, use an iron to transfer the toner to the board, remove all the paper, mix an etching solution, do the etching, and then clean off the board. Now, the details!

Let's assume you know what your circuit needs to look like. So now you're going to use Eagle Light or some similar software to create your circuit. Make sure your traces are as wide as can be as this

method doesn't handle tiny traces well. Now you're going to want to print the circuit out, but be sure to reverse the image (most print drivers are capable of doing this, just search around some) since you'll be turning the piece of paper over to transfer the image to the copper board. Print it out on glossy laser paper on a laser printer as this kind of paper makes the transfer a little easier.

Laser printers print with toner, which is an ultra fine black powder that liquefies when heated up. What we will be doing is using a hot iron to transfer the toner from the paper to the copper board to act as a resist to the etchant. Prior to doing that, however, we'll need to clean the board to ensure the toner transfers completely. Take some rubbing alcohol and a paper towel and make sure you get the board CLEAN.

Turn your iron all the way up, turn the steam all the way off, and let it warm up. Once it's hot-hot-hot, find a flat, heat-resistant surface to place your board on. Position your paper, printed side down, on top of your circuit board, and put the iron on that bad boy. This is the part that needs patience. You must slowly, and I mean slowly, move the iron around to make sure every single fiber of paper has been ironed on (with plenty of pressure – put your back into it). You're going to want to be done with it after a few

minutes, but you should spend a solid ten minutes or more ironing the paper. The paper should start to get a brown, burnt tone to it after a while, and it's around this point that you should be good to stop.

Now let it cool down. In the meantime, fill a container with warm water and, once cool, place the board with paper on it in the water. Let it soak for at least fifteen minutes. Then you can start to slowly peel the paper off, being careful not to pull too hard where the toner has transferred. If you've got small gaps in between some traces, you might want to get a soft toothbrush to brush the paper out.

Now inspect your board – you'll have black traces with some paper fiber stuck in them on it. Take a Sharpie and correct any places where the toner didn't transfer. If the circuit looks terrible, then you didn't do you ironing well. Start over and iron better. Once you're content with the condition of your board, you need to mix the etchant solution.

Here's the "green" part. Ferric chloride, available at Radio Shack and most commonly used to etch circuit boards, isn't harmful to the environment on its own. But once you etch a circuit board with it, the solution contains copper chloride, which is an environmental contaminant. In order to properly dispose of it, you need to take it to a Hazardous Waste Disposal Facil-

ity. So what we need is a solution that can be used to etch boards that lasts for a long time and doesn't need to be disposed of after a few boards. Our answer lies in a solution of Copper Chloride in Aqueous Hydrochloric Acid!

Go to a pool supply store and buy a gallon of muriatic acid (just another name for hydrochloric acid). Then go to the drug store and get some regular strength hydrogen peroxide. Measure out two parts hydrogen peroxide and pour it in a plastic container. Then measure out one part muriatic acid and pour it in the same container. (add acid to peroxide, not the other way around!)

Now toss your circuit board with toner resist into a plastic or glass container and cover it with your etching solution. Do this in a location with good ventilation as the starter solution will give off a little chlorine gas. Actually, do all of this somewhere that has good ventilation. Better yet, do all of this outside – it's just safer that way. The solution will turn green as it eats the copper – this is a good thing as it turns our solution into a renewable etchant.

Did I just say renewable? Yes sir I did. Cupric chloride is an etching solution, and that's what we're in the process of making. You can continue to use this solution to etch boards, but you'll just have to add some oxygen and acid to it once it

gets saturated (you can tell it has hit this point when it turns really, really green). So this is a solution that, taken care of, will continue to etch and etch and etch.

Once all the copper has been etched away, carefully remove your circuit board and place it in a water bath and agitate it. Once you're confident any remaining etchant has been sufficiently diluted, take out your board and marvel at its complexity. Now you're going to want to scrape off the toner. A green scrub pad is great at this, but I recommend some acetone to quicken the job. If the etchant ate under the toner, or the circuit board doesn't look just perfect, feel free to do it again. Because hey, we're in college, and we have all the free time in the world!

Nick Thornton, Engineering Student of the Year

Jarrett Bell
Senior Staff Writer

One person has stepped up the game for all engineering students at Southern Polytechnic and universities all over the State of Georgia – and that one student is from SPSU! On February 20, SPSU student Nick Thornton was presented with the Engineering Technology Student of the Year award at the Engineers Week Gala Awards Banquet in downtown Atlanta. This award stems from a statewide competition of engineers and students studying engineering on their contributions to their respective engineering areas and their impact on the engineering community.

Thornton is a junior at SPSU majoring in Civil Engineering Technology (CET.) He is currently the Vice President of the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) SPSU chapter and the Vice President of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE.) In addition to being active in these two organizations, he is a third year orientation leader, captain of the Canoe Team, and part of the Northwest Crescent Leadership Alliance. He was nominated by CET professors Nancy Turner and Carlos Ortiz.

The nominations are done by merit on the basis of one's current grade point average (GPA), how involved they are in their classes and organizations, and whether or not they went

above and beyond expectations. Once the nominations are made, paperwork must be filled out. The paperwork includes letters of recommendation from professors and the department chair, along with witnesses of the person's character. On Thornton's part, he wrote an essay on why he should be chosen for the award and what contributions he has made to the engineering community. All of the paperwork, once completed, is mailed to the Georgia Engineering Alliance, an organization that facilitates collaboration between other engineering societies with a common interest. The paperwork is then sent to Auburn University in Alabama so no Georgia school can pick one of their own students for the award.

"You are competing against all of the engineering students!" exclaimed Thornton. His application was compared to applicants from Georgia Tech and Georgia Southern, among many Georgia schools that offer engineering or engineering technology programs. The comparison was done across all engineering majors, not just Civil Engineering. The panel of judges from Auburn made the selection from all of the applications. The judges "selected who they liked best," he said with a chuckle. He speculated that there were probably about four or five judges that made the decision. When asked about how he felt about receiving the award, he said that getting this award is a

"pretty big honor."

The suspense seemed to be getting to everyone. CET professors were asking Thornton if he heard anything on his application for the prestigious award. At the time, he did not know or think about it. However, the news came to him from Professor Turner in the form of an email. The email that she sent to him two weeks before the awards gala was had the title of 'Congratulations.' The email contained his name in it at the bottom stating he won the award. He said that at first he was "kind of skeptical" and thought it was a gimmick since he received the email at two o'clock in the morning. He realized it was real when he was greeted with congratulations by a couple of professors in the CET department office. It was "kind of like a dream," he said, beaming with a smile.

At that point, he decided to check with his mother on seeing if any information came to his parents' home in Flowery Branch. All of the information was being sent to his parents' home. He found out that he received information back about the award three to four weeks before he realized that he was chosen. No email was sent or phone call made about the selection formally, Thornton noted.

When it came time to attend the Engineers Week Gala Awards Banquet and accept the award, Thornton said he "kind of [felt] like a country boy"

and "felt a little out of my elements." He joked on how many times he has been to a function where there were different forks for having the salad and for the rest of the dinner. He realized how important the award was at the event and that it is "really a big deal." About 350 people attended the event. Of all the people that attended the event, he was the only student that was there. Everyone else was primarily professors and engineers from the State of Georgia. Some of the engineers in attendance were responsible for the design, planning and construction of Turner Field, Spaghetti Junction and the Gwinnett Braves Stadium. There were some engineers from out of Georgia and three professors from SPSU – Turner, Ortiz and CET Department Chair Dr. Tim Ziegler and Dawn Ramsey, the Dean of the Extended University.

As a result of receiving this accolade, Thornton says more people recognize him. Many people have approached him and have congratulated him on his achievement. However, he has not received any employment offers yet. He is currently looking for an internship during the summer. Overall, he says that things "haven't changed much but been a little different." He is still going through school, being on the Canoe Team and getting work done.

As I was talking to him, Thornton showed me the con-

crete canoe he was working on in Building O. He says that he is able to take what he learns in class and transform it into something tangible. The canoe that he is building allows him to get his "creative juices flowing," he said. He also likes being outdoors, which led him to choose the degree of Civil Engineering Technology. He stated that he spends about 30 percent of his time out in the field, so he is not "just designing stuff." Lastly but not least, he enjoys being around and spending quality time with family.

The Sting would like to congratulate Nick Thornton on his achievement on Engineering Student of the Year award. We wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

UFC 111

Michael Harris
Staff Writer

If I were a surly chap I would have given up on you a longtime ago, fortunately for you I am not. Even though you have had, one-hundred-and-ten chances to watch a UFC Pay-per-view and have yet to see one speaks more to my dedication to enlighten the masses.

On Saturday, March 27, you will have yet another opportunity to make good on your lapse in judgment by going out and ordering UFC 111 (the latest UFC pay-per-view). You may be asking yourself, "What could a pay-per-view that cost \$45 dollars have to offer me, of all people?" That's a good question. It's simple, if you want to see the greatest athlete to have ever competed in short-shorts defend his UFC welterweight belt against a fan of the Sex Pistols who sounds like Simon Cowell then you're in luck.

In all seriousness, UFC 111 is an outstanding card where you are guaranteed to see five MMA matchups on the main card with athletes competing for the chance to take the losers arm home with them (not literally of course). Of all the fights on this "stacked" card, the co-main event and the main event are the card's two major selling points.

In the co-main event, you have Shane Carwin, a 265 lb NCAA (Div. II) wrestling mass of muscle

going up against Frank Mir, a fighter with a Ju-jitsu base that stands at 6 foot 3, 245 lbs. Yikes! These two men are truly two hulking mixed martial artist behemoths. For just desserts, they will be going at it for the sweet prize of being deemed the UFC interim heavyweight champion. But there will be no rest for the weary though: the winner of this matchup has to turn right around and face the on the mend UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar to unify the belts. An interesting side note, Frank Mir a two-time former heavyweight champion in his own right, just recently came down with "stuck-foot-in-mouth-i-tis" when he called out Lesnar with some unsavory comments in hopes of getting a good old-fashioned rubber match the poor lug. Will Mir eat his words and need to call a podiatrist? There's only one way to find out, and that's by cheering for Frank Mir in hopes that he'll get his wish for another chance at Brock Lesnar, the man who gave him a sound thrashing at UFC 100 for the title.

Georges "Rush" St. Pierre versus Dan "The Outlaw" Hardy will be your main event of the evening, and boy, are you in for a treat. What is there to say about St. Pierre? A better question is, what accolades have yet to be said about the twenty-nine year old French Canadian? He is Tom Brady, Michael Jordan, and Tiger

Woods all rolled into one. Even if this is your first UFC pay-per-view one thing will be ever clear, when you see Georges St. Pierre in action you will know that he is leaps and bounds ahead of his competitors. Everything this welterweight phenom does is next to perfection. He is the only non-wrestling MMA fighter who can make former NCAA wrestling champs look silly. But, does he have another epic win in him or can "The Outlaw" knock him out with his face-melting punching power? As things go in life, anything can happen and the sport of MMA is a living testament of that. On any given Saturday, anyone can win.

One no-brainer of a recommendation is to invite 5 to 10 of your buddies over for pizza and a pay-per-view, their treat of course. If ordering the pay-per-view for \$45 dollars is too much for you then no worries, you are more than welcome to go down to your local sports bar establishment (I recommend Mazzy's sports bar) for a High-Definition display and barstool seat right next to the action, all for a meager five dollar cover charge.

With no excuses to be had, what are you waiting for? Have at thee!

Crayon Physics

David Sluder
Staff Writer

Video games and SPSU students seem to be a match made in heaven. You walk through the student center, and it's hard to miss the huge TVs with old school consoles being played on them. The thing is, I don't really ever hear about games outside of the popular stuff. Halo, Call of Duty, God of War, GTA, Crisis, and the list goes on. I've recently gotten into independent games, and I think I'd like to share some with you. So in each issue I'll write a review of a video game that most of you have never heard of. To start off, I'll talk about my favorite game at the moment, Crayon Physics Deluxe.

This is nothing like any of the games above. The graphics are simple, the soundtrack is soothing, and the game play wouldn't exactly be described as "exciting," but it is a game that demands thought and attention, and can suck you in for hours on end, just like everything else.

It was created by Petri Purho from Helsinki, Finland. He has this site called Klooningames, where he tries to create one game a month that tests a new form of game play. One of his games was Crayon Physics, and the game play here is like nothing you've ever encountered.

The point of the game is simple: you have a ball, you have a star, and you have to get the ball to touch the star. The fun part comes in here—anything you draw on the screen will then

become a component of that stage. If you draw some amorphous blob, then you've now added an amorphous blob to the stage, which may or may not help you. Maybe you want to build a catapult—draw a small triangle for a pivot point, then a long board, and then a large blob to drop down on the catapult. The larger the items are, the more mass they have, and the harder they fall. And the game doesn't correct you're straight lines; if your hand wavers while drawing, that's how the object actually looks.

Crayon Physics is, as the name suggests, a pure physics game. You have to introduce and manipulate elements to accomplish the goal of collecting the star. Maybe you have to open a drawbridge in one stage or figure out how to get a free falling ball to the other side of the screen in another. The enjoyment in this game is coming up with the myriad ways to get from point A to point B. If you're trying to beat the game, then you're missing the point. It's like on a road trip—how you get from A to B is more important than where you end up.

So if you're interested, google Crayon Physics and download the demo. It'll whet your appetite for the real thing, which has a bunch of different levels, as well as a level editor to make your own. The game is really worth the download, and while it's probably different from what you're used to, you'll thank yourself for doing it.

Facebook-Aim Team iPad

Melanie Allen
Staff Writer

You will now be able to chat with Facebook friends from your AOL instant messenger account. It is part of AIM's Livestream application which allows users to receive updates from Digg, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, and other services.

Facebook user's experience will be much improved, as the Facebook chat feature is notoriously slow

Walmart Shuttle

Melanie Allen
Staff Writer

The Offices of University Transportation and Housing & Residence Life have sponsored a shuttle to transport SPSU/GA Highlands students to Walmart.

To catch a ride, meet the

Eric O'Shea

Zachary Baab
Staff Writer

Home Coming was on the week of February 7. There were many things that happened that week. One of these events was a comedy show at 8:00 p.m., Monday February 7.

The comedian was Eric O'Shea. He performed until 10:00. He was a true standup comedian. He interacted with the audience well.

He did many impersonations. He acted like his hand was Elmo. He was able to change

and buggy. This means better moods for the 350 million people globally who use Facebook and 34% of US Americans (a bastardized statistic obtained by dividing US Facebook users with US population). With 34% of Americans having one less reason to cuss and slam their mice every 4 minutes, there should be a noticeable mood lift across our nation just in time for Valentine's Day.

bus at 12 PM on Monday or Thursday at the stop near the housing office. You will have one hour to shop, so be ready for the bus outside Walmart at 1 PM.

This service is free, and a great way for students without cars to shorten their travel time to Walmart or the surrounding restaurants and stores.

his voice to match.

He made Elmo seem like a perverted freak, which is funny and possible true in my opinion.

He was able to do Peter Griffon, Brian, Stewie, Officer Joe Swanson, and Quagmire from Family Guy very accurately. He was almost able to do Lois's voice accurately.

Eric is a great performer. He ended with things that should have songs, which was raunchy humor. I enjoyed Eric as a comedian. I wish the school would allow him to return.

Because iCare

Louis Alderman
Staff Writer

Probably the biggest technology announcement of the year occurred not even a month into the year. I'm talking about the big iPad. January 27 closed with the world getting its first look at the iPad's spotless gleam that is synonymous with Apple products. For those of you who haven't seen Mr. Jobs demo the 'third' Apple product, let me quote him for you. "Watching it is nothing like holding it in your hands." This could very well be true, and watching it was lovely. But hold on, did I say 'third' Apple product? Let me count for a moment just to be sure. We've got the iPod, released in 2001 which created such a buzz as to revolutionize mobile music. The MacBook became Apple's premier laptop family in 2006. Oh and we can't forget 2008's killer item, the iPhone, probably the most iconic smart phone we'll ever see. So the iPad makes four, right?

Well I might just be reading too deeply into this, but Steve Jobs said 'third' too, and his presentation seemed to drop the iPod from his product list. Maybe at Apple, iPhones and iPods are considered the same product. But if not, I'd look out for some more announcements later.

Enough picking at semantics, lets look at the fabulous new toy. It is super-light and super-thin and boasts a 10 hour battery life. Using flash 'solid state' memory it can have 16 gigs to 64 gigs of storage. Music, videos, books and the internet are all focuses for this power-house wireless media consump-

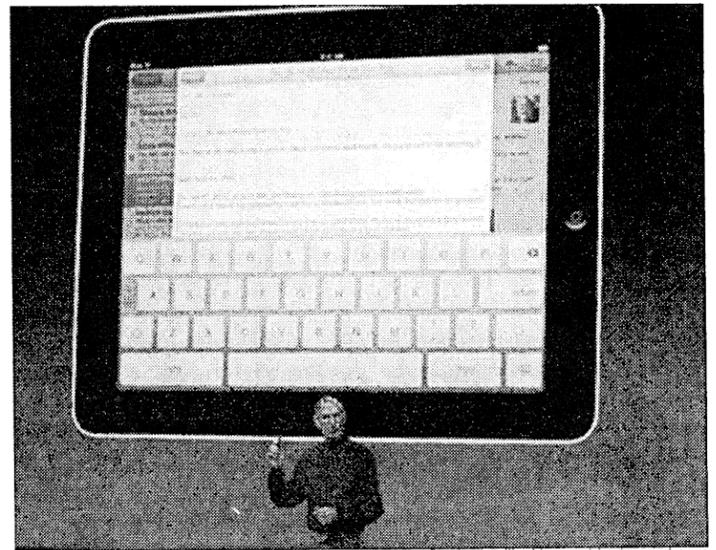


Photo credited to: washingtonpost.com

tion device. iPhone Apps are compatible and even higher quality iPad Apps are in production even now.

Doesn't this describe the iPhone's capabilities too? Sure the iPhone is a 3 or 4 inch screen and the iPad is at 9 inches now, but doesn't that make the iPad a non-cellular scaled up iPhone or iTouch? That's the fallout of the presentation, a big oversized iPhone. Apple is trying to place the iPad as a more-functional tool than a Netbook. Somewhere in the space between a Smartphone and a Laptop is a little promised land called iPad. But how big is this market really? And from all the underwhelmed responses asking 'why' I'm beginning to wonder if there even will be a market when it goes on sale.

I love my iPod Nano with all my music at my finger-tips. iTouch and iPhone don't excite me, partially due to the

silliness of not having tactile feedback while trying to blind-drive my iPod while paying attention to something else, and partially due to how little I care to watch videos on such a small screen. If I find the iPhone too large and attention-seeking for my tastes, the iPad is going even further off in the wrong direction. If I have to keep my media device in my lap to enjoy it, why am I not using the well named Laptop?

I and many vocal others simply do not see a need for the iPad that isn't already filled by one of Apple's existing products. My music belongs on my iPod, my videos and games on Desktop and Consoles, and my documents on my Laptop. What is it that I have that would go on my iPad? Well, until Apple sells me an 8 and 1/2 by 11 digital pen and paper, I'm set.

Dante's Inferno

The road to hell is paved with good intentions. – Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Kevin Baker
Staff Writer

Dante's Inferno is a video game released on February 9th, 2010 adapted and very loosely (and even that I feel is using the term lightly) based from the divine comedy of the same name. The game is an action based game similar to most action games with hack and slash fighting styles brought to you by Visceral Games and published by Electronic Arts. The action is faced paced, the combat is fluid, the story is decent enough for an action game, but it just feels like you've played the game before. Most people are claiming it nothing but a God of War clone and I can easily see where those claims have their merit. When you play through the game it will feel much like the previously named title, only your traversing hell instead of Greece, using a scythe instead of swords attached to chains, and trying to get your wife's soul back and redeem yourself rather than just taking out your rage on anyone and everyone nearby. Now then enough for a summary let us get down to the details.

First let us hit the big elephant in the room, the story. This game is as I said before, very loosely based on the divine comedy, so I recommend against expecting such when you play this. The story follows Dante, who is a veteran during the third run of the Holy Crusades. Storming the city of acre with his fellow troops believing their war in the name of god and under the righteousness of the divine being himself, find soon the bishop has betrayed their thoughts. Dante when stabbed by an enemy soldier is confronted by Death. Now I am going to pause this review right here and run that by you once more, the grim reaper shows up in this game. The grim reaper informs Dante of the bishop's betrayal in his lies, which the suffering now falls on Dante for the sins he has committed. Dante being righteous and of pure heart decides he will not give in to let himself and his loved ones suffer from his mistakes. (That and well what video game wants to kill off the main character less than ten minutes into its story?) After a rather well done boss fight with the reaper, you steal his scythe as a war trophy, making Death himself your first victim with it. After receiving the trophy Dante decides to make his way home and use his new found knowledge to try and live a pure life with his wife Beatrice Portinari. Someone has other plans, however, as he returns to find his wife murdered with Lucifer pulling her soul into hell. You find out that apparently if Lucifer weds a heaven bound soul he is allowed to escape from hell to make another attempt to overthrow and take the Throne of God. This is what fuels Dante's journey into the abyss and nine circles to find his wife's spirit and to kick the ever living hell out of Lucifer for stealing her soul. Dante travels through the nine circles of hell, facing their respective tortured souls as well as themed bosses. The final circle is your goal, for in that you traverse the ice lake Cocytus to face the devil himself.



Photo credited to: gamespy.com

The graphics are on par for a game of this day and age. It is a well done art style that brings out the dark nature of the game with its design. It wasn't trying to be light-hearted, and often enough you see that in the various levels. The M rating certainly gets placed on here by a great amount. The gore is there and plenty to be shown. The attacks that Dante delivers are presented without a frame-rate issue, as well as seeming to be fluid in how they were designed. Nothing seems to jump out at you like it was meant to be done another way or it should have been otherwise. The enemies are typical for the most part, each themed to their circle, but it feels like the enemies were redone with different schemes and sent at you in the different circles. Enemies I defeat on one circle, can easily be beaten with that

Mass Effect 2

Zachary Baab
Staff Writer

I have gotten Mass Effect 2 upon its release. The play is similar to the first Mass Effect. It is a fun game if you liked the original. There are good things and bad things that come from this game.

Lets start with the pro. It is a very fun RPG based FPS, which is rare. It also adds a new hacking system. This is both good and bad. It is irritating and easily failed, but it brings a new way to hack a circuit board. It is more authentic, because it make the player 'connect the dots' to create back doors in the circuit.

Another good thing is the story. It takes place after the first, with a big twist at the beginning. This allows new characters to be introduced. Don't worry, all the old characters are still there, though only a handful are used while others are cameos. You can end up losing some story if you make your party members mad at you. As usual, you can make your character a male or female. There is also an option to import your character from the first Mass Effect.

The music and graphics are amazing, even if a little repetitive. The graphics are beautiful on some of the planets, this helps draw you in even more. The music is different and yet exciting on different planets. There is even an option to change what style of music you want in the

same combo or move in later circles when I encounter a different look on them. While the graphics seem well done enough, much like the game play aspect of it I am about to speak on it all looks familiar to the HD fix that God of War 1 & 2 received when they were put on the collector's edition for the PS3. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but so far this game is feeling like a god of war repainting that anything else. (If it isn't broken, don't fix it as I've always said though.)

The game-play is where I have to throw all defenses for this game out the window when it comes to being like god of war. The hack and slashing is there, the camera-view is there. The way the moves are presented is flashy in the exact same ways god of war did. This combat was pretty much ripped from the previous title and given a



Photo credited to: www.techshout.com/

background while you have your character in his/her room.

Now it's time for the con. There are still glitches. You can talk to a person and the program will reply that you are talking, though nothing is happening. This, I found, can only be corrected by leaving the planet or doing a mission and coming back later. Another glitch is while talking to someone, your character could still be moving if it's not a cut-scene. Some of the computer AI are dumb while others are smart. It is annoying to be killing the dumb and one of these random smart AI enemies comes and kills you.

Overall, I enjoyed this game, even if it had its problems. It is a fun game in the line of BioWare games. I give this game 8 out of 10. If it remains this good, I will definitely get Mass Effect 3.

new paint job for this game. Like I said before, the only difference is you use a scythe (which can change to do longer ranged attacks as show when you fight and do certain moves) in order to make up for the initial lack of range it has. In god of war your quick time events were set for killing specific enemies or to go to the next stage of the level/fight. In Dante's Inferno, your quick time events happen on most enemies to let you Punish or Absolve your enemies. Depending on which you do, the orbs for experience will be red for unholy (punish) or blue for holy (absolve). Gaining experience levels up the respective tree allowing you to spend souls that are specifically for currency in order to learn the new moves of the skill tree unlocked. The Unholy path mainly deals with the scythe and its combat maneuvers, while the holy path lets you use a holy cross like magic as a weapon. The upgrades on the holy path unlock upgrades and new moves to use for the cross weapon instead of the scythe. Punishing or Absolving a boss, like in most games grants a lot of experience for purchasing and unlocking the moves on whichever side you happen to choose. The cross and scythe both are effective weapons, so you are far from left with the felling your being punished for picking one path over the other. Platforming is also a key element in the game, with some puzzle solving thrown in for the adventure portion of the game.

Swinging from ropes, wall climbing, and environment based puzzles lend their hand to the game in order to bring a sense of the platforming in the adventure. Numerous hidden passages also exist for Dante to explore with biblical relics as rewards which are used to upgrade certain abilities for Dante.

Overall the game is decent which is about all I can say for it. It has average good game-play but anyone who's played most actions games has seen the interface and play format a hundred times before. The story is above average, but the name placed on the game seems to make it nothing in relation to the source material that they based the game from. While I can say this game was interesting to play, it was far from capturing my want to buy the game and spend the full asking price. However if you have a subscription to Gamefly or rent games, or need a god of war style game to play until God of War 3 hits shelves next month, then feel free to pick up a copy and enjoy. The game gets a 7/10, while the game plays properly and is overall a good game, it just seems to fall on some of its aspects in that it felt like it was either copied or not heavily worked on.

Top Picks For Spring

Janet Sandema
Staff Writer

After consulting with other students in Fashion Design I put together my choices of the top 10 things to wear this spring.

10.Stripes

Both bold as well as subtle stripes will work remember to always wear vertical stripes if you want to look slimmer.

9.Basket woven handbags and totes

Basket woven bags are a great casual every day look and usually are made large enough to hold all your stuff.

8.Floral jewelry

Chunky floral jewelry is nice when piling on a bunch of bracelets just do not over accessorize by piling on rings and/or necklaces as well. Less is more!

7.Wedge heels

You do not necessarily need to wear the usual basket weave wedges. Abstract wedge heels that have funky designs such as a space left open in the heel design or a space with funky shapes within it are a great way to freshen up your look.

6.Rompers

If you can pull off wearing shorts, rompers are comfortable and cute paired with heels or sandals

5.Faded Denim

Pants and jackets in both faded black and blue denim are light enough to go with the season's trends

4.Pastels

Peaches, sky blues, yellows, basically all pastels are great for both men and women.

3.Floral Dresses

Floral dresses are always a given for spring time but you could also have them in black and white or military colors which as I mentioned are really hot this season.

2.Bold Prints

Safari prints and military style prints are hot this season and especially great if you prefer wearing earth tones.

1.Ruffle Tops

Ruffles make any outfit you wear fun, flirty and feminine.