



THE STING



www.spsu.edu/thesting

2011, Issue 6, September

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Marietta, Georgia

Chambliss, Isakson hold town hall meetings

By Elizabeth Smith

On Saturday, August 20, Georgia Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson (both Republicans) came to my hometown of Ellijay, Georgia for a “town hall meeting.”

This was their fourth stop in seven days, and the meeting wasn’t really a speech or lecture—it was designed so anyone in attendance could ask questions.

To begin, the senators gave some opening remarks. Generally, the senators have similar opinions on the issues but spoke on different matters.

Isakson commented that federal spending needs to be tighter. He said we need to fix Social Security now for future generations, and we also need tax reform.

Both senators referenced the Fair Tax, which was a hot issue throughout the morning. If you don’t know what Fair Tax is, you should look it up. Both senators endorse the Fair Tax.

Chambliss began by saying that throughout these town hall meetings, they have learned exactly what is on the hearts on Georgians—jobs.

He said there are no easy solutions to any of the problems we face, but we need to put people back to work and make sure that people graduating from institutes of higher learning will have jobs (Amen!)

To combat the \$14.5 trillion American debt, Chambliss proposed we 1) stop spending in Washington; 2) reform Social Security

and Medicare for future generations; and 3) reform the complex tax code.

In the question and answer session, things got pretty heated at times. Americans are angrier than ever at how things are being done in the government and what’s worse, the government doesn’t seem to be hearing our cries.

One person noted that “[The problems] have been magnified by [the Obama] administration but have been created by both parties.”

Chambliss agreed by saying, “Both parties are guilty of spending more than we have.”

Many people lined

up to ask questions, and the senators did their best to answer as many questions as possible.

In the end, this was an eye-opening experience for me. I got to see how many people are

unhappy with our big government, and also how many people just don’t care.

At this meeting, I was the only young person in the room (I’m 21). All other people were 40 or older, and most were 60 or older. All the people asking questions were in their 60s!

For the sake of this country, I hope more young people will take an educated interest in politics, and it’s easy to start by attending free meetings like this.

Senator Saxby Chambliss

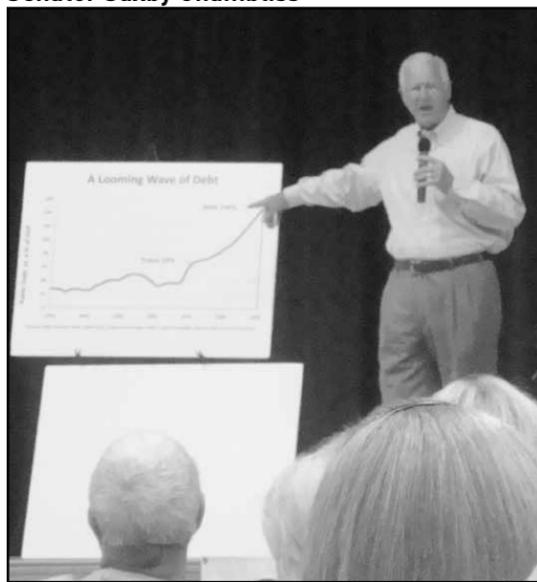


Photo by Elizabeth Smith

SPSU student is Gates Millennium Scholar

By Elizabeth Smith

SPSU freshman Erick Rodriguez was recently awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. The Gates Scholarship was only awarded to 1,000 out of 24,000 applicants this year.

Rodriguez comes to SPSU from Lithia Springs High School, where he won four other scholarships his senior year totaling \$2,300.

The Gates Scholarship, however, goes above and beyond a dollar amount. According to the Gates Millennium Scholars’ website, the award is more than just a scholarship. It’s a program that can change a student’s life. The amount of money received is based on the cost of tuition, fees, books and living expenses at the school of the student’s choice. The scholarship will even continue to pay for some costs through graduate school.

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to be eligible for the scholarship students must have a high school GPA of at least 3.3, demonstrate leadership abilities and community

service, and meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria.

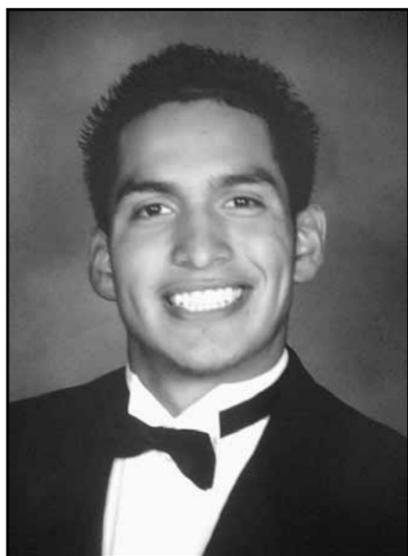


Photo Contributed

The GPA was no problem for Rodriguez—he came out of high school with a 3.96 GPA.

Rodriguez managed to balance

his high school career by participating in many different activities. He played soccer all four years, and also ran cross country and played football. Academically, he was active in the BETA Club, DECA, National Honor Society and Freshman Honor Society.

He says he eventually plans to join some SPSU team or club, and he enjoys swimming and lifting weights in the Wellness Center. He also says he is thinking about joining a fraternity.

Currently, Rodriguez’s SPSU major is mechanical engineering, but he is interested in Georgia Tech’s aerospace engineering program.

According to Rodriguez, winning the scholarship meant the world to him. “I felt relieved and proud that the four years I dedicated to studying with a purpose in high school paid off. The scholarship not only affected me, but my family.”

Rodriguez is the second SPSU student to have this honor, alongside architecture student Jasmine Copeland.

September is National Be Kind to Writers and Editors Month

SPSU is best buy

By Elizabeth Smith

Magazine names SPSU “Best Buy.” For the third year in a row, James Magazine’s annual column “Best Colleges & Universities in Georgia” has put SPSU in a top spot.

The ratings are based on a review of national and regional rankings, as well as consultations with education and business leaders statewide. The publication looks at various principles such as standardized-test scores, career placement after graduation and more.

James Magazine said that SPSU’s “academic excellence is grounded in an application-oriented teaching philosophy that makes for a real-work curriculum that is invaluable to students seeking a rewarding professional career.” They also added that “all faculty must have relevant work experience.”

The magazine also ranked SPSU as one of the state’s five “Best Buys” in higher education.

Section	Page
News	1-2
Events	3
Reviews	4
Features	5-10
Organizations	11
Sports	12

JOB FRONT NEWS

Victoria Allen continues her series and tells us about elance.com.

Page 2

9/11 TRIBUTE

Robert Barnard interviewed you about your remembrances. Syed Ali tells us what it’s like to be a Muslim in America.

Page 5

SCIENCE LAB VESPA

Daniel DeBusk explains about Curiosity, the new Science Laboratory expected to land on Mars in August 2012.

Page 10

SPORTS

Fall Soccer and women’s basketball schedules. We need you to write about sports for “The Sting.”

Page 12

Hey, what's that?

By Judy Garrard

This is called a QR code which stands for Quick Response code. They are used because they can be read quickly by the device and they can store a large amount of data.

They are most often generated for people to scan with their smart phones. If you have a smart phone, you will need to download an application in order to read it. After you do, you'll notice these codes are popping up everywhere and can often contain very useful information.

The QR code you see on the right will lead you to the web page for "The Sting" on Southern Poly's website. You will find all sorts of useful information such as:

- Publication schedule
- Article due dates
- Kickoff meeting dates
- Articles that we need you to write
- Pdfs of prior editions of "The Sting"

I do hope that you will take a minute to use the QR code and visit our webpage.



Due to delay in launch date of SPSU's new polytechnic journal, the corresponding article will be in the October issue.

Elance.com Working for yourself

By Victoria Allen

Being an entrepreneur and working for yourself can be a difficult task. One must be self-motivated, self-driven, and determined to be successful at all things. I have seen many individuals who are self-employed, financially independent, and on the fast track to a successful future. I discovered this website, Elance.com, while researching for my previous article on Simplyhired.com.

Elance.com is a good website reference for the self-motivated, determined, driven individual looking to find new companies to work for, short and long term employment, or starting out for the first time as an independent employer.

Elance.com is a site that covers a wide variety of technical jobs in a specific work category. On this site, you will only find jobs that are focused on Web & Programming, Writing & Translation, Design & Multimedia, Sales & Marketing, Admin Support, Engineering & Manufacturing, Finance & Management, and Legal job affiliations.

You will not only find freelance jobs in these areas, but you can also advertise jobs through this website if you have your own company and are looking for freelance individuals who work for themselves. Finding employers who need your help has one simple requirement, a free membership.

This is a site that wants to help new and returning freelance employees find and win a bid for a job that he or she has experience completing. This is the reason Elance.com requires a free membership. The free membership also allows Elance the opportunity to help you search and apply for jobs that you feel you qualify for.

Within the free membership, you are allowed to create a profile

that displays your level of experience and you are encouraged to post a portfolio that shows the companies some of your work. Instead of just posting a resume you can include images and links to some of the things you have created either for yourself or others.

Before creating a membership, you can preview the jobs that Elance has to offer by scrolling to the bottom of the home page. All you have to do is click on the job title to see a description of the jobs being offered. To read more information of each individual job, click on the words of the description and it will open completely. To see the actual listing of the job, just click on the job title and it will open up a new page. This option will give you all the information that you need to know about a specific job before you ever sign-up for a membership.

In order to apply for the job, you will be required to apply for, at least, a free membership and then be allowed the opportunity to include your resume and portfolio information. After you have enrolled in the site, then you can start bidding on the jobs.

Bidding on a contract for a job on Elance is based on the users experience level, speed of getting the job done in a reasonable time frame, and the lowest bid. If you can master all of these options when bidding for a job, you will begin to build your clientele and get your foot in the door with the experts in the field. Getting the bid will be purely based on what the client wants and how much they will be willing to pay for the best quality of work. Your membership will determine how many jobs you can apply for and more specific details on your marketplace and workplace options.

With a free Basic Membership, the individual will be allowed a limited set of options. For starters, a basic member can make a proposal for at least ten clients, include five keywords for the job description, create a portfolio, allotted 500 MB of storage space for documents and files, have access to automated billing, time, and milestone tracking, and one free wire transfer a month.

An Individual Membership allows the member to make up to 25 proposals a month, use ten keywords, a usable portfolio, add to the proposal quota, add more than one job search category, has the option of preferred placement in the search results, receive 500 MB of storage space, has access to automated billing, time, and milestone tracking, one free wire transfer a month, and charges a \$10 monthly fee for using the advance features.

As for the Small and Large Business Memberships, everything is the same except you can propose a bid to more clients, add more keywords for search results, get more storage space and pay a slightly higher monthly fee. The added benefits are reasonable and well worth the extra money as long as you are getting the jobs you want. Elance keeps its members well informed on the latest news updates to the site and jobs being advertised on a daily basis.

To access this website, go to www.elance.com.

Working for yourself and taking your level of experience to the height of unbelievable expectations comes with having drive, determination and motivation. Achieving the greatest benefits from being an entrepreneur will help your level of expertise and development soar beyond the sound barrier.

Happy Career Hunting!

The Sting Staff

Executive & Layout Editor: Judy Garrard
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Letters to the editor may be brought to our office (slid under the door) in the student center, emailed to sting@spsu.edu, or mailed to:
 Editor, The Sting
 Southern Polytechnic State University
 1100 South Marietta Parkway
 Marietta, GA 30060-2896
 Letter must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editor.

Contact 678-915-7310 to advertise or for other information.

October issue articles are due
 Wednesday, October 28, 2011

Some topics that will be included in the **October edition** of "The Sting":

- **Dragon*Con**
- **Parking**
- **Student profile** (see page 10 for more info)

Did you attend Dragon*Con? Please write an article about your experience. Did you take photos? We need those, too.

Do you love or hate parking at SPSU? Tell us about it.

Please submit to sting@spsu.edu

International film series

- Where:** Student Center Theater
Time: 6 p.m. (Last Tuesday of the month)
Admission: FREE
- Sep. 27: Tears of Womanhood (Ghana)
 - Oct. 25: Lysistrata (Classical Greece)
 - Nov. 29: Repentance (Russia)
 - Jan. 31: Cape No. 7 (Taiwan)
 - Feb. 28: La historia oficial (Argentina)
 - Mar. 27: Bienvenue chez les ch'tis (France)

Atlanta's Gay Pride festival October 7 – 9, 2011

By: Shannon Hames

Fall is coming and with it brings Atlanta's Gay Pride Festival, a three-day event that draws over 200,000 people to downtown Atlanta. The Pride celebration weekend, which coincides with National Coming Out Weekend, kicks off with a commitment ceremony at the W Hotel in Midtown on Thursday, October 6.

Other events in store are a kickoff party at the Georgia Aquarium on Friday, October 7, a family event at the playground in Piedmont Park, several parades including the massive Pride parade on Sunday the 9th as well as dance parties, a cabaret and a human-rights exhibit.

Pride began in Atlanta in 1970 on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City with a few activists handing out literature in Piedmont Park. The following year, the Georgia Gay Liberation Front held a march in Atlanta to commemorate the Stonewall event that was the first Gay Pride Parade in Georgia. The Pride events have continued to draw steadily each year as more and more people come to participate. This year will be the 41st Pride Festival in Atlanta.

I spoke with James Parker Sheffield, Executive Director of

Atlanta Pride, about this year's Pride Festival.

Shannon: What about the Atlanta Pride Festival would be of interest to the students and faculty of Southern Polytechnic State University?

James: *Pride is an all-ages event. We try to make everything accessible to everyone.*

We have a multitude of vendors that offer a variety of different things. All of our programming is all ages.

I also want to add that for college student groups in particular, we have some good opportunities at Pride. We have both fundraising opportunities and also resume-building volunteer opportunities. For the student groups (non-profits), we have a program called "Festival Donations" where they walk around with donation buckets at the festival to collect money from the patrons. Whatever they raise, we will write them a check for half of that. We've had student groups who have come down, had fun and a lot of interaction and end up making up

to \$1500 or more. It's fun and easy and a way to mobilize your group to work together and become a strong team. It doesn't have to be a LGBT organization—it can be any type of student organization.

The other opportunity that we have for students is volunteering. Regardless of what your degree



Photo Courtesy of Pride Atlanta/Stan Fong

path is, we have something for everyone. It's hands-on experience, you work with professionals and you can build your resume and learn new things. The network[ing] opportunities are also great. We have a link to our volunteer applications on every page of our website at <http://www.atlantapride.org>.

Shannon: For people who just want to attend the festival, whether they are part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community or they are straight allies, what will be the event highlights of the festival this year?

James: *Our entertainment is always fantastic. We don't have a Lady Gaga budget, but the people who do entertain are wonderful performers. It's quality stuff. The parade is enormous. If you've never done one, it's spectacular to see that many people all united under one umbrella. We also have a Human Rights exhibit so if you're the academic type who likes to learn and get the community education angle, the human rights exhibit is a strong highlight. This year, it will center around health issues and HIV/AIDS considering this is the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the epidemic.*

Shannon: I know the main parade (on Sunday, October 9) is massive; however, there are some

smaller parades, too, right?

James: *Yes, there is a "Dyke March" for the lesbians on Saturday and a Trans March for Transgendered individuals that is also on Saturday. (Parade routes and times can be found at <http://www.atlantapride.org>).*

For people who have never been to Pride before, whether they are newly out or new to the area or they are just straight allies, we love to have everyone. Everybody is welcome. Everyone should do it at least once because it's really eye-opening in terms of seeing the magnitude of the LGBT community. It surprises people sometimes when they see how big the whole thing really is. Everybody is welcome; you do not have to be L, G, B or T.

For more information about Atlanta's Pride Festival, you can visit their website at <http://www.atlantapride.org>. If you can't attend Pride weekend but want to show or receive support, Southern Poly has a Gay-Lesbian-Straight Alliance group (GLSA) that meets each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Room A-215 in the Student Center. All LGBT students and straight allies are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Georgia Game Jam event to be held at SPSU September 23 – 25

By Elizabeth Smith

This year, SPSU is hosting the Georgia Game Jam, which will take place on the weekend of September 23 – 25.

In fall 2010, there were about 60 participants with 11 games created. In spring 2011, the event grew to about 150 participants and the result was 20 games.

The Game Jam is an exciting chance to create your own game in one weekend. If you are interested in creating your own game, working on a team, or even meeting new people, then Game Jam is for you.

Game Jam will commence Friday at 5 p.m. in J-202. Here, teams will be formed and the rules will be given. In this room, teams can create their games and even eat and sleep there. Each team will have until 4 p.m. on Sunday to create their game. The local judges will play all the games and at 4 p.m., each team will present their game to all participants. Participants are allowed to come and go during

the 48-hour period.

There will be many computer programs and consoles for team members to use to create their games.

Prizes and raffle items will be given away from sponsors and all finished games will be archived onto the Game Jam website for all to play. Some games may also be showcased at the SEIGE conference in Atlanta in October.

To register, send your name and other contact info (email, phone number, etc.) to Jon Preston (jpreston@spsu.edu) with the subject "Game Jam Registration." **Registration is \$25 payable early or at the door.** Since space is limited, participants are accepted first-come-first-served when registration fee is paid. Participants will get food, snacks and more.

For more information, email Jon Preston or visit <http://games.spsu.edu/gamejam/>.



Ever wonder if the Bible is still relevant today?

Join us as we discuss current events from a biblical perspective. Great coffee and conversation guaranteed!

THE
WORD
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First Presbyterian Church Marietta

Call with any questions: 770.427.0293 FPCMarietta.org

Starts September **25th**

Church van pick-up service available:

- 9:35 a.m., P12 parking lot near the Commons 100 building
Look for the First Presbyterian Church Van

The morning includes:

- free coffee at Cool Beans on Marietta Square
- your choice, contemporary or traditional church service
- home cooked meal at church member's house after service
- a ride back to campus

Welcome to the zombie apocalypse

By Cherise Randle

Post-apocalyptic zombies have been an important part of American popular culture since the late 1960s. Zombies have spawned movies, novels, comic books, television shows, audio dramas, video games, and online games. One of the more recent zombie online games is *Zombie Pandemic*, a PBBM-MORPG increasing in popularity; that stands for persistent browser based, massively multiplayer online, role-playing game.

It is estimated by *Zombie Pandemic* developers that the game could take months if not years to complete and that is especially because the developers could add new missions and content whenever they want. *Zombie Pandemic* is a role-playing game because it includes important facets such as character levels, a skill development systems and much more.

Zombie Pandemic is a massively multiplayer game because it allows players to interact with a large community of other players, and allows the creation and joining of clans. It is also primarily a text based game as there are no animated scenes or simulations. Players will enjoy the horror/survival element of *Zombie Pandemic*, and finally get to participate in a zombie apocalypse.

Like all role-playing games, *Zombie Pandemic* starts with character creation. You choose your sex, race and name. You wake to your first mission. The world you used to know has crumbled and all that stands is ash and dead bodies. Players get a note that says to travel to the nearest university. *Zombie Pandemic* uses a map system to help players navigate the city.

You can use the map as your

traveling method, and it especially comes in handy during fast travel, but if you want to really see what's going on in the city, use the location tab for travel. Using the locations tab to travel allows you to scavenge through garbage cans, vehicles, buildings and dead bodies.

In the locations tab you will get a visual picture of the city. The streets are full of piles of bricks and debris. Dead bodies lie every where. The streets are blocked by unusable cars, and most of the buildings are completely charred.

Most of what you scavenge will be useless. Items such as cardboard boxes, rocks, and empty bottles should be left where they are. But many items that seem useless such as a cotton sweater will sell for quite a bit at a local store.

Pick up as many items as you can carry. You will need the money because you will need the bullets. Don't forget, this is a zombie apocalypse after all. One great thing about *Zombie Pandemic* is that you won't need Facebook credits or real cash. Most of the important items in *Zombie Pandemic* are bought in game.

Scavenging in *Zombie Pandemic* is important for another reason—the clothing you scavenge can be used as armor. For example, if you find a leather jacket and put it on, your armor value will increase by four points and your encumbrance increases by two points. When you find a piece of clothing that increases your armor value more than the last one, don't throw the last one away! Sell it at any of the local stores.

Zombie Pandemic comes with a leveling up system that happens when you get enough experience

points. You gain experience points by defeating zombies in battle, completing missions, and more. Once you get enough experience points and reach a new level, you get a certain amount of points to assign to your stats and skills. Pay close attention to which of these skills needed most in missions. If you don't have enough of that skill, you may fail the mission.

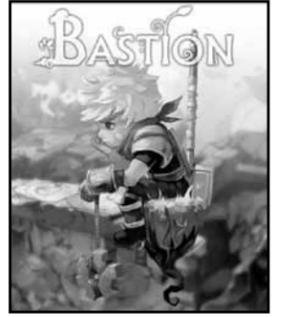
Battling zombies is turn based. This means you attack your enemy, and then wait for him to attack you. You can use any weapon from a lead pipe to a machine gun. You have the choice of either running away (if your flee percentage is high enough) or fighting. If you have enough skill, press the attack button after specifying how many times you want to repeat that action. In battle, you're able to see your enemy's stats. If yours are higher than his, you have a higher chance of winning. You will fight all sorts of enemies including humans, vicious dogs, infected bats, and of course zombies.

Zombie Pandemic is one of the best browser based role-playing games I have ever played. There is no downloading, no loading screens, and no subscriptions. You can play *Zombie Pandemic* for free without it slowing down your PC. You'll enjoy this RPG for years especially with the added up grades since *Zombie Pandemic* is still in beta mode. It is also a game you could play over a number of hours that won't distract you during homework. *Zombie Pandemic* is a great MMO for those who love RPGs. Play *Zombie Pandemic* at www.zombiepandemic.com. Happy zombie hunting!

From the game lab

Bastion

By Jared Sanchez



When you wake up in the morning what would you see? Would you see that you slept late and urgently rush so you can make it to your 8 a.m. class that day or would you find your whole world shattered and broken by a catastrophic event? If it was the latter then you, my friend, are the protagonist of Super Giant Games latest game *Bastion*. *Bastion* is a traditional action-adventure RPG and is available for PC and XBLA.

In the game you assume the role of "The Kid" who wakes up on a small floating remnant of the world, the cause of this is the event solemnly called "The Calamity." As the Kid you must navigate the shattered world to rebuild it by repairing the Bastion, a haven that exists for events like this. To do this you must brave several dungeon-like levels fighting a plethora of monsters using a variety of unlockable weapons and techniques to obtain cores.

The first thing you will notice is how absolutely gorgeous this game's art direction is as a whole. Every level is a like an oil painting, filled with vivid colors with plenty of detail and a unique style. The game is filled with 40 vibrant environments that makes even traversing the landscape is a treat. Speaking of traversing the landscape; with the world being broken to pieces, all that is left are floating islands and as you move the ground comes up under you like stepping stones and I enjoyed seeing the path form itself as I made my way through the game.

The level wasn't the only thing being created as I progressed either. The game touts something called "dynamic narration" which you experience from the very start. As you play, the story is being told by a man with a deep southern drawl (voiced by Logan Cunningham) who will narrate on nearly everything you do or even DON'T do.

I remember an instance where I wasn't particularly doing anything crucial to the story and was just smashing boxes with my hammer and the narrator chimes in with "...and the Kid just rages for awhile..." which I found interesting and even more engaging whenever I encounter many more instances of that throughout the game.

With its distinct art style and rich narration, the soundtrack is perhaps one of the best and original videogame music I have heard in ages. The soundtrack maintains the context of the narration and art style by offering a series of acoustic westernesque scores that complement the levels perfectly. I have spent moments in-game just sitting there listening to the music.

The levels themselves are varied and unique even while still conforming to the art direction and are filled with a swath of unique and dangerous monsters that you will fight. The combat fits that traditional 2d hack'n'slash as you will be fighting large groups of enemies at one time.

Continued on page 5

Two times The Help

By Judy Garrard

The book

I heard about "The Help" on "The Nate Berkus Show" in May. He is one of the producers and was interviewing two of the stars: Allison Janney and Octavia Spencer (who is now 100 pounds lighter than in the movie). The movie wouldn't be out until August, but it was a book first, and I couldn't wait.

Kathryn Stockett wrote "The Help" in 2009 and it became a New York Times best seller. It's her first novel and has already been made into a major motion picture. How impressive. And she's an Atlanta transplant—love to hear about people who live here having such success.

At first I worried about the 450 pages, but it's one of those books that's hard to put down. It is, however, a very different style, and every now and then, I would have to stop and say, "Who's saying this?" Most novels I've read have been told from one person's perspective or by a narrator, but every couple of chapters Stockett changes the voice.

Stockett does an exceptional job with describing how people look, what they are doing, how they are feeling—and she does this with fewer words than most writers. She really has a handle on getting to the point. For example: "But he's so old he's bent up like a paper clip. Skinny as one too." I can definitely visualize him, can't you?

The story begins by introducing us to a couple of black maids that are working for white families in the early 1960s of rural Mississippi. Stockett also introduces us to Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan who wants to be a writer. Skeeter receives some encouragement from a New York editor and starts writing a book about these maids.

The book is almost as if the story is being told twice at the same time. First, we are reading a book where we learn about each of the characters and second, the Skeeter character is writing a book about these very same characters, so it's a book within a book. Sort of like looking at yourself in a mirror with a mirror behind you so that you see yourself more than once.

The book is a feel-good story. There's even a little romance mixed in. Skeeter is writing the book to introduce people to the lives that these maids are living. She's not really doing it to change anything, but things do change. More than anything, these main characters learn about each other and how despite their differences, they are all just people.

I really enjoyed this book. Even though it was long, it felt like it ended quickly. And although you're not left hanging, there is still room for a sequel if Stockett should be so inclined.

The movie

I do not think that anyone that read the book would be disappointed in the movie—it is very similar to the book. For the sake of time, some parts had to be told a bit out of order and some parts had to be left out, but it worked.

As with every movie ever made from a book, some parts of the story are slightly different—this was probably for the sake of time. The movie was 150 minutes long, so imagine how long it would have to be if everything had been verbatim.

Many times, the movie characters are not what I imagine, but if what I was imagining was any different, it went right out the movie theater door. I thought the actors were good representations of how they had been described in the book.

Both Sissy Spacek (Mrs. Walters) and Cicely Tyson (Constantine) are always versatile and very capable of transforming themselves into their roles. As for the remaining cast, I really wasn't familiar with most of them, so I had no preconceived notion about the type of characters they could play.

Octavia Spencer (Minnie Jackson), Viola Davis (Aibileen Clark) and Emma Stone (Skeeter) play the main characters. Other than Skeeter's hair not being quite as awful as described—honestly, I don't think

anybody's hair could be that awful—she was quite realistic.

A change was made to the character of Rachel (Constantine's daughter) that was significant. It would ruin it for you if I told you how, but I found the movie version to be more believable.

The set and costume designers did a fabulous job. Although the setting took place slightly before my time and in more affluence than I know anything about, it looked like the 60s to me.

The only thing I had a real problem with was Skeeter using a liquid correction product to correct a mistake as she was typing. My research shows that this product was invented in the late 50s, but was sold directly from the inventor's kitchen in Texas before being commercially available many years later. I doubt it would have been available in rural Mississippi at that time.

Because the movie was so similar to the book, I found that my mind filled in the parts that were left out, so I'm rating them together. As a pair, I give both thumbs up—the book and movie definitely complement each other. I also think that most people would enjoy the movie by itself and would not find it lacking in any way.

Muslims in America

By Syed A. Ali

There is a lot of animosity towards Muslims these days. Many people fail to recognize this fact but the truth is less than 30 percent of all Americans hold a favorable view of Muslims. A woman dressed in Muslim garb is seen as something completely out of the ordinary. She gets dirty looks or is stared at. She is not seen as unique or individualistic; instead she is oppressed or radical. This is very far from the truth.

The reality is that no one can force a woman in America to cover herself. Women in America are truly free and that is an absolutely great thing. They do not mind standing out and they certainly do not mind having their voices heard because they are confident individuals.

But what is the opinion of a Muslim woman who covers her hair and the rest of her body except her face? That is not seen as a woman who is willing to stand out or be unique. In fact, it's a cause for concern. Most people fear what they do not understand and most people do not understand why any woman would choose to completely cover

herself even in hot weather or in non-muslim environments.

In the Muslim religion most women do Hijab which is the covering of hair and wearing modest clothes that cover the rest of their bodies except the face. A smaller percentage of Muslim women choose to do Niqab which is completely covering their entire bodies except for their eyes.

Why would any woman do such a thing? Hebah Ahmed, who has appeared on CNN to discuss women in Islam, says that she chooses to do Niqab because "I want people to know that when I choose to cover this way, it is because I am fighting against a systematic oppression against women in which women's bodies are being sexualized and objectified." This should put to rest any doubts that people have about Muslim women being oppressed.

In fact, it is clear that they are fighting a different type of oppression against women and do not want to be judged based solely on looks. How would you feel about a

man with Middle Eastern features and a long beard at the airport? Most people would feel afraid. But should they be? Is the word "terrorist" defined by how a man looks or if his name has Arabic roots and not by his intentions to cause harm to others? So where exactly do people get these views? Most people would answer 9/11 as the cause for the profiling against Muslims.

However, is it fair that because of 9/11 every Muslim in the world should be thought of as guilty until proven innocent? The truth is that very few Muslims hold extremist views or anti-American sentiment. In fact, less than one percent of all of the Muslims in the world are extremists. There are almost two billion Muslims in the world and 1.8 million are in America. They lead normal lives and are good citizens.

So where does all the hatred really come from? The media has contributed greatly to this anti-Muslim movement by finding every single story of any Muslim suspected of terrorism and blowing it up. Normal Muslims who

are trying to have a positive impact hardly ever make the news. Having a normal person on television or doing a story on a Muslim who is not suspected of terrorism makes for a very boring story.

Who would want to hear about a man who is just trying to raise a family and pay his bills? In this economic climate, that is exactly what most Muslim Americans are trying to do. America faces some tough problems but how are we supposed to face them when most of the American public is focused on "The War on Terror."

It is interesting how hate speech is prevented among Muslims while hatred against Muslims is fully sanctioned by the media. The news has started to provide more selective, biased and corporatized coverage instead of real investigative journalism. Muslims and violence seem to go hand in hand on the news but is that the truth? New data from Gallup, a polling firm, shows that out of all the religious groups in the U.S., Muslims are most likely to reject violence fol-

lowed by the non-religious atheists and agnostics.

Through interviews, Gallup found that 78 percent of Muslims believe that violence which kills civilians is never justified, whereas just 38 percent of Protestant Christians and 39 percent of Catholics agreed with that sentiment. This poll was done to measure religious attitudes toward violence 10 years after the 9/11 attacks. In the same poll 92 percent of Muslims said that they did not believe any Muslim in their community sympathized with Al Qaeda. This is not to say that terrorism has been eradicated and is no longer a problem.

There are many problems that this country faces but the greatest thing about America is that we have a very diverse group of people who can come together and solve every crisis that comes before us. But to move forward and have a bright future we have to come together and accept our differences and stand up for what is right.

Remembering 9/11 ten years later

By Robert Barnard

I strongly remember the day the United States changed forever. It was September 11, 2001. I recently had the pleasure of interviewing some current students and faculty of Southern Polytechnic State University. You may or may not share the same feelings as some of them.

Courtney Arnold, 28, a sophomore at SPSU said, "I was in Marine Corps boot camp when I learned of the attacks on September 11th. At first I didn't believe it had happened." When asked how it made him feel he responded by saying "I felt bad for the spectators in New York and for the families of the victims around the country."

As the tenth anniversary of this terrible disaster approaches, Courtney said, "I feel that it is a constant reminder for us to not be complacent. We can be attacked anywhere at any time." When I asked, "Now that it is ten years

later, what do you remember about the day?" He responded by saying, "I remember that I had just enlisted in the Marines and now I would be going off to war."

Tom Ryles, 35, also a sophomore said, "I was in Seattle and it was early in the morning. My dad pounded on the door and told me it was World War 3." I asked him what he felt about the attacks when he learned of them and he said "I felt surreal. It was hard to understand what was going on. It was hard to imagine an attack on America of that magnitude." Now that the tenth anniversary draws near Tom told me, "I find it hard to watch the footage from that day. It still hurts when I am reminded of that day."

To show a different aspect of the way the attacks affected people I spoke with three new freshmen: Ian Goumillot, Zach Duncan and

Eric Whalen.

Ian said, "I was in third grade at Oakhurst elementary school. I was really confused and worried because a lot of children in my class got checked out of school by their parents."

Zach said, "It still makes me angry and upset. We have a little closure due to the death of Osama Bin Laden."

Eric told me that he remembers that he was in Smokerise elementary school sitting in music class when his mother came and got him and his brother out of class.

Justin Desouza-Smith, originally from Long Island, New York is a 23-year old sophomore. He said, "It was like something out of a movie. Were any of my friends and family victims of this attack?" He also said, "I feel we have closure due to the death of Bin Laden. We have shown our resiliency as

a country due to the rebuilding process at all three sights affected."

Daniel Debusk, a 31-year old junior, said, "I feel that the attacks need to be remembered to remind us that it could happen again. I also feel that it has become way too commercialized."

I wanted to not only get an American perspective, but also one from someone from another part of the world. I spoke with Zhongqui Lin, a 23-year old senior and a student from China. She said "I was at home in China. I was shocked when I saw what had happened. I had never seen that kind of destruction."

I next wanted to get the perspective from a professor. I talked with Karen Pressley in the English department. She said, "My first reaction was fear of the unknown because I had never experienced an attack before. Then I put it in God's hands."

It was a privilege to have the opportunity to speak with such a diverse group of people. I would now like to tell my story of this day.

I was in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Enterprise when I learned of the attacks. The first thing I thought was that we were no longer headed back to the United States. Later that evening I was sitting by my bed on the ship and I remember feeling a ton of mixed emotions running through me all at once. I can still remember to this day everything from the day of the attacks on our beloved country.

I feel that this is a day that will live in infamy for my generation. I want to encourage all the students and faculty to constantly remember the people that lost their lives and the families that are still coping with the loss on that tragic day.

Bastion

Continued from page 4

Any game with combat can't be without its weapons and this game sure does give you plenty to choose ranging from its trademark hammer to the more long ranged mortar, each with its own unique background story. The game gives you variety in being able to carrying two weapons and one technique out of many so you can customize to suit your style of fighting. Every weapon is customizable to have different perks and different effects which add even more depth to your arsenal.

Outside of combat the world has plenty to offer you, with several optional challenges and items to collect will either give you better techniques or just more backstory into the characters and world that once was before the Calamity. That is one thing that I really found charming about this game, it is all of the backstory that you can find in the world.

Throughout the game you will meet one-of-a-kind characters, each with their own history and relevance to the Calamity and the world itself. Learning about how the world and the people living in it once was before the event is certainly, to me, the most interesting and engaging factor that make the world seem more alive.

With all that the game has to offer, you will easily get about 7-8 hours in a single play-through; that is without the Game+ option that it offers and trust me, you will want to play the Game+. All in all *Bastion* is a great independent title that has an amazing and unique art direction, vibrant levels, a creative approach to a traditional genre, clever narration and a memorable soundtrack. 9/10.

Dr. Lisa Rossbacher pays tribute to those lost during 9/11



Photos by Elizabeth Smith



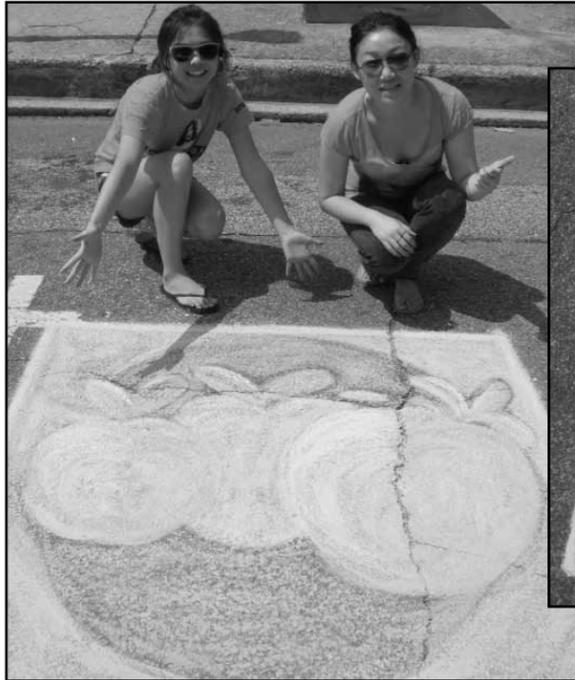
**SPSU
remembers
September 11th**

Marietta Square and SPSU

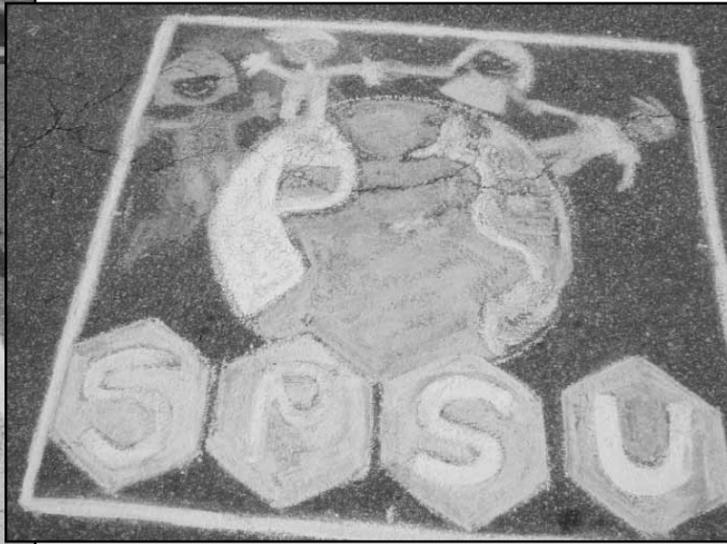
According to Donna Colebeck, ETCMA Department Instructor, several Introduction to Drawing Students participated in the inaugural Sidewalk Art Contest on the Marietta Square as part of the Labor Day Weekend Art in the Park Festival.

Every student in her class submitted drawings for a design that would fill a 4' x 4' square. Two compositions were created in chalk taking inspiration from the submitted drawings.

The photo of Quingqing (Daisy) Liu and Ruo Ma shows them with one of the finished entries which was drawn with chalk.



Quingqing (Daisy) Liu and Ruo Ma



Photos by Donna Colebeck

SPSU students take advantage of local art scene as they visit the Marietta Square area for Art Walk. The first Friday of the month event (April – October) features artists, art galleries and the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art—all with free admission.

Students in Art Appreciation courses take advantage of the evening's offerings while fulfilling course requirements to visit the local art museum.



Left to right: Kyle Daw, William Marcinieak, Michael Wall, Anthony Bilotta, Samir Jamizada, Dakota Charmichael



Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art

Students receive free admission at any time by showing their SPSU ID at The High Museum of Art. For more information on other programs with The High, contact Zvi Szafran at zszafran@spsu.edu

HIGH

The end of time: part two

By Dominic Fredo

To anyone who pays attention to the names of the authors of articles in *The Sting*, and remembers the association with the articles that certain authors have written for several months, one might look at my name and say, "Great, this guy's going to go on another soap-box rant about Harold Camping." This is false, because that article has already been run, and your humble scribe is not normally one to beat a dead horse, unless the dead horse has been very disobedient. This time around, I've done some research on everybody's favorite apocalypse since Y2K; December 21, 2012.

In case you've been living under a rock, here's the cliffnotes version of the Mayan apocalypse

theory: somebody found one of three calendars from a city in the former Mayan Empire, and after careful conversions to our Gregorian calendar, the Mayan calendar was found to restart on December 21, 2012.

This date is derived from the Mesoamerican "long count" calendar, which has a cycle of approximately 5,125 years. When the calendar cycle completes, the year starts over at zero. The long count calendar begins at the date on which the world was allegedly created, set a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away (I promise I'll stop with the hokey sci-fi jokes now) as August 11, 3114 BC. Reasoning behind why this date was chosen has been lost over the years, but probably has the same shaky underlying logic as

any attempt to assign a specific date to the beginning of time.

Another assumption involved in the theory is in the conversion from Mesoamerican long count calendar to Gregorian. If anyone remembers the rules of significant figures, then you know that there is an uncertainty involved in dealing with numbers.

According to researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the uncertainty of the conversion to Gregorian dates could be as much as 100 years off due to the conversion factor being based on the appearance of Venus in the sky. Lacking the astronomical equipment of even their European contemporaries, a meteor streaking through the atmosphere would bear enough of a similarity to Venus to

cause inaccuracies in the Dresden Codex Venus Table, a Mayan log recording the appearance of Venus that serves as the basis for the conversion factor. This potentially means the Mesoamerican calendar has already restarted, or will restart anywhere between now and 2112.

The cultural difference also affects interpretation of the end of the calendar cycle. The Mayans believed such a time was a time of festivities, like Mardi Gras, DragonCon, Carnival, Cancun during Spring Break, and even our own New Year's Eve celebrations. To blow even more holes in the credibility of the theory, even the modern descendents of the Mayans believe the 2012 apocalypse is totally bogus.

The one element of 12/21/12

(Cute, isn't it?) that actually has any kind of scientific merit is that on that day, the Earth and sun will be aligned with the center of the Milky Way. Nefarious sci-fi villains, you have a little more than one year to get your ancient death rays completed. For the inner conspiracy theorist, this galactic alignment is predicted to occur exactly at 11:11 PM Universal Time, or 6:11 PM for those of us in the Eastern Time Zone.

Finally, I'd like to leave you with something to consider: if the Mayans could predict the end of the world thousands of years before it happened, would it not stand to reason that they should have been able to predict the coming of the Spanish Armada that ultimately led to the fall of their civilization?

Our cartoonist had to move away. We are looking for a replacement and there are big shoes to fill here. If you're interested, email sting@spsu.edu.

Impaired

By Randy Brown Jr.

Still can't get past the past?
 Hysterical how our complex minds can't outlast
 all that transpired before today.
 Thoughts turn into caviar,
 feasted upon by the Watchers of nightmares.
 The will to be is confiscated by the seal to be
 all that others desired to see.
 Your potential,
 now useless remains thrown out at sea.
 Not even creatures of the deep would devour an evasive species.
 Surrounded by recreational heartbeats.
 You could've been great,
 now left to wonder why they mourn over you,
 the decline of one that ditched unique.



K.I.S.S.

By Mfon Edet

Kindly Invite Someone Special,
 And let that special someone
 Be me.

I don't think I'll
 Wait for eternity,

But probably your
 KISS is worth
 My immorality.

So lightly take my lips
 And I will take your hand
 And forever this reserved KISS
 Will be our eternal plan.

Summer blues

By Mfon Edet

My heart aches
 Every time I contemplate
 Your warm touch against my face.

You woke me up
 Like a morning cup
 Of coffee for a day supposedly shut.

It angers me to know
 That my love had nothing to show;
 That it was useless like artificial gold.

And placed carefully in your chiseled hands just to be thrown,
 Launched even into the sea
 When a young, fair dame came to be
 In the sparkling eyes of thee
 On a hot summer's day.

Detections of Alcalora

By Randy Brown Jr.

Milford told me to write till I stop;
 I'm now embedded in the crevices of literature's immortal facades.
 Moving through zealous, two page pamphlets;
 feelings for compulsory stages of love's emblems are laid.
 Clefts separated me from revelations of immature Could Not Be's.
 Tickling my fascination for kindling fires of written word.
 Rubbish I hear of monetary need,
 plague to the third degree.
 Writing, bantering to the stroke of Pilots full of ink.
 We are easily entertained by what's easy to comprehend,
 easy to see why many are Anybodys pounded down easily driven
 streets,
 easily influenced minds of easily targeted peeps.
 Anybody willing to read a polarizing piece?
 The beginnings of an antagonizing feast.
 Restoring a gift that "never occurred",
 clinically proven to be disregarded.
 I was a term away from being passed over, miscarried;
 a muffed campaign from Trump.
 My yearning for a voice led me away from metamorphasizing
 elaborate capacities.
 I'd rather drown in the depths of Merriam Word Guides.
 In my place, I prevail.
 In my place, the pursuit inaugurates the unseen.
 In my place, plunging towards happiness is the norm.
 In my place dramatic is exhibited in humanly form,
 ecstatic writing is raised from the page that contains it,
 In my place, nature leaks into ears, peace.
 In my place, heart is no harder to reach than the clouds you see;
 ambitions are attained as a result of scaling pinnacles...
 itinerary of those identical.

What I remember most

By Victoria Allen

What you want to eat? A ham-bur-gaaa. That's what I said when my aunt asked me if I was hungry many years ago. July 20th was her birthday and mine was on the 5th. She always beat me playing checkers and we always loved to fish together. She would bait my hook every time I asked her to, even when I was 22. No matter the place time or day my auntie Mott was always there when I needed her to be. She loved putting together puzzles and watching whistling on TV, my auntie Mott was my favorite in the world. Even though I wasn't always there when she needed me to be, I will always remember my favorite auntie.

What do you like about SPSU?

By Ronald Ellerbee

I went around campus to find out why students love our school so much. I'd also like to know what our readers love about our school too. Email me rellerb2@spsu.edu

Photos by Ronald Ellerbee



Lance Holstein
 Mechatronics

Lance likes the "Chill atmosphere" here. He says the education here is really good along with small class sizes and great teachers.



Blossom
 Economics (Taking core classes at SPSU)

Blossom has different reasons from others listed here. She likes that the school is close to her grandmothers house and her friend Dylan. Also she likes the cheap price of tuition.



Jerome Hubbard
 Mechanical Engineering

Jerome likes the small sizes and great atmosphere. He also like the large amount of knowledge the teachers have about their subjects.



Dylan White
 Industrial Psychology

Dylan like the close-knit friendships he's established here. He also likes that it's close to downtown Atlanta.



Nii Codjoe
 English and Professional Communication

Nii is attracted to the cultural diversity and strong international programs for students. He has met students from all over the world. He also emphasizes that the school teaches practical thinking.



Mike Moore (Alumni)
 Mechanical Engineering

Being at SPSU has prepared Mike for the real world. Learning here has given him practical experience. He tells students that they may end up in different careers when they graduate. He now works for Delta as a chemical engineer.

Thoughtful thoughts

Career jokes

By Alex Hartel

How many times in your life have you heard lawyer jokes? It seems that there are more lawyer jokes than lawyers. Of course some people think lawyers themselves are jokes. I guess this would mess up the calculations, but do you count each individual attorney as a lawyer, a lawyer joke, or both?

You would think that the lawyers would get offended by the way the rest of us make fun of them, but some of them are actually good sports about it. In fact, the only time I ever saw an entire book of attorney jokes was at a law firm. Why was I at a law firm, you ask? It was when I was being sued for writing bizarre articles. No, not really.

I also should tell you that I knew a lawyer once who was actually a nice guy. He loved telling lawyer jokes, and he had a wife named Sue. For real. And he always dressed professionally—every day he went to work in a lawsuit and a tie. Okay, that part isn't true—but the part about his wife is.

Well, I'll admit it, I like jokes about lawyers, too. But for now, let's give the legal beagles a break and make jokes about people in other careers. Have you ever heard a joke about a dynamite salesman? If not, read on!

Q: What did the roofer's supervisor say to him when the roofer kept goofing around on the job?
A: "You better stay on top of things."

Q: What did the circus ringmaster say to the human cannonball who was performing poorly?
A: "You're fired."

Q: Why was the plumber upset?
A: His business went down the drain.

Q: Why was the firefighter upset?

A: His career went up in smoke.
(I got this from a guy I met who was a former fireman.)

Q: Why was the dynamite salesman happy?

A: Business was booming.

Q: Why do accountants never volunteer at libraries?

A: Because libraries don't have ovens. (Where would the bean-counters cook the books?)

Q: Why did people laugh at the comedian?

A: Because he told jokes. (Come on, did you really need that explained to you?)

Q: What did the janitor say to his assistant who was failing to show up for work on time?

A: "Clean up your act!"

The last joke is about a farmer. One sunny day, this farmer's cousin from the city came to visit him. When his cousin arrived, he began taking her on a tour of his farm. They walked into the barn, where the cousin saw a bunch of horses lined up in stalls.

"Hey, I didn't know you had four horses," she remarked.

"I don't," replied the farmer.

"What do you mean? I see four of them standing right there!"

"I don't have four horses. I only have one."

"But I see four!"

"Yeah, but each one's a Quarter Horse."

It's not scary—really, it isn't

By Judy Garrard

I've lived in the ATL for over 20 years and this summer I made my first visit to Historic Oakland Cemetery. You're probably saying, "I could go 40 years without doing that." But please allow me a moment to try and convince you of why you should make this visit.

I believe I only first became aware of Oakland a couple of years ago when I saw a news report about how they had been the victim of much damage from a tornado that had gone directly through there. The report further detailed why Oakland is so special and showed many of the monuments and old trees that had been toppled. Despite the damage, it looked like a beautiful place.

Most of the damage has since been repaired, so this was a good year to make my first visit. I went to one of their twilight tours that are held on Saturday and Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. from March to October (check their website <http://oaklandcemetery.com> to confirm dates and check for other tour times). It just so happened that the tour on that Saturday was called Love Stories of Oakland. Who would think there was enough love at a cemetery to warrant its very own tour?

Well, I won't give away all of the neat stories that were presented, but the anecdote that I loved the most was about the Marsh and Moore families. They were neighbors in real life and their funeral plots are next to each other. The

Marsh family has a mausoleum that looks like a little house and between the plots is a gazebo. This gazebo was on the property line between their houses and their children had it moved to Oakland—people are encouraged to bring lunch and sit at the table under the gazebo.

Marsh Mausoleum



There are several things that I gravitate towards and Oakland has all of these: gardens, statuary, architecture, history, and photo opportunities galore.

I love a botanical garden, and this place could stand up against many official gardens. And I don't know what it is about outdoor statuary that appeals so much to me, but there's certainly plenty of that at Oakland. Of course, most of it is on top of a grave, but it did not feel like I was in a cemetery. It just doesn't look the same as any

cemetery you've been to before.

And can we talk about the architecture? I love buildings and enjoy taking photos, so this was like heaven for me—really, it was. The mausoleums all look like small houses—well, maybe more like small mansions—and with the brick paths that run throughout the property, it feels like walking through a miniature neighborhood.

I think that many would enjoy it, but I believe that every architecture student should go see it for him or herself.

The Austell mausoleum—the city of Austell, Georgia is named for him—is said to have cost five figures when built over 100 years

Austell Mausoleum



ago (he died in 1881), but would now cost three million dollars to build—yes, I said million.

There is so much history at

Budding engineers, leaders visit SPSU

By Vicki Nix

As the first leaves began to hit the ground on a Saturday morning, the buzz of nearly 100 Boy Scouts from all over the Atlanta area swept across the campus. Scouts from 11 to 18 years old came to the Boy Scouts Day of Merit sponsored by the Foothills District of the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Merit Badges involve more to earn than I ever imagined. Many take hours of preparation, execution and planning to accomplish. This event included merit badges for Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Electronics and Space Exploration.

Three of these five offered at SPSU are Eagle requirements. Eagle Scout is the highest rank a Boy Scout can receive. According to <http://www.meritbadge.org>, the long list of famous Eagle Scouts includes a former President; a former Secretary of Defense; medical and business professionals; Hollywood elite; and over 30 astronauts. This Day of Merit is just one of many youth-oriented events held on our campus.

SPSU is home to events that inspire the ambitions of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Robotic enthusiasts, Science Olympiad champions, Future City competitors and many other groups. It is exciting to see kids with so much interest in math and science actually willing to get up and be ready to learn at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning. The Scouts were here from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. and took in all the sights, sounds and knowledge available.

Student and faculty volunteers who give these young students an opportunity to see a college campus make these events possible and taste a little bit of what can be their future.

A. Bowdoin Van Riper of the Social and International Studies Department coordinated this event with help from Roger Soiset, Donna Colebeck, Daren Wilcox, Jorge Blanco, Will Skutans, Mark Vickrey, and Carl Snook. SPSU students (Corey Jones, Patrick Sumner and Jonathan Meek) jumped in to help manage the demands of instruction and facilitation and many of our international students worked with the scouts on their Citizenship in the World merit badge.

When you see these kids on campus let it spark something in you. Remember what it is to be excited about learning and see the doors to your future open wide.

Oakland—most simply from the age of the place—established 1850; but also because of the famous people that are buried there—from

Richards Mausoleum



Margaret Mitchell (Gone with the Wind fame) to Robert Jones (famous golfer for those of you who aren't at least from Augusta like me) to Maynard Jackson (55th mayor of Atlanta).

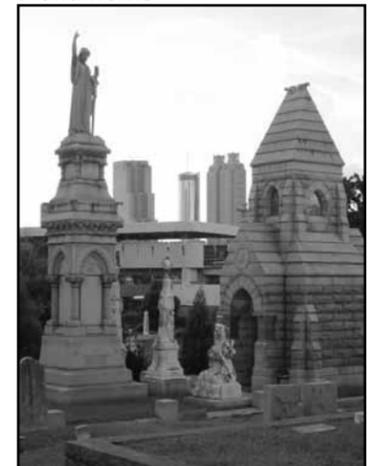
Do you like genealogy? I happened to notice a monument for John Thomas Glenn (d. 1899) and his wife Helen Augusta Garrard Glenn (d. 1924). I did some online research and found he was the 31st mayor of Atlanta. One website led to another, and I found out that Helen is an extremely distant relative of mine—we share a great grandfather (my fourth and her first). So I actually have my own historical connection to Oakland.

It is free to walk through any

time the gates are open, but as students we get a 50% discount off the regular tour price of \$10. And with your receipt, you can get \$5 off a meal across the street at a restaurant aptly named Six Feet Under. I hope to take advantage of that the next time I visit.

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, they have many things that you can do—from working in the gift shop to conducting tours to adopting a plot to maintain. All plots in Oakland have been

Kiser Mausoleum & Monuments



Photos by Judy Garrard

sold, but sometimes current owners of unoccupied plots will decide to sell; so it is possible, if you're interested, for this to be your final resting place.

But take my advice and don't wait until the afterlife for your first visit to Oakland.

A lesson that changed my life

By Joseph Pitts

Life is a journey that is full of obstacles and lessons to be learned. From these lessons knowledge is gained and character formed, and in my opinion, these are the elements that shape who we are. Following is one of the hardest lessons I have learned and what I wished I knew in high school. Peer pressure exists in everyday life, sometimes it is obvious but sometimes it can appear in situations that you least expect.

As a teenager, I was reared in a highly religious atmosphere. My life could be compared to that of an animal, with its raw instincts, caged from interaction with its peers and surroundings. In my early teens I was content with my life because I had nothing to parallel my situation too. But time progressed, high school came and I realized that my life was much different than that of my friends.

Fast forward to the end of my junior year. I moved out of my parent's house because of a minor car accident. Leaving home over a heated argument and leaving such negative feelings unresolved was not easy, but unfortunately it happened. This caused me pain every

night thereafter for a long time. To see my mom that upset over my departure did not sit easily with me. I'm unable to count the number of times I felt compelled to call home and tell mom I was sorry. The first stepping stone of my lesson began when I ended up on my oldest brother's doorstep.

The caged animal was free. In the first six months living with my brother I was able to save enough money from a part time job to buy my first car. This purchase, and the freedom it sanctioned, was the catalyst that refashioned a meek, Baptist raised church boy into "hell on wheels." The all night parties and Jack Daniels were as common to me as a burger and soda are today. One might say I had a death wish, but that's a story for another time.

Father Time causes one to realize that through their life they make a lot of mistakes. For instance, while in high school one is likely to feel confident in their knowledge regarding the consequences of actions. I felt the same way until my girlfriend became pregnant. Gina was taking birth control pills... supposedly. If I had only invested

in a fifty-cent condom I would not have been in that circumstance, but I gave in to the peer pressure from Gina. "You don't need one, I'm taking the pill," she said.

I'm in no way denouncing my son but if I had that situation to do over again I would wait until I was emotionally and financially prepared. Becoming a father at the age of eighteen caused sacrifices to be made and plans to be put on hold.

Although I finished high school, which is rare for the situation, the idea of college was now out of reach. Now it was time to become a responsible adult within just a nine month period. The times spent with my friends were over. The irony is spending too much time with my friends is what put me in the predicament that I was in. In my opinion, there is nothing wrong with that if you prepared for the resulting consequences. These actions tend to force one to take on the responsibilities of an adult even though one is not ready for the pressure and stress that follows such.

Our age and immaturity were not the only key factors working against our relationship. Although

being married at the age of nineteen felt like the four walls of the cage I had previously escaped were closing in around me, I was willing to change. I was going to be a dad, and while being terrified, I was thrilled beyond measure.

I told myself I had to be the best dad ever, because I did not have someone to call dad growing up. I imagined all the things I would do with my child and I could not wait for the big debut. The wild things I was accustomed to doing now seemed foolish, because I would soon have this little man that would depend on his mother and me for everything. I was truly a changed man.

I would not wish the heartache or depression I went through in the years that follow on my worst enemy. We had been divorced for some time when Gina, a southern California native, chose to move back to Los Angeles. I tried to persuade her to stay, but on October 31, 2000 when I went by to take Will out for trick or treating she had already left without allowing me to say even as much as a good-bye.

He was out of my life. He

mailed me the occasional drawing or picture, but he was still too young to have a meaningful conversation with his dad. I never lost sight that we would see each other again, but it was two years before that came to pass. Now we spend time with one another every other Christmas, if schedules and finances allow, but conflicting schedules do not always make it possible.

This year will be the start of Will's freshman year in college. My "little man" is nearly grown, and it seems like I was rocking him to sleep just yesterday. He hates for me to refer to him as "little man" and I guess I understand, because he's as tall as I am now. The only good that came out of this cycle of events, after seventeen years, is I am finally getting the college education that got put on hold so many years prior.

In conclusion, I wish I knew in high school that fifty-cents and the courage to withstand peer pressure could have ultimately changed my life.

A place of peace and comfort: The SPSU Amphitheater

By Michael Lynch

Nature, it surrounds us, it tames us, it feeds us and keeps us warm, it is our protection and also is our devastation, it is our comfort and sometimes our torment, it provides scenes of beauty and occasionally scenes of disaster. Nature is the only ever-changing constant which has the ability to help you, but you can only be helped if you have an open mind and a respect for its majesty.

Sturdy trees surrounded by waves of grass, small rodents and even students make up a small plot on Southern Poly's campus: the schools amphitheater. Its importance is not well known to the average student who simply walks by it once or twice a day; it seems like another plot of wasted money

with the purpose for people to only give a little glance at.

But, to those who do offer their respect and time to this place a natural healing comes to them. Then some questions arise: Why is this place important? How can this plot of land heal me? How will this place take the gradually growing weight of school stress off of me?

The real question should be, how can't this place help relieve stress? Rolling waves of grass all flowing in the same direction down the hill towards the stage, little squirrels are frolicking around the trees accepting the trees gifts of acorns as their food, the trees stand tall and guard the residents of this area from outer dangers.

Near the bottom of the plot

there is a stage with a crack down the middle, it bakes in the warm sun. This place is your mini-paradise. Think of every detail of nature which surrounds you, watch it and breathe in the air. This is an ideal place to simply get away from it all. Sure it might be right beside the library's study rooms, but who really wishes to sit inside a lonely room to study all day? Everyone needs a place to take a break, so why not walk to a safe haven for troubled students that is so near to you.

Go, be at peace here and maybe take a notebook to do some homework in, simply to get a change of scenery. Good luck this fall semester of 2011, do not stay inside all day, enjoy this place as it brings a natural comfort to you, and rest.

The SPSU Amphitheater



Photo by Elizabeth Smith

Getting the most out of your student ID

By Andrew Hurd

It's no big secret that most college students are living on a shoestring budget. These budgetary constraints mean that we need to be more frugal and hunt out the best deals we can, and that often means capitalizing on student discount specials. Many places in the Atlanta area offer student discounts. Listed here are a couple of my favorites which I have recently taken advantage of.

The High Museum: The High Museum is a must see for anyone

living in the Atlanta area. It is considered to be the leading Art Museum in the Southeast, and is one of the most visited museums in the world. Upcoming exhibitions include pieces by legends such as Picasso, Matisse and Warhol. Presenting your SPSU student ID will get you in free.

Fernbank: The Fernbank Museum of Natural History is located near the Carter Center near Emory and is more than worth seeing. Exhibits include fossils, the assembled

skeletons of some of the largest dinosaurs to have ever walked the earth and an upcoming exhibition on Darwin. Also located at Fernbank is an I-max theater with rotating feature films; the film currently showing about the Hubble Space Telescope is spectacular. Students can gain admission to the theatre and passes to two I-max films for \$27, which is 10% off the regular price. Also at Fernbank on Friday nights is Martinis and I-max. Here, well-dressed young professionals

and students gather to sip cocktails underneath the looming dinosaurs while listening to live music and attending I-max films. This is a fantastic date venue, assuming you and your date are of drinking age. Your student ID will get you a dollar off admission.

Many restaurants offer student specials as well. Local spots such as Bullfrogz and Highlands Grill in Kennesaw offer student specials, as well as Baby Tommy's and Runaround Sue's here in Marietta.

If you are in the downtown area, check out Rocky's Pizza, Lucky Chopsticks or Nicky's Seafood. Also be sure to ask about student specials at any restaurant you end up eating at—many restaurant owners and managers are willing to toss a discount to try and build repeat business. So be sure to keep that ID on you at all times—you never know when it may help put a few extra bucks in your pocket!

Science lab vespa

Curiosity, NASA's next big thing

By Daniel DeBusk

Mars is becoming increasingly covered in terrestrial craft. Since 1971, The United States and the USSR have been the only governments to have craft get to the surface of Mars. Of these, four have crashed (including NASA's Mars Climate Orbiter), two have failed and six have been successful. All six successful missions have been NASA missions. And now NASA is planning to do it again with Curiosity.

Also called the Mars Science Laboratory, Curiosity is the next planned rover mission to Mars and compared to its older rover brethren, it is huge! NASA describes the Mars Exploration Rovers (MERs) Spirit and Opportunity to be the size of a golf cart. With Curiosity measuring three meters long, NASA considers it the size of a car.

No one could have predicted that Curiosity's older brothers Spirit and Opportunity would have lasted as long as they did. They were only planned to go 40 meters per day for about three months. Instead, Spirit (landed in January 2004) lasted until March 22, 2010 and Opportunity is still running strong. One of the obstacles the rovers encountered included Spirit's forward starboard (front right) wheel locking up in 2006 and impeding the rovers speed.

Due to the MER's performance, the Mars Science Laboratory is expected to do great things. Curiosity carries forward the MER mission of searching for environmentally life-friendly factors. NASA's website lists a noticeably longer list of tools that will allow the new rover to study rocks, soils

and the local geologic conditions in more detail than the MERs.

Not only is the science that Curiosity will be doing such a big deal, but the act of landing is making news in the engineering fields. Landing the giant rover safely is requiring very innovating technologies like the "Sky Crane."

According to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Sky Crane is a rocket propelled aerial platform that will be lower Curiosity via a tether in the final decent stage. After the rover touches down on the rusty surface, the Sky Crane will release the tether and propel itself and crash safely away from the rover.

If successful, JPL states that the Sky Crane will allow for much more precise landings on Mars. Currently the mission is calling a

20-kilometer landing circle a precise landing. Not bad considering the theoretical minimum distance between Mars and Earth is a mere 54.6 million miles away.

NASA's mission overview webpage expects the mission to last one Martian year, 687 Earth days. Curiosity's Power supply, a radioisotope thermoelectric generator, is expected to allow the rover to travel up to 200 meters per day while performing experiments with its many instruments.

The Science Laboratory is set to launch between November 25 and December 18, 2011, and expected to land on Mars in August 2012. Having just arrived at the Kennedy Space Center on June 22,

Hmmmm, vespa is the genus for hornet. Who knew!



Curiosity will continue to receive final testing until it is packed for its launch. With the amount of time, energy and money put into the project, NASA is taking extra care to make sure that Curiosity makes it to Mars safely.

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We are currently on the lookout for mascots and handlers for the 2011-12 school year.

If interested, email langlin@spsu.edu



Student Profile

The Sting would like to find and feature students that are:

- the oldest
- the most degreed
- the youngest
- the farthest from home
- the most unusual hobbyist
- the most "ranked," etc.

If you know of anyone that may qualify, email their contact information to sting@spsu.edu.

SPSU Young Americans for Liberty (YAL)

SPSU Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) was founded in the Fall 2010 semester with the goal of mobilizing and educating young activists on the principles of liberty. SPSU YAL is a chapter of the national Young Americans for Liberty organization. Young Americans for Liberty was founded in 2008 as the continuation of the Students for Ron Paul. YAL is not affiliated with any particular political party, but rather we wish to train and mobilize students to defend the ideals of liberty and the Constitution.

YAL national provides activist and leadership training opportunities to mobilize members of YAL chapters in to becoming effective activists. YAL also provides internship opportunities for those studying political science or international studies. Young Americans for Liberty recently established the Year of Youth project with the goal of building a "grassroots army of youth candidates, campaign managers, and volunteers for 2012". Information about both YAL national and the Year of Youth project is available at <http://www.yaliberty.org> and <http://yearofyouth.org>.

Membership in our organization does not preclude any registered voter (members of all political parties are welcome), but we specifically welcome those who are willing to defend the philosophy of liberty. Limited government conservatives, classical liberals, and libertarians who agree with the following creed are welcome to join our organization:

WE, as Young Americans for Liberty believe:

- that government is the negation of liberty;
- that voluntary action is the only ethical behavior;
- that respect for the individual's property is fundamental to a peaceful society;
- that violent action is only warranted in defense of one's property;
- that the individual owns his/her body and is therefore responsible for his/her actions;
- that society is a responsibility of the people, not the government.

Prospective members of SPSU YAL should join us on OrgSync. We also require voting members to join YAL national. Membership for the national chapter is only \$10 per year. Membership includes a free YAL t-shirt and a subscription to the Young American Revolution, the official magazine of Young Americans for Liberty. To join YAL national, visit <https://www.yaliberty.org/join>.

The liberty movement has made great strides over the last three years. Cleaning up government will require commitment and ingenuity (we need your creative ideas). In the process, you will meet new people and maybe even make lasting friendships. For more information about SPSU YAL, please visit us on Org-Sync or contact Rashad Tatum, the interim chapter president, at yal.spsu@gmail.com.

Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (Student Chapter)

Student Member. Any person pursuing a course of study as a graduate or undergraduate student on a full-time basis (by his school's standards) leading to a career in the profession of surveying and mapping or an associate field. Dues are \$10 per year and are payable no later than July 1st of each year.

General Information:

The objectives of the Society shall be:

- a. To advance the science of surveying and mapping, in furtherance of the public welfare and in the interest of both those who use surveys and maps and those who make them, and to establish a central source of reference for the Society's members.
- b. To unite all surveyors and mappers of Georgia into the Society, and to promote closer relations, understanding, and cooperation within the profession.
- c. The advancement of the professional, the social, and the economic interests of the surveyor and mapper.
- d. To encourage improvement of curriculums for the teaching of surveying and mapping both in the technological sciences, the profession philosophies, and the humanities.
- e. The consideration of legislation affecting the profession and the public.
- f. The improvement of public relations and the cultivation of public appreciation of the work of the profession.
- g. The development of the civic consciousness of the members of the surveying and mapping profession.
- h. The establishment and maintenance of high ethical standards and practices.
- i. To honor those who make significant contributions to the profession.
- j. To support a program of publications that will represent the professional and technical interests of surveying and mapping.
- k. To work toward coordinating and harmonizing professional interest and activities between the surveying and mapping profession and other professional groups.
- l. To aid and encourage the interest of all grades of membership of the Society.

Contact person:

Professor Daniel L. Branham, Student Chapter Advisor
CET Building L, Room L-154
678-915-5494 office, dbranham@spsu.edu

Meeting Information: Held on the third Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon in building L, Room L-125.

Scholarship Information: Ben J. Fortson, Jr. Scholarship provides up to \$300.00 per semester to students pursuing a surveying and mapping certificate or a B.S. in Surveying and Mapping.

NSPS Student Competition: Students compete once each year at various locations across the United States during the Annual National Society of Professional Surveyors Conference representing Southern Polytechnic State University.



Join the SPSU Band!

Tuesdays and Thursdays
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Call 678-915-4222 for details

SGA update!

Ever wondered what our Student Government is doing or how to get involved? Well, this article is for you!

Since we've started school, SGA has been instrumental in lobbying for bike racks by the Hornet Village and University Columns; assisting the Auxiliary Services Office in doing a study on the layout of parking on campus; helping create an Ad Hoc committee to address smoking on campus; conducting a survey to see if the Library should extend its hours; and helping to revise and edit the Student Honor's Code.

For this semester SGA plans to host a President's Luncheon for all campus organizations on October 6; assist in the "Haunted Hustle" 5K that SPSU and Life University will be hosting; create a Senate of students to address problems on campus; lobby for students at Faculty Senate meetings; revise the procedure for academic misconduct; create goals for Student Life on campus; and market Student Life throughout our university.

If you are interested in becoming involved or have any questions, please email Brian Ellison at bellison@spsu.edu.

The Sting

The Sting is Southern Poly's student newspaper—produced by students and for students. The Sting serves two main purposes—to give students a voice and to provide information to all students. This voice can be literally in the form of opinion articles or many other formats such as features, news, art, and sports.



There are no requirements other than being a student at SPSU. You can be in any major and you do not have to have any prior experience. We pay stipends for all work, and your participation is a great way to boost your résumé!

We have a kickoff meeting prior to the publication of each issue. The primary function of these meetings is to brainstorm for the next issue and to answer any questions that you may have. The last meeting for this semester will be Friday, October 14 at noon in the Student Center, conference room A-215 (we'll have pizza, too). All meetings are announced via Ron Lunk's weekly email, posted on OrgSync, and on our web page: <http://spsu.edu/thesting>.

For more information, send email to sting@spsu.edu. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Write for The Sting
Send to sting@spsu.edu

Atlanta Braves are postseason bound

By Robert Barnard

The Atlanta Braves look to once again return to the postseason. The Braves currently have the lead in the wild card race and have an 8.5 game lead over the St. Louis Cardinals. The magic number (represents the combination of wins by the leading team and losses by the second-place (or tied) team that would clinch the wild-card berth) is 18 as I write this article.

The Braves have acquired infielder Jack Wilson from the Seattle Mariners. They have also acquired outfielder and former Brave Matt Diaz from the Pittsburgh Pirates. The addition of these two veterans should more than help Atlanta return to the post season and progress deep into the playoffs this year.

This could be the year that the Braves return to their postseason greatness of the 1990s. The pitching staff looks good this year and the run production has been better than past seasons. Manager Fredi Gonzalez has definitely filled the very large shoes of former Atlanta Braves manager Bobby Cox. Roger McDowell has done a fantastic job with the pitching staff finding youngsters to fill in as some veterans had to be placed on the disabled list. I definitely like the revitalized Atlanta Braves and the fact that they will be in the post season once again.

SPSU Men's Soccer

By Robert Barnard

The SPSU men's soccer team started this season ranked 7th in the NAIA top 25 coaches' poll and team has not disappointed. They have an impressive 3-0 start with every win being a shutout. Head coach Kom Momeni is in his fifth year as the Hornets head coach. The team has scored 13 goals while holding all of their opponents scoreless.

The team leaders include junior goalkeeper Jason Andrew ranked number one in Division I in goals against per game (0.000). Junior forward Emeka Maduka ranks number two in Division I in total game winning goals (1), number three in total assists (3), number seven total goals (4), number 16 in assists per game (1.000), number 31 in points per game (3.670), and number 40 in goals per game (1.330).

Seniors Sean Grisham, a midfielder, and Jumol Harewood, forward, rank number two in Division I total game winning goals. Senior forward Jumol Harewood ranks number three in shots on goal per game (5.000), number five in shots per game (7.670), number ten in total goals (3) and number 43 in goals per game (1.000).

The Hornets soccer team plays all of the home games on campus at Nuesoft Technologies Field. Come out and support our men's soccer team and cheer them on to a magnificent year in 2011.

The soccer game

By Julie Hill

If one is looking for something to do, he or she should sincerely think about checking out the soccer games starring the Southern Polytechnic State University Hornets. The all guys' soccer team is a successful champion, and a lot of pleasure can be had watching a soccer game.

The soccer team is ranked number seven according to the pre-season coaches' poll. It was rewarding to watch the soccer players' names being announced, along with watching them obtain another victory.

I was amazed at the number of head kicks done by the players.

The Union Bulldogs played the Southern Polytechnic State Hornets on Saturday, August 27, 2011. It was an exhausting game to watch as the Hornets zoomed up and down the field competing against their opponent, the Union Bulldogs.

One goal was obtained in the first half of the game by Senior Hornet midfielder, #11, Sean Grisham. He hit into the goal from the side while the Bulldogs were not protecting their turf.

The Southern Poly soccer team had some tremendous experiences last year, and they continue to learn from their past. They beat Emmanuel College last year, and they did the same this year.

The Southern Poly soccer team is frankly competent as they finished up last year by going to the Round of 16 in the NAIA National Tournament. The Hornets have made it there the last two years, and they hope to do the same this year.

Of course, the coaches are very impressive, as well holding remarkable credentials for Southern Polytechnic State University. I will be attending another soccer game soon, and I hope to see you there.

Do you feel like you're not being challenged enough?
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Women's basketball schedule fall 2011

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 1	Kennesaw State (Exh)	Kennesaw, GA	7 p.m.
Nov. 4	St. Thomas Univesity	Mt. Vernon, GA	2 p.m.
Nov. 5	Coastal Georgia	Mt. Vernon, GA	Noon
Nov. 11	Georgetown	Georgetown, KY	6 p.m.
Nov. 12	Indian Wesleyan	Georgetown, KY	2 p.m.
Nov. 15	Univ. of Columberlands	Marietta, GA	5 p.m.
Nov. 18	Univ. of Mobile	Marietta, GA	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 21	Voorhees College	Denmark, SC	6 p.m.
Dec. 2	AUM	Montgomery, AL	5:30 p.m. CST
Dec. 3	Faulkner	Montgomery, AL	3 p.m. CST
Dec. 19	Univ. of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	Reinhardt College	Marietta, GA	5:30 p.m.

Men's soccer schedule fall 2011



Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sep 18 Sun	Spring Hill College (CM)	Home	3:00
Sep 22 Thur	Reinhardt College	Away	4:00
Sep 28 Wed	Mobile University (CM)	Home	3:00
Oct 4 Tue	AUM (CM)	Away	3:30 (CST)
Oct 11 Tue	Truett-McConnell College (CM)	Home	3:00
Oct 15 Sat	Lee University (CM)	Away	TBA
Oct 22 Sat	Brewton Parker College (CM)	Away	3:00
Oct 25 Tue	Southern Wesleyan University (CM)	Away	7:00
Oct 29 Sat	Shorter University (CM)	Home	2:00
Nov 1 Tue	William Carey University (CM)	Home	2:00

S = Scrimmage
CM = Conference Match