



The STING

www.spsu.edu/thesting



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Southern Polytechnic State University

Marietta, Georgia

SPSU students win statewide business competition

By Elizabeth Smith

On October 17, a team consisting of both graduate and undergraduate SPSU students won first place in a business-plan competition at the Georgia Social Business and Microcredit Forum; there were 38 teams from 32 colleges and universities across the state. The SPSU team created Restoration Trust, a micro-loan program to help abused women in Marietta break the cycle of violence by reshaping their lives via educational pursuits and enterprise.

Sonal Doshi, a student in the Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) program, and Fred Arnold, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) student, presented SPSU's business plan in two different rounds of competition judged by the leaders of companies such as the Kimberly Clark Corporation, Starbucks, PayPal, Church's Chicken, the Intel Corporation and Motorola. The rest of the student team included: Lauren Tyus, an honors student in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program; James (Ben) Fulghum,

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Joelle Day, MSA; Arthur Vaughn, MSA; Christopher Estrada, MBA; Rebecca Stringer, MBA; Sana Yasmeen, a high school, dual-enrollment, honors biology student; and Tiane McKoy, a student in the Bachelor of Apparel and Textiles program.

Dr. Muhammad Yunus, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, was the forum's keynote speaker. He presented the top award to SPSU for having developed a plan for a workable business to address a critical social issue.

According to the SPSU Public Relations department, Dr. Zvi Szafran, vice president for Academic Affairs, said, "Our students did a wonderful job in the three short weeks they had to put together a business plan and presentation. I was proud to be there to see them win against some very strong competition."

Congratulations to the team members on this prestigious statewide win!



Photo courtesy of BOR Media and Publications

November is National AIDS Awareness Month

Construction Management wins first and second place

By Trent Anderson

Students from the SPSU Department of Construction Management traveled to Hoover, Alabama on October 26-28 to compete in the 2011 ASC/AGC Region II Student Competition to compete against the likes of Auburn, Clemson, University of Florida, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Georgia Southern and Mississippi State. The SPSU Commercial team, led by Trent Anderson, won first place in this highly competitive event.

SPSU's Heavy/Civil Competition team, led by Phillip Young, brought home the second place award. SPSU's 2011 Commercial team was comprised of Trent Anderson, Charles Wall, Zach Gordon, Scott Sullins, Jamie Bishop and Brian Nelson. Students participating in the Heavy/Civil team were Phillip Young, Josh Tredway, Bryce McDonald, Luis Perez, Nick Nowlin and Zach Bareis.

The teams worked tirelessly for weeks to prepare and submit a preliminary proposal prior to traveling to the competition. After a couple of near-sleepless nights in Hoover, SPSU delivered a 30-minute oral presentation and a response to an RFP (Request for Proposal) for multi-million dollar projects to "bring home the hardware." The first place Commercial team received a \$1500 award and the second place Heavy/Civil team

received a \$750 award.

Special thanks go out to Professor Maureen Weidner and Dr. Pavan Meadati, the two Construction Management Department faculty who served as the coaches for the three teams fielded in the ASC Competition this year. Also, many thanks go out to the array of industry guest speakers who visited SPSU throughout the beginning of the fall semester to present a variety of topics to help prepare the students for the competition.

The Region II Competition is hosted by the Associated Schools of Construction and the Associated General Contractors. The Heavy/Civil Competition was sponsored by Kiewit and the Commercial Competition was sponsored by Holder Construction.

SPSU also participated in the LEED/Green Building Competition which was sponsored by Brasfield & Gorrie. SPSU's participation in the competition was made possible through the support of the SPSU Alumni Association.

If you are interested in participating on the 2012 ASC Competition Teams (Commercial, Heavy/Civil, LEED, or Design-Build), please contact Professor Maureen Weidner at mweidner@spsu.edu. It's a lot of work, but a ton of fun and looks great on a resume!

HOT lanes not so hot after all

By Elizabeth Smith

Georgia officials thought the new HOT (High Occupancy Toll) Lanes on I-85 would ease traffic, but mere weeks after their completion drivers are more frustrated than ever. Nicknamed "Lexus Lane," the HOT lanes require a Peach Pass and come with a hefty price, depending on lane congestion.

Cars that have less than three people require having a Peach Pass, free to obtain, but preload with money to use the lane; cars can use the lane toll free if they are carrying at least three people—Governor Nathan Deal is trying to lower that amount to two people—but toll-free users must still register for a Peach Pass.

Essentially, the HOT Lanes took the place of the HOV

lanes, which squished more traffic into the regular lanes. When the HOT Lanes were first opened, the prices were high and that turned many drivers off to using them. As the weeks have gone by, prices have been lowered, but many drivers still avoid using them due to the cost and the rules. Also, one must order a Peach Pass, and it takes time to process the order and arrive in the mail.

According to CBS Atlanta, Robert Poole, the man who is credited with developing the HOT Lane concept, "This is probably the roughest start up that I've ever seen." He was also surprised by the anger shown by many Atlantans toward the new lanes. People have started petitions—one man even started a

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Hot lanes

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website, which has recently gained much attention amidst the mounting irritation.

TCOM student Haki Atalov, who commutes to SPSU from Lawrenceville, says he has encountered much more traffic since the HOT Lanes were introduced. "My commute has increased from about 40 minutes to sometimes an hour long," and Atalov says he does not plan to use a Peach Pass because it's pointless for him. "I have to exit onto 285 off to the right, and the HOT Lane is on the left. Crossing all those lanes would be a nightmare, so it's just not worth it for me."

Matt Maddox, another SPSU student, travels from his home in Flowery Branch to his job in downtown Atlanta via I-85. When the lanes first opened, Maddox said his commute time to his job increased by an entire hour. Because he makes the long commute daily, he registered for a Peach Pass, loaded it with a starting dollar amount and now uses the HOT Lanes. Since then, he said his commute time has gone back to normal. "It's just not practical. I don't

like the HOT Lanes, but I have to use them if I want to be on time for work and not sit in traffic for two hours. The lanes have not improved commuting at all, if anything it is so much worse now."

Many other states have implemented HOT Lanes, including California, Utah and Minnesota. Other states also have the lanes currently on the books or physically in the works. While they have been successful in other regions, the lanes are certainly causing uproar here in Georgia. According to an 11Alive article from July, a similar plan has been approved for I-575 and I-75, a project that is expected to cost over one billion dollars.

The lanes are continuing to cause congestion and issues. People simply do not want to pay to drive on a road that they have been driving on for free for so long. Many people want the lanes closed altogether or at least closed until the kinks are worked out. Regardless, there are many angry Atlantans out there who really didn't deserve an even longer commute.

Rebuilding out of the rubble

By Sharon Roberts

Humanitarian efforts always follow the massive devastation left behind in catastrophic episodes of mother-nature's wrath i.e. tsunamis, tornados and the surprising influx of earthquakes that have erupted closer to home in recent years.

As I reflect on last month's Turkey and last year's Haitian devastation I conclude that no one is guaranteed being spared the earthquake experience. Location is no longer a factor. It matters not whether you reside in sunny California or a town in south eastern Turkey, no one is safe.

In the wake of such disasters two things are constants; homelessness and death. In last year's Haitian quake the news reported that well over 100,000 people were reported to have perished, leaving behind 1.5 million people without homes. Efforts to provide shelter to the displaced resulted in communities of make shift tents. These temporary solutions enabled a much larger problem; lack of privacy, safety, unhealthy conditions and a peace of mind. In the event of a hurricane or after-shock these people would need a home. Where does it begin?

Time to rebuild

It starts with an idea. What was viewed as an underlining problem to many became a viable resource to others. The goal was to rebuild. But how? Rubble is the one resource that was obviously in an over abundance after a disaster; taking the remains of fallen structures to erect safe, sound construction that could withstand the reoccurrence of future earthquakes and be

affordable. Jeremy Holloman of Conscience International assembled the method and joined SPSU in the studying the question: Is the current construction working?

It was the efforts of professional civil engineer Sal Granata that brought this project to the attention of Dr. Fatih Oncul and through the organization, Conscience International, Inc., SPSU and Conscience International teamed up to do testing. It was a great opportunity to turn a negative into a positive as well as an opportunity for the students of SPSU to learn by doing. It would be a community of volunteers that would build on a piece of property located between the J-Building and Howell Hall on the SPSU campus.

When I first laid eyes on the construction site I was clueless as to what was happening. It was a wall of wire with the inlays of crumbled bricks aka rubble. I looked at the people scurrying around and recognized a familiar face. It was Jacob David, a fellow classmate who was in the thick of the goings on. I would quickly learn that Jacob was a key player with a wealth of knowledge on the topic. He explained to me that it was the efforts of one of his professors, Dr. Fatih Oncul in the Civil Engineering Technology department, who was an instrumental element in assembling the people together, along with Dr. Wasim Barham and Dr. Metin Oguzmert, both professors in the Division of Engineering.

The Rubble-House Research project took form on the SPSU campus in August. The

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February issue articles are due
 Wednesday, January 25, 2012

SPSU Career Center is here to help

By Christi Pinchon

Newsflash: There is an economic downturn! If you are a college student today, I am sure you would be a millionaire if you had a nickel for every time someone told you this fact. Yes, we know you get it, things are tough right now, but they do not have to be bleak! The Career and Counseling office is a resource on campus that can help you navigate through these challenging times!

Fact: In a down economy a student should start job searching 12-18 months before their graduation date.

Don't panic, take a deep breath, we are here to help! We hold a variety of events throughout the year to help with your job search:

- Two annual career fairs on campus.
- Partner with outside organizations for two annual fairs at the Cobb Galleria
- Two annual resume critique/mock interviews days.
- Skill shops in various areas: job search skills, preparing for a career fair, resume writing, LinkedIn, interview skills, etc.
- Walk-in hours held weekly so students can stop by for a quick 15-minute appointment with job search, interview and resume

questions.

- Several orientations each semester to learn about our internship/co-op program.
- Employer information sessions/interviews on campus each semester.
- Career Link website where students can register and have access to hundreds of jobs from employers who specifically posted with SPSU. <https://www.myinterfase.com/southernpolytechnic/student/home.aspx>

If anyone came into the student center on October 12th, it was obvious that the Career and Counseling office had invaded every square inch of the ballroom, lobby and the downstairs atrium for the annual fall Career Expo. The turnout was quite impressive with a total of 543 students attending to visit the 59 companies (all hiring in various academic areas) that were taking part in this event. Attending these events is a great step in the right direction for your job search! We hope to see you at events in the future! Our information and schedules can be found at: <http://www.spsu.edu/careerservices/index.htm>

Come visit us on the first floor of the Joe Mack Student Center!



Aerospace engineering documentaries

WHEN: Fridays 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Q-202 (Auditorium, Engineering Technology Center)

COST: FREE

WHO: Everyone is invited

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Date	Discipline	Documentary Title
Nov 18	Space	The dream is alive
Dec 2	Fixed Wing	NOVA: Battle of the X-Planes

International film series

Where: Student Center Theater

Time: 6 p.m.

Admission: FREE

Nov. 29: Repentance (Russia)

Jan. 31: Cape No. 7 (Taiwan)

Feb. 28: La historia oficial (Argentina)



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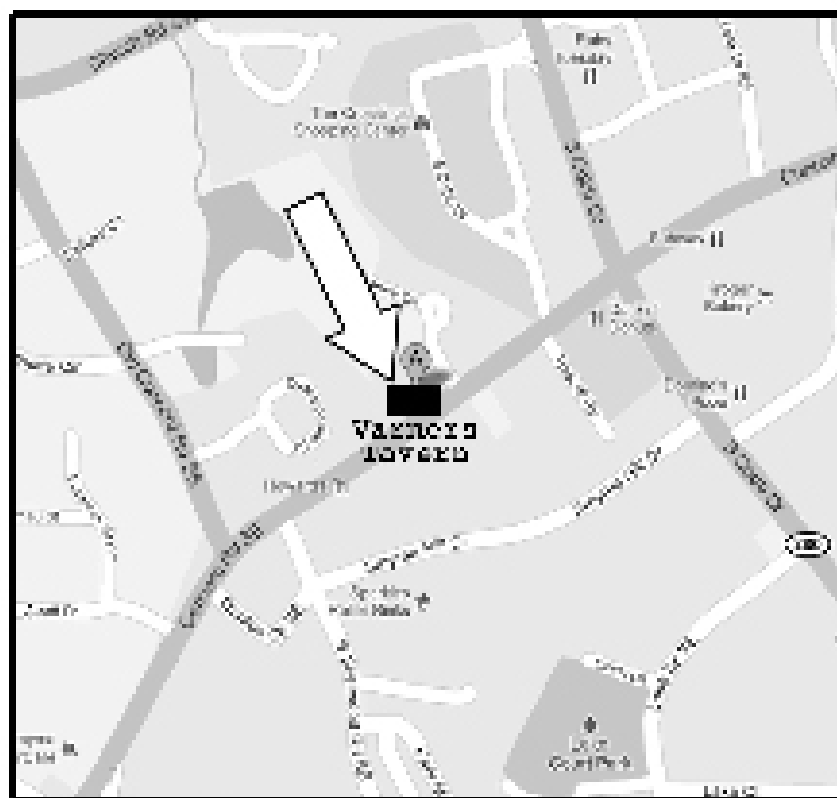
Brunch from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Bloom Mary Bar from 12:30 to 4 p.m.
POKER AT 1 & 3:30
BINGO AT 6:00

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Rubble

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objectives in this project were to evaluate the current construction techniques and advise on necessary improvements. Static load tests had previously been performed on the SPSU Rubble-House before demolition. Further testing, computer models, and shake table experiments had to be conducted, allowing investigators to determine just how earthquake resistant these rubble structures really are.

It takes a community

Volunteerism was a key ingredient in the success of this project and overall, through a slow beginning, the outpouring of cooperation was overwhelming. The beginning was challenging, a lot of emails had to go out, but overall 100 students with a total of 600 student hours tallied were involved in this project. Russ Hunt, Dean of the Extended University, and the SPSU administration were instrumental in making this a “live model.” What started out on a much smaller scale transformed into a bigger project of hands-on learning.

The faculty sentiment remains, “We need to do more of this.” Dr. Oncul has expressed his desire to use this project as a major stepping stone. There are currently talks of establishing partnerships in Turkey to assist them with the same venture, rebuilding. Eventually, the Rubble-House can become a staple for low impoverished communities to build housing. Dr. Oncul feels that this project was a success because it engaged students in community work and allowed them to use learned skills without leaving campus!

The results are in

Mission accomplished! Dr. Oncul stated that at the time of demolition there was a discovery of very frictional resistance at the base that could use further improvements with simple techniques. The shorter wall was able to handle displacement without failure. The effects of the earthquake that would cause the same amount of displacement is assumed to be a very rare event. So the assumption that the Rubble-House is earthquake resistant has become stronger. Full-scale table tests still need to be conducted to fully confirm this fact.

The long wall failed because it slid off the foundation base and lost support not because the wall was weak; a wider foundation base would have allowed for a better performance. The connections need some improvements which are currently being worked on. As an added measure, the freestanding demo walls were hit with a battering ram and it was noted that a vast difference occurred between the damage it caused to a traditional concrete wall and a wall made of rubble. The ram destroyed the concrete block wall but the rubble wall showed only localized surface damage after extensive battering.

The rubble walls are highly resistant against impact load from flying debris during a hurricane. Dr. Oncul describes the Rubble-House as simple yet complex structure and improvements will be cost effective and put into use.

There are so many to thank

Dr. Oncul shares the success of this project with the volunteers, and students like Jacob David, Jeffrey Lytle, Peyton Lingle, William Lotz, Chance Dennis and Christian Bourgillon to name a few. In addition he acknowledges that the cost to erect such a project would have been astronomically impossible without the help of contributions of things like hydraulic equipment.

ATS (Applied Technical Services), Paul Lee Engineering Consultants, Steel, Inc, CWM Contracting Company and Conscience International, Inc. all collectively played a major role in the success of this project. There is much appreciation for the outpouring of support from the SPSU faculty, student body and administration. This is just the beginning with more projects with community involvement.

Currently, grants are being sought to take this stepping stone to higher heights. Feedback is important to make future projects just as successful. You can visit the SPSU website to gather more information on the Rubble-House project. Surveys are in the works to gather the opinions of the volunteers in this project. If you wish to donate, share ideas or ask questions, email rubble-house@spsu.edu.

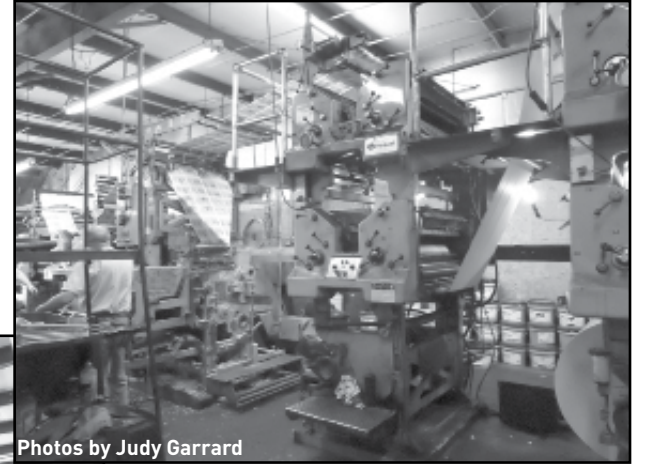
Did you know . . .

By Judy Garrard
sting@spsu.edu



Printing is still old school

I recently had the opportunity to visit our printer. Obviously, newspapers are somewhat old school, but it was surprising just how old school some of the process still is. I send our printer a pdf created in a rather sophisticated software program, but it is not printed directly from the pdf. And I can't even remember all the steps, but the steps that I found the most shocking were that the information is transferred to negatives and to metal plates before printing can take place.



Photos by Judy Garrard

The other thing I enjoyed learning about was the 1,000 pound paper rolls that are used and the forklift that is needed to place them on the presses. And just a special piece of trivia for any of you from Augusta, like me, these rolls come from the Abitibi paper plant.

So the next time you're reading our paper, think about the many steps that are required beyond what my staff and I do to create the information that you're reading here.



Sample some of the south's finest

By Andrew Hurd

Chicken and the Egg
800 Whitlock Ave, Marietta, GA 30064

Specialty: A constantly evolving menu highlighting fresh, locally sourced ingredients

Price: 15-20 per entrée

Overall: 9/10

When it comes to American-style dining, Cobb County has always been a bit lacking. Sure, there are some upscale staples such as Aspen's and Houston's as well as a few local dives, but for the most part Marietta is simply littered with the same boring TGI-Ruby-Chilibee's that you find spattered across every suburban landscape. Driving into the city constantly to find a meal actually worth its price tag becomes taxing after a while, so I was quite excited when I heard about the opening of Chicken and the Egg here in Marietta.

Opened by urban chef and restaurateur vet Mark Taft, Chicken and the Egg coins itself “casually-sophisticated modern farmstead fare.” While this may simply sound like a cluster of industry buzzwords, it begins to make perfect sense as the meal unfolds. It first starts when you walk in and notice the atmosphere. The décor is a definite juxtaposition; on one hand the environment looks more upscale, with attractive farm-themed artwork adorning the walls, well dressed rustic wood tables, and a modern ambiance that screams “Buckhead!”

On the other hand there is a long bar equipped with a row of stools and flat screen TVs broadcasting the day's game, casually inviting you over to throw back a pint of suds while chatting up the bar staff. Casually-sophisticated- seems to me a safe way of saying Buckhead amenities without Buckhead pretention.

As our group sat and began to peruse the menu, the “casually-sophisticated” approach continued. Appetizers included fried green tomatoes and deviled eggs, but I think it would be pretty safe to say that these aren't the eggs or tomatoes your grandmother cooked. The deviled eggs are served with candied bacon and the tomatoes a pimento cheese fondue with fresh ham and house tomato jam. The tomatoes in particular were ridiculously tasty, though the very

firm texture can be off-putting for some. The meal also started off with complimentary cornbread muffins with molasses butter; I normally don't care for cornbread, but these were quite good.

As it came time to order entrees we asked a few questions. I was curious about the fried chicken, one of their most popular dishes and one of the few permanent staples on the menu. After being told it is soaked in brine overnight for tenderness, and then in buttermilk for 4+ hours for flavor, I was sold. Other entrees ordered included beef short rib and mushroom stroganoff pasta.

Once the entrees arrived we could again relate to the “casually-sophisticated” approach. There was nothing ordered that seemed on paper to be anything terribly extravagant, but what made the meal really stand out was the sheer quality of the food. After 20+ years of eating hyper-processed, factory bred chickens pumped full of more steroids than Barry Bonds, there is something special about eating farm-raised chicken that grew up naturally and were clucking away happily just down the road not too long ago. Happy, healthy animals simply make for tastier food.

The meat was melt-in-your-mouth tender and packed full of flavor, and the breading was crispy golden with just enough seasoning to bring everything together. The bird was served with a side of “real mac n' cheese” which was arguably the best mac I've ever had. Also served were braised greens which I really didn't care for, but in all fairness I don't usually care for collard greens.

While the price tag is a bit on the high end for Marietta (\$15 for the bird and sides) the quality exceeded the price tag and the serving was large enough to easily make two meals from. The other entrees were of comparable quality; the beef rib was falling apart on its own it was so tender, and the mushroom pasta was rich and decadent.

After our entrees we ended the meal with a cocktail and desert. The deserts were fantastic; the fudge brownie was decked out with brandied cherries, vanilla ice cream and powdered cacao, and the praline banana pudding put another modern twist on a Southern staple.

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Head Huntress

By Victoria Allen

Ghost and gobbling's, monsters and scarecrows.
Witches and warlocks that conjure up potions.
Voodoo and curses to trick you into awkward positions.
Freddy and Jason, Bloody Marry and Candyman,
Repeat my name in the mirror to see if a appear and take
You into the unforgiving world of damnation, or eternal cremation.
Burn in hell or drown in a well without water,
Tinker with my buttons and stink from devastation.
Disintegration and humiliation is what I feel when I am ignored.
With spot lights and bull horn to scream it across the mountain tops.
See the real ME, not the imitation of who I want to be.
Crop me, cream me, make me a better product, of the system.
Give me life, breath me air, give me identification, identify my
reflection of a real woman, a giver of life.
A person of existence, a curator of equality, give me a voice to speak
my mind, hear my cry, respond to my request, free my spirit, release
my ability to be A HEAD HUNTRESS...



The missing on Pleasant Hill (part 2)

By Randy Brown Jr.

The metal door to the interrogation room makes an awful shrieking sound as I push it forward. The musty, foul odor inside causes my nostrils to do an about face. Sitting at a table just a few feet in front of me is a male figure of short stature. If I have to guess, he is barely five foot two. The exposed light fixture that sits above him moves in a slow circular motion. His head rests on the folded arms below. I presume he is sleeping or just doesn't want to be bothered.

I take my seat, tucking away the photo given to me by Chief Olsen. Seconds go by as I sit and study this person, believed to be the cause of all that has gone wrong in Valley. The atmosphere in the room is still and silent; you could hear a feather drop on a carpet floor. I gather myself, careful not to startle my subject and I speak.

"Coldstone, Mr. Coldstone?" I say in a quiet, shivering tone.

He does not answer. The light above him causes the male figure to disappear and reappear out of the darkness. The bald spot in the center of his head reveals scabs and waves of dead skin.

I take a deep breath and speak again, "Mr. Coldstone, Mr. Coldstone are you awake?"

No answer. The bulb above shines on the resting subject below, swiveling right to left. Suddenly, my ears catch words, familiar words that I've heard before. The words are as fragile as a whisper, spoken slow and eerie; almost enticing me to lean forward.

"She watches, she watches, sheeee waaatches ..."

The light moves back towards the table and out of the depths of darkness jumps a pair of bloodshot red eyes, facial skin that sags down to the nose, and crusty lips the likes of which the world has never seen.

My heart nearly hurdles out of my chest! I fall back in my chair, the back of my head bouncing off of the rough carpet.

I begin to shout, trying my best to get the attention of Chief Olsen. "Lights, turn on the lights! I need light!"

The main lights in the room instantly come on, radiating on hidden things. As I stand to my feet to collect myself, I can hear Lionel Coldstone chuckling out loud. This is no ordinary laugh, it is hair raising. It sounds like a frog's croak mixed with a little child belching.

I stand there with my eyes fixed on him as he turns in the chair. Readjusting my tie, I sit back down at the table. The shirt that he wears is torn in multiple places; it was as if a cat tried to file its nails on the piece of clothing.

His eyes are hiding behind his left shoulder as he speaks. "What's wrong Detective, never seen a man who hasn't slept in weeks?" His voice, a throat scratching croon, drags each word into the next.

I am still a little stunned. "You'll have to forgive me Mr. Coldstone, I've ..."

"Lionel, call me Lionel."

"Okay, Lionel. Forgive me, I've had no sleep as well."

As if he heard something of interest, Coldstone turns around in his chair facing me with those cobweb grizzly eyes. I try my best to accept what I am seeing and not freak out again.

Weeks? With that face he hasn't slept in months?

"Why haven't you been getting any sleep ... Detective Anderson?"

An unnatural sensation rolls around in my gut as I hear him pronounce my name.

How did he know my name?

"You seem bothered Detective ..."

"How do you know my name?" I ask.

"Simmer down, I read the papers. It's not against the law to read the papers Detective."

Mr. Coldstone seems to be comfortable at this point. He sits now, with his arms relaxed right in front of me. The nails on his fingers have been reduced to nubs, dirty and dark brown.

I stretch my neck out leaning forward, attempting to make eye contact with him. "Lionel, are you aware of what's been going on lately?"

Coldstone tilts his neck to the right and starts drawing imaginary circles with his index finger, on the table.

"Lionel, do you know anything about the disappearances of Mr. Thompson, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Evans, Mr. Re ..."

He interrupts me with agitation. "I've done nothing wrong; I've done noooothing wrooong."



Art by Randy Brown Jr.

"Who is this she that you keep referring to? Do you know her? Why is she watching?"

The useless play with his index finger ceases as he simultaneously locks eyes with me. Those creepy, bloodshot eyes study every blink that I make. It was as if I triggered some sort of bug crawling nerve in that menacing head of his.

"I-KNOW-NOOOTHING," he says in this scratchy low tone.

Just then I felt the chief staring a whole in my back. I remember him telling me to keep the conversation short and show Coldstone the picture. I try once more to get an answer out of Lionel. I don't know how he's going to react and I don't want to find out.

"Lionel, I need you to give me something, anything. Who is she? What happened on Pleasant Hill Road?"

Coldstone continued to keep his eyes on me but didn't say anything. I reach down into my pocket and pull out the photograph given to me by Chief Olsen. I take a deep breath and lay the vintage film paper on the desk.

Lionel Coldstone looks down at it and out of nowhere begins twitching. His head and shoulder meet midway, knocking against each other. His arms rise from the table and bend like those of a praying mantis.

"Lionel, Lionel ..."

His head then starts to turn violently, from left to right.

"Lionel! Mr. Coldstone this isn't a game!"

As if he is unaware of his own actions, Coldstone stops. His arms and shoulders relax, his head straight forward. He looks down and abruptly snatches the photo away from the table.

"She watches Detective, Sheeee," stopping in an awkward chuckle, "waaaatches."

This freak show has my stomach doing back flips. I turn to the glass window and shrug my shoulders. The chief has what he presumably wanted.

What now?

Just as I turn to leave my chair he speaks again.

"She didn't want to hurt anybody, she was nice to everyone."

I turn back towards Coldstone. "Who is she?"

"Promise me something Detective?"

"It depends on what you're requesting."

He looks around the room as if someone is behind him; those bloodshot eyes nearly leave the sockets.

"Promise me that you will not take me with you, pleeease. Please don't take me Detective."

"Take you where? What are you afraid of?"

"She doesn't like me. I barely got away, look at my clothes!" His voice begins to escalate. "She hates me, she hates you!" Lionel stands to his feet; his fragile body almost crumbles to the floor. Leaning on the table with one hand and pointing to the tinted window with the other, he lowers his tone again and speaks slowly. "She hates you and you, sheeee hates us aaaall."

Lionel Coldstone flops back down into his seat, the funk from his body blindsides my nostrils. He attempts to steady his breathing by placing both hands on his chest.

I am startled by his words.

Why does she hate me?

"Listen Lionel, you have to take me there. Wait, where am I going?"

"I can tell you, but Lionel Coldstone isn't going anywhere near that place."

I reach over to his side of the table and grab the photograph back from him. I turn it around to face him and say, "Do you want to bring her in? Is she the one causing all of this? I can stop all of this but I need your help. Lionel, who is she?"

He ignores my question, but speaks something more appealing. "I can take you there, but it is daaaangerous Detective. I can't promise your safety and I can't promise mine, but I can take you there. She likes visitors, they never leave. I don't know if they stay because she likes them so much or because she hates them so much. Anyway, only you and I can go. She gets reeeeeeally mad when lots of people come."

"What do you mean, 'you can't promise my safety'?" I ask inching away from the table. "Where are you taking me?"

He pauses and then gives me a slight grin. "Where you want to go, where everyone wants to go ... Pleasant Hill Road."

The goose bumps return as I swallow a lump of saliva.

There is no way that I'm going down that road or anywhere near it without assistance.

"Let's make a deal, you take me and my partner to Pleasant Hill, and I'll take care of this woman or whatever she is. Do we have a deal?"

Lionel Coldstone casually moves back in his chair and folds his arms. "You promise to get rid of her?"

I stand firm on my statement. "I promise."

"Okay, you have a deal."

I pick up the photo, push in my chair, and begin to head towards the door.

"Detective, one more thing."

I turn around and face the subject in front of me. He once again turns sideways in the chair and hides his eyes behind his shoulders.

"We must be very careful Detective. She watches, Sheeeee waaaaaatchessss."

I hurry to get out of the interrogation room and shut the door. Wilmur and Chief Olsen stand in front of me with looks of concern. I lean up against the door and slide all the way down to the floor.

"Anderson, are you okay?" asks the chief.

"I don't know let's see; creepy man, mysterious woman, missing people, and a forbidden road ... yep I'm just about perfect chief."

Wilmur reaches over and helps me to my feet.

"Ace, why do I have to go with you? I told you that I wanted nothing to do with that man."

"Listen, people are missing and only he knows why. It's our job, we have no choice," I utter in frustration.

"Look, backup will be close by. Get this Nut Job to cooperate and we'll be home free," orders the chief.

I walk up to the interrogation glass, eyes touching the pane, and look through to the other side.

I can hear Wilmur whispering in the background, "We're dead, all of us. We are all dead."

I squint my eyes to view more clearly but I can't see Coldstone. The unexposed light fixture sways across the table to an empty chair. The fixture takes an unexpected turn towards the window that I look upon and OUT pops those bloodshot eyes. In an altering, feminine tone are words that say, "I-I seeeeee yooooooouuu."

Chicken and the Egg

Continued from page 4

The cocktail menu is diverse and also steeped in Southern heritage. A classic Manhattan is given a Georgia twist by adding candied bacon, peach liquor and a grilled peach garnish - a must try. Other drinks include ingredients such as okra and rhubarb with surprisingly good outcomes.

Chicken and the Egg is the type of place Marietta has been in need of for a long time. The restaurant works as a date night venue, celebration destination or just as a good place to go to satisfy a craving for really well-made comfort food. While the higher than average pricing may scare some off initially, it is absolutely worth the few dollars extra per head. The chains may be able to offer a broader menu for cheaper, but there is really no comparison when it comes to quality; the difference freshness makes really must be experienced to be understood.

The Walking Dead returns to AMC

By Cherise Randle

Last Halloween, zombie fans rejoiced as terror of an undead world leaped from the pages of one of the most popular comics ever created and landed on one of the best television channels for drama – AMC. “The Walking Dead” season one was no disappointment. Fans all over the internet, including myself, counted down to the season two premiere.

Last season ended literary with a bang as the group left the CDC just as it was engulfed in a fire ball. One member of the group died in the fire as she felt no reason to continue living in a world devoid of life. Andrea almost got left behind as she felt the same way; but Dale sat beside her just before the fire and told her he would not leave, he would rather die with her. Not wanting his blood on her hands, Andrea decided to leave with the group. This decision had consequences that caused tension between Dale and Andrea throughout the first episode of season two.

“The Walking Dead” season two starts with the group heading south to Fort Benning, but they are stopped along the way as they find a barricade of over turned vehicles in the middle of a high way. The abandoned vehicles are stocked with clothing, water, but also dead bodies. Before the group can stock up and be on their way, Dale’s RV malfunctions; even worse, the group spots a large herd heading their way.

What’s a herd? A herd is a mass of zombies that have gathered together and move in the direction of a loud sound. This sound normally comes from gun shots and the herd follows it even after the sound has disappeared. A herd poses obvious risk to the group.

The group has no where to go, but by quick thinking they hide under the vehicles waiting silently as the herd passes. As the shuffling feet of the undead pass I can hear my own heart beating. It is so terrifying seeing the characters so close to death.

You are how old?

By Vicki Nix

Can you imagine jumping into college before graduating high school? Feeling like one of the oldest students on campus, I was excited to meet one of our youngest. Sana Yasmeen is in my American Government class and also happens to be a 16-year-old senior from Wheeler High School.

Yasmeen isn’t just taking classes, she is getting a full college experience. She was a part of the team of students from SPSU that won first place at the Georgia Social Business and Microcredit Forum in October. They competed with 38 teams from 32 colleges and universities across the state. She also had the opportunity to participate on the team that entered and won

After the herd passes, Sophia is chased into the woods by zombies. Rick, being the hero he is, runs after. But unfortunately while Rick is leading two zombies off their trail, he and Sophia lose each other in the woods. Rick and Daryl team up for a search. Daryl becomes sort of a Rambo character; knife in tow, he sifts through wooded area to find foot prints that lead them in the direction of Sophia. But they eventually lose track as day becomes night.

Andrea, depressed after losing her sister, feels like a third wheel keeping the group from progressing. Shane feels the same. They both plan on parting ways from the group, but not before they continue searching for Sophia.

If you have ever read “The Walking Dead” comics you know how well developed Carl was. The Walking Dead’s AMC series is finally beginning to do this too. Carl is feeling left out and wants to hang with the older men. He tries to form a relationship with Shane but is shot down for not listening to Shane and Lori. This creates tensions between Lori and Shane. They still have hang ups about their broken relationship from season one, and are struggling to keep it from Rick.

The whole group goes into the woods looking for Sophia with no luck. Time is running out. While Rick, Shane and Carl continuing to look, the rest of the group goes back to the highway. Back in the woods the three men come upon a deer, rare in these circumstances. Carl is mesmerized, and Shane and Rick let him walk closer to the animal. Carl gets closer, he reaches to touch the deer, but suddenly the episode takes a turn for the worst

“The Walking Dead” season two premiere has a completely unexpected ending. Those who have never read the comics and even those who have will be blown away. Get ready for a set of all new characters and relationships. Tune in to AMC Sunday nights at 9 for “The Walking Dead.”

the competition sponsored by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

Yasmeen’s maturity and social politeness disguise her youth. She is quick to seek advice and guidance when she needs it and is equally capable of getting lost in a conversation about her hobbies and interests. She plans to major in biology and is actively participating in the honors program. Playing pool and lacrosse, reading detective novels, photography and drawing are hobbies that she loves when she can fit them around her studies. If you meet Sana on campus, be sure to congratulate her on her early success and you’ll be sure to make a new friend.

Science lab vespa

By Daniel DeBusk



Update: Curiosity

Back in the September issue, we had reported on NASA’s next Mars rover, Curiosity. In that time Curiosity has been flown to the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) getting final tests and checks while waiting for Earth and Mars to get into position for a favorable launch window.

Information about one of components has just been released by NASA. The Russian Federal Space Agency contributed an instrument that shoots

neutrons to detect water under the surface of the rover’s path. It is called DAN (Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons) and it will drastically improve the chance of Curiosity to find more life-favorable conditions on Mars.

NASA still has Curiosity scheduled for launch shortly after this issue of the Sting is released, on November 25th, at 10:21 a.m. EST. It will then arrive at Mars in August of 2012. Keep your eyes open!

Ancient astronomical mystery solved

In the late 2nd century, Chinese astronomers documented a heavenly occurrence that modern astronomers in the 1960’s determined was a supernova. Since then, modern astronomy has determined that Supernova Remnant RCW 86 is the remains of that event. Everything would have ended there, just a note in the astronomical field, except for one glaringly obvious problem. The expansion of the remnant got too big too fast. According to Brian J. Williams, Astronomer and lead author of the study from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, it had spread two to three times larger than was expected for a supernova over 1800 years ago.

According to NASA’s website, RCW 86 was initially thought to be the result of the most powerful type of stellar explosion, a core-collapse supernova. NASA’s Chandra X-ray observer and the European Space Agency’s XMM-Newton Observatory showed that the remnant was made of huge amounts of iron, which indicates that it was only a standard “Type Ia” event.

Combining the data from two other NASA space telescopes, Spitzer and WISE, revelations were made in how the expansion was so large. The data shows that RCW 86 was, in fact, a stan-

dard “Type Ia” event created from the explosion of White Dwarf star formed from a star similar to our own Sun.

Williams’ team’s observations show for the first time that a White Dwarf can create a cavity around it by siphoning matter from a nearby star before going supernova. The cavity of matter would explain how the remnant’s size expanded to its current proportions. During the supernova, the ejected outer material would have traveled completely unimpeded by the gas and dust that the supernova releases.



Photo courtesy of NASA

Collecting turns into a career

By Vicki Nix

Do you find yourself on campus with major ambitions and huge zeal for getting started on the career of your dreams? Are you here to satisfy a deep desire to learn? Or, are you here because you know it is the next step toward a career but, you have no idea of what career? Know that whatever your answer is, you are on a journey to success. Getting an education fuels and equips you to reach a successful career. Not all journeys are traveled down roads that are straight and level. Using the true story of a friend’s journey is a great example of how you never know where you’ll end up.

My friend, Richard, a marketing student at the University of Georgia in 1982, searched for opportunity in everything he touched. He smuggled a Coke machine into his dorm room and left his dorm room unlocked for friends to “shop” from his machine. He jumped-in and “did” things that others just talked about doing. His education gave him the foundation to explore his passions and interests.

Growing up in the Atlanta area gave him exposure to the Coca-Cola Company and sparked his interest in collecting Coca-Cola commemorative bottles. What started with a single bottle has grown into one of the most complete commemorative Coca-Cola bottle collections in the world. The relationships he formed with other collectors have since carried him

around the world many times.

After graduating from the University of Georgia, he started his career in the beverage industry, maintaining that his collection was still just a hobby. Richard let the passion of his collecting and the many relationships built around his collecting to lead him to many adventures. He left his secure job with a beverage company to start PitStop Sanitation with friends.

He teamed up with other friends to produce three feature films- “Terror Track” starring John Ritter and Bryan Cranston; “Conjurer” starring John Schneider; and the 30th Anniversary of the “Dukes of Hazzard” starring the original (living) cast. His relationships and joy of collecting motivated Richard to become an author of two books on bottle-collecting, create a huge eBay business, open a retail consignment store for collectors, Full Circle, in Newnan, and join friends in the launch of DASH, a website where thousands of collectors manage more than 100,000 of their own action figures. Richard found that each group of collectors created their own unique communities.

Slowly but surely, Richard’s career turned into one that continually revolves and evolves around the passions of collectors. Success is found in discovering your passion, surrounding yourself with people with kindred spirits and knowing that adventure lies around the bend.

BSO partners with Keep Cobb Beautiful

By Krista Surovec

The Biology Student Organization partnered up with the organization Keep Cobb Beautiful Saturday, Oct. 8th to help clean up our very own Rottenwood Creek.

Nekeshia Griffin, our Community Service Coordinator organized this event. Several BSO members along with the Keep Cobb Beautiful volunteers spent the morning pulling out twenty garbage bags of trash, seven tires and five shopping carts along with other large debris that should not have been there. We hope to plan another clean up next semester to get to the litter we did not have time for that day. Please be conscious of the ecosystems that help to support your life here on Earth; do your part to find a trash can or recycle bin to dispose of your garbage.

Other projects in the planning stages are to build

a nature trail to the creek so that the SPSU community can enjoy all it has to offer and be able to better invest their time and energy in keeping it clean and beautiful. Trips to the Aquarium and to The Lost Sea in Sweetwater, Tennessee are also in the works for this year. If you want to be a part of the BSO or have any questions for us, check us out on Orgsync or email us at SPSU.BSO@gmail.com.

If you hadn't heard about our community garden, this semester we've doubled the size with the addition of a second bed. It's located between the D and E buildings. The new addition to the garden has mums, onions, herbs like rosemary, mint, oregano, lavender and basil that are some fall plants that have been growing well. Stop by and see what we've been working on!

Arts Appreciation Society

By Krista Martinez

Want to go to the art museum or see that exciting upcoming show at the Fox, but have no one to go with? Come and find out about one of SPSU's newest organizations, the Arts Appreciation Society (AAS). Don't worry about being good at art; we're here to enjoy the art and talent of others! If it's an art form, we are interested. We specialize in appreciating the

arts of all kinds. If you like food festivals, plays, music, improv, poetry, literature, opera, ballet (the list goes on), we'd love to have you at our next meeting! Check us out on Orgsync to find out specifics or email Erin Reno or Krista Surovec at spsu_aas@yahoo.com.

What's going on at the BSO?

By Krista Martinez

The Biology Student Organization has been busy this semester adding a second bed to the community garden as well as hosting a creek clean-up here on campus. The new addition to the garden has onions and herbs that are growing very well for the fall. Stop by and see what we've been working on!

Saturday, October 8th, several of us BSO members, along with volunteers from the organization Keep Cobb Beautiful, spent the morning cleaning our very own Rottenwood Creek. We pulled out 20 garbage bags of trash, a few tires and shopping carts along with other large debris that should not have been there. Please be conscious of the ecosystems that help to support your life here on Earth; do your

part to find a trash can or recycle bin to dispose of your garbage. We hope to plan another clean up next semester to get to the litter we did not have time for that day.

Projects in the planning are to build a better trail to the creek so that the SPSU community can enjoy all it has to offer and be able to better invest their time and energy in keeping it clean and beautiful. Trips to the Georgia Aquarium and to The Lost Sea in Sweetwater, Tennessee are also in the works for this year. If you want to be a part of the BSO or have any questions for us, check us out on Orgsync or email us at SPSU.BSO@gmail.com.

Tour de SPSU Bikes on campus

By Dominic Fredo

Prior to this semester, your humble scribe followed the typical freshman triangle; that is to say, all activities occurred in one of three places. The buildings would change depending on the classes being taken, but for the most part, everything was within a five minute walk from the cold, dark cave called my room and the classroom (if you're reading between the lines, I didn't get out much). This year, however, I moved into the special interest housing at the University Columns, which, compared to last year's digs, is practically another zip code. Consequently, I decided to try dragging my bike out of the garage and see if it wouldn't shorten the trek to class. To make a long story short, it does and it doesn't. The University Columns area is the lowest elevation building complex on campus. To get anywhere, it's literally an uphill battle. Once one gets to the Engineering Technology Center, however, the bike is able to move more quickly around campus than any other form of transportation save for an automobile.

The bigger looming issue, however, is finding a place to chain up the bike upon arrival. If you think trying to park your car is a challenge, a bike is just slightly below that. Several bike racks are full of rusted, partially disassembled, or abandoned bikes, either due to the defunct SPSU Bike Share program or just accumulation of personal bicycles that were never removed. There are also a few buildings on campus which do not have a bike rack in close proximity; notably Hornet Village, the University Columns, and the Burruss Auditorium Complex (H building). Naturally, I had some questions about what was being done by the school to improve bicycle friendliness, and Cedric Franklin, Parking Operations Manager at SPSU as well as overseer of the Bike Share program, was generous enough to provide answers.

My first question was finding out what happened to the Bike Share program. Last year, I had halfway considered checking out a bike, but a brief inspec-

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SPSU's new nuclear engineering programs

By Ryan Smith

Starting with the 2011 fall semester, the Center for Nuclear Studies (CNS) at SPSU introduced its first academic curriculum in Nuclear Engineering. The Center for Nuclear Studies is a division of the Southern Polytechnic Applied Research Center (SPARC) and the Extended University.

In the past, this Center only offered continuing education workshop courses in Nuclear Power Generation and QA/QC. However, due to the industry demands for nuclear engineering professionals, the Center for Nuclear Studies has developed a series of academic courses in nuclear engineering which are open to SPSU students. These courses are offered through the Systems Engineering (SYE) and Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) programs. Students, however, do not have to be majoring in SYE or MET to enroll in these courses.

The Nuclear Option track offered through SYE currently offers six courses in nuclear engineering that are scheduled to be offered on a rotating basis. Beginning with the 2012 spring semester, several applied courses in nuclear engineering will also be offered within the MET program. This applied track in nuclear engineering is comprised of four courses which will also be offered on a rotating schedule.

In support of SPSU and the Center for Nuclear Studies, the

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has awarded SPSU a number of educational grants and scholarships for qualified students. Accordingly, full-semester tuition scholarships are available to all qualified SPSU students who major in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The Center is also looking to establish co-op and internship opportunities for students enrolled in these programs.

Dr. Mahmoud Ghavi, the Director of the Center for Nuclear Studies, is a veteran of the nuclear industry with decades of experience in the academic, industrial and corporate environment. Dr. Ghavi's aspiration is to provide students with the requisite knowledge and competency so that they can become a successful part of the future workforce of the nuclear industry.

Given all the opportunities in the industry, the Center for Nuclear Studies anticipates a significant interest in these programs among SPSU students. Students who are interested in learning more about the mission of the Center for Nuclear Studies, courses or scholarship opportunities can visit the Center's website at <http://www.spsu.edu/nuclearstudies>. Questions beyond the information provided on the website should be directed to the Center by calling 678-915-5531 or e-mailing the Director of the Center, Dr. Mahmoud Ghavi, at mghavi@spsu.edu.

Future plans to expand parking

By Dominic Fredo

In a coincidental follow-up to Sharon Roberts' opinion article on SPSU parking, I sat down with Cedric Franklin, Parking Operations Manager and SPSU alumnus, to find out about the future of parking on campus.

Despite what you may think, the number of parking spaces occupied on campus during peak hours (around 2 pm) only amounts to between 75-80% of maximum capacity. At the time of the transportation study available on the University Transportation website (which is a very good read), there are 4,795 commuter students (including Georgia Highlands commuters), and 1,365 residents, combined with 754 faculty, staff and contract workers (dining services, bookstore employees, etc.). These numbers were collected in fall 2010, and have increased in the year that followed, but the point still remains that commuter students outnumber resident students approximately four-to-one. This is reflected in the number of available parking spaces, which amounts to 2,094 of the total 3,872 parking spaces be-

ing dedicated commuter spaces, as opposed to 980 residential spaces. According to Mr. Franklin, residential parking uses much less of its capacity than commuter parking, so if need be, some residential lots may be partitioned or repurposed to commuter lots. For example, lot P11, a massive expanse located south of the Courtyard apartments, always has at least 100 open residential parking spaces.

Curious about how the parking deck affected things? When it first opened, it wasn't used very much. Now it's one of the more popular and convenient places to park for students taking classes in the Engineering Technology Center and the Atrium Building, as well as residents living in Hornet Village and the University Columns. For both resident and commuter students, parking in the deck does not cost anything beyond the \$100 per semester transportation fee. Faculty and staff wishing to park in the parking deck may do so at a cost of \$25 per semester. The parking deck contains 851 total spaces, of which

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SPSU Soccer star goes pro

By Robert Barnard

Former SPSU soccer star Eric Ati has made it to the professional ranks of soccer, as he was signed with the Atlanta Silverbacks on August 30th. He played with the Silverbacks Reserves in the NPSL (National Professional Soccer League) and started all ten games in which he appeared. He was also named a NPSL Southeast Division All-Star.

Ati played for the SPSU Hornets from 2007-2010 as the team's starting goalkeeper all four seasons. He earned NAIA First Team All-American Honors in 2010 and helped lead the Hornets to an undefeated conference record in his senior season. He also played a key role in the team's win over

defending national champions Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.). He was instrumental by saving two of four penalty kicks in the deciding shootout.

Ati is originally from Cameroon but moved to Georgia at age seven where he played youth soccer in Atlanta with the Tucker Youth Soccer Association (TYSA). His favorite soccer player is French goalkeeper Jeremie Janot.

The success that Ati has enjoyed thus far just goes to show that if you strive to achieve a goal and give it your all, dreams can come true. Congratulations to Eric Ati in all of his success and best of luck in the future.

Lady Hornets fall to lady Owls

By Robert Barnard

The SPSU Lady Hornets played their first game against the KSU owls on Nov. 1st at the KSU Convocation Center in Kennesaw, GA. The Owls won the opening tip-off and rattled off 12 straight points in the first two minutes before Dominique Smith, a junior forward and transfer student from Valdosta State, scored the first two points for Southern Poly to end the drought.

The Lady Hornets were down by 20 points at halftime with the score of 43-23. The Lady Hornets appeared to be fired up after the halftime speech by head coach Laquanda Dawkins, but the deficit before halftime appeared to be too much for the Lady Hornets to overcome.

The Lady Hornets were led by returning player, junior guard Tara Hay, scoring 19 points, getting two rebounds and three steals. Hay made 11 of her 12 attempted free-throws. Smith also contributed to the cause with eight points and eight rebounds. The Hornets shot a mere 21.4 percent for the game from the field while shooting 12.5 percent beyond the three point arc.

This loss will definitely be an eye-opener to the Lady Hornets, who are two-time champions. The Lady Hornets need the SPSU community to support them and cheer them into a successful season. LET'S GO LADY HORNETS!

Runnin' Hornets lose hard-fought game

By Zachary Duncan

The Hornet's basketball season is underway as SPSU's men's basketball team played their first game of the season on October 31 against the Georgia State Panthers.

The Hornets were able to hold the game very close for the first half. It seemed as though it was tied for the longest time. At halftime, the game was still very close with Georgia State winning 36-31. In the second half, the Hornets continued to put up a good fight. They were able to keep it within reach until the final stretch of the game, when the Panthers took a sizeable lead and went on to win the game 90-65.

I think that the thing that hurt the Hornets the most were the transition plays, especially in the second half of the game.

The Panthers started capitalizing on their fast break opportunities and were able to turn them into easy baskets. If you were to take away the points that they scored in transition, I think the score would have been really close.

On the statistical side of the game, Jessie Childs led the Hornets with a total of 17 points. Bobby Smith also played a key part in the offense with 14 points. Derwin Gage was the top rebounder of the night with a total of seven.

All in all it was an entertaining game to watch. The Panthers took a good lead there at the end, but the Hornets fought hard the whole game and were able to stay in it. It was a good first game and I look forward to watching the rest of the season.

Men's basketball fall 2011

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 15	Carver Bible	SPSU	7:00pm
Nov. 18	University of Mobile*	SPSU	7:30pm
Nov. 19	Bellhaven*	SPSU	7:00pm
Nov. 22	Carver Bible	Atlanta, GA	7:00pm
Dec. 2	AUM*	Montgomery, AL	7:30pm cst
Dec. 3	Faulkner*	Montgomery, AL	5:00pm cst
Dec. 17	Coastal College	Brunswick, GA	7:30pm
Dec. 21	Concordia Selma	Selma, AL	7:00pm cst
Dec. 31	Columbus State	Columbus, GA	3:00pm

* denotes SSAC games

Women's basketball fall 2011

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 15	Univ. of Cumberlands	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.

Bikes on campus

Continued from page 7

tion would reveal that weather took a major toll on the condition of the bikes. Mr. Franklin revealed that storage was a big factor, as there was no way to cover the bikes when not in use. The program initially purchased 30 bikes and started 10 for rental duty to gauge interest, with the remaining 20 being placed in covered storage for future use. The 10-bike starter fleet, with no method of covering them, were left outside to brave the elements, and became the industrial artwork seen still chained to the bike rack in front of the student center. Mr. Franklin was optimistic about restarting the program once new bike racks are installed. The school has purchased 40 new bike racks that should be fully installed by the upcoming spring semester.

I previously mentioned that finding a place to chain up a bike is difficult, and though the chain will go around anything, there are still some places that are advised against for hitching posts. Mr. Franklin didn't have any recommendations, but I would like

to remind you to just be aware that if your bike is in the way of maintenance workers, it will be removed and may not be in the same condition you left it.

That's not to say that bicycles aren't taken into consideration during transportation studies (<http://fac-web.spsu.edu/parking/documents/ExistingConditionsAssessment.pdf>), however. Mr. Franklin stated that, "We would love to be a more bike-friendly campus." Included in future transportation plans are the possible addition of bike lanes to campus roads (Fun fact: riding a bicycle on a sidewalk is illegal in the state of Georgia if there is an adjacent roadway à la Alumni Drive), and carpool programs to attempt to decrease the amount of vehicular traffic.

All things considered, bicycles are a great, fun method of traversing the campus grounds, and one that will have an impact on transportation improvements for years to come. I certainly plan on keeping my bike around, so keep your eyes peeled for a green blur zipping around campus.

Plans to expand parking

Continued from page 7

17 are handicapped, and 24 are visitor spaces. In the figures listed in the previous paragraph, these 810 spaces are included in the commuter tally, owing to the fact that mostly commuters use the parking deck.

Speaking of parking decks, University Transportation is currently conducting a study looking into the feasibility of a second parking deck. Details on location and timeframe were not given to me, but Mr. Franklin did say, "As soon as we know something, you'll know something." So if you're interested in keeping tabs on this story, check the University Transportation website.

When asked about factors contributing to long- or short-term parking plans, Mr. Franklin listed enrollment as the biggest issue. Over the past five

years, SPSU's enrollment has grown from 4,200 to 5,500 (figures are approximate). Despite this, however, there are not 5,500 cars on campus at one time, due to a good number of residents not having cars and commuter students not being on campus all at the same time.

Another main issue is convenience. 95% of people want a parking spot that minimizes walking distance between car and final destination. I give the other 5% to people who are paranoid about their cars being hit and consequentially choose to park out in the boondocks to protect their cars. It's impossible when dealing with 6,300 people and their cars to develop a plan that will please everybody. To quote Mr. Franklin, "Parking is parking."