Students make plans for well-deserved holiday

By Dlorah Jenkins
Contributing Writer

“Holidays are a time for rest, relaxation and fun. This is no exception for Tech students.”

After a grueling semester of exams, papers, presentations, and labs, winter break is a welcomed respite from the hustle and bustle of Tech life. During the break, most students will be going home and are looking forward to the opportunity to unwind.

“I am going home to Pennsylvania and doing nothing,” said Anna Buseman-Williams, a fourth-year Civil Engineering major.

She then added that the one thing she definitely will be doing is shopping. Buseman-Williams did express some concern about becoming bored during the break though.

“However, many students seem to be quite active during the break, with the onset of boredom not being a concern. In addition to sleeping, I will be shadowing doctors at a local hospital,” said Christina Duden, a fifth-year Biomedical Engineering student.

Likewise, Channing Raiford’s vacation may not be much of a holiday at all.

“My co-op job starts back up next semester so I’m going to try to get a head start on that,” said Raiford, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering major. However she also plans to “chill out and try to get some rest.”

Erika Downing, a fourth-year Management major and manager for the football team anticipates both work and fun during the break. “I’ll be at football practice a lot, but I’m planning on going to the bowl game and just hanging out with friends in Atlanta,” she said.

Charles Fleming, a fourth-year Mechanical Engineering student, will be recording an album during the break. The album would come out after I get some sleep,” he said.

Travels also something students will be doing during this break.

“After [my] graduation ceremony, I’m going with my family to New York to spend Christmas, then I am returning to Trinidad in time for New Year’s,” said Ian Sharpe, a fifth-year Electrical Engineering student.

The Alumni Association created a website for the collection of holiday messages to send overseas and compiled them all into a booklet.

“Greetings were collected from a group of alumni, faculty, staff, parents and students. Greetings were collected from alumni overseas. The website received messages from as far as Australia and Mexico.”

Sisters in Alpha Chi Omega personalized hand-written cards, and Connie Bramblett, a Tech parent, had her third-grade class from Friendship Elementary School draw holiday cards.

Even President Clough gave a few words for the many Yellow Jackets away from home. Each alumna was sent a package containing the greetings sent in online, hand-made cards from Alpha Chi Omega and Mrs. Bramblett’s class and the Homecoming and To Hell With Georgia editions of the Technique.

“The bulk of the greetings (67 pages worth in a Word document) were compiled from our website,” Lancaster said.

Lancaster and others in the Alumni Association organized the program, opening the website for greetings from Oct. to Nov. and advertising in parent and alumni publications.

Lancaster came up with a plan to allow anyone in the community to easily send their thoughts, words of encouragement and holiday greetings to Tech alumni overseas.

“I had the idea to have a website where members of the Tech community (alumni, students, parents, faculty/staff and friends of Tech) could submit an online holiday greeting that would go to our alumni deployed overseas during the holidays,” she said.

“I had the vision of making a book of these greetings and sending hard copies to our Yellow Jackets serving around the world. The Alumni Association was behind it 110 percent and it started from there,” Lancaster said.

“Our web department built the website for the online submissions and I got the word out to my con-
"My mother listens to Clark Howard religiously, so if he advertises a cheap airfare, we might go to Europe," said Stephanie Tolbert, a Chemistry major.

"I’m going to Birmingham to visit family, and I’ll be coming back to Tech a good bit to hang out and go to parties. I’ll probably go to the Peach Bowl, especially if Tech goes. I might go to the Outback Bowl. I’m going on a cruise...to the Bahamas, and I’ll probably come back here for New Year’s," said Karen Donaldson, a fourth-year Science, Technology and Culture major.

In the midst of all that travel, "[I will be] watching a lot of football, studying for the GRE and doing research for [my] thesis," Donaldson said. During this season of giving, some students will choose to spend their time pursuing humanitarian causes.

"Some of my friends and I will be going to Washington D.C. to protest the war. We are going to drive up there together and stay as long as we can," said Stephanie Nadi, a fourth-year Management student.

Other students, as members of Engineering Students Without Borders (ESWB), will be going to aid in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts from Dec. 18 through Dec. 22 in Mobile, Ala.

"We will stay in Mobile...demolishing/cleaning out damaged homes as well as repairing homes that are still stable. The repairs will mostly involve roof repairation," said Angharad Pagnon, President of ESWB and a fourth-year Civil Engineering major.

"We [ESWB-GT and the Office of community service] chose Mobile as it is on the outskirts of the affected area but still facing major difficulties," Pagnon said. When asked why she chose to spend her break in Alabama rather than relaxing at home she said "What better way to spend your break than helping others?"

"I went to Slidell, La. for this purpose during my Fall Break, and felt that this is just something that needs to be done. As engineers we are knowledgeable in various aspects of design and sustainability, which can easily be applied in any relief effort," Pagnon said.

"This is why I am becoming an engineer, to apply the skills I will have learned to benefit others."

**Break from page 9 major.**

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In being a part of the show, she says the most important thing is “just facing the fear of what it means to look at a homeless person or a drug addict...and take away stereotypes and look at the person inside who may need a little help.”

This theme is not uncommon in today’s shows.

However, according to Schreck the show is the antithesis of Amy Grant’s Three Wishes.

The aim of Random 1 is to help those people that other shows often overlook.

“We make the people the [characters] meet earn the things that they receive by facing their fears and challenges and being open to connecting with another person who may be able to help them,” she said.

The show has been 10 years in the making and the stories of the people that they help are raw and profound.

The idea began when the two guys started off in 1996 in a pickup truck to help those they met.

They began filming their stories in 1999, and in 2005 they met Tim Kaiser, an executive producer of the hit television sitcom Will & Grace.

With that, they were able to get the momentum going for the show and eventually team up with A&E to air their story.

Schreck volunteered her time with the show for two years before getting involved with production full-time.

“The show forces me to face the judgmental aspects of myself that I wasn’t even aware existed,” she said.

“It made me realize that everyone has judgments against different types of people that only hold us back from connecting to the core of a person.”

To appeal to an audience across different cultural and social lines, the show emphasizes the power of music.

Many artists have volunteered their time to help with the show, including Hudson Bell, Xavier Rudd, William Elliott Whitmore, The Oranges Band and many more.

Schreck believes that her time at Tech helped her prepare for this job experience.

“Tech taught me what it is like to work hard...and that you can work hard and sometimes it still does not work out.”

Molly Schreck
Alumni, A&E Producer

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Alumni, A&E Producer

This experience also helped prepare her for the on-the-road job of producing this show.

Schreck’s advice to Tech students interested in doing what she is doing is that “they need to understand that there is no rulebook or guidebook on how the entertainment industry works, especially on the freelance side.”

“If you have an inkling of what you would like to be in the world—you might as well go for it...and when you get there it makes sense,” she said.

The show is constantly looking for students and people who are interested in volunteering ideas and time as most of the support Random 1 receives is from volunteers.

“We have no money to give and everything must be donated,” Schreck said.


According to the website, the series strives to show “the power of grassroots philanthropy, defined as people helping people one at a time.”

Also online is a R1 transmitter that constantly keeps up with the guys touring around the country.
success given the number of people the merrier!"

down more next time. The more,
deployed," Lancaster said.

were able to locate who would be
during the holidays. That's how we
that I asked if they'd be deployed

had a military background. From

To over 700 alumni who we knew

In early October I sent out an email
deployed alumni for future projects.

she said.

can make this an annual effort,

Afghanistan. I do believe that we

were on aircraft carriers in Iraq and

In mid-November, however, to allow

Lancaster also headed up a simi

lar effort in 2003 when the war in

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I hope that we can make this an annual endeavor for the

The Alumni Association sent cards written by students to troops sta

outpouring of support for Tech

alums overseas from the Georgia

alumni to know how

while they read page

who participated and the immense

outrpouring of support for Tech
alums overseas from the Georgia

I imagine it's difficult to be far

from home during the holidays and I

wanted them to know that the Geor

Gia Tech Community was thinking of

Getting mail and support from

the States can do wonders for their

morale. I think our alumni will be

appreciative I am of them for giv

them," he said.

"Thank you for all that you have sacrificed

and all you do to protect us. I pray daily

for your safety and prompt return. Have a very

happy holiday and know we are all thinking of you."

Ginger Amoni, Faculty/Staff
Atlanta, Ga.

I would like to extend a hearty Georgia Tech
greeting to all of the Yellow Jackets who are

far from home this holiday season. We are

grateful for your sacrifice and for your

contributions made on behalf of those of us

at home. Hopefully Tech will be in a bowl

game this year and you will be able to see it
electronically to cheer the Jackets to victory.

We look forward to the time when you will be

with your loved ones back at home and

you will be able to come by for a visit to

campus to renew your ties with us. God

bless you and keep you safe."

G. Wayne Clough
Institute President

The Alumni Association sent cards written by students to troops sta

tioned abroad, along with a compiled booklet of holiday wishes.

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