Solar Decathlon heats up

By Leslie Francisco
Contribution Writer

While most Tech students are enjoying the summer sunshine, a team of engineers is hard at work harnessing that light into usable energy. The Tech Solar Decathlon team, comprised of three team leaders, seven faculty advisors and over 50 students, has been chosen to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy’s biennial Solar Decathlon Contest in Washington, D.C., Oct. 2-22, 2007. The Solar Decathlon is an international event where 20 collegiate teams compete to design and construct the most appealing and energy-efficient solar-powered house.

Tech is in competition with 15 teams from the United States, as well as teams from Puerto Rico, Germany, Canada and Spain.

Teams receive points for design elements such as architecture, engineering and energy balance, as well as points for working elements of the house such as hot water, lighting and appliances.

Tech’s Solar Decathlon project, begun in spring 2006, is now nearing completion. The construction of the 800-square-foot house signaled the sixth and final phase of the project during the summer of 2007.

The house, located at 575 Fourteenth Street (the corner of Fourteenth and Hemphill Avenue behind the Institute of Paper, Science and Technology building) is set to leave Atlanta at the end of September for Washington, D.C., where it will spend 22 days “on mall,” or in competition.

At the close of the competition, the house will travel back to Atlanta, where it will be open for public tours in spring 2008. The project will also be used as a public outreach project for Atlanta citizens and school children to raise awareness of energy recycling and conservation.

See Solar, page 13

“Flash in the Pan” Animation Challenge kicks off

By Vivian Fan
Contribution Writer

The lights are dimmed above a new kind of stage as Tech’s award-winning library prepares to host its first “Flash in the Pan” Animation Challenge. Organized in partnership with the Office of Information Technology and sponsored by Adobe, the contest aims not only to showcase the original computer graphic work of Tech students, but to also demonstrate the Library’s ever-increasing multimedia technology that is available to all students.

“Flash in the Pan is truly an international event where 20 collegiate teams compete to design and construct the most appealing and energy-efficient solar-powered house,” said Brian Mathews, User Experience librarian.

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See Solar, page 13

Student stars in Yo Momma

By Lindsey Hollenbeck
Contribution Writer

“Yo Momma is so cheap, that when she’s singing the song ‘Looking for a Dime’, she really is looking for a dime.”

There’s old school—and then there’s Pak Attack. Pak Attack might be considered a cultural, hip-hop/rap, trash-talking revolution, or just an alias for Tech’s own student turned improv comedian Shereen Rehmann.

Rehmann is a five-year International Affairs and Modern Languages major who brought the heat on MTV’s Yo Momma this past summer.

Rehmann, who works part time at the Whole World Theatre on Spring Street, was certainly in the right place at the right time when MTV came to the theater looking to cast for Yo Momma’s “Best of Atlanta” series.

Yo Momma, hosted by That 70s Show’s Wilmer Valderrama, is a “no-holds-barred comedy competition that pits the funniest amateur trash-talkers against one another.” Rehmann, who has always had an interest in comedy and has exceptional abilities in improv, managed to snag a spot to appear on the show.

After a documented interview, Rehmann received a call back and thereafter made his first episode appearance along with his mother and sister. Although he is from Norcross, he represented Dallas, Georgia and went head-to-head against other jokers from Columbia, where he won bragging rights, a cash prize of $1,000 and moved on to the next round for a chance to be named the “Best of Atlanta.”

The hosts of Yo Momma look for the best trash talkers, specifically those with quickness, originality and delivery.

So what was the creative element that kept Pak Attack from packing?
Rehmann made an effort to add a new angle to the show by creating a character which represented...
**Piedmont Park to host 12th annual Partnership Walk**

By Aileen Li  
Staff Writer

Piedmont Park, just outside of Tech, has been a popular place to host various non-profit activities for some time, ranging from the Hunger Walk to the AIDS Walk. In November, it will proudly host another event, the annual national Partnership Walk, an initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation USA.

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is a private, international, non-profit and non-denominational development agency. It was established by His Highness the Aga Khan in Switzerland in 1967 with a small staff, thousands of volunteers and the belief that “a better world is at walking distance.”

AKF reached out to vulnerable populations in four continents. AKF is geographically focused in South Asia, Central Asia and East Africa, especially in regions that are very remote, rural and often mountainous.

It supports programs in health, education, rural development, civil society and the environment to improve opportunities and the quality of life for millions. AKF-USA is also partnered with a number of government agencies, private foundations and corporate partners. Some of their partners include the US Department of Agriculture, the Johnson & Johnson Company and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

“Partnership Walk is a public event to raise awareness and show [that] people can make a difference in ending global poverty,” said Azmina Gilani, the media and marketing coordinator for the Southeastern U.S. division of AKF-USA.

The Partnership Walk has taken place in the U.S. for 11 years, making this its 12th year. The first U.S. Partnership Walk was launched in Los Angeles in 1995, and since its launch, the Partnership Walk has brought together 212,000 people and raised over $26 million.

In 2003 alone, it funded 140 projects in 16 countries. Partnership Walk takes place all over the nation, including walks in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles. Moreover, the Partnership Walk is an international event, not limited to simply the continental U.S. In fact, the very first Partnership Walk occurred in Vancouver, Canada in 1985.

Since then, the International Partnership Walk has become a growing movement of global citizens who take a stand to fight poverty.

“The Walk brings together families, leaders in government, business, media and the arts as well as teams from corporations, schools, clubs and community groups for a day of learning, fun and fundraising,” Gilani said.

In addition, the Partnership Walk raises funds for innovative, cost-effective projects that improve the quality of life of the vulnerable population, especially women and children in some of the poorest areas of Asia and Africa.

Over the last decade, 100 percent of the money raised by the Partnership Walks has gone directly to supporting AKF’s work in needy areas, including primary health care, education and agricultural services.

For instance, AKF is training nurses and community health workers in regions where health care is extremely limited. It is promoting gift education and training women teachers in places like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kenya. It has also helped farmers in Tajikistan and India better manage their crops and natural resources to improve their agricultural productivity and project fragile environments.

AKF-USA sponsors the Partnership Walk to give Americans an opportunity to learn about positive ways to contribute to create a safer, more secure and prosperous world for children and future generations.

“Helping people and communities become self-reliant is a key factor...It extends a helping hand, not a hand-out,” Gilani said.

People who come to the Partnership Walk learn firsthand about the work of the Foundation and how those solutions actually take place on the ground. Through exhibits and interactive displays at the Village in Action, the work of the Foundation is showcased.

Through Village in Action, participants of all ages engage in interactive activities to learn how people in developing countries overcome the challenges of low incomes, poor health conditions and limited educational opportunities.

“Walkers can embark upon an exciting and engaging learning adventure by taking part in hands-on exhibits designed to make visitors feel they are traveling to different countries in the developing world,” Gilani said.

Participants not only learn about the difficult circumstances in developing countries, they get to experience different cultures from around the world.

“Participants can enjoy an entertainment program of music, dance performances, food and art celebrating the diversity of cultures around the world,” Gilani said.

Last year, over 294 teams from corporations, universities, schools and youth groups registered. Over 26 universities were represented nationwide.

Different student organizations can form teams, which are formed when freshmen, seniors and graduate students register. Participating as a team means they are eligible to have the team name printed in the program booklet that is distributed on the day of the Walk. In addition, if a team raises more than $250, it is eligible for a chance to win a number of prizes.

Students interested in participating in the 2007 Partnership Walk (taking place in Atlanta on Saturday, November 10) can go to their website at www.partnershipwalk.org to register.

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Students on Tech’s Solar Decathlon team work with contractors on the house’s interior. The house is set to be completed this October.

camelfoot
what am i supposed to do when the girl i’m in love with thinks we’re just friends?
The M-train has dumped it’s caboose
To the guys slaughtering Bohemian Rhapsody if Woody’s: you may not have meant to make me cry, but you came pretty close. Next time, please wait until after I’ve left.
the first step towards darkness is when you turn away from the people carrying the light
jckjy jckjy jcky me

Hod stuff: Bruce Odell from Odell Pottery Studio demonstrates the Raku method of firing glass at the Atlanta Arts Festival.

Hot stuff: Bruce Odell from Odell Pottery Studio demonstrates the Raku method of firing glass at the Atlanta Arts Festival.

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The Solar Decathlon team represents a wide variety of Tech students, pulling its participants from the College of Architecture, the College of Engineering, the College of Management and the College of Sciences. Lead by College of Architecture professors Chris Jarrett, Ruchi Choudhary and Franca Trubiano, the team is well-prepared for their upcoming event.
The competition consists of 10 contests: architecture (worth 200 points), engineering and market viability (each worth 150 points), communications, comfort zone, appliances, hot water lighting, energy balance and getting around (which are each worth 100 points).
In the market viability contest, a panel of judges evaluates the aesthetic characteristics of the house and its potential market value, as well as its ease of production. The houses must also be able to maintain a “comfortable” atmospheric temperature and level of humidity, specific temperatures inside a refrigerator and freezer and certain conditions for lighting.
In addition to the mechanical aspects, the teams must also engineer their houses to complete a series of household tasks.
The teams must wash and dry 12 towels for two days, cook and serve meals for four days, clean dishes using a dishwasher for four days, operate a TV/video player for six hours and run a computer eight hours a day for five days. Additionally, the house must be able to charge a street-legal, commercially available vehicle.
The communications portion of the competition requires the teams to present their projects to a wide audience via web sites and public tours. The team members are responsible for giving tours to jurors, who then assign a score based on how knowledgeable the tour guides are about their project, experience and the competition as a whole.
The web sites are judged by a panel who visits each site and assigns a score based on how easily the web site is to find. For more information on Tech’s Solar Decathlon project, visit the team’s web site at www.solar.gatech.edu.

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of our students and shows them that we have a stake in their creative endeavors,” Bodnar said.

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Entries will be judged by representatives and professionals from companies such as Adobe, Marvel Comics, Homestar Runner and Sansio/Helio Kitty.

Submissions for the challenge are due Oct. 18 by e-mail in person, and winners will be announced Oct. 25 at the Library East Commons (LEC).

Award Show. At the award show, students...have a stake in their creative endeavors.”

Jon Bodnar
Subject Librarian for LCC

it can interact with digital-media professionals first hand, and as an added bonus, receive Adobe software and t-shirts in free giveaways. The grand-prize winner of “Flash” will receive a Graphire Bluetooth Wacom tablet. This is a good opportunity to develop better multimedia skills and apply them in real-life situations,” said Albert Leung, a first-year Computer Science major.

Leung cited the fact that he has experience with multimedia design programs in high school. “Not only is the person...that tablet, I want it. They should have more contests to encourage people to do this. I’m glad to be at a school that does stuff like ‘Flash in the Pan’. I even wish that they’ll have more opportunities like major or concentration-wise [projects] if it works out,” Leung said.

“This is a good opportunity to develop better multimedia skills and apply them in real-life situations.”

Albert Leung
First year CS

...it taps into the creative life of our students and shows them...we have a stake in their creative endeavors.”

Jon Bodnar
Subject Librarian for LCC

Flash from page 11

of an entire Middle Eastern culture. Despite being a first-generation American born in Atlanta, along with his two sisters and younger brother, Rehmann duped the cast and audience by speaking with a bogus Pakistani accent and wearing a turban and shawl.

“I wasn’t nervous because I was confident in my material. ...The character let me be goofy and confident. When you can make fun of yourself, you can make fun of other people,” Rehmann said.

He told the cast members that he was born and raised in Pakistan and moved to Atlanta to attend Tech. Rehmann represented not only South Asian cultures, but also the Tech community by sporting Buzz on the back of his turban.

“People who know the culture knew it was fake [since Pakistanis do not wear turbans],” Rehmann said. Rehmann also reflected on the effect that his persona had on the comedians he was up against for the show.

“More [people of Indian descent] recognize me more than anything as someone stepping up from their community...I did get a lot of Surpr, 7-11 and terrorist jokes though,” Rehmann said. Rehmann noted that while his mother was slightly upset by the presentation, MTV loved his persona.

“My mother was upset because some of my jokes were offensive and vulgar. [MTV] loved it because it was a different, very original approach,” Rehmann said.

When asked how he calmed his nerves while stepping up to the plate, Rehmann cited his confidence and presentation as his key strengths.

“You could have the worst joke in the world as long as you sell it. It’s all in the presentation. It’s an amazing feeling to be able to make people laugh. It’s really nerve racking... you have to be universally funny. You have to cater to different personalities and come up with a new approach and a new angle. It might not be funny, but at least it will be different,” Rehmann said.

The director eventually caught on to his act. He discovered Rehmann’s phony character when he asked him to move to another location and he responded in plain English. Valderrama figured Rehmann out when he met his parents and sister, who spoke perfect English and wore American clothing.

About 60 percent of the “am-munition” aired during the show is previously written and rehearsed; however, a lot of it is straight improv. The production was shot outdoors at a warehouse downtown and “MTV made [the competitors] do stuff over and over for editing,” Valk said.

During the second episode, “Pak Attack” thoroughly crushed Colin Peak, a straight and the Tech football team, which helped him to win yet another $1,000 cash prize. Atlanta Hawks tickets, dinner at Gretba House and of course, a chump-off position in finals.

He proved to be a “worthy adversary,” said one of Pak Attack’s defeated opponents. Rehmann collected a total of $2,700, which he used to purchase a plane ticket to Buenos Aires, and he spent the remaining money in Argentina. Although Rehmann is not determined to pursue a career in comedy or improv, because he does not believe it to be a practical, well-paying job industry, he intends to continue comedy and improv as a hobby.

The last episode of Yo Momma’s “Best of Atlanta” series will air in a few weeks, but interested parties can see Pak Attack “make it hot” by reading his blog, joining the “Pak Attack Fan Club” Facebook group or viewing full Yo Momma episodes of Pak Attack on www.myspace.com/pak_attack.

Sherezad Rehmann
AKA Pak Attack, 5th year IAML

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Visit flashinthepan2007.blogspot.com for more information on the competition and to watch episodes’

Yo Momma

www.myspace.com/ymomma

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SONIC ATTACK

I said it last year, but erin b on gtvb is hotttt

2 the guy w the “Cheeses of Nazareth” shirt: I couldn’t stop smiling

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i said it last year, but erin b on gtvb is hotttt

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