

The Voice

A STUDENT FORUM

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Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, North Carolina

Fall 2007

New Exam Schedule Debuts

By Melanie Hudak

Oh ... the dreaded final exams. What are they good for but harboring stress and anxiety, students ask?

This semester might get easier with the introduction of an exam schedule. For years, Wake Tech has rebelled against the standard university-type exam week. Thanks to the teamwork of the college's deans, says Academic Services Division Dean Janet Hobbs, the community college is finally jumping on the band wagon.

The new schedule features standardized exams, with each given over 2½-hour periods during a special week—the last five days of the semester. Each day will have four time slots in which exams will be taken, Hobbs said. The schedule is available at www.waketech.edu.

For example, if a student has a class or lab that begins at 8 or 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, the exam may be at 7 a.m. on the third exam day. Or, a student may have a class or lab that begins at 2 or 2:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, but will take the exam at 9:45 a.m. on the second day.

There will be conflicts, Hobbs said. In the case of a student running into a problem with the schedule, there are three available times to make up an exam. Some important points about the schedule include:

- Evening (6 p.m. and later) and Saturday class or lab final exams will be held on the last scheduled meeting time during the final exam schedule.
- Any students scheduled for three or more exams in one day may take a make-up exam during designated make-up hours, with proof of schedule.
- Any students unable to take an exam during the designated hour, with verifiable reason, may take a make-up exam during designated make-up hours. A verifiable reason could include, but is not limited to, illness, class conflict, or emergency. Verification must be provided.

- Department chairs will handle any other problems with the exam schedule.
- Each class in the divisions participating in the exam schedule must hold its last session according to the exam schedule, even if a final exam is not given.
- Make-up time slots may be used to schedule exams for classes or labs not covered.
- Any questions about the exam schedule should be directed to the instructor, who can further direct the student if the conflict is not resolved there.

So what else will change? Some students will not take a final exam. And the Health Sciences Campus will be an exam-free zone. Because of clinical hours that the particular course of study involves, a week of class time cannot be taken away.

Applied Technology students will not take exams if they have no transferable classes. For example, if an Applied Technology student is taking Eng. 111, the final exam for the course is required.

One of the many goals of Wake Tech is to prepare students for transfer into a university. Hobbs believes that by converting the final exams to the new schedule, this can be better achieved. The bulk of the college's students transfer to either N.C. State or U.N.C., she said, and both follow a final exam week schedule.

This has been a tremendous shift for Wake Tech, Hobbs said of a project that has taken a year or so to plan. Roadblocks are expected, as this will be the first run of the new schedule. And like anything new, she said, it will take some time getting used to and some time to smooth out any mistakes.

One thing is certain with the new schedule, she said: Careful attention was given to the students' best interest.

Wake Tech Briefs

Bond Vote Supports WTCC Projects

By Tyler Cope

The "yes" results are in from the Oct. 9 general election, including a \$92 million bond vote for Wake Tech funding. The college's last bond campaign resulted in approval of \$40 million for construction of the new Northern Wake Campus, the Public Safety Center, and other construction and repair of facilities.

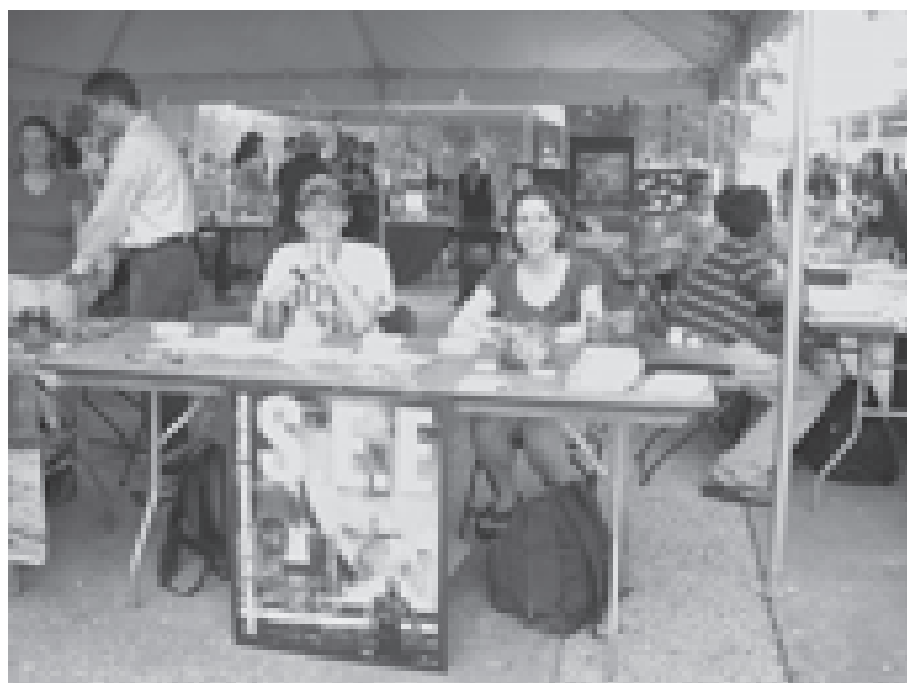
Now approved, the \$92 million will be used to construct a new building at the North Campus, as well as expand the Health Sciences Campus, renovate the Public Safety facility, acquire property and design for a permanent Western Wake Campus, and repair and renovate buildings on Main Campus.

Students Win National Awards

Phi Beta Lambda Business Club members competed against 100 other students from two-year and four-year institutions from across the country at the Phi Beta Lambda's National Leadership Conference in Chicago.

Shawnessey Hughey of Apex took fifth place in Accounting Principles; Michael Schmitz of Raleigh took fifth in Telecommunications, and Melissa Moyer of Coates and Rhonda Pickett of Raleigh captured ninth as a team in Desktop Publishing.

Phi Beta Lambda's advisors are Jackie Bonk, Debbie Stowell, Steve Prescott, and Marilyn Terrill.



Joseph Huynh and Megan Jernigan of Wake Tech's Environmental Club were among the many organization members providing information on student activities during the Sept. 12 Facts and Snacks held on main campus.

True Talent at the Talent Show

By Ceren Atakturk

Joel Kamuabu hopes to take classes that will lead to him becoming a singer/songwriter and he was determined to gain exposure by displaying what he can do at the school's talent show.

"I want people to know me," says Kamuabu, 19, who dreams of a recording company discovering him before he transfers to Appalachian State University.

A middle school teacher presented this aspiring artist with the idea of becoming a performing musician after a stunning show. The following year, as a high school freshman, Kamuabu recalls friends' compliments after another spectacular presentation.

This talented student is not confined to his incredible voice: he is also equipped with a passion for playing the piano. "I feel like the music I write isn't specific to a genre," he says of being inspired by classical music, jazz, hip-hop, R&B and pop. He writes each song in 20 minutes to an hour on his computer and keyboard and already has 11.

For the Talent Show, Kamuabu worked on a piece called "Coming Home" to sing while playing the piano. He describes the song as relaxing and happy, but claims an earlier audience cried.

"I just want people to hear my music," he said, an eager smile on his face. He hopes among his talents displayed at the show that it will help him become known as the music artist of the university.

For a preview of Kamuabu's material, visit myspace.com/joelchanson.

Fall Semester Calendar

Nov. 13 Blood Drive

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Dec. 10–14 Exam Week

International Friends Club

By Zita Resnais



Interested in learning about different cultures? Join International Friends Club—a group of international and American students with a goal to enhance intercultural understanding and learning about different cultures.

IFC started the semester with a trip to the Greek Festival in Raleigh. The main event of Fall semester is International Day on Nov. 15, where everybody is welcome to participate either by representing a culture or volunteering for an event.

Other planned activities include Cultural Night, the International Festival in Raleigh, foreign language mini-hours, and country presentations. For meeting updates, check the club info on Eagle Cruiser, or e-mail zita_resnais@yahoo.com.

The Voice

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We welcome your news and views. Please sign your name to submissions and include a telephone number or email address where you can be reached. Staff meetings are held from 11:10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 114 of Howell Library.

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Meet Your Student Government Officers

By Leigh Espinosa

The Student Government Association of Wake Tech desires to be the voice that preserves within the college an atmosphere of free discussion, inquiry, and self-expression, as well as a voice that promotes leadership, encourages responsibility, and represents the interests of the students.

SGA goals are to coordinate and regulate student activities; to provide a framework within which students may work to improve the college; represent the interests of students to the Board of Trustees; and recommend matters of interest and value for the college to students. A student activity fee, paid at registration, entitles all students to join. And they may serve in a number of different capacities, such as in a Senator or Executive Board position.

The SGA General Assembly Meetings are held on the last Friday of every month at 10 a.m. inside the Student Lounge. Please come and join us!

Juan Hoyos serves as the President. He is in his fourth semester at Wake Tech and plans to transfer to U.N.C.-Chapel Hill to complete a business degree. Hoyos is a waiter at a North Raleigh restaurant and spends his spare time rock climbing, running, swimming, and playing soccer.



Alex Edwards is Vice-President. He is in his fourth semester and plans to transfer to N.C. State to major in political science. Edwards also plans to enroll in N.C. State's Army ROTC program to receive a commission as a Second-Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. In his spare time, he enjoys politics, coin collecting, gaming, and all things military.

Zita Resnais serves as Secretary. She is in her fourth semester and plans to transfer to U.N.C.-Chapel Hill. In addition to her commitment to SGA, Resnais is editor of *The Voice* and the president of the International Friends Club. She studies and teaches yoga and enjoys traveling, the outdoors, and sports.



Ahmad Mohammadi serves as Treasurer. He is in his fourth semester and plans to transfer to N.C. State to major in architecture. In addition to serving SGA, Mohammadi is active in the Architecture Club and the Environment Club. When he is not busy being a student, he works as an assistant market manager and enjoys art, painting, and swimming.

Leigh Espinosa is the Public Information Officer. She is in her sixth semester and plans to transfer to Salem State College in Salem, Mass., next fall to major in Clinical Social Work. In addition to the SGA, Espinosa is the student member to Wake Tech's Institutional Effectiveness Advisory Committee and serves on the college's Disciplinary Review Board. She is a member of the Social Sciences Club, the International Friends Club, and Phi Theta Kappa, and works as a mental health technician at a local psychiatric hospital. In her spare time she enjoys writing, reading, painting, playing video games, and spending time with her family.



Interested in working for *The Voice*? If so, contact advisor Suzy Barile at vsbarile@waketech.edu, or stop by her office, ETB 321-G, or call 866-5231.

Essay

Love and a Chocolate Chip Cookie

By Leigh Espinosa

Several weeks ago, I made a batch of chocolate chip cookies. As the aroma filled my home, I knew these delectable treats would not last long! As time passed, the cookies slowly disappeared and the inevitable day came: one cookie was left in the tin. Noticing this, I replaced the lid of the tin and left that last cookie for the enjoyment of my paramour. It was such a minute example of selflessness that I didn't even give a thought to the fact that the act would probably go unnoticed.

A few weeks later, the good old "cookie craving" hit again and I found myself preparing yet another batch of our favorite goodies. As I retrieved the cookie tin to wash it out and prepare it for the fresh new batch, I was surprised to find one solitary, weeks-old, hard-as-a-rock cookie. Curious as to why one single cookie had been left uneaten, I asked my sweetie. The answer: "I left it for you!" We laughed and joked at each other's gratuitous sacrifice as we examined the petrified remains and I will never forget the way I felt at that moment.

I realized then just how love feels and how much I truly cherish all of the "little things" that mean the most to me, like having a couple of aspirin brought to me unsolicited because I *looked* like I had a headache, or the sweet expression of adoration that spreads across a smiling face, telling me how much I am loved without need of a spoken word.

I learned in that moment that the life I share with this wonderful human being can easily be defined by the parable of that simple chocolate chip cookie. The sacrifice, however minimal, was none-the-less indicative of the way we have cultivated the parameters of our relationship: abundant and overflowing with compromise and the willingness to be mindful of the other person's

needs and desires. You see, love, like a chocolate chip cookie, is not always perfect. They can both leave a bad taste in your mouth if the right ingredients aren't used and they end up being awful if you wait too long to pay attention! The truth is, if we don't work at perfecting either of these recipes, we'll never get it right!

If I had to concoct a recipe for love, it would be ...

- 1 Life, equally divided
- 2 Hearts, pure and honest
- 2 Minds, willing to compromise
- 2 Souls, willing to share
- 2 Parts patience
- 2 Parts consideration
- 2 Parts empathy
- 2 Heaping hearts full of unconditional love
- 2 Lifetimes laden with commitment and devotion

Combine ingredients into one meaningful relationship. Mix well and bake until the end of time. Be careful to keep the temperature just right. Sprinkle liberally with kindness and compassion as needed, and garnish with memories both old and new. Serve warm with gentle words and lots of hugs and kisses! Serves multitudes just by sharing.

I have worked hard to improve my recipe of love over the years, and much like my chocolate chip cookies, it does not always yield a perfect result. But as long as I keep working to perfect both of these recipes, I know I will always find one single, solitary cookie left in that tin. That, my friends, is what love is all about.



Travel

Solar, Historic Sites Are Favorites On Architecture Club Trips

By Kim Kasdorf

The Architecture Club usually plans a group outing for the annual fall Solar Homes tour, the day that both the NCSEA (North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association) and USGBC (United States Green Building Council) sponsor tours nationwide.

In 2004 and 2005, members took the Orange and Chatham county tour, and in 2006, they went to Asheville for the Buncombe County tour. All were great experiences and offered opportunities for students and faculty advisors to get to know each other.

Featured on the 2005 tour was a rammed earth house in Chatham County, while one of the houses on the solar tour portion of the Asheville trip was to a zero energy home that provides energy to N.C. Green Power using solar hot water, solar photovoltaic panels, and a wind turbine.

They also visited passive solar houses and the home of Ske Bernske, the solar pioneer of western North Carolina. It was the first in the state to use Net Metering and is also a contributor to N.C. Green Power.

In Spring 2007, club members traveled to Savannah, Ga., for an architecture and urban planning tour of the historic city. In addition to a guided walking tour of the historic district, the group visited Bonaventure Cemetery—with its tombstones nestled among live oaks dripping with Spanish moss—the Wormsloe Plantation, and Fort Pulaski, a brick and stone fortress once considered to be the most modern and impregnable in the world. That belief was shattered, along with the southeastern wall, by Union artillery at the start of the Civil War.

Other recent club activities include a trip to Charlotte for a walking tour of the downtown area and the Oakwood (Raleigh) Christmas Tour.

To help fund the Savannah trip, club members operated a coffee bar in the Engineering Technology Building last spring.

The Wake Tech Architecture Club is open to all students, not just those in the Architecture curriculum.

(EDITOR'S NOTE—Kasdorf was president of the Architecture Club in 2006–2007.)



Travel

Pleased To Meet You

By Zita Resnais

Confident. Well groomed. Sophisticated. Diverse. Active. Unique. And according to *Forbes Traveler*—the sixth most-visited city in the United States. Let me introduce you to the Capital City of the United States—Washington, D.C.

Yes, it is the home of the White House and the center of the country's political affairs, but there is another side of D.C. that I have gotten to know since my first visit there a few years ago. This other side is friendly, multi-cultural, educational yet fun, and, very important for students—affordable. And let me tell you, there's a LOT to do and see, as well as plenty of opportunities to snap pictures as pretty as postcards.

Since D.C. gets quite humid in the summer, my favorite times are spring and fall. But there's truly not a bad time of year for visiting D.C. Something is always happening.

Here's something you are going to like—from numerous monuments, memorials, museums, festivals and galleries to music and entertainment in parks, nearly all are free admission. Whether taking in the National Gallery of Art or the Air and Space Museum, there is something for everyone. Even if you are not a fan of museums, they do make a good rendezvous place for rainy days, and you might find yourself pleasantly sur-



prised at what might be quite interesting.

However, you will not find any skyscrapers, since no building is higher than the Capitol, which is at the center of the city. In fact, if you take a tour, you can see the actual center of the building. But that is not the only reason you would want to take a

look at the Capitol. You might be amazed by what you learn by walking through it, from its early plans, to old cloaks left on hangers, to the dome, room of statues, and lots of evidence from the beginnings of the building.

Everybody should experience the cherry blossoms during their peak blooming period, which show around the Lincoln Memorial. A must see.

It is also easy to get around D.C. by walking or using the Metrorail (subway), which is clean and organized.

If you have some money to spend, or just want to walk around, Georgetown is where you want to end up. It's just a metro ride away from downtown. From streets full of shops and street cafes, it makes a perfect place to spend time with friends.

But it can get crowded with tourists all around you taking pictures, and locals running alongside The Mall, which stretches between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. Perhaps it's your chance to go with the crowded flow, snap picture after picture and get to know D.C. better, and all this is only 4½ hours north. Get your friends together, hop in a car and go explore, learn and discover Washington, D.C.

Tips and bits:

- You will want to have pictures from D.C., so take a camera!
- For a tour of the Capitol Building, arrive early!
- Cherry Blossom Festival—a must see!
- Wear comfy shoes; you will be walking!
- Enjoy!

Students Earn Medals

During the **American Culinary Federation Triad Chapter Culinary Salon and Hot Foods Competition** in September, two Wake Tech teams earned medals.

Graham Tuttle and **Norma Miller** received a gold medal for their entries in the hot food competition. They were judged on their cooking technique and plate presentation for braised lamb shank, poached salmon, sautéed filet mignon, grilled chicken breast, and roasted rack of lamb.

Culinary students **Roger Pelayo** and **Jeff Mobley** earned bronze medals.

Protecting the World We Inhabit*It's Easy Being Green: A Handbook for Earth-friendly Living*

by Crissy Trask, 2006, by Gibbs Smith Publisher, Salt Lake City

By Zita Resnais

“**N**obody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.” —Burke
One could apply this to many areas of daily life. And among those many there's also our environment. How many times we have heard that global warming is happening and that we need to do something? But what do we do? There are so many things one can do, that often, even those who care end up doing nothing. It can get quite challenging for an individual to find ways to make a difference and contribute to the planet's health.

One day I was wandering among the many bookshelves at Barnes & Noble and I ran into a rack that had ecological paper cards and notebooks, and a little book *It's Easy Being Green: A Handbook for Earth-friendly Living*. After flipping through the pages, I knew I wanted to share my late afternoon discovery.

In this almost pocket-size book printed on recycled paper, author Crissy Trask's main premise is that even busy people can make “better choices for the environment” and not feel overwhelmed. Throughout the seven chapters, she provides tips, suggestions, opportunities and resources, along with quotes that make you think about the link between actions and the environment.

To begin, she addresses common myths about Green Living that often mislead people and stand in the way of acting for a healthier environment, such as—“Nothing I do will make a difference if no one else is doing anything.” This is an important issue to address, since after all, we are pieces in the puzzle and every contribution counts. Another is “Earth-friendly products are hard to find and are expensive.” Trask says it has become easier than ever to find green products, and even if some are more expensive than conventional ones, in the long run, you still save.

From myths to reality! In this country, more than 290 million people go about their lives. If they did one little thing, wouldn't it make quite a difference? From the uses of water to recycling, making little daily choices for a better environment “have far-reaching effects.” Do you use plastic, paper, or cloth shopping bags? Do you leave water running while you brush your teeth? Do you turn off all the lights when you leave the house?

Most of the book is filled with “Eco-Tips for Living Green”—specific and simple suggestions we can change in our daily lives. “Simple does not mean unimportant,” Trask points out. I counted about 250 of them that individuals can apply in their living space, work, shopping, energy saving, eating, holidays, transportation, and other areas.

Trask also provides keywords for recognizing if a company/product is green, such as biodegradable, organic-certified, recycled, energy star rated. You will also find many resources at the end of the book for shopping, green cleaning, global warming, media, water, and how to be involved in one way or another.

This seems like a good source for busy people, such as students! It is informative, on-point with no unnecessary rambling, and provides an excellent selection of resources.

Movie Review

Bourne Again

PG-13; 111 minutes

By Isaac Hicks

Everyone's favorite amnesiac, butt-kicking super-spy gets back in on the action in *The Bourne Ultimatum*. Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) eludes capture in an opening scene, but not before laying the smackdown on a Russian rent-a-cop and having another one of those hazy flashbacks that holds some clue as to who he is and where he comes from. Before you can say Holy threequel, Batman! Bourne high-tails it to London to track down Simon Ross (Paddy Considine), a writer for *The Guardian* who has concocted a detailed article on Bourne and his background. Of course, our hero is curious about his origins, so he wants to know the whereabouts of Ross' source.

Enter CIA official Noah Vossen (David Straitharn) and his group of high-tech goons, who catch wind of Ross mentioning a black-op program named Blackbriar over his cell phone with the use of a Patriot Act gizmo. It isn't long before Bourne and CIA specialists have a skirmish in Waterloo Station and he becomes an agency priority target ... again. With assassins hot on his tail, and with the help of Nicky Parsons (Julia Stiles), who has an intimate connection to the hero's past, Bourne skidaddles on a globetrotting scavenger hunt for the truth, which involves a little hellraising in Madrid, a breathless rooftop pursuit in Tangier, and glorious havoc-wreaking on the streets of Manhattan.

The Bourne films defy the belief that sequels get worse as a series progresses. Director Paul Greengrass has mastered his breakneck style, and here he flourishes in the intensity of fast-paced and illustrious action sequences while keeping an eye out for strong character development (keep your eyes peeled for a neat tie-in with the ending of *The Bourne Supremacy*). It doesn't matter if he's tearing a bad guy a new one or putting on a dramatic show: Matt Damon could play Jason Bourne in his sleep. It's as if Damon opens a whole new dimension of enjoyment for a film that gets everything right—the dialogue, the action, the editing—and sets a new standard for the action hero. If you're bummed about the other movie that was released this summer (*Fantastic Four: Rise of the Transforming Spider-Pirates*), there's nothing wrong with you that this endlessly thrilling dazzler can't cure.

Tips For a Better World

- 🔌 **Consider using a laptop. Laptops use 50% of the energy of the typical desktop PC when plugged in and just 1% of the energy when running on batteries.**
- 🚿 **Take shorter showers.**
- 🚰 **Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.**
- 🛍️ **Limit the gifts you buy for people. Suggest a theme of earth-friendly gifts that won't harm the environment.**
- 🌱 **Buy organic foods.**
- 🍖 **Eat less meat. Reducing your meat consumption will reduce food-related land use and water pollution problems.**
- ♻️ **Recycle worn-out athletic shoes. Nike will take your worn-out athletic shoes and turn them into Nike Grind—a material used in sports surfaces.**
- ☕ **Buy a thermos mug or ceramic mug and keep one at work and/or in the car. Every time you visit your favorite coffeehouse, use that mug instead of the paper or polystyrene cups they provide.**
- 🛍️ **Use a cloth bag when shopping.**
- 📰 **Get your news online and cancel paper subscriptions.**
- 🔌 **Unplug appliances to save energy while you are away.**