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In This Issue:

General
SGA Rundown .................................................. 2  
Meet the Staff .................................................. 3  
Letter from the Editor .......................................... 4  

Research and Science
New (-p) waves in the Earth Science Department .............. 5-6  
Remote Internships ........................................... 7  

Survey
Enter for a chance to win! ........................................... 8  

Relax and Unwind
Sudoku/Crossword ............................................. 9/10  

Sudoku

+---+---+---+---+---+
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 5 | 1 | 7 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 1 | 5 | 9 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 3 | 9 | 4 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 1 | 6 |  |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 3 | 5 | 1 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 1 | 8 | 4 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
| 6 | 3 | 7 |
+---+---+---+---+---+
SGA Meeting Rundown: 9/10/19

1. The executive cabinet is filled! Some of the SGA's departments have been left with less information and resources than others, but the cabinet is working to get everything in line for this year, factoring in COVID.

2. The Student Activities Chair Director, Student Activities Technical Director, and Editor-in-Chief of Paydirt have unified their departments into a Media Office, allowing for better communication and saving the SGA thousands.

3. SAC space is currently unavailable, but its equipment is still okay to be rented.

4. The Board of Regents met recently, updating reopening plans, the Brown Hall renovation plans, and the plans for the Body and Mind Center planned to be constructed by NMT. Their next meeting is on October 12, location TBA.

5. The Constitution has been updated to better wording and to cover more cases regarding disciplinary action.

6. The SGA budget may be cut up to half. Students that are completely online are having their activities fee cut, which comprises most of SGA funding. This is a worst case scenario, however.

7. The SGA currently has meetings in person in Workman 101.

Musical Terms Crossword

Music Theory is as interesting as it is complex. Test your knowledge with this crossword! No spaces or special characters.

Across
2. Singing technique in which multiple tones are sung in a single syllable.
6. Cadential technique used to delay a cadence.
7. Cadence named after the 3rd musical scale mode.
9. Term to describe every instrument playing together.
10. Cadence commonly used in religious hymns.
12. Rhythmic technique used to place emphasis on a beat or tone that would not normally be emphasized.
13. Rhythmic technique allowing the slight lengthening or shortening of note length.

Down
1. Broad definition of a small group of notes creating a musical idea.
3. Embellishing tone in between a leap up and a step down.
4. Embellishing tone that precedes a downward step-wise resolution.
5. Scale utilizing all notes in 12-tone equal temperament.
8. Phrase technique making the end of one phrase the beginning of another.
11. Term describing the nature or quality of a sound or instrument.
Meet the Staff

Journalist: Alexandra Sartori
Photographer: Samuel Baca
Editor In Chief: Skyler Matteson
Layout Editor: Jaime Mendoza

And our newest member has released a new album! Here’s a picture of the tracklist!

Survey: Enter for a chance to win!

Things are definitely uncertain right now in how we should approach our jobs. But lucky for us, we can just ask you guys! Below is both a link and QR code to our first survey of Fall 2020. It should take less than 5 minutes. We have included relevant questions taking into account COVID-19.

We will be giving away 2 more Cards Against NMT decks, a Cards Against Humanity expansion pack created by Paydirt several years ago. To enter for your chance to win, include your email at the end of the survey.

The survey will be active for about 2 weeks, and if you won, you will receive an email from paydirtntm@gmail.com.

Notice: Cards Against Humanity and by extension Cards Against NMT are satirical games and do not mean to defame any person, place, or entity in the card deck.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V7CL6N2
Remote Internships

Internships are hard, but being able to do them in your pajama bottoms makes them a little less scary. A multitude of summer internships faced potential postponements and even cancelations due to the danger of travel in the era of a pandemic. Despite this, many Tech students still pursued remote internships over the summer.

Quinn Bustos, a NMT Technical Communications junior, was supposed to live in Woods Hole, MA for the duration of the Summer to pursue an internship that is vital to her degree. This was completely upheaved before the Spring Semester of 2020 was finished. The program she would have worked with in-person, the Sea Education Association (SEA), made the decision to go completely online. This allowed students from all over the world to still be able to complete their internship from the comfort and safety of their home.

Remote internships, although not ideal, can provide a series of beneficial experiences that an in-person internship typically does not. Quinn spent much of her time in Zoom conferences with colleagues and her mentor, conducting online research and over-the-phone interviews. With many jobs at the moment, the ability to effectively work distantly is an absolute necessity. STEM fields especially require collaboration across the world, in order to collect data, confer with colleagues and manage remotely. The unique adaptation to remote internships allowed for mastery of these skills. During Quinn’s internship with SEA, she worked on research to improve online outreach for reduction of oceanic plastic pollution. “Luckily, with...research they made it to where it was okay to complete it online,” Quinn stated. A need for competency in online research is an ever growing skill that’s even moving to become a base requirement for many STEM jobs. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that over the next decade, the online research industry will see a 41% increase. The combination of online research and collaboration that the remote internships required created a valuable knowledge basis for many students at Tech.

One of the big appeals of internships is the ability to interact with peers who are entering the same career field and the chance to establish vital networks with companies and organizations for after graduation. This is one of the challenges many internships faced when adapting their programs for online applicability. A significant amount of the adaptation surfaced in the use of “mentors,” professionals that worked one-on-one with interns to provide experience and supervision. Quinn met with her mentor on a routine basis to ensure that her research and progress was sufficient and to also provide guidance when needed. This far more personal approach to the standard flow on internships allowed for a more individualized experience to education within her field. Quinn was also able to work directly with many of her fellow interns within her research and was even able “to make friends with the other[s].” She met with her peers during group meetings to discuss their research and data while also forming valuable connections.

Despite the handful of positives when it comes to the remote internships of Summer 2020, it still felt like something was missing. “Ideally it would have been nice to be there in person...[but] I’m glad I was able to make it work remotely,” Quinn said. No matter the advantages of internships, they always lend themselves to fun and new experiences, something that can not quite be conveyed through a screen. Many students that were a part of remote internships hope to find in-person opportunities in the coming summer.

-Alexandra Sartori

Letter from the Editor

It’s been an interesting summer, to say the least. I don’t know if you’ve heard, but there is, in fact, a global pandemic going on. Crazy, I know. Naturally, your newspaper is going to be affected in how we deliver issues. So I ask that you please read this short article.

We will still have print issues, but we stress that you keep each issue. After all, they are free. What college student doesn’t like free literature? Of course, this is to try and limit the number of people exposed to pathogens. Getting Covid from printed issues is unlikely as it dies completely within 3 hours or so, as PhD Jill Schulman states, but we want to take as few risks as possible. So keep a copy, and if you want to share it please do, but be safe about it.

We are going to try and keep our newspaper racks in similar locations. In addition, we will wipe them down every so often. We can still conduct interviews and get pictures safely, so we should be able to provide similar levels of content to previous semesters. Speaking of which, we are also hiring! We need one more journalist. Shoot me an email at paydirtnmt@gmail.com.

So, ya. Crazy times. Wear your mask, use your head, and please: read responsibly.

-Skyler Matteson
It’s hard to not feel the tectonic sized shifts in the Earth Science Department when there’s a new earthquake-loving professor at Tech. Dr. John Naliboff recently relocated from sunny UC Davis to co-teach Intro to Geology 1110 with Dr. van Wijk, but that’s not the only thing he has in mind for our Earth Science department. Fresh with new ideas and a rocking personality, Dr. Naliboff is already thinking up new courses and bringing insight into what it means to work in Earth Sciences.

Dr. Naliboff, having worked for five years at UC Davis in a primarily research-based position, was more than ready to start broadening his teaching horizons. Though most of his time was spent fulfilling research responsibilities, he more than enjoyed the few classes and workshops he was able to teach, teaching lectures on Intro to Geology, Natural Hazards and an Advanced Field Mapping class. At UC Davis, Dr. Naliboff also led “...large community workshops, training in how to use software...for a broader international group.” This left him pining for his postdoc days before UC Davis, when he was able to do more teaching. Fortunately for our Earth Science Department, Tech was able to offer him a position of a harmonious combination of teaching and research that better suited his interests.

Despite Dr. Naliboff only teaching one course this semester, he is already looking to the future with some innovative ideas for new courses that can better prepare Earth Science students for life after college. A current class he is designing for coming semesters is an “...Introduction to Computational Methods in Earth Sciences. This would be for Freshman, Sophomores and even Juniors who are coming in and wanting to learn how computational methods are used within Earth Sciences. So, this would be programming, data analysis using Excel or using a scripting language like Python.”

Dr. Naliboff also would like to offer an advanced version of this course for students. He thinks he’ll also be teaching some standard, already designed Geology classes in the coming semesters.

Computational Methods within the Earth Sciences have become increasingly more important over the years, so Dr. Naliboff’s idea couldn’t be coming at a better time. Scripting and an ability to program are almost a baseline necessity for geologists, geochemists and geophysicists alike due to the need for statistical programming analyses. During the course of the year, Earth Scientists have had to face a considerable amount of layoffs in the industry. Naliboff commented, “In the oil industry right now, the people who were not laid off were the ones with a computational base.”

Dr. Naliboff’s idea for a Computational Methods class also showcases a lot of what Naliboff does within his research. Dr. Naliboff received his PhD in Geophysics from University of Michigan. Originally working as a traditional field geologist, he found that “opportunities presented themselves in more computational things.” His current research, primarily consists of computational geodynamics, “using computer methods, mathematical methods and software to...simulate how the Earth works.” Dr. Naliboff, in a day, can work with small groups or with up to 1,000 people on a project, working to test hypotheses from data collected from other Earth Scientists. Dr. Naliboff takes us through what an average day of research looks like in his field:

“Software design will be part one, the next would be actually designing and running the simulations to test the hypotheses. Then...you’d actually spend a lot of time developing new methods to analyze the data and compare it to the original data. And that actually ends up taking up a big component of my days.”

Not only is Tech excited to have a new perspective in the Earth Science department, he’s excited to be here as well! Make sure to be looking for future classes taught by Dr. Naliboff.

- Alexandra Sartori