

2004 SURF Summer Activities

They work hard on their research projects alongside hundreds of highly trained professional researchers, scientists, and engineers, but when the “whistle blows” look out... because these SURFers know how to balance out the stress of work with some fun activities from ultimate Frisbee to an International Eat Out. All it takes to get the fun started is a note posted on the website just for SURFers (the SURF Forum).

June 3 International Eat Out – Pool Party

Students always seem to know the recipe for fun -- take 104 diverse students, their favorite recipe, non-traditional music, mix with a little pool water – and *BAM!* you have an evening of fun.

June 5 Pool Party / BBQ

Hey the weather’s supposed to be great! How about a pool party and some good ole “American” finger licking good BBQ -- another recipe for fun and just one of the many potluck dinner parties held throughout the summer.

June 18 Ice Skating



Man, oh man – remember when you were shivering and couldn’t wait for summer! Now that it’s here, all you want to know is how to deal with another DC weather forecast of Hazy, Hot, and Humid. If you’re a group of creative students, you head for a local ice rink -- ooohhh, this feels more like it -- and you can practice your double axel at the same time. They also “practiced” on June 27th and July 9th.

June 19 The African American Heritage Festival

The African American Heritage Festival embraces and promotes the rich traditions and zestful spirit of the city of Baltimore. The overflow crowds of multi-ethnic people in Baltimore’s Camden Yards enjoy the weekend festivities and partake in a diverse offering of cultural education, arts and entertainment. The Festival showcases national and local talent, display educational and historical



exhibits, hosts an interactive children's area and offer a sampling of commodities of over a hundred vendors, community organizations and merchants.

June 22 Open Mic Night - aka Last SURFer Standing



It's always a surprise - but who would have thought that the shy, unassuming SURFer can really play the blues. There's always some incredibly good stuff among the crowd; there is a lot of room for the new, the modest talent and the unknown star. Age is no limit, so I wonder if any of the SURF Directors were game??

June 23 SURF Picnic - NIST Picnic Grove

The SURF Directors provided the burgers, salads, snacks, and sodas. The SURF students were responsible for the entertainment -- Frisbees, music, etc.



June 23 Baltimore Orioles vs. New York Yankees



What kind of scientific formula did the Orioles work out to take on those pesky NY Yankees - why just those locally famous 2004 NIST SURFers. Their enthusiastic cheering helped rally the Orioles to a win for the first time in eight games against the "Bronx Bombers," sending the AL East leaders to a 13-2 loss - oh what a shame!

July 2 Dinner and a Movie

Baltimore's Little Italy Festival was *magnifico* for a group of SURF students looking for a way to *stretch* their dolaris (dollars). This year's festival continued the wildly popular format of presenting dinner followed by a feature length Italian-themed film. The festival was on consecutive Friday evenings, starting July 2 and running through August 24 in an open-air amphitheatre style. The festival featured such hits as Moonstruck, It Happened One Night, A Fish Called Wanda, and A Night at the Opera.



July 3

2004 SURF T-Shirt Design

It has become a “tradition” each year for the group to design a T-shirt during the summer. With help from Beamie Young, our resident graphics artist, this is the winning



(front t-shirt)



(back t-shirt)

design for summer '04. There is always a huge demand for the T-shirts -- even non-SURFers (such as Laboratory Directors) want to sport them around the campus -- no “hip hop” for these students -- they want to **SURF!**

July 4

A* C*apitol F*ourth 2004

Party, did someone say party -- come rain or shine, security checks, or spending the day with more than a half a million of your nearest and dearest friends -- sounds like a great way for a group of SURFers to celebrate what has become America's biggest birthday party. The playing of the “1812 Overture” has become an American tradition on July 4th and synchronizing it with live canons and the fireworks is a very precise business.



But if crowds aren't your thing, then you can enjoy the fireworks in a calmer environment in Rockville or Gaithersburg. In fact, you can see fireworks in Gaithersburg from the NIST grounds alongside our resident geese and deer.

July 7 Free Tango Dance Lessons

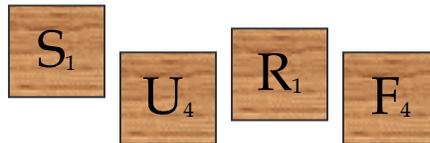
Students are experts at stretching their dollars AND having fun (what are a few toes stepped on among friends). As demonstrated by the call that went out for anyone interested in a free tango dance lesson. A group went every Wednesday to take the free lessons. On Friday nights, some students found free Contra and Swing dancing and inexpensive places to practice their lessons with more experienced dancers.

July 10 Six Flags

Thrill seekers or “Mr. Six” look alike wanted! The Washington DC metro area has several good amusement parks within a few hours drive. A group of students had fun at the nearest park – Six Flags – where they enjoyed rides by the leader in thrill ride and coaster innovation.

July 13

Scrabble Night



Even on a weeknight you could find the students getting together to “improve” their minds with a challenging game of Scrabble.

July 16 International Eat Out

Another potluck night that encouraged everyone to bring their favorite meal and music to partake in the essence of a diverse group – and have fun doing it. Maybe this idea should be introduced to the United Nations!

July 30 Feel the Vibe Night / Apollo Night

A multicultural event with a small talent show and potluck dinner thrown in for good measure. Everyone has a talent, skill, or unique knack and the organizers wanted people to share it with their fellow SURFers. This party came together because everyone had such fun at the International Eat Out party. The participants played instruments, spoke in their mother tongue (another language), danced, spoke or read poetry, and told jokes. Everyone that came enjoyed fellowship with their SURF buddies and had lots of fun.

August 11 Come One – Come All

One last get together for all the SURF students with the “signature” mix of fun, food, music (and even another talent show).

Movies Galore

No summer would be complete without checking out the latest box office smashes or flops. SURFers gave “two thumbs up” to King Arthur (July 7), The Bourne Supremacy (July 23), Napoleon Dynamite and Spiderman 2 (August 6).

Card Nights

To keep up their math skills this summer, students arranged various card nights. Poker, Spaces, and Bridge games were arranged throughout the summer. Thursday nights became the standard for Bridge. Players of all skill levels were invited and beginners were given lessons to help them learn the game. The latest card rage Poker’s Texas Hold’em was played on another night of the week.

Exploring DC and the Surrounding Area

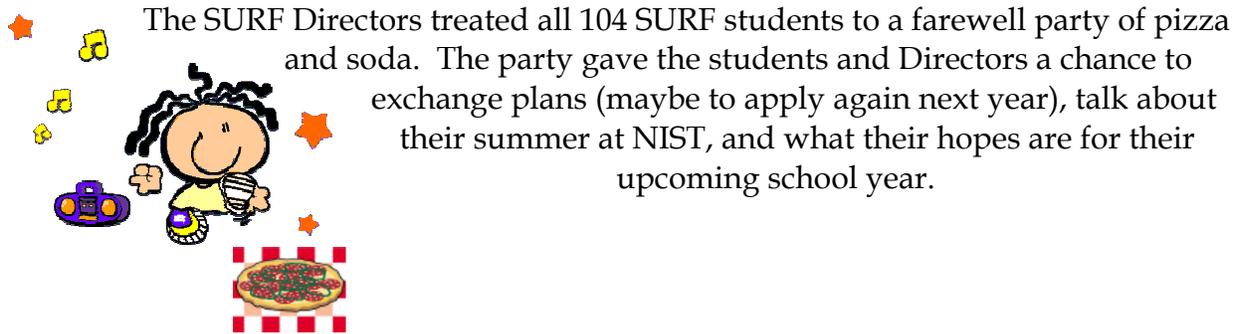
Students ventured out in small groups throughout the summer to explore and get the most out of the culturally rich environment in and around the DC and Baltimore area. This included trips to museums, festivals, concerts, etc. A few went to the free Shakespeare Theatre performances. Another group took in “Screen on the Green.”

Some of the students even ventured a little further and spent a weekend at the beach (both North Carolina and Ocean City), a trip to New York City and even a long weekend at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Sports R Us

Just about every night of the week, you could find SURF students involved in a sporting event. Soccer games were on Monday and Wednesday nights; Tuesday nights were volleyball; softball games were on Wednesday night, and the Ultimate Frisbee group played on Tuesday and Friday nights on one of the fields on the NIST campus. A couple of special Night Ultimate Frisbee games involved students wearing glow sticks and playing with a glowing fiber optic Frisbee. A few students joined the NIST gym and spent a few hours a week working out on the weight machines. And just to round things out a few rock climbing trips were also thrown in during the summer.

August 13 Last Day for SURF Students



The SURF Directors treated all 104 SURF students to a farewell party of pizza and soda. The party gave the students and Directors a chance to exchange plans (maybe to apply again next year), talk about their summer at NIST, and what their hopes are for their upcoming school year.

It can certainly be said that there is never a dull moment during the SURF experience whether it's in the lab or after work or the weekends. Many of the friendships and connections made over the summer will last a lifetime.