



PSsssssst! Spring 1997

A Newsletter for the Alumni of the President's Scholarship Program

HELLO!

We hope you enjoy this first edition of the *PSsssssst!* As current President's Scholars who take a great deal of pride in supporting and being active in the President's Scholarship Program, we have decided to begin this newsletter. It is our feeling that alumni are an extremely valuable resource which we have not fully utilized in the past.

We would also love to share news and activities of the current program to keep you connected to Georgia Tech and to the President's Scholars Program. It has certainly made a difference in all of our lives. Suggestions, questions, or comments are welcome. Enjoy!

Melissa Byrd

Christina Robinson

Connie Toalson



PS Homecoming Reunion Cookout

We would like to invite you to a PS Reunion Cookout during Homecoming Weekend. The party will start at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 1997. Weather permitting, we will be on the back lawn of the PS Study Room house, which is located on Ferst Dr. beside the lot of the Old DramaTech Church, between the Police Station and Dalney Street. (The official name for this building is the Environmental Safety Building. In case of rain, we will move the party inside.)

This is your chance to catch up with old friends, discover what is going on with the program, and meet some of the new President's Scholars. Block seating at the football game is an option. If you would be interested in this, please let us know before September.

You will receive another mailing about this event over the summer. Look for information in Tech Topics, too.

How to contact the PS Program:
Phone: (404) 894-2691
Email: psp@success.gatech.edu
Web: www.enrollment.gatech.edu/psp/

PS Application News

Over the years, Tech has been limited in the quality of students recruited through the President's Scholarship Program by the SAT cut-off; no allowance was made for a student who was as little as 10 points shy of the magic number. Once used to limit the number of applications to be processed, the SAT cut-off provided much frustration for talented applicants. Given recent changes in the admissions process, the test score cut-off has now been eliminated entirely. Beginning for students entering in the summer or fall of 1998, the application for admission has been changed to include a leadership and activity record and a personal statement.

Since more information will be known about each candidate from their GT application, applicants will be selected for interviews based on their leadership, high school GPA, and standardized test scores. Given these changes, there is no longer a separate PS application submitted concurrently with the application for admission.

This shift in criteria, from high test scores to a more comprehensive index, will help Georgia Tech attract more outstanding student leaders. This change should also convey to all applicants that Georgia Tech is interested in the total person, not just the student with unusually high standardized test scores.

Update on the New Class

Almost 800 students applied in the fall of 1996 for the President's Scholarship—a 61% increase over the past 3 years. To reduce the number of students interviewed to a manageable number, a new step was added to the application process. Students had to be selected as semifinalists to receive a regional interview. Several criteria were used to select the semifinalists, including high school GPA, standardized test scores, and a leadership and activities record. The top 70% of applicants based on this index were selected as semifinalists. Before, any student who met the SAT cut-off was interviewed.

This year, 154 students were invited to President's Scholarship Weekend, which was April 4-5, 1997. During this weekend, alumni, faculty, and staff interviewed the candidates and answered their questions about Georgia Tech. We offered scholarships to 124 students, 51 from Georgia and 74 from out of state.

To honor the incoming students and their parents, this year's Signing Day Ceremony will be held in conjunction with Advisory Boards' Day at Georgia Tech on May 2, 1997. The new scholars will be recognized during the main assembly before adjourning to the newly named Smithgall Student Affairs Building lecture hall for a separate Signing Day Ceremony at 3:30 p.m.

PSY 1010: Adjustment to College Life

As part of the Freshman Experience program that is quite popular at Tech, freshmen are required to take PSY 1010, "Adjustment to College Life". This two-credit hour class covers freshmen study skills, leadership qualities, organization, and career planning.

For the past three years, President's Scholars have been in separately designed sections of PSY 1010. Because PS's already have some of the skills stressed in the traditional class, the PS sections enhance the regular curriculum with interesting guest speakers, including PS alumni, President G. Wayne Clough, representatives from Career Services, the Substance Abuse Council, and the Athletic Department .

This year, Paul Hurst (Director of Special Programs) and Billiee Pendleton-Parker (Asst. Director of the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning) were the instructors for the course, and seventeen upperclass PS's served as team leaders for small groups of freshmen.

Besides taking the curriculum at a faster pace, the class also gave the freshman scholars a chance to get to know each other in a relaxed classroom setting. The class laid the foundation for study groups in other classes and has been a great way for the freshmen scholars to create and maintain long-lasting friendships within the PSP.

As a final project, students gave presentations on a campus organization of their choice, including Freshman Council, Marching Band, the Catholic Center, ORGT, and WREK Radio.

Freshman Advisory Board

The Freshman Advisory Board is a group of freshmen President's Scholars interested in getting involved with and giving back to the President's Scholarship Program. The group was set up by Randy McDow as another source of student input and has evolved into an organization which plans social gatherings and helps with the program.

Since its conception, the group has helped with the moving of the President's Scholars' study room, has organized and hosted a house warming party for the new room, has organized a Christmas party and gift exchange, and has eased the burden of processing applications. They have raised funds for a yearbook ad to recognize graduating PS's, organized a rafting trip, laid the groundwork for a social with the top scholars at the University of Georgia, Georgia State, and West Georgia.

The board is active and not only enjoys being together, but also is dedicated to reimbursing the program which has done so much for the freshmen.

(Contributed by James Clawson - FAB Member)

PS Alums Serve on Panels

In the PSY 1010 class, many guest speakers shared their insights and experiences with the new freshmen. A highlight of the class was a panel of President's Scholarship alumni who returned to Ma Tech for a few hours to give advice and share stories from their time as students.

The panel included: Ward Council (EE '87), Sharon Just (CE '89), Jimmy Rose (ISYE '91), Alan Kauppi (PHYS '94), and Ayo Embry (EE '96).

Ayo and Ward also served on a panel during President's Scholarship Weekend, along with Andrew Chung (EE, ABIOL '86) and Greg Foster (ME '95).

The PSP hopes to continue these sessions in the PSY 1010 class and at President's Scholarship Weekend, as the students were thankful to have the chance to speak with outstanding Georgia Tech grads.

If you would be interested in serving on a panel, please contact Randy McDow.

Our Fearless Leader

Randy McDow, the President's Scholarship Program coordinator, has been a part of Georgia Tech's campus for several years. A former President's Scholar, Randy graduated from Tech in the spring of 1995 with a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering and a certificate in American Literature. During his years as a student, Randy was involved in several campus organizations, such as Under the Couch Coffeehouse, Student Government, and the ANAK Society. As a co-op student, Randy worked for Georgia Power.

During his twenty-one months as the President's Scholarship Program coordinator, Randy has successfully maintained the program while introducing many welcome improvements and additions. He has increased efficiency of time, money and materials by restructuring the PSP budget and revising the application processes.

As a former Tech student and President's Scholar, Randy understands current Scholars' problems and needs. The amount of time and effort that he commits to current scholars and their concerns shows his dedication. He constantly encourages students to be involved in campus organizations and activities, and offers his support and assistance whenever possible.

In addition to coordinating the program, Randy continues his commitment to the Georgia Tech community by teaching a section of PSY 1010 and serving as a Freshman Partner for two Freshman Experience sections. Randy recently won Student Government Association's Friend of the Student award for the 1996-97 school year.

A Letter from the Program Coordinator:

Dear President's Scholarship alumni,

As the fifth coordinator of the PS Program, I hope to carry on the traditions from the past while continually providing innovations to better serve alumni and recruit top students. I think it is evident that President's Scholars are continuing to be outstanding student-leaders at Georgia Tech and to give back to the PS Program. The current scholars make the program truly outstanding.

To continue to attract the highest caliber of students, we recently adjusted the financial awards, which had remained static for the last seven years. For scholars entering in 1997, the top level award was increased for non-Georgia residents to \$9,900 per year. The top award for in-state students was lowered to \$5,000 per year to compensate for the Hope and Governor's Scholarships that many Georgia students bring to Tech. The Institute Level award is currently half of tuition and fees. I hope to continue tying the awards to tuition, such that the award levels will rise for each entering class.

There are many things afoot with the President's Scholarship Program. All President's Scholars in good standing are eligible to apply for the Fleet International Scholarship, which provides up to \$2,000 to help with study abroad and international travel. The freshmen were offered the opportunity to go through the introductory ORGT climbing wall course in O'Keefe Gym. Some PS's are working on a three day hiking or camping trip for next year's incoming class, which will possibly be lead by Miller Templeton, a long-time supporter of the PS Program.

If you would like to help interview the semifinalists in January and February of next year, contact your local Georgia Tech club or call the PS Program to find an interviewing committee near you. If there isn't one, I would be glad to help you start one!

Sincerely,

Randy McDow
PSP Coordinator

Busy Bees

What effect do President's Scholars have on the Georgia Tech campus today? PS's are well-known in the Georgia Tech community for their dedication to campus issues and activities. Listed below are just a few of the leadership roles and activities of current President's Scholars.

Mr. Georgia Tech (last 3 years)
Rhodes Scholar Regional Level Finalist
Mock Trial Founder and Captain
President, Student Government Association
President, Society of Women Engineers, Student Section
President, Tau Beta Sigma (Music Fraternity)
President, Three Hall Councils
President, Lambda Sigma (Sophomore Honor Society)
President, Association for Metaphysical and Parapsychological Research
President, GALA
President's Council Governing Board
Editor, Erato (Literary Magazine)
V.P., Alpha Phi Omega (Co-ed Service Fraternity)
V.P., Student Alumni Association
V.P., Student Center Programs Board
Campus Crusade for Christ
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Connect with Tech Advisory Board and Hosts
Faset Leaders & Peer Leaders
Four Members of the Honor Advisory Council
Undergraduate Judiciary Board Justice
National Society of Black Engineers Committee Chair
Executive Round Table
Technique Copy Editor
Blueprint Staff
Residence Hall Manager for Paralympics
Olympic Volunteers
GT Marching Band, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band
Course Critique Chair, SGA

To keep current information on PS alumni and keep you informed, please take a few moments to fill this out and return it to us via email or regular mail.

Email: psp@success.gatech.edu

Snail mail: President's Scholarship Program, attn: Connie Toalson, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA 30332-0288

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., Rev., First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last name _____ Suffix _____
Preferred greeting/name _____ Degree _____ Major _____ Graduation Year _____
Home Address _____ Phone (____) _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
Company Name _____
Company Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
Business Phone _____ Fax number _____ Email _____
Preferred Address Home Business Web Page: _____
Spouse: First name _____ Middle initial _____ Last name _____
Major activities and honors during your time at Tech _____

What would you like to see in the future?

___ Regular editions of PSsssssst!

___ President's Scholar alumni directory

___ Annual homecoming reunion

___ Annual spring reunion

___ Other _____

New Class Targets Top Scholarships

To increase the chances of Tech students winning nationally prestigious scholarships, Randy McDow and Billiee Pendleton-Parker are teaching a section of the Foundations of Leadership class to students interested in applying for top awards. Ten of the eighteen students in the class receive scholarships through the President's Scholarship Program.

Over the past several years, several PS's have competed for several top scholarships.

Ashley Gigandet (INTA '94) was the first GT student to win a Truman Scholarship. Ayo Embry (EE '96) and Monyette Childs (BIOL '95) followed soon after Ashley.

Julie Swann (IE '96), Jim Mason (IE '97), and Alex Snoeren (CS '96) all applied for the Rhodes Scholarship this year. Jim and Julie were semifinalists, and Alex was selected as a finalist, which is the furthest any Georgia Tech student has progressed in the competition.

Last year, Julie Swann won the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society's award for the nation's top leaders, which is the ODK Foundation Scholarship. Julie served as president of ODK during her senior year.

Given our past successes and the talented students we have at Tech, we will continue to reach for the highest awards.

President's Scholarship Program Calendar

May 2, 1997—PS Signing Day Ceremony
October 10, 1997—PS Reunion Cookout
October 31, 1997—Deadline to apply for the PS
October 21, 1997—Annual PS Luncheon, Student Center Ballroom
January & February, 1998—Regional Interviews
President's Scholarship Program

New Study Floor

One of the benefits of the President's Scholarship Program has been the availability of a private study room. For several years, this study room has been located in the Skiles building. This year, changes in the Skiles classroom allocation has required that the President's Scholars' study room move to a different location.

To officially open the floor for use, the PS Freshman Advisory Board organized a housewarming party complete with refreshments, music and fun on Thursday, November 14, 1996. This event was successful and will hopefully become an annual event.

The new study room is in the former environmental safety building on Ferst Drive. President's Scholars now share the two-story house with the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity to which several former and current President's Scholars belong.

The study floor, which is the second floor of the building, contains four study rooms and a fully-equipped bathroom. The rooms also have a telephone line, three computers and a scanner for student use.

Also, the President's Scholars continue to compile an extensive "Word" file consisting of old class notes, quizzes and exams. Current Scholars may use this file as a resource and study guide. This file will be kept in one of the study rooms for all current scholars' use.

The availability of four study rooms instead of just one is a great advantage because the rooms can be used for many different purposes. Some rooms may be specifically designated as quiet library-type study rooms, another as a group study/meeting room, and yet another may simply be used for socializing with fellow President's Scholars.

President's Scholarship Program
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