



PS s s s s s s s s t!

A Newsletter for the Alumni of the President's Scholarship Program at Georgia Tech

Progress and Service

Founded 1981

Summer, 1998

Record Number of Scholars Choose Tech

Recruiting efforts this year paid off with the highest number of President's Scholars ever—88. Chosen from over 2,700 applicants, the students are superlative by every measure. For example, of the 88 new PS's, 61 were varsity athletes in high school (27 of whom were varsity team captains), and 35 were valedictorians or salutatorians. Certainly, this class will have a positive effect on Tech given their past records of accomplishment.

This was the first year that the President's Scholarship Program has operated without an SAT cutoff and without a separate application—anyone could apply to be considered for the President's Scholarship by completing the Georgia Tech application for undergraduate admission, which now includes a leadership/activity record and an essay. Surprisingly, 1998 saw a 75% increase in the number of students with a 1400 or better SAT score in the competition.

This year's group of new President's Scholars includes students from 22 states: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

35 PS Alumni help with Candidate Interviews

Thirty-five President's Scholar graduates interviewed candidates on campus and around the country this year, more than doubling the number who assisted last year (16). Thanks to the following President's Scholar alumni for their efforts in helping to bring in a record-breaking class:

Kelly Brumbelow (CE '94, INTA '94)
Jay Debnath (CHEM '92)
Greg Foster (ME '95)
Janet Nelson Goolsby (ISYE '92)
Martin Hall (PHYS '92)
Chris Heggen (CE '97)
John Hirvela (EE '88)
Eric House (CS '92)
Kim Williams House (ME '95)
Missy Dean Hugenberg (ISYE '92)
Jimmy Kenyon (AE '96)
Joe Layden* (CHE '87)
Charlene Stewart Leonard (CHE '96)
Tommy Lewis* (ME '85)
Jay Lyles (CMPE '95)
Mike Mangin (ME '95)
Robert Martin (EE '88)
Jim Mason (ISYE '97)
Randy McDow* (ISYE '95)
Allison Burrows Moore (CHEM '92)
Mark Munson (EE '90)
Craig Olson* (EE '93)
Dana Papp (CHE '95)
Sunil Patel (BIOL '97)
Anthony Priest (EE '88)
Lee Ragsdale (EE '95)
Leah Robinson (ME '97)
Jennifer Eden Russell (ME '95)
Chuck Scales* (CHEM '93)
Chris Seay (ISYE '93)

Hope Taylor (ID '98)
Betty Tong* (ME '93)
Greg Watson (AE '87)
Rand Wise (PSY '88)
Grace Yu (CHE '97)

* Denotes Regional Committee Chair

Alumni Advise Visitors at PS Weekend

Panelists **Andrew Chung** (BIOL '86, EE '86), **Ward Council** (EE '87), **Sharon Just** (CE '89), and **Dana Papp** (CHE '95) gave advice to both parents and candidates at PS Weekend in April this year. The parent and student reactions to the PS graduates were overwhelming. Steve Slawsky (ISYE '00), who coordinated the panels, said, "The alumni who participated in the PS Weekend Alumni Panel were so well-received by the parents of the finalists that the panelists had to be escorted like movie stars from one session to the next!"

Women Very Successful in PS Competition

This was a banner year for women candidates enrolling in Georgia Tech: 43 women chose to accept the President's Scholarship. Given the legacy that the eight women Scholars from the entering class of 1993 left Georgia Tech, these 43 women are sure to make a lasting mark on this campus. They include: six who will enroll in the new Ivan Allen College (separate from the new DuPree College of Management), three in Architecture, two in

Computing, twelve in the Sciences, and twenty in the College of Engineering. Women comprised 31% of the initial applicant pool, 38% of those chosen as semifinalists, 46% of the students offered the President's Scholarship, and 49% of the President's Scholars entering class of 1998 .

Signing Day Ceremony Welcomes New Scholars

To celebrate the achievements of the new Scholars, the third annual Signing Day Ceremony was held on May 1 in the Smithgall Student Services Building. Twenty-eight new Scholars attended the event with their parents and siblings, from as far away as Orlando, Florida, and Columbia, South Carolina. Coverage of the event appeared in *The Technique* and *The Whistle* newspapers. Current President's Scholars served as hosts and coordinated the ceremony, with **Randy McDow** (ISYE '95) as the emcee.

Hiking Trip Planned Again for New Class

For the second year in a row, the new Scholars will be invited to Helen, Georgia, to participate in a retreat just before classes start in the fall. Last year's trip provided an excellent opportunity for the new group to get to know each other before the pressures of class began. Trip leaders for this year's event include: Neil Arner (MATH '01), James Clawson (EE '01), David Connors (ISYE '00), Elizabeth Deener (CHE '01), Karen Feigh (AE '01), Susan Kopetz (CHE '99), Marshall Leslie (EE '01), Shane Owens (UEC '01), Andy Ozment (CS '01), Chrissy Prues (CHE '01), Christina Robinson (ISYE '99), Rajiv Saigal (EE '00), Andrew Stein (EE '01), Brian Tate (EE '01), and Joel Wooten (ISYE '00).

TEAM Buzz Provides Atlanta with Volunteers

Melissa Byrd (INTA '99) served on the steering committee as publicity chair of a new initiative, TEAM Buzz Community Service Day, which occurred on November 15, 1997, and united over 1,100 students, faculty, staff, and alumni in a day of community service and fellowship. Melissa will be involved with the steering committee for this year's TEAM Buzz, along with Caroline Freeman (MGT '00) and Stephen Parks (ME '99, EE '99).

AIESEC Georgia Tech Hosts 85 Countries

Steve Slawsky (ISYE '00) greeted five hundred college students from eighty-five countries last summer for AIESEC's International Congress in Atlanta as a member of the conference organizing committee. AIESEC is a global internship exchange program. **Michael Fleming** (INTA '96) served as vice president of external relations for the organizing committee, and Melissa Pitotti (INTA '00) presides over the chapter of AIESEC at Georgia Tech, which is currently ranked number one in the nation.

Divya Gupta Elected Student Government Vice President

Following in a long line of President's Scholars to serve the student body, Divya Gupta (ME '00) was elected vice president of the Undergraduate Student Council in this year's election. Other President's Scholars to hold the position include: **Frank Harris** (BIOL '89, MGT '89) and **Cliff Norris** (Phys '91).

Christina Robinson wins Semmes Award

Christina Robinson (ISYE '99) won this year's prestigious George W. Semmes Scholarship, awarded by the ANAK Society to a student who exhibits outstanding leadership, scholarship, and a true love of Georgia Tech. Christina serves as the president of Residence Hall Association, the faculty liaison for Omicron Delta Kappa, and a member of Alpha Gamma Delta.

Sympathetic Vibrations A Cappella Group Goes on Strong in 2nd Year

Performing recently at Ugapalooza, Sympathetic Vibrations, Georgia Tech's all-male a cappella singing group, held its own among Athens and UGA acts, performing "Tears in Heaven," "Brown-eyed Girl" (with a solo by Joel Whitley, CHE '01), and "In the Still of the Night." Scott Percy (CS '01) sings first tenor and has done several of the arrangements. The group has also performed at the last two President's Scholarship Weekends with tremendous success. James Clawson (EE '01) founded the group in 1997, and looks forward to adding a women's a cappella group when his sister, Phebe Clawson (INTA '02), starts Georgia Tech in the fall.

Mock Trial Team Advances to Nationals

Joel Wooten (ISYE '00), Andy Ozment (CS '01), and Stephen Wicks (MSCI '01) participated on the Georgia Tech team which placed fourth in Mock Trial Regional Competition at Kennesaw State and qualified to compete at the Gold Flight National Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa, at Drake University. The Mock Trial Team was founded by **Bradley Weill** (ISYE '96).

Three New Endowments Support PS Program

Through The Campaign for Georgia Tech, three donors have created endowments to provide financial support for the PS Program. These permanent gifts and commitments will add stability and reduce the dependency on annual giving. The new endowments include: The N. Knowles Davis President's Scholars Fund, established by D. Fort Flowers of Houston, Texas; the Jack C. Webb President's Scholars Fund, established by Jack C. Webb of Galveston, Texas; and the Donald S. and Patricia F. Pirkle President's Scholarship Endowment Fund, established by Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Pirkle who live in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

The amount committed for these three funds totals \$330,000, with income to begin to support students in the upcoming 1998-99 academic year.

Honor Advisors Give Support for New Code

Building on an effort begun in 1993, Georgia Tech has developed a living, academic Honor Code which is maintained and supported by a council of student Honor Advisors. The council has begun a renewed effort to make the Code an integral part of the campus. Several current Honor Advisors are President's Scholars: Neil Arner (MATH '01), Melissa Byrd (INTA '99), Koushik Chatterjee (EE '99), James Clawson (EE '01), Michael Dickey (CHE '99), Michael Mohseni (CHE '01), Andy Ozment (CS '01), Molly Palmer (CE '01), and Chris Young (HTS '00). This most recent honor code was a joint effort of the Engineering Council under the direction of **Dennis Barbour** (EE '95) and the Student Government Association, led by **Greg Foster** (ME '95).

Ma Tech Survival Guide Recreated On-line

Karen Feigh (AE '01) re-established the a web version of the T-Book, which strives to be an on-line Tech student survival guide. Other PS members who contributed include: Rebecca Cutri-Kohart (AE '01), Nikki Cross (MATH '01), Michael Mohseni (CHE '01), Eddie Murphy (CHE '01), George Perantatos (CS '01), Scott Percy (CS '01), Erich Plondke (CMPE '01), and Ian Powell (BIOL '00). Their work can be viewed at cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/Tbook. Miller Templeton (PHYS '62), who is retiring in June, 1998, after 40 years at Georgia Tech, was once the editor of the T-Book and currently advises the group.

DramaTech's Tommy Provides Stage for PS's

DramaTech recently staged *The Who's Tommy* in the DT black box along with two nights in the Robert Ferst Center for the Arts. The lead (Tommy) and two other actors are President's Scholars: Joel Whitley (CHE '01) is Tommy, and Leta Woo (MATE '00) and Scott Percy (CS '01) are in the ensemble, singing and dancing through most of the show. Kevin Donnelly (CS '99) was in charge of sound design. Former DramaTech president and PS alumnus **Jimmy Rose** (ISYE '91) served as the musical director for the 300 page score and played keyboards as part of the live rock band.

First PS Alumni Directory Published

After a slight delay, the President's Scholars Alumni Directory was recently published. The directory contains the names and addresses of ~214 PS alumni. If you were not included in this

version, please send in your contact information to the address in the lower right corner of the back page so that you can be included in a new edition in 1999.

Parsons Chosen as New ODK President

Aimee Parsons (CHE '99) won election as the new president of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society. Aimee recently served as fund-raising chair of the Women's Leadership Conference at Tech, and she has also been very active in Panhellenic, the Environmental Forum, and her sorority. She is the seventh PS to serve in the role of president, following **Michelle Morrison Jarrard** (ISYE '89), **Joey Arrowood** (EE '90), **Betty Tong** (ME '93), **Julie Swann** (ISYE '96), **Alex Snoeren** (CS '96), **MATH '96**, and **Kristen Thorvig** (STAC '98).

Students Prepare for National Scholarships

Georgia Tech students will be better prepared to compete for nationally prestigious scholarships after attending a class taught by Billiee Pendleton-Parker, Assistant Director of the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), and Randy McDow. Ten students enrolled in the class, including seven President's Scholars. The class will help prepare the students to compete for the Rhodes, Truman, Fulbright, and Goldwater Scholarships. Georgia Tech has had three Truman Scholars (**Ashley Gigandet**, INTA '94, **Ayodele Embry**, EE '96, **Monyette Childs**, BIOL '96), but there has never been a Rhodes Scholar from Georgia Tech. With the support of the President's Office and from the efforts put into this class, the goal is not out of reach.

PS Graduates Get Out, Make Plans for Future

Trisha Anderson (CHE) will be a circuit design engineer with National Semiconductor Corporation in late March.

David Cochran (CHE) will be attending M.I.T. beginning in the fall to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. His research will be funded by the Whitaker Foundation Biomedical Engineering Graduate Fellowship.

Brad Czerwonky (ME) plans to cross the Pacific in his amphibious (well, sort of) 1965 VW Bug "Helga" to learn the sport of sumo wrestling in Japan and to teach English to Japanese people. This may be preceded by engineering ventures in Atlanta.

Elizabeth Ferdman (CHE) will be working for International Paper in Mobile, Alabama, as a project engineer in the technical department and will be starting work at the end of June.

Kelli Gibbs (CHE) has received a fellowship for a Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography at the Rosentiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami.

Jennifer Gladu (STAC) will begin working on her Master's in Public Policy in Fall of '98, thereby staving off the encroachment of the real world for two more years. And she is very happy about this.

After six years at MaTech, **Stephanie Goff** (ME) will be decompressing her brain in the happiest place on Earth, working in the Epcot Entertainment division. Eventually, she'll be trying to transfer into an engineering position with the Walt Disney Company, but not until after a little break. :)

Joe Haemer (ME) will begin pursuing his MSME in the fall at Georgia Tech.

Sarah Heilshorn (CHE) has been announced as a National Science Foundation Fellow and a Hertz Foundation Finalist. After graduation she will be interning in Houston, Texas, with Exxon for the

summer before starting graduate work at CalTech in the fall in the field of chemical engineering.

Matt Kuhl (CHE) plans to skip graduation ceremonies in favor of 3 weeks of European vacation followed by 2 months of domestic vacation and then employment with Solvay Polymers in Houston, Texas.

Emily Loadholt (EE) is returning to Georgia Tech in the fall as a graduate student in electrical engineering. This summer, she will be working as an intern at Lucent Technologies.

Gabriel Pack (CMPE) will begin work with Sapient, a consulting firm in Atlanta, doing consulting and the technical side of solution implementation.

Bradford Powell (BIOL) will be marrying Sabrina Neill before starting at the University of North Carolina in the fall in their combined MD/PhD program with a focus in Medical Informatics.

Greg Ruhl (CMPE) plans on coping for Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia, before returning to GT this fall to pursue a Master's in EE.

Karen Schilf (ISYE) is attending Vanderbilt School of Medicine next fall.

Michael Sheldon (MSE) is still finalizing plans, but will eventually be out west working in the electronics industry.

Valerie Maier-Speredelozzi (ME) plans to attend graduate school in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan, with a focus on the areas of Design & Manufacturing.

John Strunk (CMPE) will be working for Dynetics, Inc. in Huntsville, Alabama, for the summer. In the fall he will start his graduate work at Carnegie Mellon (Master's and Ph.D.)

Brian Tanner (INTA) will be attending law school at Emory University. He has been awarded the Woodruff Fellowship, the premier law scholarship awarded by Emory, and plans to pursue a career in criminal prosecution or litigation.

Kristen Thorvig (STAC) will be working in Glacier National Park, Montana, for 3 months before joining the Pricewaterhouse Coopers team of computer system consultants based in Atlanta.

Corley Walker (CHE) will be completing an internship with Amoco Polymers in Alpharetta, Georgia, this summer before beginning her doctoral studies in chemical engineering at Carnegie Mellon in the fall.

Derrick Whittle (CS) has accepted a position as Research Scientist at Georgia Tech and plans to continue graduate studies at Tech's College of Computing.

Other graduates include:

John Chastain (BIOL)

Justin Collins (ME)

Dan Griffeth (PSY)

Daniel Hung (ISYE)

Zellyn Hunter (CS)

Michael Johnston (CS)

Eric Marlett (INTA)

Danny McCarthy (ME)

Patrick Ransom (ME)

Matt Sanders (ME)

Gerard Schmid (CHE)

Jay Sexton (EE)

Whitney Shephard (ARCH)

Manisha Shetty (CHE)

Hope Taylor (ID)

Charlotte Whiteman (CHE)



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