



# PSSSSSSSSSSST!

A newsletter for alumni and friends of the President's Scholarship Program at Georgia Tech • Spring 2007

## Warnock, Paradise, Stephens Interview Dozens

-By Kento Masuyama AE '10

If the President's Scholarship Program were to be compared to a well-oiled machine, the interviewers would be the integral gears that keep the machine going. After all, regional and final interviewers have the important responsibility of evaluating the many exemplary candidates for the PS program. While the prospect of interviewing dozens of valedictorians with perfect test scores may seem daunting, several interviewers continue to give their time and effort year after year.

Mr. Bruce Warnock, a Tech graduate from the class of '58, works primarily in the Northeastern Ohio region. This former president of the NE Ohio club got involved with interviewing when people assigned to the Detroit region refused to step on Michigan soil. The reason? Football rivalry. As an interviewer, he likes to see enthusiasm and good communication skills. "If they use teenage slang, I drop points." Mr. Warnock enjoys making close connections with the families; in fact, he invites the students' families to his home for the regional interviews.

Even after the students go off to college, he tries to keep in touch with his past candidates and their parents. Mr. Warnock laughingly recalled a Tech vs Duke football game in which Buzz came up to him saying, "I know who you are!" Buzz turned out to be Mike Denicola, MGT '03, who had come to Tech after being recruited by Mr. Warnock. Stacy Carolin, EAS '09, and her parents are also very appreciative of Mr. Warnock; in fact, Stacy feels "What made me really come to this school was because he [Bruce] really liked this school. He has so much passion for this school."

Mr. Bill Paradise has been interviewing for the PS Program for about ten years. He got involved through his role in managing the North Metro Georgia Tech Club's scholarships. He truly enjoys interviewing PS candidates, whom he describes as "fascinating. See Interviewers on page 2



Beth West, ENVE '10, expresses her artistic side during a special Halloween meeting of the freshman seminar, GT1000.

## Eidson Secures Pledge

-By Craig Rawe MGT '09

Current students and alumni of the President's Scholarship Program often extol the benefits and opportunities afforded by the program. This was certainly true for Bert Eidson, who recently named the Georgia Tech Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement account. This commitment will one day fund the Charles Bertram Eidson President's Scholarship.

"I have had a long-term goal of establishing an endowment to benefit future generations of President's Scholars," Eidson said. He is thankful to Tech for all the valuable things he got from his education, and with the generous creation of the endowment, Eidson wants other students to have the same opportunities and experiences he had. "I hope that future students will continue to benefit from the great educational experience within and outside of the classroom at Georgia Tech."

Bert Eidson graduated from Tech in 1997 with a B.S. in Management. After working as an investment banking analyst with Bank of America, Eidson went on to UNC-Chapel Hill to earn an MBA in 2003. Since then, Eidson has remained in the financial See Eidson on page 2

-Interviewers

intelligent, and enthusiastic. A bright shining example that our future is going to be well taken care of.” Kris Johnson, *ISYE '07*, who was interviewed by Mr. Paradice in 2003, said she is “just very impressed with Bill... I can really tell that he’s really interested in my success and in the other students he’s contacted through the PS Program, and how much he loves Tech, too; can’t forget that.” Mr. Paradice finds particular joy in discovering candidates with good personalities; it seems he has no problem finding and attracting such students. Kris Johnson certainly found that “Bill has a great character and personality; he’s always smiling.”

Ken Stephens, former president of the Georgia Tech club in Augusta and academic coach of the football team, has been interviewing since the first local interviews were held in Augusta. He quickly became responsible for organizing and setting up the interviewers and also recruiting students year- round.



He is proud of the unique personal touch that is involved with the program; he himself has taken such steps as making sure each interview team has a female member to put at ease the female applicants.

Brandon Kearse, *ME '09*, (pictured

above) is a case in point of the effectiveness of Mr. Stephens’ recruitment. Brandon first met Ken at a college fair while a sophomore in high school. Brandon remembers one thing Ken told him that day, that “He never forgets a name. And he doesn’t; he definitely remembered when I came back for semifinalist interviews.” Ken Stephens’s friendly, sincere nature and his genuine interest in the students have helped to bring good scholars to the PS Program.

These three interviewers and their colleagues play key roles in defining the PS Program. By molding the student body of which the program is comprised, these interviewers have helped to make us what we are today.

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-Eidson

services industry working for a mortgage REIT as an investment manager. He currently resides in San Francisco, CA.

One of Eidson’s favorite things about Tech was the fact that he was surrounded by very intelligent people, allowing him to learn from many different perspectives. The same is true for students today, who compose a unique student body of all backgrounds and academic interests. Eidson was also a co-op student, which he felt provided him an enjoyable learning experience.

However, it was not just the educational experience that Eidson valued. A few of the organizations that he was involved with as an undergraduate include the Phi Kappa Phi honor society, the Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity, and the Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. Through being a leader in these organizations, Eidson was able to learn things not taught from a textbook. He charges students by telling them to “make time to participate in the learning opportunities outside of the classroom.”

It is through the generous and significant support of alumni who, like Eidson, create endowments that current and future students are able to enjoy the same experiences and opportunities as he did. Eidson’s endowment will allow him to share his time at Tech with President’s Scholars for years to come.

## Special Coca-Cola Tour

On November 16, a group of second-year President’s Scholars was treated to a special tour of the Coca-Cola Headquarters. Upon arriving, students were immediately escorted to the food court where they were provided with lunch and unlimited Coke beverages. They also stopped in the gift shop. Students were then given a history of Coca-Cola, as well as told the differences between Coke products in countries throughout the world.

They learned how Coke was actually invented by pharmacist Dr. John Pemberton right here in Atlanta and saw how the company and headquarters have grown over the years. The excursion was an exciting opportunity for the students to reconnect and enjoy an incredible experience.



## Parents Develop New Event at Family Weekend

-By Michael Warwick MGT '09

On the weekend of October 7th, the parents of freshman President's Scholars joined their children at the Family Weekend Tailgate.

The tailgate preceded the meeting of Georgia Tech and Maryland on the Flats. Organized by the parents of several President's Scholars—including mothers Jan Sladky, Martha Davis, and Kathe Eisenmann--the event was held on the Instructional Center lawn.

The tailgate served as a valuable opportunity for over 150 students and parents to mingle. Also featured were several Georgia Tech faculty and staff members.

Jonathan Saethang, CHBE '10, remarked, "The tailgate was a great way for families to interact. As the semester has progressed, many of us [students] have gone our different directions, and the tailgate was an excellent chance to reconnect."

The schedule included time for food and fellowship, followed by the presentation and viewing of the freshman video. A President's Scholarship tradition, the video chronicles, often in parody, the experiences of the first semester for the new scholars.

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As a member of the film editing team, Kento Masuyama, AE '10, expressed, "As we were putting the video together, we learned the hard way that the library actually does close on Friday nights. However, the video was entertaining both to watch and to make."

The tailgate served as a fitting tribute to the midpoint of the fall semester and the reunion of students and parents.

The now-veteran parents already have plans to share their knowledge of GT tailgating with the parents of next year's entering class.



Daniel Richardson AE '10 and his family enjoy the food and weather at the Family Weekend Tailgate.



Kiersten Petersen BMED '10 and family relax before watching Kiersten's appearance in the freshman video.



## Making the Connection Dyal Creates Endowment

-By Matt Fillette *EE '10*

Tom Dyal always told himself that he had to repay Georgia Tech in some way for the most exciting years of his life. After many years of success, both professionally and personally, the former President's Scholar demonstrated his tremendous gratitude to Georgia Tech by establishing an endowment to the President's Scholarship Program. Lauren Davis, *EE '10*, was named the first Tom Dyal President's Scholar in honor of Dyal's generous philanthropy to the program.

Tom Dyal entered with the fourth class of President's Scholars in 1984. At the time, the program was small with the most notable daily benefit being a private study room. Dyal looked for ways to build connections among students on campus. He joined Pi Kappa Alpha social fraternity, an organization that still holds a special place in Dyal's heart. A natural leader, Dyal quickly garnered respect from his fellow fraternity brothers, and they elected him president of the chapter. In order to unwind from the rigors of his vigorous electrical engineering curriculum, Dyal teamed with his fraternity brothers in Greek intramural football, soccer, and softball.

Upon receiving his bachelor's degree, Tom Dyal says he realized employers "really want Georgia Tech graduates." AT&T offered Dyal a position in New Jersey and sent him to Stanford to obtain his master's degree in Digital Communication Theory. He later worked for five years with Synoptics as a project manager.

Tom Dyal's advice is to "follow your own passion." Holding to his own motto, Tom Dyal found his career taking a new and exciting direction. Dyal's grandfather was a professional investor who continually passed along the tricks of the trade to Dyal ever since he was a young boy. When Institutional Venture Partners invited Dyal to join their firm, Dyal realized his passion lay in investing. In an exciting business

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merger, Dyal found himself as a partner in Redpoint Ventures as a venture capitalist. Redpoint specializes in investing in start-up companies, where notable previous clients include Myspace®, Musicmatch™, NetFlix®, WebTV, and TiVo®.

Dyal now lives in the San Jose, California, area with his wife of eight years, Deana, his son Pierce, age 3, and daughter Skylar, 9-months-old. He continues to seek balance between his family and career. He enjoys backyard family socials and travel. To this day, he actively plays soccer.

Tom Dyal is an example to all of finding success in every aspect of life. Through all of his experiences, he says he has always remained "a loyal Georgia Tech fan." Dyal searched, as he said, to "give back in some way to Tech." His gift is already making a difference in the life of a deserving President's Scholar.



Lauren Davis is the Dyal President's Scholar. She graduated from the Lovett School in Atlanta in 2006 before enrolling at GT. She serves as a Tech tour guide and is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

## Wellborn Inspires at Luncheon

-By Michael Warwick MGT '09

Pete Wellborn, ICS '86, addressed the current scholars at the annual Fall Luncheon held November 7th. A President's Scholar alumnus, Mr. Wellborn recounted his years on campus and extolled the tremendous opportunities afforded him by a Georgia Tech education.

The event began with a chance for the over 250 students and faculty to mingle as the Georgia Tech Flute Choir performed.

After graduating from Tech with honors in Information and Computer Science, Mr. Wellborn attended the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. Continuing his standard of excellence, he graduated *magna cum laude* as a member of the Law Review in 1989.

Mr. Wellborn urged the scholars to push themselves inside and outside of the classroom, while enjoying the journey. Mr. Wellborn remarked how quickly his time at Tech passed and encouraged the students to take time to smell the proverbial roses. George Ray, MGT & PUBP '09, opined, "With a year and a half already behind me here at Tech, Pete's words hit close to home and reminded me of the importance of work *and* play."

In a message that revealed his passion for sports, while still allowing those not so inclined to relate, Mr. Wellborn divulged the competitiveness of the business world, yet extolled the applicability of a Georgia Tech degree. Mr. Wellborn challenged the scholars to make the most of their time at Tech and marked that as a stepping stone to success.



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## A "Newtonian" Slip

-By Kenny Taylor CHEM '10

Written September 19, 2006

I had the opportunity last week to visit the library and to go on a very special tour that was absolutely incredible. The library staff organized a tour of all of the areas of the library, including the newly renovated first floor. I even had the chance to view some of the areas which are off-limits to students, including the archives on the first floor. I loved this insider's view of the library that Crit Stuart was so generous to give to a few lucky people.

We also had the unique opportunity to view some of the rare books that the library has in storage, and this opportunity was my absolute favorite. There were atlases from the 17th century which were worth tens of thousands of dollars, two real Oscar awards, and even a vase designed by Pablo Picasso. They also had first and second edition copies of Newton's Principia. I had the chance to read a few lines from this work in the original Latin, which was an experience that I could not have gotten anywhere else. Four years of high school Latin and six weeks of GHP [Governor's Honors Program] really paid off.

Ironically, I walked into math class later that day and we were talking about the fundamentals of calculus. My teacher said that Newton discovered calculus and described it in full in only a few pages in "one of his works." Can you imagine his surprise when I told him that I had just seen the original Principia only a few hours earlier? He was astounded and assured me that I could not possibly have seen the real Principia because that book was over three hundred years old and was written in Latin. I told him about the wonderful program at the library which had allowed me this opportunity. We were soon launched into a discussion of the personal life and mathematical discoveries of Isaac Newton which lasted over half an hour. All of this stemmed from the generosity of our very own library.

Gentry Sherrill CS '10, Chris Madsen ME '06, and Patrick Eisenmann PHYS '10 join speaker Pete Wellborn and staff members Kate Wasch of Legal Affairs and Dr. William Schaffer of Student Affairs at the fall luncheon held on November 7.



## Ruminations from Randy Calculated Risks

What is it like to gamble with over \$5.6 million? The PS Office did just that two months ago by mailing offer letters to 115 outstanding high school seniors, finalists for the President's Scholarship. While we do



not expect nearly that many to enroll, it is exciting to think about the possibilities and permutations of signing the candidates. Sixty students have accepted the offer.

The chances that we are taking this year are calculated. We placed our bets on an outstanding group of student

leaders. As students, this group averaged 1524 on the SAT I, and about 67% had straight A's. Of those at schools that rank, over half were #1 or #2. About 75% attended public schools. As leaders, these seniors had high participation rates in varsity sports (about 2/3), musical performance (over half), research, publications, and scouting.

We know that putting money on these students is a relatively safe bet, given how the selection process has identified many outstanding students, including:

- Inn Chen BME '08 won a Goldwater Scholarship soon after being chosen for third team USA Today Academic All-Star team.
- Laura Croft BME '07, Jarret Lafleur AE '07, and Davene Wright PTCH '04 were awarded National Science Foundation fellowships (which is more than the entire University of Georgia this year).
- Eric Deutsch ME '07 won the Tau Beta Pi cup for being the top engineering student.
- Eli Riddle BME '08 won the Semmes award for leadership and love of Georgia Tech.
- Chris Sladky CS '10 won the prize for freshman of the year in the College of Computing.
- Laura Croft, Joe Holt PHYS '08, Lauren Miller MGT '07, Jarret Lafleur, and Sam Britt MSE '09 also won departmental awards.
- Our alumni continue to win awards as well. In addition to Davene (mentioned above), Michael Murphree INTA '04 won a prize for the outstanding master's

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student in International Affairs, and Cort Ouzts MGT '06 won a prize for being the top accounting student.

While some consider us risk-averse on occasion, that may not be a bad thing, given that we are staked with money from alumni and friends of Tech.

Rather than taking long shots, we seek to find those students who have clear potential and strong track records. We want to see a strong yield on our investment. There are riskier strategies to be used, but our plan for steady growth is paying strong dividends thus far.

### *How do I give back?*

President's Scholar alumni often ask us how they can give something back to a program they feel benefited them greatly during their time at Tech — and beyond. There are several ways to do this.

- Give your time by interviewing semifinalists for the President's Scholarship; this not only helps us select the most outstanding high school students to offer the PS, but it is also a great recruiting tool. By representing Tech and the PS program well, you can help us achieve these goals.
- Give to the Alumni Association's Roll Call; a portion of all gifts to the Institute's unrestricted funds supports the PS program; online giving forms are available at [www.gtalumni.org](http://www.gtalumni.org).
- Give directly to the PS Program through the endowment created in honor of our founder, Dr. E. Jo Baker. Income from this endowment supports stipends for President's Scholars.

To donate, send a check payable to:

**The Georgia Tech Foundation**  
60 Spring Street NW  
Suite 400  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Be sure to write "Dr. E. Jo Baker President's Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of the check. Contributions to Roll Call and the Georgia Tech Foundation are tax-deductible.



Jacob Nieman CMPE '10 and Hannah Clement ISYE '10 visit the rare book section of the Tech library to get a picture with Newton's Principia.

## Keep in touch!

Update your contact information with PSP. You can contact the office using the address, telephone number, or email given below.

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## Dugan Wins Baker Scholarship

After only three years at Tech, Amanda Dugan will graduate this May with a degree in public policy and a certificate in biology, having served as editor-in-chief of the Technique.

She plans to become a high school teacher, having been a STEP Fellow through CETL. This teaching internship allowed her to confirm her passion for the profession.

A graduate of Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology, Amanda maintained her ties to the county community by serving as a research mentor and administrative aid for middle and high school students.

The Dr. E. Jo Baker Scholarship was created by PS alumni to honor the founder of the PS Program.

