

## The View from Here

NEWSLETTER  
May 2012

by Dr. Monica Halka

Honors Program students, thank you for the biggest and best GT HP Expo ever. I was not the only one deeply impressed with the class projects, oral presentations, posters describing Student Challenge Fund activities, and photography exhibit—with displays extending from the 3rd floor up to the roof garden of the Clough Building. Several prospective students from around Atlanta attended with parents, and it was a great opportunity to explain exactly what makes our program special. I was particularly struck by the number of graduating seniors in the Honors Program who volunteered not only to present, but to help with set-up and clean-up and everything in between. I know many of them were simultaneously working on senior projects, attending award ceremonies, applying for jobs, and visiting graduate programs. Yet they made time in their unbelievable schedules to eagerly pitch in with our annual year-end event. They went out of their way to meet the visiting high school seniors, and I was surprised to hear how highly they praised the program to those youngsters (almost as if coached, though they were not). I shouldn't have been surprised, though. They are the ones who have helped sculpt the Honors Program through their input, engagement, and energy, and they should rightfully take pride in what has been accomplished. Graduates with that kind of enthusiasm and vitality are bound to shape their world in ways we can't begin to imagine. So good luck to our wonderful grads, and don't forget to write.



Mitch Blenden explains his class project to Sarah Mudrinich.



At the first annual Honors Program Expo in 2008, Ian Guthridge demonstrated the game he created with Holden Link (standing behind Dr. Nobles) and Cory Johnson (not pictured).

NEED FUNDING FOR A PROJECT,  
CONFERENCE, OR STUDY ABROAD TRIP?

APPLY FOR A STUDENT  
CHALLENGE FUND GRANT!

Proposals must be submitted by **May 31st** to [monica.halka@gatech.edu](mailto:monica.halka@gatech.edu).

The proposal template is posted on the Honors Program website under the Current Students tab.

# The Georgia Tech Honors Program

would like to congratulate  
our Spring 2012  
Graduates!



David Oshiozele Akhigbe, EE  
Christine Chioma Amuzie, BIO  
Sandhya Anantharaman, BMED  
Kristopher Bima Bahar, CMPE  
Benjamin Dreher Bennett, IAML  
Christopher Raymond Berger, PSY  
George Hilmer Bergmark, AE  
Timothy-Allen Edwin Brewington, EE  
Derek Christopher Buffardi, ENVE  
Kristine Marie Carnavos, ME  
Giacomo Cernjul, CE  
Frances Y. Chiang, BCHM  
Tristan Young Chin, EE  
Jacob Curry Crabtree, BMED  
Jennifer Lynn Dowling, AE  
Allan Ruffin Farber, AE  
Ziyu Ge, BA  
Sonia Rae Golemme, PHYS  
Shabnam Gupta, BMED  
Shawna Marie Hagen, BMED

Kristin Theresa Herrel, CHEM  
Andrew Ming Hsu, ME  
James Arthur Iocozzia, PFE  
Victoria Fang Jiang, BIO  
Parul Kapur, ME  
Priya Malhotra, ISYE  
Megan Jane McCarty, CHBE  
Courtney Jenarius McCormick, BMED  
Darin McKenna, IE  
Arjun Gangadharan Menon, ME  
Rohan Venugopal Menon, BMED  
Sarah Elizabeth Mudrinich, STC  
Gargi Mukherjee, BMED  
Amanda Beth O'Neal, CS  
Pranav Ramesh, EE  
Kristin Melin Rieck, EIA  
Kelsie Jeanne Riemenschneider, BMED  
Allison Lynn Roberts, ME  
Michael David Ruemmele, BCHM  
Erwin Hans Schemankewitz, ISYE

Anna Rebekah Sims, STC  
Aron Barker Skelton, MGT  
Matthew Steven Smith, ME  
Daniel David Soloway, ME  
Julia Allen Turner, STC  
Warren Christopher Van Nus, ME  
Susan Eileen Vandromme, CHBE  
Spencer Elliot Vore, ME  
Eric Thomas Zuniga, AE  
Joy Isabelle Maame Adowaa  
Buolamwini, CS  
Andrew Llyod Jones, ISYE  
DeeDee Kim, ID  
Mebaa Kidane, CS  
Emily Ann Keen, ID  
Michael Guzilean, BIOL  
Kristin Ducote, BIOL  
Nate Tinkler, CS  
Michael Chen, CHEM



HP Retreat 2008





# HONOREES, SPRING 2012

Sonia Golemme  
Work Aboard Student of the Year

Sanat Moningi  
Outstanding Freshman in Computing

Benjamin Bennett, French  
Outstanding Senior in the School of  
Modern Languages Awards

Julian Brew  
Dorothy Cowser Yancy Incentive  
Award

Benjamin Bennett  
Excellence in International Affairs and  
Modern Languages Award

Graham Sweeney  
I Am Liberal Arts Award

Marcela Preininger  
Cherry L. Emerson Research Award

Stanley Guillaume  
W.M. Spicer Scholarship in Chemistry

Kristin Herrel  
Merck Index Award

Michael Chen  
Dr. William H. Eberhardt Scholarship

Kristin Herrel  
University System of Georgia  
Outstanding Scholar Recognition

Martin Copenhaver  
The Roger M. Wartell, PhD, and  
Stephen E. Brossett, MD, PhD,  
Award for Multidisciplinary Studies in  
Biology, Physics, and Mathematics

Sarah Weber  
Faculty Award, School of Biology

Joshua Goldstein  
Centennial Outstanding Junior in  
Aerospace Engineering Award

Jennifer Lynn Dowling  
AIAA Outstanding Service Award

Sean McGee – Outstanding Electrical  
Engineering Senior Award and Tau  
Beta Pi Senior Engineering Cup

Eric Zuniga  
Harvey Hochman, AE 1954,  
Scholarship Award

Lillian Ponitz  
Buck Stith Outstanding Junior  
Award in Civil and Environmental  
Engineering

Shaleen Jain  
Most Outstanding Electrical and  
Computer Engineering Senior Co-op  
Award

Joshua Goldstein, Michael Butler,  
Garett Dowdy  
Henry Ford II Scholar Awards

James Iocozzia  
Senior Scholar Award in Polymer and  
Fiber Engineering

Andrew Hsu  
Richard K. Whitehead Jr. Memorial  
Awards

Melanie Dunn – Outstanding  
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant  
Award

## CHALLENGE FUND WINNERS, 2011-2012

Camille Barnet and Gaelle Belhseine  
Model UN Conference, Boston

Nicholas Barker  
Study Abroad, Jordan

Allison Braden  
Study Abroad, Peru

Katherine Beaman and Christina  
Hamm American Nuclear Society  
Conference, Las Vegas

Kelsey Cannon  
Community Service Council Launch,  
Georgia Tech

Jennifer Dowling  
Mars Desert Research Station

Stanley Guillaume and Megha Mandal  
"Hoops for Aids" event, Georgia Tech  
Michael Guzelian and Caitlin Murphy  
Honduras medical mission trip

DeeDee Kim  
IDSA Conference, Atlanta

Jordan Lockwood  
Oxford Summer Program

Pranay Mishra and Mohamad Ali Najia  
Model UN Conference, United Arab  
Emirates

Lillian Ponitz  
ESWB alternative winter break,  
Cameroon

Lauren Rhodes  
STGlobal Conference, Washington, DC

Basheer Tome  
TEI conference, Kingston, Ontario,  
Canada

Donovan Shuman  
AIESEC internship, Peru

Barry Weaver  
FIMRC alternative winter break, Peru

Sarah Weber  
Ocean Sciences Meeting, Salt Lake  
City

Allison Woodward  
Spring semester, Sweden

Bibiana Garcia  
Biological oceanography research, Gulf  
of Mexico

## FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT RECIPIENTS, 2011-2012

Joy Buolamwini  
Fulbright Scholar  
Astronaut Scholar

Michael Chen  
Cambridge Trust Scholar

Jennifer Dowling  
NSF Grant

Nivedh Manohar  
NSF Grant

Lauren Rhodes  
Coca-Cola Scholarship  
Campoamor Scholarship

**Congratulations to  
all Award Winners!**

# Message from the Director

by Dr. Gregory Nobles

## Now We Are Six

Another commencement ceremony, and another academic year comes to an end—this one the sixth for the Honors Program. Waiter, a round of “whews” for everyone!

I suppose those of us who work in the Honors Program office shouldn't get too much sympathy for being a little bit beat, because we didn't have to turn in semester projects or take final exams. But in a way we did. Our students are our projects, and how they do in the end tells us how we're doing. And if that's the case, we've passed our finals with the proverbial flying colors, so we're doing just fine, thanks—and thanks above all to our students.

Get this: In the six years the honors Program has been in business, we've had three cohorts of graduates, a total of 192 as of this May. Of those 192 graduates, 159 (82%) have completed their Georgia Tech careers with academic honors in their respective majors—111 graduating with Highest Honors, 24 with Honors, and another 24 with Honors—which is not at all the norm for the university as a whole. How did this happen?

We don't select students on the basis of academic achievement, at least according to the standard measures, such as SAT/ACT scores, high school GPA, and the number of AP or IB courses taken. We look for other traits, which are much harder to define, like demonstrating intellectual and cultural engagement, making a serious and successful commitment to some sort of extracurricular activity, or just being an especially

interesting-seeming person. I never say to new Honors Program students, “You're the best and the brightest at Georgia Tech.” All anyone ever gets from me is “You're very good, you're very bright, now take ownership of your education and make the most of what this university has to offer.”

And so far, students have done just that, and in so many ways. More to the point, somewhere along the line, even though we never do much or even say much about grades and GPAs in the Honors Program, these interesting-seeming people selected for something other than academic achievement seem to achieve quite well academically. I can't figure it out.

But maybe I can try. Maybe there's something about living together in a first-year residence with other interesting and engaged people that starts students out on the right path. Maybe there's something about being in the classroom culture of Honors Program classes that spills over into our students' conduct in other classes. Maybe there's just something about being told to take ownership of one's education that sets the tone for approaching Georgia Tech in a positive and successful fashion. I don't really know the answer yet, but I'll be thinking about it—and inviting everyone else to chime in with ideas and suggestions.

In the meantime, we've just selected the entering class for next fall, and it'll be the biggest one yet, around 140 new, very good, very bright, and always interesting-seeming students. Whew, indeed.



## NEWSLETTER STAFF

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