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SAB prepares to kick off new year

The Ivan Allen College Student Advisory Board is a collection of IAC undergraduate students who act as delegates for each of the eight majors and six schools that comprise the Ivan Allen College. We serve as representatives not only for our majors and schools, but also as advisors to IAC and Georgia Tech administrators on issues that affect students. We are passionate about making the IAC experience all that it can be and the *Link* is one way we go about achieving that.

This year, we will be engaging in many exciting activities that we hope IAC students will support and participate in. From recruiting new students and building internship opportunities to increasing student input and connecting with other IAC groups, to there are many ways for you to get involved.

You can visit our website, www.iac.gatech.edu/sab, to learn more about the SAB, our goals and our members. The website also provides a forum for you to provide feedback and we would love to hear from you. We have an exciting year planned, so stay informed and join in the fun!

THE LINK

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IAC welcomes stellar students, largest freshman class ever

Enrollment, SAT scores highest of incoming IAC classes

To the incoming freshman class, welcome to Georgia Tech! You've come to a unique place where science and technology intersect with the liberal arts, and talent expresses itself in impressive academic, artistic and athletic achievements. The acclaimed Tech tradition is preserved by faithful alumni and carried on by loyal students. The possibilities are infinite.

The Ivan Allen College, featuring "liberal arts with a Tech twist," is a wonderful place to experience the challenges and opportunities that Tech has to offer. Among the IAC's many strengths are its unique degree programs, distinguished teaching personnel, vast career resources and strategic connections. With all these assets, its greatest strength remains its impressive student body.

This year, the IAC is delighted to welcome the largest incoming freshman class in its 15-year history, with enrollment up 65%! Along with this quantitative increase, the new students also demonstrate impressive academic credentials. The average SAT score is the highest ever, with the math-verbal ratio almost even. The incoming class is an intriguing mix of students and reflects wide geographical scope with students from across the state and around the country. The new class has once again raised the standard even higher.

The enrollment results reflect the tremendous success of the IAC's recruit-

ment efforts over the past few years, and is evidence of the hard work of administration and students alike. "The students of IAC, and particularly its Student Advisory Board, get much of the credit for the unprecedented increase in the number of entering IAC freshmen and the boost in the average aptitudes," said Associate Dean Richard Barke. "They worked hard on recruiting and consummating the admissions of our largest-ever freshman class." The results are very encouraging, as the IAC gains greater visibility and builds on its reputation of excellence. "I went to Tech because of the liberal arts college, and I'm excited to see the progress they are making" said IAC alum Donyale Leslie (INTA '04), who is now preparing for Law School. "Tech is proving their diversity by promoting different programs... true diversity is different majors and interests and ideas coming together, and Tech is really trying to embrace that," she added.

The incoming class is sure to contribute significantly to the IAC community, as the College expands its scope of influence both within and beyond the campus. "We look forward to welcoming new students to the IAC family, and acquainting them with the approach to a combined liberal and professional education which is the hallmark of IAC," said Dean Barke. "We want to prepare them for the high expectations that our faculty and students have of each other, and instill in them the pride that comes from being a participant in our unique enterprise."

Study Abroad

Every year, IAC students travel all over the world studying abroad. Here are just a few from last summer:

- Mark Iannucci, Washington D.C.
- Becca Arce, Spain, Italy
- Ruth Malhotra, Cuba
- Daniel Rubenfield, Brussels, Belgium
- Elizabeth Darnall, Germany
- Sarah Edwards, China

Spotlight on Germany:

"Before signing up for the German LBAT summer study abroad program, I thought I knew what I was getting into... after all, I'd been abroad before, even been to Germany several times before visiting my relatives. However, the program had so much more to experience than I ever imagined.

In addition to classes taught in German, the program provided many unique opportunities, from exploring the grounds of a two-hundred-year-old castle to touring the extensive Volkswagen plant. One of my favorite memories from the trip is when I traveled with three friends to the small German town of Obertsdorf. The hamlet is famous for its ski slopes and beautiful mountains so we braved the elements to witness incredible views. Throughout the ascension, we crossed paths with other climbers, exchanging German greetings. We rose up 2200 meters, going from sunshine to snow in just a short amount of time. What fun to make a snow angel in the middle of July!"
- Elizabeth Darnall

DID YOU KNOW?

- Before IAC was created in 1991, Tech had a "College of Sciences and Liberal Studies."
 - The first Business and Economics Courses at Georgia Tech were taught as part of the English Department, now LCC.
 - Ivan Allen was reputedly prouder of his scratch golf score than of his grades from his collegiate years... (he had many 4.0 semesters).
 - Sue Rosser, Dean of the Ivan Allen College, was the first female dean in Tech History.
- IAC students were voted the "best looking majors" by the Technique.

REFLECTIONS ON MY FRESHMAN YEAR...

BY RUTH MALHOTRA

"You're going to Georgia Tech? What type of engineer will you be?" This was the typical response I received when telling people of my college choice upon graduating from high school.

I always knew Tech was a good school with a strong reputation for academic excellence. I grew up a Yellow Jacket fan, so I was really excited at the thought of going to a school I had admired for so long. But when I thought about it more, I was also apprehensive. Liberal Arts? International Affairs? Georgia Tech? Why would a student like me enroll at that technological bastion inundated with electrical engineers and computer scientists?!

The course catalog promised enough options, so I enrolled in Tech's Ivan Allen College. My apprehension turned to amazement when I discovered the numerous opportunities for involvement, and the wide array of activities which entirely surpassed my expectations.

Soon I was confronted with too many choices – another dilemma. With the help of academic advisors, career counselors and upperclassmen, I explored the many areas of opportunity. I soon had to learn how to balance the challenging class demands with extracurricular activities. I was also amazed to see how rigorous the coursework was, and the high level of scholarship expected even from freshman students. It was a quantum leap from my high school classes... but the professors were most often approachable, and that was a real support.

Three pieces of advice I would offer new freshmen:

1) Expect the best. It's easy to come in with preconceived notions on everything from the academic environment to the student body, but remember to keep an open mind.

2) Explore your areas of interest. Tech offers a wide array of opportunities to get involved on campus, from political activism to intramural sports to interdisciplinary research, so take advantage of them and don't get stuck in your room.

3) Enjoy your experience. My most fulfilling experiences have been those where I have connected classroom learning to real-life challenges, and Tech gives you the chance to do just that.

You'll be here for a while. Immerse yourself in the environment and express yourself.



ASK AN ALUMNUS: DON LUMPKINS (INTA '95)

Donald "Doc" Lumpkins is currently the State Anti-terrorism Officer for Maryland's Emergency Management Agency, where he coordinates the Maryland Terrorism Forum, organizes the State's Rapid Response Team, and leads consequence management planning efforts for potential WMD attacks.



As an anti-terrorism expert, Donald Lumpkins (INTA '95) has worked in several leadership positions at a national level with events such as the anthrax at-

tacks in 2001 and Hurricane Isabel in 2003, and believes that Georgia Tech and the Ivan Allen College in particular prepared him well for his current position. By making him work hard in classes, address complex issues, and accept responsibility, he says his educational experience it helped him "grow up" as a person. "When events occur in my current position – where we have thousands of lives at stake – it is no different," he said.

The people and environment are what brought Lumpkins to Tech, and interestingly enough an 8am class with Dr. Daniel Papp made him decide to study International Affairs. "Despite our chagrin for the time of the class, I found that I really enjoyed the material and instructor." When asked what he enjoyed the most about the Ivan Allen College, Lumpkins mentioned the many options avail-

able in classes, activities. "The INTA program, unlike many others, thrived on classroom dialogue and debate – a chance to say what you think, and have your beliefs challenged... while I began to learn humility, I also learned to fight for what I believed." Lumpkins finds his current position very rewarding, as he is able to focus on not only developing strategy, but implementing it. "I get to ride the line between the theoretical and the practical everyday... with planning, training, and exercise projects, as well as for my actions during a train derailment, hurricane, or terrorist incident."

Lumpkins likes to stay involved with the INTA program at Tech, and keeps up with several of his professors. "I remember a conversation with Dr. Robert Kennedy shortly before I graduated. In summary, he suggested that if 'I got my act together' I

would be able to do some pretty great things – I never forgot that conversation." Just as Dr. Kennedy offered encouragement for the future, Lumpkins is eager to offer advice to current students about their current education and future goals. "Don't be afraid to make mistakes," he said, "it is college, and it is the best time you will have to make mistakes and learn from them." Finally, Lumpkins maintains that as cliché as it may seem, it is very important have fun and meet people. "Your social activities will make your interactions with people that much stronger – whether they are a Senator who controls your funding, a Governor who controls your job, or citizens who are hoping you can fix their life after they lost their homes."

ASK THE SAB: ENJOYING YOUR TIME AT TECH

Brian McKinley is a 4th-year Economics major, and is involved with the Student Foundation Investments Committee and the Waterski/Wakeboard Club, in addition to serving as representative on the SAB.

LINK: What is the single biggest piece of advice you would offer to a new student at Tech?

Brian: Get involved on campus. That's one of the best ways to enjoy Tech. When you get involved, you have something other than schoolwork to look forward to, you meet new people in the process, and you develop a sense of ownership towards Tech since you've contributed to an organization.

LINK: What types of organizations are available on campus?

Brian: There are literally hundreds of organizations to choose from, so whether it's sports, religion, culture, politics, business, or anything else, you should be able to find several groups that fit your interests. In the event that you are unable to find a club for you, create it. There is even a foundation devoted to supporting students in their efforts to get improve Georgia Tech. They will help you find the capital you need to begin your organization. A complete list of organizations is on www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu.



LINK: When should you start getting involved in campus organizations?

Brian: Getting involved right away is very important at Georgia Tech because some organizations have applications processes and if you miss out, you have to wait another year to try to join. While this is for only a handful of organizations, it is something to be aware of. Get involved today; if you don't, you will wish you had, trust me!

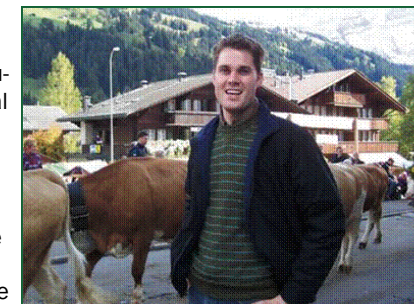
LINK: Beyond getting involved in campus organizations, what else can I do to make the most of my college experience?

Brian: Be outgoing. Always be up for an adventure. Don't be afraid to talk to strangers in the dining hall, on the quad, or prior to class. The first few weeks of the fall semester are so much fun because everyone is interested in meeting new people. Inside the classroom, the same is true. Don't be afraid to speak up and ask a question. Interrupt the professor if you have to – there is no point in going to a class that you cannot understand. Finally, don't forget to relax. Do something fun everyday: enjoy the beautiful campus, visit Atlanta's art galleries, go to a poetry reading, watch a football game.

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS: AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SWITZERLAND

Throughout the year, IAC students participate in a wide array of unique internships across the country and around the world. Last year, International Affairs student Stephen Ferguson interned with the U.S. Department of State in Bern, Switzerland at the American Embassy.

As an intern, Ferguson worked with several interesting sections within the Embassy. "I began in the Consular Section and went on to work with the Executive Office, where the Ambassador is located," he said. "I also worked with Public Affairs, which is responsible for public relations and preparing the daily press summary which is distributed inside the Embassy." Students are often given unique re-



Ferguson's internship wasn't all work. Here Stephen took a break from his press research to enjoy one of Switzerland's world renown alpine festivals. "The Ricola singers were off to the right" he said.

sponsibilities and experience different challenges over the course of their internship. "The most challenging experience was researching, drafting and submitting 'talking points' to the Ambassador for her to use in speeches and in press con-

ferences," said Ferguson, "It was extremely rewarding to see the end product and to be treated as if I were an actual Foreign Service Officer."

Interning gives students firsthand insight into a particular professional field, and often gives them a career vision for plans after graduation. "I could definitely see myself working for the State Department or in another government agency in the future," Ferguson said. International internships are an effective way not only to experience hands-on training, but also to travel and see a different part of the world. "This was definitely an amazing opportunity and being able to work and live in Switzerland was incredible," Ferguson said. Over the course of your internship, chances are you'll have some really unique opportunities. "I was able to attend the Marine Ball with all the other Embassy employees,

including the Ambassador and the Deputy Chief of Mission," recalls Ferguson. "They had an awesome meal, a guest speaker, and a DJ for after-dinner dancing. It was a lot of fun."

Ferguson recommends that students take advantage of the many internship opportunities available. "I would encourage everyone to find an internship that fits their goals and interests," he said, "It's such a valuable experience."

Stephen Ferguson found this internship on-line at www.careers.state.gov.

The IAC offers numerous resources to help you in your internship search. For more information, log on to: www.iac.gatech.edu/students/intern