



PSSSSSSSSSSST!

A newsletter for alumni and friends of the President's Scholarship Program at Georgia Tech • Spring 2008

Across the Globe and Beyond!



Top of the world: (Left to right) Students Jonathan Saethang, IE '10; Will Boyd, PHYS '10; and Kento Masuyama, AE '10.

MICHAEL LU, ISYE '11

As the world increasingly acquires faster communication and technological access, the need for college students to get a head start on the globalization process has become more necessary than ever before. Among the President's Scholars, many have taken the initiative to study abroad and gain greater insight into different cultures and values. Of

those President's Scholars who studied abroad over the past summer, several shared their experiences.

One of the most popular study abroad programs is the Oxford Program in Europe. At Oxford, students are able to earn twelve credit hours over ten weeks. Prior to a six-week stay at Oxford, students traveled across Europe for four weeks. According to Trey Birch, EIA '10, the Oxford experience

was "a perfect setting for building strong, life-long bonds." Upon further insight, Birch confidently added, "The GT kids I met there are some of my all-time favorite people." At another aspect, Alina Staskevicius, ISYE '10, explained the differences she noticed between her education overseas and at Georgia Tech. She noted that the multiple sites, markets, and local cuisine

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allowed her to experience Europe in a more fulfilling way “than just reading about it in books....Now, I feel that I have gained an entire new perspective of the world I am living in.”

Another particular area of interest is the combined region of East and Southeast Asia. Despite living in such a culturally different region, President's Scholars not only learned how to appreciate the foreign environment, but they were also able to find a surprising amount of similarities between Eastern and Western cultures. Kento Masuyama, AE '10, noted how, “despite all of the emphasized differences we hear of, they [Asians] enjoy the same things I do and...have their part time jobs and their parties on weekends.” Likewise, Jonathan Saethang, ISYE '10, expressed his appreciation for the East Asia Summer Program by stating that the region opened his eyes to “the great people and places the rest of the world has to offer.” The program included six weeks of traveling through Japan, Taiwan, China, and Hong Kong, with major highlights on the uniqueness of the areas. Saethang reminisced about the classes taught on the road, one of which included “a few lectures on a boat from Japan en route to Taiwan.” Aside from their learning experiences, Masuyama and Saethang could not deny the specific memories of incredible Asian cuisine to tremendous sightseeing. Masuyama detailed that the variety of delicious food was great even within one country, and besides, the food was “so cheap, and oh so delicious.”

Although popular locations such as Oxford and East Asia can provide a wonderful source of education, students such as Sarah Knish, BIO '08, choose to explore more exotic locations abroad. During a ten-week program in Argentina, Sarah not only

studied Argentine history, culture, and politics, but she also dove straight into the lifestyle itself. Remembering her time there, she stated, “As a student in a foreign lab, I was pushed to give presentations and conduct research in Spanish, a language I had only been learning for little more than a year. This experience gave me a deep empathy and appreciation for the difficulties that others experience when living in a foreign country and overcoming a language barrier.” When asked how her experience abroad compared to her learning at Tech, Knish simply responded, “I do not know how to express this succinctly, but learning abroad is so much better. Even things as simple as ordering a meal in a restaurant or navigating the public transportation system present opportunities for learning.”

As these students have expressed, the values attained from studying abroad have broadened their minds with invaluable knowledge about how the many different parts of the world function. Whether it may be, as Staskevicius says, “learning about a city—its sites, restaurants, and other unique traits” or as Saethang notes, seeing “the great people and

places that the rest of the world has to offer,” the experience of studying overseas has become a true necessity for development, especially in a world where instant communication and the scale of globalization have become integral parts of modern society.



Top: George Ray, PUBP/MGT '09, in front of Parliament in London, England. **Middle:** Alina Staskevicius, ISYE '10, in the Palace of Versailles in France. **Bottom-left:** David Wu, ISYE '09, in front of a Buddhist temple in Japan.



PS Alumnus Debnath returns for Fall Luncheon

JORDAN EDWARDS, IAML '10

When Jay Debnath graduated from Tech in 1992, he may not have known that more than a decade later, he'd be back, speaking before the assembled President's Scholars as the ground-breaking medical scientist that he is today. Debnath left Tech with a degree in chemistry and went straight to Harvard, where he earned his medical degree. Debnath is currently an associate professor at the University of California at San Francisco, and he is focusing his research on the role and regulation of autophagy in epithelial homeostasis and cancer.

To this effect, Debnath told his listeners what it takes to be a good scientist. "I'm not an engineer. I'm not a manager. I'm not an entrepreneur who's interested in starting his or her own company, at least for now. Rather, I'm a scientist who's engaged each and every day in basic biomedical research." In addition to being constantly curious and questioning of accepted scientific ideas, Debnath also emphasized the critical importance of communication.



Words of Wisdom: Debnath speaks to faculty, students, and alumni.

"Even though it would be nice for us to sit around and let our data and our results speak for themselves, in reality we absolutely have to engage in marketing in order to stay in business."

But when he spoke at the President's Scholars' fall luncheon in September after being introduced by E. Jo Baker, it wasn't just scientific research on which he illuminated. Central to his message was the need for leaders with the skills that Tech instills in its graduates. According to Debnath, any advancement made for

humankind would require the talents of people from a variety of disciplines, such as the sciences, engineering, public policy, economics, and many more. Debnath remarked that moving forward as a society will require a team effort, and the students of Georgia Tech, and the President's Scholars particularly, will one day need to answer the call to lead this movement.

On the surface it may seem that Debnath's message was motivational, and to hear it certainly made one feel

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What's the Buzz?



Current PSs on the move!



Melanie Stam, MATH '11, took her 4th jump as part of her series of courses in order to become certified to skydive solo. Once she is certified, Stam plans to join Tech's competition team.



Craig Rawe, MGT '09, was selected as the ODK Pettit Memorial Outstanding Sophomore Leader, and he completed a triathlon in California after raising over \$4,300 to fight cancer.



Morgan Wolfe, BMED '09, and Michael Warwick, ECON & MGMT '09, ran the ING Miami marathon on January 27th. This was their first marathon for both of them.

Parents of President's Scholars Give Back

SIERRA SCHMIDT, *CHEM '11*

Donors are essential to the existence of and continued success of the President's Scholarship Program. From graduating classes of Tech students to successful Tech alumni, donors show their confidence in the program by endowing scholarships that fund the President's Scholarships that have benefited so many Tech students over the years.

This year, we are excited to have the opportunity to offer two new endowments to two incoming scholars. Both of these endowments, the Thomas and Lisa Rawe Scholarship and the Luders Family Scholarship, are particularly remarkable because they have both been given to the program by parents of current and graduated President's Scholars. Parents of *MGT '09* Craig Rawe, Thomas and Lisa Rawe, are the donors of one of the scholarships that debuted this year. Mr. Rawe remarked that the decision to endow a President's Scholarship was easy to make. He felt like "It was the least I could do, considering



Luders and Rawe Scholars: First-year students Amy Varallo and Rachel Andrews

what Tech has done for Craig." Mr. Rawe expressed great appreciation for the teamwork that the President's Scholarship Program instills in its scholars and praised the enthusiasm of the students in the program. A Georgia Tech alumnus himself, Mr. Rawe said that his favorite aspect of the scholarship program was the quality of the program and the staff administering the program. He also remarked that he feels that the program attracts natural leaders and works to give students the

opportunity to be successful.

The first recipient of the Thomas and Lisa Rawe Scholarship is Rachel Andrews, *UEC '11*. Andrews is from Statesville, North Carolina, and is already jumping into life at Tech by becoming a percussionist in the Yellow Jacket Marching Band. Andrews chose to come to Georgia Tech because the people at Tech—in the PS Program, in the band, and among the faculty—

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International Plan expands Tech's horizons

KENTO MASUYAMA, *AE '10*

In 2005, the newly created International Plan (IP), a degree-long program aimed at producing globally competent students at Tech. Today, there are 23 participating majors including the newest additions of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Students enrolled in the IP are required to develop a level of proficiency in a foreign language, take globally-focused courses, and spend 26 weeks abroad in two terms.

Each major also has a capstone course in which the student's knowledge of the discipline and of its international context are integrated. Despite being in only its second year,

the International Plan boasts 347 enrolled students, with a projected 250 more for this year.

"This Institute [Tech] encourages people to go out and connect with the rest of the world," said Nick Ruhter, *EE '10*. "With globalization becoming a fairly prevalent factor in the workforce today, I think the IP is a very valuable tool to use in order to be prepared to work with other cultures."

The IP is geared towards arming students with practical knowledge about how their field operates in the global economy. It is not simply an extension of study abroad; the idea is to provide a coherent program in which students

learn to think in terms of major and the best location or language.

Melissa Scholz (*IAML '06*) was among the first graduates of the International Plan. She felt that the IP was "an important way to broaden my studies in the sense of taking classes abroad and from foreign professors in a very different setting...at the same time, I knew it would help focus my studies by allowing me to work, study, and live in the specific geographic area I was hoping to concentrate on." Now in her final year at Georgetown University pursuing an M.A. in German and European studies, she attributes a large

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PS Classes of '06, '07 celebrate winter holidays

VIVIAN FAN, BME '11

While many PSs were far away from home as winter semester ended, they received a bit of homey holiday cheer early. This academic year, the PS classes of 2006 and 2007 assembled at the homes of Lauren Davis, *ISYE '10*, and Dana Lupuloff, *ISYE '11*, respectively, to partake in some holiday fun.

Lauren and her parents James and Martha Davis welcomed the PS class of 2006 into their home in Sandy Springs on December 5th. Holiday-goers donned Santa hats and made gingerbread houses. Buzz even paid a visit and played with the PS class of 2006. In addition, students exchanged gifts for Secret Santa.

The next night, Dana and her parents Aaron and Jan Lupuloff opened up their home in Norcross for the PS class of 2007's party. The Lupuloffs set up a tent in their backyard, and had catered Ippolito's Italian food. The class of 2007 then made s'mores by the bonfire and participated in a White Elephant gift exchange. Popular gifts included a Hannah Montana wig, a kayaking trip with Randy McDow, and pairs of GT socks.



Luders, Rawe. Continued from Page 4.

made her feel at home in a way that people at other universities had not. She recognized the name of the Rawes on her scholarship from seeing their son Craig at PS Weekend and in the comedy rap video "Gimme Five," available on YouTube. When asked how she felt about receiving her scholarship from the Rawes, Andrews replied, "I don't think I could feel more honored." As the school year began, Rachel said that she was excited to meet the Rawes so that she can "thank them for helping me attend the college that felt right for me." Since then, Andrews was able to meet Mr. and Mrs. Rawe in person and go to lunch with them and with Craig in Midtown Atlanta. Craig explained how much his parents enjoyed getting to meet the first scholar of their endowment and share in Andrews' college experiences.

The Luders Family Scholarship, another scholarship that debuted this year, was given to the program by Brian and Lori Luders in honor of their two sons, Brandon and Chris

Luders. Both Brandon and Chris have been President's Scholars and active leaders at Georgia Tech. Brandon, *AE '06*, is now studying unmanned aerial vehicles at MIT, where he is working on his PhD in aeronautics. Chris is a third-year President's Scholar majoring in Industrial and Systems Engineering. Mr. Luders said that he was inspired to endow a President's Scholarship as a way to honor Chris and Brandon and "to give back for all the opportunities [the President's Scholarship Program] gave [them]." He related how he watched his two sons share their experiences at Tech, in the scholarship program, and even in the same fraternity. Chris and Brandon "were both very involved with extracurricular activities in high school. The President's Scholarship Program gave them the opportunity to step that up a notch," explained Mr. Luders.

Amy Varallo, *NRE '11*, the first-ever Luders Family President's Scholar, comes to Tech from Aiken, South Carolina. In high school, Amy competed with her horse in dressage,

in addition to training shows. Here at Tech, Amy is planning to major in nuclear engineering so that she can eventually go into research in nuclear medicine. As Amy mentions, "I am very excited to hear that the Luders are so connected, literally and figuratively, to the program. I think it's amazing that this family was so inspired by the message and workings of the program that they decided to give other students the same opportunities their own have had." She expressed immense gratitude to the Luders and cannot wait to get involved on campus.

When asked about his hopes and expectations for the student receiving his endowment, Mr. Luders said that he hoped "only that she gets the same rewards from her years at Georgia Tech that my sons did." As Amy and Rachel and their fellow entering class of scholars start their careers at Tech, the rest of the President's Scholarship Program is excited to see them grow and learn and to see their positive impact on the Georgia Tech community.

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motivated, but more than anything his speech was objective and matter-of-fact. By drawing on personal experience, Debnath painted a picture of the kind of world that graduates of Georgia Tech would inherit and of the challenges that they would face as they shouldered the responsibility of making the world a better place. His points were concrete, and his counsel was sound, and as one student said afterwards, "the advice and experiences of Dr. Debnath are just as valuable to medical students as lectures, class notes, and labs."

In addition to speaking to the President's Scholar assemblage and other guests, Debnath also took the opportunity to speak on a closer, more personal level with students planning to go into careers in medicine. During a



Current PSs share lunch with Debnath

separate session after lunch, one student said, "His advice on medical school and career choices was practical, and it was highly beneficial for me to hear sensible and candid advice on these topics from someone who has experienced the process himself." Another student took this away from the luncheon: "Medical school graduates might go into public

health, policy, research, law, or even industry. Dr. Debnath had great advice about everything from how to enter one of these careers to what day-to-day life is like for a medical student or professional."

As a leading scientist in his field, Debnath has both experience and insight to share with the President's Scholars who, in addition to balancing their academic responsibilities, are trying to find the direction to send their lives in. Second-year biomedical engineering major Joe Mets summed it all up when he said, "Dr. Debnath's combination of knowledge, patience, and passion for learning proved to me that great things happen when we reach for our dreams, got me excited about the future, and inspired me to study a little harder for my next organic chemistry test."



(Left to right) CHEM '10 Kenny Taylor, BMED '11 Janki Patel, BMED '11 Arianna Salazar, and CE '11 Bryan Henn pose with Buzz at their Team Buzz project, helping to clean English Avenue.

Buzz-worthy Moment

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part of her acceptance and scholarship for the program to her experiences through the International Plan.

Karen Pierce, International Plan and Curriculum Integration Coordinator, hopes that students “will appreciate how other cultures work...and understand that other people work and study in different ways.”

The IP is encouraged for all students; the goal is to enroll 300 students a year and to eventually get 50% of all Tech students to study abroad. The International Plan focuses on giving students substantial experience with foreign cultures, requiring both time abroad and proficiency in a language. If the country of interest speaks a language other than English, the student is expected to become familiar with that language. If the primary language is English, then the students are to learn a language of their choice up to the 2002 level. Spending time immersed in a language is undoubtedly a great way to learn a language; as Scholz puts it, “No language course one takes on a college campus in the U.S. can be as intensive as living abroad for a few semesters!”

As for time abroad, 26 weeks is required through Georgia Tech programs. This must be fulfilled over the course of two semesters, although they need not be consecutive. This requires at least one semester program,

as the summer programs are much shorter. Longer stays should be more immersive, and there are people like Pierce to help tailor each student’s plan.

According to Pierce, “fulfilling the requirement is not difficult, just a matter of advisement.” Long stays abroad open up many exciting opportunities. Scholz, during her internship with the SPD (then-ruling party of German Parliament), met the German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and other leaders throughout Europe, as well as wrote a speech to be presented at an EU-NATO conference in Budapest. Ruhter plans to spend the next year abroad, studying in Valencia, Spain for the spring and Santiago, Chile, for the fall semester. Aside from the academic opportunities, beautiful landscape, and pleasant climate, Ruhter is looking to “travel throughout some of Europe...and make it to Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, and possibly even Antarctica.”

The IP is a part of Georgia Tech’s Qualitative Enhancement Plan, along with UROP. In 2010 it is due to be reviewed on how well it has met the goal of developing the global competence of Tech students.

Pierce is optimistic, claiming that “the world is shrinking and it is important for Tech graduates to be able to navigate.”

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.

- 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
760 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.

Fall Retreat '07



New PSs climb to the top of Brasstown Bald.



Fall retreat leader Christine Wang and freshmen take a snack break on their 7-mile hike.



New PSs pose in front of a waterfall during their hike.

On driving the Wreck...

BRANDON KEARSE, ME '09

When snow hit Tech's campus last month, students made a mad dash to enjoy the rare occasion. While many busied themselves crafting snowmen, one student had other plans. PS Brandon Kearse, ME '09, is the driver of the one and only Ramblin' Wreck and thought a snowy Tech Tower would be the perfect backdrop for a photoshoot.

"We were walking around outside, admiring the scenery, when it

hit me. I turned to my roommate and said, 'Grab your camera. We're headed to the garage.' I'm always trying to think of unique, memorable things to do with the 'Reck, and this was perfect: a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Brandon has only had the keys to the Ramblin' Wreck since December. While he says it feels like a full-time job, he is loving every minute of it and can hardly wait for football season next year.



Snow day: The Ramblin' Wreck in front of Tech Tower in late January. (Photo Courtesy: Dr. Jochen Teizer, CE)

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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