



# PSsssssst!

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

Founded 1981

Fall, 2000

## New Scholars Prepare to Perform In Class, On Field

President's Scholars have been recognized many times over for their achievements in academia, their ability to lead, and their dedicated service to Georgia Tech and the community at large. The newest class of President's Scholars is adding to that tradition of excellence – on the playing field.

This year, over 3,700 students applied for the President's Scholarship, a record by more than 500. Of the 76 who accepted the scholarship this year, several look to excel at Georgia Tech in varsity athletics.

In 2001 the Georgia Tech varsity women's swim team will kick off its inaugural season, and Jenny Lentz and Jennifer Christensen comprise half of the current roster.

Lentz is the North Carolina state and regional record holder for the 100m breaststroke and the four-time state champion in the 50m freestyle. She is a United States Swimming Scholastic All-American and a Wendy's High School Heisman National Finalist. Remarkably she was also ranked in the top

three of her graduating class.

Christensen, from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was a four year varsity swimmer, served as captain, and was ranked all-state her senior year.

Coming to Tech from Edmond, Oklahoma, Jessica Dickerson walked on to the Lady Jackets volleyball team. Jessica, valedictorian of her class, was captain of the Santa Fe High School volleyball squad and the team leader in kills (590) and blocks (62). She was also one of eight students selected for the Oklahoma All-State team and she was named the "All-City Co-Player of the Year" by the Oklahoma City newspaper.

The Georgia Tech track team has welcomed the arrival of Moorestown, New Jersey's Betsy Bulat. Betsy chose Georgia Tech over Princeton, Rice, and Duke "because of the endless opportunities Georgia Tech makes available to its students, especially women."

**Read about recent accomplishments of PS's in a special insert inside this issue of PSsssssst!**

Betsy, a long distance runner, finished in the top five in the 3200m state championships in February of 2000.

Richard Lau, a graduate of Clear Brook High School in Houston, Texas, is already in training with the men's varsity swim team. As a high school swimmer, he set three school records, was captain for two years, was selected for the all-state team three years, and competed at junior nationals. He was also the team MVP for the water polo squad.

These five scholar-athletes boast an average SAT of 1480, more evidence that the President's Scholarship Program is continuing to raise the bar on what it means to be a Georgia Tech student. Overall, this year's PS freshmen averaged 1457 on the SAT, an increase in 45 points over the PS freshmen from just last year.

Hopes are high for this

and future classes as they bring their excitement, their talents, and their vision to a dynamic and growing institution. These students, successful in high school, hope to use their accomplishments as building blocks for excellence at the collegiate level.

### Homecoming '00

Please come by to see your classmates and meet the current President's Scholars!

The annual PS homecoming party will be held at the PS Study House on Friday, Oct. 13th, from 8-10 pm.

See the PSP Web Page for more information.



Richard Lau (CHE '04) of Houston, TX

## PS Alumni Interviewers for the entering class of 2000 included:

Jason Byars ME '96	Martin Hall PHYS '92	Lee Ragsdale EE '95
Melissa Byrd INTA '99	Chris Heggen CE '97	Christina Robinson ISYE '99
Mara Carey EE '99	David Jelinek CHE '92	Jimmy Rose ISYE '91
David Cauffiel EE '93	Bing Kao CHE '97	Matthew Sanders ME '98
Will Chafin ME '93	Jody Kinney ME '89	Chuck Scales CHEM '93
Ben Combee CS '95	Joe Layden CHE '87	Chris Seay ISYE '93
Bill Crew AMATH '91	Tommy Lewis ME '85	Chris Smith MGT '99
Brandon Drew CHE '99	Jay Lyles CMPE '95	Russell Smith Cls '97
Richard Dunlap AMATH '89	Michael Mantegna ISYE '96	Vicky Smith CHE '90
Bert Eidson MGT '97	Jim Mason ISYE '97	Tyler Spruell MATH/PSY '94
Steve Eley CS '96	Jenny Mayberry CHE '99	Ray Sun EE '97
Ayodele Embry EE '96	J.P. Montagnet CHE '96	Julie Swann ISYE '96
Suzanne Essig AE '92	Hope Norman ID '98	Kenji Takeuchi ME '94
Elizabeth Ferdman CHE '98	Gwen Ottinger AE/STAC '97	Kenneth Walker ISYE '86
Mark Fisher ICS '92	Cayman Percy CE '99	Alisha Waller ISYE '87
Michael Floyd CMPE '95	Greg Perras EE '86	Greg Watson AE '87
Jennifer Fordham MGT '91	David Peters EE '92	Bradley Weill ISYE '97
Ben Grimes CHE '94	Chris Prevatt CHE '99	Jay Wynn AE '92
Cynthia Hall CHE '97	Anthony Priest EE '88	Grace Yu CHE '97

**If you would like to recruit and interview candidates:** please contact the PS Program. The deadline for students to apply is October 31, 2000. Interviews will be held for the students chosen as semifinalists in January, 2001.

## Making the Transition to Tech

—Kirsten Gibbs (BIOL '04)

Having just graduated from high school two weeks earlier, I was surprised when I was asked to help host the Presidents' Dinner. President Clough and the Alumni Association were honoring nearly 900 generous alumni and donors, including such prominent people as former Atlanta mayors and CEOs of major companies. I must admit that while I was excited, I was somewhat apprehensive about attending. I walked through the Cobb Galleria entrance, intimidated by this foreign place with so many unfamiliar faces. But as I took my first major step into the

Georgia Tech community, an air of assurance and anticipation replaced my feelings of nervousness.

I was immediately greeted with a sincere and enthusiastic smile from the first student I encountered. From there, I began to recognize some of the faces of President's Scholars who had served as my hosts at various activities throughout my senior year - from my first trip to cheer on the Yellow Jackets at Alexander Memorial Coliseum to PS Weekend and the Signing Day Ceremony. Up to this point, I had looked at this group from the outside, but now I

was one of them! Their generosity and openness was refreshing, and for the first time, I felt that I belonged at Tech!

As the evening progressed, I delighted in the chance to meet some rather impressive alumni and to hear of their adventures, tribulations, and achievements both at Tech and after graduation. Their stories helped me to realize the infinite opportunities that the future holds for me.

As the crowd of once and future Tech graduates stood together and belted out the fight song, I began to feel truly a part of Georgia Tech

and the pride of being a ramblin' wreck! I was reminded of the reason that I decided to make Tech my home: I wanted to join a family of incredibly friendly, talented, and intelligent individuals who would help me grow. This camaraderie is what I found in the students and alumni that night.

The Presidents' Dinner proved to be a warm welcome to not only the family of President's Scholars but also the spirited Tech community and the boundless possibilities that await me!

Kirsten Gibbs (left) and newly made friends

# Baker Fund Reaches 74% of Goal

Over \$18,500 raised towards goal of \$25,000

Only \$6,500 needed to create permanent endowment

We have taken major strides towards permanently endowing the Dr. E. Jo Baker President's Scholarship Endowment, but there is still work to be done.

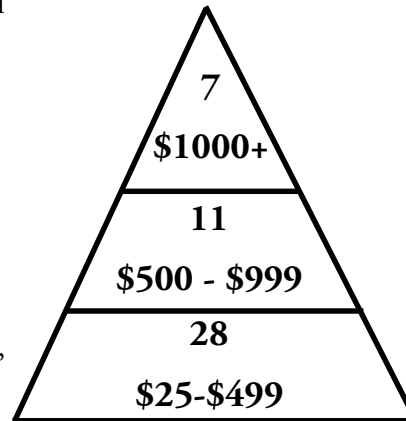
As of June 30, President's Scholar alumni, GT faculty, staff, and friends have donated over \$18,500 to the Dr. Baker fund.

While the original goal was to reach \$25,000 by June 30, we did not know what to expect. Now, success is within reach; the Capital Campaign will end December 31, leaving us almost three months to reach the goal.

Gifts thus far include 46 PS's, one faculty member, two

staff members, and one GT alumnus, who entered before

## PS Alumni Gifts



the program began in 1981.

Gifts have ranged from \$25 to \$1,500. The average gift for the 46 President's Scholar alumni is \$385.

Donations may be made by

sending a check payable to the Georgia Tech Foundation, Inc., to:

Georgia Tech Foundation  
177 North Ave., NW  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0180

Write: "For Dr. Baker Fund #I7Y28J" on the memo line of the check.

You may be interested to see how the PS Program is faring overall in the Capital Campaign. If so, check the the PS web page for the link. To date, alumni have committed \$6.8 million to the President's Scholarship Program, and the development staff has set \$10 million as their goal.



## Donors to the Dr. Baker Endowment include:

Lee Bradshaw EE '88  
Ben Buchanan EE '98  
David Codelli ICS '91  
Ward Council EE '87  
Tom Dyal EE '88  
Steve Eddins EE '86  
Bert Eidson MGT '97  
James Friedman EE '88  
Donald Green EE '95  
Kevin Guske ISyE '89  
Karen Halford EE '88  
Cynthia Hall CHE '97  
Martin Hall PHYS '92  
Edward Hefter ME '92

Missy Hugenberg ISyE '92  
Wanda Isele CHE '86  
Ashley Joseph INTA '94  
Sharon Just CE '89  
Renee Koster EE '87  
Tommy Lewis ME '85  
Jim Mason ISyE '97  
Jenny Mayberry CHE '99

Randy McDow ISyE '95  
Steven Mitchell TE '86  
Allison Moore CHEM '92  
Craig Olson EE '93  
Gwen Ottinger AE/STAC '97  
Dana Papp CHE '95  
Sandy Pessoney EE '93  
Wolfram Ploetz EE '87

Anthony Priest EE '88  
Christina Robinson ISYE '99  
Tara Ryan EE '93  
Andy Sandifer ME '91  
Kevin Sapough MATH '92  
Chuck Scales CHEM '93  
Joe Schimmel EE '90  
Walter Sun EE '95

Julie Swann ISyE '96  
Phil Tsao EE '99  
Pam Vance CHE '86  
Alisha Waller ISyE '87  
Bradley Weill ISyE '97  
Sean Witty ME '95  
Serena Yang CHE '94  
Jeff Zickus ME '96

(Includes donations through June 30.)

## President's Scholarship Program

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www.enrollment.gatech.edu/psp

# Reflections of a New Alumnus

-Chris Young (HTS '00)

Four years ago, I stood at my high school graduation, stethoscope in hand, ready to conquer college and medical school and start saving lives. My life was neatly packaged — or so I thought. Today, I graduate from Georgia Tech, altogether unclear as to where my life will be in one or two or five years. I'm no longer walking that inertial path, rather I've learned to be driven by passion and the heart. And I've never been happier.

My time on the Flats has been one lesson after another. After 64 papers, 19 projects, 185 books, and many long nights, I've learned that academic struggles teach you as much

about your own character, fortitude, and zeal as they do about differential equations or the French Revolution. I've learned that professors are our friends and have much more to teach and share with us than topics on a syllabus.

I've learned that adaptation and imagination are essential tools for success... that the first solution may not be the best in a given situation... that I don't always have the right answers and other people's opinions are just as valid as mine... that it doesn't matter who gets credit for an idea, as long as that idea works and makes things better... that it doesn't make me weak to depend on others... that leadership doesn't mean you have to

have a title... that having a *vision* is paramount in anything you do. I've learned that "trial and error" isn't just a catch phrase. I've learned to enjoy the feeling of success with others, because sooner or later, I'll need someone to share my burdens and failures.

I've learned to appreciate the simple things: a friend who brings you a cup of coffee during a study session in the wee hours of the morning... the joy of opening your mailbox and seeing a letter from home... a random conversation while meandering down the Skiles Walkway... the excited buzz in the Student Center on a Friday. I've learned that there is no greater place to be on Saturday afternoons than in Bobby

Dodd Stadium when the football team triumphantly enters to the strains of the *Ramblin' Reck*.

In short, I've learned that the real world is all about people, not the cloistered domain of academia, the job with all the perks, a house in the suburbs, or a certain car. Georgia Tech — and more importantly, life — is about a community of diverse ideas, cultures, and backgrounds. And I've learned that if we are ever intent on solving the problems that vex society, it is far more important to celebrate our common humanity and the things that unite us. We all have something to share; we all have something to learn.



**Georgia Institute  
of Technology**

President's Scholarship Program  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0288

# Living Up to the Legend: Scholars Excel

You may be curious about the recent classes of President's Scholars. Are they maintaining the standards you set? Are they achieving both academically and extracurricularly? Here is a sampling of their accomplishments from the last year.

Lori Kensel (MATE, 2000), Angela Lin (ME, 1999), Cayman Percy (CE, 1999), Christina Robinson (ISYE, 1999), Griffin Smith (CHE, 2000), and Gary Yngve (CS/DMTH, 2000) were recently awarded fellowships by the **National Science Foundation** worth \$75,000 towards the graduate school of their choosing.

Griffin Smith (CHE, 2000) received the **Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship Cup**. The Cup is awarded each year to the member of the graduating senior class who has the most outstanding scholastic record of all members of the class.

Shane Owens (EE, 2003), captain of the **Georgia Tech club wrestling team**, placed second in the nation at the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) Championship.

Rajiv Saigal (EE 2000) defeated the defending national champion and received third place in sparring (Men's 4th degree black belt division) in the **Fall United States Taekwondo Alliance Na-**

**tional Championships**. He also received the 2000 J. Erskine Love Philanthropy Award for his work against rape/sexual assault as well as the ODK Alpha Eta Circle Leader of the Year award.

David Moeller (ME, 2001) was recently elected vice president of the **Undergraduate Student Government (USG)** on the platform of better internal communication and better student representation to the faculty and administration. He hopes to address USG's public relations difficulties and work to improve teaching at the undergraduate level.

Chris Baucom (STAC, 2001) has been named the editor-in-chief of the **Technique**. Joining him on the editorial staff will be: Jen Hinkel (INTA, 2003) as news editor, Becca Cutri-Kohart (AE, 2001) as campus life editor, Sarah Graybeal (AE, 2001) as entertainment editor, and Rob Kischuk (CMPE, 2000) as sports editor. Carter Green (CS, 2001) will be the assistant photo editor.

Molly Palmer (CE, 2001) was elected chair of the **Honor Advisory Council**, the student board that oversees the honor code in partnership with the administration. Sara Cames (PUBP, 2003) was elected secretary of the council, and Rachel Chesley (CHEM, 2003) and Nate Watson (PUBP, 2003) are new members. Nate is also a new freshman SGA representative.

Chrissy Prues (CHE, 2001) was elected the vice

president of **Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) National Leadership Honor Society**. Of the twelve new members in the fall of 2000, seven are President's Scholars.

Anna Fincher (CHE, 2003) received the Omicron Delta Kappa **Joseph M. Pettit Award for Outstanding Sophomore**. This award is presented to a sophomore demonstrating outstanding scholarship and leadership, who exemplifies the ideals of ODK and former Tech President Joseph M. Pettit. Anna is on the Board of Trustees for the Student Foundation, served as the chair of Sophomore Summit 2000, and is a FASET Cabinet member.

Chris Young (HTS, 2000), outgoing SGA vice president, was awarded the **Alvin M. Ferst Leadership and Entrepreneur Scholarship Award**. This award is given to a student with vision, the ability to inspire others, leadership skills to anticipate future needs, an optimistic outlook on finding solutions, and a tendency to ask "why not", not "why?" A **Truman Scholar**, Chris now works at Tech as a Student Life Fellow, a new position created to develop further the GT community and to work on leadership initiatives.

Joel Wooten (ISYE, 2000) captain of the Georgia Tech **mock trial team** led the members to a fourth place finish in national competition in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After a decent showing at the warm-up contest, the Georgia Tech team went into

high gear finishing well at Regionals and blowing the competition away at the national level. Katie Saliba (CHEM, 2003) was just elected president of Mock Trial and she is beginning processes to start a Georgia Tech debate team.

Elena Mixon (ISYE, 2003) received the Society of Women Engineers Award for **Outstanding Freshman Engineer**. She was recognized for her academic achievement and community involvement as a member of the Student Foundation Board of Trustees and Vice President of Student Relations for the Student Alumni Association.

Kyle Kessler (ARCH, 2002) is currently serving as a **collegiate summer missionary** on an internet media team in Ndiaganiao, Senegal. Kyle was also recently selected as the editor-in-chief of the T-Book, [www.tbook.org](http://www.tbook.org), an online student survival guide aimed at incoming freshmen that is completely written and maintained by Tech students. He also serves as president of the Student Alumni Association and is the Community Missions Ministry Team Leader for the Georgia Tech Baptist Student Union.

Adam Coker (AE, 2001) received the **Dr. Robert H. Goddard Space Science and Engineering Scholarship** for outstanding achievement from the National Space Club. This award is given annually to a student pursuing a career in space science

(over)

that best exhibits the characteristics of the late Dr. Robert H. Goddard, the pioneer of modern rocketry.

Gayle Willis (CE, 2002) initiated and implemented Georgia Tech's **first Hunger Banquet** to benefit local needy and homeless people by raising awareness within the Atlanta community. Gayle was also chosen as the best female peer leader in the Freshman Experience program.

Rebecca Cutri-Kohart (AE, 2001) was just elected president of the **Aerospace Engineering honor society Sigma Gamma Tau**. She was also elected for a second term as vice president of programs for the Flying Club. In her free time she leads a student design team to design a Mars Information Infrastructure to support human exploration of Mars.

Melody Liu (ISYE, 2003) and Topy Malasri (AE, 2003) founded a **string quintet** with three other freshman for "the love of music." They have performed in Alabama, at Georgia Tech, and in many venues in the Atlanta area. They are flourishing as a group and are available for booking!

John Whitt (CHE, 2001) organized the **Red Cross Blood Drive** at Georgia Tech which won awards for the largest blood drive in the Atlanta area.

Gary Yngve (CS/DMTH, 2000) presented "Animations Explosions" this summer at the prestigious **SIGGRAPH graphics conference**. Catch his images at <http://www.angband.org/~gary/flame1.jpg> or <http://www.angband.org/~gary/>

[boom1.jpg](#).

Jenny Schwerman (CHE, 2002) the current Alumni Involvement Chair for **Team Buzz** would like to extend a special invitation to President's Scholars alumni and their families to participate in one of the largest community service events in the city. TEAM Buzz is a one day service event for students, alumni, faculty, and friends, and it will be held next on Saturday, November 11, 2000. Matt Warezak (ISYE, 2002) is the new marketing director for TEAM Buzz.

Adam Helms (BIOL, 2001) is president of Georgia Tech's chapter of AMSA, the **American Medical Students Association**, and has done research at the Emory/Georgia Tech Center for Engineering of Living Tissues involving the physiological effects of physical forces on heart valves.

Neil Arner (MATH, 2001) will assume leadership of the **Metro Atlanta Campus Crusade for Christ Evangelism Team**. The "E-Team" acts as an instructional and ministerial arm of Campus Crusade and has held philosophical round tables on campus, distributed free Bibles, held debates on theological issues, and organized forums in which religious groups discuss similarities and differences.

**Sympathetic Vibrations** (Georgia Tech's first and premier male a cappella group) is back in action. James Clawson (ISYE, 2001) music director, helped book Rockapella for a sold-out show at the Ferst Center for

the Arts, and the Sympathetic Vibrations CD is coming soon!

Jeff Collins (CS/MATH, 2001) and the **Georgia Tech Programming Team** conquered the world in the following competitions: International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC), Southeast Regionals, 1st Place; ICPC, World Finals, 22nd place; and at the World Finals, 1st place in the IBM VisualAge Java contest.

Andy Bozanic (HTS, 2003) sitting first bassoon, Sam Chitwood (EE, 2001), first baritone, and Kyle Howell (CMPE, 2002), one of the drum majors, will be traveling with the **Symphonic and Marching Bands** to Dublin, Ireland, for the St. Patrick's Day festival next year. Danny Hurley (EE, 2001) was recently elected president of **Alpha Phi Omega**, a co-educational service fraternity.

Misty Harper (STAC, 2002) was elected vice president of the **Science Technology and Culture Society** and is looking forward to making many positive changes.

Jennifer Ferguson (ISYE, 2001) is serving her second term on the **Baptist Student Union State Leadership Team**.

Catie Newell (ARCH, 2003) just received the **Mike Rice Award for the highest GPA** at the end of the College of Architecture's Common Year Program.

Kelly McDermott (BC, 2001) was just elected the **Panhellenic Executive Vice-President of Programming**. She will be working with

minimum standards requirements for all sororities and the programming of speakers for Panhellenic.

James Dixon (AE, 2003) is earning his commercial single engine rating, commercial multi-engine rating, CFI (certified flight instructor), and CFII (certified flight instructor to teach instruments) so that he can teach other Yellow Jackets how to fly as part of the **Flying Club** activities.

Amy Vinson (BIOCHEM, 2002) received an **NSF summer fellowship** for chemical research this summer, and she recently served as the president of Pi Mu Epsilon Math fraternity.

Sarah Graybeal (AE, 2001) was awarded the **Judith Resnik Scholarship by the National Society of Women in Engineering** and the **Joe T. LaBoon Outstanding Co-op Award**. She, Blair Dowling (MATH, 2003) and Maggie Thomas (EE, 2001) were awarded Georgia Tech Women's Forum Scholarships.

Tico Ballagas (EE, 2001), Andy Ozment (CS, 2000), and Marilyn Phillips (BIOCHEM, 2001) received the **Alumni Association Student Leadership Award for Study Abroad**.

Andy also received 8th place out of 600 for an Atlanta Journal-Constitution cooking contest. It was a **macaroni and cheese contest**, and his recipe was from Kraft.