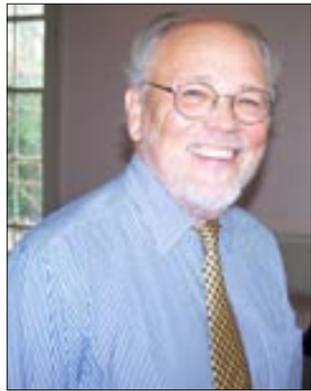


MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Dr. Greg Nobles



I begin this academic year with a good memory about the end of the last one. In May, I attended the President's Luncheon to honor the graduating seniors who completed their Georgia Tech careers with perfect 4.0 GPAs or who had the highest GPAs in their respective academic units—on the whole, an impressive and very studious group of students.

Happily, they were much more than that. At one point in the luncheon, each student was asked to share his or her best memory of being at Georgia Tech, and most of the responses were funny, sometimes silly, but also a bit charming. People talked about things like going to their first Tech football game in a face-painted group, chowing down on Varsity dogs after a long night of study, making snow angels on the lawn in front of the Tech Tower during one of Atlanta's rare "blizzards," or getting away from campus to hike in the North Georgia mountains. No one mentioned any warm and fuzzy classroom stuff, nor did anyone talk about something done in social isolation. (OK, one guy did say his best memory was getting an A+ on some test or other, but that was really the exception, and I think the unspoken reaction in the room was, "Oh, come on, man, is that really the best memory you have?") These academic high-achievers had somehow found the time to have fun with their friends, and when it came to keeping

college memories, that's the kind of thing they'd be taking away from Tech. Good for them.

A couple of weeks after this luncheon, I happened to attend my own college reunion—several decades, I must say, after graduation. Reconnecting with old classmates gave me a chance to see who's done what over the years, and most of my friends turned out just fine—a few fellow college professors, umpteen lawyers, a bunch of business people, and some doctors whose services I hope not to need for a while. I guess I shouldn't be surprised at their various successes ("What? You're a federal judge? No way!") but seeing them now still means seeing them as they were then—the sometimes smart, sometimes goofy roommates/classmates/teammates who lurk in the recesses of memory, people I envision walking across campus, sitting at the coffee shop, dancing at parties, and standing together at political demonstrations. Good for them. Good for me.

You're all quite a ways away from your college reunions, but it's never too early to start making the memories you'll bring back, and it's certainly not too early to start making the friends you'll still want to see. My guess is that you won't remember them by their GPAs, even the few 4.0s who make it to the President's Luncheon. Instead, you'll probably remember them for the semi-stupid things they did, and you'll be glad you did them together.

College is hard. Have fun.

GT GET HYPED

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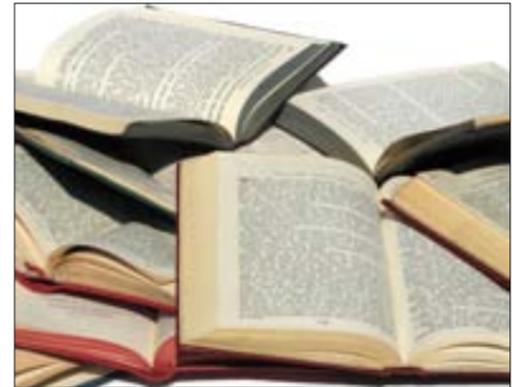
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE Honors Program NEWSLETTER

September 2010

THE VIEW FROM HERE by Dr. Monica Halka

Our fifth cohort of Honors Program freshmen have arrived, endured registration angst, and, seemingly, enjoyed our orientation (see article, page 2). We (I think I can speak for staff, faculty, and older HP students) welcome you wholeheartedly into our community. The Honors Program has been called the intellectual community of Georgia Tech, and that's gratifying. Indeed, in the GT 1000 HP classes one of our first readings—The Lure of Learning—states that students "should be introduced to the best that has been thought and written in every discipline." With due respect to our engineering colleagues, that has not been the trend throughout the university. The Honors Program strives, in the limited number of credit hours allowed us, to stretch intellectual horizons. But that's not all. The life of the mind is an easy temptress. I have at a necessary time (graduate school) succumbed to the all-or-nothing call of learning. It was exhilarating and exhausting. I don't encourage such all-encompassing dedication to studies in the undergraduate years, however. My advice: Make it the life of the mind, heart, spirit, and body. We hope you will involve yourselves in many extracurricular activities, including those sponsored by the Honors Program. Data show that this will be the only time in your life you can explore yourself so fully, and perhaps, so critically. No one should settle for less in the college years. Please don't seek to shorten your time as a university student. Seek to use it to its full advantage...it will never happen again.



Mark Your Calendars!

For its first "Informal Conversation" of the academic year, the Honors Program is hosting

Provost Rafael Bras
Thursday, October 21
5:30 p.m.
Brittain Rec Hall

Honors Program students will have the opportunity to meet and converse with Georgia Tech's brand new provost. Refreshments will be provided.

ORIENTATION HYPE by Perry Shuman

Welcome to Georgia Tech, and indeed, welcome to the Honors Program. You are one of the few, the proud, the interesting. In order to make sure you understand the craziness you've gotten into, welcome to HP orientation. FASET may have been fun, but you have not been properly orientated until you've been to Honors Orientation! Where else would you hear about bridge collapses, log cabins, free money, and oil drilling?

The orientation was made up of four sections. It began with a time of socialization and light snacking, which gave us time to finally meet the people in the program, something that could be difficult, given the massive numbers of hours some people are taking. Along with the students, there were also a number of staff and professors that livened up the conversation. After the food ran out, we moved into the Clary Theater, where Dr. Nobles welcomed everyone to the program and

outlined the rest of orientation. Following that, things broke up into panel discussions, ranging from "how to get free money from the Honors Program to do cool stuff" to "cool stuff that you can do." Compared to panels at FASET, this was Broadway theatre, as everyone on the panels was amazingly amusing and interesting.

Everyone got to go to two panels, after which we reconvened in the main theatre, for another panel of the heads of the Honors Program, as well as a few of the professors. They took questions ranging from the mundane to the wild, and discussed special topic classes and their recommendations for students. Then it was off to Tech Rec for a little recreating. The best thing about Honors, from my point of view, was meeting the professors—a highlight for me. It may have been just one more orientation, but this one had a certain Honors Program insanity, and we loved it.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Special kudos are due to three special people associated with the Honors Program.

- Third-year student, Joy Buolamwini (CS), has been awarded the 2010 Astronauts Scholarship, which is awarded nationally to 20 students who exhibit "a strong passion and exceptional performance in their field, as well as intellectual daring and a genuine desire to positively change the world around them, both in and out of the classroom." Congratulations, Joy!
- Professor Nick Hud (CHEM), who regularly teaches an Honors Program special topic course on the origins of life, will serve as director for the upcoming Center for Chemical Evolution. Dr. Hud's research team was recently awarded a five-year, \$20 million grant from NSF and NASA to establish the new center.
- Professor Hugh Crawford (LCC) will be the recipient of a Regents' Teaching Excellence Award for 2011. The award recognizes exemplary teaching that clearly improves student success. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate that Dr. Crawford contributes his brilliant ideas and considerable time to the Honors Program curriculum.



Photo by: Jasmine Burton



(TOP) Joy Buolamwini receives award from former astronaut, Bob Crippen (right). (ABOVE) Nick Hud will preside over the new Center for Chemical Evolution

Open Forum

A Topical Intellectual Discussion

Tuesdays | 11am | Neely Room | Library

Fall 2010 Schedule

<i>Topic 1 Service</i>		10/26 Leadership and Decision-Making: If everything matters, what matters most?
9/14	"This I Believe": Corey Boone	11/2 "This I Believe": Greg Nobles
<i>Topic 2 Diversity</i>		<i>Topic 4 Cheating</i>
9/21	Multiculturalism and immigration: How does it affect our daily lives?	11/9 Cheating: The smart kids don't get caught
9/28	Progress vs. Tradition: Where do we draw the line for change?	11/16 Black, White, and Gray: Ethics
10/05	"This I Believe": A Refugee	11/23 "This I Believe": Dean Stein
<i>Topic 3 Elections</i>		<i>Topic 5 Appreciating the Holidays</i>
10/12	Fitting within the lines: What does it mean to be qualified?	11/30 Chrismahanukwanzakah: Rested or stressed?

All are welcome!
gtopenforum.gatech.edu



What Some People Do for Fun...

HP senior Will Boyd, Professor Hugh Crawford, and yes, your program director, Dr. Greg Nobles, all still smiling (sort of) after 100-mile bike ride the last weekend of a very hot August this year.