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.

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

http://www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu
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 Rueemmele, 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 Lloyd Jones, ISYE
DeeDee Kim, ID
Mebaa Kidane, CS
Emily Ann Keen, ID
Michael Guzilean, BIOL
Kristin Ducote, BIOL
Nate Tinkler, CS
Michael Chen, CHEM

http://www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu

HP Retreat 2008
Honorees, Spring 2012

Sonia Golemme
Work Abroad 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
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 locozzia
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!

http://www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu

103 A. French Bldg
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. Whew, 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.