First Honors class commits

By James Stephenson
News Editor

The Honors Program is set to begin this fall with a small group of students in the incoming freshman class designated to take part in the program.

"There will be 115 entering students as well as between thirteen and fifteen faculty teaching these students," said Greg Nobles, director of the Honors Program.

The program was created two years ago to open new opportunities for incoming tech students.

"In October 2004, the Committee was formed to create the program. We got approval last November and have since been trying to recruit faculty and find students for the program," Nobles said.

The intent is not to create a new class of Tech students.

"We are not trying to separate the students from the general population. We don't want to create an isolated enclave," Nobles said.

The Honors Program students will live in Howell Hall as a co-ed dorm.

"We want to create a sense of community. The dorm offers informal meeting spaces. There are entrances for non-residents, so faculty can meet with students in the building," Nobles said.

According to Nobles, the intent is to bring campus life into Howell Hall.

"We want to offer the group of students a different approach to learning." Greg Nobles Director of Honors Program

During the summer months.

"We make the Honors Students visible on campus. I don't want students to be isolated or elitist on campus," Nobles said.

"The Honors classes will not be the same as normal classes on campus. We will be an inquiry based approach to learning, where students will be inclined to ask questions. We want to offer the group of students a different approach to learning," Nobles said.

According to Nobles, they are trying to create a common pursuit of answers.

Nobles did not create the Honors Program on his own. Several other people on campus contributed to the formation of the program.

"We had a good deal of help from admission staff," Nobles said.

There were 9,000 applicants to Tech with a subset of four to five hundred applicants for the Honors Program indicated by high school activities.

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Freshman class larger than expected

By James Stephenson
News Editor

The registration numbers are in for the incoming freshman class.

"The numbers are currently higher than was expected by the admissions office.

"Originally we had a target number of 2,400 students. We actually have a higher yield percentage and a higher number of deposits," said Ingrid Hayes, director of Admissions.

"Tech is not the only school experiencing inflated freshman numbers. This is a national trend. Lots of schools are experiencing this. Many students are submitting multiple deposits and putting off the decision on which school they are going to," Hayes said.

"We submit multiple deposits to keep the incoming freshmen numbers as updated as possible.

"We are staying in contact with prospective students so we can know as soon as possible if someone decides to go elsewhere," Hayes said.

"The main reason to keep the numbers as updated as possible is to plan for summer events for freshmen.

"Students are pre-registered for orientation, so if a large number of students enrolled in the orientation are not coming to this school, we want to get them out of there so we can make room for students who are serious about coming to Tech," Hayes said.

"The problem of double deposits have brought the admissions office to question the deposit amount.

"There is a possibility we will raise the deposit amount to deter prospective students from double depositing, but we want to wait and see if the trend continues. We don't want to make the deposit cost prohibitive and deter those who really want to go to Tech," Hayes said.

Double depositing is still a new phenomenon and admissions officials are waiting to determine what to do about it.

"We will be watching very closely to see what comes of it," Hayes said.

Not all freshmen will be beginning their Tech careers during the
President’s Undergraduate Research Awards

Applications Due July 12th!

Undergraduate students may apply for competitive $1,500 salary awards for work with a faculty mentor on research or support for travel to present research work at a professional conference ($1,000 maximum).

Visit http://undergradresearch.gatech.edu/funding.php for more information and application instructions.

Questions? E-mail PURA@gatech.edu
Two hundred and fifty freshmen are starting during the summer. There will be a Freshmen Summer Session that starts June 19th and will be completely separate from the other two summer sessions," Hayes said. The diversity numbers of the incoming class have not changed much over the past few years. "Correction there were 1,039 incoming freshmen. Forty-one percent of students are out of state, 31 percent of students are female, five percent of students are African American, five percent of students are Hispanic and five percent of students are international," Hayes said.

The most popular major of the incoming freshman class is undecided engineering.

Hayes said. "Beyond that, the top three majors are Mechanical Engineering, BioMedical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science, and Computer Engineering," Hayes said.

According to Hayes, the two schools who had a significant increase are the College of Science, up 41 percent from last year, and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, up 18 percent from last year.

"Both schools saw individual recruitment measures and specifically reached out to prospective students," Hayes said.

The division of the pie changes. The target number won't go up. There isn't room to increase the overall student population on campus," Hayes said.

We have more flexibility with transfer students," Hayes said. According to Hayes, Tech will receive 400 transfer students this year.

Another aspect of Tech is also causing the admission office to be concerned about the larger than predicted freshman class.

"Retention is also up. If it comes to a point, the decision will have to be made at some administrative level. We don't want to diminish the quality of education students are receiving," Hayes said.

While the population on campus is growing, there is no consideration for creating more living space on campus.

"The Master Plan is looking at growth beyond the Atlanta campus. Tech can grow without affecting the quality of life on the Atlanta campus," Hayes said.

According to Hayes, Tech does not control the limits for the number of students that it can allow on campus.

"The University system has capacities for all schools. We are just under our limit," Hayes said.

The application process will also be seeing some changes over the next couple years.

"We are adding a new feature to the enrollment application to Tech. There will be optional short answer essays where the prospective students choose two of five possible essays if they are interested in the Honors Program or President's Scholarship," Hayes said.

According to Hayes, the essays will also provide the admissions office with another evaluation tool.

"We are looking to see if the students had any search engagements in high school. For those who did, we are trying to reach out to them and let them know they can continue their work here," Hayes said.

Survey

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graduate/professional schools," was given by 65 percent of females compared to just 48 percent of males.

Half of respondents indicated a very good chance of participating in the Cooperative Education program, with a further 30 percent indicating there was some chance that they would participate.

Following a nationwide trend of political polarization, the percentage of Tech students identifying their political orientation as "middle of the road" reached its lowest point in over thirty years.

The majority of respondents characterized themselves as conservative or far right, compared to 25 percent identifying as liberal or far left.

At Tech, public peer institutions 38 percent identify as liberal or far left and only 21 percent as conservative or far right. At Tech’s private peers where the figures are 40 percent as liberal or far left and 25 percent as conservative or far right.

Thirty-four percent of Georgia Tech respondents rated themselves above-average in public speaking ability, compared to 49 percent from private peer institutions. Tech freshmen were much more confident in their mathematical ability at 83 percent and computer skills at 95 percent compared to those from the private institutions (70 percent and 42 percent, respectively).

Tech students rated themselves higher in religiosity at 39 percent compared to students from other public institutions at 28 percent or private institutions at 35 percent.

More Tech respondents were not worried about the ability to afford their college education at 46 percent as opposed to other public institutions at 36 percent and private institutions at 42 percent.

The survey showed that women were more likely to be concerned over the issue than men.

Over half, at 51 percent, of Tech students did not intend to pay for their first year of college out of their own funds, as opposed to 41 percent from private institutions.

Fifty percent of students predicted getting between a 3.0 and a 3.5 GPA in their first year compared to 41 percent predicted receiving between a 3.5 and a 4.0 GPA. Males had higher expectations than females.

Honors

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"We looked at three main areas to determine if a student was right for the program. [There was] some level of commitment to academics, extra curricular achievements, and intellectual engagement," Nobles said.

Nobles and other professors select the students they felt would not be a good fit for the program.

"Of the ones accepted to Tech, we read their files and tried to identify students that would fit in our program," Nobles said.

Invitations were then sent out to the faculty who were accepted into the program as a means to open communications between the students and the faculty.

"We were really gratified by the response," Nobles said.

The program is still in its infancy and the creating members of the program plan to allow the program to adapt as needed.

"We have a framework, but it will evolve and change overtime according to the type of students we receive and based on what changes in the future," Nobles said.

"We are trying to create a set of academic and intellectual opportunities...." Greg Nobles Director of Honor's Program

"We are looking to see if students had any research engagements with another evaluation tool.

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The heart beats in its cage

Weekly Activities

Take a Prof to Lunch

Thursday, July 6

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Ferst Place Restaurant

Take your professor (or academic advisor, or department secretary, or research supervisor, or favorite staff member... you get the idea!) to lunch to show them just how special they are to you. The total price for both meals is just $6. RSVP by Wednesday, June 28 by calling 404-894-2805

Tie Dye and Ice Cream

Thursday, July 20

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Skiles Walkway

Have We Met Yet?

Wednesday, July 26 &

Wednesday, August 16

3:00 PM, Skiles Walkway

Free cake holder compliments of the Student Center.

NEWS