



HONORS

PROGRAM



September 15, 2006

THE VIEW FROM HERE

DR. MONICA HALKA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



The fledgling Georgia Tech Honors Program has spread its wings. One hundred seven students moved into shared housing in Howell Hall. The first two receptions hosted by the Honors Program in Brittain Rec – one organized to meet students and parents and the second featuring brief presentations by M.O.V.E. and Andrea Ashmore, director of Institute Partnerships – were well-attended and quite lively. About thirty students attended a Q&A session in Howell Hall one evening with the director and associate director of the program, where we learned that (1) they are impressed by the Honors classes and faculty and (2) they are greatly enjoying living in the same dorm.

The Brown-Howell (or BroHo) Hall Council elections have been held. President, Emily Weigel; VP, Ben Johnson; Secretary, Noelle Wilkinson; Treasurer, Martha Lesniewski; Social Chair, Lin Mei; Sports Chair, Tim Cahill. Congratulations to all. We know with your motivation you will help make dorm life vibrant and exciting.

Our students are already participating in sports, marching band, sororities and fraternities and a host of other extracurricular activities. That's exactly what we'd expect from this diverse and exciting group of musicians, writers, robotics aficionados, artists, math and science team competitors, actors and singers who make up the Georgia Tech Honors Program. To the best of our ability, we will keep our students posted on any event that might hold appeal on or off campus.

Name the Newsletter!

Want fame, historical significance and the undying respect of all your colleagues? Our new Honors Program Newsletter needs a brilliant name. Examples from other school's programs include "Honors Tidbits," "Possibilities," "The Honors Alternative," and "Nuntius." But you're MUCH more clever. Email your creative (and original) suggestions for the name of our newsletter to monica.halka@gatech.edu. If we choose your submission, you will receive a gift certificate to Barnes & Noble.



Sept. 19

HONORS PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE
Refreshments and conversation
105 A. French Bldg.
Noon – 4 pm

Sept. 20

DINNER WITH THE DIRECTOR
Brittain Dining Hall
6:15 – 7 pm

Q&A WITH HP STAFF
Howell Hall lounge
7 – 8 pm

Sept. 26

G.A. POETS: POETRY READING
Clary Theater
4:30 pm

Upcoming Events

Oct. 4

THE 5 BROWNS
Ferst Center
7:30 pm

Oct. 5

RECEPTION WITH PRESIDENT CLOUGH
Brittain Rec
5 – 6 pm

Oct. 13

KATHY GRIFFIN
Ferst Center
8 pm

FEATURED STUDENTS

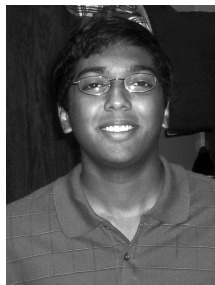
Emily Weigel

The newly-elected president of the Brown-Howell Hall Council, Emily Weigel is majoring in biology and international affairs with a German concentration, illustrating the kind of interdisciplinary interests we admire in our students. She plays cello, loves soccer and somehow ended up on the rugby team. A brief perusal of her resume reveals her passion for planning and leadership: She has received an American Legion Award, National Honor Society Leadership Award, and Student Government Association Scholarship, to name only a few. She would like her professors and colleagues to know, "I can ask a lot of questions, but that is because I want to do things correctly and get the most out of my experiences." Hailing from Stone Mountain, Georgia, Emily hopes to live in Germany someday. We're glad she decided to come to Tech first.



Nishant Zachariah

Biomedical engineering major Nishant Zachariah comes to us from Lawrenceville, Georgia, after living in such exotic locales as India and Dubai. He has been acknowledged for academic achievement at a reception for outstanding Indian American Scholars, but has interests in various extracurricular arenas. "While I'm not putting my stamps and currencies in order, I'm usually working service projects for my church youth group." His other hobbies include playing cricket and chess. Like Einstein, he believes that genius is one percent intelligence and ninety-nine percent hard work and intends to give his academics at Tech "one hundred and fifty percent" of his effort and dedication. We recommend keeping it to 99% max.



Message from the Director

DR. GREG NOBLES, DIRECTOR

What a difference a month makes. Before the start of fall semester, we knew the new Honors Program students more or less as abstractions – from their admissions applications, e-mails, phone calls, and FA-SET visits – and no one really knew how this venture would actually work out. Now everyone is on campus, settled in, and from all we hear, doing remarkably well. Not bad for the fourth week of the term.

And it's not just students who seem to be thriving. One professor told us that teaching in the Honors Program is the most fun he's had at Tech in thirty-something years, and several other faculty members expressed similar enthusiasm. What they've enjoyed is the energy and independence of the students in their HP classes, their willingness to take the work seriously, raise questions, suggest different approaches and discuss the issues, both in and out of class. That's exactly what we hoped for, and we're thrilled about the quality and commitment of the students.

So we're off to a fine start – but where do we go from here? Those of us who spent the last two years designing the Honors Program have our ideas about what the program could and should do. But we also share the understanding that the real success of the Honors Program depends on the ideas of our students. Several students have already told us what sorts of classes, projects and activities they want, and we're eager to hear more. We hope that students will use the same energy and imagination they're demonstrating in their classes to help us plan for the future.

"Pioneering partners" was the language used in the initial letter of invitation, and the term still holds. If anything might serve as the theme for this year, that's it. We're in this together and we hope everyone will share our sense of adventure as we explore this new territory. We're just a month into the journey, but we're certainly moving in the right direction.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Dr. Monica Halka, Associate Director,
Georgia Tech Honors Program
LAYOUT: John Watson, Electrical Engineering major

*Note: Volunteer newsletter staff needed. Contact
Monica Halka in the Honors Program Office*

"Education, properly understood, is
that which teaches discernment."

- Joseph Roux