Across the Globe and Beyond!

MICHAEL LU, ISYE ‘11

As the world increasingly acquires faster communication and technological access, the need for college students to get a head start on the globalization process has become more necessary than ever before. Among the President’s Scholars, many have taken the initiative to study abroad and gain greater insight into different cultures and values. Of those President’s Scholars who studied abroad over the past summer, several shared their experiences.

One of the most popular study abroad programs is the Oxford Program in Europe. At Oxford, students are able to earn twelve credit hours over ten weeks. Prior to a six-week stay at Oxford, students traveled across Europe for four weeks. According to Trey Birch, EIA ‘10, the Oxford experience was “a perfect setting for building strong, life-long bonds.” Upon further insight, Birch confidently added, “The GT kids I met there are some of my all-time favorite people.” At another aspect, Alina Staskevicius, ISYE ‘10, explained the differences she noticed between her education overseas and at Georgia Tech. She noted that the multiple sites, markets, and local cuisine...

Top of the world: (Left to right) Students Jonathan Saethang, IE ‘10; Will Boyd, PHYS ‘10; and Kento Masuyama, AE ‘10.

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allowed her to experience Europe in a more fulfilling way “than just reading about it in books….Now, I feel that I have gained an entire new perspective of the world I am living in.”

Another particular area of interest is the combined region of East and Southeast Asia. Despite living in such a culturally different region, President’s Scholars not only learned how to appreciate the foreign environment, but they were also able to find a surprising amount of similarities between Eastern and Western cultures. Kento Masuyama, AE ’10, noted how, “despite all of the emphasized differences we hear of, they [Asians] enjoy the same things I do and…have their part time jobs and their parties on weekends.”

Likewise, Jonathan Saethang, ISYE ’10, expressed his appreciation for the East Asia Summer Program by stating that the region opened his eyes to “the great people and places the rest of the world has to offer.” The program included six weeks of traveling through Japan, Taiwan, China, and Hong Kong, with major highlights on the uniqueness of the areas. Saethang reminisced about the classes taught on the road, one of which included “a few lectures on a boat from Japan en route to Taiwan.”

Aside from their learning experiences, Masuyama and Saethang could not deny the specific memories of incredible Asian cuisine to tremendous sightseeing. Masuyama detailed that the variety of delicious food was great even within one country, and besides, the food was “so cheap, and oh so delicious.”

Although popular locations such as Oxford and East Asia can provide a wonderful source of education, students such as Sarah Knish, BIO ’08, choose to explore more exotic locations abroad. During a ten-week program in Argentina, Sarah not only studied Argentine history, culture, and politics, but she also dove straight into the lifestyle itself. Remembering her time there, she stated, “As a student in a foreign lab, I was pushed to give presentations and conduct research in Spanish, a language I had only been learning for little more than a year. This experience gave me a deep empathy and appreciation for the difficulties that others experience when living in a foreign country and overcoming a language barrier.” When asked how her experience abroad compared to her learning at Tech, Knish simply responded, “I do not know how to express this succinctly, but learning abroad is so much better. Even things as simple as ordering a meal in a restaurant or navigating the public transportation system present opportunities for learning.”

As these students have expressed, the values attained from studying abroad have broadened their minds with invaluable knowledge about how the many different parts of the world function. Whether it may be, as Staskevicius says, “learning about a city—its sites, restaurants, and other unique traits” or as Saethang notes, seeing “the great people and places that the rest of the world has to offer,” the experience of studying overseas has become a true necessity for development, especially in a world where instant communication and the scale of globalization have become integral parts of modern society.
What's the Buzz?

Current PSs on the move!

Melanie Stam, MATH ’11, took her 4th jump as part of her series of courses in order to become certified to skydive solo. Once she is certified, Stam plans to join Tech’s competition team.

Craig Rawe, MGT ’09, was selected as the ODK Pettit Memorial Outstanding Sophomore Leader, and he completed a triathlon in California after raising over $4,300 to fight cancer.

Morgan Wolfe, BMED ’09, and Michael Warwick, ECON & MGMT ’09, ran the ING Miami marathon on January 27th. This was their first marathon for both of them.

Words of Wisdom: Debnath speaks to faculty, students, and alumni.

“Even though it would be nice for us to sit around and let our data and our results speak for themselves, in reality we absolutely have to engage in marketing in order to stay in business.”

But when he spoke at the President’s Scholars’ fall luncheon in September after being introduced by E. Jo Baker, it wasn’t just scientific research on which he illucidated. Central to his message was the need for leaders with the skills that Tech instills in its graduates. According to Debnath, any advancement made for humankind would require the talents of people from a variety of disciplines, such as the sciences, engineering, public policy, economics, and many more. Debnath remarked that moving forward as a society will require a team effort, and the students of Georgia Tech, and the President’s Scholars particularly, will one day need to answer the call to lead this movement.

On the surface it may seem that Debnath’s message was motivational, and to hear it certainly made one feel.

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Parents of President’s Scholars Give Back

SIERRA SCHMIDT, CHEM ‘11

Donors are essential to the existence of and continued success of the President’s Scholarship Program. From graduating classes of Tech students to successful Tech alumni, donors show their confidence in the program by endowing scholarships that fund the President’s Scholarships that have benefited so many Tech students over the years.

This year, we are excited to have the opportunity to offer two new endowments to two incoming scholars. Both of these endowments, the Thomas and Lisa Rawe Scholarship and the Luders Family Scholarship, are particularly remarkable because they have both been given to the program by parents of current and graduated President’s Scholars. Parents of MGT ’09 Craig Rawe, Thomas and Lisa Rawe, are the donors of one of the scholarships that debuted this year. Mr. Rawe remarked that the decision to endow a President’s Scholarship was easy to make. He felt like “It was the least I could do, considering what Tech has done for Craig.” Mr. Rawe expressed great appreciation for the teamwork that the President’s Scholarship Program instills in its scholars and praised the enthusiasm of the students in the program. A Georgia Tech alumnus himself, Mr. Rawe said that his favorite aspect of the scholarship program was the quality of the program and the staff administering the program. He also remarked that he feels that the program attracts natural leaders and works to give students the opportunity to be successful.

The first recipient of the Thomas and Lisa Rawe Scholarship is Rachel Andrews, UEC ’11. Andrews is from Statesville, North Carolina, and is already jumping into life at Tech by becoming a percussionist in the Yellow Jacket Marching Band. Andrews chose to come to Georgia Tech because the people at Tech—in the PS Program, in the band, and among the faculty—

Luders and Rawe Scholars: First-year students Amy Varallo and Rachel Andrews

International Plan expands Tech’s horizons

KENTO MASUYAMA, AE ‘10

In 2005, the newly created International Plan (IP), a degree-long program aimed at producing globally competent students at Tech. Today, there are 23 participating majors including the newest additions of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Students enrolled in the IP are required to develop a level of proficiency in a foreign language, take globally-focused courses, and spend 26 weeks abroad in two terms.

Each major also has a capstone course in which the student’s knowledge of the discipline and of its international context are integrated. Despite being in only its second year, the International Plan boasts 347 enrolled students, with a projected 250 more for this year.

“This Institute [Tech] encourages people to go out and connect with the rest of the world,” said Nick Ruhter, EE ’10. “With globalization becoming a fairly prevalent factor in the workforce today, I think the IP is a very valuable tool to use in order to be prepared to work with other cultures.”

The IP is geared towards arming students with practical knowledge about how their field operates in the global economy. It is not simply an extension of study abroad; the idea is to provide a coherent program in which students learn to think in terms of major and the best location or language.

Melissa Scholz (IAML ‘06) was among the first graduates of the International Plan. She felt that the IP was “an important way to broaden my studies in the sense of taking classes abroad and from foreign professors in a very different setting...at the same time, I knew it would help focus my studies by allowing me to work, study, and live in the specific geographic area I was hoping to concentrate on.” Now in her final year at Georgetown University pursuing an M.A. in German and European studies, she attributes a large

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PS Classes of ‘06, ‘07 celebrate winter holidays

VIVIAN FAN, BME ‘11

While many PSs were far away from home as winter semester ended, they received a bit of homey holiday cheer early. This academic year, the PS classes of 2006 and 2007 assembled at the homes of Lauren Davis, ISYE ‘10, and Dana Lupuloff, ISYE ‘11, respectively, to partake in some holiday fun.

Lauren and her parents James and Martha Davis welcomed the PS class of 2006 into their home in Sandy Springs on December 5th. Holiday-goers donned Santa hats and made gingerbread houses. Buzz even paid a visit and played with the PS class of 2006. In addition, students exchanged gifts for Secret Santa.

The next night, Dana and her parents Aaron and Jan Lupuloff opened up their home in Norcross for the PS class of 2007’s party. The Lupuloffs set up a tent in their backyard, and had catered Ippolito’s Italian food. The class of 2007 then made s’mores by the bonfire and participated in a White Elephant gift exchange. Popular gifts included a Hannah Montana wig, a kayaking trip with Randy McDow, and pairs of GT socks.

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made her feel at home in a way that people at other universities had not. She recognized the name of the Rawes on her scholarship from seeing their son Craig at PS Weekend and in the comedy rap video “Gimme Five,” available on YouTube. When asked how she felt about receiving her scholarship from the Rawes, Andrews replied, “I don’t think I could feel more honored.” As the school year began, Rachel said that she was excited to meet the Rawes so that she can “thank them for helping me attend the college that felt right for me.” Since then, Andrews was able to meet Mr. and Mrs. Rawe in person and go to lunch with them and with Craig in Midtown Atlanta. Craig explained how much his parents enjoyed getting to meet the first scholar of their endowment and share in Andrews’ college experiences.

The Luders Family Scholarship, another scholarship that debuted this year, was given to the program by Brian and Lori Luders in honor of their two sons, Brandon and Chris Luders. Both Brandon and Chris have been President’s Scholars and active leaders at Georgia Tech. Brandon, AE ’06, is now studying unmanned aerial vehicles at MIT, where he is working on his PhD in aeronautics. Chris is a third-year President’s Scholar majoring in Industrial and Systems Engineering. Mr. Luders said that he was inspired to endow a President’s Scholarship as a way to honor Chris and Brandon and “to give back for all the opportunities [the President’s Scholarship Program] gave [them].” He related how he watched his two sons share their experiences at Tech, in the scholarship program, and even in the same fraternity. Chris and Brandon “were both very involved with extracurricular activities in high school. The President’s Scholarship Program gave them the opportunity to step that up a notch,” explained Mr. Luders.

Amy Varallo, NRE ’11, the first-ever Luders Family President’s Scholar, comes to Tech from Aiken, South Carolina. In high school, Amy competed with her horse in dressage, health, policy, research, law, or even industry. Dr. Debnath had great advice about everything from how to enter one of these careers to what day-to-day life is like for a medical student or professional.”

As a leading scientist in his field, Debnath has both experience and insight to share with the President’s Scholars who, in addition to balancing their academic responsibilities, are trying to find the direction to send their lives in. Second-year biomedical engineering major Joe Mets summed it all up when he said, “Dr. Debnath’s combination of knowledge, patience, and passion for learning proved to me that great things happen when we reach for our dreams, got me excited about the future, and inspired me to study a little harder for my next organic chemistry test.”
How do I give back?

President’s Scholar alumni often ask us how they can give something back to a program they feel benefited them greatly during their time at Tech — and beyond. There are several ways to do this.

- Give your time by interviewing semifinalists for the President’s Scholarship; this not only helps us select the most outstanding high school students to offer the PS, but it is also a great recruiting tool. By representing Tech and the PS program well, you can help us achieve these goals.

- Give to the Alumni Association’s Roll Call; a portion of all gifts to the Institute’s unrestricted funds supports the PS program; online giving forms are available at www.gtalumni.org.

- Give directly to the PS Program through the endowment created in honor of our founder, Dr. E. Jo Baker. Income from this endowment supports stipends for President’s Scholars.

To donate, send a check payable to:

The Georgia Tech Foundation
760 Spring Street NW
Suite 400
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Be sure to write “Dr. E. Jo Baker President’s Scholarship Fund” on the memo line of the check. Contributions to Roll Call and the Georgia Tech Foundation are tax-deductible.
On driving the Wreck...

BRANDON KEARSE, ME ‘09

When snow hit Tech’s campus last month, students made a mad dash to enjoy the rare occasion. While many busied themselves crafting snowmen, one student had other plans. PS Brandon Kearse, ME ‘09, is the driver of the one and only Ramblin’ Wreck and thought a snowy Tech Tower would be the perfect backdrop for a photoshoot.

“We were walking around outside, admiring the scenery, when it hit me. I turned to my roommate and said, ‘Grab your camera. We’re headed to the garage.’ I’m always trying to think of unique, memorable things to do with the ‘Reck, and this was perfect: a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

Brandon has only had the keys to the Ramblin’ Wreck since December. While he says it feels like a full-time job, he is loving every minute of it and can hardly wait for football season next year.

Snow day: The Ramblin’ Wreck in front of Tech Tower in late January. (Photo Courtesy: Dr. Jochen Teizer, CE)