Recruiting News: Securing the Next Class

We had a great year recruiting, once again signing more PSs than expected. Candidates continue to tell us that the personal attention makes the biggest difference.

Applications for the PS were up 17%, from 2,673 to 3,282. Recruitment through the interview process led to a tremendous increase in top students attending. Of the semifinalists, 251 are coming to GT, compared to 193 last year, and the percentage increased, too: 41% vs. 33%. 170 are coming even without a scholarship through the PS process (though many have N Atlantic M erit, H ope, or other scholarships).

Women comprise 42% of the semifinalists and finalists enrolling at Georgia Tech, compared to 26% of the rest of the freshmen class (those who didn’t interview for the PS).

1999 Entering Class of President’s Scholars
• Of the 81 new freshmen, 49 played at least one varsity sport, and the average was two. 49 insteed were team captains.
• Eight of the thirteen who worked on yearbook or newspaper publications were the editors-in-chief.
• Fourteen of the 1999 President’s Scholars were class presidents for at least one year. • Twenty are N Atlantic M erit Scholars (separate from semifinalist or finalist). • There were five Debate Team captains and four Academic Team captains. • One band drum major, one Irish dance world champion, one karate competitor (fifth in nation), one student in the world finals of Odyssey of the Mind, and M iss Teen Arkansas.

M My First Step to Healing the World —Laura Frick (BIO L ’03)

As the multiple flashes exploded before my eyes at Signing Day, I thought about the many steps I took to get to this point. I had always wanted to attend Georgia Tech, and to go here with a scholarship was ideal. I submitted my application before the fall deadline to be considered for the President’s Scholarship. As Christmas break began, I impatiently awaited notification. Finally, I received a phone call informing me that I was a semifinalist for the President’s Scholarship along with 600 other students.

My heart raced and my palms perspired as I stood outside the press boxes, waiting for my interview. Luckily, my interviews were incredibly nice, and the interview went well. I returned to the lobby filled with high hopes and eagerness. I now had another phone call to anticipate. A few weeks later, I was watching television and doing homework at the same time (an almost impossible task when the phone rang). “Hello, Laura! This is Randy M Dow with the President’s Scholarship Program.” I crossed my fingers; the news would change my life. “I would like to congratulate you on being named a finalist for the President’s Scholarship.” I had made it!

I really enjoyed the Presidents Scholarship Weekend in March, both the social day and the interview day to determine the amount of my scholarship. I met many new and very interesting people on this day: people that I will soon get to know even more on the hiking trip. Each one of us walked across the stage, signed our name in the record book as Chris’s Young (HTS ’00) announced our achievements to the audience. M any pictures were taken, and I’m sure most of us had spots in our eyes when we left.

I’ve had a wonderful experience with the President’s Scholarship Program so far, and this is the beginning of my journey to someday help the children of the world as an emergency medicine pediatrician. I can’t wait to begin school at Tech!

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Alumni Involvement on Upward Trajectory

Among the 357 interviewers who met with candidates around the country, and on campus this year, there were 44 President’s Scholar alumni. This is a significant increase, 63%, from last year’s 35%.

Anthony Priest (EE ’88), who interviews students in Washington, D.C., said, “After interviewing candidates the past two years, I continue to be impressed with the levels of maturity, intelligence and direction these people exhibit. The students’ backgrounds have been tremendously diverse and each one has their own fascinating story. Listening to these high-achievers you can’t help but be inspired. When it’s all over I feel energized and excited, both for the future of Georgia Tech and our society and for the boundless possibilities that these students have re- quanted me with.”

Thanks to the following President’s Scholar alumni for their efforts in helping to recruit an outstanding class: Jon Arrowood (CHE ’92) Jason Byars (M ’96) M ara Carey (EE ’99) Will Chafin (M ‘93) Bill Crew (MATH ’91) Jay Dibnah (CHEM ’92)

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-Thomas Counts (ISyE ’90)

My wife DeEtte gave birth to our first child on June 21, 1998 in Newport Beach, CA. We named her Cassie Evelyn, and she’s now an active six and one-half month old and doing great!

-Carl Kirkconnell (M ’90)


-Colin Baldwin (EE ’92)

I would love to announce the birth of Katelyn Nicole Hefter on April 24, 1998, to myself and Karen Shields after!

-Edward Hefter (ME ’92)

Alexander Cole Krueger born October 9, 1998 to M aria (T oogood) Krueger and Jeffrey Krueger, both ’92 GT graduates.

-Maria Krueger (AE ’92)

I’ll be graduating from the D uke Un iversity School of Medicine in May, 1999, and have accepted a residency position in the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD.

-Betty Tong (M E ’93)

I just got into medical school, and I just got married! I’ll be starting at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx this August. Plus my boyfriend (Ben M anell - an artist and graphic designer) and I took off for Las Vegas and got married. If you’d like a peek, a few photos are up on the web at: www.artshare.com/wedding.html

-Jennifer Egan (PHYS ’96)

I have been invited to serve in the US Peace Corps and will be leaving in May, 1999, and have accepted a residency position in the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD.

-Betty Tong (M E ’93)

New Scholars Retreat to Unicoi

On September 14, 1998, the President’s Scholar Entering Class of ’98 assembled in Atlanta for their trip to Helen, Georgia. With Unicoi State Park as their base camp, they hiked to Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia, and along several other scenic trails. 82 freshmen attended, along with 16 upperclassmen, Paul Hurst, Director of Special Programs, and Randy Mcdow, Program Coordinator. This fall, the new class will again travel to the North Georgia mountains for fellowship before starting their first semester.

How I Survived My Freshmen Year (and Loved It!)

-Lacey West (PSY ’02)

It all began with one decision... I was going to Tech! Amidst the excitement of the long awaited high school graduation my anticipation of college began to build. The weeks of summer flew by and before I knew it, it was time for the President’s Scholars hiking trip.

I must admit that I was extremely nervous about going on this trip without knowing anyone. But my fears quickly eased as soon as I arrived for the trip. Standing in the parking lot were 81 of the friendliest, funniest, and most intelligent people I had ever met. Through a weekend of campfires, hikes, games, and van rides, our fears quickly turned into excitement, and that was just the beginning. When classes began, we would have the advantage of knowing almost 100 people.

The President’s Scholarship activities did not end there, however. The fall luncheon allowed the opportunity not only to see the freshman again, but also to meet the upperclassmen. We dined while getting to know the new faces of students, alumni, and professors at our tables.

Throughout the year, the President’s Scholars organized many activities together, from shag classes to the Homecoming Party. These events were a large part of my adjustment to Tech. One that sticks out most significantly in my mind is a rafting trip organized for the fall. I enjoyed a day of rafting and fun with about 20 other PS’s.

Later in the spring was President’s Scholarship Weekend for the high school scholarship nominees. The current PS’s spent weeks before the weekend helping to plan activities and organize hosts. The big day arrived, and we were all taken back to our own PS Weekend, which for most of us was not so long ago. Dinner, skits at DramaTech, an ice cream social at Junior’s, and an accapella performance at Under the Couch were enjoyable for the potential students as well as the current PS’s.

My freshman year has been an experience like none other. Tech has given me the college experience I have always imagined. The President’s Scholarship Program has allowed me opportunities that I had never expected. The main benefits of the PS Program go beyond the scholarship money. The real advantage lies in the fellow PS’s and the high standards of the PS Program.