

Baker Endowment Provides Income

In the spring of 2001, President's Scholar alumni created the Dr. E. Jo Baker President's Scholarship Endowment to honor the program founder. A portion of the interest on the endowment will be used exclusively to provide President's Scholarships.

The first Baker Scholar, Jennifer O'Meara, was profiled in the last year's PSsssst!. Blair Dowling is the second and current Baker Scholar, and you may read about her in this newsletter.

The PS Program's goal is to become fully endowed, as are UNC's Morehead Scholarships and NC State's Park Scholarships. Over time, the Baker Endowment will be a major step in that direction.

Each donation is a permanent gift to the PS Program. If you would like to donate to the Baker Endowment, simply send a check made out to the Georgia Tech Foundation, Inc. In the memo line, please write: **For #997-00-0605 Baker Endowment.** Donations may be sent to:

Georgia Tech Foundation
117 North Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30332-0182

Georgia Institute
of Technology

President's Scholarship Program
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0288

President's Scholars Recent Honors

National Science Foundation 2002 Winners

Jennifer O'Meara
Rajiv Saigal
Katie Saliba
Andrew Stein
Gayle Willis

2002 Ms. Georgia Tech

Anna Fincher
(7 of 10 Ms. GT semifinalists were PSs
as were 4 of the 10 Mr. GT semifinalists)

2002 Freshman Cake Race Winners

Cielle Thibodeaux
Brett Vogt

Verizon Academic All-America Team 2001-02

Dan Dyke, Football (1st team)

Verizon Academic All-District III

Team Members for 2001-02
Dan Dyke, Football (1st team)
Jennifer Christenson, At-Large/Swimming (1st team)
Jenny Lentz, Track & Field (2nd team)



PS s s s s s s s s t!

A Newsletter for the Alumni of the President's Scholarship Program at Georgia Tech

Progress and Service

Founded 1981

Fall, 2002

PSP Improves on High Retention and Graduation Rates

Recent classes of President's Scholars have improved upon the already high marks set by earlier ones. Since the beginning, PSs have maintained significantly higher retention and graduation rates than those for all GT students.

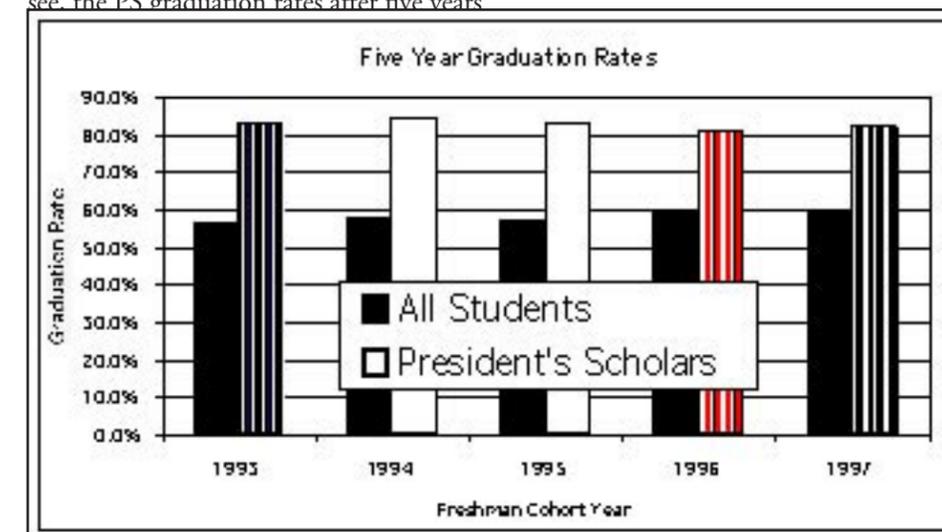
The PS classes entering in 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 have all retained 94% or 95% of their members to date, remarkable achievements particularly for the older classes. In comparison, the PS classes from 1990-1997 retained on average 89% (graduated or still enrolled). The Institute first-year average has improved significantly in recent years from 85% for 1993-96 to reach just over 91% for the class entering 2001.

But the graduation rates display an even higher achievement. The current senior class which entered in 1999 will have 62% of the class graduate in four years or less, 94% graduate in five or less, and 95% graduate in six or less. [The one student

taking six years was on a church mission trip for two years.] The 2000 class aims to improve on that, with a current projection of 70% in four years and 94% in five.

The accompanying chart is the best comparison we can make given data available on all GT students. As you can see, the PS graduation rates after five years

have consistently topped the Tech averages by about 25 percentage points. While the PSP is concerned with a much smaller cohort, the numbers still show that PSs have been very productive academically when considered within the larger student population.



Melissa Mason Addresses PSs at Annual Fall Luncheon

This year's speaker at the annual PSP Fall Luncheon was Melissa Mason.

Melissa Mason is a policy analyst in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget where she deals with physical and economic development policy issues. In this capacity, Melissa tracks policy and budgets for state agencies and presents recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly. She works with a variety of state agencies including the Department of Transportation, the Technical College System, the Georgia Ports Authority, and the Department of Community Affairs.

Melissa graduated from GT in 1999 with a degree in International Affairs. During her three summers, Melissa worked in the Olympic Village, studied abroad

in Germany, and worked for a summer in Brussels, Belgium. She also interned in the offices of former US Senator Max Cleland and Georgia Governor Zell Miller.



Melissa Mason (INTA), Heather Ledbetter (CHE), and Aimee Parsons (CHE) celebrate getting out at the '99 PS Grad Dinner.

Melissa is married to Jim Mason, a fellow Georgia Tech graduate and President's Scholar. They currently live in Grant Park in Atlanta. They enjoy attending GT football games and remaining active in their church and community.

Ms. Mason follows a tradition of outstanding speakers appearing at the Fall Luncheon. In 2001, the PS Program welcomed David Rudolph (ISYE '96), general manager at Turner South. In the two previous years the program entertained Michelle Jarrard (ISYE '89) of McKinsey and David Katz (ISYE '92), director of planning and logistics for Coca-Cola Enterprises.

Blair Dowling Named Dr. Baker Scholar

Blair Dowling, an Applied Mathematics and Computer Science double major and Economics minor graduating in spring of 2003, was recently named the Dr. E. Jo Baker President's Scholar. Blair came to Georgia Tech from Savannah, Georgia in 1999 after being home schooled.

Though Blair's grades have been exemplary, a high GPA is only one of her accomplishments. Blair has far-ranging interests reflected by her participation in extracurricular activities on and off campus. Her current senior research project with Dr. Dana Randall of the College of Computing and Dr. Silvestri at Emory University is to develop a user-friendly interface to model the in vivo progression of the HIV and SIV viruses on the computer, using stochastic models.

Blair also competes on the Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team and has been active in the leadership of Westminster Christian Fellowship since her freshman year. On campus, Blair is president of Pi Mu Epsilon, a national mathematics honor society. Off campus, Blair performs community service with her church and also participates in the handbell choir.

Over several summers, Blair has been involved with PROMYS, a Boston University program designed to promote mathematics among a select group of high school students. In her role as head counselor one summer, Blair performed administrative duties, taught a small lecture series and was also able to attend a counselor seminar. Blair feels that the program offers "an excellent introduction to the logic and

thought process which is so essential in higher math."

This past summer, Blair received the Fleet International Scholarship and the Georgia Board of Regent's Scholarship to study abroad in Barcelona, Spain. Her final paper for a Computing in Society course there served as a starting point for a joint paper with her father which was presented this fall at the International Business and Economics Research Conference in Las Vegas and is slated for publication in the IBER Journal.

Currently, Blair is pursuing graduate opportunities. She applied for the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships. Two other PSs are currently in the

UK on Marshall Scholarships, Karen Feigh (AE '01) and Andy Ozment (CS '00).



Blair is also pursuing an NSF graduate fellowship and the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Blair's goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in mathematics and become a college professor. In response to being designated as the Dr. E. Jo Baker President's Scholar, Blair states, "I cannot think of a greater honor."



The PS Class of '06 enjoys new-found fellowship and a retreat from the city at Unicoi State Park. This fall marked the sixth class of scholars to participate in the annual Fall Retreat that takes place only days before classes begin.

PS Alumni Interview, Recruit Candidates in 2002

In spring of 2002, 56 PS Alumni participated as interviewers on Regional Committees during PS selections. These alumni participated on 25 different committees in 14 different states. Twelve of these alumni acted as committee chairs. Their devotion of time and effort to help put together an outstanding class of scholars is greatly appreciated.

David Bottoms MGT '00
David Cauffiel EE '93
James Clawson EE '01
Phebe Clawson BIOL '02
David Connors IE '00
Nikki Cross MATH '01
Rebecca Cutri-Kohart AE '01
Jay Debnath CHEM '92
Elizabeth Deener CHE '01
Paula Edwards IE '95
Elizabeth Ferdman CHE '98
Michael Floyd CMPE '95
Greg Foster ME '95
Caroline Freeman MGT '00
Grace Freeman CHE '97

Ben Grimes CHE '94
Divya Gupta ME '00
Cynthia Hall CHE '97
Martin Hall PHYS '92
Dana Harmer CHE '95
Cliff Henderson CHE '94
Eric House CS '92
Kim House ME '95
Cayman James CE '99
Rebecca Johnston-Gilbert PSY '99
Todd Jones APHY '88
Bing Kao CHE '97
Jon King ME '00
Rob Kischuk CMPE '00

Ron Kwok ISYE '00
Joe Layden CHE '87
Valerie Maier-Sperdelozzi ME '98
Melissa Mason INTA '99
Randy McDow ISYE '95
Jeff Morris CHE '89
Hope Norman ID '98
Sandy Pessoney EE '93
Chris Pope IE '93
Anthony Priest EE '88
Jeremy Reynolds PSY '99
Liz Roelling CHE '01
Andrew Sandifer ME '91
Christina Scherrer IE '99

Joseph Schimmel EE '90
Anita Sethna BIOL '00
Saamil Shah AE '95
Jim Small CHEM '91
Vicky Smith CHE '90
Corley Strunk CHE '98
John Strunk CMPE '98
Ray Sun EE '97
Betty Tong ME '93
Barry Tuten CE '90
Steve Whittington ISYE '00
Leta Woo MATE '00
Joel Wooten ISYE '00

If you would like to recruit and interview candidates, please visit www.psp.gatech.edu/psalumni/regcom.html and contact the committee chair in your region. Interviews will be held for the semifinalists in January 2003.

PSP Welcomes Distinguished New Class of Scholars

This fall, the PS Program welcomed 84 new scholars to campus. This group included: 33 Georgia residents and 51 non-Georgia residents, 31 women and 53 men. 78% played at least one varsity sport. 49% participated in musical activities. They averaged 1459 on the SAT.

Here are two of their stories.

Ambika Bumb (BME '06),
Greer, SC

I chose Georgia Tech for two main reasons. The first was because of the Biomedical Engineering program. Georgia Tech has not even had one person graduate from its program and it doesn't even have its own facilities and building and yet, from what I last heard, it is already ranked sixth in the nation. Next year the research abilities in the new building will improve that ranking. I really like the way Emory's medical aspect is combined with Tech's engineering. The program

was the most suited for what I wanted of all the schools I looked at.

The second reason I chose Tech was because of the scholarship, opportunity, and flexibility I saw available. The PS gives you an upper hand to classes, seminars, and opportunities to get out into the real world. I can take the time out to study abroad, do research, or an internship. At the same time I still have time to be socially active and be involved in organizations while getting an amazing education.

My current plan is a Bachelor's in biomedical engineering with premed, a minor in economics, and maybe a certificate or minor in math. This will leave me open to the possibilities of an MBA, graduate studies in biomed, or med school after four years. I am finding Tech to be everything that I wanted it to be and more. It is challenging but I still have time for other stuff. The location is perfect:

in Atlanta and not too far from home. The people are friendly. Everything is working out wonderfully.

Matt Madsen (ME '06),
Peachtree City, GA

I have lived 12 places in my life, so moving to Tech was just like moving again, except I got to do it on my own this time and make a life for myself. The people at Tech are great and I've made a lot of friends.

Since coming to Tech, I rushed and joined Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) and have had an amazing time there. I am a member of the Skydiving club at Tech and I am going to train and get certified to skydive on my own with some friends next semester. I volunteer as a tutor with Techwood Tutorial Project (TTP) on Mondays at a local city elementary school. I am also a member of the barbell club and play flag football intramurals, which will switch to soccer in the spring. In the future, I plan to be active in both Connect with

Tech and FASET. I will be co-oping next semester and will hopefully attend the Australia or Oxford study abroad program the summer after my sophomore year.

Tech is a great school. I chose it because the opportunities were phenomenal here and the co-op program is amazing. I definitely know I want to be an engineer, Tech is a worthy school to pursue that wish, and the cost after my scholarships could not be passed up.

