We are on the web!
www.iac.gatech.edu/sab

SAB prepares to kick off new year

The Ivan Allen College Student Advisory Board is a collection of IAC undergraduate students who act as delegates for each of the eight majors and six schools that comprise the Ivan Allen College. We serve as representatives not only for our majors and schools, but also as advisors to IAC and Georgia Tech administrators on issues that affect students. We are passionate about making the IAC experience all that it can be and the Link is one way we go about achieving that.

This year, we will be engaging in many exciting activities that we hope IAC students will support and participate in. From recruiting new students and building internship opportunities to connecting students and connecting with other IAG groups, there are many ways for you to get involved.

You can visit our website, www.iac.gatech.edu/sab, to learn more about the SAB, our goals and our members. The website also provides a forum for you to provide feedback and we would love to hear from you. We have an exciting year planned, so stay informed and join in the fun!

To the incoming freshman class, welcome to Georgia Tech! You’ve come to a unique place where science and technology intersect with the liberal arts, and talent expresses itself in impressive academic, artistic and athletic achievements. The acclaimed Tech tradition is preserved by faithful alumni and carried on by loyal students. The possibilities are infinite.

The Ivan Allen College, featuring “liberal arts with a Tech twist,” is a wonderful place to experience the challenges and opportunities that Tech has to offer. Among the IAC’s many strengths are its unique degree programs, distinguished teaching personnel, vast career resources and strategic connections. With all these assets, its greatest strength remains its impressive student body.

This year, the IAC is delighted to welcome the largest incoming freshman class in its 15-year history, with enrollment up 65%! Along with this quantitative increase, the new students also reflect wide geographical scope with students from across the state and around the country. The new class has once again expressed itself in impressive academic, artistic and athletic achievements. The math-verbal ratio almost even. The incoming class is an intriguing mix of students and talent.

Enrollment, SAT scores highest of incoming IAC classes

The enrollment results reflect the tremendous success of the IAC’s recruitment efforts over the past few years, and is evidence of the hard work of administration and students alike. “The students of IAC, and particularly its Student Advisory Board, got much of the credit for the unprecedented increase in the number of entering IAC freshmen and the boost in the average aptitudes,” said Associate Dean Richard Barke. “Tech is proving their diversity by promoting different programs… true diversity is different majors and interests and ideas coming together, and Tech is really trying to embrace that,” she added.

The incoming class is sure to contribute significantly to the IAC community, as the College expands its scope of influence both within and beyond the campus. “We look forward to welcoming new students to the IAC family, and acquainting them with the approach to a combined liberal and professional education which is the hallmark of IAC,” said Dean Barke. “We want to prepare them for the high expectations that our faculty and students have of each other, and instill in them the pride that comes from being a participant in our unique enterprise.”

DID YOU KNOW?

• Before IAC was created in 1991, Tech held a “College of Sciences and Liberal Studies.”
• The first Business and Economics Courses at Georgia Tech were taught as part of the English Department, now IIC.
• Ivan Allen was reputedly proud of his scratch golf score—low of his grades from his collegiate years... he had many 4.0 semesters.
• Sue Rosser, Deans of the Ivan Allen College, was the first female dean in Tech history.
• IAC students were voted the “best looking majors” by the Tech Magnet.

Spotlight on Germany:

"Before signing up for the German LBAT summer study abroad program, I thought I knew what I was getting into... after all, I'd been abroad before, even been to Germany several times before visiting my relatives. However, the program had so much more to experience than I ever imagined.

In addition to classes taught in German, the program provided many unique opportunities, from exploring the grounds of a two-hundred-year-old castle to touring the extensive Volkswagen plant. One of my favorite memories from the trip is when I traveled with three friends to the small German town of Obersdorf. The hamlet is famous for its ski slopes and beautiful mountains so we braved the elements to witness incredible views. Throughout the ascent, we crossed paths with other climbers, exchanging German greetings. We rose up 2300 meters, going from sunshine to snow in just a short amount of time. What fun to make a snow angel in the middle of July!"

- Elizabeth Darnall

Study Abroad

Every year, IAC students travel all over the world studying abroad. Here are just a few from last summer:

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“You’re going to Georgia Tech? What type of engineer will you be?” This was the typical response I received when telling people of my college choice upon graduating from high school.

I wanted to get into engineering, and through high school I had joined the Robotics team, played basketball, and worked for a local electronics company. My teachers, parents, and friends did not take my engineering aspirations very seriously. They told me that I should stop dreaming big because it would be pretty impossible. I knew that I was determined to get into engineering.

No one believed that I could do some pretty great things. I never thought that I could be a part of something so big. I was just a normal kid like me enrolled in a regular high school, but I had a strong passion for engineering.

I was accepted into Georgia Tech, and I was excited to start my journey. But I was also a bit nervous, as I had never been to a university before.

As an anti-terrorism expert, Donald Lumpkins (INTA ’95) has worked in several leadership positions at a national level with events such as the anthrax attack in 2001 and Hurricane Isabel in 2003, and believes that Engineering and the Ivan Allen College in particular prepared him well for his current position. “I am working hard in classes, addressing complex issues, and accepting responsibility, he says his educational experience helped him “grow up” as a person. “When events occur in my current position – we have hundreds of lives at stake – it is critical that I be prepared.”

The people and environment are what brought Lumpkins to Tech, and interestingly enough an 8th grade class with Dr. Daniel Papp made him decide to study International Affairs. “Despite our chaffing for the time of the class, I found that I really enjoyed the material and instructors.”

When asked what he enjoyed the most about the Ivan Allen College, Lumpkins mentioned the many options available in classes, activities. “The INTA program, unlike many other academic programs, thrived on classroom dialogue and debate – a chance to say what you think, and have your beliefs challenged,” while I began to learn humility, I also learned to fight for what I believed.

Lumpkins finds his current position very rewarding, as he is able to focus on not only developing strategy, but implementing it. “I get to ride the line between the theoretical and the practical everyday,” with planning, training, and exercise projects, as well as for my actions during a train derailment, hurricane, or terrorist incident.”

Throughout the year, IAC students participate in a wide array of unique internships across the country and around the world. Last year, International Affairs student Stephen Ferguson interned with the U.S. Department of State in Bern, Switzerland at the American Embassy. As an intern, Ferguson worked with several interesting sectors including Public Affairs, the Executive Office, where the Ambassador is located, and preparing the daily press summary which is distributed at the American Embassy. “The most challenging experience was researching, drafting and submitting ‘talking points’ to the Ambassador for her use in speeches and in press conferences,” said Ferguson. “It was extremely rewarding to see the end product and to be treated as if we were an actual Foreign Service Officer.”

Interning gives students firsthand insight into a particular professional field, and often gives them a career vision for plans after graduation. “I could definitely see myself working for the State Department or in another government agency in the future,” Ferguson said. International internships are an effective way not only to experience hands-on training, but also to travel and see a different part of the world. “This was definitely an amazing opportunity and being able to work and live in Switzerland was incredible,” Ferguson said. Over the course of his internship, chances are you’ll have some really unique opportunities. “I was able to attend the Marine Ball with all the other Embassy employees, including the Ambassador and the Deputy Chief of Mission,” recalls Ferguson. “They had applications processes and if you miss out, you have to wait another year to try to join. While this is probably for the handful of organizations, it is something to be aware of. Get involved today; if you don’t, you will wish you had, trust me!”

Brian McKinley is a 4th-year Economics major, and is involved with the Student Foundation Investments Committee and the Natale, Wakeboard Club, in addition to serving as representative on the SAB. Link: What is the single biggest piece of advice you would offer to a new student at Tech?

Brian: Be outgoing. Always be up for an adventure. Don’t be afraid to talk to strangers in the dining hall, on the quad, or prior to class. The first few weeks of the fall semester are so much fun because everyone is interested in meeting new people. Inside the classroom, the same is true. Don’t be afraid to speak up and ask a question. Interrupt the professor if you have to – there is no point in going to a class that you cannot understand. Finally, don’t forget to relax. Do something fun everyday: enjoy the beautiful campus, visit Atlanta’s art galleries, go to a poetry reading, watch a football game.

Brian: Get involved on campus. That’s one of the best ways to enjoy Tech. When you get involved, you have something other than schoolwork to look forward to, you meet new people in the process, and you develop a sense of ownership towards Tech since you’ve contributed to an organization.

For more information log on to: www.iac.gatech.edu

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SUMMER 2005, FASET EDITION