Students bring prestige with national scholarships

Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Gates, Goldwater and Fulbright.

No, it’s not a law firm — it’s a list of some of the most prestigious scholarships and fellowships Georgia Tech students have been awarded over the past ten years. In fact, over 30 Tech students have won more than these elite awards. Tech students have won more than these top honors in the past two years than in the previous ten.

According to Paul Hurst, director of marketing and special programs, it’s not that Tech students are necessarily any smarter these days. “I think it’s just a matter of mining our resources,” he said. A few years ago, his office formed an informal steering committee to advertise better to students that these scholarships are available. Hurst explained. They began with information sessions geared toward instructing the campus about the various scholarships, how to apply and what qualifies each awards committee looks for.

Prior to this initiative, students would usually hear about the award by word of mouth from another student or professor, leaving a lot of would-be scholars in the dark. Now, even some freshmen are starting to think about these scholarships. “I think if students get advice earlier in their academic career, they can make better choices about pursuing courses that would broaden and deepen their education,” said Amanda Gable, academic professional in the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

In addition to organizing the information sessions, Gable and Hurst, along with engineering Assistant Dean Jane Weyant and Amy Bass Henry, associate director in the Office of International Education, act as advisors to the student applicants. They help the students prepare their applications and conduct mock interviews and give them enormous moral support.

Will Roper, winner of the 2002 Rhodes and 2001 Truman scholarships, said, “Paul [Hurst] believed in me the whole time. I wavered on a daily basis, but he always thought I was going to get it. It’s as much his scholarship as it is mine.”

Students face stiff competition

Each award varies, but the scholarships generally provide winners with money to cover their college education and living in a graduate or undergraduate program. Rhodes scholars attend Oxford University. Gates winners go to Cambridge University. Many winners at Georgia Tech attend any university in the United Kingdom, and Truman scholars can go to any university in the world. Goldwater scholars choose an American school.

The competition for these awards is stiff. The Rhodes Scholarship alone had 925 university-sponsored applicants this year in the United States and only 32 winners. Since its inception in 1903, the Rhodes Scholarship Trust has given awards to 2,500 American students. More than 10 percent of those have been Harvard University students, and 28 percent attended by League schools. The average dollar value of a Rhodes is $28,000 per year.

Earning these prestigious scholarships reflects well not just on Georgia Tech, but on the entire state. “I think it says a lot about the educational system in this state, that we have so many students going on to win these awards,” said Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies Robert McPhail. Of the nine scholarships, five were awarded to students who call Georgia home.

It says a lot about the students, too. “There’s a reason these scholarships are so prestigious: students are evaluated on more than just their academic record. Roper and Gates Cambridge Scholar Jay Silver both started their own tutoring programs in high school. Gates Cambridge Scholar Nick Bronn earned two bachelor’s degrees and one master’s in just three years, all while playing first chair violin in the Georgia Tech Symphony Orchestra and jamming with several punk rock groups on the bass guitar. If that wasn’t enough, they all have been involved in research projects as well.

A legacy of leaders

But it’s not just where they’ve been that improves the scholarship’s prestige, according to Paul Hurst, director of special programs. “It’s where they’re going. Over the years, many scholars have moved into real leadership positions. Former Scholars continued, page 3
C. White III, one of the nation’s foremost academic experts on the U.S. trucking industry, has joined the faculty of the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE). White holds the ISyE Chair in Transportation and Logistics.

“I am very pleased that Dr. White has joined our faculty,” said Bill Rouse, chair of ISyE. “His national and international experience and reputation in transportation systems will enable important contributions to Atlanta, the state of Georgia and beyond.”

While is director of the Trucking Industry Program (TIP), a research and education center that provides information to the trucking industry, its customers, and government regulators for improving the productivity of the U.S. trucking industry and the quality of product and services.

The TIP is widely known for implementing the most comprehensive survey ever taken of truckers at truck stops across the United States.

Larry Bowie
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

DuPree’s annual business plan competition encourages entrepreneurship

I n the final round of the second annual Georgia Tech Business Plan Competition last month, four teams of Tech students and alumni presented their plans to a panel of venture capitalists and other experts. All four concepts were built around significant technologies developed in the engineering, biotech and computing programs. After a full day of presentations, judges selected Cupel Technologies as Best Overall Business Plan. The first place team was awarded $10,000. Second and third place teams were awarded $3,500 each, and fourth place finalist, TT7V, won $500.

The competition was the result of preparatory workshops over the past year lead up to the event. Each team was composed of students and alumni drawn from a mix of technical and scientific fields,” said Terry Blum, dean of the College. The mission of Cupel Technologies is to be the premier designer, developer and marketer of inspection systems used in the manufacture and assembly of printed circuit boards (PCB) utilizing surface mount technology (SMT). Cupel’s initial product offering is a solder joint inspection system that can detect nearly all solder joint defects more quickly, more accurately and at lower costs than other technologies.

Larry Bowie
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

C. White III

The driver survey, which was conducted between August 1997 and January 1999, has had substantial impact on understanding drivers’ work hours and is often cited for presenting the first accurate portrait of truck drivers, their quality of life and their views on the industry. The TIP, a multi-institutional and multidisciplinary center, was established in 1995. Formerly known as the University of Michigan Trucking Industry Program (UMTIP), it involves researchers from several U.S. universities, including Georgia Tech, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University and Duke University.

“Georgia Tech is an international leader in engineering education and research,” White said, “and ISyE is especially well-known in transportation and logistics, two critical and vital sectors of the Georgia and U.S. economies. I deeply appreciate the support that TIP has received from Georgia Tech.”

White comes to Tech from the University of Michigan, where he served for 11 years as a professor of industrial and operations engineering and of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Prior to joining the University of Michigan, he was a faculty member at Southern Methodist University and the University of Virginia, where he was the Nancy and Neal Wade Professor of industrial and operations engineering.

While received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1974 in Computer, Information, and Control Engineering.

Hope Wilson
DuPree College of Management

Noted trucking industry expert joins ISyE faculty

March 11, 2002

"QUOTE-UNQUOTE"

"Don’t get me wrong. I believe off balance sheet liabilities are something to beware. But among all the examples we looked at, this is not the primary reason for accounting failures. If you’re preparing just for that, I think you’re going to miss a lot of the accounting problems that are out there."

—Charles Mullford, professor in the DuPree College of Management and co-author of ‘The Financial Numbers Game: Detecting Creative Accounting Practices,’ on the increased scrutiny on financial reporting in the wake of the Enron collapse.

(ThetStreet.com)

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Team members focus on different aspects of their business. Cupel CEO Trip Garner has 15 years of experience in operations management and engineering, has worked the past two years with ATDC, and will receive his MSM from DuPree in May. Dathan Erdahl, vice president of product development, is a Ph.D. candidate in Mechanical Engineering. Erdahl performs research in laser ultrasonics and nondestructive evaluation of metal structures. He designed the software that analyzes the signal from the laser interferometer. Second year MSM student John M. Stewart is on the board of advisors and advises the team on financial and marketing issues. Pranav Anbalagan, board of advisors, is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and will advise management on product development and marketing issues.

In addition to the four finalist teams, there will be a competition for the University of Oregon’s New Venture Competition in early March. MetroMEMS will participate in San Diego State University’s Venture Challenge in late March. Finally, Cupel Technologies plans to compete in the University of Oregon’s New Venture Championship in mid-April.

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The WHISTLE

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Health, cont’d from page 1

President Bill Clinton and U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter have won the Rhodes. New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman and audio inventor Ray Dolby are Marshall alumni. And former Clinton advisor turned ABC news analyst George Stephanopoulos has won both the Truman and the Goldwater scholarships.

Danielle Dees, a Marshall scholar, plan to be a leader in her field as well as their community. Roper, Silver, Bronn scholars will serve their community, and limits of the technology you can see," said Obama. But in order to make good policy, he explained, you first have to know the abilities and the potential of your own country.

“People tend to think these high level scholarships are the purview of the Ivy League schools. That’s just not the case. We have that caliber of student here,” added Hurst. Hurst and Gable believe there are a lot more Tech students who have what it takes to win these honors. And the scholars agree. “Tech has plenty of people who could have achieved this distinction,” Ozment said after winning his scholarship. “The only way I was able to do it was with the help of the faculty and staff.”

Scholars, cont’d from page 1

tandem, there is more communication between architects, contractors and future inhabitants, which can improve the overall usefulness of the facility. “We’ve been looking at the floor plans and offering suggestions to the designers,” said Cindy Smith, director of the Student Health Center. “The staff is really excited.”

Smith said students and her staff will benefit from larger examination rooms, two psychiatric offices that do not currently exist in the current facility, and space for a third-party billing office. Plans also call for a dental clinic, a new service for students that will include a full-time staff. Other services provided by the Student Health Center include outpatient care and treatment, pharmacy services, lab tests, women’s clinic services, specialty services in gynecology, orthopedics, nutrition, wellness center and psychiatric care services.

As the situation stands right now, we have approximately 160 spaces blocked off,” said Weis. “We hope to be able to accommodate the overflow in the surrounding areas as the demand for parking is somewhat less during the spring semester.” Weis added that another meeting had been scheduled to determine whether any additional measures needed to be taken.

Though she could not determine the estimated time to complete the work, Meyers said, “Our number one concern, once we feel there’s no safety issue, is getting the work done as quickly as possible to inconvenience as few people as possible.”

Bus lane change

The Office of Parking and Transportation announced that, due to construction, the MARTA bus will be rerouted until further notice. The bus serving campus will be helping and leaving campus by way of Fowler Street and Tenth Street. Further, there will be no stop on Ferst Drive and Techwood Drive outbound to the Midtown Station.

Parking Deck — to determine the extent of the work to be done, “A structural engineer can do specifications on what he can see,” she said, “but with forensic engineering they have other diagnostic tools” at their disposal. Though it did not require the deck to be shut down, the work will cause the deck to lose a fraction of its 1,000 parking spots. In addition, the regular entrance to the deck is closed while the work is being done, which affects traffic patterns in and around the facility.

Rod Weis, director of Parking and Transportation Services, said that the impact on Tech’s strained parking situation will be minimal.

“IN BRIEF:”

Athletics gets system veteran

As Jerry McTier winds down his eight-year career as the director of Student Financial Planning and Services, he is also ramping up to move into a new position as the Athletic Association. McTier moves into the new position of director of Academic Services for Football after retiring from the University System of Georgia with 30 years of service. “It’s a change, but not a huge one,” says McTier. “It’s the same thing I did by providing financial aid to students. It’s helping people be what they want to be. My whole career has been in positions that helped people be what they want to be. I intend to be able to help these athletes meet their goals by providing them with the tools and resources they need.”

The new position is part of a long-term commitment by the Athletic Association to help football players stay eligible from term to term and ultimately graduate. The position reports to Dave Braine, director of Athletics, and Bob McNam, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies.

Collaborating in Computing

Women faculty and students in the College of Computing now have a new center for communication, networking and sharing of information, research and ideas. According to College of Computing Professor Mary Jean Harrold, “Women@CC” strives to advance women in the field of computer science by providing a nurturing community and by giving women the tools and support they need to succeed. The larger goal is to enhance the overall understanding in the College and community of gender issues. “CoC research and news involving female students and faculty on an ongoing basis and to provide other items of general interest to women in the computer science field.”

The site, www.cc.gatech.edu/women/, is also accessible from the College’s home page. For more information or to become involved with Women@cc, e-mail cocwomen@cc.gatech.edu.

Bus lane change

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