

The Advanced Academy of Georgia

“Fast Facts” on the Eleventh Year Class: Fall 2005

- ✓ Sixty-seven academically talented high school students were enrolled, including 53 new students, one of whom is our second student to enter after the eighth grade. 13 young scholars who entered in fall 2004 as high school juniors are continuing as high school seniors/college sophomores, and one exceptional young man who entered in the fall of 2004 after eighth grade is continuing as a college sophomore. All students were selected through a rigorous admissions process that included student essays, family interviews, teacher recommendations, test scores, and high school GPA. Academy students come from locations throughout Georgia and beyond and include international students.
- ✓ Class composition: 38 seniors, 27 juniors, 1 sophomore, and one freshman who entered after eighth grade; 27 females, and 40 males; SAT composite scores (most scores earned when students were sophomores or younger) ranged from 1150 to 1540. Average SAT Scores are Verbal, 640; Math, 636; and Composite, 1278. GPA's range from 3.50 to 4.40, and the average GPA is 3.90 (all weighted). Students received AP credit in Calculus, Statistics, World History, Psychology, English, United States History, Chemistry, Biology, and Geography.
- ✓ Academy students were recognized at the University's annual academic Honors Convocation. Current Academy students were named Outstanding Honors Freshmen and Sophomores; former Academy students were named Outstanding Honors Juniors and Seniors. Other accomplishments achieved by Academy students include one being offered a \$50,000 scholarship from the Florida Institute of Technology and another student becoming the youngest president ever of University of West Georgia's Honors Council.
- ✓ Academy students reside together in Gunn Hall, the University's academic residence hall, with men on one wing and women on another. The Academy residence hall coordinator and twelve upper-division student resident assistants (RAs) reside with Academy students. Study groups and programs to foster successful campus living, community service, good citizenship, and a healthy balance between academic and personal growth are arranged each week by the residence hall staff.
- ✓ Gunn Hall students, staff, and programs have won University awards for consecutive years, including: Hall Council of the Year (for the fourth year in a row), Program of the Year (for the third year in a row), and RA Advisor of the Year and Homecoming Grand Champions. They also were honored in spring, 2005 with Outstanding Student of the Year and Outstanding Executive Board Member of the Year awards.
- ✓ This institution is enhanced by Academy students' participation in university activities including the International Club, various honor societies, and intramural sports. Academy students compete in Quiz Bowl, the American Mathematics Exam, the American Invitational Mathematics Exam, Model U.N., and the annual university-wide research award night.
- ✓ Academy scholars continue to be talented in the fine arts, playing the guitar, oboe, drums, clarinet, French horn, cello, bass guitar, piccolo, tin whistle, violin, viola, trumpet, piano, and flute, as well as participating in voice, chorus and dance. Academy students have access to a music practice room in their residence hall and perform during Academy functions. In addition, two of our students had their poetry and art work published in the University's art magazine, *The Eclectic*, and others were involved in university theater productions.
- ✓ Academy students were named National Merit Finalists. Eleven current Academy scholars and seven former Academy students who chose to remain at West Georgia are recipients of West Georgia's prestigious Presidential Scholarships. In addition, the Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc. and the *Sallie Mae Fund* have donated scholarship funds directly to the Advanced Academy.
- ✓ Over the past five years, four Academy students have been awarded Goldwater Scholarships—two while students in the Academy. The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship was established to promote excellence in the areas of mathematics and science. A former Academy student also was a recipient of the Marshall Scholarship and used this opportunity to earn two master's degrees at Oxford.
- ✓ Atlanta Magazine recognized The Advanced Academy in its 2005 “Best Schools” edition.

- √ Research opportunities are an integral part of the Academy program. Academy scholars in the 2005-2006 class are engaged in projects or original research in the departments of Biology, Physics, and Chemistry. Former Academy students presented research projects at the 2004 National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conference, where for the fifth time in seven years the University of West Georgia had more student research projects accepted (ten) than any other university in the United States.
- √ One current and one former Academy student, along with two other UWG students, are researching The Effect of Acoustics on Combustion and Microgravity. Their proposal to NASA Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunity Program was accepted, and they went to Houston in July 2005 to conduct their experiment while flying on a DC 9 aircraft. The group applied for an international patent because the idea is so revolutionary.
- √ Two Academy students each received a Best Student Paper Award in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Technology during the annual meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science. The two were among eight University of West Georgia students who presented research at the meeting.
- √ An Academy student was presented with the 2005 Philosophy New Major Award, given the by the UWG Department of Philosophy.
- √ Academy scholars are eligible to enroll in all Honors classes offered by the Honors College of the University of West Georgia. Many enroll in the Honors American Government class and join other Honors students in the annual spring field trip to Washington, D.C
- √ Community service is an important component of Academy life, and students actively participate in a variety of service projects, including tutoring programs at local elementary schools, donating time to the local soup kitchen or humane society, and beginning a Gunn Hall recycling program, to name a few. Last spring, Gunn Hall held the sixth annual St. Patty's Day Café, an event that raised more than \$400.00 that was donated to a local charity.
- √ Academy students have served as peer leaders in the UWG Chemistry Department's workshop project. This is an experiential learning method that uses a workshop format to help undergraduate students master general chemistry. As peer leaders, Academy students guide groups of 8 to 9 chemistry students in reviewing sets of assigned problems.

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