

**THE ADVANCED ACADEMY OF GEORGIA
ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004**

Mission

The mission of the Advanced Academy of Georgia is to provide an enriched, residential early-entrance-to-college program for carefully selected bright and motivated high school students who are interested in accelerating their academic careers. The Academy seeks to provide opportunities for educational advancement in an environment that also supports students in developing the skills that will help to ensure their success, both in the Academy and as future leaders.

Goals

Academy Goal	University Mission	Bread and Butter Goals
Provide educational opportunities for extraordinary high school students.	Educational opportunities for exceptional students through initiatives such as the Honors College and the Advanced Academy of Georgia.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commitment to UWG's mission and goals. 2. Enrollment management. 3. Academic Programs
Increase enrollment in the Advanced Academy while maintaining its diverse makeup.	Affirmation of the equal dignity of each person by valuing cultural, ethnic, racial, and gender diversity in students, faculty, and staff.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commitment to UWG's mission and goals. 2. Enrollment management. 5. The university experience.
Develop skills that will assist students' success, both in the Academy and as future leaders.	Commitments that culminate in educational experiences that foster the development of leaders and productive citizens who make a positive impact.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commitment to UWG's mission and goals. 2. Academic programs.

**Outcomes, Processes to Assess These Outcomes, and Assessment Results
Where Appropriate**

Outcomes	Assessment	Results
63 students were admitted into the Advanced Academy of Georgia for the 2003-2004 year	End of year reports.	Admission increased from previous year, but only by one student.
Students placed in courses according to their levels of ability and preparation	Self-reporting by students, AP testing, SAT or ACT test scores, University GPA.	A large majority of our students earned placement in higher-level English, math, chemistry, physics, biology, and disciplines while maintaining an average cumulative GPA of 3.11.
Academy students performed well academically.	End-of-Course tests required by State Board of Education. Evaluation of transcripts.	100% of students' scores exceeded expected performance level; minimum numeric grade was 91.
Academy students were active in Academy and University leadership activities.		Individual students and Academy programs received numerous awards and recognition.

An Example of How The Academy Used the Assessment of Goals and Outcomes to Change/Improve a Process

1. While the number of students who were admitted to the Academy was up from the previous year, the increase was only one student, and we continue to look for ways to enhance our recruitment activities. We examined the statistics about how this year's students first heard of the Advanced Academy. For the first year, high school personnel were the greatest referral source (25%), replacing direct mail as the primary source (7.50%). The second highest category was on-line resources (15%). PSO meetings, other incoming students, siblings or former students, current students, and YSI shared third place along with direct mail.

During 2002-2003 academic year we initiated new recruitment efforts that enhanced our two most successful strategies: A letter included in the mass mailings invited recipients to obtain additional Academy information and meet Academy students and staff at five state-wide meetings. Academy staff and students attended each meeting to contribute their perspectives on the Academy program. We also advertised for the first time on Georgia Public Radio. A team of Community Builders, a group of seventeen Academy scholars who volunteered to assist with recruitment, was organized. These students were trained in public speaking techniques and represented the Academy during campus-wide

visitation events and in-school presentations, such as parent night programs and meetings with teachers of the gifted.

Some of these strategies were continued in the 2003-2004 year. Regional meetings were held in Augusta, Savannah, and on the Georgia Tech campus. It was determined that the regional meetings in Augusta and on the Georgia Tech campus were worthwhile; they will be repeated in the 2004-2005 academic year.

In addition, we have reassigned some of our personnel. A new residence hall coordinator, who will have primary responsibility for Gunn Hall, was hired effective July 1, 2004. The assistant coordinator had her title changed (new title—activities coordinator and publicity specialist.) and responsibilities adjusted. Effective July 1, this person will help in the hall as activities coordinator and will be responsible for updating Academy recruiting materials (including the video/CD, viewbook, materials sent out to prospective students, completing the webpage update and keeping it current, creating the Academy newsletter) and making recruitment visits.

2. The average GPA for 2003-2004 was lower than that of the previous year, although it was not far from the long-term Academy GPA average and far superior to the university average. In an effort to raise the academic performance level for FY'05, we will prohibit the use of video games in the floor lobbies, institute study programs in the hall, and schedule individual meetings with new students early in the semester.

General Statement of Academy Condition

The Advanced Academy of Georgia is generally in very good condition. The staff member who resigned in the middle of spring semester '04 was replaced effective July 1, 2004, and we are at full staff. There is a current need for additional administrative staff, including a combined Honors College/Academy recruitment person, counselor, and administrative aid. Gunn is undergoing major renovations this summer—renovated bathrooms and replaced windows in the individual rooms, including security screens on the first floors. At first we were told that the bathroom in the professional apartment was included in the renovations, but such is not the case. This work, if completed, will have to be contracted out. The large lobby windows also were not included in this renovation, even though a safety inspection of these windows was assigned to the university's Risk Management office. Other areas of Gunn's physical condition of Gunn Hall still need some attention: the air handlers in the main lobby are not working up to full capacity, causing the lobby to be excessively hot in the summer and cold in the winter; lobby windows will need to be replaced in the next few years (some have broken in recent years), and one of the main lobby windows leaks, There is inadequate lighting and ventilation in the music practice room; there is inadequate ventilation in the computer lab. Students complain of faulty Internet connections.

Academy students and staff continue to participate in Residence Hall counsel and other university activities, with great success. Please see below. The Academy, in general, continues to provide an excellent opportunity for academic acceleration combined with a

supportive residence hall program that results in praise from both students and their parents.

Achievements

- Residence Hall programs were plentiful and of high quality, affording students opportunities for out-of-class learning, socialization, and personal growth.

Staff Productivity

- Staff continues to work at and above capacity, well in excess of 40 hours per week.
- Gunn Hall RAs won the following awards: Outstanding RA of the Year, New RA of the Year, and Programmer of the Year.
- Staff attended conferences for professional development and Academy recruitment.
- Academy director presented at the National Association of Gifted Children and International Association for Gifted and Talented Conferences.

Student Achievements

- Our residence hall council was named Outstanding RHC of the year (university-wide) for the third year in a row.
- An Academy student was named Hall Council Member of the Year (university-wide) for the third year in a row.
- Gunn Hall was named Grand Champion of homecoming for its float, which won top honors, and for participation in all homecoming events.
- Gunn Hall won many “of the Month” awards on campus, state-wide, and regionally: Community Service Program of the Month (St. Patty’s Day Café), Student of the Month (twice), Advisor of the Month,
- Eight current and two former Academy students were awarded the University’s prestigious Presidential Scholarships.
- Current and former Academy students were honorees at the State University of West Georgia’s 2004 Academic Honors Convocation: Phi Kappa Phi Award of Excellence in Arts & Science, John J. Pershing Award for Scholarship in Arts & Science, and Outstanding Honors College Sophomores and Juniors.
- A majority placed out of the freshman English Composition requirements and earned placement in sophomore-level Honors literature courses.
- Many were enrolled in advanced mathematics courses and earned placement in accelerated and Honors chemistry courses as well as higher-level physics and biology classes.
- Students presented their research at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference, and at the Georgia Academy of Science
- Students took Honors classes in numerous departments throughout the University, including: mathematics, English, anthropology, psychology, biology, history,

foreign language, physical education, political science, astronomy, economics, chemistry, sociology, philosophy, marketing, and accounting

- Academy students participated in a wide variety of community service projects, including: tutoring programs at local elementary schools, the local soup kitchen and children's home, a retirement center, A-Day for West Georgia, Red Cross blood drives, a recycling program within Gunn Hall, helping at a community center serving the local Latino population, participated in Safe Treat, and held their annual St. Patty's Day fundraiser that earned over \$1,000 dollars that was donated to two local organizations.
- 100% percent of Academy seniors continued their university education after high school graduation; twenty-four post-Academy scholarships were offered
- This year's graduating students were accepted into the following institutions: Agnes Scott College, Berry College, Brigham Young University, Emory University, Flagler College, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Howard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mt. Holyoke, Southern Illinois University, Tulane University, University of Georgia, University of Iowa, University of Utah, University of West Georgia, Vanderbilt University, Wellesley, and Xavier University.

Other Awards, Distinctions, and Achievements

- Our annual St. Patty's Day Café won Hall Council program of the year (university-wide) for the third year in a row.
- Students participated in the American Invitational Mathematics Exam, the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, the United State physics Team contest, the American Mathematical Competition, and Academic and College Bowls. The University's College Bowl team was composed entirely of Academy students.
- Students were awarded AP credit in calculus, statistics, American government, United States history, world history, computer science, psychology, economics, physics, and chemistry.

