

**THE ADVANCED ACADEMY OF GEORGIA
ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003**

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 juniors and seniors 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 Goal
Provide educational opportunities for extraordinary high school juniors and seniors.	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
62 students were admitted into the Advanced Academy of Georgia for the 2002-2003 year	End of year reports.	Admission increased from previous year.
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 3.473 GPA.
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

While admissions were up from the previous year, we wanted to enhance our recruitment activities. We examined the statistics about how this year’s students first heard of the Advanced Academy. Thirty-five percent first heard of this program through our mass mailings. (This is consistent with all former years—a majority of our students report their first contact with the Academy was through our mailing.) Fifteen percent learned of the Academy through current Academy students or from Duke TIP. Former Academy students or siblings who had attended the Academy were the primary factors for ten percent of our students. The rest of our students learned of us from high school personnel, Academy staff contacts, our website, a UWG Honors student, and through Young Scholars Institute.

We came up with the following 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. Meetings were held in Gwinnett County, Macon, Atlanta, Rome, and Savannah. 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.

General Statement of Academy Condition

The Advanced Academy of Georgia is generally in very good condition. The staff member who resigned last year was replaced, 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. The professional staff apartment in the Academy residence hall received needed attention and was significantly improved. The deck was pressure washed and several interior spaces were painted. The main lobby has new furniture, and some floor lobbies have used but new-to-Gunn furniture that is superior to that which was replaced. Dry erase boards and window blinds were placed in each of the small study carrels in the hall. The physical condition of Gunn Hall needs 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; hall windows will need to be replaced in the next few years (some have broken in recent years), there is a leak in a lobby window, and security screens for the first floors need to be installed. 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. Students have achieved great things, fulfilling our and their expectations.

Achievements

- Residence Hall programs were plentiful and of high quality, affording students opportunities for out-of-class learning, socialization, and personal growth.
- The average GPA this academic year (3.473 in spring semester) was the highest since the Academy's inception.

Staff Productivity

- The addition of an Assistant Residential Coordinator allowed for a stronger leadership team and provided double support for the Resident Assistants.
- 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.

Student Achievements

- Our residence hall council was named Outstanding RHC of the year (university-wide) for the second year in a row.
- An Academy student was named Hall Council Member of the Year (university-wide) for the second year in a row.
- Six current and five 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 Academic Honors Convocation: Academic Recognition Day Scholar and Outstanding Honors College Freshmen, Sophomores, Outstanding Honors College Juniors , and Seniors.
- 54% placed out of the first freshman English Composition requirements and earned placement in sophomore-level Honors literature courses.
- 55% were enrolled in advanced mathematics courses.
- Many earned placement in accelerated and Honors chemistry courses.
- Students are also enrolled in higher-level physics and biology classes.
- Academy students are engaged in projects or original research through the departments of chemistry, psychology, math, marketing and physics
- Students presented their research at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference, and at the Georgia Academy of Science
- An Academy student presented two papers, one co-wrote with two other students and one an individual project, at the Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America, and both his projects were listed among the top ten projects at the conference.

- Three West Georgia students, including one current and one former Academy students, presented a paper at the National Social Sciences Association annual conference and won first place in a competition that included all students, including graduate students.
- A current Academy student and two former students made presentations at the annual meeting of the National Conferences for Undergraduate research.
- 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, raised money for the March of Dimes, and the humane society.
- 100% percent of Academy seniors continued their university education after high school graduation; twenty post-Academy scholarships were offered
- This year's graduating students were accepted into the following institutions: Agnes Scott College, Boston University, Clemson University, Duke University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Northeastern University Oakwood College Savannah College of Art and Design, Transylvania University, University of Georgia, University of Hawaii, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, University of West Georgia, Washington University in St. Louis, and Wisconsin Lutheran College.
- Several students had their poetry and art work published in the University's art magazine, *The Eclectic*, and others acted in university productions at the Townsend Center for Performing Arts.
- An Academy student was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship this year, the third Academy student to be so honored.

[Other Awards, Distinctions, and Achievements](#)

- Our annual St. Patty's Day Café won Hall Council program of the year (university-wide) for the second year in a row.
- Student 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.
- Students were awarded AP credit in calculus, American government, United States history, psychology, biology, and chemistry