Greetings from Jill,

This is a busy time for me as the Director of the Opportunity Scholars Program. I have been working to achieve several of the goals I set for the OSP 2007-08 program. Here is my scorecard (√√√=achieved goal):

√√√ Hire a coordinator to help with the day-to-day program administration: We enthusiastically welcome Adrianne Prysock to OSP;
√√ Enable returning scholars to begin research early in fall semester: With the cooperation of our funding agents and mentors, most scholars are off and rolling;
√ Include a community service component to the OSP program: Working on this one;
√ √ Renew and expand the program: This is the big news! In addition to Intel Corporation’s continued support, Rockwell Collins, Inc. is now on board as an official sponsor of the OSP program; and
√ Expand the program to include more research areas: Last year we added a “Power” group to our research community and this year I continue to work with other faculty members to expand our network.

One goal I always have for myself is to implement a program that creates a supportive, yet challenging academic research experience for undergraduate students. To achieve this goal, the program needs ongoing maintenance, revision and support from industry, mentors, faculty research advisors and most of all, the undergraduate Scholars. See you all on October 10!

Welcome OSP Participants!!

Returning Scholars
Andrew Bardagjy
Geller Bedoya
Seema Bhandari
Jason Cordero
Elliott Hernandez
Shabrina Jauhal
Mekre Mesganaw
Rodrigo Quinteros
Dawn Tall

Melissa Watkins

Returning Mentors
Bryan Morris
Ryan Pirkl
Sekou Remy
Yamille del Valle
Edem Womyo
Farhana Zaman

New Scholars

New Mentors

Michael Digman
Akilah Doyle
Courtney Drewski
Nidhi Joshi
Odile Mugisha
Nicole Rennalls
Kevin Fairbanks
Lorne Liechty
Getting Paid: Keeping Time

Timesheet Process

• Get blank timesheet from Adrianne Prysock (Van Leer 272) for the first pay period
• Subsequent timesheets will be pre-printed and available from the ECE accounting office in Van Leer
• Keep track of hours worked using timesheet
• At the end of the bi-weekly pay period have mentor sign sheet
• Turn sheet in to Adrianne Prysock by 3pm on due biweekly date
• Get paid!

Fall Timesheet Due Dates

October 10, 2007
October 24, 2007
November 7, 2007
November 21, 2007
December 5, 2007

Orientation Kickoff Dinner

The Opportunity Scholars Program 2007 Orientation and Kickoff Event will be held on October 10 at 6:00 p.m., location to be determined. The agenda for the evening will include an overview of program procedures, review of program requirements and benefits, and introduction of new scholars and mentors.

We will have a special guest at this event, Nan Mattai, the Senior Vice President of Technology and Engineering at Rockwell Collins, Inc., who is eager to learn more about the program and meet the ECE program participants. Since Rockwell Collins, Inc. is our new corporate sponsor, we are particularly excited to have Ms. Mattai join us for our annual kickoff. Please note that Ms. Mattai is the featured speaker at the James R. Carreker Distinguished Lecture held on October 11.

In addition to our guest, the ECE School Chair, Dr. Gary May, Associate Chair for Undergraduate Programs, Dr. Doug Williams and other faculty research advisors and administrators will also attend. This is an important event and all scholars and mentors are strongly encouraged to attend. Please save this date now so that scheduling conflicts can be avoided. A reminder email before fall break will be sent. A nice dinner, sponsored by the ECE Development Office, will be served.

Step One: Research Abstract

Each scholar group is once again required to submit a “research abstract.” This is an important component to the undergraduate research experience and will encourage groups to clearly articulate the research purpose, objectives and a timeline. We have a suggested format for the abstract that includes the required elements.

Returning Scholar Abstract Deadline: November 1, 2007
New Scholar Abstract Deadline: December 1, 2007

The abstract template and examples will be distributed at the October 10 kickoff event.

A very special acknowledgment to Andy Bardagjy. He submitted his research abstract BEFORE the announcement went out. This is analogous to the student who throws off the grading curve in class by making 100. Thanks to Andy for his abstract title Gaze Control for Human Robot Interaction.

“We are shut up in schools and college recitation rooms for ten or fifteen years, and come out at last with a bellyful of words and do not know a thing “

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson
Throughout the year, opportunities may arise for OSP participants to network with corporate representatives, showcase the OSP and talk about their research experience. These opportunities give OSP scholars and mentors a chance to make a lasting impression on someone that could aid in future career opportunities as well as promote the program.

- Special thanks to Jason Cordero, Rodrigo Quinteros, and Sekou Remy, who met with Mr. Kenneth Brown of Bose Corporation for lunch at the Ferst Place restaurant to discuss the benefits of participating in the OSP.

- ECE rush is an event sponsored by the School of ECE that provides freshmen a chance to learn about clubs, programs, and extracurricular activities offered by the department. Special thanks to Melissa Watkins, Bryan Morris, and Danny Cepeda for their participation at the OSP table during the ECE Rush.

An OSP information meeting for prospective scholars will be held October 2, 2007 from 11am-12pm in Van Leer 231. Feel free to join us and talk to prospective Scholars about your experience in the Program.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, October 11 and plan to attend the James R. Carreker Distinguished Lecture. Nan Mattai, senior vice president of Rockwell Collins Engineering & Technology, will be the featured speaker, and her lecture topic will be "Aerospace & Defense Industry - Today and Tomorrow."

For details on the President’s Undergraduate Research Award (PURA), please visit: www.advising.tac.gatech.edu/content/beyond/pura.html

The Opportunity Scholars Program would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. This year we are pleased to have the Intel Corporation returning as a major sponsor and we are excited to have additional research groups supported by our new sponsor, Rockwell Collins, Inc. We are also pleased to have additional support from Dr. Greg Durgan’s National Science Foundation grant. Along with the support of our outside sponsors, we depend on the assistance of Georgia Tech ECE staff to keep the OSP running effectively.