For the first time, the Opportunity Research Scholars (ORS) kickoff event included representatives from one of our industry sponsors: Rockwell Collins, Inc. We were especially honored to have Nan Mattai, Senior Vice President for Engineering and Technology, join us for dinner and address the audience. Along with Ms. Mattai’s colleagues from Rockwell Collins, this was an opportunity for all of us to interact with our industry partner. As you look down the road for internships and career options, these types of events help prepare you for those challenges. Learning to present yourself, as well as your research and career interests, takes practice. Even if Rockwell Collins is not where you hope to intern or eventually work, the value of attending and participating in these events will contribute to your professional growth.

There are other workshops and activities that we hope will also be helpful. Several are already planned such as our community service event, research poster workshop and the annual graduate student panel. If any of you have suggestions for workshops, outings, or special guest speakers, please pass them along to me or Adrianne. Our program events are not limited to a strictly professional focus, but can include social and cultural development as well.

On a closing note, please remember to RSVP for these events. As with any invitation, via email, phone, or postal, the request to RSVP should be taken seriously. Do not ignore the request from me or anyone else, because it can reflect poorly on you. For our program purposes, we use the RSVP list to determine the number of handouts we prepare, the amount of food, size of room and a number of other time-consuming tasks. Even if you delay, it is better to RSVP late than not at all.

Hopefully I will see all you soon at one of our planned events. Do not forget to send me your suggestions. As always, it is my pleasure to direct this program.

Jill Auerbach
ORS Program Director

Welcome New OSP Participants!!

**New Scholars**
Markus Austin
Charles Goolsby
Jerome Vinson

**New Mentor**
Stefan Grubic
Advisor: Dr. Habteler
Research Area: Power and motor diagnostics
Announcements and Reminders

- Scholars that have been actively participating in the ORS program will receive their stipend for the Fall 2007 semester at the end of November.
- Research abstracts are due for all groups by November 15th. Please email all abstracts to Jill or Adrianne by this date. If you have questions about this requirement, email or make an appointment with Adrianne.
- Next semester, ORS will be physically expanding to include Van Leer 472. This office will serve as a meeting space for mentors and scholars and is available for all ORS participants to use.
- Jason Cordero will be spending the spring semester at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. This is Jason’s fourth and last co-op tour. He will be working with Mission Operations. Some of the he has worked on include:
  - GUI design for space station computer systems
  - Command and control application for lunar rover test bed
  - Space station support
  - Mission support for space shuttle flight STS-117
- In the December newsletter we would like to know what you are doing for the holiday break. Please send Adrianne an email highlighting your exciting holiday plans!
- Please remember to submit timesheets to Adrianne Prysock (Van Leer 466) on a bi-weekly basis.

"The service you do for others is the rent you pay for the time you spend on earth. “
--- Mohammed Ali

ORS Inaugural Community Service Event

Save the date: November 29th, 2007 for our first ever ORS Community Service event!!

The Grady Hospital Lindbergh Women & Children's Clinic and the Grady International Clinic, serve a diverse population and provides an array of healthcare services.

Why Lindbergh Center is Special? The physicians and staff emphasize preventive health care such as prenatal care, healthy nutrition for moms & infants, pediatric well-check-ups and routine immunizations.

Who Are the Patients At Lindbergh? The Center sees about 600 children during the holiday season, in addition to pregnant and new moms. Like the surrounding community, many patients are Spanish speaking, often where parents speak little or no English.

Toiletry Bags for Moms-to-be: The staff is trying a variety of strategies to get moms-to-be to attend classes to learn about prenatal care, medical services and nutrition. One strategy that is encouraging is to provide an incentive. Small toiletry bags are such an incentive. Here is the request:

Toiletries needed…..Small sample size containers of shampoo, lotion, conditioner, mouthwash, soap, toothbrushes, combs, etc…Clear plastic bags and ribbons.

Please begin collecting items to drop off in Adrianne’s office in preparation for the bag stuffing event.
ORS Scholar Spotlight: Melissa Watkins

I am a 3rd year Electrical Engineering student at Georgia Tech, expecting to graduate in May 2009. Through summer internships and research experience, I have gained experience in reliability engineering within the chemical industry, corporate HR and college recruiting, robotics, and nanotechnology. I am proficient with MatLab, Java, URBILab, Webots, Quartus, and SPICE. Some of my strengths include my organizational skills, time management, and ability to find the positives in any situation.

Outside the academic realm, I am a musician, artist, and world traveler. Most recently, I studied abroad at Georgia Tech Lorraine in Metz, France during the summer 2007 term. In addition to my thermodynamics, statistics, and ethics courses, I traveled to nine European countries--immersing myself in European culture and cuisine and growing through planning weekend trips and adapting to unforeseen situations. In extension to my new-found love of traveling, I have a passion for learning and exposing myself to new things, especially technically and culturally.

Currently I am pursuing internship opportunities for summer 2008. I hope to gain new exposure to an area of Electrical Engineering, such as DSP, microelectronics, or digital and analog systems. Within my robotics research, I am expanding my previous work of programming Sony AIBOs for urban search and rescue applications to incorporate integration and communication between multiple robots in the same environment.

Interesting Note: Melissa Watkins was the ECE nominee for the 2007 Women of Distinction award at Georgia Tech!!!

For more information visit: http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/wlc/

Upcoming Events:
- Research 101 Workshop
- Graduate Student Panel
- Community Service Activity
- Creating a Research Poster Workshop
- ORSP Poster Competition

New Monthly Feature!!
Each month we will feature an ORS scholar in the newsletter. You will receive a request to send a short bio and answer fun questions about your personal interests and hobbies, little known facts, academic achievements, and anything else that you would like for the ORS community to know.

Program Sponsors

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.