

# ORS

## Opportunity Research Scholars' Program

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### IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 11	Revised Project Summaries Due
Feb 17	SRC/Intel Visit
March 1	Poster Workshop with Christina Bougeious
March 4	Summer PURA applications due
March 10	Presentation Workshop with Jill
March 15	Poster Workshop with Professor Greg Durgin
April 1	ORS Poster Deadline (1st choice timeslot for competition)
April 1	Tower Journal submissions due
April 4	Final ORS Poster Deadline
April 7 & 8	ORS Poster Competition
April 11	ORS Poster Competition and Banquet
May 20	Fall PURA applications due

*A community of dedicated students who work together to broaden the academic experience.*

### Scholars Present at Research Roundtable

The ability to communicate effectively in both oral and written form is a valuable skill for engineers engaged in research. Towards this goal, ORS research teams gave oral presentations summarizing their research projects during the annual Scholar-Led Research Roundtable. The event provides Scholars with an opportunity to practice their communication skills in front of an audience of their peers, men-

tors, and ORS staff. Presentations focused on research purpose or hypothesis, methods and timeline. Each team presentation concluded with a Q & A period.

Scholars will give a comprehensive presentation of their research at the ORS Poster Competition and Awards Banquet on April 11, 2011, where the skills used for the Re-

search Roundtable will come in handy.

Joseph Lind and Yujie Fu present their research during the Research Roundtable



### Undergraduate Education Priority for ORS Faculty

Ever wonder how ORS faculty advisors are selected?

First, faculty advisors must make a one year commitment to the program. That includes providing a PhD student, laboratory space and access to equipment for the team, giving guidance and oversight for the project and attending ORS events, including the end-of-year banquet. Second, faculty must be committed to a

laboratory environment where undergraduates feel comfortable and welcome. And third, faculty advisors understand that in ORS, undergraduate teams may include students with no research experience.

No wonder ORS has a group of truly extraordinary faculty advisors who exemplify our commitment to undergraduate education!

Joey Yore, Miguel Serrano (mentor), Dr. Patricio Vela (Faculty Advisor) Sergey Shcherbina, Andrew Sives, and Jeff Lumish



### So You Want To Attend Graduate School?



Professor Bonnie Ferri, Associate Chair of Graduate Affairs, conducting the Research Skills Workshop, held November 30, 2010.

Professor Bonnie Ferri, Associate Chair of Graduate Affairs, conducted a fall semester workshop on preparations for graduate school and what to expect once admitted. Dr. Ferri also focused on the trade-offs between graduate school and pursuing employment directly out of undergraduate school.

Since a primary goal of ORS is to encourage students to consider graduate school, Professor Ferri suggested that Scholars start early in preparing their applications and think about

potential research advisors. For ORS undergraduates, the contacts made while in ORS gives them a step-up in this process. The general requirements for admittance to the BS/MS 5-year program and the MS and PhD programs, of particular interest to junior and senior ORS scholars in attendance, were also reviewed by Dr. Ferri.

Research mentors, Greg Drayer and Christopher Valenta also shared their own experiences as graduate students with the group.

## Projecting A Professional Presence

On Friday, January 14, 2011, ORS Scholars and Mentors learned about projecting a professional presence and the importance of developing leadership skills from Akil



Mr. Akil Fischer engages Jeremy Thompson, ORS Scholar, in the discussion.

Fischer, the Managing Director of the Advanced Technology Group at inCode, the Strategy Consulting Division of Ericsson. Samir Davis, an ORS Mentor Alumni and Senior Consultant with inCode arranged the workshop.

Mr. Davis began the discussion with tips for navigating a career fair. He suggested that Scholars come prepared with a two minute elevator pitch, explaining what they want to do and why they would be a good fit with the company. The elevator pitch is a key component of an ORS workshop held early in the program year. Throughout the year, Scholars have many opportunities to practice their elevator talks in both formal and informal settings.

Two ORS Scholars, Sam Elia and Brett Ireland, reported that all that practice paid off when they used these skills (ironically in an elevator) at a conference they attended during fall semester. The overall message that was stressed at this workshop was to take calculated risks and not be fearful of changing the status quo.

*“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.”*

— Marianne Williamson

## ORS Accolades

ORS Mentor, **Greg Drayer**, won a Georgia Tech Research and Innovation Conference Fellowship Award for his research poster, “Design and Simulation of a Reconfigurable Aquatic Habitat for Experiments in Life Support Control.” The conference was held on February 8, 2011 at the Georgia Tech Student Center. Greg’s advisor is Dr. Ayanna Howard. Congratulations, Greg!



ORS mentor, **Nashlie Sephus**, was awarded a \$400 travel award to present

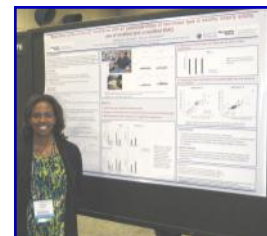
her research at the Women in Machine Learning (WiML) Workshop at the Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) conference. The workshop was held December 6, 2010 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Nashlie’s advisor is Dr. Chin-Hua Lee. Congratulations, Nashlie!

ORS Scholar, **Sean Sanders**, was awarded the Spring 2011 President’s Undergraduate Research Award (PURA) for conference travel. Sean will present his research at the IEEE Southeast Conference in Nashville, Tennessee March 17-20, 2011. Sean’s ORS Mentor is Troy Nunnally, and his Faculty Advisor is Dr. Henry Owen. Congratulations, Sean!

ORS Scholar, **Aaron Fan**, is a member of a team that is a finalist for the InVenture Prize @ Georgia Tech. The final competi-

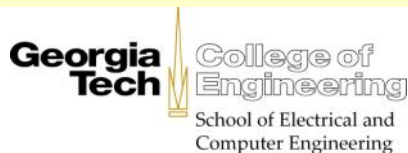
tion will be televised by GA Public Broadcasting on March 9 at 6:30PM. Congratulations, Aaron!

ORS Graduate Assistant, **Ashley N. Johnson**, was awarded the Society for Neuroscience Graduate Student Travel Award in the amount of \$1,000 to present her research at the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) Conference. SfN was held November 13-17, 2010 in San Diego, California. Ashley’s faculty advisors are Dr. George Vachtsevanos and Dr. Minoru Shinohara. Congratulations, Ashley!



**ORS Scholars — Submit your research to The Tower Undergraduate Research Journal.** It’s a great way to showcase your research and maximize your opportunities. The deadline is **April 1, 2011**. For detailed submission information, go to: <http://ggttower.org>

**WELCOME** to the newest ORS Research Team in the Parallel and Distributed Learning Lab: **Dr. Bo Hong**, Faculty Advisor, **Zhengyu He**, PhD Mentor, and ORS Scholars **Moses Isang**, **Kevin Moore**, and **Matt Petersen**. The team began a study on the impact of Thread Prioritization Strategies for Multi-core Computing in February.



### Opportunity Research Scholars' Program

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