

THE ADVANCED ACADEMY OF GEORGIA
at the
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

In 2004 the *Princeton Review* first published a new guidebook to colleges and universities listing the best 100 schools across the southeast, and UWG was included as a “Best Southeastern College” in both the first and second editions. *The Best Southeastern Colleges* showcases the top schools in 10 states after rating them in several categories including: admissions selectivity, fire safety, quality of life, academics, and financial aid ratings. The excellent ratings received by UWG that allowed its inclusion in these publications contribute to the quality experience Advanced Academy of Georgia students have on this campus. Our students benefit from the ambiance, safety factors, quality of life, and academic rigor found on this campus in equal measure, if not more so, than any other students on campus.

In its tenth year at the State University of West Georgia, The Advanced Academy of Georgia, a component of the University’s Honors College, enrolled 61 academically talented high school high school-aged students. Twenty-seven students returned from the previous year, and 34 were newly accepted. The class was composed of 15 juniors, 45 seniors, and one young man of exceptional ability who entered as a 13 year old after his eighth grade, 30 females and 31 males. Diversity continues to be a hallmark of the Academy experience; our population consisted of six African-Americans, one German-African, one Russian, one Kenyan, one Philippino, one Tanzanian, three Asian Indian-Americans, five from Spain, and one student each from Oklahoma, Kentucky, and Ohio. All other students were Georgia residents. Although we recruit students from across the state, ten percent of this year’s class came from Carroll County (home of the University of West Georgia) and fifty-six percent came from the 13 county greater Atlanta metro area. Ten percent of our students are international, and five percent are from out-of-state.

The 2004-2005 Academy class was highly qualified academically. SAT scores, earned when many of the students were high school sophomores or younger, averaged 648 and 645 on the verbal and math components, respectively, and the average composite score was 1297. The non-weighted high school Grade Point Average for the incoming students, based on college preparatory curriculum classes only, was 3.66 (including AP, Honors, and gifted classes). Students received AP credit in calculus, statistics, chemistry, United States history, world history, American government, psychology, economics, physics, biology, and English.

Academy students continue to accelerate academically. Among the 34 new students, a majority earned registration in sophomore-level Honors literature classes due to their demonstrated proficiency in English writing skills. Over half enrolled in advanced mathematics courses, and many earned placement in Honors chemistry classes. Students also enrolled in higher-level physics and biology classes, and many young scholars in the

2004-2005 class engaged in projects or original research through the departments of chemistry, math, and physics.

As in past years, Academy scholars demonstrated keen interest and talent in the fine arts. Academy musicians played the piano, flute, violin, and guitar as well as wrote poetry, danced, acted, and sang. They performed individually and as an ensemble during Academy events, including the annual Board of Trustees dinner and meeting and the end-of-year Recognition Ceremony, more affectionately known as The Academy Awards. Students demonstrated their talent, or in some cases, their hilarious extreme lack of talent, during our annual Academy Idol program. In addition, the Academy yearbook was organized and created entirely by students.

Academy scholars were active participants in the University's Honors College and took a preponderance of Honors classes. They also were active members of the Honors Council, the student-run organization of the Honors College that provides community service and recreational opportunities for Honors students. An Academy student was elected president of the Honors council this year, the youngest president ever, and helped organize and lead the Honor College's annual spring break trip to Washington, DC. At the 2005 Honors Convocation, current and former Academy students were recognized as Outstanding Honors College freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. Our students continue to be a potent academic force in the University community after completion of the Academy program.

Academy students continued to demonstrate their academic prowess both in and out of the classroom. The Mathematical Contest in Modeling, the United States Physics Team Contest, the American Mathematics Exam (three students who took this exam qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam), and Academic and College Bowls commanded their attention. The University's College Bowl team, which traveled to Tampa, Florida to compete, was made up solely of Academy students. A first year Academy student was presented with the Philosophy Department's New Major Award at the English and Philosophy awards ceremony this spring.

Research

A large group of University of West Georgia students, including two former Academy scholars, attended this year's National Collegiate Honors Council Conference (NCHC) in New Orleans in November. NCHC provides a forum for students from around the country to gather together and present their original research projects. The organization generally accepts 10% of the proposals submitted, and for five of the past seven years, the University of West Georgia has had more student proposals accepted than any other institution in the country. Current and former Academy students also presented their research at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference, the southeast Regional meeting of the American Chemical Society, and at the National Conferences for Undergraduate Research.

A team of University of West Georgia physics and chemistry students that includes one current and one former Academy student has been conducting research on "The Effects

of Acoustics on Combustion in Microgravity.” Their proposal to NASA Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunity Program was accepted, and they will be going to Houston, Texas in July, 2005 to conduct their experiment while flying in reduced gravity on a DC-9 aircraft, affectionately dubbed the “Vomit Comet.”

One of our students was among eight UWG students who presented research at the annual meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science in collaboration with Physics Department faculty. She received a Best Student Paper Award in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Technology.

A former Academy student was one of three West Georgia alumni that were listed in *Georgia Trend* magazine’s eighth “40 Under 40” list, which recognizes Georgia’s “rising superstars” in the business, academic, political, entrepreneurial and nonprofit fields. Following her graduation from UWG, this student attended the London School of Economics and became the youngest person ever to earn an MSc degree from that institution. She credits her Academy experience with giving her the start that made the rest possible.

Academy scholars also continued the tradition of being very involved in University and community activities. An important component of Academy life is community service. Academy students and staff sponsored the annual community service fair in September to which various community service agencies were invited to speak. Students volunteered at the Carroll County Soup Kitchen, participated in A-Day activities and Red Cross blood drives, visited senior citizens at the Stewart House, helped at the Brookwood Community Center, continued the Gunn Hall recycling program, participated in Safe Treat, tutored local students, helped kindergarten students from a local elementary school with reading, and participated in local trash pick-ups. In addition, Gunn Hall held the sixth annual St. Patty’s Day Café, a fundraiser that this year raised approximately \$500 that was donated to a local organization.

Another important component of the Academy program is the Thursday Night Dinner, during which students and staff enjoy dining together. Dinner is followed by a presentation, often given by a member of the West Georgia faculty or administration. This year’s programs included a UWG activities fair; a study skills session; a program on terrorism; a trip to the Alliance Theater in Atlanta where we saw *The Fourth Wall*; a local high school student reported on her trip to Madagascar where she accompanied a UWG professor; Dr. Tracy Stallings, former Carrollton area member of the Georgia legislature, spoke on public service; local author Sybil Rosen spoke on her craft and most recent book; Mr. Neely Young, editor of *Georgia Trend* magazine; Mr. Cliff Oxford, entrepreneur and former UGW graduate; and our students presented the second annual Academy Idol, a newly established Academy tradition that combines talent with a great deal of humor.

Although 61 students were eligible to enroll at the beginning of the year, including 27 returning students, by the beginning of spring semester we were down to 49 students. Every year returning students must reapply for their second year in the Academy. They

are evaluated in terms of their contributions to the Academy and UWG and their academic and discipline records. This year for the first time, several students' applications were not accepted. Several of them made arrangements to go to summer school with the understanding that their status would be re-evaluated in August after receipt of their transcripts and other supporting documents. As a consequence, three did not return. In addition, one student was dismissed for disciplinary reasons, three were allowed to withdraw after serious disciplinary infractions, two returned to Spain for personal reasons, two graduated high school early and transferred to other institutions, and one went home because he did not like Academy rules.

Ten students (20 percent) had perfect Grade Point Averages of 4.00 in the fall semester, and 19 (thirty-seven percent) were on the Dean's List. In the spring semester, three students had Grade Point Averages of 4.00, while the median GPA was 3.30; sixteen students (thirty-three percent) made the Dean's List. Seventy-three percent earned a 3.00 or better. The median cumulative GPA for the year was 3.19.

There were a preponderance of high school seniors in this year's class, and there are only 14 students returning for academic year 2005-2006. One student is not returning for personal reasons. To date, 50 students have been accepted into The Academy for the fall 2005 semester, and inquiries and applications are continuing to arrive.

All of the high school seniors from the 2004-2005 class (including those who entered as juniors in fall 2003) graduated from their local high schools and are classified as either college sophomores or juniors, depending on their high school placement when they entered The Academy. Forty percent of our students chose to remain at the University of West Georgia after high school graduation, and fifteen percent will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology. Sixty-seven percent of our students will remain within the University System of Georgia. Students were accepted into the following institutions: Armstrong Atlantic State University, Boston University, Brenau University, Clemson University, Davidson College, Emory University, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida Southern College, Florida State University, Furman University, Georgia Institute of Technology, George Washington University, Georgia Southern University, Griffith University (Australia), Johns Hopkins University, Lee University, Long Island University, Mercer University, New York University, Northeastern University, Reed College, St. John's College of Maryland, St. Mary's University of Maryland, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Miami, University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina, University of Queensland (Australia), University of Tampa, University of West Georgia, and Valdosta State University.

In addition to the prestigious University of West Georgia Presidential Scholarships, Academy students were awarded the following scholarships for post-Academy matriculation in fall 2005: Chancellor's Scholar at University of Minnesota, Furman Scholar, Davidson Scholar AP Scholar, Georgia Association of Educators scholarship, National Achievement Scholarship, Educational Communication Scholarship, The Florida Institute of Technology NCSSSMST Scholarship, Centennial Gold Scholarship (Lee University), and National Merit Scholarships. In addition, many students were

named Star Students from their high schools and were listed in Who's Who Among American Students. Several students were named valedictorian or salutatorian of their class.

This year (2004-2005), seven current and seven former Academy students were awarded the University's Presidential Scholarship. In the third of a five year donation commitment, the Watson-Brown Foundation provided scholarships for 17 students. The Sallie Mae Corporation donation for 2003-2004 year was not all disbursed. We contacted them and asked if they wanted the balance returned. The response was to keep it to award scholarships for the 2004-2005 year. This year, 10 students received financial awards from the Sallie Mae funds. Students also received scholarship awards from the Pat Hughes Memorial and Julian C. Stanley Scholarship Funds. The Advanced Academy and its students are grateful for the continued support it receives that allows all students, regardless of family income, to participate in this program.

Extensive budget cuts and financial restrictions from the previous years have negatively affected the funds available for Academy programming activities. We have had to scale back programs, including our artist/lecture series, and face the prospect of further cuts in traditional Academy activities in many different areas (the annual Academy Awards Ceremony at the end of the year, travel to make research presentations, recruitment and publicity activities, and professional development) if this trend continues. Additional budgetary cuts would make it impossible to maintain the excellent opportunities we have been able to offer our students in the past that have been the hallmark of The Advanced Academy program. During last year's legislative session the Special Initiative Funds that had supported the Academy were eliminated. Fortunately, funds were made available that allowed the Academy to continue in operation for FY '05.

Last year Rep. Phil Gingrey and his staff sponsored a provision in the Education Bill presented to the U.S. Congress that would allow high school students who are enrolled full time in a residential university program to receive Title IV funds. This bill still awaits passage, and we remain hopeful our students will be able to benefit.

Fund for the Improvement of Education Grant from the US Department of Education

We were delighted when we received notification early this fall that The Advanced Academy had been awarded a one-year grant from the United States Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Education Program. These funds were earmarked for supplies and equipment, technology, and personnel. This was a grant that we had not expected to receive, so we were thrilled to know that we would have some one-time money to spend. We applied for this grant, then the paperwork and behind-the-scenes workings in our behalf were conducted by the office of our U.S. Congressman, Mr. Phil Gingrey. Without the assistance we received from his office, these funds most likely would not have found their way to us. We are grateful for his continued support of The Advanced Academy and the University of West Georgia.

The first thing we did was to hire Justin Barlow, former Academy resident assistant and Gunn Hall director, to help with recruiting. The second thing we decided to do was to change the configuration of the Gunn Hall computer lab. The former lab on the main lobby level was converted into the hall director's office, and 12 new computers were purchased, two for each floor, and two printers were installed on the second floor of each wing. This will allow students to have 24 hour access to the equipment, which is a definite improvement over the limitations of the former lab.

Perhaps the most immediately obvious change is the new furniture that was installed in Gunn's main lobby and the six floor lobbies in January. We also moved some personnel items from the Academy's annual budget into the grant for this year. Moving these funds freed up "regular" money so we were able to create a new promotional DVD and viewbook to send out with our mass mailing recruitment efforts.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Once again, The Academy's prominent Board of Trustees held its annual meeting in February on the West Georgia campus. Members are:

- Dr. Nancy M. Robinson, Chair, Former Director, Hobart Robinson Center for Young Scholars and Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (*emerita*), University of Washington;
- Juanita Powell Baranco, J.D., Co-owner and Vice President, Baranco Automotive Group;
- Stuart N. Bennett, Ed.S., Deputy Superintendent of Policy and External Affairs, Georgia Department of Education;
- Arthur Dunning, Ph.D., Vice President for Public Service and Outreach and Associate Provost, University of Georgia;
- Brenda C. Fitzgerald, M.D., Chairman of the Board, Georgia Public Policy Foundation;
- J. Wayne Garner, Mayor, City of Carrollton;
- Elizabeth Harris, Former First Lady of Georgia;
- Sally Krisel, Ed.D., Gifted Program Coordinator, Georgia Department of Education;
- Dr. Robert C. McMath, Jr., Ph.D., Professor and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology;
- Susan Meridith, Co-Owner Hutton and Meridith;
- Alice H. Richards, member, Board of Directors, Southwire Co.;
- Holly A. Robinson, Ed.D., Senior Vice President, Georgia Public Policy Foundation;
- Jack H. Schuster, J.D., Ph.D., Professor of Education and Public Policy, Claremont Graduate University;
- Julian C. Stanley, Ed.D., Professor of Psychology (*emeritus*) and Former Director, SMPY, Johns Hopkins University;
- Thomas Upchurch, Former President, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education; and

- Paul H. L. Walter, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry (*emeritus*), Skidmore College, and Past President, American Chemical Society.

Topics on this year's agenda included the one-year Federal Grant that we received this year and its effects, recruitment activities (tried and true and new initiatives), term expirations, and Dr. Stanley informed us of new trends in the early identification of talent. Friday evening's reception and dinner was followed by a lively, timely, and sometimes emotional discussion of the pros and cons of military service and whether this generation feels, or should feel, a moral responsibility to serve similar to the one felt during World Wars I and II. The final event of the night was the fifth annual Dr. Julian C. Stanley Distinguished Lecture Series presented by Dr. Jack Schuster, who spoke on "Higher Education's Future and Where the Advanced Academy Fits In," an informative and thought provoking analysis of current trends in post-secondary institutions.

Saturday's intensive work session resulted in a flurry of suggestions for new recruitment ideas, future meetings, and the beginning of an alumni giving program. Everyone agreed that this meeting between Academy and University personnel and Board members was one of the most productive. We are grateful to our Board members for their continued support, enthusiasm, and their genuine interest in our program and students.

Seven Board members' terms of service expired this year, and three were renewed, prompting a discussion of possible replacements. As a result, Sandra Dunson and Carlianne Patrick have accepted our offers to join the Board. We are delighted with the addition of each of them and look forward to their presence at future Board meetings.

Sandra Dunson is a former Advanced Academy employee. She was our Program Specialist, serving as our recruitment and admissions staff person, from 1997 – 1998. Ms. Dunson currently owns S. Dunson Consulting, a consulting and training firm with a direct focus in the area of Oracle/PeopleSoft Student Administration for the higher education industry. She also has generously awarded scholarships to participants in the Academy's summer camp, Young Scholars Institute for the past several years.

Carlianne Patrick is the first former Academy student (1996-1997) to sit on our Board. After graduating from the University of West Georgia, Ms. Patrick attended the London School of Economics, where she became the youngest student to earn a masters degree from that institution. She currently serves as the Vice President of Research and Planning for Carroll Tomorrow and Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

Bob McMath has announced his retirement from Georgia Tech and his next career step; he is taking a newly created job as Dean of the Honors College at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, effective August 1, 2005. We are excited for him and his new venture and hope he will be able to maintain his presence on our Board.

Young Scholars Institute (YSI)

In its seventh summer (July, 2004), The Young Scholars Institute continued its two-week summer camp for rising eighth and ninth grade students. Session I emphasized arts and humanities (ceramics, debate, computer animation, and a class in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night) and session II centered on science and math (physics/astronomy, geology, chemistry, and math). Students could attend either or both sessions. YSI was originally created in response to the many calls received each year asking if The Academy had a summer program for younger scholars, but it has proven to be a good recruitment tool; for the past several years YSI campers from previous summers have applied for admission into The Advanced Academy. Campers resided in Gunn Hall, and six Resident Mentors supervised their activities, including recreational activities—games, team building activities, and organized sporting events—throughout each day. The Academy staff organized the two-week event, and faculty and staff from the State University of West Georgia provided most of the instruction. A former Academy employee (now on our Board of Trustees) donated funds for scholarships for several students to attend the week-long camps.

Recruitment

Realizing that recruitment of new students was an area that needed improving, a second recruitment staff person was hired using the money from the grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Education. Justin Barlow was a natural for the position because of his former Academy work experience and his drive and energy. This addition has made a significant improvement in the number of new students who have applied to the Academy. At this time we have accepted 46 students for admission for fall 2005. Four students have interviews scheduled, several potential applicants are waiting to take the ISAT at the end of this month, and we are receiving new inquiries and applications every day. The previous record of new students accepted in one year was 51; we will exceed that figure this year.

We have continued tried and true methods of attracting new students. In keeping with The Academy's goals of attracting and retaining gifted high school juniors and seniors and promoting the program both in Georgia and nationally, Academy staff attended, presented, and exhibited materials at professional conferences and state-wide events including: the Georgia Association for Gifted Children Annual Conference, the National Association of Gifted Children Annual Conference, the Georgia School Counselors Association Conference, state-wide PROBE fairs, the Georgia Governor's Honors Program, and the three Duke TIP recognition ceremonies held throughout the state. In addition, Academy staff participated in three UWG visitation programs; two Academy overnight visitation programs; and the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair, during which we sponsored and presented an award to a student whose project earned special recognition. Mass mailings were sent to students whose names were obtained through

four sources: The College Board Advanced Placement, SAT, and PSAT searches as well as from Duke TIP lists.

In addition, several new and expanded recruitment activities were tried. These are listed in detail on Attachments I and II found at the end of this report.

The 2004-2005 Recruitment Survey revealed that this year's students first heard of the Academy in the following ways:

Type of Initial Contact	Percentage
Former or Current Student	20.0
Website	20.0
Direct Mail	16.7
Friend	10.0
Counselor/High School Personnel	10.0
Sibling	6.7
Duke TIP	6.7
Young Scholars Institute	3.3
High School Visits	3.3
UWG Employee	3.3

Residence Life

While the primary focus of The Academy is academics, the residence life component is essential for students' balanced personal, social, emotional, and intellectual growth. Again this year, the Academy Residential Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, and their staff of twelve Resident Assistants did a superlative job of creating and maintaining an atmosphere in Gunn Hall that promoted a healthy balance between work and play while providing for students' health, safety, and well being.

All students in the Advanced Academy are required to perform a minimum of 10 hours of community service to the community outside of Gunn Hall. Each year an Academy student takes the responsibility of becoming the Community Service Coordinator, who is the leader of this group. This club makes the community connections needed in order to plan ways for our students to get involved. Traditionally this group plans a community service fair at the beginning of the year and invites community organizations to come in and meet our students to make connections that will last through the year.

This year's Residence Hall Council was very active and productive. Events sponsored by this hard-working group of students include Back to School dance, homecoming float and banner (Gunn Hall was the only residence hall to have a float in the Homecoming parade for the second year in a row), Masquerade and Safetreat at Halloween, Holiday Semi-Formal Dance, International Week, rugby game, Jane and Joe Valentine program, and the Advanced Academy formal.

2004-2005 Awards

University Homecoming Awards:

Homecoming Grand Champions
Outstanding Float
Outstanding Sidewalk Chalk
Best Novelty Group
Blue, Red and White Award
Craftsmanship Award

University Hall Council Awards:

Residence Hall Council of the Year
Program of the Year - Decathlon & St. Patty's Day Cafe
Executive Board Member of the Year - Karl Cepeda
Student of the Year - Reba Cox
Advisor of the Year - Terri Ducker

University Resident Assistant Awards:

Best New RA - Justin Purkey
Community Builders of the Year - Michael Brown & Nic Marino
Programmer of the Year - Laura Guerry

University Intramural Award:

RH & IRS Good Times Award

The Resident Assistants continue to plan educational, social, and community service programs for our students. We have continued to structure our programming using a community development model that awards points for programs, bulletin boards, door decorations, taking students to campus events, and anything else that helps to build community among and foster leadership in our students. Our RAs also supervise other opportunities for student involvement that include yearbook staff, intramural committee, College Bowl, newsletter staff, community service committee, video committee, and poetry club.

Gunn Hall Traditions and Theme Programming

The Advanced Academy of Georgia has been in existence for ten years, and in these ten years we have created award winning programming traditions that occur every year in Gunn Hall.

Decathlon—This program is held during Martin Luther King holiday weekend in January and brings alumni back to participate in this ten-event competition. This event is planned by the residents with guidance from the RA's and has a high level of participation. Last year the female students were included in the teams for the first time; this was popular and successful and will be continued. This year there was a high level

of alumni involvement, and we added a student committee to determine events and plan the rules and procedures in advance.

PB&J in your PJ's—This program is held near the beginning of the year and is a big pajama party and bonding experience for the students.

St. Patty's Day Café—This program is held around St. Patrick's Day and is our major charity event of the year. Students donate items or services and collect donations from the community that are then put on auction. This year we raised more than \$400.00, which was donated to Carroll County Soup Kitchen.

Break Stuff—For four years we have had a break stuff program during finals week to help students manage stress. Students take a breakable item (eggs, potatoes, dishes, etc.), write their stressors on the item, and then throw the item into a controlled location.

Gunn Hall Formal—As many of our students have given up typical high school activities, we plan a formal for students to attend, giving those who choose to a chance to dress up. This year the theme was Alice in Wonderland. We also added a live band to the mix, and it was a huge success.

International Week--Since our building is so culturally diverse, we celebrate our diversity by planning a big International Week, usually in February. Our RA's did a great job this year planning the theme. Each floor choose a country that had experienced oppression of some sort, decorated the hall, cooked food typical of that country, and studied the geography, politics, and culture. First floor girls won the floor decorating contest.

Joe/Jane Valentine—For three years, RHC has chosen someone in the building to be Joe or Jane Valentine. The students then vote on six prospective dates for that person, and in Reality T.V. style we eliminate prospects daily until only one remains. RHC then takes care of transporting the couple to a romantic spot for dinner and/or dessert and then transports them to our Valentine's dance where they share the spotlight dance.

Mr. & Ms. Gunn (homecoming)—Gunn Hall has been an active participant in homecoming for the past three years, and this year we once again won all the homecoming awards.

Mid Year Resident Evaluations revealed what Gunn Hall residents liked best about living in Gunn Hall: the strong sense of community that was evident in the building among students and staff alike. Also mentioned was the friendly, relaxed, and quiet atmosphere. Out of 59 respondents, 52 stated they would recommend Gunn Hall to other students. What students liked least were the rules (mainly curfew), Internet connection problems, and the "drama" in the hall. Regarding the facility itself, students reported the greatest dissatisfaction with the lack of air conditioning in some areas of the building and the unattractive furniture and décor (before the new furniture was installed).

The Physical Facility

Renovations in Gunn Hall have been extensive throughout the building this year. Over the summer the showers and sinks in all of the bathrooms were completely renovated so that returning students started fall semester with entirely new bathrooms. New carpet was laid in the hallways, as well as in the upper and lower lobbies. All floor tiles were replaced in the rooms and hallways, including the stair treads. The entire building was outfitted with new windows that have screens. On the bottom floors there are special security screens to prevent people from breaking into the building through the windows. Spring semester, Gunn received new furniture in the main lobby and all six floor lobbies. Student provided input regarding furniture style and fabric colors and patterns. The furniture that was in the main lobby was moved to the downstairs TV lobby.

The main lobby was repainted an appealing palette of colors that complement the new furniture. The main walls are a desert color with white trim and dark maroon doors. Often residence halls on this campus are painted white or cream without a lot of color brought in, making them look “institutional,” as a few students have remarked. Bringing color into the main lobby has been a huge success with the students and staff. There have been comments remarking that it looks more like a home and less like a dorm. The halls will be repainted over the summer.

To complete the new computer rooms on each of the floors, we had computer counters made and installed by the carpentry department on campus. New swivel chairs have been put in the study rooms as well as new white boards for each study and computer room. The numerous renovations made this year created an attractive residence hall for our students.

Other areas of Gunn’s physical condition 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, and the female wing tends to be colder than the male wing, which causes some conflict when deciding when to switch to/from heat and air conditioning. Lobby windows will need to be replaced in the next few years, and one of the main lobby windows leaks. There is inadequate lighting and ventilation in the music practice room. Students complain about internet connections, and the bulletin boards are crumbling. The building is not ADA compliant.

Another area that needs improving is the integration of student academic life with life in the residence hall. As Gunn Hall is an academic residence, hall it would be appropriate for us to have a classroom. Professors could be brought in for study groups and it would be possible for Honors classes to be held in the Honors residence hall. A classroom would also provide a space large and private enough for the staff and students to meet around a table, which is currently not possible.

Staffing

Our assistant residence hall coordinator resigned effective June 30, 2004. This position was reformulated from a residence hall position into a recruitment/administrative position, and Justin Barlow, who was working in a temporary position, was hired as a full time university employee. This means that our residence hall coordinator (ARC) will be assuming quite a lot of additional responsibility. To help with this, we have created a Lead RA position. This person will assume some of the duties previously held by the assistant ARC.

Other staff positions remain unchanged. As the Academy grows, we will need to be able to hire another fulltime residence hall staff person and a Licensed Professional Counselor on at least a part time basis. Consistent with this, we will either need to move into larger space or renovate Gunn Hall to include another professional apartment.

During the 2004-2005 academic year, staff attended the following professional development conferences:

- Conflict Management (2)
- Georgia School Counselor Association Conference (2)
- SCCCP (conference for college counselors)
- National Association of Gifted Children annual conference (2)
- Georgia Association of Gifted Children annual conference (2), where the Academy director and counselor made a presentation.
- Georgia State PTA Conference
- Georgia home School Association Conference (2)

Attachment I

**Academy Consultant: Justin Barlow
2004-2005 End of the Year Report**

Traditional Visits and Exhibitions:

Regional & University Visit Days (See Attached Listing)		
Type of Event	Date	Location
Friends and Family Day		The University of West GA
University Visitation Day	November 7 th , 2005	The University of West GA
University Visitation Day	February 6 th , 2005	The University of West GA
Academy Overnight Visit	February 6 th , 2005	The University of West GA
Regional Meeting	March 3 rd , 2005	The University of West GA
Regional Meeting	March 21 st , 2005	Augusta, GA
Regional Meeting	March 29 th , 2005	Dalton, GA
Regional Meeting	March 31 st , 2005	Lumpkin County, NE GA
University Visitation Day	April 17 th , 2005	The University of West GA

Conferences and Organization Meetings (See Attached Listing)		
Type of Event	Date	Location
National Gifted Association	November 3 rd thru 7 th , 2005	Salt Lake City, UT
Georgia Counselors Ass.	November 8 th & 9 th , 2005	Atlanta, GA
ACE Cobb Expo	January 29 th , 2005	Kennesaw, GA
Training Counselors Class	February 14 th & 24 th , 2005	UWG, Carrollton, GA
Regional Science Fair	February 25 th , 2005	Carrollton, GA
Cobb County Gifted Org.*	March 9 th , 2005	Marietta, GA
Georgia Gifted Association	March 10 th thru 12 th , 2005	Atlanta, GA
Regional Science Fair	March 22 nd , 2005	Augusta, GA
Training Teachers Class	April 13 th , 2005	UWG, Carrollton, GA
Saturday Scholars	April 16 th , 2005	GSU, Atlanta, GA
Paulding County Gifted Org.*	April 21 st , 2005	Paulding Co, GA
Georgia PTA Conference	April 29 th & 30 th , 2005	Atlanta, GA
Georgia Home School Ass.	May 6 th & 7 th , 2005	Atlanta, GA

Varied Additional Visits (See Attached Listing)		
Type of Event	Date	Location
65 School Visits (Day)	Varied	Across GA
17 Probe College Fairs	Varied	Across GA
6 School College Fairs (Night)	Varied	Across GA
3 Meetings With Ed Consultants	Varied	Atlanta, GA
2 Meetings With Cobb Magnet Coord.	Varied	Cobb County, GA

Print Based Advertisement:

The Academy uses two separate brochures to advertise the program. The first is a more in-depth “viewbook” that discusses the program and highlights specific students and their accomplishments. The second brochure is a shorter “student centered” brochure used in our mass mailings. In addition, the Academy publishes Fast Facts for each academic class as well as a Profile Sheet explaining the program. The Academy also utilizes numerous print based advertisements to gain exposure for the program. These advertisements to prospective parents and students include: My College Guide Magazine, Atlanta Magazine (Annual School Edition), The Atlanta Business Chronicle, and Petersons Guide (Private School Addition), among others.

Web and Video Based Advertisement:

The Academy realizes the importance of the internet in allowing students the opportunity to access information at their own convenience. Over this past year, the Academy website has undergone a complete update, and new features are being added to the site including: an expansive picture section, pictorial tour of the hall, new student profiles, the ability to view our recruitment video online (this video is new and is also available in DVD format), and an expansive download section with updated material. In the future, revisions will make the website something that parents and students will want to visit in order to stay informed and entertained. In addition, a link or description of the program has been updated or created at:

MyCollegeGuide.com
Petersons.com

Boardingschoolreview.com:

(For Fall 04 - Spring 05: 26,707 Visits to Our Profile, 4,029 Links to Our Website, 223 Specific Inquiries)

Fastweb.com
Earlyentrance.org
Georgia Gifted Association Website (Early Entrance Section)
GEIN.org Home School Website
Honors College Website
University of West Georgia Residence Life Website

Additional Projects:

Admissions Infrastructure/Materials: For its first ten years, the Academy lacked a Logo that represented the program. In order to have an image that represents the Academy, in concert with a current Academy student, a logo was created for the program. This logo has been used for our new promotional materials folder. Over the years, the Academy has had a need for folders that advertise the Academy while keeping papers, etc together. In addition, we have had signs made to direct parents and increase customer service.

Database:

In order to better organize the Advanced Academy administrative activities, a File Maker Pro database solution was developed to allow the residential portion of the program to organize discipline cases, student records, and programming records. Over spring semester, the database became securely accessible across campus to the Honors House providing a vital link that has been missing for ten years. This link allows Honors House staff to be aware of students' residential discipline records and other important pieces of information.

Academy Parent Listserv:

Academy parents have been an underutilized resource in our recruitment efforts. In the fall, we created a listserv so that we could contact parents via email. Throughout the year, we used this list to invite parents to participate in recruitment events and to solicit recruitment ideas.

Attachment II

Anneliesa Finch Recruitment Contacts 2004/2005

*Home School Expo—Exhibit/Session Speaker- 7/29/04 thru 7/31/04
Community Builders Training - 8/18/04
Parkview High School, Lilburn, GA visit - 9/9/04
Trickum Middle School, Lilburn, GA - YSI drop visit 9/9/04
Shiloh High School, Snellville, GA visit - 9/9/04
Meadowcreek High School, Norcross, GA visit - 9/15/04
Summerour Middle School, Norcross, GA School visit - 9/15/04
Chapel Hill High, Douglasville, GA School visit - 9/16/04
Northpoint Mall Probe - 9/21/04
Northlake Mall Probe - 9/22/04
Gifted Teachers training guest speaker/student panel - 9/27/04
Douglas County Probe, Douglasville, GA, 9/28/04
Gwinnett County Probe, Lilburn, GA, 9/29/04
Fayette County Probe, Tyrone, GA, 9/30/04
Athens Probe, Athens, GA. - 10/4/04
Temple High School, Temple, GA counselor meeting - 10/8/04
Grayson High School, Loganville, GA visit - 10/14/04
McConnell Middle School, Loganville, GA - 10/14/04
Newnan Probe - 10/18/04
Clayton County Probe - 10/19/04
Gifted Teachers training guest speaker/ student panel, Carroll County - 10/20/04
Campbell High School, Smyrna, GA - Parent Night 10/26/04
Columbus Probe 11/4/04
LaGrange Probe 11/5/04
UWG visitation day 11/7/04
Georgia School Counselor conference 11/8/04 thru 11/10/04
Gwinnett South Probe fair - 11/10/04
*Family And Friends Overnight visitation, 11/11/04
Shiloh High School, Snellville, GA - parent night panel 11/16/04
Mays High School, Atlanta, GA 11/19/04
Northgate High School visit, Newnan, GA 11/23/04
Rockdale County High School, Conyers, GA 12/2/04
Heritage High School, Conyers, GA 12/2/04
Whitewater High School, Fayetteville, GA 12/7/04
Whitewater Middle School, Fayetteville, GA 12/7/04
Phoenix High School, Lawrenceville, GA 12/8/04
Grady High School, Atlanta, GA 12/9/04
Riverdale High School, Riverdale, GA 1/7/05
Temple High School, Temple High School 1/11/05
Temple High School Interview Day 1/20/05
Shiloh High School, Snellville, GA, gifted parent meeting - 1/20/05

*Extreme Science Expo Exhibit UWG - 1/22/05
DeKalb School of Performing Arts- junior parent night 1/25/05
Sandy Creek High School, Tyrone, GA 1/26/04 classroom visits
Summer ACE Expo Wheeler High School, 1/31/05
Perimeter Mall Summer camp YSI inserts 2/1/05
Martin Luther King High School, Parent meeting 2/2/04
Peachtree Ridge High School, Suwanee, GA 2/3/05
UWG Overnight visitation day 2/6/05
Mt Zion High School Interview Days, Mt Zion, GA - 2/8/05
Rockdale High School-AP/ joint enrollment forum - 2/8/05
Collins Hill High Joint Enrollment Parent Night program - 2/10/05
Carrollton High School, Interview Days, Carrollton, GA - 2/17/05
Grady High School—classroom presentation - 2/23/05
Central High School Interview Day 3/3/05
Academy Regional Meeting, Carrollton, GA 3/3/05
Salem High School—Parent Night program 3/3/05
Fayette county High School 3/4/05
Flat Rock Middle School 3/4/05
McIntosh High School Drop-offs 3/4/05
Georgia Gifted Children's conference 3/10/05 thru 3/12/05
Salem High Parent Night program 3/14/05
Newton High School 3/16/05
Starr's Mill High 3/17/05
Georgia Tech's regional meeting 3/26/05
Dream Jamboree Atlanta, GA 3/30/05 thru 3/31/05
Counselor Invite to Recognition Ceremony 4/05
Family and Friends—Overnight weekend spring 2005
Georgia Science Fair (state competition) exhibit/presentation 4/7/05 - 4/8/05
SW DeKalb High—Parent Night Program 4/14/05
UWG visitation day 4/17/05
Westover High - Albany, GA 4/20/05
Duke TIP—Georgia Southern University 5/19/05
Dutchtown High - 5/24/05

*denotes new initiatives