

THE ADVANCED ACADEMY OF GEORGIA
at the
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

The *Princeton Review* recognized the University of West Georgia (UWG) twice this year: for the third consecutive year, UWG was named a “Best Southeastern College,” and we were also rated as one of America’s best values in the inaugural edition of their new publication, *America’s Best Value Colleges: 2007 Edition*. *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, tuition, financial aid ratings, and levels of satisfaction reported by undergraduates. 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 eleventh year at the University of West Georgia, The Advanced Academy of Georgia, a component of the University’s Honors College, enrolled 67 academically talented high school high school-aged students. Fourteen students returned from the previous year, and 53 were newly accepted, an increase in acceptances of 64%. The class was composed of 30 juniors, 37 seniors, 26 females and 41 males. Diversity continues to be a hallmark of the Academy experience; our population consisted of four African-Americans, two Russians, one Philippino, one Asian Indian-American, three Spaniards, one Iranian, four Asians and one Vietnamese student from Canada. In addition, there was one student each from Oklahoma, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Tennessee, and New Jersey. All other students were Georgia residents. Although we recruit students from across the state, fifty-eight percent of this year’s entering class came from the 28 counties included in the Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical area, eight percent were from out-of-state, and another eight percent were international students. Two students came from Carroll County, home of the University of West Georgia.

The 2005-2006 Academy class was highly qualified academically. SAT scores, earned when many of the students were high school sophomores or younger, averaged 640 and 636 on the verbal and math components, respectively, and the composite score was 1278. The high school Grade Point Average (weighted for AP, Honors, and gifted classes) for the incoming students, based on college preparatory curriculum classes only, was 3.90. Students received AP credit in calculus, statistics, United States history, biology, and English.

Academy students continue to accelerate academically. Among the 53 new students, a majority earned registration in sophomore-level Honors literature classes due to their demonstrated proficiency in English writing skills. Many enrolled in advanced mathematics courses and earned placement in Honors chemistry classes. Students also enrolled in higher-level physics, biology, foreign language, political science, and

marketing classes, and many young scholars in the 2005-2006 class engaged in projects or original research through the departments of chemistry, math, marketing, 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 part of various West Georgia musical ensembles. One of our students had the lead in the West Georgia Theater Company's staging of Alfred Uhry's Pulitzer winning play, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. 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 students are responsible for writing the *Gunn Hall Gazette*, the Advanced Academy newsletter.

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 will serve in this position through December, 2006. Her responsibilities include helping to organize and lead the Honors College's annual spring break trip to Washington, DC and organizing the Honors fall picnic and spring banquet. At the spring 2006 Honors Convocation, current and former Academy students were recognized as Outstanding Honors College freshmen, sophomores, and seniors. One former Academy student was named "Outstanding Alumna" by the National Alumni Association. 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 American Mathematical Exams (both A and B), American Invitational Mathematics Exam, Canadian Mathematical Open Challenge, Canadian Mathematical Olympiad, Euclid, Fermat, Asian Pacific Mathematical Olympiad, and the American Regions Math League commanded their attention. Additionally, one of our current students will be attending Harvard's summer school program prior to returning to the Academy for his high school senior/college sophomore year, and another will be attending the International Summer School for Young Physicists.

Research

Current and former Academy students also presented their research at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference and the National Conference for Undergraduate Research. A group of current Academy students won 2nd place at Big Night 2006 in the business category for their project and research in the marketing class taught by the University president, Dr. Beheruz Sethna.

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 71 different community service events, including Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, A-Day for West Georgia, Safe Treat, the Soup Kitchen, Learning buddies (a tutoring program in the local public schools), hospital volunteer work, toy drives, Carrollton Lake clean up, retirement home visits, and church-related activities. In addition, Gunn Hall held its eighth annual St. Patty's Day Café, a fundraiser that this year raised approximately \$325 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; Dr. Debra MacComb who spoke on plagiarism and academic dishonesty; Ms. Debra Dugan gave a presentation entitled "Sexuality: Know Your Rights"; Lt. Col. Michael Paulk discussed his deployment in Iraq and the many issues that country faces; Ms. Carol Conchar gave the students tips and advice on college admissions applications and essays; Dr. Al Bailes presented a lecture on the supply, demand and conservation of energy; Judge Cordell Maddox spoke on politics, judges and lawyers; Mr. Mike Felipe discussed engineering and tips on getting hired; Mr. Valentin Todorov discussed the topic "Conflicts & Refugees – How International Organizations Address the Problem"; a university-wide presentation by Dr. Cornel West; a campus safety/public services presentation; a community service fair; a run for A-Day; International Night; a trip to the High Museum in Atlanta; the play *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* at the Townsend Center, featuring one of the Academy students; several presentations by current and former Academy students; and our students presented the second annual Academy Idol, a newly established Academy tradition that combines talent with a great deal of humor.

Although 67 students enrolled at the beginning of the year, including 14 returning students, we had the usual turnover in January. Four students did not return after fall semester: one student graduated from high school early (December 2005), one chose to return to high school, one was not allowed to return because of poor grades, and one returned home because of emotional problems. We accepted two students for spring admission, bringing our student count to 66 students.

Twelve students (eighteen percent) had perfect Grade Point Averages of 4.00 in the fall semester, thirty-three students (about fifty percent) were on the Dean's List, and ninety-one percent of the students had a 3.0 or higher. The median cumulative GPA for the fall semester was 3.47. In the spring semester, fifteen students (twenty-three percent) had Grade Point Averages of 4.00, while the median GPA was 3.50; thirty-five students (fifty-two percent) made the Dean's List. Seventy-seven percent earned a 3.00 or better.

Thirty-six students completed the program this academic year, and there are 32 students returning for academic year 2006-2007. To date, 42 students have been accepted into The Academy for the fall 2006 semester, several interviews are pending, and inquiries and applications are continuing to arrive. It appears that the Academy will have a record number of students in fall 2006.

All of the high school seniors from the 2005-2006 class (including those who entered as juniors in fall 2004) 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-four percent of our students chose to remain at the University of West Georgia after high school graduation, and eight 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: Auburn University, Brigham Young University, Brown University, College of William and Mary, Columbia University, Covenant University, Duke University, Erskine University, Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, George Washington University, Harvard University, Howard University, Kennesaw State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mercer University, Michigan State, Mt. Jackson Jr. College, New York University, North Carolina State University, Northwestern University, Princeton University, Samford University, United States Merchant Marine Academy, University of Cambridge, University of California Los Angeles, University of Chicago, University of Evansville, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Missouri, University of Pittsburg, University of Rochester, University of Texas, University of West Georgia, and Yale 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 2006: UGA Foundation Fellows Scholarship; Brigham Young Scholars Scholarship; the Georgia Institute of Technology Prestige Scholarship for the Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering Program; Emory Scholar Scholarship, Albert Gallatin Scholarship from NYU; Josiah Pennington Scholarship from Mercer University; a full scholarship to the United States Merchant Marine Academy; a full tuition scholarship to the University of Evansville; the Berner Scholarship; full scholarships to both Georgia Institute of Technology and North Carolina State, and National Merit Scholarships. In addition, several students were named Star Students from their high schools, valedictorian or salutatorian of their classes, and were listed in Who's Who Among American Students.

This year (2005-2006), eleven current and former Academy students were awarded the University's Presidential Scholarship. In the fourth year of a five year donation commitment, the Watson-Brown Foundation provided scholarships for 23 students. Three students were awarded UWG Ingram Scholars scholarships. This year, 8 students received financial awards from the Sallie Mae funds. Students also received scholarship awards from the Pat Hughes Memorial, Julian C. Stanley Scholarship, and Jack Kent Cook Scholarship Funds, and the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation. 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 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.

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 and meet federal eligibility requirements to receive Title IV funds. This bill has passed in the House, and we are still hopeful that it will pass in the senate and be signed by the president this year.

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;
- Stuart N. Bennett, Ed.S., Deputy Superintendent of Policy and External Affairs, Georgia Department of Education;
- Sandra Dunson, M.A., Former Member of Advanced Academy Staff, Owner S. Dunson Consulting, LLC;
- Brenda C. Fitzgerald, M.D., Chairman of the Board, Georgia Public Policy Foundation;
- J. Wayne Garner, Mayor, City of Carrollton;
- Dottie Hamrick, Former Member, UWG Alumni Association Board of Directors;
- Thomas J. Hynes, Jr., Ph.D., Vice President of Academics Affairs and Professor of Speech, University of West 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;
- Carlianne Patrick, MSc., Vice President of Research and Planning, Carroll Tomorrow and Carroll County Chamber of Commerce;
- 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;
- Beheruz N. Sethna, Ph.D., President and Professor of Business Administration, University of West Georgia;
- 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 time to remember Dr. Julian C. Stanley, the mentor and friend to all of us and first chair of the Board who passed away this year. Much time was spent discussing the prospect of forming an organization of programs similar to the Academy for the purposes of mutual support and accreditation. Also discussed were the State of the Academy and recruitment. The sixth annual Dr. Julian C. Stanley Distinguished Lecture Series was presented by Dr. Robert C. McMath. We are grateful to our Board members for their continued support, enthusiasm, and their genuine interest in our program and students.

Young Scholars Institute (YSI)

In its eighth summer (July, 2005), 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 English/drama), and Session II centered on science and math (physics/astronomy, geology, chemistry, and math). Students could attend either or both sessions. 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. 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. A former Academy employee (now on our Board of Trustees) donated funds for scholarships for several students to attend the week-long camps.

Recruitment

For the 2005-2006 academic year, fifty-nine students completed the Advanced Academy application process. Of these, 55 students were accepted by the Advisory committee. Two students chose not to enroll. The 53 students who enrolled this year comprise the largest incoming class in the history of the Academy.

At this time we have accepted 42 students for admission for the 2006-2007 academic year. Several 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 number of students enrolled in the Academy was 72. At this point we have 74 and anticipate a record number of students to enroll in classes the fall of 2006.

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 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 2005-2006 Recruitment Survey revealed that this year’s students first heard of the Academy in the following ways:

Type of Initial Contact	Percentage
Academy Staff	24.07
Academy Student	12.96
Sibling	5.56
Friend	5.56
Mass Mailing	18.52
Duke TIP	5.56
Website	9.26
Peterson Website	1.85
YSI	1.85
GAMES	3.7
Spain Recruitment	3.7
High School Personnel	3.7
University Staff/Dr. Sethna	1.85
Classes on Campus	1.85

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, the Lead Resident Assistant and the twelve Resident Assistants did an outstanding 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, Masquerade and Safetreat at Halloween, Holiday Semi-Formal Dance, International Week, rugby game, Jane and Joe Valentine program, and the Advanced Academy formal

Discipline Philosophy

This year the Advanced Academy "borrowed" a discipline model used by the Texas Academy of Math and Science. The Academy adopted a 100 point system for administering discipline. Points are assigned for various policy violations. The number of points assigned is based on the nature and severity of the violation. There are policies so important that violating them is an automatic 100 points, such as our zero tolerance policy and fire safety policies. If a student accumulates 100 points he or she is dismissed from the Advanced Academy of Georgia.

This system has been incredibly beneficial to our program and we have seen a dramatic decrease in students seen for discipline from last year. This year 84% of our students have not been seen for discipline, versus the 11% that were not seen for discipline last year. We had only 17 documentations in the fall semester and 15 documentations in the spring semester. We have also noticed that overall the severity of the cases has lessened. This system sets clear boundaries to which students have responded positively.

2005-2006 Awards

University Homecoming Awards:

Homecoming Grand Champions (Residence Hall Division)
Outstanding Float
Outstanding Sidewalk Chalk
Best Novelty Group

University Hall Council Awards:

Residence Hall Council of the Year
Program of the Year - Coffeehouse
Student of the Year - Jessica Henry
Advisor of the Year - Justin Purkey

University Resident Assistant Awards:

RA of the Year - Frances Colon
Community Developer of the Year - Michael Brown
Program of the Year - Coffeehouse by Michael Brown

University Intramural Award:

2006 Soccer Champions
Intramural Team of the Year - G-Unit

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 eleven years, and in these eleven 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. The funds raised this year were donated to Carroll County Soup Kitchen.

Break Stuff—For five 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 Arabian Nights. 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.

Joe/Jane Valentine—For four 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.

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 toilet stalls in the floor bathrooms.

The Physical Facility

This year did not see much renovation in Gunn Hall except for in the Resident Assistants’ office where new storage structures were installed.

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. New heat and air units are needed. When the bathrooms were renovated several years ago, the toilet stalls were not changed. They are getting shabby and should be replaced. 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. The building is not ADA compliant. The students’ rooms need painting.

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

This year our 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 2005-2006 academic year, staff attended the following professional development conferences:

- Georgia College Counseling Association (Our ARC was elected to the board as a regional representative)
- National Conference for Gifted Education
- 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)

Attachment I

Program Specialist: Justin Barlow
2005-2006 End of the Year Report

Traditional Visits and Exhibitions:

In order to distribute information about the program to students, parents, and counselors, I had some role in planning or administering these visits.

Regional & University Visit Days (See Attached Listing)		
Type of Event	Date	Location
University Visitation Day	November 6 th , 2006	The University of West GA
University Visitation Day	January 29 th , 2006	The University of West GA
Asian American Meeting*	February 25 th , 2006	Alpharetta, Georgia
University Visitation Day	March 5 th , 2006	The University of West GA
University Visitation Day	April 23 rd , 2006	The University of West GA

*In conjunction with an Asian family I met at Saturday Scholars, we planned and executed an Asian American Meeting. This meeting was advertised in Asian American Newspapers and Asian American Community Groups (turnout was around 25 people).

Conferences and Organization Meetings (See Attached Listing)		
Type of Event	Date	Location
Gifted Teacher Training	October 18 th , 2005	Carrollton, GA
Saturday Scholars	November 5 th , 2005	Atlanta, GA (GSU)
UWG Career Counsel Class*	November 8 th , 2005	UWG, Carrollton, GA
UWG School Counseling*	November 9 th , 2005	UWG, Carrollton, GA
National Gifted Association	November 10 th -12 th , 2005	Louisville, KY
Georgia Counselors Ass.	November 16 th -18 th , 2005	Augusta, GA
Carroll Co. Gifted Ass.	November 29 th , 2005	Carrollton, GA
Floyd Co. Gifted Ass.	January 17 th , 2006	Rome, GA
ABAC Southern Counselors	January 24 th , 2006	Tifton, GA
A.C.E Organization Fair	February 11 th , 2006	Atlanta, GA
GA Science Teacher Ass.	February 15 th -17 th , 2006	Columbus, GA
Gwinnett Gifted Ass. Fair**	February 23 rd , 2006	Atlanta, GA
UWG Counseling Class*	March 2 nd , 2006	UWG, Carrollton, GA

* I helped plan these meetings (booked date, venue, and assisted with presentation)

**See attached sheet for other gifted organization contacts

Varied Additional Visits (See Attached Listing)

Type of Event	Date	Location
47 School Visits (Day)	Varied	Across GA
17 Probe College Fairs	Varied	Across GA
3 Probe Counselor Workshops	Varied	Across GA
8 School College Fairs (Night)	Varied	Across GA

Print Based Advertisement:

Over the past year, The Academy only printed one brochure “the blue book” for mass mailings. Small revisions have been made over the year on this publication. Plans over the next few weeks are to substitute new photos, student profiles, and other useful information into this publication. In addition, changes to the cover are also planned (in order to give the publication a more professional look). In addition, postcards have been printed (highlighting our students) meant to be a low cost follow up to our direct mailings. The Academy also utilizes numerous print based advertisements to gain exposure for the program.

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 continued to be updated, and slowly, new features are being added to the site including: an expansive/updated 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. Over the summer, new student profiles along with Academy Parent and Faculty statements will be added. The Academy website continues to be actively visited and continued efforts focus on links throughout the World Wide Web. Current links include:

MyCollegeGuide.com

Boardingschoolreview.com:

(For Spring 06: 29,450 Visits to Our Profile, 1,874 Links to Our Website, 91 Specific Inquiries)

Fastweb.com

Earlyentrance.org

Georgia Gifted Association Website (Early Entrance Section)

Honors College Website

University of West Georgia Residence Life Website

Advanced Academy Competitive Teams:

Three teams were started in order to:

- A) Offer more activities to our students, therefore making us more competitive with other programs and offering greater services to students
- B) Help with recruitment efforts by getting word of our program into these

competitive communities

Model United Nations (Competition: 11/30-12/1)- 9 Students participated in the Georgia State Model United Nations Competition. The team was named Outstanding Delegation by the Competition. The students prepared by practicing every Tuesday until the competition (during the fall semester). Plans were to participate in the Kennesaw competition; however, monetary concerns eliminated this plan.

Academic Team (Competitions: 10/1, 11/18)- Approximately twelve students practiced each week, and five students (varied) attended these two competitions held at Walton High School and Brookwood High School. Future plans are to attend more competitions, particularly at least one competition in the Spring.

Math Team (Competition: 3/4)- Eight students attended the Georgia Tech Math Competition, where the overall team finished sixth and one of our students finished 8th in the individual rankings. The students practiced on Wednesdays during the Spring Semester. Future plans would be to attend a competition in the fall, and attain faculty support for developing the math team's skills.

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, I helped create a logo 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, I developed a File Maker Pro database solution 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. Long term, the Academy could expand this database to include admission, academic, and alumni information in order to have information about each student, present and past, readily available to all employees in one location. More effort was also made to collect information on graduating students so we can better track them.

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.

8/2/2005	Hinesville Education Center (Military) Evans High School, Sharon	Phone Meeting
8/31/2005	Davies	Phone Meeting
9/13/2005	East Hall High School	Counselor Meeting / Lunch Room Setup
9/13/2005	Jackson County High School	Meeting With Top Students
9/13/2005	Athens Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
9/14/2005	Westside High School	Counselor Meeting / Drop-off
9/14/2005	Johnson Magnet School	Lunch Room Setup
9/14/2005	Cross Creek High School	Counselor Meeting / Drop-off
9/15/2005	Augusta Counselor Workshop	PROBE WORKSHOP
9/15/2005	Burke County High School	Counselor Meeting
9/20/2005	Forsyth County Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
9/20/2005	White County High School	Meeting With Top Students
9/21/2005	Barrow County Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
9/21/2005	Madison County High School	Meeting With Top Students
9/21/2005	Atlanta NE Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
9/22/2005	Lassiter High School	Counselor Meeting / Drop-off
9/22/2005	Walton High School	Lunch Room Setup / Drop-off
9/22/2005	Cobb North Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
9/23/2005	Pike County High School	Meeting With Top Students
9/30/2005	Gilmer County High School	Meeting With AP/Honors Students
9/30/2005	Gilmer County Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/3/2005	Henry County High School	Meeting With AP/Honors Students All Day
10/3/2005	Henry County Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/4/2005	Carrollton Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/4/2005	Forsyth Central College Night	Meet with Fresh. And Soph. Parents
10/5/2005	Gainesville Counselor Workshop	PROBE FAIR
10/5/2005	Gainesville Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/6/2005	Habersham County Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/7/2005	Stephens County Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/13/2005	Heard County High School	Meeting With Top Students
10/17/2005	Dalton Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/18/2005	Rome Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/18/2005	Haralson County High School	Meeting With Top Soph and Juniors
10/18/2005	Meeting With Judy Jackson	Spoke to Training Gifted Teachers
10/19/2005	Rome Counselor Workshop	PROBE WORKSHOP
10/20/2005	Stephens County High School	Meeting With Top Students
10/20/2005	Habersham Central High School	Meeting With Top Students
10/21/2005	Murray County High School	Meeting With Top Students
10/25/2005	Brunswick Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/26/2005	South Effingham High School	Meeting With AP/Honors Class
10/26/2005	Effingham County High School	Counselor Meeting
10/26/2005	Screven County High School	Counselor Meeting
10/27/2005	Savannah Counselor Workshop	PROPE WORKSHOP
10/27/2005	Savannah Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR
10/28/2005	Effingham County Probe Fair	PROBE FAIR

11/2/2005	Gainesville High School	Meeting With Top Students
11/3/2005	Forsyth Central High School	Meeting With Top Students
11/3/2005	South Cobb High School	Counselor Meeting
11/3/2005	Southern Cobb College Night	College Fair Program
11/4/2005	Pickens County High School	Meeting With Top Students
11/4/2005	Forsyth Central High School	Meeting With More Top Students
11/5/2005	Saturday Scholars	Meeting with K-8 Parents of Gifted Kids
11/6/2005	University Visitation Day	Meeting with interested students at UWG
11/8/2005	Bowdon High School	Meeting With Top Kids
11/8/2005	Susan Squire, Columbus Gifted	Phone Meeting
11/10-11/12	National Gifted Conference (KY)	Exhibit at Gifted Conference
11/15/2005	Parkview High School	Joint Enrollment Night
11/16-11/18	Georgia School Counselor Conf Meeting With Carroll Gifted Assoc.	School Counselors Conference
11/29/2005	Assoc.	Gifted Association
12/20/2005	Lassiter High School College Fair	School College Fair
1/10/2006	Eagle's Landing High School	Spoke to AP/Honors Classes All day
1/17/2006	Floyd County Gifted Association	Spoke to Gifted Parents / Teachers
1/23/2006	Cartersville H.S. Joint Enroll Night ABAC South Counselor Workshop	Spoke to interested students and parents
1/24/2006	Workshop	Spoke to 40-50 Counselors
1/29/2006	University Visitation Day	Meeting with interested students at UWG
2/6/2006	Woodland High School	Meeting with students interested in join-enroll
2/7/2006	Parkview High School	Meeting with students interested in join-enroll
2/9/2006	Jasper County High School	Meeting with top students
2/9/2006	Jasper County Middle School	Spoke with Guidance Counselor about YSI
2/9/2006	North Hall High School	Meeting with top students (conference room setup)
2/11/2006	ACE Magnet Fair	Middle School Fair at Wheeler H.S.
2/13/2006	East Paulding High School	Meet with top Juniors
2/15/2006	Manchester High School	Met with top soph. and juniors
2/15/2006	Greenville High School	Meet with top Juniors
2/15/2006	Kendrick High School	Met with top soph. and juniors
2/15-2/17	Georgia Science Teacher Assoc	
2/23/2006	Gwinnett Gifted Opp. Fair Asian Interest Meeting (Alpharetta)	Met with around 25 interested students
2/25/2006	Osborne High School	Met with room full of top students
2/28/2006	South Cobb High School	Met with four interested kids
3/5/2006	University Visitation Day	Meeting with interested students at UWG
3/14/2006	Winder Barrow High School	Meeting with top kids
3/14/2006	Winder Barrow Middle School	Meeting about YSI
3/14/2006	Russell Middle School	Meeting about YSI
3/14/2006	Appalachee High School	Great Meeting, a lot of responses from students
3/14/2006	Quest Cobb County Fair	Great Meeting, well organized
4/3/2006	Academy Visitation Day	Visit Day Because Univ. Days Ended Early
4/12/2006	Haralson County Middle School	Great
4/19/2006	Dunwoody High School	Career Day, okay, try to get better classes
4/20/2006	Lumpkin Board of Ed	Phone Meeting with gifted director
5/17/2006	Lakeview Ft. Oglethorpe High	Spoke in two AP Classes

School
5/17/2006 Ringgold High School

Spoke to interested student groups

Attachment II

Program Specialist: Anneliesa Finch 2005-2006 End of year report

Advanced Academy Recruitment Methods:

- ◆ Website-UWG/Advanced Academy
- ◆ Website links- Simon's Rock, National Association for Gifted Children
- ◆ Direct Mail
 - College Board AP listing (November)
 - College Board SAT Search mailing (February)
 - Letter to High School Counselors (February)
 - Letter to Middle School Counselors (February)
 - Letter targeted to top 100 high schools (February)
 - College Board Selection Service (March)
- ◆ College Fairs- Probe, National Association for Gifted Children, Dream Jamboree
- ◆ Counselor Workshop- Georgia Association for Gifted Children, Probe workshops, Georgia School Counselor Association conference
- ◆ High School visits- Advanced Placement classes, Media Center, cafeteria displays
- ◆ Professional conferences- Georgia Association for Gifted Children
National Association for Gifted Children
- ◆ Promotional literature- videos, viewbooks, Profiles, reply cards, fast facts
- ◆ Email contact and follow-up phone calls
- ◆ Minority Recruitment- Dream Jamboree, Upward Bound speaker
- ◆ Campus tours
- ◆ Visitation days- University/Academy overnight
- ◆ Newsletter
- ◆ The **Atlanta Journal-Constitution** Newspaper -news article (May 2001)

- ◆ Duke Talent Identification Program-Ceremony sites
 - Southern Polytechnic State University- display table
 - Georgia Southern University-display table
 - State University of West Georgia- display table and information sessions
- ◆ Young Scholars Institute- Math, Science, Technology summer enrichment program for middle school students –1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
- ◆ Listing in Duke University’s Educational Opportunity Guide: A Directory of Programs for the Gifted.

Recruitment Efforts 2005/2006

7/6/05 - Governors’ Honors Program- College Night

7/10/05 thru 7/23/05 -Young Scholars Institute- University of West Georgia

7/29/05 thru 7/30/05 - Southeastern Home School Expo (Cobb Galleria)

8/2/05 - Riverdale High School principal meeting

9/12/05 - Clayton County Probe Fair

9/13/05 - Athens Probe Fair

9/20/05- Atlanta North Probe Fair, North Point mall

9/23/05 - Atlanta City Probe Fair - Georgia International Convention Center

9/26/05 - Host Jan Davidson, Davidson Institute

9/28/05 - Atlanta Counselor Workshop Gwinnett Technical College

9/29/05 - Rockdale/ South Dekalb County Probe Fair- Stonecrest mall

10/4/05 - Carrollton Probe Fair

10/4/05- Douglas County Probe Fair

10/6/05 – Chapel Hill High School media center visit- Douglasville, GA

10/10/05- Gwinnett South Probe Fair- Snellville, GA

10/11/05 - Macon Probe Fair- Macon, GA

10/17/05 - Westlake High School visit- Atlanta, GA

10/18/05 - Grady High School counselor meeting, Atlanta, GA

10/19/05 – Newnan Probe fair- Newnan, GA

10/20/05 - Columbus Counselor Workshop/Columbus Fair – Columbus, GA

10/21/05 – LaGrange Probe Fair – LaGrange, GA

10/24/05 – Southside High School, counselor’s meeting

10/26/05 – Douglas County Gifted teacher’s training session- Academy student speaker

10/31/05 – Albany Probe Fair- Albany, GA

11/4/05 – Grady High School, classroom visits – Atlanta, GA Inman Middle School YSI drop-offs

11/6/05- UWG- Preview Day, Carrollton, GA

11/10/05 – Shiloh High School, Junior Parent Night panel speaker, Snellville, GA

11/15/05 – Southside High School, gifted class speaker, Atlanta, GA

12/2/05 – Paul W. West Middle School- Career Day group speaker

1/13/06 – Fayette County High visit- Fayetteville, GA

1/20/06 – Villa Rica High School classroom visits

1/24/06 – Starr’s Mill High School media Center visit Fayetteville, GA

1/25/06 – Mt Zion Interview Day’s, Mt. Zion, GA

1/26/06 – Shiloh High School Hope Accel program, Snellville, GA

1/29/06 – UWG Preview Day, Carrollton, GA

2/4/06 – Advanced Academy/ Georgia Tech Open House

2/9/06 – Villa Rica High School Interview Days/ Classroom visits

2/9/06 - Collins Hill High, Accel program panel speaker, Suwanee, GA

2/10/06 – Riverwood High School counselor meeting Atlanta, GA

2/22/06 – Temple High School Interview days- Classroom visits, Temple, GA

2/23/06 - Carrollton High School Interview Days, Carrollton, GA

2/28/06 – Salem High school Junior Parent Night, Conyers, GA

3/5/06 – UWG preview Days, Carrollton, GA

3/9/06 – Southwest DeKalb High, Career/ college day presenter

3/9/06- thru 3/10/06- Georgia Gifted Conference, Athens, GA

3/14/06- Yeagar Middle School, exhibitor, Douglasville, GA

3/15/06 -Yeagar Middle School, presenter, Douglasville, GA

3/16/06- Parkview High , PTA exhibitor, Lilburn, GA

3/24/06- Henderson Mill Middle School, Chamblee, GA

3/28 thru 3/29 – Dream Jamboree, Atlanta, GA

4/23/06 UWG Regional Meeting, Carrollton, GA

5/16/06- Newton High School, classroom presentation, Covington, GA

5/18/06 – Duke TIP, display, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA

5/20/06 Duke TIP, display, Southern Polytechnical University, Marietta, GA

5/31/06- Duke Tip- UWG

7/9/06 thru 7/22/06- Young Scholars Institute, UWG, Carrollton, GA