

Face Forward

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Visit FACES online:
faces.gatech.edu

*Facilitating Academic Careers in Engineering and the Sciences is a project of the National Science Foundation Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. The participating institutions are **Georgia Institute of Technology, Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Emory University**. Our mission is to increase the number of science professors from underrepresented ethnic groups.*



Join the FACES online community

To facilitate communication among FACES students, postdocs, faculty, and staff, a **FACES Yahoo group** has been established.

The Yahoo group will allow FACES participants to send approved messages to all other members of the group, and should provide a fast and easy way to get questions answered, solicit advice, or promote professional opportunities or

activities.

Getting started is easy: Just visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FACESatI/>, enter your YahooID (or register for a new one) and follow the directions on the screen. Messages sent by members to FACESatI@yahoogroups.com will go to all members of the group.

We look forward to hearing from you through the FACES Yahoo group. Enjoy!

Georgia Tech and Emory to host UG researchers

For budding undergraduate scientists, summertime provides an excellent opportunity to get experience working in a research lab. As it has since its inception, FACES will support research by numerous students.

Undergraduates from all over the country will come to Atlanta for ten weeks to conduct research through three programs based at Emory and Georgia Tech.

The **Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering and Science** program (www.sure.gatech.edu) hosts 30

students who are interested in attending graduate school.

Emory hosts 60 students in the **Summer Undergraduate Research at Emory** program (www.cse.emory.edu/sciencenet/undergrad/SURE/SURE.html) and 20 students in the **Behavioral Research Advances In Neuroscience** program (a program of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience - www.cbn-atl.org).

FACES is proud to support the career and scientific development of these young researchers.

FACES recruits new FACES Scholars

You can make a difference!

Consider the ways you can influence and your work can contribute to science policy. Visit http://www.aaas.org/programs/science_policy/.

Studies have shown that students are more likely to pursue academic science when they get an early start. Because of that, FACES is pleased to **fund undergraduate researchers** at FACES institutions.

Last semester, FACES supported five students at Emory, Morehouse and Georgia Tech.

If you are interested in conducting scientific research

during the 2006-2007 academic school year, you may want to apply to become a FACES Scholar. Applications will be accepted starting in August. For more information, please contact Reginald DesRoches, PhD (reginald.desroches@ce.gatech.edu) or visit www.faces.gatech.edu/scholars.htm.

PROMISE facilitates grad school entry

The **PROMISE Postbaccalaureate Program** at Emory University and Morehouse School of Medicine "serve[s] as an incubator in which participants will receive a first-class research experience in the biomedical sciences; expert mentoring from preceptors, graduate students and postdocs; in-class instruction to enhance communication and quantitative skills; and "survival skills" for the successful pursuit of a doctorate.

For more information on PROMISE, contact Terri Lee, PhD at terri.lee@gatech.edu or visit <http://biomed.emory.edu/PROMISE/>

Learn more about the need for ethnic diversity in the sciences at www.bestworkforce.org/

RFA: Career Initiation Grant

One of the primary goals of FACES is to increase the numbers of scientists from underrepresented ethnic groups in the professoriate. To that end, FACES announces a request for applications for the **FACES Career Initiation Grant** (CIG).

FACES will award two \$30,000 grants to promising doctoral graduate students that accept a tenure track faculty position in engineering or science related field at a U.S. college or university. These funds are intended to assist newly minted PhDs at an early stage in their academic careers. The grant can be used to purchase research equipment, and support graduate and/or undergraduate researchers. Applications are due March 26, 2006.

For more eligibility requirements and the CIG application, visit <http://faces.gatech.edu/cig.htm> or contact Dr. Reginald DesRoches at reginald.desroches@ce.gatech.edu.

FOCUS weekend a grand success

On January 12-15, Georgia Tech hosted the **15th annual FOCUS weekend**. According to their website, "The main goal of FOCUS is to give prospective minority graduate students—and any student who will find the program beneficial—an opportunity to visit Georgia Tech and Atlanta, receive an overview of the graduate degree programs, and participate in the King celebration."

171 FOCUS Scholars (undergraduates) from over 50 institutions participated in workshops and departmental visits to encourage them to attend graduate school and apply to Georgia Tech. Sixteen FOCUS Fellows (doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers) explored opportunities in academia and visited departments of interest. Eleven FOCUS Friends (high school students) participated in campus tours and workshops to encourage them to attend Georgia Tech and expose them to the programs available to undergraduates. Alumni of earlier FOCUS Weekends are welcomed back. With all levels of the pipeline represented, the program proved to be a very motivational weekend for all participants.

Visit <http://focus.gatech.edu/> to learn more about FOCUS and their mission to increase ethnic diversity in graduate education. FOCUS 2007 is scheduled for January 11-14, 2007. Mark your calendars!

FACES Community News

News from the FACES community:

* **Ebony Glover**, FACES Fellow (Emory) presented her work at the meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in November.

* **Dr. Ali Gordon**, FACES Fellow (GT) successfully defended his thesis in February and has taken a faculty position at the University of Central Florida.

* **Dr. Asiya Gusa**, FACES Postdoctoral Fellow (Emory), successfully defended her thesis in January and has begun her postdoctoral research on serum resistance and *Neisseria gonorrhoea*.

* **Dr. Gary May**, FACES committee chair, was appointed Steve W. Chaddick School Chair of the Georgia Tech School of Electrical & Computer Engineering (the first African American to head a School

in Georgia Tech's College of Engineering).

* **Lisa Montoya**, FACES Fellow (Emory) was an author on two papers: Wu et al. 2006 349(2):186-96 and Coblitz et al. (2005) J Biol Chem. 280(43):36263-72.

* **Dr. Karama Neal** (Emory FACES Coordinator) completed her MA in Bioethics at Loyola U (Chicago) focusing on genetics and responsible conduct of research.

* **John Pulliam**, FACES Fellow (Emory) presented his work at the Society for Neuroscience in November and completed the American Physiological Society Short Course on Writing in January.

Congratulations FACES folks! Keep up the great work!



*What's your bright idea?
Write about it in the
FACES newsletter!*

Share your news!

Send news of your seminars, recently published papers, graduation and other activities to kneal@emory.edu for publication in the next issue of Face Forward.

Face Forward!

The newsletter of the FACES consortium in Atlanta

Georgia Tech, Spelman, Morehouse and Emory: working together to change the face of the science and engineering professoriate.

Join the networks

Networking is critical in any career and science is no exception. In addition to the FACES online community (see page 1) consider joining one or both of these networks for scientists from underrepresented ethnic groups.

* **MiSciNet** is a program of AAAS. Visit www.micinet.org for

articles, career advice, career resources and more.

* **JustGarciaHill** is an online community for Native American, Hispanic and Black scientists. Visit www.justgarciahill.org for member profiles, articles, funding resources, discussion groups and more.

Ask the professor

Q: How should I choose a graduate school?

A: Congratulations on deciding to pursue your doctorate! Your goal as a graduate student is to become an excellent scientist; able to ask scientific questions, design meaningful experiments, interpret and apply data. You'll want a school that facilitates your academic, professional and scientific development.

Look for an institution that has a record of graduating students. During your interview, be sure to ask what kinds of things alum are doing now. And make sure there are two or more faculty members with whom you could imagine doing your thesis work.

Talk to current students (your future colleagues) and consider their experiences. But remember that your experience will certainly be different.

Don't forget to consider the cost-of-living, weather, distance from family, social outlets and other non-academic factors. You want everything about the institution and your new home to facilitate your success. Be honest with yourself about what you need, like, and want and you'll make a choice you won't regret.

Curious about the professoriate? Send your questions to kneal@emory.edu!

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