

GT wins Collegiate Bridge Bowl

By Robert Thorstad

The Georgia Tech Bridge Team (**Santosh Karnik, Arjun Dhir, Charles Wang, Andy Xu**, and faculty advisor **Giorgio Casinovi**) recently competed in the Collegiate Bridge Bowl at the Toronto Summer NABC. Much of the event was broadcast live on bridgebase.com, and \$20,000 in scholarships were at stake.

Tech won entry to the Bridge Bowl in an online qualifier, which included several teams from prestigious universities across the country. The first day of the final was a round-robin which saw Georgia Tech advance to the semifinals in 3rd place, along with Berkley, UNC, and University of Chicago. In the semifinal match, Georgia Tech defeated Berkley 68-58 IMPs. University of Chicago defeated UNC in the other semifinal match.

The final was a 24-board match broadcast live on Bridgebase.com; at its peak, the match had over 200 kibitzers online. After 8 boards, Georgia Tech trailed 15-3 IMPs, but East-West for Georgia Tech (Dhir-Karnik) tied the match on the next deal by pushing the opponents to 5SX, then punishing the contract down 4, -800, a gain of 12 IMPs.

NS for Georgia Tech (Xu-Wang) continued the push by bidding an excellent grand slam on the next deal.

North: ♠A ♥KQJ8732 ♦AKT ♣J8
South: ♠KJ753 ♥A ♦QJ3 ♣A542

N	E	S	W
1♠	P	3♥	P
4♣	P	4NT	P
5♥	P	5NT	P
6♦	P	7♥	P
P	P		

3♥ was a strong jump shift, and South made the excellent decision to cuebid 4♣, setting ♥ as trump. Roman keycard blackwood revealed that south held the ace of clubs, ace of hearts, and one king. North could now count 12 tricks and see several possibilities for a 13th trick—either the SQ or DQ or a chance to ruff out spades or the CQ or DJ and a finesse would be enough. Reasoning that south needed something extra for his 4♣ cuebid, North bid the laydown 7♥. This was 13 IMPs to Georgia Tech when Chicago stopped in 6♥ at the other table.

After these two boards, Georgia Tech seized control of the match and never looked back. Tech won the first set 42-15 IMPs and the second set 38-22 IMPs, cruising to a 80-37 IMP victory and the Collegiate Championship title. The Georgia Tech players also won a \$12,000 scholarship for their victory.

Several other District 7 players did well in Toronto. **Frank Nickell**, who lives in New York City but has kept his District membership with D7, won 86.92. **The Smiths (Ron & Linda, Chattanooga, TN)** won 84.34; **Ron Sukoneck** (Wilmington, NC) 77.00, **Josef Blass & Jacek Pszczola** (Chapel Hill, NC) 73.18, **Alex Hudson** (Raleigh, NC) 70.06; **Hugh Brown Jr** (McCormick, SC) 52.62; **Glen Anderson** (Raleigh, NC) 51.42.