



Joy Buolamwini is a 21 year old Ghanaian Computer Science major at the Georgia Institute of Technology, an entrepreneur, and a humanitarian. Not only is she a Stamps' President's Scholar, the highest merit based award given to only 5 out of state students in the university each year, but she was also named a 2010-11 Astronaut Scholar an honor bestowed on the top 22 students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields in the United States. The Anita Borg Foundation recently identified her as a finalist for their annual scholarship competition which recognizes high achieving women studying computer science worldwide.

During her first year at Georgia Tech, she worked on the Google Android Health Project to create tools for personal health informatics in the Everyday Computing Lab. She teamed with a member of the lab and another master's student to enter the Google Android Developers Challenge where their augmented reality application Movue Mobile placed in the top 20 internationally in the travel category. That year, she was also the only freshman finalist in the Inventure Prize, a competition for students with innovate idea to improve society. For the competition, she developed a web based platforms for parents and students looking for help with the college admissions process. Joy also led a group of students to design a guide robot to help visitors navigate a complicated building on Georgia Tech's campus. She is currently doing research on employing social robots for the treatment and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

When she was 17, Joy established Jovial Designs a web development company. Some of her past clients include the Ethiopian Embassy in the Ivory Coast and the Georgia Institute of Technology. She devotes a significant amount of resources to helping non profits establish web presences. WordCauseOnline.org, Stamps Family Charitable Foundation and Read Aloud Chattanooga are some of the non profits she has worked with in the past. She also cofounded PassYourTorch.org with Oluwadamilola Oladeru, a Nigerian senior at Yale who recently built a library in Nigeria with support from the Clinton Global Initiative.

Furthermore, in addition to leading a software development education initiative with the Zambian Institute for Sustainable Development, Joy is currently working to develop a mobile phone survey solution to be used in Ethiopia to help assess the efficacy of nonprofit programs intended to eradicate trachoma and malaria. Enterprise to Empower is another organization she is helping establish in order to teach university students about social entrepreneurship while establishing a web based platform that facilitates ideation and team building.

This summer, Joy will be interning with Yahoo's mobile development team in Silicon Valley. She will also be going to Hong Kong to compete in the PolyU Global Student Entrepreneurship Challenge with two fellow Georgia Tech President's Scholars. Their team was 1 of only 5 teams selected to compete from the United States on an international stage with 21 countries represented.

In her free time, Joy enjoys playing guitar, drawing, painting, and writing. In high school, she was not only a top student, but also a three sport varsity athlete. Joy was a member of the basketball, cross country, and track teams where she excelled in regional and state competitions. In 2008, Joy was the State runner up in women's pole vaulting in Tennessee and also received the Pepsi Scholar Athlete of the Year award for her performance on the track and in the classroom.