

DUKE TIP 2009 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS



The Distinguished Alumni Award honorees are Duke TIP alumni who have set themselves apart as leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, scholars and contributing citizens.

Not too long ago, these individuals were seventh graders imagining their future. Now, they're nationally recognized in their professions.

Just as we have for you, Duke TIP provided them the opportunity to explore areas of academic interest. Read on to learn more about Duke TIP's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award winners and their outstanding accomplishments.

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Trey Ideker

TIP Courses – '85 Computer Science; '86 Astronomy; '87 Biology

Education – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), '94; MIT, Master's in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, '95; University of Washington, Ph.D. in Molecular Biotechnology, '01

Profession – Associate Professor of Bio-

engineering, Adjunct Professor of Computer Science, University of California, San Diego

Trey is being honored for his pioneering efforts in the field of molecular networking and his contributions to systems biology and human health. While still a student, he published a classic paper in the journal *Science* demonstrating how biological networks are mapped and tested. The article has attracted well over 800 citations to date. He was named one of the nation's top 35 innovators under the age of 35 by *MIT Technology Review* magazine. In June 2009, he will receive the Overton Prize, which is awarded to a scientist in the early- to mid-stage of his career who has already made a significant contribution to the field of computational biology. He holds two patents and has a third one pending, has over 60 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, and has given more than 100 invited talks.

"TIP did wonders to stimulate my interest in science. Maybe even more importantly, it put me together with an entire community of like-minded students who are genuinely interested in living and discovering life to its fullest. It is a rare thing to be around a group of people who are so much like you in so many ways."



Ananth Natarajan

TIP Courses – '84 Spanish I and Precalculus; '85 Physics and Chemistry; '86 Computer Science and Controversies in Biology

Education – Duke University, '90; Johns Hopkins University, Master's in Biomedical Engineering, '92; University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, M.D. '96; University of Southern California Medical Center, Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology '96-'01

Profession – Chief Clinical Scientist and Founder, Infinite Biomedical Technologies, LLC; Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Southern California

Ananth is being honored for his contributions to the field of biomedical technologies. He has patents or patent applications in the fields of cardiology, urology, gynecology and imaging, as well as for biopsy devices. He has obtained more than \$20 million in funding for his academic pursuits from the National Institutes of Health. He has been named to *MIT Technology Review's* Top 100 Young Innovators and Leaders in Technology and Business, *Baltimore Journal's* 40 under 40 and Five Innovators Changing the World by *Red Herring* magazine. In addition to his work, he supports several organizations by serving on their boards of directors.

"It is difficult to overstate the impact that Duke TIP has had on the lives of its students and alumni. In my own case, it significantly expanded my intellectual horizon. Perhaps more importantly, it introduced me to many kindred spirits, some of whom I am still close to more than 20 years later."



Jane E. Willis

TIP Courses – '82 Mathematics; '83 Precalculus Mathematics and Latin II; '84 Logic; '85 Chemistry

TIP Summer Employment '84 and '85, Teaching Assistant

Education – Harvard University, '91; Harvard Law School, '94

Profession – Partner, Ropes and Gray, LLP

Jane is being honored for her outstanding legal career. She is experienced in antitrust law, consumer protection law, securities law and merger and acquisition-related disputes. She has represented the Boston Red Sox Baseball Club, as well as national retailers and major companies. Her firm recently received the Denis Maguire Pro Bono Award that recognized the 2,000 volunteer hours that Jane and her colleagues devoted to working with clients in the Boston Housing Court. She has been named a Massachusetts Super Lawyer, an honor that recognizes the country's top lawyers in their respective practice areas. In her college years, Jane was one of the members of a blackjack card-counting team depicted in the book *Bringing Down the House* and the motion picture *21*. She is quick to point out that card-counting is not illegal and that casinos never suspected her, as they didn't think a female could be that smart.

"TIP exemplifies what W.B. Yeats wrote: 'Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.' TIP was invaluable in opening a series of educational doors throughout my life."