Congratulations to Andrew Black ’11 and Andrew K. Capulli ’11 who were named 2010 Goldwater Scholars today by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. The Goldwater Scholarship program fosters and encourages outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields. Since 2002, sixteen WPI students have been named Scholars or Honorable Mention recipients in the Goldwater Scholarship competition.

Andrew Capulli is a junior bioengineering major from Hampstead, New Hampshire. He plans a PhD to perform research on regenerative implants, prostheses and the biomechanics of tissues in either an academic or industrial setting. Capulli has conducted research at the WPI Biomechanics Research Laboratory for two years, and presented the results of his work at a biomedical engineering conference last fall. He is currently at the WPI London Project Center working on heat and power plants with government planning authorities. At WPI, Andrew is Vice President and Treasurer of the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, treasurer of the ice hockey team, and captain of the lacrosse team. He is also a member of several honor societies at WPI.

The Goldwater Scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,111 mathematics, science, and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide. One hundred fifty-six of the Scholars are men, 122 are women, and virtually all intend to obtain a Ph.D. as their degree objective. Seventeen Scholars are mathematics majors, 199 are science and related majors, 53 are majoring in engineering, and 9 are computer science majors. Many of the Scholars have dual majors in a variety of mathematics, science, engineering, and computer disciplines. The one and two year scholarships will cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of $7,500 per year.

Goldwater Scholars have very impressive academic qualifications that have garnered the attention of prestigious post-graduate fellowship programs. Recent Goldwater Scholars have been awarded 73 Rhodes Scholarships, 105 Marshall Awards, 90 Churchill Scholarships (9 of the 14 awarded in the United States in 2010), and numerous other distinguished fellowships. In its twenty-four-year history, the Foundation has awarded 6,079 scholarships worth approximately fifty-eight million dollars. The Trustees plan to award about three hundred scholarships for the 2011–2012 academic year.

Congratulations to these outstanding representatives of WPI!