

Georgia Tech History, Traditions, and the Alumni Association's Student Organizations

Jennifer Rogers HTS 07, MS HSTS 09

Alumni Historian

Alexis Davis, M.Ed.

Coordinator, Student Engagement

Georgia Tech History

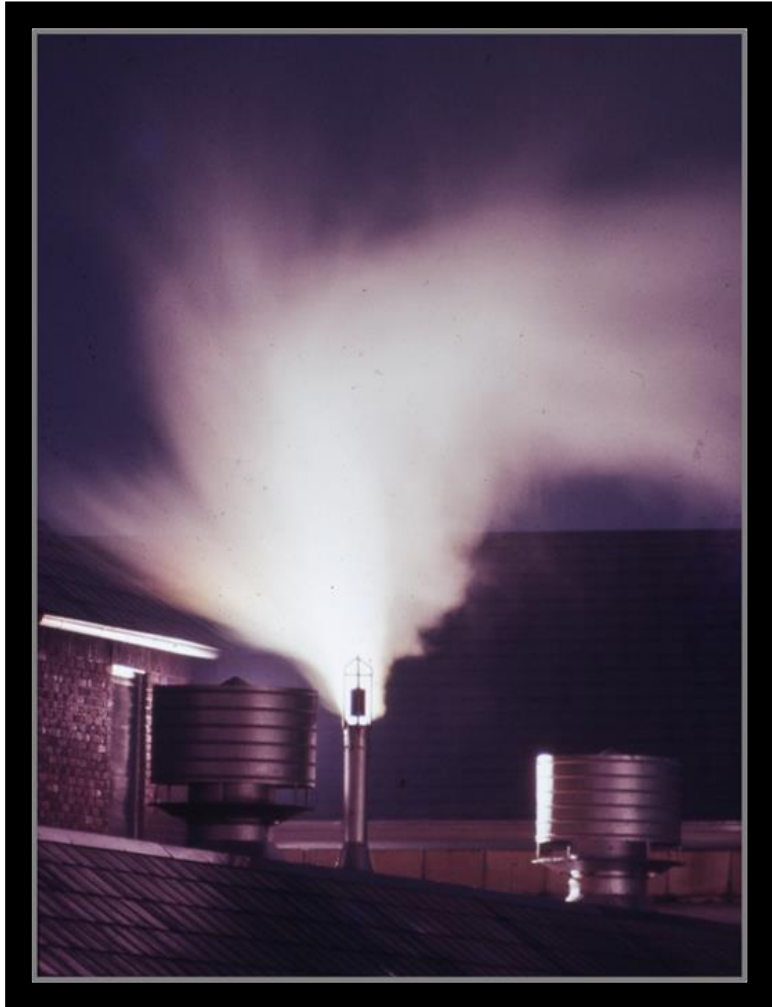
- **1885** On October 13, the Georgia Legislature passed a bill appropriating \$65,000 to found a technical school.
- **1886** Atlanta was chosen as the location for the Georgia School of Technology.
- **1887** Developer Richard Peters donated four acres of land known as Peters Park to the new school.
- **1888** The first 84 students register on October 3 and take entrance exams.



What's the good word ?



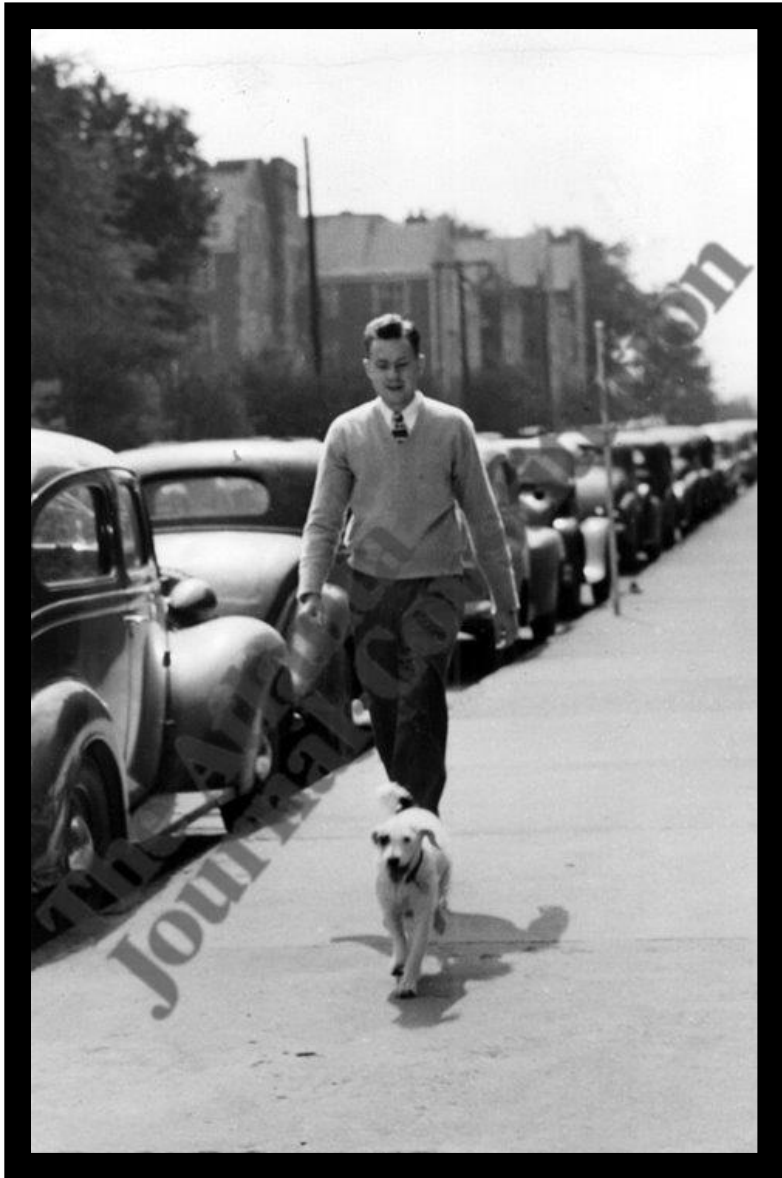
The Whistle



History of Majors at Georgia Tech

- First Major was Mechanical Engineering
- Civil
- Electrical
- Textiles
- Ceramics
- Aeronautical engineering
- Information Science which become CS
- And so many more

Sideways



The Wreck



The Olympics at Tech



Buzz



21st Century Georgia Tech



GT Alumni Association- Student Organizations

- Student Ambassadors
 - Official hosts of the Institute
 - Must have 1 year at Tech to Apply, Graduate students welcomed!
- Georgia Tech Student Foundation
 - Educate on the impact of student and alumni philanthropy
 - Committees: Investment, Allocation, Development
- Student Alumni Association
 - Events focused on alumni connections
 - No longer \$10 to join, open to any student with member requirements

Georgia Tech Connect

- Georgia Tech exclusive platform
- Network, Resources, Discussion, Mentoring Programs
- Open to all students
- Network
 - Minute Mentoring
 - Filter alumni by major, industry, location, professional skills, former student organizations
 - Communication all on the platform

Reach Out!

- Ambassadors: gtambassadors.org
- GTSF: gtsf.gatech.edu
- SAA: gtsaa.com
- Georgia Tech Connect: connect.gtalumni.org/

Alexis Davis, M.Ed. alexis.davis@alumni.gatech.edu

Jennifer Rogers jennifer.rogers@alumni.gatech.edu

GT & U.S. 101

Introduction to the U.S. American Classroom

OVERVIEW

- Academics at Georgia Tech
- Safety and Your Visa Status
- U.S. Culture



ACADEMICS

Canvas

One-stop Shop for Your Coursework:

- Access your syllabus
- Submit assignments
- Review additional readings/resources
- Engage in class discussions
- Email professor/classmates

Download the app for iOS and Android



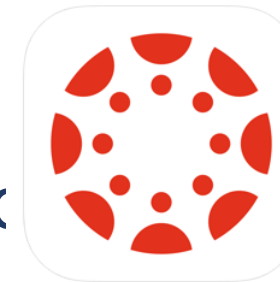
Canvas Student

Instructure Education

Everyone

You don't have any devices.

Add to Wishlist



Canvas Student 4+

Instructure Inc.

#11 in Education

★★★★★ 4.7, 1.1M Ratings

Free

The Syllabus

- A syllabus is the document provided by the professor which establishes the:
 - Course schedule for exams and homework
 - Grading expectations
 - Materials required for course
 - Attendance Policy
- **Syllabus as a contract.** As a contract, the syllabus states what the professor expects of students during the semester.
- **Syllabus as a guide to the course.** The syllabus documents learning objectives, the topics covered in the course, and assessment measures.
- **Syllabus as a learning tool.** A syllabus may also include resources for success, references to course content, information about the professor's teaching philosophy, a professor's standards for assignments, and suggestions or tips for how to approach the course.

Academic Integrity

Students should review the university academic integrity statement to understand the academic and student conduct penalties associated with violations of the academic integrity principles.

Students should inform themselves about the concept of plagiarism and seek help from professors if they need to clarification on appropriate citation of academic references.

- For full details, carefully review the *GT Academic Honor Code* (<https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>)

Classroom Culture

- Informal Class Atmosphere***
 - More casual than many cultures
 - Professors' casual posture/manner e.g., sitting on desk, walking around, playing music
 - Students wearing pajamas and/or sandals; eating and/or drinking
- Casual Professor-Student Relationships***
 - Relationships are less vertical than many cultures
 - Professors are more "Guide on the Side" and less "Sage on the Stage"
 - They might request you call them by their first name
 - Use Dr. or Professor + family name to be safe (Example: James Smith= Dr./Professor Smith)

****Every professor will establish their own rules and expectations for their classes. Some will be more formal, while many will be less formal than typical classrooms outside of the U.S.*

Classroom Culture

- **Class Expectations**

- Expectations are listed in syllabus and usually discussed at beginning of course
- May be graded on participation - be prepared to be “put on the spot” and “speak your mind”
- Critical/independent thinking and ability to express your ideas (speaking & writing)

- **Group Work**

- Group projects and presentations are common
- Low-context, task-oriented communication style common within groups

Safety and Your Visa Status

Safety and Law Enforcement at Georgia Tech

- Beware phone call and email scams
- You can always call 911 for emergencies
- You have rights. If you'd like to learn more, the ACLU is a great resource: [aclu.org](https://www.aclu.org)

Alcohol Laws in the U.S.

- You must be 21 or older to legally buy or consume alcoholic beverages.
- Public intoxication is an arrestable offense.
- If you purchase alcohol for someone under the age of 21, it is a violation of the law and you could face criminal penalties.
- It is illegal to consume alcohol and operate a motor vehicle. It is also **deadly**.

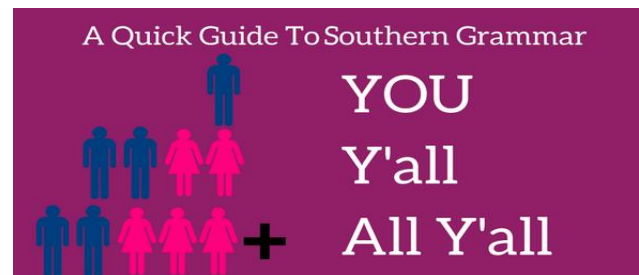
Visa Revocation

- Electronic system in place between police departments and U.S. Department of State
- Arrests, not just convictions can lead to visa revocation
- If your visa is revoked it is recommended that you stay within the U.S. until the end of your program.
- May or may not be notified if your visa revoked
- An individual police officer does not have the power or authority to revoke a visa.
 - Interacting with police, calling 911, reporting a crime – these things do not necessarily negatively impact your visa status or cause your visa to be revoked. You have rights.

U.S. Culture

Language Challenges

- Fast rate of speech- difficult to follow lecture and take notes
- Jargon (specialized language) and colloquial speech
 - Acronyms: FYI, ASAP, AKA, etc.
 - Idiomatic expressions: “I’m feeling under the weather today.”
 - Phrasal verbs: hang out, hang with, hang on, hang up, hang in there
 - Slang: “I pulled two all-nighters in a row. I’m beat. Gonna crash hard tonight.”
 - Southern dialect and accent: “supper” = dinner and “dinner”= lunch
- Sarcasm and irony
- Email etiquette: WRITING LIKE THIS= shouting in the U.S



Values

Generally speaking, what do you think might be some important values in American culture?

- If a business meeting begins at 10:00am, what time should you arrive?
- If you have a doctor's appointment at 9:00am, what time should you arrive?
- If you are going to meet your friend for coffee at 11:00am, what time should you arrive? How long would you stay?
- **If your friend is having a large party that starts at 2:00pm, what time should you arrive? How long would you stay?**
- Are deadlines generally flexible or strictly adhered to?
- Do people need to stand in line or is it first come, first serve?
- What is more important – the greater good of the society or the individual welfare of a person?
- **Is it considered rude or is it appropriate to talk with acquaintances about money matters?**
- Generally speaking, is it insulting or is it caring to comment to someone about their weight?

American Values

- **Equality**
 - All people are equal regardless of income, position, or gender
 - Less hierarchy/formality present in day-to-day relationships
- **Exceptionalism (“We’re Special”)**
 - Country where you can achieve success regardless of your beginnings (“The American Dream”)
 - Patriotism (national pride) and popular belief the U.S. is superior to other countries in many ways
- **Privacy/Space**
 - In public, Americans typically stand arms-length apart and will spread out in a room or on public transit.
 - Americans queue in lines and are offended by those that try to skip lines or do not wait their turn
 - In conversation, some Americans will tend to be private about age, money, weight, politics, religion, and sex.
- **Time and Efficiency**
 - “Time is money” – Americans value time and may be frustrated if they feel it has been wasted.
 - Americans will often consider efficiency to be getting the most done in the shortest amount of time.
 - Generally, best to be on-time or a few minutes early. Typical to apologize when late.
 - Meetings or gatherings typically have a scheduled start and end time. People may be in a hurry to leave when it is near the end time.