100 YEARS OF TRAINING TO SERVE

From its roots in a student-run Signal Corps, Georgia Tech’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) has trained thousands of leaders and is enjoying a centennial celebration this year. At top, students attend their commissioning ceremony in 2010. Above (left), ROTC students process during the When the Whistle Blows ceremony in 2015; (right) Members of the Navy and Army ROTC color guard in formation in the 1940s. Learn more about the history of Georgia Tech’s ROTC programs at c.gatech.edu/ROTC100.

Photos by Rob Felt, Jennifer Tyner, and the Georgia Tech Library Archives

Climate Survey Will Measure Progress on Campus Inclusivity

ANNETTE FILLIAT INSTITUTE DIVERSITY

This month, Institute Diversity and Academic Effectiveness will start conducting climate surveys to gauge the Institute’s progress on building an inclusive, supportive, and welcoming environment for the campus community.

The findings from the 2017 Climate Assessment Surveys will provide longitudinal data that will be analyzed and compared to the results from the Institute’s 2013 Climate Assessment Surveys.

“The climate assessment survey comparisons will help us measure progress toward achieving the goals in our strategic plan and inform the Institute’s leadership about our strengths and opportunities to improve efforts with supporting a culture of collegiality, close collaboration, and professional development,” said Archie Ervin, vice president for Institute Diversity.

Beginning this week, faculty and staff will receive an email that includes a link to their respective online survey. The survey should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and participation is completely voluntary.

Students will receive a climate assessment survey via email during spring semester 2018.

On behalf of Institute Diversity and Academic Effectiveness, thank you for your time to complete this survey, as your feedback is greatly valued,” added Ervin.

Contact Academic Effectiveness at 404-385-1292 or survey@oars.gatech.edu with any questions.

To read the 2013 Climate Assessment Survey findings, visit b.gatech.edu/17c2DzK.

Recommendations from Action Teams Now Under Review

MICHAEL HAGEARTY INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The three action teams on Student Mental Health, LGBTQIA Community Support, and Campus Culture provided their recommendations to President G.P. “Bud” Peterson on Nov. 1. The recommendations were also published to the president’s website on Nov. 3.

Over the past week, these recommendations were assigned to the leaders of the appropriate campus unit or units for a thorough review. Those leaders will provide a report of their findings on feasibility, potential resource needs, timeline, and level of institutional support required to President Peterson by Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Future updates to the campus community will occur once those reports have been received and reviewed so approved recommendations can be implemented as soon as possible.

For more information, visit c.gatech.edu/pathforward.

Protect Your Identity — Prepare for W-2s

In light of recent national data breaches, Human Resources encourages employees to double-check their mailing addresses and consider electing to receive an electronic W-2. Learn more at c.gatech.edu/w2

Make Charitable Campaign Pledges This Week

Employees can donate to a variety of organizations through the state fundraising program. Pledges for 2018 should be made by Friday, Nov. 17. Learn more at charitable.gatech.edu

IN THIS ISSUE

Carpenter Digs Working as Archaeologist 2
Remembering Two Campus Colleagues 3
Hidden Georgia Tech: The Cistern System 4
Carpenter Digs Working as Archaeologist

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Jacob “Jack” Davis has traveled to the southeast African nation of Malawi almost every summer since 2011. But, not for vacation. Davis, who is a carpenter II at Georgia Tech 11 months of the year, spends each July in Malawi working as an archaeologist, exploring prehistoric areas of civilization.

When talking to a young archaeologist who works at a university, the first question is: Did his interest in archaeology come from—


He was even in the stage show performance of the movie at Disneyland for one day — just for giggles, he said.

But his work as an archaeologist is no laughing matter. He is a main member of a project that recently made news for discovering the oldest DNA in Africa. The team conducted a genome-wide analysis of 16 African individuals who lived up to 8,100 years ago. And, they found evidence for a divergent human lineage contributing to western Africans.

The leader of the project is Jessica Thompson, a Paleolithic archaeologist and assistant professor of anthropology at Emory University. She also is Davis’s wife. The two met in Malawi in 2011 during a three-week field course. Davis was finishing his bachelor’s degree in archaeology from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, where he was born and raised.

Before studying archaeology, Davis was a retail manager for REI, the outdoor recreation store. He wasn’t satisfied with his job and wanted to change his life. So, he considered getting a degree in civil engineering because he figured it would partner well with carpentry.

Then, his best friend asked, “Would that be your dream job? Would that make you really happy?”

Davis replied, “No. Archaeology would make me happy. Being able to travel the world, to see cool things that haven’t been seen in such a long time, and to learn more about people. That would really be great.”

His friend said, “Well, go do that.” Davis did.

While a full-time archaeology student, Davis also was in the army, and he worked as an apprentice carpenter in Brisbane. He and his wife moved to the U.S. two and a half years ago when she accepted the position at Emory.

Davis started working at Tech in February of 2016. He helps with carpentry needs in Area 2 of campus, which includes the Krone Engineered Biosystems Building, Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience, Ford Environmental Science and Technology Building, Georgia Tech Police Department, and the president’s residence.

“If you’re an archaeologist in the field, after a couple of years, you will come out knowing basic electrical work, basic mechanical work, and basic carpentry,” he said. “We’re constantly sharing ways to fix things.”

So, what does Davis look forward to when returning to Malawi every July?

He said the country is beautiful, and the people are warm and inviting. He has made some good friends, and he looks forward to reuniting with them every summer.

He also looks forward to the food.

“Tomatoes with a bit of salt on them,” he said. “The food is sensational. All of the produce is picked each morning. We have local guys who cook for us, and the whole crew sits down like a big family every afternoon. We have these giant cook-out meals with tomatoes, collard greens, onions, beans and an easy-to-make local bread called nsima.”

He said he is fortunate to have supervisors at Tech who are supportive of his work in archaeology, as well as his educational pursuits. He plans to apply for Tech’s master’s program in geographic information science and technology.

“Tech has so many opportunities for employees it’s ridiculous,” Davis said. “You have STRAP and TAP (education assistance programs), and being able to work here and go to school is fantastic.”
Ron Harley, Duke Power Distinguished Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, died on Monday, Oct. 30, after a battle with cancer.

Harley joined the Georgia Tech faculty in 1999. He was appointed a Regents Professor in 2009 and also served multiple terms as the electrical energy technical interest group chair. His research and teaching interests spanned the design and control of electrical machines, control of power systems, design and diagnostics of electrical machines, and applying artificial intelligence techniques to power systems and machines.

Harley was highly respected and admired by his colleagues at Georgia Tech and in his professional fields. Prior to coming to Georgia Tech, he was a member of the Academy of Science in South Africa. He is a fellow of IEEE, IET (London), fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, and a Regents Professor in 2009 and also served multiple terms as the electrical energy technical interest group chair. His research and teaching interests spanned the design and control of electrical machines, control of power systems, design and diagnostics of electrical machines, and applying artificial intelligence techniques to power systems and machines.

Harley was a popular teacher and mentor. For the past 10 years, he advised undergraduate research teams through the Opportunity Research Program. Harley also co-advised a group of 22 undergraduate and graduate students that designed a 5-kW rooftop photovoltaic system for a medical clinic in Thomam, Haiti. He also encouraged and assisted the students in obtaining equipment donations from various U.S. companies, as well as travel funds to send the team to Haiti to install and commission the system successfully.

Harley is survived by his wife, June; daughters Ilona, of Durban, and Linda, who is a faculty member in Tech’s Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering; and two granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his son, Keith. Funeral services were held on Nov. 4 in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Read more about Harley at c.gatech.edu/harley.

In Memoriam
Ronald G. Harley, 1940 – 2017

Andrew Whitlock, systems support engineer in Georgia Tech Research Institute’s CIPHER lab, died Monday, Nov. 6, in a traffic accident in downtown Atlanta.

Whitlock grew up in multiple places, including cities abroad, before landing in Atlanta. He graduated from The Heritage School in Newnan, Georgia, in 1988. After taking some college courses, he worked in automotive for Sears while looking for jobs in the area of computing and technology. Whitlock’s love for information technology began at the age of 7 when he got his first computer, a Commodore 64. In elementary school, he was always playing on computers, learning how to write programs using different computer languages and how different equipment interfaced. These self-taught skills eventually landed him a job in the field. He grew his skills to eventually secure a position in the CIPHER Lab. Whitlock was credited with making recent advancements in the security field. He was very proud that this position also allowed him to follow a long family tradition of service to his country, which he loved.

Whitlock was extremely loyal to his family and friends, always there to help when needed. His dry sense of humor put people at ease, and he was known for his sharp mind, laidback ways, and love for family and friends. He loved working on old Volkswagens, spending time outdoors, and playing with his tech toys. He had a deep love of science and enjoyed reading science fiction. He recently developed a love for bicycling and used this as much as he could.

He is survived by his parents, Anne and Bill Whitlock, father Greg Bouffard; sister and brother-in-law, Ashleigh and Chet Sosebee, and their children Wesley and Corinne who called him “Crazy Uncle Andrew”; grandmother Joan Sandquist; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family asks that donations be made in his name to the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition at atlantabike.org. Read more about Whitlock at c.gatech.edu/whitlock.

In Memoriam
Andrew G. Whitlock, 1980 – 2017

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH CORPORATION

A celebration took place Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Historic Academy of Medicine at Georgia Tech. The event recognizes innovators who are “creating the next” and those who are living out Georgia Tech’s motto of “progress and service.” Congratulations to the following award winners.

Creating the Next

Innovation and Impact in Life Science and Bioengineering
Robert M. Nerem
Professor Emeritus
Georgia Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering

Innovation and Impact in Materials Science and Engineering
Satish Kumar
Professor
School of Materials Science and Engineering

Innovation and Impact in National Security Research
Robotics and Autonomous Systems Division
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Innovation and Impact in Robotics
Magnus Egerstedt
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Innovation and Impact in Manufacturing, Trade, and Logistics
Ferrous Processing Technology Division
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Innovation and Impact in Research and Innovation
Edward K. Reedy
Dean Emeritus
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Progress and Service

Sustained Impact in Education
Online Master of Science in Computer Science
College of Computing

Sustained Impact in the Arts
EarSketch
Junior Faculty
School of Music, and Brian Mason
School of Literature, Media, and Communication

Sustained Impact in Administration
Gisele Bennett and David N. Ku
Co-Chair of the Industry Contracting Task Force

Bridges in GTRC and GTARC Industry Engagement and Collaboration Award
Donald P. McConnell
Vice-President, Industry Collaboration

Made in Georgia Award
Mustaque Ahamad
Professor
College of Computing

Rosenberg Award for Technology Transfer
William J. Koros
Professor Emeritus
School of Chemistry and Biochemical Engineering

Done Deals Award
Strategic Corporate Partnership
Susy S. Briggs, Elizabeth Bryant, and Caroline G. Wood
Office of Development

Service to Researchers

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Andrés J. Garcia
Professor
Office of Research Integrity Assurance

Institutional Biosafety Committee
T. Richard Nichols
Professor
School of Biological Sciences

Central Institutional Review Board and Joint Center for Advanced Brain Imaging
Barbara Henry
Executive Director (retired)

Institutional Conflict of Interest Committee
William D. Hunt
Professor
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
THE CISTERN SYSTEM

HIDDEN GEORGIA TECH

November 13, 2017

Written by Victor Rogers // Photos by Rob Felt

In the heart of campus, west of Clough Commons, is a 3.2-acre green space called Tech Green. The open space is a prime location for celebrations of all sorts, throwing a Frisbee, or just relaxing.

While there’s usually something happening on Tech Green, a different kind of activity is taking place a few feet below — in a 1.4-million-gallon underground cistern system.

Let’s go down under. See more photos at c.gatech.edu/cistern.

(1) When entering the reservoir, Billy Baxter, plumber in Facilities Management, carries a carbon monoxide monitor and wears protective gear including a safety harness.

(2) The water captured by the cistern system substantially reduces the amount of stormwater Georgia Tech feeds into the city of Atlanta’s combined stormwater-sewer system.

(3) Water gauge in Clough Commons: If the level of reclaimed water gets too low to supply enough for the building, the system switches to domestic water.

(4) This monitoring station, also under Tech Green, allows Facilities staff to inspect the cistern without going into it. Inspections include gathering and removing debris from the vault.

(5) Much of the water captured in the reservoir system is sent to Clough Commons for treatment. (6) The rooftop garden of Clough Commons is irrigated with reclaimed water.

Hidden Georgia Tech is a photo essay series highlighting places on campus that may largely go unnoticed but are sometimes hidden in plain sight. If you know of a place worth exploring, email editor@comm.gatech.edu. View more from the series at c.gatech.edu/hidden.