For Gowdy, Working at Tech is a Liberal Arts Dream Come True

Katrina Heitz
Georgia Tech Research Institute

The clock would strike midnight and Michelle Gowdy would still find herself sitting in the Georgia Tech Library. Looking up from her desk, she would see so many of her classmates around her and realize: “We’re all in this together.”

Twelve years later, Gowdy sits in her office as the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI)’s senior graphic designer and as an accomplished expert in her field, reflecting on how her Georgia Tech journey has come full circle.

The Tech Funnel of Talent

Gowdy is one of the many Georgia Tech alumni who transitioned from campus into GTRI offices and labs. In fact, GTRI is the largest employer of Georgia Tech alumni, with

Gowdy, senior graphic designer at GTRI, in her workspace in GTRI’s communications office, which is currently housed in Atlantic Station.

Progress continues on the Dalney Building, which includes a parking deck and office space for research administration.
EVENTS

ARTS AND CULTURE

Through March 1
The Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking hosts an exhibit called Formation, showcasing the many directions this theme can take in biology, craftmanship, ideas, geographies, personal narratives, and histories. The museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

Feb. 6
Beatriz Rodriguez, director of Diversity and Inclusion for The Home Depot, will discuss The Power of You as part of the Impact Speaker Series from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 200, Scheller College of Business.

Feb. 11
J. Marshall Shepherd, a leading international expert in weather and climate, will discuss Zombies, Sports, and Oil: Implications for Communicating Extreme Weather and Climate Change from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Seminar Room, Kron Engineering Biosystems Building.

Feb. 11
Sarah Barnes, postdoctoral fellow in Sports, Society, and Technology, will discuss Sleep Performance is the New Performance: Examining the Rise of a Promotional Sleep Culture in High Performance Sport from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 104, Old Civil Engineering Building.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

Feb. 7
Controversial Topics in Contentious Times: Teaching the Humanities and Social Sciences at Georgia Tech is a roundtable workshop designed to open up dialogues about teaching controversial topics. The session will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 102, Stephen C. Hall Building. Register to attend at gatech.edu/controversial

Feb. 8
Graduate Studies hosts Taxes 101 for Graduate Students from 3 to 4 p.m. in Room 144, Clough Commons. Register at grad.gatech.edu/taxes101

EVENTS continued on page 3

CONSTRUCTION, from page 1

Campus Safety Facility
The exterior is nearly complete, with windows and most exterior fixtures in place. The facility is on schedule to be complete and in use this semester.

Kappa Alpha Theta House
Framing is underway for the 14,400-square-foot house for Tech’s newest sorority, which formed a campus chapter in 2016. The house is situated on Fifth Street just before the bridge to Tech Square and is scheduled to be finished this summer.

Greenfield Street
On Greenfield Street, from 10th Street to the Dalney Building site, a new water line is being installed. Work is expected to wrap up this month.

ACC Production Facility
This 6,350-square-foot facility is being constructed in anticipation of the launch of the ACC Network this fall.

Kendeda Building
A showpiece of the building was put in place in December with the installation of the steel frame for the building’s central staircase. The stairs will be formed from heart pine jostis that were salvaged from the recent renovation of Tech Tower. Read more about the building’s construction process and see interior photos.

Price Gilbert
The library renewal project continues, with Crosland Tower now functioning as Tech’s Library home. Price Gilbert is scheduled to be completed in 2020. Learn more at librarynext.gatech.edu.

Mind Deadlines for Performance Management, Goal Setting

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As the second month of 2019 begins, it’s time for employees to look back at what they accomplished in 2018 and consider what they want to accomplish this year. The performance management process is underway in Human Resources. Self-assessments were officially due in January — but can still be submitted to managers — and provide a chance for managers to consider employee feedback before a review conversation takes place. Supervisors should conduct all employee reviews on or before Friday, Feb. 22.

All signed evaluation paperwork is due to your department’s human resources representative or HR business partner by March 11. The annual performance review is an important opportunity to set mutual expectations, discuss opportunities, celebrate achievements, and get inspired to make the most of the coming year. Whether it’s your assessment or you’re delivering the assessment, the goal should be to have a conversation that’s as productive and beneficial as possible.

Goal Setting

In addition to wrapping up 2018, a focus for the first quarter of 2019 should be setting measurable goals for the coming year. The assessment conversation can and should also include some discussion regarding the coming year’s goals and expectations.

The Goal Setting form is not required but can be helpful for setting up goals for the manager and employee in a clear and concise manner. Visit hr.gatech.edu/forms to view and download forms for goal setting, annual evaluation, and performance improvement.

Employees and supervisors are encouraged to reach out to their HR business partner or representative if they have questions about these resources or the evaluation and goal-setting process.

Workplace Learning and Professional Development Classes

The following upcoming classes relate to work performance and management, and could be useful for employees and supervisors alike.

• Seizing Your Career the Georgia Tech Way
  Monday, Feb. 11, 1 to 4 p.m.
  Room 149, Global Learning Center

• Progressive Discipline for Improved Performance
  Tuesday, March 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  Room 149, Global Learning Center

• Giving and Receiving Feedback
  Friday, March 8, 1 to 3:30 p.m.
  Room 149, Global Learning Center

Registration is required. Register to attend at trains.gatech.edu.

Scholarships Available for Children of Tech Employees

The Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club (GTFWC) is offering up to six scholarships to Georgia Tech undergraduates who have a parent or guardian employed by Georgia Tech/Georgia Tech Research Institute. The scholarships are for $2,000 each and the deadline to apply is March 1, 2019.

A signed application, official transcript, and a short essay are due by the March 1 deadline. There is no minimum GPA requirement to apply.

Visit gtfwc.gatech.edu or email the GTFWC Scholarship Chair, Sylvia Mallarino, at sylviamallarino@atlantafinehomes.com for an application.

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Archives are posted at whistle.gatech.edu.

Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.
The Super Bowl LIII Opening Night event on Jan. 28 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Mason signed a five-year, $50 million contract with the Patriots in 2018.

Georgia Tech Head Football Coach Geoff Collins talks with Shaq Mason, offensive guard for the New England Patriots and a former Tech standout, at the Super Bowl LIII Opening Night event on Jan. 28 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Mason signed a five-year, $50 million contract with the Patriots in 2018.

2019 YELLOW JACKET FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>Thursday, Aug. 29</th>
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FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

School of Interactive Computing
Assistant Professor Dhruv Batra was recently selected as a recipient of the prestigious Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (ECASE-Army) by the Army Research Office, providing five years of research funding to make artificial intelligence systems more transparent, explainable, and trustworthy.

Georgia Tech Professional Education, in partnership with the Campus Recreation Center, received the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Outstanding Service Award for 10 years of service and recognition of PADI membership.

Georgia Tech Strategic Consulting has been recognized as the winner of the Association for Internal Management Consulting’s Internal Consulting Excellence Award (Small Internal Consulting group category) for 2019.

Bilal Haider, assistant professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, recently received a Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Award through the National Institutes of Health to support his team’s research.

Kaye Husbands Fealing, chair of the School of Public Policy, was recently appointed to the 2019-20 Journal of Science Policy and Governance Board of Directors.

Joel Kostka, professor in the Schools of Biological Sciences and of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Joshua Weitz, professor in the School of Biological Sciences, have been elected fellows of the American Academy of Microbiology for 2019. Both are members of the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience.

E. Glenn Lightsey, professor in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, has been chosen to receive the 2019 Mechanics and Control of Flight Award, an honor given annually by the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics to individuals who have made outstanding technical or scientific contributions to the field of mechanics, guidance, or control of flight in space or the atmosphere.

Zhiqun Lin, professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering, has been elected as the POLY Fellow and the PMSE Fellow of the American Chemical Society. The POLY Fellow is through the Division of Polymer Chemistry and the PMSE Fellow is through the Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering.

Leah Misener, a postdoctoral fellow and assistant director of the Nangle Communication Center, won professional tutor of the year of the Northeastern Writing Center Association. Keely Mruk, an undergraduate student in the School of History and Sociology and Scheller College of Business, won undergraduate peer tutor of the year.

Jianjun "Jan" Shi, Carolyn J. Stewart Chair and Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has been honored with the American Society for Quality’s 2019 Bruinbaugh Award, awarded to "the paper making the largest single contribution to the development of industrial applications of quality control."

Panagiotis Tsiotas, Dean’s Professor in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, has been elected as a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, one of the world’s leading professional associations for advancing technology.

Shannon Yee, assistant professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, received an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award for his research project entitled Switchable Organic Thermal Elements.

EVENTS

Feb. 11
The Tech Ends Suicide initiative hosts Question, Persuade, Response (QPR) Training from 3 to 5 p.m. in Room 256, Skiles Building. RSVP at c.gatech.edu/qpr

Feb. 6
The Georgia Tech Library hosts an open house for students, faculty, and staff from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the newly refurbished Crosland Tower. Tours of the facility will be held hourly beginning at the Bobby Dodd Way/Grove-level entrance. To secure a spot, visit forms.library.gatech.edu/node/47

Feb. 6
Human Resources hosts the annual Summer Camp Expo from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Register at hr.gatech.edu/bewell

Feb. 7
The LGBT+QA Resource Center hosts a Queer Coffeehouse event for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from 11 a.m. to noon, first floor, Smithgall Student Services Building. RSVP at lgbtqia.gatech.edu

Feb. 8
The Center for Teaching and Learning’s book club will meet to discuss Creating the Path to Success in the Classroom by Kathleen F. Gabriel (2018) and The Neuroscience of Learning and Development edited by Marlea J. Bresciani Lubich (2016). The discussion will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 406A, Clough Commons. Learn more and register at ctl.gatech.edu

Feb. 10
Men’s Tennis hosts Georgia State at noon at the Ken Byers Tennis Complex. ramblinwreck.com

Feb. 12
The Georgia Tech Library hosts science-fiction author, editor, and publisher Bill Campbell for Astral Travelling: Exploring Afro Past, Present, and Futures. The event will include readings and discussions from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Reading Room, Seventh Floor, Crosland Tower. library.gatech.edu

Feb. 19
The campus community is invited to hear from interim Institute leadership on the latest initiatives designed to build a culture of community, transparency, and integrity at The Year Ahead: Ethics at Georgia Tech. The panel discussion will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. in Room 236, Global Learning Center. gatech.edu/about/ethics

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to submit an event, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
You’ve been accepted to Georgia Tech! letter, and I was beyond surprised,” she said. “Because when you think Georgia Tech, that’s the pinnacle of education.” The more Gowdy learned about Georgia Tech, the more excited she became.

Being accepted was the first step. Gowdy then faced challenges that came with being an underrepresented female student pursuing a liberal arts degree at a technical school. Isolation and doubts in her abilities made her wonder if she could successfully make it through. Rather than letting doubt weigh her down, Gowdy set out to prove others wrong.

“I put in the work. I remember the long hours at the library. I remember the sleepless nights. I remember the tears. I remember failing my first class. All of that, but I made it!” As an undergrad, she was a recipient of the Tower Award from OMEDE, an educational service, which celebrates the academic achievements of traditionally underrepresented students. Gowdy regards walking up to receive her award in front of her proud parents as one of her fondest memories at Georgia Tech.

Standing there accepting the award, Gowdy felt validated. “I made it, I’m doing it, and I’m here!”

From Campus to Career

Gowdy has now been affiliated with Georgia Tech for 11 years between her undergraduate and professional career. Many of her peers are surprised by her commitment to the Institute, as their careers have moved them from place to place. But Gowdy says that GTRI has provided her with a stimulating environment from the day she walked through the door and into the Electro-Optical Systems Laboratory (EOSL) as a student assistant in 2008.

As a student assistant, Gowdy was not necessarily looking for a career or pursuing a dream, but sometimes dreams take time to formulate. At EOSL, Gowdy was met by leadership who invested in her professional development, nurturing her skills as a liberal arts major. Excellent work rewarded her with new responsibilities, and soon Gowdy was working on various projects from marketing designs to administrative work.

“In my work at GTRI, I’ve met and learned about people who had been here for decades,” she said. “I saw stability, I saw longevity, and I saw there was a potential for a career here.” Progressing through the organization, Gowdy took on new roles with a willing attitude. Eight years later, she moved into the role of senior graphic designer in the communications office.

“When I saw that position open, I knew I had to jump at the opportunity,” she said. “I now do what I love 100 percent of the time and have no plans to leave.”

In her current role, Gowdy acts as the visual eye for GTRI designs. She leads the creation of trade show and marketing materials, manages the designs of major publications such as the GTRI Annual Report, and plays a key part in the creative direction for GTRI-pros.

“Gowdy’s story is an inspiration. She has achieved great things at GTRI, and it’s clear why she’s well-liked by her colleagues. The more Gowdy learns about GTRI, the more excited she becomes. She has consistently exceeded expectations and has been recognized for her hard work and dedication. Her story continues where it all started.”