



THE WHISTLE

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CELEBRATING TECH'S WOMEN



Renderings courtesy of obj

This spring, construction will begin on an installation in the center of campus that celebrates the history of women at Georgia Tech, including staff, faculty, and alumnae. It honors women's accomplishments and contributions to the Institute and to a wide range of fields in which they have made an impact. It will also allow space for reflection. Learn more at c.gatech.edu/amazingstories.

Preserving the Past: Meet Tech's University Archivist

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As the university archivist for the Georgia Tech Library, Alex McGee carefully considers what should be documented and preserved as Georgia Tech history.

"I am responsible for thinking about what is considered Georgia Tech history and what should be documented in the archives," she said.

McGee and her colleagues are often contacted by alumni and relatives of deceased alumni who want to donate Tech memorabilia. The archives cannot accept everything, so they must weigh the value of what is being offered.

"I ask a lot of questions about what they have, how they acquired it, and its condition," she said. "If they have a Georgia Tech yearbook, we probably already have multiple copies of it. But



Photo by Allison Carter

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As the university archivist for the Georgia Tech Library, Alex McGee carefully considers what should be documented and preserved as Georgia Tech history. The archives are located in Crosland Tower.

Oh, the Places You'll Go – Even Close to Home

JENNIFER HERSEIM
GEORGIA TECH ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Take it from an adventurer with a penchant for exploring (so much so that he's on the board of *National Geographic*) that wherever your Yellow Jacket wings may take you, there's always something new to discover.

At last count, President Ángel Cabrera has visited most of Europe and North America, and much of South America, North Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia. For the president, exploring comes naturally.

For those of you who need a slight push to venture near or far, and with spring break coming next week, he offers these tips:

1. Add an extra day to a business trip.

It can be easy to arrive at the airport, head straight to your hotel, go to your meeting, and head home. Add some time to see the sights. Even if you can't devote a full day, sneak away for a few hours to visit a local museum or walk through the town. By doing so, you also have something in common that you can bring up later during networking opportunities.

2. Do a house visit.

If you are invited to visit a colleague's home for dinner, say yes! Visiting a home while you're traveling gives you a peek into the culture, food, politics, and life of that community. Ask lots of questions. You learn a ton by asking questions, and it's usually seen as a sign of respect that you want to learn more.

3. Let history lead you.

When we moved back to Atlanta, my wife, Beth, discovered a new podcast about the history of the city



Photo courtesy of Ángel Cabrera

Beth Cabrera (left) and Ángel Cabrera visit the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

called *Archive Atlanta*. There's even an episode on Georgia Tech. Sometimes the episodes have inspired us to visit a place. After listening to one about Historic Oakland Cemetery, we walked through it. There's so much Atlanta history there, including the gravesite of famous golfer and Tech alumnus Bobby Jones. People still leave golf balls at his grave. This summer, we visited Georgia Tech-Europe. When our students go there, they're surrounded by history. Reading or listening about a place brings the things you're seeing to life.

4. Take a walk.

One thing Beth and I try to do is take an Uber to a place, and then we walk home. Just walking can help you stumble upon things in your own town that you didn't know were there. We have walked to the Atlanta University Center and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. There's so

much history around our city, but you have to get out of the car and explore.

5. Volunteer.

Every city has a website for volunteering. If you move to a new city, volunteering is a great way to do something good for your community as well as meet new people.

6. Play tourist in your own town.

When you're visiting a city, you always go to the museums and theaters. When you live in a city, there's less urgency and you don't do it. Every place has hidden treasures in its museums. In Atlanta, there's the High Museum of Art, the Coca-Cola Museum, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, but also lesser-known ones like the Trap Music Museum or Atlanta Contemporary. Most people take for granted what's available to them in their own city, but go do it!

A PRIME PARKING SPOT



Photos by Allison Carter

With the new Reck Garage — officially unveiled this spring next to the John Lewis Student Center — Georgia Tech's iconic mascot will always have a prime parking spot in the heart of campus. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new space took place Tuesday, March 7. The garage includes a fully functioning repair station with a lift, work benches, plenty of storage for tools, an outdoor car wash station, and dual entrances, making the space as functional as it is stylish. The crowning design piece is a spinning turntable that allows for 360-degree views of the vintage car. Read more at c.gatech.edu/dreamgarage.



7 DECADES IN THE MAKING



Photo by Candier Hobbs

Seventy years ago this academic year, when Barbara Diane Michel and Elizabeth Herndon enrolled at Georgia Tech, they were the only women on campus. Three decades later, there were more women in engineering classes but still almost none teaching behind the lectern. And even 25 years ago, the few women joining Georgia Tech's engineering faculty found themselves without many others to work alongside.

But in 2023, faculty ranks have changed. This year, 14 women occupy leadership roles guiding the College of Engineering and its eight schools and departments. Their positions span research, entrepreneurship, faculty development, and more. They are associate chairs and associate deans. And, for the first time in the College's history, two women serve as engineering school chairs.

Meet the women and read their stories at c.gatech.edu/coewomen.

MCGEE, from page 1

if theirs is in better shape than ours, I may be inclined to take it.”

The Library Archives, located in Crosland Tower, maintains a digital archive as well as stacks of research material on a wide variety of subjects and a reading room for viewing it. There is also an assortment of artifacts ranging from movie scripts to a leather football helmet from the 1930s.

“When we take in something for the archives, it is in perpetuity — as long as Georgia Tech exists. So, we want to make sure that we are good stewards of what comes into our care. That means making decisions about how we arrange, describe, and preserve things so they are accessible and will stand the test of time.”

McGee's first job as an archivist was with the Portman Archives in downtown Atlanta, collecting and documenting material to preserve the architectural legacy of John C. Portman Jr., artist, architect, developer, and Georgia Tech alumnus. After that, she worked at MIT for four years as the archivist for the Women at MIT project.

“While at MIT, I also took on the role of interim head of Public Services, focusing on outreach exhibits, instruction, and community engagement with the archives collections,” said McGee, who came to Georgia Tech in 2022. “Being from Atlanta, I was really keen to come back. When this job became available, I jumped at the opportunity, and thankfully, they thought I was a good fit.”



Photo by Allison Carter

In addition to the physical archives in Crosland Tower, McGee and her team maintain a digital archive available at library.gatech.edu/archives.

McGee enjoys talking to people about their research projects and hearing their excitement when she assists them. “It's rewarding to see how folks end up using the material in their research,” she said. “That is the ultimate goal — not just to save things, but to have people use them.”

Away From Work

When she isn't working, McGee enjoys attending concerts, working out at Orange Theory, and walking her dog. “I go to a lot of concerts. Before the pandemic, I probably went to 40 or 50 shows a year,” she said. “I met my husband at a Grizzly Bear concert at The Tabernacle.”

When McGee and her husband lived

in Cambridge, Massachusetts, they walked a lot. “So, now we walk our poor dog everywhere,” she said. “Some days she just looks at us like, ‘Please don't make me go.’”

She has also always loved hot tubs. She and her husband even received an inflatable hot tub as a wedding present when they got married in Atlanta. When she took the job at MIT, they brought the hot tub with them but never unpacked it because they didn't have room.

“I made a deal with him that we would get a hot tub the next time we lived somewhere that could accommodate it,” she said. “He made good on it last year when we moved back to Atlanta.”