About This Publication

Each year for the past three years, Institute Diversity has published Faces of Inclusive Excellence to showcase some of the individuals who make Georgia Tech one of the premier technology-focused learning institutions in the world. The honorees featured in this publication, whether they are senior or junior faculty, staff members, or graduate or undergraduate students, all share one thing in common: the excellence attained in their research, teaching, and/or service has earned them distinctions from their peers as exemplars in their chosen fields of endeavor. When you drill deeper into the fabric of Georgia Tech’s greatness, this diverse group of faculty, staff, and students reveals the true image of inclusive excellence.

Congratulations to this year’s honorees, who are the real faces of inclusive excellence.
Institute Diversity is proud to recognize our diverse group of faculty, staff, and students who are committed to making Georgia Tech among the most highly respected technology-focused learning institutions in the world.

The members of our campus community come from all corners of the globe, reflecting a diverse pool of talent that consistently delivers excellence — whether it’s in the form of groundbreaking research, teaching, service, or exceptional administrative support that enhances Georgia Tech’s innovative leadership.

We are pleased to honor you by recognizing your accomplishments from the past academic year, and we look forward to cheering on your continued successes as we all work together to elevate Georgia Tech to the next level of inclusive excellence.

Archie W. Ervin
Vice President
Institute Diversity
Dear Honorees:

When thinking about Georgia Tech, many envision Tech Tower. While Tech Tower is a cherished symbol, Georgia Tech’s global reputation can be traced back to people like you who comprise a community of individuals with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and spheres of influences.

Through this publication, we are celebrating the diversity of your accomplishments. You, along with hundreds of others, are excelling in scholarship, research, and service and making a tremendous positive societal impact.

We congratulate you and encourage you to continue serving as an inspiration for Georgia Tech’s inclusive journey.

G.P. “Bud” Peterson
President
**Annie Antón**  
Chair and Professor  
School of Interactive Computing

Received the 2015 Alpha Delta Pi Outstanding Alumnae Achievement Award and Named “Google Famous” in The Washington Post

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**Shaun Ashley**  
Administrative Professional II  
School of Physics

Provided Outstanding Administrative Support

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**Nivedita Arora**  
Graduate Student  
School of Interactive Computing

Received the International Fellowship from the American Association of University Women

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**Rahul C. Basole**  
Associate Professor  
School of Interactive Computing

Selected for Research Collaboration with the Center for Global Enterprise, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Enterprise Transformation, Batten Fellowship from the University of Virginia, and Research Grant from the Boeing Corporation
**FELICIA BENTON-JOHNSON**  
Director, Center for Engineering Education and Diversity  
College of Engineering

*Received the 2015 OMED Tower Mentor Award*

**NISHA BOTCHWEY**  
Associate Professor  
School of City and Regional Planning

*Awarded Tenure and Served on the Advisory Committee to the Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

**DEANA BROWN**  
Ph.D. Graduate  
School of Interactive Computing

*Received the Intel Ph.D. Fellowship, Google Anita Borg Scholarship, and 2014 Foley Scholars Award*

**GREG BLEKHERMAN**  
Associate Professor  
School of Mathematics

*Awarded Tenure and Received the CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award and NSF CAREER Grant*
**Sarah Cannon**  
Ph.D. Student  
School of Computer Science  

Received the Simons Award for Graduate Students in Theoretical Computer Science and Selected to Attend the Heidelberg Laureate Forum

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**Mummun De Choudhury**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Interactive Computing  

Received the James C. Edenfield Faculty Fellowship and National Institutes of Health Grant

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**Stanley Cantrell**  
Ph.D. Student  
School of Interactive Computing  

Received the Google Generation Scholarship and Intel Foundation Scholarship

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**Donna Ennis**  
Project Director, Minority Business Development Agency Business Center  
Enterprise Innovation Institute  

Served on the Georgia Hispanic Contractors Association Board of Advisors and as Chair of the National Center for the Prevention of Home Improvement Fraud Board of Directors; Named Atlanta’s Top 100 Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League
MEGHAN FERRALL
Ph.D. Candidate
Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering

Led STARS (Science Clubs) at Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy and B.E.S.T. Academy

CASEY FIESLER
Ph.D. Graduate
School of Interactive Computing

Published Barbie, Remixed (Rewrite of Barbie: I Can Be a Computer Engineer) and Joining Faculty at the University of Colorado

GRACE GARRETT
Administrative Manager
School of History and Sociology

Received the Ivan Allen College Staff Excellence Award

ROSARIO GERHARDT
Professor
School of Materials Science and Engineering

Appointed Goizueta Foundation Faculty Chair
**Ashok Goel**  
Professor  
School of Interactive Computing

Elected President of the Biomimicry Institute  
Board of Directors and Fellow of the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems;  
Received the James C. Edenfield Faculty Fellowship, Class of 1940 Course Survey Teaching Effectiveness Award, and Fire Grant

**Mary Hallisey-Hunt**  
Senior Research Associate and Director, Operations  
Strategic Energy Institute

Received the WINDEXchange Outstanding Leadership Award from the U.S. Department of Energy

**Karen Head**  
Assistant Professor and Director, Communication Center  
School of Literature, Media, and Communication

Named Women’s Resource Center Chair and Supported the Atlanta Queer Literary Festival and Charis Circle

**Simone Heath**  
Graduate Student  
School of City and Regional Planning

Completed Double Degree Program – Master’s Degree in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech and Master’s Degree in Urban Planning from Tongji University in Shanghai
ASEGUN HENRY
Assistant Professor
Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering

Received the 2015 Inspirational Young Faculty Award from Lockheed Martin and Worked with Atlanta Public School System High School Students Interested in STEM Fields

RIGOBERTO HERNANDEZ
Professor and Director, OXIDE
School of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Received the 2015 Diversity Award from the Council for Chemical Research

STEFANY HOLGUIN
Ph.D. Student
School of Materials Science and Engineering

Received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Minority Ph.D. Scholar, National Institutes of Health BioMat Training Grant, and Goizueta Foundation Fellowship

THOMAS IGOU
Graduate Student
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Led the Algae Testbed Public-Private Partnership Project and Received the Best Poster Award from the Association of Environmental Engineers and Scientists
**AnnA Joo Kim**  
Assistant Professor  
School of City and Regional Planning

Led a Multiracial Study of Immigrant Communities and Worked in Collaboration with Georgia Tech’s Westside Communities Alliance and Freedom University

**Maithilee Kunda**  
Research Scientist  
School of Interactive Computing

Received the Rising Stars in EECS Award for Women

**Madeline Lazar**  
Undergraduate Student  
School of Physics

Served as the Society of Physics Students Zone 6 Associate Zone Counselor, Society of Physics Students Officer, and Society of Women in Physics Officer; Conducted Research in the Nonlinear Dynamics Lab

**Wing Suet Li**  
ADVANCE Professor  
School of Mathematics

Received the Ralph and Jewel Gretzinger Moving Forward School Award
Michael Loss
Professor
School of Mathematics

Received the Humboldt Research Award

Hanchao Lu
Professor
School of History and Sociology

Received the Ivan Allen College Faculty Research Excellence Award

Muswele Lundy
Undergraduate Student
Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering

Involved in the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Mental Health Student Coalition, AIESEC, and NPHC

Kristie Macrakis
Professor
School of History and Sociology

Received the Woodrow Wilson Center Fellowship
Mackenzie Madden
Associate Director, Westside Communities Alliance
Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Received the Team of the Year Service Excellence Gold Award from the University System of Georgia

Beth Mynatt
Professor and Executive Director, Institute for People and Technology
School of Interactive Computing

Named Computing Community Consortium Vice Chair and Received the 2014 Mobility Star Award

Danielle Mathis
Undergraduate Student Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering

Named GIFTED Community Service Chair

Athanasiou Nenes
Professor
School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Named to the Future of Atmospheric Chemistry Research’s National Academies Committee, American Association for Aerosol Research Annual Conference Chair, and Affiliate Researcher at the Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development and the Institute for Research and Technology, Hellas
Wanda Pierson
Program Manager, Georgia Space Grant Consortium
Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering

Managed a Statewide Network of Colleges and Universities, Nonprofit Organizations, and Industrial Affiliates for the NASA-sponsored Georgia Space Grant Consortium

Dong Qin
Associate Professor
School of Materials Science and Engineering

Received the CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Dana Randall
ADVANCE Professor
School of Computer Science

Named Algorithms and Randomness Center Director and Strategic Initiative in Data Engineering and Science Co-director; Received the College of Computing Teaching Award and Class of 1940 Course Survey Teaching Effectiveness Award

Jarek Rossignac
Professor
School of Interactive Computing

Elected to the Solid Modeling Association Executive Committee and Received the 2014 Bezier Award
LAKEITA SERVANCE  
Educational Outreach Manager  
Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience  

Led Project ENGAGES and Mentored Three Atlanta Public School System High School Students’ Participation in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

JOHNNY SMITH  
Assistant Professor  
School of History and Sociology  

Received the CETP/ BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

ENID STEINBART  
Director, Advising and Assessment  
School of Mathematics  

Received the 2015 NACADA Outstanding Advising Certificate of Merit and Georgia Tech Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Advisor Award

MICHAEL TANES  
Ph.D. Student  
Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering  

Led STARS (Science Clubs) at Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy and B.E.S.T. Academy
STEVEN VAN GINKEL
Research Scientist II
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Developed Aquaponic Systems at Grove Park Elementary School and Rising Above Poverty Farms

JOSEPH WALSH
Ph.D. Student
School of Mathematics

Received the CETL/BP Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

SHANNON YEE
Assistant Professor
Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering

Served as the Student Energy Club Faculty Advisor and Strategic Energy Institute Advisor and Fellow

ELLEN ZEGURA
Professor
School of Computer Science

Co-led the Quality Enhancement Plan’s Serve-Learn-Sustain Initiative, Created the Data Science for Social Good Summer Internship Program, and Joined the Computing Research Association Executive Board
In addition to Georgia Tech being consistently ranked among the top 10 public universities in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report*, the Institute has established a record of first-class rankings in the realm of diversity. According to the 2015 rankings from *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, Georgia Tech is ranked:

- No. 1 for bachelor’s degrees awarded to all minority students (engineering).
- No. 2 for bachelor’s degrees awarded to African-American students (engineering).

In addition, the American Society of Engineering Education ranks Georgia Tech No. 1 in engineering bachelor’s degrees awarded to women students.