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Women received an open door invitation to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in 1952.

But it was an invitation lacking enthusiasm. It had passed by a narrow vote, and was extended almost as a dare.

To many of the defenders of Georgia Tech as a masculine bastion, the decision carried all of the diplomacy of a battering ram knocking asunder the entrance gate.

And all knew that the 7-5 vote by the Regents on April 9, 1952 to make Tech a coeducational institution would change forever the cherished masculine heritage and traditions of an institution that even claimed the tune and rearranged lyrics of a rousing drinking song as its gridiron anthem.

It was a decision that vexed many alumni, faculty and students, although an element of pressure to admit women to Tech originated from within the office of Tech President Blake R. Van Leer. The gentle, but firm, pressure applied by Mrs. Van Leer helped bring about the change.

A proponent of coeducation at Tech, Col. Van Leer observed, “It is a matter of equality to admit women to the only tax-supported institution in the state offering engineering courses.”

Many alumni, faculty and students were predictably disgruntled or wary, about the change and the motives of some of the women who would attend Tech.

Ronald Holt, president of the 1952 senior class, said at the time, “If they (women) come here to study engineers instead of engineering, they won’t stay long.”

And William E. (Bill) Dean, who was editor of the Technique in 1952, observed “The students are determined that no tradition be changed for members of the fair sex. When they show they have the ability, then they’ll be accepted as one of us.”

Dean, a 1952 aeronautical engineering graduate is now president of Acurex Corp., with corporate offices in Mountain View in the San Francisco Bay, Calif. area.

He recalled that initially the decision to make Tech a coeducational institution caused an uproar and the purpose of his editorial was to “dampen some of the furore.”

“I felt that traditions were not going to have to change, and that women would prove themselves and not upset the apple cart,” Dean said in a telephone interview.

Dean said there were fears that the Institute would have to make a number of major adjustments to accommodate women and that accompanying the women would be the harassment of a lot of new rules and regulations with which to cope.

“Those who were active in student affairs could see the handwriting on the wall,” Dean said. “Those who were not that active, who represent the vast majority, were caught off guard (by the Regents’ decision).”

Although the fall of 1952 marked the year women were first admitted to Georgia Tech as day students on the main campus, it was not the first time women earned degrees from Georgia Tech.
WOMEN AT TECH

(Continued)

The Georgia General Assembly passed an act in 1920 which authorized women to attend the Evening School of Commerce and earn a Tech degree in Commercial Science. And while men dominated attendance in the evening school program which was held in downtown Atlanta, women, too, participated in the program and a number served as class officers.

The Evening School of Commerce ended abruptly in 1933 when the Commerce Department was transferred by the Regents from Georgia Tech to the University of Georgia.

The last year for the Evening School of Commerce at Tech was 1932, and five women were in the graduating class.

"When I ordered my graduation ring, I ordered a man's ring," said Miss Juliet Dowling, one of the women to graduate from the Evening School program in 1932. "I figured I'd done a man-sized job graduating from Tech, and I wanted a man-sized ring."

She entered the School of Commerce almost as a spur-of-the-moment thing in 1927, she recalled. "I was three weeks late when I went to register. I told them if they didn't admit me, I would not be back. They admitted me."

Her grades were outstanding, and in 1930, she was awarded a Retail Credit Company Scholarship. While attending evening school at Tech, Miss Dowling said she began the evening school library, going to various law offices and asking them to contribute books.

In addition to completing the curriculum early (four-and-a-half years instead of the usual five) and graduating with honors, Miss Dowling was president of the Commerce Club, secretary of her class, and a member of the Interfraternity Council.

After graduation, she taught for a business, Juliet Dowling Realty Co., which she maintained for 35 years.

In 1933, the Regents transferred the Georgia Tech Evening School of Commerce from Tech's control and it became a department of Adult Education at the University of Georgia operated in Atlanta. This unit eventually became Georgia State College of Business and Administration, now Georgia State University.

Perhaps if there had not been a 20-year gap between the time women attended the evening school and the decision to admit women to Tech on a coeducational basis, the change would not have been as unsettling.

The initiative for Tech to become a coeducational institution gained momentum in the late 1940's and early 1950's, recalled retired Tech registrar William L. Carmichael.

In what amounted to a publicity gag, Carmichael said that some 50 Atlanta high school girls rallied at the registrar's office to request admission into Georgia Tech, which was, of course, denied. They had their picture taken and left, Carmichael added.

The policy for not admitting women to Tech was a section of the Georgia code which read: "Females shall be admitted to the University of Georgia and all branch colleges of the University, but not to the Georgia School of Technology."

The code almost begged for response, and some women were asking, "Why not?"

One young woman who asked that question was Miss Anne Bend, a senior at North Fulton High School, according to an account in The Georgia Tech Alumnus (January / February 1970).

Miss Bend appealed to the Board of Regents to be allowed to be admitted to Georgia Tech to study electrical engineering. Tech was the only state supported school where she could receive such a degree, she observed. If she could not attend Tech, she requested the state pay her out-of-state tuition fees to attend Auburn University. The Regents turned down both requests.

However, the favorable attitude of the late Col Blake R. Van Leer, the Insti-
tute's fifth president, and his wife, who had earned a degree in architecture from the University of California at Berkeley, was an encouragement to proponents of coeducation.

Mrs. Van Leer was a remarkable woman. She was a U.S. Army nurse during World War I, an illustrator for Rand-McNally, and during World War II, she did drafting and design work for the U.S. Army.

With the support of Mrs. Van Leer, the Women’s Chamber of Commerce led the effort which resulted in the petition to admit women to Tech being presented to the Board of Regents.

After the initial publicity and the ballyhoo was over, Georgia Tech went about the process of admitting its first women students.

Only four women applied for admission in 1952 and only two showed up — Barbara Diane Michel, an 18-year-old high school graduate from Houston, Texas, and Mrs. Elizabeth Herndon, a widow of World War II.

After attending Tech for several years and helping establish the new era of coeducation at Tech, Mrs. Herndon remarried. Diane Michel went on to earn her industrial engineering degree and became the first woman to go through Tech from start to finish. She, and Shirley Clements, an electrical engineering major who transferred to Tech her sophomore year, became, in 1956, the first two women students.

Concerning his father's support of coeducation, Van Leer added, "Dad always was progressive. He was an engineer. He wasn’t concerned about male students and female students, he was concerned about quality students. He could imagine a Ramblin’ Reck from Georgia Tech being a female."

The women found themselves the subject of some derisive humor — ribbing about "ruffled T-squares" and the object of such puns as "Nell of an Engineer" and "I'm a Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech and I keep my lipstick near." And they chose to ignore remarks about being "husband hunting coeds."

Instead, they became involved in establishing themselves academically and socially. In 1953, freshman Ann Brown became a cheerleader, and the following year, Paula Stevenson and Teresa Thomas joined the band. Miss Stevenson also was the first woman attending Tech to become a majorette. Also in 1954, the coeds, under the tutelage of Mrs. Van Leer whom they came to call fondly "Miss Ella," established the first sorority, the Tech chapter of Alpha Xi Delta. Paula Stevenson also became the first woman elected to the student council as representative from the Textile School.

The day before graduation, Diane Michel and Shirley Clements expressed themselves in an interview.

"One thing I’d like to get straight right from the beginning. I didn’t come to Tech to find a husband."

By 1963, women had "proven" themselves beyond any questions. And they had achieved acceptance from Tech men. Tech, in fact, displayed a lack of self-consciousness concerning women that any coeducational institution might exhibit. Women were earning a better grade point average than the all-student average. And women were being inducted into honor societies and on the "Highest Honors" and "Honors" lists.
During the past 30 years, there have been many 'firsts' for women, and women are still achieving 'firsts' today.

And although women had been admitted to all of Tech's engineering and architectural schools in 1952, it was December 13, 1967, before the Regents ruled that women were eligible for all degree programs from Tech.

Following completion of the first women’s dorm in 1969, enrollment of coeds jumped from just over 100 to 213, with women enrolled in 19 degree-granting schools or departments. Construction began immediately on another women's dormitory.

The enrollment of women at Tech has grown remarkably in the past dozen years, and women have involved themselves in all major organizations and activities.

Tech had a total enrollment of 11,158 students in the fall of 1981, of which 2,311 were women—an increase of 132 women from the fall of 1980. Of that number, there were 1,883 women undergraduate students. Tech awarded a total of 477 degrees to women in 1981-82, with a breakdown of 372 bachelors degrees, 100 masters, and five doctorates.

There are five sororities with chapters on campus, and in 1981 there were 329 women in sororities. Interestingly, the grade point average of women in sororities was slightly higher than non-sorority women based on the Spring of 1982. Sorority women posted a 2.71 average and non-sorority women 2.69.

In addition to academics, women participate in intercollegiate athletics on a club basis in such sports as volleyball, softball and tennis.

Women’s basketball is a varsity sport with a bright future. In 1981, Bernadette McGlade became the first full-time woman coach at Georgia Tech when she accepted the position of head women’s basketball coach. She was an All-American at North Carolina her senior year and set records in 13 areas, including scoring and rebounding.

It has been 30 years since women were first admitted to Georgia Tech, and women have achieved their goals of acceptance. And with that acceptance, they have become more involved and more active in student life and student affairs. And they have assumed positions of leadership on campus in a wide-ranging number of organizations. During the past 30 years, there have been many “firsts” for women, but women are still achieving “firsts” today.

Two of the “firsts” belong to Helen Gould, a June 1982 Industrial Engineering graduate, who became the first woman president of ANAK, Tech’s highest senior honor society, and also was elected the first woman vice presi-
SGA Officers (L-R) Ronda Ragsdale, Denise Ellis, Lisa Johnson

dent of the Student Government Association.
In many ways she typifies Tech’s modern coeds. While she is proud of her accomplishments as a woman, she tends to view them as those of a student. Reflecting on her service in student government, she expressed her concerns in terms of student concerns. During her junior year, she served as chairman of the Academic Priorities Committee of the Student Government Association. It was a committee which made newspaper headlines when it reported that the quality of education at Tech was threatened by overcrowded classrooms and out-dated laboratory equipment.
She had been active in student government for two years when she decided to seek the office of vice president at the urging of friends. At the conclusion of the year, she was named the Student Council Member of the Year, an award that traditionally does not go to council officers.
She was a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honorary and was nominated for the National Leader of the Year Award. Other awards include Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities; and Young Community Leader of American award presented by the American Biographical Institute.
She is now an industrial engineer with Intel Corp. of Aloha, Ore., a firm that manufactures semi-conductors for high technology.
This year, Ronda Ragsdale, a senior majoring in Industrial Engineering, became the first woman elected president of the Student Government Association. It was a year in which women were swept into political office.
Women were elected to the three top offices of student government, and were elected as representatives of the senior, junior and sophomore classes.
Joining Miss Ragsdale in the SGA is Denise Ellis, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, vice president; Vivian Alyce (Lisa) Johnson, a junior chemical engineering major, secretary; Linda McFarland, president of the senior class; Sara Harrell, president of the junior class; and Lisa Wilson, president of the sophomore class.
While many early fears were that women would threaten Tech’s great traditions, women have in many ways enhanced those traditions.
The 1982 Blueprint focused several topic headings on The Tech “Tradition.” As the editors observed in the yearbook publication, “Traditions have always played a big role at Georgia Tech. From the time a freshman learns about the duties of a rat to the final singing of ‘The Ramblin’ Reck’ at graduation, all students encounter the traditions associated with this school . . . For students and alumni alike, the traditions serve as tangible symbols of this institution’s proud history.”
For the past 30 years, the Tech tradition has included being a coeducation institution. And while Tech has not remained the same, has not gone unchanged, the Tech traditions have survived.
Women are now involved in all major organizations and activities. Women have embraced the traditions. In some cases, they have added to those traditions with their own achievements, with the evolution of sororities, and with other campus organizations.
And while it has not been achieved without struggle and hardship, women have won far more than just acceptance at Tech. And now that they have, Tech, the once male stronghold, finds itself flattered by the compliment.
Women have been the source of many Tech success stories. The success may get an impetus from the strength of the Tech degree built on the solid foundation of Tech's academic programs, but the achievements always reflect the uniqueness of the woman, her personal interests, and individual character.

While many of the career stories about Tech women follow the more or less established career patterns or traditional progressions, a few career stories show how ramblin' a ramblin' reck can be.

Two women who have found careers somewhat off the accustomed paths of most "engineers," are Deborah Lanora Wagnon, an attorney in Houston, Texas, and Kimily Conkle, a professional actress in Los Altos, California.

Miss Wagnon, a former "Miss Atlanta" and DeKalb resident, has moved from center stage in the entertainment field to the drama of the courtroom. While she has chosen to step out of the spotlight, her future plans are to represent those who are in it.

She graduated from Tech magna cum laude in Industrial Management in 1976.

"I grew up around a drafting table and a 'T' square," she added. "It never dawned on me that a girl couldn't go to Tech. It was really a shock to see how few women were at Tech. There was only eight percent female enrollment when I attended."

She recently earned her Juris Doctorate of Law Degree from Stanford University School of Law at Palo Alto, California. Before her acceptance to Stanford Law School, she won the title "Miss Los Angeles."

While earning her law degree, she pursued a successful career as an entertainer, with singing engagements in some of the nation's finest clubs. She co-starred with Leslie Jon in the 1981 Production of the Miss California Pageant at Santa Cruz.

She is now working in general litigation with the law firm of Butler, Binion, Rice, Cook and Knapp in their main offices in Houston.

Texas is a right-to-work state, she said, and film makers like to come to Texas to work. "I hope to become a trial lawyer and represent entertainment personalities," she said.

Kimily Conkle, who graduated from Tech in psychology in 1974, is an actress with the Los Altos Conservatory Theatre in Los Altos, California.

After graduation, she worked in data processing and personnel administration.

"After a couple of years in the business world, I decided that it wasn't for me," she said. "I returned to school to study Drama at Stanford University, where my husband was working on his master's in electrical engineering." She has also studied at Foothill College, the American Conservatory Theatre, and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

"Georgia Tech has been quite a tradition in my family," she said. "My father, my husband and my father-in-law are all Tech grads."


Mrs. Conkle has recently performed as "Sandy" in the "Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," at the Los Altos Conservatory Theatre, where she is a full time actress and performs in seven or eight shows a year. Representative roles include performances as Catharine Holly in "Suddenly Last Summer," Adriana in "Comedy of Errors," and Nellie in "Summer and Smoke."

Tech's women graduates have enjoyed career success and achievements in many areas and fields. There are far too many stories than can be recorded in this special issue. The articles which appear in this issue are but representative of the women and accomplishments they have made since women first entered Georgia Tech 30 years ago.
Woman Senator Holds Unique Tech Degree

Three years before the first woman was admitted to Georgia Tech, Paula Hawkins received her "degree" from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her degree, awarded in 1949, was a "Mistress of Patience in Husband Engineering," a diploma initiated by Tech to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the spouse of a Tech student.

The degree, which has become widely imitated by other institutions across the country, read: "This certifies that Paula Hawkins has continued faithfully to support and encourage a husband through many months of general trials and tribulations, including endless conversations concerning point averages and formulae; numerous harangues delivered fervently on the subject of professional ability, integrity, and idiosyncrasies; countless excuses and attempts at rationalization; infrequent evenings of entertainment; and long hours of burning the midnight oil. By her perseverance she has accomplished the graduation of her husband and is therefore granted this degree."

What makes Mrs. Hawkins' degree special is the fact that she is the only woman to receive this degree from Tech who has gone on to become a U.S. Senator.


Sen. Hawkins has another tie to Georgia Tech. During World War II, her father, Paul Bunk Fickes, U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer, was stationed at Tech with the Naval ROTC.

She recalls her father taking her to the Third Street gym where there were tea dances and Tommy Dorsey songs. She told Washington Post in an interview:

"I sat in the bleachers and I watched all these young boys dance down there, and I was just much too young, but I always looked older — then the first thing you know, some of those freshmen would ask you to dance — they didn't know I was a baby — and I had a grand time."

On Valentine's Day in 1948, when she was attending Utah State, she received a diamond ring in the mail from Gene. They were married in the fall, and during his senior year, she worked as a secretary and a department store model.

In 1955, they settled in Winter Park, Fla, where Gene is President of Hutto, Hawkins & Perego, Inc., a manufacturers' representative for firms making electric components.

Gene, who supports his wife's political ambitions, has attracted some attention himself in Washington. He became the first male member of the U.S. Senate Wives Club.

With Hawkins' membership, however, the women decided to rename their club the Senate Spouses Club.

In an interview with the press, Hawkins said the women have been very friendly, and when he attended a luncheon last year, they made him "one of the girls — I mean one of the spouses."

Gene says that he has received "a little good-natured joshing" but "nothing that makes my face red yet."

Women senators are a rare breed — there have only been 15 since 1922, and most have been appointed to serve out the unexpired terms, as the widow of a senator who died in office.

Paula, however, worked her way up through the political process.

One of her political turning points was in 1958 as a member of the "Dirty Dozen," a group of women so-called because they fought Maitland City Hall to replace septic tanks for a city sewage system. After being rebuffed by the city, the "Dirty Dozen" put their support behind a sympathetic candidate who won election and installed a new sewer system.

In 1972, Mrs. Hawkins became the first Republican since Reconstruction to win a statewide election when she won a seat on the Public Service Commission. From 1973-79, she fought against telephone and utility rate increases.

She was re-elected to the PSC in 1976, and won election to the U.S. Senate in 1980.

In addition to her political career, she is a businesswoman and former vice president of Air Florida. She has served on a number of state and federal commissions, including the Federal Energy Administration's Consumer Affairs Special Advisory Committee, and the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

Now grandparents, Paula and Gene have three grown children, two daughters and a son.

Gene said he spends very little time in Washington, where Paula rents a two-bedroom apartment in the Watergate complex. They spend weekends together.

On weekends at Winter Park, Paula is content as homemaker. She has been described as conservative and is anti-ERA and anti-abortion. She and Gene are devout Mormons.

Her oldest daughter, Genean McKinnamon, told Washington Post: "I think her main thing in politics is that she feels the people have not been represented. She cannot tolerate injustice..."
Shirley Clements Mewborn, One Of First Two Women Graduates

After her freshman year as a student on the campus of tranquil Western Carolina, Shirley Clements decided not to pursue her original goal to become a math teacher and basketball coach. A high school graduate from the rural South Georgia town of Rochelle, she had read in 1952 about Tech opening its doors to women for the first time. As an excellent math student, she determined there was a real future for women engineers, and decided to pursue a career as an electrical engineer. It was a decision that had an immediate, tumultuous impact on her college life. In 1953, Shirley Clements transferred to the Georgia Institute of Technology, leaving behind her the quiet and comparative anonymity of her freshman year, and finding herself thrust into the forefront of statewide attention as one of the first women to breach the male fortress of Georgia Tech. The resulting media attention, publicity, and even touches of controversy, caught her more than a little by surprise. "I didn't even think about it," she recalled. "It just looked like an opportunity and a challenge, and the next thing I knew, I was in the middle of it." **

Today, Shirley Clements Mewborn can look back on those days with a sense of wonderment and pride. She was correct that an engineering degree from Tech would open opportunities to her, and she has been successful in combining her career and marriage. She is manager of Information Services for Southern Engineering of Georgia, and the wife of Duke Mewborn, a marriage that blossomed from a Tech romance. Her husband is president of Baker Audio. Her office is on the eighth floor of the Palisades West office complex at 1800 Peachtree Street and looks northeast toward Stone Mountain. She is an attractive, organized business woman and her office is comfortably furnished. Mounted on the wall is a needlepoint work prepared by an associate that symbolizes some of the highlights of her life. The design includes a blue ribbon with the initials of her husband and two daughters, a symbol for her "blue ribbon" family; a football with the GT logo symbolizing her love for Tech and interest in football; a tennis racket; and the company logo for Southern Engineering. **

The publicity she and the other women who trailblazed into Tech received in those early years was both positive and negative, but it was overwhelmingly positive. "For the most part it was totally positive," she said. "There were a few who were very communicative (in their objections to women at Tech). But, for the most part, it was positive."

She added with a laugh, "My husband says I was liberated before it was fashionable."

There were instances of discrimination, but she noted, she chose to ignore them. "There was a situation — a professor who wouldn't tolerate girls in his classes and got away with it," she said by way of example. "I didn't want to be in his classes anyway, so that was fine with me. It really didn't bother me, however. That wasn't really important."

"The minor acts of discrimination were far outweighed by the people who were sympathetic. Among the people to whom I am really indebted are — Dr. Ben (Benjamin J.) Dasher, who was head of science and electrical engineering, Mrs. J. Henley Crosland, director of libraries, and Mrs. Blake Van Leer, wife of the president. I think Mrs. Van Leer probably did more for co-education at Tech than any other individual."

Mrs. Van Leer was also instrumental in helping establish the first social sorority at Georgia Tech. The Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Xi Delta received its charter in September, 1954. Understandably, Alpha Xi Delta was also Mrs. Van Leer's sorority.

Shirley Clements Mewborn was the sorority's treasurer the first year, and then president. The first president was Diane Michel. In 1956, they became the first two women to graduate from Tech.
Shirley Clements Mewborn:
Was in the Middle of It'

While Shirley Clements had transferred, Diane Michel entered Tech as an 18-year-old freshman from Houston, Texas. She and Mrs. Elizabeth Herndon, a World War II widow with a nine-year-old son, were the first women to turn Tech into a co-educational institution in 1952.

Mrs. Mewborn has been active in helping the sorority develop throughout the years, and is currently president of the sorority’s building corporation.

The women really wanted to be accepted. Mrs. Mewborn said, “Of course, the bad part was being singled out.”

“For me, it was a responsibility to go to Tech,” she said. “I look back now, and it was probably more of a responsibility than I realized.”

There were some benefits to the inequitable situation.

“We didn’t want to be different, but at the same time, we didn’t want to turn down opportunities,” she said. “One of the special things for me was to get to know Col. Blake R. Van Leer (president) personally. So that made up for the professor who didn’t want to have me in his classroom. The instances of discrimination were few compared to the opportunities.”

It was because of the opportunities the women believed a degree from Georgia Tech would make available to them that the women enrolled and endured.

In an interview the day before graduation, Miss Michel, an industrial engineering major, said, “I came here to get the best possible engineering education. When Tech announced that it was accepting coeds, I was planning to attend another school. My father urged me to go to Tech to get the best engineering education while I was about it. So I ended up here. I’ll admit that the challenge of being the first to do something intrigued me, as it would any American, but that wasn’t the only reason why I came here.”

The women were also correct in deciding that there would be a demand for women engineers.

“In 1956 people were clamoring for engineering graduates, plus we had a lot of positive publicity,” Mrs. Mewborn recalled. “I must have had about 12 field trips. There were lots of opportunities available.”

The interview that she accepted was with IBM.

“I took a train to Poughkeepsie, N.Y. for the interview,” she said. “It was a blizzard. Air traffic was stopped, and we had to go by train. I didn’t know any better, I’d never been in a blizzard in my life.”

She was one of two recruits who showed up for the interview in the blizzard. “They didn’t do any testing or anything. We were both hired.”

She worked for the research library at IBM located at Poughkeepsie for a year, and reflected, “it was like being paid to go to school.”

After a year, however, she returned to Atlanta and married Duke Mewborn. “I met my husband while working in the library at Georgia Tech,” she said. “I was typing library cards, and he was a Tech student who also worked in the library. I was working at the library when we moved from the old Administration Building to the Price Gilbert Library.

“I’ve been married 25 years to the same fellow,” she added. They have two daughters; Michele, a sophomore at Clemson University, and Virginia, a senior at Walton High School in Atlanta.

In addition to marriage, she joined Southern Engineering of Georgia as a design engineer, and observes, “I’ve been with Southern Engineering 25 years, also.”

One of her design responsibilities was the rural electrical distribution system. “I decided there was an easier way to do this,” she added. “We got involved with the Georgia Tech computer system and developed a program to assist us in design.”

She became consultant with the firm, and says, “In those 25 years, I never really stopped work. I had two children and because of the nature of the consulting business, I was able to adjust my schedule and keep my involvement — and yet set the right priorities for my family.”

She believes one of the major concerns of women in attending Georgia Tech is that they will have a career life and miss having a family life.

“It is a fact that you don’t have to be a super woman to combine a career and a family.”

“‘It is a fact that you don’t have to be a super woman to combine a career and a family,’ she states flatly. ‘I think girls need to realize that.’

Because of her continued involvement with the Alpha Xi Delta sorority at Tech, and continued interest in the Institute, she is very much aware of women students at Tech today.

“Women in the student body over there make up a group of the brightest, most talented, good-looking group of girls you’ll find anywhere,” she asserts.

She takes pleasure in seeing the acceptance of women on the Tech campus today, and the involved role of women in campus organizations.

“Georgia Tech has been a male stronghold,” she said. “I don’t think I changed Georgia Tech. Georgia Tech changed me.

“In looking back, I really don’t see that we made any great changes to Tech,” she added. “And to me that’s good. To be able to fit in as part of the Georgia Institute of Technology is really what we wanted to do.”
"Being a Tech coed is novel, tough, wonderful, terrible, exciting, dull and heavenly — depending on the time of the day and the day of the week. Like everything else, it has its advantages and disadvantages."

So wrote Paula Stevenson Humphreys as a senior at Tech in an article, "A Woman In A Man's World," which appeared in the December, 1957 issue of the Georgia Tech Alumnus (now Alumni Magazine).

Looking back on her days at Tech, the 1958 textile engineering graduate still remembers her collegiate days with emotions that run the gamut from wonderful to terrible.

There is a certain tough-mindedness about her reflections as she expresses a mixture of pride of accomplishment, humor, loyalty, and occasionally a wince from a still sensitive scar.

An 18-year-old graduate of Brown High School, she had been a majorette and Homecoming Queen, had played the flute in the school band, and had earned a scholarship to go to college. In high school, she had exhibited a flair for languages, the arts, and science. She chose a career in science at Georgia Tech.

"Back then, there was no way to make money in languages, all you could do was teach," she explained. "There was no way theoretically to make money in the arts if you planned to live in Atlanta, which I did. So the best way of combining the ability to make money and an interesting profession that was open to me was in science."

So in 1954, she joined the ranks of slightly more than a dozen women who moved uncertainly through the academic halls (and male enclaves) at Tech in search of academic degrees (and acceptance).

How were women accepted at Tech?

"It was dreadful," she said. "I mean, eventually, by the time I was a senior, I was accepted well, and I was the first woman to be included in a lot of things."

Nor had Tech made many of the transitions necessary to accommodate women, and attitudes also were slow to change.

"It was frightening enough just getting into college," she said, "Never mind the bizarre situation I had chosen to put myself in — but I would not take anything for it . . .

"I reported to have my picture made for the school annual, The Blueprint. We were supposed to report to Gate 15 at the stadium. There was a secretary there typing up things. I showed her my I.D. card, and she typed up the form.

"I said, 'Where do I go?' and she said, 'In here.' And I started 'in here,' and I came back and said, 'Are you sure that's where I go?' And she said, 'Yeah. That's where you go.' And 'in here' was the men's room at the stadium. I had my freshman picture taken looking at the urinals."

She shook her head at the seemingly preposterous situation.

"I had never been in a men's room in my life," she added. "It was really awful, a terrible experience. It was my
I Could Have Gone Through'

senior year before women were permitted
to go to the photography studio to have
their pictures made.”

She related another example.
“The next year, I reported to the
school for fall registration. They used to
go through the gym. But they had this
system where the freshmen entered into
the gym in the front, and the upper
classmen had to go through the dressing
rooms, into the gymnasium. And I go

During the 50’s there were four
general types of professors coeds would
encounter at Tech, she said. “Type one
was the professor who stressed the fact
that there was a lady present and con­
ducted the class in a most gentlemanly
manner. Type two was the professor
who realized that a lady was present and
went out of his way to demonstrate that
her presence would not make any differ­
ence in his lecture or its presentation.

‘It was frightening enough just getting
into college, never mind the bizarre
situation I had chosen to put myself in . . .

with everybody through the dressing
room. I see somebody with no clothes
on. And I come to the swimming pool,
and there’s a six-foot wall that you
have to scale to get into the spectator
part to get back into the gym.
“I’m standing there, and I’ve got on a
skirt. How am I going to get up there,
right?”

Two other students got on top of the
wall, she said. “One guy took one arm,
and one guy took the other and they
dragged me up that six foot thing and I
went on in and registered.
“That was the type of thing that went
on with regularity.”

Reflecting on her experiences at
Tech, she said, however, “I wouldn’t
take anything for it in the world, because
— this is not an expected benefit — back
then, it was the best finishing school I
could have ever gone through. There is
practically no situation that I can go into
today that intimidates me, or that makes
me feel ill at ease, because of living in a
fish bowl and going through all those
crazy things.”

Among the problems of coeds at
Tech in the 50’s, she said, was the
difficulty in being accepted by the male
students or by many of the professors,
the lack of adequate facilities for women,
and resentment.

Type three was the professor who
completely ignored the fact that a girl
was in the class. And type four was the
professor who conducted the class the
way any normal coed class would be
conducted.”

By her senior year, Paula Stevenson
Humphreys had not only gained ac­
cceptance in many respects, she had
added her accomplishments to the Tech
tradition.

In addition to being the first woman
attending Tech to become a majorette
and the first woman to serve on the
Rambling Reck Club, she became the
first woman to break the political barrier
and serve on the Student Council. She
won election as student representative
from the School of Textile Engineering
and served on the council during her
senior year.

When she graduated from Tech, her
college activities also included the
Georgia Tech Band, the Technique
newspaper staff, Women’s Student As­
sociation, Society of Women Engineers,
American Association of Textile
Chemists and Colorists (treasurer), and
Who’s Who Among Students in
American Universities and Colleges.

She worked two years for the Georgia
Public Health Department in Atlanta,
before returning to Tech in 1960 as a
research assistant to Dr. R. S. Ingols,
director of the School of Applied Biology
in the Engineering Experiment Station.
It was here she began to study water
pollution, and with Dr. Ingols she was
co-author of an award winning paper on
an investigation of pesticides, “Biode­
gradation of the Carbon Chlorine Bond.”

She also adopted an unexpected pet
while working in the School of Applied
Biology.

“I came in to work one morning and

(continued next page)
there was a cardboard box with a white laboratory rat in it. There was a note attached to the box which read, 'Please take care of Jeffrey.' She shrugged. "The poor thing looked like it was starving to death. I just didn't have the heart to kill it or give it to someone to be killed. So I talked to some people at the experiment station who were keeping animals, and they gave me an old cage and some food. I kept him as a pet for about two years, until he died.

"I had an MG Roadster at the time," she added. "He would sit on my shoulder, and I would ride down the expressway with the top down. It didn't bother him at all."

While working as a research assistant, she began taking dancing lessons from Ruth Mitchell. Although she was 24 when she began her lessons, after a few years she was accomplished enough to join the Ruth Mitchell Dance Company.

In 1964, she became a chemist with the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration in Atlanta.

"I happened to be very fortunate, because I got in on the ground floor of this big federal government Southeastern Comprehensive Water Pollution Control project," she said. She became Assistant Chief of Laboratory Services.

In 1965, Paula Stevenson married George W. Humphreys, IM1955. Their daughter, Rena, was born in 1967.

In 1970, she moved to New York City, where she danced with the Chaffee Ballet including a performance at the Lincoln Center. She also appeared on television. Soon after her arrival in New York, she appeared on "To Tell The Truth," where she helped stump the panel, and she also appeared in the soap opera, "Search for Tomorrow." Her acting career has also included a role in the movie "The Bell Jar."

"The thing about show business that most people don't understand is: getting the job is the job. Doing the job is not the job. Doing the job is the fun part."

Now that her daughter is 15, Paula, who has since divorced, said she is ready to return to her professional career. In 1980, she took a chemistry refresher course at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. She has also worked as a part time research assistant.

After being out of the job market for 15 years, she said it is hard for her to be re-accepted in the work force even with her background.

But she has overcome acceptance problems before. Her current plans include returning to school in New York to earn a masters degree in computer science.

"Even though I've been out of the job market for 15 years, it has taken many people 15 years to get to the level I was at when I got out," she said. "Most people who held that position would have been in their 50's. I was 30."

She said she has never regretted having gone to Georgia Tech.

"I guess I was considered a trailblazer, which, translated to today's terms would be a feminist," she said. "But I was against the ERA, and I'm against most of this organized feminism. In my opinion, they are fighting for the right for women to be men. I never had that as my goal. My goal was to be able to use the brains that God gave me, and not have the thinking penalized because the brain happened to be in a female's body."
Merrill Elam Makes a Hit
As Award-Winning Architect

Merrill Lynn Elam did not come to Tech to blaze trails. She came to study architecture.

Even though they lived in Clarksville, Tenn., her father was a Georgia Tech football fan. So it was natural, when she decided to study architecture that she applied to Tech.

It wasn't until after she had been accepted and informed her high school classmates that she learned that nine years after women had been admitted to Tech, women who attended Tech were considered a unique breed.

"I just assumed that all colleges accepted women, unless you sought out a girl's school," recalled Ms. Elam in an interview. "Obviously I had not researched it very well.

"I never felt any sort of discrimination either pro or con," she said.

In 1965, she served as president of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

She worked for a small architectural firm for about a year, and then joined Heery & Heery, Architects and Engineers Inc., of Atlanta in 1969.

This past September, she was named a principal and a director with Heery & Heery. She was also recognized as one of 13 Atlanta women of achievement in an event sponsored by Women in Film in September.

While she is one of 35 women in the 715 members of the Atlanta chapter of the American Institute of Architects, she does not feel that her gender has been a factor in her career.

Before being named a principal and a director with Heery & Heery, she was senior design architect for such projects as The Georgia Power Company Corporate Headquarters in Atlanta; the Tallahassee Fla. City Hall, and the U.S. Shoe Corporate Headquarters in Cincinnati. She was also project designer of the Woodruff Medical Center Administration Building at Emory University.

When the Georgia chapter of AIA made its awards in 1981, six of the seven design awards went to Heery & Heery, and three of the awards were for design projects under Merrill Elam, including the Georgia Power Company and Tallahassee City Hall.

When Ms. Elam speaks about design, she speaks about variety, and meeting the needs of a client in terms of budget, site and other interrelated considerations. "We try to take an attitude of open-mindedness, looking at the problem objectively and letting the design grow and take shape according to the forces at play."

The Georgia Power Company building and the Tallahassee City Hall both typify that philosophy. Both won design awards for very different reasons.

The Georgia Power structure gained national press because of its energy conservation features and high degree of energy efficiency. Time magazine observed, "The south wall of the 24-story edifice looks like an upside-down staircase: each floor overhangs the one below, so that the top of the building sticks out 23 feet farther than the bottom. This unusual construction helps block out sunlight on steamy summer afternoons, thus reducing the need for air conditioning. But during the winter, when the sun is lower in the Southern sky, the warming rays will be able to shine into office area and provide natural heating."

The Tallahassee City Hall is nestled between the brick buildings of the downtown sector and the imposing state capital building. The challenges were to design a building which was architecturally compatible with both extremes. The building had the humility to blend with downtown and the strength to stand with the 22-story Florida state capital.

Which project does she take the most pride in?

"I think you take pride in different projects for different reasons," she said. "I don’t know if you’re supposed to admit this, but it’s like a baseball game. You get up there to hit a home run. You don’t always do it."

In the game of architecture, Merrill Elam has a very good batting average.
For Dr. Edith W. Martin, becoming the highest ranking woman in the U.S. Department of Defense essentially boiled down to her sense of duty and patriotism.

Accepting the appointment meant leaving her executive position with a Fortune 500 firm and making personal sacrifices. Not only did it mean a cut in base pay, it involved the expense of maintaining two residences while she commuted between Atlanta and Wash-

ington, D.C., and it meant spending less time with her children.

“I think that when you look at the personal hardships that are involved, we see that there is something that all of us have to recognize,” she said. “We obtain many rights and privileges as part of being U.S. citizens. There comes a time in which we have a responsibility to contribute — to serve our country. There aren’t many women called upon to do that sort of thing.”

In organizing her schedule, she spends four nights a week in Washington “or wherever” and three nights in Atlanta with her son William, 10, and daughter, Christine Katherine, 2½. “I’m on the early bird flight every Monday morning. They recognize me.”

And for Dr. Martin, her appointment also required a commitment that she would be an actively involved administrator.

“When I started the position,” Dr. Martin said, “I vowed not to be an ivory tower scientist and try to administer advanced technology from a vacuum — the vacuum being a five-sided building in Washington.”

Since her appointment as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Advanced Technology last April, her visits to command posts and to the field have been her hallmark.

She is the second woman appointed to the post. Ruth Davis, appointed by former President Jimmy Carter, was the first women to hold the position.

Dr. Martin is the first deputy under secretary to go to the various commands, government laboratories, and into the field for the purpose of first-hand experience and personal awareness.

She is responsible for the overall management of the science and technology programs of the Department of Defense. In her own words, she explained, “I have responsibility for all of the advanced research for the Department of Defense, inclusive of everything from sea rations to space age lasers. And within my realm of responsibilities there are 73 government laboratories, 60,000 people and a budget of about $4.5 billion.”

In addition, Dr. Martin oversees Federal Contract Research Centers — Aerospace Corporation, MITRE Corporation, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, The Rand Corporation (Project Air Force), the Center for Naval Analysis, and the Institute for Defense Analysis.

Dr. Martin received her master of science degree from Georgia Tech in 1976, and her Ph.D. in 1980. During that time, she also worked for Tech’s Engineering Experiment Station, and had served as director of Computer Science and Technology Laboratory in the EES.

Much of her work at Tech was directly related to Defense Department projects and helped provide a strong defense background and enhance her strong technical background.

In announcing her appointment, the Defense Department observed, “Dr. Martin’s own research and development activities encompass almost the entire spectrum of modern computer science and technology. Her experience includes software engineering, information systems; computer graphics; distribution processing; networking, computer architecture microprocessor technology and application, command and control support, robotics, and signal processing.”

At the time of her appointment, she was a corporate executive with Control Data Corporation, and director of Government Systems, Atlanta Operations. She was also serving as an adjunct professor in the School of Information and Computer Science at Tech.

Her decision not to be “an ivory tower scientist” received the enthusiastic support of Under Secretary Richard DeLauer who helped her work out a schedule to visit major commands and Department of Defense affiliated organizations.

“It’s a dramatic change, and I have not done this alone,” she said. “I have asked that a major service representative in the R and D (research and development) community join me on each of my trips. If I go to an Air Force facility, an Air Force official is with me, because for me to understand is not enough. That somebody who has a little bit more direct input to their laboratory research activities should also be aware of what is happening and without exception, so far, the people in the services have been receptive.”

Initially, there was some skepticism, she acknowledged.

“They almost thought I was an auditor, but when they realized I was sincere and that I was ready, willing and able to climb into my fatigue and go out into chigger heaven with them — that I wasn’t asking to be driven around in VIP limousines, that I wanted to be where...
Deputy Under Secretary Martin

the action was — when they realized
that, then that is exactly what they
showed me, and they enjoyed it.

Going to where the action is has
meant getting into a tank to go out on
maneuvers with the U.S. Army, flying
in an Air Force F-15, going beneath the
sea in a submarine, and being out on an
aircraft carrier.

The impressions she related are
powerful:

"You realize as you view some of
these things the importance of the human
factor both in satisfying conditions and
accommodating the safety and welfare
of the individual.

"I went out on field maneuvers with
the Army, and as far as amenities, they
aren't much better than they were in
World War II. We give them better
rations, but not the major improvements
that could have been. We serve better
meals to people who are on airplanes
than to people who are out fighting
a war.

"There is no way to overcome the
fact that it is a strenuous life. That it's
not terribly glamorous. But these people
are serving because they believe in what
they're doing.

"The young people who are doing
this might be an average of 18 on a sub,
or perhaps 19, very young with a great
deal of responsibility. They are very
professional in the way in which they
handle it. They can't make you feel any­
thing but proud. It's a difficult life. They
go out for three months at a time, and it's
a very strained social environment.

"The defense of this country is sup­
ported by people who get very little recog­
nition. It's a tremendous altruistic
gesture."

If we are, then how do we overcome
that? We need a force multiplier. To us,
our force multiplier is high technology,
and the foundation of high technology is
obviously research developing better
ideas — better weapon systems, better
defense capabilities, better communication
capabilities than anyone who could
potentially be an aggressor. We can't do
that without a continuous input of scientis­
tists and engineers, and students who
are graduating, and professors available
to us who are now drifting."

Dr. Martin is responsible for the
Ada Joint Program Office, which
manages development of the new De­
defense Department common programming
language, and its associated support
systems designed to take advantage of
today's state-of-the-art computer
software.

She is also responsible for the Very
High Speed Integrated Circuits (VHSIC)
Program, which represents a commit­
ment to accelerated development of
computer technology as an essential

"The defense of this country is supported
by people who get very little recognition."

She is naturally concerned about
reduced defense budgets, especially as it
related to research.

"In terms of the number of dollars
that are spent. I think what we have to
look at is the mission to be served. To
some extent, I do feel that we've been
negligent, and we've been eating our
'seed corn.' What we want to do is
strengthen the technology based re­
search activity."

She said the U.S. must maintain a
strong national defense and it is im­
portant that "We maintain the support of
the public... We don't have to be
aggressors in order to have (justify) a
strong defense; but there's no subsirute
for having the ability to deter by having
the capability of force.

"We have all realized that defense is
an expensive activity. It is not out of
proportion to the service performed. I
don't think that there is any citizen that
prizes much more than his freedom."

Dr. Martin is concerned that educa­
tional institutions will not be able to
continue the supply the scientists and
engineers that will be necessary to meet
future defense needs.

"The science and engineering re­
source is diminishing. The number of
people going into service related areas is
increasing dramatically. As we decrease
that reservoir of scientists and engineers,
then we will not have the capability to
support the technology foundation which
in fact is our greatest national resource.
And it is, for the Department of Defense,
the cornerstone of our defense strategy.

"Now if we look at the potential
adversary, we're outnumbered. That's
all there is to it. In several different
potential schemes, we're outnumbered.

By John Dunn
The Lady is a ...

HURRICANE HUNTER

When Laura Ann Scott entered Georgia Tech, she suspected she was looking for trouble. When she graduated, she found it.

A U.S. Air Force captain, Laura Scott is a “Hurricane Hunter.”

While becoming a member of the Air Force “Hurricane Hunters,” may not have been her primary purpose for attending Tech, it was the job that appealed to her.

“My dad, a retired colonel, was a pilot, and a long time ago, he was attached to the ‘Hurricane Hunters,’” she recalled in a telephone interview at Kessler Air Force Base, Miss.

As a student involved in the Air Force ROTC unit at Tech, one of her instructors, a former weather officer, told her more about the “Hurricane Hunters.”

After receiving a bachelor of science degree in 1977, she joined the Air Force. “From the day I entered the Air Force, I knew I wanted in this unit,” she said. “I didn’t know whether I would get in or not.”

The Air Force sent her to St. Louis University to take undergraduate courses in meteorology, and after completion of her studies, she was assigned to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois as a meteorologist.

“I took a lot of flack because of Scott Air Force Base and my name Scott,” she laughed.

Three years ago, she was assigned to Detachment 5, Headquarters Air Weather Service at Kessler Air Force Base where she is mission director on specially equipped aircraft with the primary purpose of seeking out hurricanes.

An Aerial Reconnaissance Weather Officer and qualified meteorologist, she is responsible for collecting weather data, encoding the information, and transmitting it from the plane to an Air Force weather monitor on the ground.

She said that members of her unit and the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron fly together on the specially equipped Lockheed C-130s.

“We have instruments on the aircraft that measure air temperature, dew point temperature, flight level winds, pressure altitude, absolute altitude and sea surface temperatures,” she said. “Additionally, I determine cloud formations and the speed and direction of the surface winds subjectively.”

The purpose of the unit is not solely concerned with hurricanes, however.

“We fly many types of missions other than hurricane missions,” she added. “For example, we routinely deploy to Europe or to the Pacific theaters in advance of fighter aircraft deployments across the ocean. Again, our job is to provide weather data so forecasters can more accurately predict the weather over the data sparse ocean area.

“In addition, during the winter, we support the National Weather Service in support of the joint Department of Commerce and Department of Defense National East Coast Winter Storm Plan.”

Captain Scott described a typical hurricane mission:

“Enroute to the storm, I take observations every 15 minutes until we get within 100 miles of the storm center. From that point, I take observations approximately every 15 miles until we find the center. While I’m taking observations, I am also giving heading changes to the pilots so we will find the eye of the hurricane.

“Inbound to the storm, we can expect anything from light to severe turbulence, heavy rain, occasional hail and if we are really unlucky, a lightning strike.

“Just outside the eye of the hurricane is the eyewall. Essentially, the eyewall is a circular band of very intense thunderstorms. The roughest part of the ride, and the most severe weather, will normally be found in the eyewall. After flying through the eyewall, we are in the eye.

“The eye is just beautiful. The surface
and flight level winds go from over 60 knots to virtually calm and that is quite a sight. Once in the eye, we determine the exact center of the storm and pass that information, in addition to some other data, to the National Hurricane Center... We then leave the eye, penetrate the eyewall again and fly out 100 miles. Then we fly to another quadrant and start over again to get back into the eye an hour later...

"Missions usually last anywhere from 12 to 14 hours, so needless to say, we are exhausted when we land. If we have a lot of tasking, I might be in a crew rest (that's a 12 hour period of non-flying) and then fly again right after that.

"I find this job very demanding, and very rewarding. I enjoy flying and I especially enjoy knowing the data I provide is critical and will be used immediately by the National Hurricane Center forecasters when they prepare their hurricane advisories and warnings.

Though she made it sound routine, Captain Scott acknowledged that the flights do involve danger. The Air Force, in fact, awards Air Medals for every 15 penetrations of named hurricanes or typhoons.

"It is dangerous," she admitted. "Please let me emphasize, however, we have an outstanding flying safety record. In fact, our two units have over 80,000 hours of accident free flying. Because we are professionals, we don't take unnecessary risks, but we do get the job done and do it very well."

Not all of her traveling has to do with hurricanes, and one of the aspects of her job with the Air Force is being able to travel abroad.

"I really do enjoy traveling and seeing how people in different countries live," she said. "I have been to England, Spain, Italy, the Azores, Guam, Japan, Okinawa, and a tiny island called Kwajalein.

"I think it's interesting," she added, "that I've seen other Tech folks in almost every one of those places."
WOMEN IN ADMINISTRATION

DR. E. JO BAKER
Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs

Long before the first woman attended Georgia Tech, women within the Institute played a role in its growth and development.

Today many women are involved in vital areas, making contributions that ensure Tech's standing as one of the nation's top institutions. Space, of course, does not permit recognition to all the deserving members of the faculty, administration and staff. We have focused on two women whose highly visible profiles make them readily identifiable to many alumni.

Working as an administrative assistant in the Fulton County Solicitor General's office in the late 1940's, Jo Baker received valuable first-hand experience in the judicial process, especially involving grand jury and criminal court procedures. She also received a first-hand encounter with discrimination.

While working for the Solicitor General's (now District Attorney's) office, she attended Atlanta Law School and in 1948 earned her LLB. But instead of doors opening for her to pursue a career in law, doors began closing.

"When I passed the bar exam and was admitted to the bar and suggested maybe I could be made an assistant in the Solicitor General's office, they were flabbergasted," she recalled. "They had never had a woman assistant, never even considered a woman. Of course, I was very Southern and single. They couldn't imagine having a woman in the courtroom handling a criminal case."

When she suggested to friends who were attorneys that she would like to go into private practice, they discouraged her.

"They said they hated to see me go into private practice because it was too tough for a Southern lady. They suggested that if I really wanted to do something, I might go with a law firm or corporation and do the background or research work — which didn't appeal to me at all."

The door that was closed to the law profession set Jo Baker in pursuit of a new career, a pursuit that finally led to Georgia Tech, where she is now associate vice president for Academic Affairs and the highest ranking woman at Tech.

In turning from law, she initially turned to politics, and earned a BBA in public administration from Georgia State. "I looked into politics a lot more and found out that it's not what you know about government and finance, it's who you know. I was much too idealistic."

As she became disillusioned with politics, she became interested in helping the girls who were sent to juvenile court.

"I became a big sister and worked with a number of the girls and became very much interested in trying to do something to better them . . . "What I really wanted to do was to understand them a little better. I didn't understand how their lives were so different from mine. So I became interested in psychology."

She took a leave of absence from her job with the county manager to attend graduate school at Emory University. She became so fascinated with the study of psychology, that she quit her job and earned both a M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology in 1960 and 1962.

She came to Tech while finishing her dissertation, and after earning her degree, was offered a full time position.

"I must have been terribly naive about what goes on in universities," she laughed. "I came here full-time with 'Now I'm going to have summers off — I love to travel, I'm going to get to travel every summer!'"

But, Dr. Baker said she found her paycheck would not support her extensive travel plans and the faculty workload, which included research and various projects, often overwhelmed into the summer. During the 16 years she taught in the psychology department she took off only two summers, and only one of those for extensive travel.

In 1978, Dr. Vernon Crawford, formerly vice president for Academic Affairs and now chancellor of the University System of Georgia, named Dr. Baker his part-time assistant. In 1979, the position was made full-time and after a search, Dr. Baker was named associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Baker is also licensed as an attorney at law, is a member of the Georgia State Bar, and is licensed as a psychologist with the State of Georgia.

She is past president of the Georgia Psychological Association and currently chairs the committee on Women's Issues. Her community involvement includes service work with the League of Women Voters, DeKalb County, and serving on the Board of Trustees, World Congress Institute.

Dr. Baker said that she has observed an attitude change at Tech concerning women students.

"I think for a long period of time — and I've talked with women students . . . they felt tolerated on campus; they felt they were not wanted here. It was obvious many of the professors did not want them, and some of the male students did not want them . . . Consequently, they took a very submissive, low profile role.

"Now, I think they have found that they are accepted and that they can succeed. Because men are more accepting of them, the women students feel freer. They are more likely to say, 'Yes, I can do this,' or 'I'll run for this office or accept that responsibility.'"

"So things have changed," Dr. Baker added. "Women at Tech feel accepted by virtue of being a person. They do not have to follow the old stereotypes . . . and the men apparently find it very comfortable too."
On the eve of Homecoming, 1981, Janice Gosdin thought she was going to die.

Shopping in a department store, the woman who has stood at the right hand of Tech presidents for more than 20 years, suddenly realized she was very seriously ill.

She had begun hemorrhaging in the store, went to her car and drove to Piedmont Hospital.

And the woman who has been an overcomer, who is consciously aware of herself as a survivor, was stricken by the thought that she might not survive this.

She was admitted to the hospital on Oct. 22, 1981, and doctors told her they would have to remove a lung.

The operation took place a little more than a week later, over Homecoming Weekend.

During her hospital stay, she received well wishes from hundreds of friends and enough flowers to completely fill two rooms. But she said of the operation, "I knew this one was going to get me."

Before the operation, she told Dr. and Mrs. Walter Bloom (Dr. Bloom is assistant to the president, special projects), "I need a rainbow."

Following the operation in the intensive care unit of the hospital, when she came to in her room, there was a magnificent painting of a rainbow.

"I think if I had one wish that I could share with all of the people who have been so good to me... my one great wish would be that every day of my life I could show somebody the colors of my rainbow - and I try to do this."

The will to win, to survive, comes natural with Janice Gosdin.

As a child growing up in Newnan, Ga., she developed an aggressive, competitive drive. Her sister, June, was a beauty queen. Janice elected to be an athlete.

She was an "A" student in high school, but she excelled as an athlete, becoming a state champion tennis player, an all-state basketball player, and a champion diver, winning the Peach State Crown in diving.

She attended West Georgia College for two quarters before transferring to Auburn University, where she became involved with a sorority and other aspects of campus life.

Three years later, she married and dropped out of college. The marriage lasted 13 months before it ended in divorce.

Shattered by the failure of her marriage, she returned to Auburn where, by taking overloads, she earned her degree in English in two quarters.

The day Janice Gosdin applied for a job at the Georgia Tech personnel office, she was confronted with a typing test. She jokes that she tried unsuccessfully to bribe the personnel officer in an effort to avoid the test.

"Being an English major then, everything had to be done in pen and ink," she observed. "Now everything has to be typed. I came up with a magnificent typing speed of, I think, eleven words a minute with no errors."

Regardless, she found herself in a job interview with none other than the president of the Institute, Dr. Edwin Harrison, to whom she had to acknowledge that she didn't take shorthand either.

That afternoon, she received a phone call from President Harrison, who offered her the position of receptionist in the president's office.

Although she had also been offered a comparatively glamorous job as an airline stewardess, she felt she had more secure future at Tech, and accepted the job.

Two months later, the executive secretary to President Harrison resigned and Janice Gosdin was awarded the position. With admittedly modest secretarial skills, she relied on her wits, competitive spirit, and an exceptional memory.

"When I walked into the office, I had no back up, none whatsoever," she recalled. "I went through every list, and I memorized everybody that was on a list, that was on any board, and, of course, I knew their names if they called in." During her 21 years, she has served under five presidents — three men who have held the post full time and two acting presidents.

"I've had one job in my life, and I've resigned four times," she laughed. Each time a president has resigned, she has tendered her resignation also.

"I think it gives the president the right to make a choice, to bring in his team," she said. "When you work as closely with the president as I have, there has to be total trust."

Because she has a strong loyalty to Tech, she said, she is able to transfer her loyalty to the men who run Tech.

The presidents under whom she has served include Dr. Harrison; Dr. Vernon Crawford, acting president, now chancellor of the University System of Georgia; Dr. Arthur B. Hanson, Dr. James Boyd, acting president; and Dr. Joseph M. Pettit, now in his 11th year as Tech's eight president.

On December 24, 1981, she married William Sangster, dean of Georgia Tech's College of Engineering.

"It is the most wonderful thing that could have happened," she said. "I married my best friend."

And after 20 years of serving as the secretary to the president, she has been appointed assistant to the president. Her new responsibilities primarily concern several special projects at Tech, including Tech's Centennial Celebration in 1985.

"I have always been loyal to Tech," she said. "And Tech, of course, has been very good to me."
When James "Jim" Dull came to Tech in 1957 as an Assistant Dean of Students for Housing, he was the first full-time person to be hired for "housing," and his first problem was to learn to function without an office.

"I was only one of four professional people in the Dean of Students' operation," Dull recalled. "When I showed up there wasn't any office space available. A janitorial closet was requisitioned, and after moving the junk out, and finding a second-hand desk, I had an office. I didn't have a telephone for I don't know how long, and I didn't have a secretary until well into my second year.

I was hired at an annual salary of $5200 (there were 5200 students enrolled that year) so with tongue in cheek Dean of Students George Griffin said my salary would be one dollar for each student enrolled. It was a matter of starting with nothing and going from there. Actually, I liked the arrangements; starting from the bottom has its good points.

"My wife, Gay, and I were given a very nice faculty apartment in Towers Dormitory in which to live. Our boys, John, now 24, and David, now 22, were both born during the four years we lived in Towers."

Jim Dull, now Dean of Students, has, during the past quarter of a century (he completed 25 years at Tech in August), had a unique perspective from which to observe Tech change and grow — much as he has personally grown from the janitorial closet to his more comfortable office in the Dean of Students Building.

Dean Dull's 25 years at Tech cover a period that saw the changing of the guard six times, integration, the activists' years, the streaking phenomenon, and an era when women evolved from being mere campus curiosities to becoming campus leaders.

And through it all, Dull has either been an astute observer or has helped shape Tech's future. Dull observes that "Tech has come a long way in the past 25 years — the progress, and the growth have been unbelievable."

"There are those who would like to see Tech stay more or less the way it was, but change is inevitable. We have people now who visualize more for Georgia Tech than just the way they found it. Many pressures are associated with growth and improvement. I'm sure it's pressure for President Pettit, but he's committed to seeing this school become the finest institution possible in every respect."

Dean Dull has a relaxed, comfortable manner and he takes the pressures of his office in stride.

"I've never been one to be a real uptight person," Dull acknowledges. "One could certainly find plenty to worry about. I've had staff people who were worry warts about things and who developed stomach trouble and so on. I know that's happened to a lot of my colleagues in the field of student personnel work."

A native of Connellsville, Pa., Dean Dull received his bachelor's degree from Slippery Rock State College and a master's degree in higher education administration from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He was Assistant Dean of Men at Miami University before he came to Tech.

In 1960, when the late John "Jack" Pershing moved to Emory University as Dean of Men, Dull became Tech's Associate Dean of Students. And in 1964, when Dean of Students Emeritus George Griffin retired, Dull was named to the post by President Edwin D. Harrison.

"A lot of exciting things have happened since I've been here," Dull commented. "I was here during the 75th Anniversary of Georgia Tech and it looks like I will be here through the 100th Anniversary."

Dull recalled that in connection with the 75th Anniversary, Tech had commissioned a consulting firm to prepare a long-range development plan.

The study projected that by 1985, Tech would have 12,500 students. Half
Activists, Streakers, Growth and Change

25 Years Anything But Dull

to the students would be graduates and the other half undergraduates. And it projected just 500 women students.

"I thought at the time that was a questionable prediction," Dull said. "The only way I felt that would happen was if they made a hard and fast rule that Tech would accept no more women than accomplish a thing but misery by objecting and resisting," Dull recalled.

Dean Dull prepared a campus emergency plan which would apply to not only possible integration problems but to any campus crises. The same plan was later used during the activists' years at Tech.

"I've never been one to be a real uptight person. One could certainly find plenty to worry about."

d that. We have about 2,300 women now, and that number will keep growing."

Dull said, "Each year about one-fourth of the freshman class is made up of women.

"In 1957 there were 11 women. In those early years our women students felt like they weren't accepted. I think they were more readily accepted by the students than by faculty and alumni who were slower in their acceptance.

"Of course, those first women were trailblazers, no question about it.

"The most difficult time at Georgia Tech came during the days of integration," Dean Dull said. But at Tech, there were no major disturbances or demonstrations, and a major reason was because of the plan Tech put into effect in preparation for integration.

The plan was prepared by Dull and accepted and implemented by President Harrison.

Dean Dull visited the University of Alabama, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Georgia when each went through the throes of integration, and observed first-hand the disturbances of those campuses.

"Dr. Harrison knew that integration was a foregone conclusion and decided the transition at Georgia Tech would be as smooth as possible," Dull added.

"I heard from representatives of both Alabama and Mississippi about how they wished they had done more preparation for integration, because they didn't Dull said, "It was a matter-of-fact plan.

"I didn't feel that there would be trouble on this campus," he added. "Most students here are conservative, competitive and very goal oriented. They were not here to deny anybody who could 'hack it' or the opportunity for them to try. And that's just about how it worked out."

The plan touched every organization on campus to inform them of the decision to integrate, to seek their support, and caution them not to become involved in any form of disturbance.

"I remember that prior to integration the president called everyone together for a mass meeting in the old gym," Dull said. President Harrison told the overflow crowd, 'this is going to happen; it's that simple. Nobody is going to keep it from happening. It's inevitable, and we're going to do it in the best manner, shape and form we can.'

"The first three black students to attend Tech had months of advance orientation and met with student leaders of various campus organizations. All preparation was given a positive form," he said.

"We had very little difficulty internally or externally," Dull said. "The Ku Klux Klan came and paraded up and down North Avenue, but only long enough to have their pictures taken. Then they left.

"During the activists' years in the late 60's and early 70's, Tech was spared the open hostility and rebellion that disrupted many colleges and institutions across the country," Dull said.

But, he added, "Tech experienced the spin-offs of the activists' years — the attitude of students at Tech became more self-centered, and the change was most obvious in the drop in student participation in organizational endeavors."

According to Dull, in 1967 Tech had a whopping 72 percent student participation in campus elections, but in the following years, the student participation in campus elections went into progressive decline. In the mid 1970's things started moving in the other direction — today student leadership is strong in number and quality.

"Georgia Tech has always had high caliber student leaders who enjoy a high degree of independence in performing their duties and responsibilities."

Of the many areas of growth and development at Tech, Dean Dull indicated he takes special pride in the increased female enrollment and involvement of women in campus life.

Today, he noted, women hold top leadership positions in the student government and many other organizations on campus.

"I don't know of any area where Tech women aren't pretty much setting the pace," Dull said.

"Tech is fortunate to have a large number of women who have all the right attributes; they are intelligent, friendly, and very personable. Of course, I've been an advocate of women at Tech, so maybe I'm a little more biased than most. After Tech, our women continue to make their mark in careers and professional fields."

Dean Dull is optimistic about Tech's future, a future he visualizes as including a new Student Services Building, additional student housing, an addition to the Student Center, a theater, an official track and field and most importantly a continuing stream of new generations of Georgia Tech students.
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