Educational Trip 2013: A Guide to Georgia Tech and Atlanta, GA
Welcome! Καλώς Ορίσατε!

The Georgia Tech Hellenic Society (GTHS) is delighted to participate in the 2013 Educational Trip. We view this program as an exciting opportunity to support our fellow Hellenic students in making positive changes to the Greek University system as well as the overall student experience back home. We have therefore put this document together to help familiarize those students who are interested in applying to the Educational Trip and, perhaps, are curious about what our university, the Georgia Institute of Technology, could offer them. The other beneficiaries of this information are those individuals that have ultimately been selected to visit us this April.

The document starts by introducing you to the Georgia Tech Hellenic Society as well as a couple of other Hellenic-related activities that we interact with. We hope these examples will convince you of our vibrant Hellenic community. Then, the academic and research aspects of the university are presented. A brief overview of extracurricular activities on campus is also provided; you will see that we have a lot of societies on campus, each with a different goal or purpose. Perhaps there’s one for you?! Finally, the vibrant industrial activities in and around Atlanta are briefly examined.

How to use this document

If you are in the process of applying to the Educational Trip program, we highly encourage you to look through this document and the other resources that it points to as inspiration for your application. Georgia Tech’s community is a highly active one and we believe that there are several ongoing efforts both on campus and around the city which could be transferred back to Greece with great success.

If you have already been accepted to join us, please use this document to familiarize yourself with our campus and city before you arrive. If there are any specific programs, groups or events that you would be especially interested in seeing during your stay, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at hellas@gatech.edu. We will do our best to organize time for you to learn more about them!

The GT Hellenic Society (GTHS)
http://www.hellas.gtorg.gatech.edu

GTHS is a student-run organization whose primary purpose is to promote fellowship amongst the Greek/Cypriot student community at Georgia Tech. Through social and cultural events, we hope to provide a "home away from home" for these students throughout their studies. Additionally, GTHS aims to provide support to prospective Hellenic students and ease their transition into GT life upon their arrival. Lastly, and no less importantly, we wish to introduce newly arrived students to the vibrant Hellenic Community of Greater Atlanta.
Over the past 2 years, the Greek student population on campus has grown tremendously, with over 25 graduate and undergraduate students now studying here. Examples of the events we have organized or participated in over the years include:

- Atlanta Greek Festival organized by Atlanta’s Greek Orthodox Cathedral
- “Tziknopempi” Dinner
- “Vasilopita” Social in partnership with the Hellenic Academic Society (HAS)
- Invited talks by faculty and external guests
- “Tavli” Nights
- Annual “Plaka Party” at the local Plaka Tavern
- Intramural sports (basketball and indoor/outdoor soccer)
- National Hellenic Students Association (NHSA) Conventions in partnership with Hellenic Associations across the USA
- Laser Tag
- Easter Party hosted by the Hellenic Academic Society (HAS)
Useful people for you to know this year (2012/2013) include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Alma Mater</th>
<th>Other Societies and Affiliations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spyros Zafeiropoulos</td>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Aerospace Engineering (2nd Year Ph.D)</td>
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<td>Imperial College (IC), London, England</td>
<td>2011-2012 GTHSA President, 2008-2009 IC Electrical Engineering Society (EESOC) Vice-Chair, 2005-2006 Conseil Supérieur des Elèves (CoSup) Vice-President</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:alexandrou@gatech.edu">alexandrou@gatech.edu</a></td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Industrial &amp; Systems Engineering (3rd Year Undergraduate)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2011-2012 GTHSA Treasurer, Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity</td>
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Hellenic Academic Society (HAS)
The Hellenic Academic Society is a professional organization dedicated to the promotion of Hellenism and its culture in Atlanta and the State of Georgia. In its current form, the Hellenic Academic Society (HAS) was established in 1991. However, the organization has its roots in the Georgia Tech Hellenic Society, an organization that was initially organized in the early 1970s.

The main aims of the society include:

The organization of social and cultural events providing the opportunity to learn, examine and enjoy cultural and educational subjects related to modern and ancient Greece.

The society organizes annual traditional Vasilopita (New Year's) and Easter parties. It also organizes a variety of educational and cultural events.

The “arni” (lamb) on the spit!  Preparing the food for Pascha!

National Hellenic Student Association (NHSA)

http://www.nhsaofamerica.org

“The NHSA of America is the network of the Hellenic Student Associations across the United States. By linking all the Greek, Greek-American and Cypriot students of the American educational institutions our organization can promote ideas and projects and enrich the Hellenic spirit on campuses nationwide.

Our vision is to build a strong and efficient entity with members and supporters that receive and add value to the organization. To achieve this goal we act as representatives of our country and
our universities, ambassadors for Hellenism and Παιδεία (Education), two identical concepts for us.\(^1\)

“NHSA acts as an umbrella organization which unites and offers resources for all Greeks, Greek-Americans and Cypriots studying in universities in the United States. Currently, there are local Hellenic Student Associations (HSAs) in more than 40 universities. These local Associations are participating member-Chapters of NHSA, which has the power and the resources to act as a central body; as the main representative of students with Hellenic heritage…

In order to achieve its goals and to promote Hellenism among students, NHSA holds two annual General Assemblies (Conventions) -one in the fall and one in the spring- during which representatives from HSAs of member-universities gather so as to coordinate efforts with each other and to form a strong academic, professional, cultural and living Hellenic community in the US.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) http://www.nhsaofamerica.org/about/

\(^2\) http://www.nhsaofamerica.org/about/mission/

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in technological/scientific research. This is particularly demonstrated by its $655 million research budget and its estimated $3 billion annual impact on the metro Atlanta economy (2011).³

**Facts and Rankings:**
Georgia Tech consistently ranks among the top research universities in the country, particularly when considering that it is a public school. Besides the departmental rankings shown below it is especially interesting to note that Georgia Tech is the No. 1 Top Degree Producer (2012) to all ‘All Minority Students’ at both the Bachelor’s and Ph.D levels.

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<tr>
<th>No. 4 graduate engineering college</th>
<th>No. 5 undergraduate engineering college</th>
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<td>Industrial Engineering – 1st</td>
<td>Industrial and Systems Engineering – 1st</td>
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(Source: US News)

**Campus and Facilities**

Georgia Tech’s campus is located in the middle of Atlanta’s green Midtown neighborhood.

Georgia Tech’s Tech Square and the infamous “Tech Trolley” which is free for all!

³ http://www.gatech.edu/about/
Our sports facilities are among the country’s finest (#1 university athletics center in USA, left).

Core Research Areas
Georgia Tech has identified a set of research areas\(^4\) to specialize on. Its hope is that by identifying these core targets, the university can be more effective in the allocation of its resources and, therefore, achieve a more meaningful impact overall. These research areas are interdisciplinary as well, so there is a strong push for interdepartmental collaboration.

\(^4\) http://www.gatech.edu/research/areas
Departments and Institutes

Georgia Tech has adopted a very dynamic organizational structure whereby academic departments (defined by discipline) are spanned by intra-college research centers such as the Georgia Electronic Design Center (GEDC) and the Center for Organic Photonics and Electronics as well as inter-college research institutes, such as the Institute of Electronics and Nanotechnology (IEN) and the Institute for Paper Science and Technology (IPST). The intention of this structure is two-fold: a) to promote the cross-field research between departments and b) to establish, through its institutes and centers, an infrastructure that can interact directly with industrial partners.
Student Societies and Extracurricular Activities

Georgia Tech has an expansive network of student societies and clubs, as well as a very healthy dose of school spirit which is expressed through athletics and “Greek Life.” In this section, we aim to provide an overview of the extracurricular activities that students – at the both the undergraduate and graduate levels – can engage in throughout their studies.

Student Government Association (SGA)

www.sga.gatech.edu

“The Undergraduate Student Council is the undergraduate branch of the Student Government Association. The council comprises representatives from each class and major. The Graduate Student Senate is the graduate student branch of the Student Government Association. The senate comprises representatives from each academic department. The purpose of the Student Government Association is to enhance the quality of student life at Georgia Tech by providing student participation in the governance of the Institute.”

The undergraduate SGA is structured as follows:
Interesting SGA Resources:

- **Course Critique** (http://sga2.gatech.edu/critique/): Course Critique is designed with the Student Experience in mind. It provides students with data about class grades/distribution and teaching survey responses. The aim is to help students make informed decisions when selecting classes and hold professors accountable by making grade distribution and course information available to the public.

- **Jacket Pages** (http://www.jacketpages.sga.gatech.edu/): Jacketpages is an online directory of all of the student groups on campus. It allows each student group to create a profile which describes the group’s mission and list those individuals who are responsible for it. In addition, it establishes a direct path of communication between the student groups and the SGA. This is especially important for *bill submission*, which is the process by which student groups apply for money from the SGA to organize events or buy supplies.

**How to fund a society**

Societies and clubs at Georgia Tech have access to a variety of financial sources located on campus. Here is a list of just some of these:

- **SGA**: The SGA is funded through a mandatory “Student Activity Fee” (SAF) that all students pay with their tuition fees when enrolling at the beginning of each semester. The distribution of this fee to student clubs is managed by students elected to sit on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). There are two ways for a society to access these funds:
  - **Budget**: budgets must be prepared and submitted at least one year ahead of the intended funding period. Items that can be funded
  - **Bills**: bills can be submitted for individual events/programs (i.e. smaller quantities of money) throughout the year and it is highly recommended that they are officially presented 4-5 weeks before the requested money is needed by the society. The society must identify seated members of the SGA (one undergraduate and one graduate) as co-authors of their bill. When the bill makes it to the agenda of the SGA, the society must send its own representatives to defend its case in front of the entire undergraduate council and graduate senate.

- **Georgia Tech Student Foundation** (www.gtsf.gatech.edu): student donations are invested in the stock market and all profits are returned to student groups. Applications are accepted twice a year, with priority given to new projects.

- **Buzz Funds** (www.importantstuff.gatech.edu): these funds are accumulated from the sale of Georgia Tech merchandise (e.g. shirts, hats, etc.). The application for these moneys must include a formal proposal, including a mission statement, budget, scope. The emphasis is on Georgia Tech community involvement and leadership.
Examples of well-known societies/groups on campus

**EWB-GT**

EWB-GT is a student chapter of a national non-profit organization called Engineers Without Borders-USA. We serve as a resource for connecting Georgia Tech students with opportunities for personal development and a stronger understanding of global health concerns and humanitarian engineering. Our student members design and implement solutions for health and infrastructure needs in developing communities. We have two international projects and several local research and outreach projects.

http://ewb-gt.org/

**Enterprise to Empower (En2Em)**

Enterprise to Empower (En2Em) is a Georgia Tech student organization that seeks to educate, enable, and engage students in social entrepreneurship, helping them discover how their skills and talents in any field -- from business to engineering -- can be applied to the social problems of the world today. More than just enabling students to start new enterprises and organizations, En2Em sees the need to equip all those in our generation with the skills of leadership, creativity, and empathy for others so that they may become positive change-agents in their communities and workplaces.

http://www.en2em.org/

**IEEE**

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is the world's largest technical professional society. It was founded in 1884 and today's Institute is comprised of more than 350,000 members who conduct and participate in its activities in 150 countries. The Georgia Tech Student Branch is taking steps to get students active in IEEE and participate in the many exciting opportunities that are available through this organization.

https://www.gt-ieee.org/

**Solar Jackets**

The Georgia Tech Solar Jackets is a student organization dedicated to the design and construction of competitive solar racing vehicles. We seek to develop teamwork, leadership, and innovative engineering skills by providing training and hands-on experience in solving real-world engineering problems. We are a student-run organization, built on the dedication and ambition of our members. The solar race car project promotes cross-
disciplinary learning and interaction, and it necessitates engineering excellence, leadership, and teamwork from all students involved. The Solar Jackets began its first project in 2008 – the Audi TT Solar-Assisted Electric Vehicle (SAEV). The second project, the solar racer, is powered by the sun alone and built to compete in major solar racing events such as the American Solar Challenge and the World Solar Challenge in Australia.

Blueprint is official student yearbook of the Georgia Institute of Technology. It was established in 1908 as The Blue Print and is the second oldest student organization on campus. The Blueprint features articles highlighting student life, academics, sports, organizations, Greeks, campus events, and graduate and undergraduate portraits. The volumes are 100% student written, designed, and photographed.

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) at Georgia Tech leads and directs the 32 member fraternities on campus. Each of the thirty-two chapters and colonies represented are members of the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), an national governing body. The Interfraternity Council promotes the interests of fraternities in general, and insures cooperation among the different fraternities on campus.

The Collegiate Panhellenic Council is the governing body of the seven National Panhellenic sororities on Georgia Tech's campus, as well as two Associate Member sororities. The Collegiate Panhellenic Council promotes excellence in academics, community service, campus involvement, and sisterhood. We are committed to the vision of creating respectful young women of service.
Industry in/around Atlanta

Atlanta has a vibrant industrial community, with many internationally-renowned American brands operating out of the city. In addition, there are several multinational corporations which have chosen to place their American headquarters here too. These are just some of the companies based in Atlanta:
**Start-up and Georgia Tech Spin-offs**
Georgia Tech has a proud tradition of creating spin-off companies from the research carried out on campus. To achieve this goal, Georgia Tech has created a powerful infrastructure under the umbrella of the Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI²). Links and resources for EI² and its subsidiaries can be found in the following links:

**Enterprise Innovation Institute:** [http://innovate.gatech.edu/](http://innovate.gatech.edu/)

**Georgia Tech Venture Lab:** [http://venturelab.gatech.edu/](http://venturelab.gatech.edu/)

**Georgia Tech Advanced Technology Development Center:** (ATDC) [http://atdc.org](http://atdc.org)

**Georgia Tech Flashpoint:** [http://flashpoint.gatech.edu/](http://flashpoint.gatech.edu/)


Though many of the companies which spin-off from Georgia Tech are founded/led by senior Professors and Researchers, there are also many student-focused programs available:

**The Georgia Tech Research & Innovation Conference (GTRIC)**
[http://www.sga.gatech.edu/graduate/GTRIC](http://www.sga.gatech.edu/graduate/GTRIC)

“A yearly event that captures and exhibits the cutting-edge scientific and technological research conducted by graduate students here at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Graduate students from all disciplines participate to give their research Institute-wide exposure and compete for travel awards and scholarship prizes. Last year the conference showcased the work of approximately 400 students. There are over $100,000 in prizes!!”

**The InVenture Prize**

[https://inventureprize.gatech.edu/](https://inventureprize.gatech.edu/)

“Created and organized by faculty, the objective of The InVenture Prize @ Georgia Tech is to create incentives, resources, and a structure for undergraduate student innovation and entrepreneurship in a fun, high-profile event. We seek to foster and nurture a sustained, entrepreneurial culture at Georgia Tech with an innovative bottom-up approach. This
competition will help promote Georgia Tech’s mission of "providing the state of Georgia with … innovation … it needs to shape a prosperous and sustainable future and quality of life for its citizens." The goal of this effort is to encourage an interest in invention, innovation, and entrepreneurial lifestyle amongst GT students and create an infrastructure, culture, and focus that galvanizes, captures, and highlights student inventiveness and inventorship."

Examples of companies that have graduated from the above programs:

CardioMEMS is a medical device company that has developed and is commercializing a proprietary wireless sensing and communication technology for the human body. Our technology platform is designed to improve the management of severe chronic cardiovascular diseases such as heart failure and aneurysms. Our miniature wireless sensors can be implanted using minimally invasive techniques and transmit cardiac output, blood pressure and heart rate data that are critical to the management of patients.

Suniva, a solar energy startup founded by Georgia Tech professor Dr. Ajeet Rohatgi and based on his research at Georgia Tech’s University Center of Excellence in Photovoltaics, has secured $55.5 million to build a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for producing high efficiency, low cost silicon solar cells. This is Georgia’s first solar manufacturing plant, located in Norcross, GA. Suniva’s operations have created over 100 jobs in the state of Georgia.

Akrometrix’ patented TherMoiré systems are the industry leading tools for advanced characterization of temperature-dependent warpage. First introduced in 1998 for use as a laboratory tool, today’s generation of TherMoiré product offerings serves as the platform for an enterprise-wide warpage management solution. The Georgia-based company was founded upon the pioneering work of Dr. I. Charles Ume, a professor in Georgia Tech’s School of Mechanical Engineering, has become an industry leader in measuring and resolving thermomechanical flatness issues in the manufacturing and assembly of microelectronics.
Founded in 2008, Qualtré™ is the world’s leading developer of solid state silicon MEMS-based motion sensor solutions that address the new must-have functionality in portable consumer electronics with best-in-class performance, ruggedness, and cost. Research conducted by Dr. Farrokh Ayazi at Georgia Tech’s renowned Integrated MEMS Laboratory has led to a huge market opportunity for inertial sensors in consumer mobile product applications, including gaming, navigation, and digital photography.

http://www.qualtre.com/

Founded in 2008, the company has pioneered the development and commercialization of the first high-throughput microelectrode array (MEA) system for use in safety assessment and drug screening. Axion’s Maestro multiwell MEA system supports applications for evaluating neural and cardiac cells, both human and animal, enabling the functional modeling of brainwaves and heartbeats in a dish.

http://www.axionbiosystems.com/

Digital Assent is a healthcare media and marketing company that helps patients make more educated and informed decisions at the point of care. The company’s award-winning PatientPad® technology is transforming the patient experience at doctor’s offices throughout the United States. Upon arrival, each patient is given their own PatientPad® tablet to check-in for their appointment. While they wait, patients hold on to the PatientPad® to explore relevant health information and learn more about the products and services offered by the practice. Digital Assent’s rapidly growing PatientPad® Network now spans every major metropolitan market in the country.

http://www.digitalassent.com/
Sight-seeing and Cultural Attractions
Atlanta is rife with history. It is the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and subsequently acted as a major hub for the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950-1960s. It is also the location where the infamous 1930s movie, “Gone With the Wind”, was shot. Many of its classic monuments can still be seen or visited today. In 1996, Atlanta served as the host of the Olympic Games, an event which allowed the city propel forward through the construction of skyscrapers and a public rail system (MARTA). Beyond its cultural offerings, several businesses – old and new – have setup shop here (see previous section) so it is no wonder why many refer to the city affectionately as “The Capital of the South.
Neighborhoods

Downtown Atlanta

- Centennial Park (’96 Olympic Games)
- Georgia Aquarium (largest in the world)
- World of Coca-Cola (“Coca-Cola Museum”)
- CNN Center (CNN’s HQ)
- Martin Luther King, Jr’s Birthplace
- Georgia Dome (Atlanta Falcons, NFL)
- Philips Arena (Atlanta Hawks, NBA)
- Turner Field (Atlanta Braves, MLB)
- Georgia State University
- Morehouse College

Midtown Atlanta

- Georgia Tech
- Piedmont Park (image left)
- Fox Theatre
- High Museum of Art
- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
- Resident population: 30,000
- Workplace population: 68,000
- **Student population: 20,000**

Little Five Points (LFP)

- The hub of ATL’s “alternative” culture
- Described as the “bohemian” center of the Southern USA
- Independent book stores, music shops, etc
- Coffee shops, bars and restaurants
- Annual LFP Halloween Festival

And many more….

Questions? Ask us!

E-mail us at hellas@gatech.edu