

# Academic Newsletter

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING-RESIDENCE LIFE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2006

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## Academic Support: Department of Housing

When is the last time you associated the Department of Housing with Academic Support?

Are you familiar with Residence Life? Did you know that Residence Life is just one of several areas within the Department of Housing?

The student staff living on your floor: CAs, CMs, and PLs, work with Residence Life professional staff to create an environment in the residence halls to enhance your experience at Georgia Tech.

One of Residence Life's strategic principles focuses on providing academic enrichment to you, the resident. Some services and past program offerings include: tutoring in Calculus I & II, Chemistry, and Physics I, review ses-

sions, academic workshops (stress management, study skills, time management, and talking with professors), career related programs, interactions with professors, how to register for spring classes—for freshmen, referrals to other campus resources, and more.

Residence Life employs a Coordinator for Academic Support Programs to implement and assist with academic enrichment opportunities within the Residence Halls. If you have a question or need help locating resources on campus related to academics (job search, major selection, registration, etc) feel free to contact the Academic Coordinator.

The CA, CM, or PL on your floor is also a valuable resource.

If you have a recommendation for an academic related program please let your student staff member or myself know.

If you have specific questions regarding your major or career path your first option should be to talk with an academic advisor. For questions about advising you may contact the Academic Coordinator who can point you in the right direction.

Coordinator for Academic Support Programs—Department of Housing

**Jennifer Kuninsky**

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404-385-4184

Freshman Experience Office 007

Matheson Residence Hall

Building 91 on Campus Map

<http://gtalumni.org/campusmap/>

## ... Still only 24 hours in day!

Whether you are a freshman or a 3rd year senior, time management always ranks as a one of the most common academic challenges.

It never hurts to see a few tips on managing your time:

1. Set goals: Determine exactly what you want and need to

do.

2. Prioritize: Decide what is most urgent and important. Work on these items first!
3. Avoid Procrastination: Enough said!
4. Utilize Spare Time: Use time between classes or meetings wisely.

5. Know when you are most productive: Are you a morning person or a night person? When is the best time for you to complete school work? Make your day work for you. Run errands when you have less energy rather than studying.

# Architecture



Architecture tells what to make (according to the needs of the client) and civil engineering tells how to make the same.

An architect is a licensed professional trained in the art and science of building design—space organizers. Architects design houses, office buildings, skyscrapers, landscapes, and even entire cities.

Architects design the overall aesthetic and look of buildings and other structures, but the design of a building involves far more than its appearance. Buildings also must be functional, safe, and economical and must suit the needs of the people who use them. Architects consider all these factors when they design buildings and other structures.

## Career Options

In addition to a “traditional” career in an architecture firm—as a principal, project architect, staff architect, draftsman, or intern—an architectural education can lead to many other career options. Related occupations held by people with architectural backgrounds include:

Animator  
Architectural critic  
Architectural photographer  
Architectural programmer  
Architectural renderer  
Building inspector  
Building pathologist  
CAD coordinator  
Campus planner  
Carpenter  
Cartographer  
City planner  
City or state architect  
Civil engineer  
Computer presentation designer  
Computer systems analyst

Construction inspector  
Construction manager  
Contractor  
Corporate consultant  
Design/build team Manager  
Developer  
Document designer  
Environmental planner  
Furniture designer  
Graphic designer  
Illustrator  
Industrial designer  
Landscape architect  
Lawyer  
Market researcher  
Model maker  
Museum curator  
Printmaker  
Professor  
Property assessor  
Publisher  
Real estate agent  
Real estate project manager  
Researcher  
Set designer  
Structural engineer  
Technical writer  
TV/film producer  
Web site designer

## Career Resources:

[The American Institute of Architects Careers in Architecture](#)  
[US Dept of Labor - Architect Career Info](#)  
[GT College of Architecture](#)

# Industrial Design

Industrial design is the professional service of creating and developing concepts and specifications that optimize the function, value and appearance of products and systems for the mutual benefit of both user and manufacturer.

Industrial Designers use a variety of methods to design products, from sketches to clay or foam moldings, to computer programs developed for design. How they develop a product depends

on the type of product and who will be using it.

Do you ever wonder why the “snooze” button on your alarm clock is so hard to reach at 6 am? Have you ever thought that finding comfortable shoes that are still stylish should be easier? Or asked, “why are CD cases are so hard to open?”

## Career Options

Product Designer  
Graphic Artist  
Creative / Art Director  
Technical Illustrator  
Mechanical Design Draftsperson  
Development Engineer  
Production Manager  
Project Manager  
Interface Designer/Developer  
Exhibit Designer  
Lighting & Electrical Designer  
CAD Designer  
Interior Designer  
Commercial Designer  
Industrial Designer  
Product Researcher  
Consumer Researcher  
Systems project design engineer



## Career Resources:

[Industrial Designers Society of America](#)  
["What is ID" brochure](#)

# Building Construction



Graduates are recruited by general commercial contractors, residential homebuilders, trade contractors, project/program management firms, cost consulting firms, real estate development companies, building material suppliers, and government agencies. A Building Construction degree also

prepares graduates for the entrepreneurial opportunity of starting their own businesses.

Typical jobs for Building Construction graduates include:

**Project Managers:** Responsible for project oversight, coordination, planning, scheduling, and budget control, either for a general contracting company or trade contractor.

**Developers:** Manage all phases of projects for real estate developers from administration and conception to financing, planning, and coordination.

**Construction Managers:** Plan and manage building projects from the program phase through design and construction, including scheduling and estimating for a client company.

**Owners Representatives:** Manage multiple projects from design through construction for large institutional and corporate owners.

**Building Systems and Materials:** Conduct research, development, and marketing in production areas of building systems, materials, and equipment.

[Associated Builders and Contractors](#)

## Career Resources:

[Associated General Contractors of America](#)

[Home Builders Institute](#)

[Building Construction Career Paths](#)



*"Opportunities for workers to form their own firms are better in construction than in many other industries."*

## Is it for ME?

Ask yourself a few of these questions. If the answers are mostly yes, you may have the CREATIVITY, FLEXIBILITY, and DEPENDABILITY you need to succeed in this industry.

- I enjoy HANDS-ON TYPE OF WORK; working with my hands.
- VARIETY in my work is something I enjoy.
- I am DEPENDABLE; I miss very few days of school or work.
- Being ACTIVE and doing physical work is enjoyable to me.
- I enjoy working in ALL TYPES OF WEATHER.
- WORKING WITH TOOLS is interesting to me.
- I can get along with DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES.
- My REASONING ABILITY is superior; I enjoy solving a problem.
- WORKING OUTDOORS is more interesting to me than a "desk job."
- At the end of the day, I like to SEE THE RESULTS OF MY WORK.
- I am PERSISTENT in completing a project.
- I can WORK INDEPENDENTLY; I don't need constant supervision.
- My MATH SKILLS are pretty good.
- I work well in a TEAM ENVIRONMENT.
- I can VISUALIZE what an abstract project will look like.



# Civil Engineering



## Environmental

Translate physical, chemical, and biological processes into systems to destroy toxic substances, remove pollutants from water, reduce non-hazardous solid waste volumes, eliminate contaminants from the air, and develop groundwater supplies. May resolve issues of providing safe drinking water, cleaning up sites contaminated with hazardous materials, disposing of wastewater, and managing solid wastes.

## Water Resources

Deals with issues concerning the quality and quantity of water. Works to prevent floods, to supply water for cities, industry, and irrigation, to treat wastewater, to protect beaches, or to manage and redirect rivers. Designs, constructs, or maintains hydroelectric power facilities, canals, dams, pipelines, pumping stations, locks, or seaport facilities.

## Geotechnical

Develops projects below ground, such as tunnels, foundations, and offshore platforms. Analyzes the properties of soil and rock that support and affect the behavior of these structures. Evaluates the potential settlements of buildings, the stability of slopes and fills, the seepage of ground water and the effects of earthquakes. Investigates the rocks and soils at a project site and determines the best way to support a structure in the ground. Examples: dams, embankments, retaining walls.

## Transportation

Designs, constructs, and maintains all types of transportation facilities, including highways, railroads, airfields, and ports. Upgrades transportation capability by improving traffic control and mass transit systems, and by introducing high-speed trains, people movers, and other new transportation methods.

## Construction

Applies knowledge of construction methods and equipment, along with the principles of financing, planning, and managing, to turn the designs of other engineers into successful projects.

## Urban Planning

Involves entire development of a community. Analyzes a variety of information to coordinate projects, such as projecting. Requires coordination with other authorities to integrate freeways, airports, and other related facilities.

Civil engineering deals more with the strength of the structure and architecture deals more with the aesthetics of the structure.

Civil and environmental engineers must possess technical competence related to the analysis, design, construction, and maintenance of the built environment (structures and lifelines) as well as the natural environment and to understand the humanistic and social aspects of society's relationship to its surroundings.

## Structural

Design structures that support their own weight and the loads they carry, and that resist wind, temperature, earthquake, and many other forces. Bridges, buildings, offshore structures, space platforms, amusement park rides, and many other kinds of projects are some examples. Develops the appropriate combination of steel, concrete, timber, plastic, and new exotic materials

**Architects are educated to think in terms of space. Architects want to control spaces. Engineers are taught to control forces.**



## Career Resources:

[American Society of Civil Engineers](#)

[Civil Engineering Career Information](#)

[Civil Engineering Overview](#)



# Feature Article: Talking with Professors

Taken from How to Talk to Your Instructors. Retention Services, University of Texas at Austin

## 1. Visit your instructor during posted office hours or a scheduled appointment.

This may seem obvious, but trying to catch your instructor outside these two opportunities will make it difficult for them to consider your concerns with focused, careful attention. It isn't that your instructor doesn't want to be bothered, but they have many other responsibilities to manage besides teaching class. Your instructor prepares to help students during office hours and appointments and is ready at those times to devote attention to the issues you wish to discuss.

## 2. Visit your instructor when you have legitimate issues to discuss.

"What constitutes a legitimate issue?" you ask. See your instructor if:

- You honestly cannot understand why you performed poorly on a test, paper, or other assignment. (If you know the reason for your poor performance is lack of preparation, don't waste your time or your instructor's asking what you can do to improve — study smarter starting today! Also, don't expect extra points as a result of your visit. Better grades should be a result of your future improved performance, not your instructor's generosity.)
- You are considering pursuing a major in your instructor's area of expertise and would like more information.
- You aren't planning to major in your instructor's area of expertise, but you are very interested in the course material and would like to know about other opportunities to learn more.
- You are considering going to graduate school in your instructor's area of expertise and would like more information.
- You would like information about good courses in the instructor's area of expertise to take as a follow-up to your current course.

## 3. Prepare before going to see your instructor.

- Plan your questions ahead of time, even write them down so you can make sure you cover all your concerns. They can't help with questions you forget to ask.
- If you're going to see your instructor about grades, take all your graded material with you, along with your lecture notes and other study aids. Looking over these materials can help your instructor pinpoint what you could do differently or what you may be missing.
- If you're considering a major or graduate school in your instructor's area of expertise, here are some questions to consider asking during your visit:
  - What initially interested you about this subject?
  - How did you decide to major in it?
  - Are you glad you made that decision?
  - What within the field especially interests you now?
  - Other than teaching at the university level, what other career opportunities exist that directly relate to this major?
  - Are you aware of any internship opportunities that could help me explore this major further?
  - If I choose this major, what other opportunities exist for study or research within the department?
  - What do you recommend I do to prepare well for graduate school?
  - What other information can you share to help me make an informed decision?

**“Talking to  
a professor—  
is one of the  
smartest things  
a college  
student can do.”**

Michael Leddy  
English college professor

## 4. Visit your instructor with an open, friendly attitude.

This is fairly easy to do if you're interested and excited about the course, but can be difficult if you're not performing as well as you feel you should. Keep in mind that your instructor is teaching because they love the subject, and would like nothing more than to interest you in the material. Try to look at the subject matter from the perspective of someone who is fascinated by it and respect your instructor for their expertise, if nothing else. Being defensive is the quickest way to turn off your instructor's desire to help, so be open to suggestions; if you have questions about what they are recommending, just ask.

Although the above suggestions won't necessarily cover every interaction you have with your instructors, they will make a real difference in many cases. Remember, instructors are mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, and brothers (they're human). Many are unaware that their students feel uncomfortable in approaching them, so relax. Be yourself — open, friendly, and academically curious. Make sure you leave the office with a clear plan for your future studies and assignments, and return for another visit if necessary. The relationships you form with your instructors can be instrumental to opening opportunities for success. Go for it!

# A Word to the Wise: What not to Say to Professors

If you're coming in to talk because you're having difficulty in a course, there are a few familiar sentences to avoid:

- "Will this affect my grade?" Whatever "this" is, it will play a part in your grade. How much or how little depends upon the rest of your work.
- "Can I still get a B?" This question will usually lead a professor to think that your grade-point average, not learning, is your priority.
- "I'm an A student." Grade inflation is widespread, and some of those As may not be the most accurate evaluations of your work. Even if they are, your professor won't grade you on the basis of your reputation.

[How to Talk to a Professor](#) by Michael Leddy—teaches college English and has published widely as a poet and critic.

See also [How to Email a Professor](#) by the same writer.

## Campus Academic Resources

[Professors / Instructors / TAs](#)

[Office hours](#)

[School and Department Offices](#)

[Career Services](#)

[Study Abroad](#)

[International Plan](#)

[Division of Professional Practice](#)

[Counseling Center](#)

[Academic Advisors](#)

[Undergraduate Studies Office](#)

[Undergraduate Research](#)

[Graduate Studies & Research](#)

[Library](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

[Registrar](#)

[Success at Georgia Tech](#)

## Tutoring

### [OMED Tutoring](#)

- ALL Math, Physics, and Chemistry
- English 1101 & 1102
- Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Industrial, and Mechanical Engineering
- Sunday through Thursday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- Lloyd Chapin Building

### [Success Programs](#)

[One-On-One Tutoring & Academic Counseling](#)

- 50 courses including most math and science
- Classes for freshmen and sophomores
- One hour long appointment a week
- Web-based appointment system

### [Tutor Vision](#)

- Live Tutoring on GTCN Channel 20
- Sunday-Thursday 9-11pm

- Call 404-206-1811
- Email: [tutor-vision@gtcn.gatech.edu](mailto:tutor-vision@gtcn.gatech.edu)

## Department of Housing Tutoring

### [LAP—Learning Assistance Program](#)

- Calculus I & II, Chemistry, Physics I & II
- Sunday-Thursday 8pm-12am
- Brown, Caldwell, Cloudman, Fitten/Montag, Glenn, Harrison, Howell, Smith, Towers Learning Centers

## Free [Study Tips Guide](#) from Spark Charts

Newsletter brought to you by: Department of Housing Academic Support Coordinator

Contact: Jennifer Kuninsky (404-385-4184)

If you would be willing to talk with other students about one of the majors in this newsletter or if you would like to speak with someone in one of these majors, please e-mail [Jennifer Kuninsky](#).