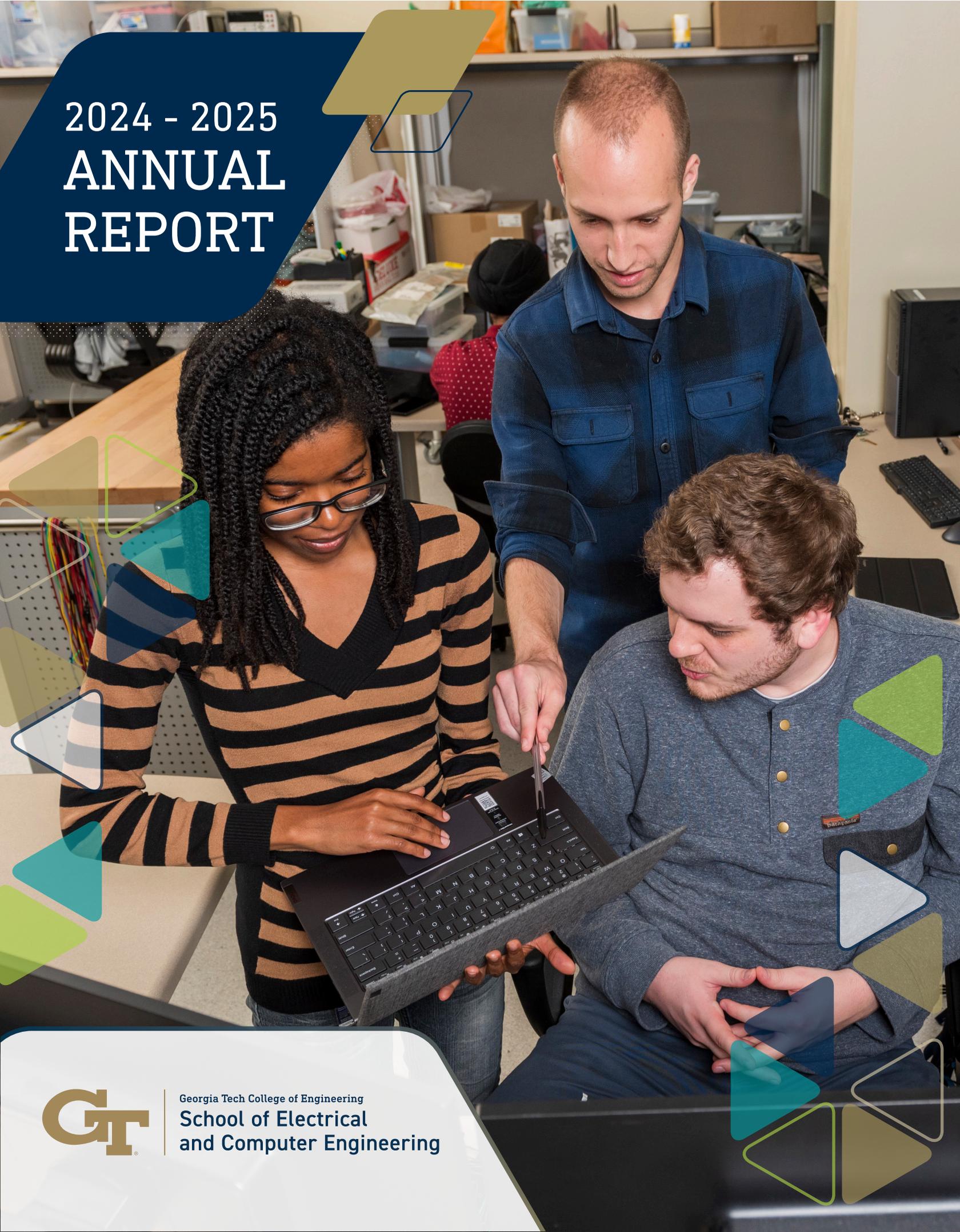


# 2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Georgia Tech College of Engineering  
School of Electrical  
and Computer Engineering



**“ Our community continues to drive innovation that not only transforms industries but advances national priorities in defense, nanotechnology, energy, healthcare, and beyond. ”**

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I'm inspired by the momentum and mission that define the Georgia Tech School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). Our community continues to drive innovation that not only transforms industries but advances national priorities in defense, nanotechnology, energy, healthcare, and beyond.

Electrical and computer engineering powers the technologies that shape our daily lives and secure our future. At Georgia Tech ECE, we are proud to be one of the nation's largest and most well-funded programs, with more than 3,000 students contributing to breakthroughs across critical fields.

This year, we launched the Curriculum Partnership Initiative (CPI)—a strategic model for industry-academia collaboration that is already in high demand. CPI responds directly to student requests for deeper engagement with industry and hands-on experience. By integrating real-world tools, challenges, and mentorship into the classroom, CPI ensures our graduates are not only workforce-ready but prepared to lead.

Take a moment to read through our 2024–2025 Annual Report to learn more and discover the multitude of other accomplishments, milestones, and advancements we celebrated this year.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support helps us realize potential, scale impact, and build a more resilient and competitive future.

Go Jackets!

Arijit Raychowdhury  
Steve W. Chaddick School Chair and Professor

## NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

ECE continues to rank among the nation's top programs, a testament to its enduring excellence in research, innovation, and education.

This strong academic platform has not only attracted top-tier faculty and students but has also led to significant national media coverage, spotlighting Georgia Tech's leadership in areas such as semiconductor technology, advanced packaging, and computing systems.

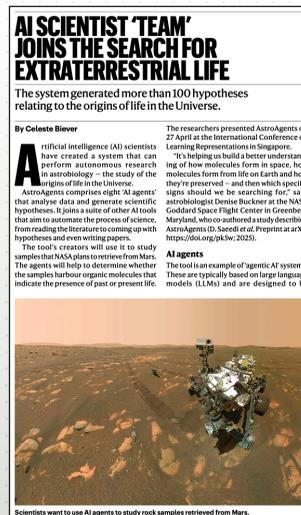
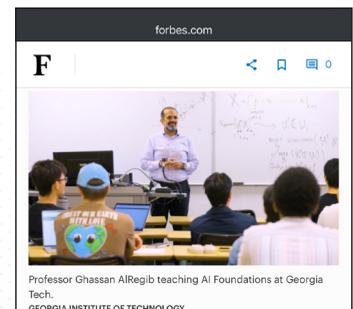
### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

**#6** Electrical Engineering      **#4** Computer Engineering

### GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**#6** Electrical Engineering      **#5** Computer Engineering

## ECE IN THE NEWS



In the not so recent past, any tech breakthrough—like the creation of the internet—was the result of close collaborations between government and academia before transitioning to commercial applications.

- OTHER PUBLICATION APPEARANCES:**
- Bloomberg Technology
  - CNBC
  - ComputerWorld
  - EE Times
  - Fortune
  - IEEE Spectrum
  - MarketPlace
  - Nature Electronics
  - NVIDIA AI Podcast
  - Scientific American
  - TechCrunch

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS



### Bhatti Named Associate Chair for Faculty Development

Pamela Bhatti has been appointed as ECE's associate chair for faculty development. In this role Bhatti will lead the School's reappointment, promotion, tenure, and post-tenure processes. The position also works collaboratively with the director of faculty evaluation and recognition.

Bhatti, who joined ECE in 2007, previously served as the associate chair for strategic initiatives and innovation from 2019-2024.



### Coogan Named Faculty Coordinator for Graduate Recruitment

Samuel Coogan was named the faculty coordinator for graduate recruitment.

The role was established in 2018 to work closely with the ECE Graduate Affairs Office and the School's Graduate Student Recruitment Committee to better recruit and attract top Ph.D. applicants.



# CURRICULUM PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE PREPARES STUDENTS FOR EVOLVING TECH CAREERS

## Education and Industry Skills Aligned

To meet the challenges of a growing skills gap and the increasing demand for electrical and computer engineers, ECE has created the Curriculum Partnership Initiative (CPI), a program designed to enhance industry expertise in academic environments.

“We are acutely aware of how rapidly our field evolves,” said Arijit Raychowdhury, Steve W. Chaddick School Chair of ECE. “A collaborative model with industry leaders is essential to meet the fast-paced demands of industry and best prepare future leaders. The CPI allows us to stay ahead by ensuring our curriculum is both current and forward-thinking, and providing our students with the tools and experiences they need to thrive in their careers.”

The CPI serves as a platform for companies to contribute to course development and curriculum by supporting ECE faculty, teaching assistants, and typical course-related expenses. Beyond financial support, it offers pathways for students to receive direct access to industry experts in the form of mentorships, networking events, guest lectures, and more. Company collaborators can also offer access to industry-standard tools and methodologies.

Familiarity with industry experts and resources is intended to shorten the ramp-up time, which is the period it takes for new employees to become fully productive in their roles. By reducing this period, recent graduates entering tech careers

can make meaningful contributions from day one, according to Raychowdhury.

“Our students are already reaping the benefits of this initiative,” he said. “They find that this hands-on approach not only prepares them for their future careers but also deepens their understanding of essential engineering principles.”

Currently, ECE is working on collaborative opportunities with industry leaders in areas such as digital design (Apple), analog design (Texas Instruments), glass-based packaging (Absolics), 3D heterogeneous integration (GlobalFoundries), and satellite communications (Intelstat).

### Established Focus Areas ▶



**Digital Design and Tapeout**

Apple



**Analog Design and Tapeout**

Texas Instruments



**Glass-based Packaging**

Absolics



**3D Heterogeneous Integration**

GlobalFoundries



**Satellite Communications**

Intelstat

# CPI IN ACTION



## Georgia Tech Joins Apple's New Silicon Initiative

This year ECE expanded its collaboration with Apple by joining the company's New Silicon Initiative (NSI) – a program that aims to

prepare students for careers in hardware technology, computer architecture, and silicon chip design.

As part of the Apple NSI program, ECE students receive various types of support to enhance their skills in microelectronic circuits and hardware design. This includes scholarship and fellowship opportunities, along with expanded coursework for both undergraduate and graduate students. Additionally, students have the opportunity to connect with Apple engineers through mentorships, guest lectures, and networking events.

The expanded curriculum support benefits integrated circuit (IC) design and tapeout-to-silicon courses that enable students to prepare for a career in hardware engineering across different focus areas, including circuit technology, electronic devices, computing hardware, and emerging architectures.

Apple engineers work closely with ECE faculty members to present guest lectures across a range of integrated system design courses. The engineers also participate in reviews for projects in several IC design courses and provide practical feedback to help students improve their designs throughout the tapeout process.

"We're thrilled to bring the New Silicon Initiative to Georgia Tech, expanding our relationship with its School of Electrical and Computer Engineering," said Jared Zerbe, Hardware Technologies at Apple. "Integrated circuits power countless products and services in every aspect of our world today,

and we can't wait to see how Georgia Tech students will help enable and invent the future."

## Student Analog Chip Designs Come to Life Through New Collaboration with Texas Instruments

Whether it is the sound of music through your headphones or the precise control of a robotic arm, analog circuits play a crucial role in both established and future technologies.

Analog does a lot of things, but in general, it functions as the interpreter between the real world and digital devices. It transforms signals – like sound waves, voltage levels, temperature, pressure, and light intensity – into information that digital systems can understand.

As the semiconductor industry evolves, the demand for skilled analog engineers continues to grow even in this digital world.

"Analog circuits remain vital because they enable the initial data acquisition from the environment," said Assistant Professor Shaolan Li. "That's just the application perspective, but they are also structurally very different than digital circuits. Students need hands-on experience with real-world measurements, which are crucial for mastering analog circuits."

To meet this demand, the Georgia Tech School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) is collaborating with Texas Instruments (TI) to offer strategic educational opportunities aimed at providing students access to industry-grade analog chip design, fabrication, and testing processes. TI is a global semiconductor company that designs, manufactures, and sells analog and embedded processing chips.

The collaboration supports ECE's analog and mixed-signal design curriculum, including a new course and support for faculty and students through professorships and teaching assistantships. Students further benefit from TI's expertise through guest lectures, mentorships, and having direct access to learn from the technical leaders in the industry.

## Responding to the Workforce and Skills Gap

# 115,000

JOBS THE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY IS PROJECTED TO ADD BY 2030

# 73%

ENGINEERING-AND-R&D-FOCUSED COMPANIES REPORTING TALENT GAPS

# FACULTY AND STAFF



## FY2024 STATS

89

academic  
faculty

15

academic  
professionals

39

research  
faculty

106

administrative  
staff

51

faculty members  
holding chairs or  
professorships

45

IEEE  
Fellows

3

NAE  
members

## New Faculty



**Viveck Cadambe**

Associate Professor



**Jeffrey Epstein**

Senior Lecturer



**Matthew Flavin**

Assistant Professor



**Sara Fridovich-Keil**

Assistant Professor



**Baoyun Ge**

Assistant Professor



**Jane Gu**

Professor

## Promotion and Tenure



**Fatih Sarioglu**

Promotion to Professor



**Daniel Molzahn**

Promotion to Associate Professor

## Faculty and Staff Awards

### External Awards & Honors

**Ali Adibi** | Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers Award

**Raheem Beyah** | IEEE Fellow

**Mathieu Bloch** | IEEE Information Theory Society Joy Thomas Tutorial Paper Award

**David Citrin** | European Optical Society Prize

**Suman Datta** | Semiconductor Research Corporation and Semiconductor Industry Association University Research Award for Technology

**Deepakraj Divan** | Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Committee

**Russel Dupuis** | Japan Prize

**Stanislav Emelianov** | Lord Rayleigh Award

**Larry Heck** | Conference on Information and Knowledge Management Test of Time Award

**Alexandre Locquet** | European Optical Society Prize

**Maryam Saedifard** | IEEE Modeling and Control Technology Achievement Award, IEEE Bimal Bose Award for Industrial Electronics Applications in Energy Systems

**Gabriel A. Rincón-Mora** | IEEE Atlanta Section Outstanding Educator Award, IEEE Region 3 Joseph M. Biedenbach Outstanding Engineering Educator Award, Charles A. Desoer Technical Achievement Award

**Christopher Rozell** | American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering Fellow

### Internal Awards & Honors

**Ghassan AlRegib** | Outstanding Teacher Award (Midcareer-Senior)

**David Amwake** | Culture Champion Award

**Manos Antonakakis** | Regents' Innovator

**Mathieu Bloch** | D. Scott Wills Mentoring Award

**Wenshan Cai** | Course Instructor Opinion Survey (CIOS) Honor Roll

**Dante Christmas** | Hats Off Performance Award

**John Cressler** | CIOS Award

**Cong "Callie" Hao** | ON Semiconductor Junior Professorship

**Omer Inan** | Outstanding Mid-Career Faculty Award

**Kevin Johnsaon** | CIOS Honor Roll

**Frank Li** | CIOS Honor Roll

**Pan Li** | Outstanding Junior Faculty Award

**Vidya Muthukumar** | Outstanding Junior Faculty Award

**Azad Naeemi** | Dean's Professorship

**Henry Owen** | CIOS Honor Roll

**Ashwin Pananjady** | CIOS Honor Roll

**Mohit Prabhushankar** | Research Spotlight Award

**Lakshmi Raju** | Teaching Excellence Award for Non-Tenure Track Faculty

**Gabriel A. Rincón-Mora** | Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award

**Jacqueline Rohde** | Outstanding Non-Tenure Track Faculty Award

**Christopher Rozell** | CIOS Honor Roll

**Brendan Saltaformaggio** | CIOS Award

**Fatih Sarioglu** | Outstanding Mid-Career Faculty Award

**Samuel Talkington** | CIOS Honor Roll, CIOS Award

**Teresa Watkins** | Academic Spotlight Award

**Shalonda Williams** | Hats Off Performance Award

**Zach Worley** | Hats Off Performance Award

**Shiming Yu** | Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Research Award (Midcareer), Dean's Professorship

 **BY THE NUMBERS**



**[ ENROLLMENT ]**

**3,094**

OVERALL TOTAL

**1,457**

Total undergraduate enrollment, FY 24

**637** B.S.E.E.  
**820** B.S.Cmp.E.

**1,637**

Total graduate enrollment, FY 24

**776** M.S.E.C.E.  
**2** M.S. Bioengineering  
**9** M.S. Cybersecurity  
**82** M.S. Cybersecurity—online  
**4** M.S. Computational Science and Engineering  
**25** M.S. Robotics  
**639** Ph.D. ECE  
**22** Ph.D. Bioengineering  
**44** Ph.D. Machine Learning  
**29** Ph.D. Robotics  
**5** Ph.D. Computational Science and Engineering



**[ DEGREES ]**

**868**

OVERALL TOTAL

**269**

Total undergraduate degrees awarded, FY 24

**137** B.S.E.E.  
**132** B.S.Cmp.E.

**599**

Total graduate degrees awarded, FY 24

**454** M.S.E.C.E.  
**2** M.S. Bioengineering  
**9** M.S. Cybersecurity  
**7** M.S. Cybersecurity—online  
**9** M.S. Computational Science and Engineering  
**6** M.S. Computational Science and Engineering  
**8** M.S. Robotics  
**98** Ph.D. ECE  
**2** Ph.D. Bioengineering  
**6** Machine Learning  
**7** Ph.D. Robotics

 **Student Highlights**

**AI MAKERSPACE TURNS ONE, WITH STUDENTS CHARTING THE COURSE**



When electrical engineering major Julia Bargouti arrived at Georgia Tech, she saw AI as a novelty. That changed with the launch of the AI Makerspace in 2024, giving students access to powerful computing resources typically reserved for researchers.

After a year online, The AI Makerspace now boasts 304 NVIDIA GPUs and supports hands-on learning through courses like AI First and FunML, developed by Professor Ghassan AlRegib.

Students can train advanced models and explore AI applications in fields like robotics, art, medicine, and more.

The Nexus Vertically Integrated Project team is building tools like Study Buddy and Timely to integrate AI into everyday student life.

A student-led governance committee is working to ensure the Makerspace remains interdisciplinary and accessible.

As Bargouti puts it, "I can learn about AI, improve it, and make it more effective—even as a student."



**JAMES SHIN EARNS MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP AND GEORGIA TECH'S TOP STUDENT HONOR**

Recent electrical engineering graduate James Shin received the prestigious 2025 Marshall Scholarship, enabling graduate study in physics at Cambridge and public policy at Oxford to advance sustainable space technology. He also earned Georgia Tech's highest student honor, the Love

Family Foundation Award, for his exceptional academic record.

Shin's research in extreme-environment electronics spans NASA, SpaceX, and Blue Origin. On campus, he co-founded the National Marrow Donor Program chapter and mentors through SEED and ORGT. Shin exemplifies leadership, service, and innovation — qualities that will shape his impact on space exploration and policy.

"I realized that I wanted to impact the space industry through electrical engineering, which has this incredible ability to bring things to life," Shin said. "From robotics to wireless communications to circuits, I am always blown away by our ability to harness something as minute as an electron to solve some of the world's biggest challenges. And there's something special about being able to receive an image from a satellite millions of miles away."



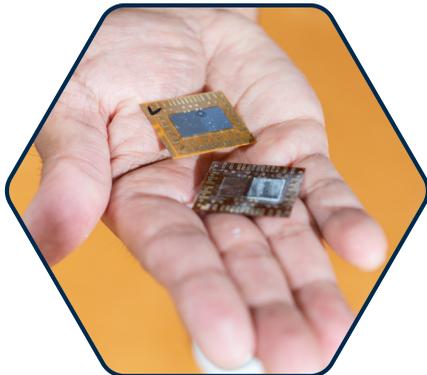
## RESEARCH AND EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

# THE PROMISE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Georgia Tech School of Electrical and Computer Engineering powers innovation that advances national priorities.

From reliable energy and faster communications to intelligent systems and assistive technologies, ECE tackles society's biggest challenges through world-class expertise, robust collaboration, and impressive scale.

Explore a few of this year's projects to see how ECE is fulfilling the promise of technology.



### SEMICONDUCTOR INNOVATION

#### ECE PLAYING A PIVOTAL ROLE IN NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR VENTURES

ECE is helping lead a new wave of national semiconductor innovation through its involvement in major federal initiatives.

As part of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) \$840 million Next Generation Microelectronics Manufacturing (NGMM) program, ECE researchers, like Professor Muhannad Bakir, are advancing three-dimensional heterogeneous integration (3DHI) technologies to support next-generation defense microsystems.

In a complementary effort, Georgia Tech is a founding member of the Semiconductor Manufacturing and Advanced Research with Twins (SMART USA) Institute, a \$285 million CHIPS Manufacturing USA initiative led by the Semiconductor Research Corporation. Georgia Tech will serve as the Southeastern hub, designated as the Digital Innovation Semiconductor Center (DISC), leveraging its interdisciplinary research strengths and nanotechnology facilities.

Additionally, ECE is closely tied to a \$100 million award to Absolics Inc., a Georgia-based advanced packaging company, through the CHIPS National Advanced Packaging Manufacturing Program (NAPMP). The funding supports the development of glass-core substrates for high-performance chips used in artificial intelligence and data centers.

#### Technology supported by:

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA), CHIPS National Advanced Packaging Manufacturing Program, CHIPS Manufacturing USA



### PERSONALIZED HEALTH

#### NEW WEARABLE DEVICE MONITORS JOINT PAIN

Researchers Samer Mabrouk and Omer Inan's company, Arthroba, developed a wearable device that monitors joint health and provides personalized exercises. The innovation addresses widespread ankle sprains and knee pain, surpassing traditional and online physical therapy limitations.

"People want to keep playing tennis or pickleball without a lot of knee pain, injury, or risk," Inan said. "Arthroba could be key to that."

#### Technology supported by:

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)  
National Institutes of Health (NIH)



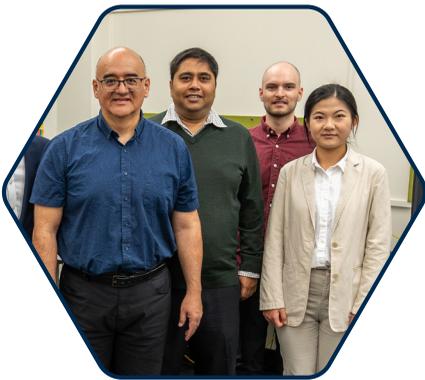
## CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY

### ALGORITHM STRENGTHENS ONLINE VULNERABILITIES FOR NATION'S MOST ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Critical infrastructure, essential for daily life, is vulnerable to cyberattacks. Researchers, led by Ph.D. student Ryan Pickren, developed an algorithm revealing more vulnerable systems than expected, highlighting ongoing risks and the need for advanced security.

"Effective industrial control system cybersecurity relies on robust network defenses," Pickren said. "Algorithms that can identify vulnerable devices in large, noisy network data are a key part of this defense."

**Technology supported by:**  
Department of Energy (DoE)



## THE FUTURE GRID

### OPTIMIZING LARGE-SCALE ELECTRICITY SYSTEMS

Spearheaded by Professor Santiago Grijalva, the project is set to enhance

grid reliability and cost-efficiency with AI-driven decentralized optimization for renewables.

"Utility companies decide hour by hour which power plants need to be online and how much they should produce to collectively meet the electricity demand," Grijalva said. "The surge of renewable energy on the grid is less predictable, so we need to have a mechanism to capture that uncertainty in optimal scheduling decisions."

**Technology supported by:**  
Department of Energy (DoE)



## WHAT EXACTLY ARE SEMICONDUCTORS?

### VISUAL TOOLS HELP STUDENTS GRASP QUANTUM CONCEPTS

For the past ten years, Professor Azad Naeemi and a team of researchers and students have been dedicated to improving the teaching of quantum and semiconductor physics through the creation of interactive visualization tools and computer games.

"In quantum physics, a lot of things are based on probability, and the only way that you can experience probability is if you repeat the same experiment many, many times," Naeemi said. "A game usually involves repeated events, allowing players to really experience these probabilities."

**Technology supported by:**  
National Science Foundation (NSF)



## ADVANCING OPTICS

### LIGHTING THE WAY TO FASTER DATA TRANSFER

Speed is king in today's digital systems, but a major bottleneck remains in how quickly information can move between components like processors and memory.

Professor Ali Adibi is looking to dramatically boost the speed and density of data transmission within microsystems by using light instead of electricity.

"Imagine light traveling through a chip and suddenly being redirected straight up. That's the kind of precise control we're achieving," said Adibi.

**Technology supported by:**  
Department of Energy (DoE)

“ Imagine light traveling through a chip and suddenly being redirected straight up. That’s the kind of precise control we’re achieving. ”

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



### Honoring a Professor Who Made Learning Feel Alive

To honor the legacy of beloved ECE Professor John Uyemura, alumni Tony Alvarez (EE 1978, M.S. EE 1979) and Don Zyriek (EE 1982, M.S. EE 1983) established the John P. Uyemura, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund to

support ECE students facing financial challenges.

Uyemura, who joined the faculty in 1978, was known for his electrifying lectures, deep mentorship, and textbooks that became foundational in integrated circuits and digital design.

“He didn’t just teach content—he taught us how to think,” said Alvarez. “He pushed us to challenge assumptions and dig deep into the fundamentals.”

Uyemura’s influence extended far beyond the classroom. He inspired careers, welcomed students into his personal life, and left behind a legacy of generosity and intellectual rigor.

After his passing in 2003, his wife Melba completed his final textbook, ensuring his voice would continue guiding students. Through the scholarship, his former students hope to pass on the spark he ignited.



### John Slaughter Chair in Semiconductors Established

John Slaughter (EE 1989, M.S. EE 1990) made a defining choice early in his Georgia Tech journey, switching his major to electrical engineering after just one quarter. That decision launched a career in RF design, defense communications,

and entrepreneurship. Now, Slaughter is giving back by establishing the John Slaughter Chair in Semiconductors, with Professor Alan Doolittle as the inaugural recipient.

“Tech took a chance on me with a generous scholarship,” Slaughter said. “I have enjoyed returning the favor with interest.”

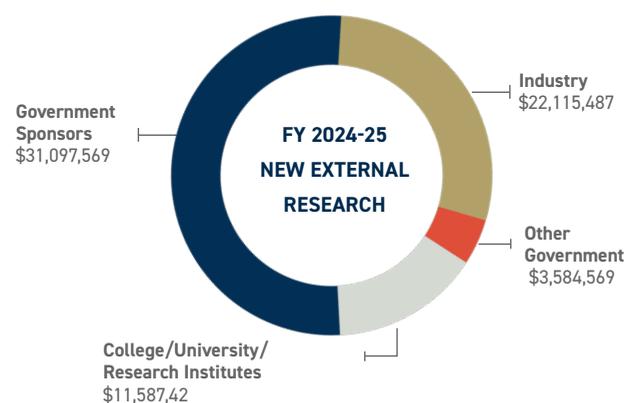
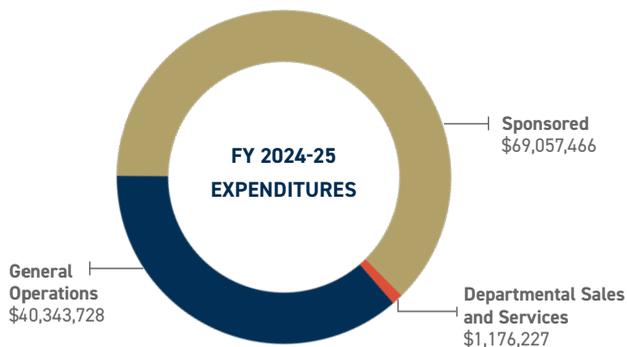
The gift comes at a pivotal time for the U.S. semiconductor industry, which faces a growing talent gap and urgent demand for innovation. By supporting faculty leadership in this field, Slaughter hopes to help Georgia Tech remain at the forefront of research and education in technologies that shape the future.

ECE Chair Arijit Raychowdhury called the gift “a powerful investment in the future of semiconductor innovation.” For Slaughter, it is a way to honor his roots and help future engineers thrive.

## FINANCES

New external research funding in FY 24 totaled \$77,335,282 from grants and contracts. Of the total, 52% came from government, 28% came from industry, 15% came college/university/research institutes, and 5% from other sources.

The School spent \$110,577,420 from state, sponsored research, and departmental sales and services sources. This money mostly pays for faculty, staff, graduate student support, and researcher salaries, and the rest is used for materials and supplies, travel, and equipment in support of our research and educational missions.





Georgia Tech has achieved the most successful fundraising year in its history, raising nearly \$300 million in philanthropic support in fiscal year 2025. The ECE community—comprised of alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, friends, industry partners, and foundations—was crucial to this success.

For more information about “Transforming Tomorrow” and ECE’s fundraising activities, contact Jeff Colburn, director of ECE Alumni Development at [jeff.colburn@ece.gatech.edu](mailto:jeff.colburn@ece.gatech.edu) or Patricia Allen, director of ECE Corporate Development, at [patricia.allen@gatech.edu](mailto:patricia.allen@gatech.edu).

## FY 2024-25 DONORS

We would like to thank the following corporations, organizations, and individuals for their generous support in the amount of \$8,035,472 to the School and its affiliates during this fiscal year.

### INDIVIDUALS

David and Joan Glass	John and Marilyn Peatman
Abiy Abebe	William Potscavage
Bill and Dee Allen	Darrell Preble
Tony and Kit Alvarez	William Preetz
Anonymous	Arijit Raychowdhury and Nivedita Bhattacharya
Jason and Katherine Bellamy	Jonathan Rutledge
Jishnu and Indrani Bhattacharjee	Shruti Sathe
Jacob Bindernagel	Kurt Schmidt
Keefe and Joanna Bohannon	Stefan Schneider
Robert and Barbara Brown	C.B. and Rose Schwartzel
Rob and Gwyneth Butera	Ken and Leslie Sibert
Ken and Tricia Byers	John and Cynthia Slaughter
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Viasat

### GRADUATES HONORED AT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING ALUMNI AWARDS

Seven ECE graduates were honored at the 2025 College of Engineering Alumni Awards Induction Ceremony on March 8.

The ceremony honors numerous graduates across the College's eight schools each year.

Sheldon Fox (EE 1981, M.S. EE 1982) was inducted into the College's Engineering Hall of Fame. Roderick McLean (M.S. EE 1993) and John Slaughter (EE 1989, M.S. EE 1990) were each named to the Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni. Raghav Kohli (EE 2007) joined the Council of Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni.



A team of three ECE graduates (pictured), Joseph Boettcher (EE 2017, M.S. CS 2021), Zachary Braun (CMPE 2017, M.S. CS 2021), and Tyler Sisk (EE 2017), received the Dean's Impact Award. The graduates founded SlateSafety, a company that produces a wearable device that monitors heat stress, environmental conditions, and real-time location.



### 40 UNDER 40 CLASS OF 2024

Announcing the Georgia Tech Alumni Association 2025 Class of 40 Under 40! Three ECE graduates were recognized for their diverse backgrounds in AI, semiconductors, academia, and beyond. These alumni are not just leading now; they are poised to drive innovation and make lasting contributions well into the future.

This year's 40 Under 40 honorees from ECE are Ankit Kaushik (M.S. ECE '22), Gokul Kumar (M.S. ECE '10, Ph.D. ECE '15), and Christopher Valenta (M.S. ECE '10, Ph.D. ECE '14)

### EMBARC PROGRAM PREPARING STUDENTS TO BECOME INDUSTRY LEADERS THROUGH SOFT SKILLS TRAINING

Mel Coker (EE 1987) is helping redefine career preparation in ECE. As a member of the Advisory Board, she co-founded the Empowering and Boosting Career Readiness (EMBARC) program to address a key gap in engineering education: soft skills.

Drawing on her leadership experience at AT&T and BellSouth, Coker built a curriculum that helps students develop confidence in communication, leadership, and professionalism. EMBARC connects students with mentors and equips them to thrive in the workplace.

Beaudly Leriche, a 2023 EMBARC graduate, credits the program for helping him overcome public speaking fears to land a job. Thanks to Coker's vision, ECE students are entering the workforce empowered and prepared.



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