

= ANAK Society =

The ANAK Society is the oldest known secret society and honor society at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta , Georgia , United States . Founded in 1908 , ANAK 's purpose is " to honor outstanding juniors and seniors who have shown both exemplary leadership and a true love for Georgia Tech " . The society is named after Anak , a biblical figure said to be the forefather of a race of giants .

ANAK comprises at least 1 @, @ 100 Georgia Tech graduates , faculty members , and honorary members . Although not founded as a secret society , it has kept its activities and membership rosters confidential since 1961 . Membership is made public upon a student 's graduation or a faculty member 's retirement . Notable members include Jimmy Carter (honorary) , Bobby Dodd (honorary) , Ivan Allen Jr . , Bobby Jones , and most of Georgia Tech 's presidents . Membership in the ANAK Society has long been considered the highest honor a Georgia Tech student can receive , although the society 's activities have been the object of suspicion and controversy in recent years .

The society has been influential in the history of Georgia Tech . ANAK played a major role in establishing several of Georgia Tech 's most active student organizations ? including its yearbook , the Blueprint ; its student newspaper , the Technique ; and its Student Government Association ? as well as several lasting Georgia Tech traditions . The society also claims involvement in a number of civil rights projects , most notably in peacefully integrating Georgia Tech 's first African American students and preventing the Ku Klux Klan from setting up a student chapter at Georgia Tech . These claims have yet to be substantiated by independent sources .

A philanthropic organization , the ANAK Society annually awards two undergraduate student scholarships , the George Wingfield Semmes Memorial Scholarship and the Merri Gaye Hitt Memorial Scholarship . Additionally , the society annually recognizes distinguished Georgia Tech alumni with the Joseph M. Pettit Distinguished Service Award . The society 's ANAK Award , granted annually to an outstanding Georgia Tech faculty member , is considered the most prestigious award of its kind . The society has also donated a number of gifts to Georgia Tech in honor of its members and notable alumni .

= = Name and symbology = =

The ANAK Society explained its name as originating from a passage in the Book of Numbers , one of the books of the Hebrew Bible . The passage , attributed to Numbers 13 : 33 , reads , " And there were the Nephilin [sic] , the sons of ANAK , who came of the giants : and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers , and so we were in their sight . " Anak was a biblical figure said to be the forefather of the Nephilim , a race of giants . For unknown reasons , the society 's name has sustained minor alterations over the years , from Anak in the 1908 Blue Print , the first edition of Georgia Tech 's yearbook , to ANAK in recent editions of The Technique , Georgia Tech 's student newspaper .

The ANAK Society has adopted a number of symbols over the years , although it has never offered any official explanation as to their meaning . From its founding in 1908 to 1927 , the society identified itself only by the name " Anak " or " Anak Society " . In 1928 and 1929 , the society adopted a bend sinister gules , a type of diagonal red line borrowed from heraldry . The bend was dropped after 1930 , following the introduction of a crest bearing the face of a cyclops and the Hebrew inscription ??? , meaning Anak , both affixed to a capital letter T. This loosely drawn crest was replaced with a more professionally illustrated version in 1940 (see right image) . In later decades , the society adopted a simple lidless eye to represent itself ; this symbol appeared on red ribbon armbands worn at ANAK " tapping " rituals and a plaque outside the Paul G. Mayer Memorial Garden on Georgia Tech 's campus . Most recently , ANAK published a modernized version of its crest , a lidless eye affixed to a capital letter T , in The Technique in January 2008 to commemorate its centennial .

= = History = =

== = Founding == =

The ANAK Society was founded on January 1 , 1908 by four Georgia Tech seniors : George Wyman McCarty , Jr . (President) , Harry Read Vaughan (Vice President) , Lewis Edward Goodier , Jr . (Secretary) and Charles Atwater Sweet , Jr . (Treasurer) . The " guiding spirit " behind these students was said to be William Henry Emerson , a professor of chemistry . Officer titles were named after famous cyclopes in Greek mythology : the president was Polyphemus ; the vice president , Brontes ; the treasurer , Stereopes ; and the secretary , Arges . Other charter members (all seniors) were G. A. Hendrie , C. A. Adamson , S. J. Hargrove , J. E. Davenport , L. W. Robert , W. R. Snyder , C. L. Emerson (son of William Henry Emerson) and G. W. Holmes Cheney . Additional members have been initiated each subsequent year , but following the tradition set by the society 's founders , no more than 12 members may be initiated per year .

In the 1909 Blue Print , the society described its purpose as follows : " [The ANAK Society] is composed of men from the Senior Class of Georgia Tech who have shown themselves zealous in the development of college spirit . This organization is not here , primarily , as a social club or honorary society , but to do all it can to develop a better morale among the student body and improve all phases of college life . "

As the society 's membership base grew , its influence and prestige likewise increased . By 1940 , the ANAK Society was referred to as " the oldest honorary organization on the Tech campus " and membership as " the highest local honor a Tech student may obtain " . These claims would generally go unchallenged throughout the rest of the century . Faculty recognition by the society , first initiated with the ANAK Award in 1942 , would reach an equivalent level of prestige by the end of the century .

== = Transition to a secret society == =

For many years following the ANAK Society 's founding , membership was not confidential . ANAK members would select new initiates by " tapping " them (tapping them on the shoulder) or presenting them with red ribbon armbands at Georgia Tech 's semi @-@ annual Interfraternity Council (IFC) dance . The ritual was dropped in 1961 when ANAK elected to become a secret society . From this point forward , ANAK membership was made public only upon a student 's graduation , via a list of graduating ANAK members published in the Blueprint and the Technique each year and the ANAK Society 's home page . A similar policy applies to faculty and honorary members , whose involvement with the society is only made known upon their retirement from Georgia Tech .

The specific reasons for ANAK 's transition to secrecy remain unclear . One reason , cited in several editions of the Blueprint , offers that the society changed its policies to protect its members from fallout associated with ANAK 's civil rights activities at the time . According to Gary S. May , the society 's faculty advisor , ANAK membership is confidential because " the members don 't want to exert undue influence on processes or people because of their status as a member " . In contrast , critics of the society suggest that the society acts in secret to shirk accountability for any negative consequences of its activities .

== = Modern organization == =

By the 21st century , ANAK comprised at least 1 @, @ 100 graduates , faculty members and honorary members . Among current Georgia Tech students , only upperclassmen (junior and senior undergraduates) are eligible for regular membership . Honorary memberships for faculty members and distinguished alumni are also available . The society apparently selects members based on " leadership ability , personal achievement , strong character , and love for Georgia Tech " . Membership is unrestricted by race or gender , and academic achievement is not considered in the

selection criteria . The society admitted its first female member , Carol A. Burtz , in 1976 , 23 years after Georgia Tech began admitting women .

As the ANAK Society is ostensibly a student organization at Georgia Tech , it is subject to the same rules and regulations as other student organizations . The society files paperwork with Georgia Tech administration and the Student Government Association , holds elections for each of its four mandatory officer positions (president , vice president , treasurer , and secretary) and is formally advised by a Georgia Tech faculty member . The president 's name must be kept on file in the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement , available to any student who seeks it . As of 2007 , the society 's current faculty advisor is Gary S. May , the dean of the College of Engineering and an ANAK member since 1985 .

= = Influence = =

= = = Student organizations = = =

The ANAK Society played a major role in establishing several of Georgia Tech 's most active student organizations , including two student publications and the student government . The society 's existence was formally announced in the first edition of the Blue Print in 1908 . Four ANAK charter members served on the first Blue Print editorial board . By 1911 , ANAK admitted four more 1908 Blue Print editors into the society , including Editor @-@ in @-@ Chief John G. Chapman . These close relationships enabled the society to assert a great deal of control over the yearbook 's direction in future decades . Along with several other clubs and societies , ANAK listed its membership roster and provided a group photograph in the yearbook .

ANAK and three Georgia Tech faculty members appointed the first staff of the Technique , Georgia Tech 's student newspaper . Eugene A. Turner , secretary of the Georgia Tech YMCA , and Albert Blohm , an adjunct professor of English , served as the newspaper 's first editors , while W. G. Perry , a junior professor of English , acted as the Technique 's first faculty advisor . The Technique published its first edition on November 11 , 1911 , and has been in continuous weekly publication since that time , with a modern circulation of 10 @,@ 000 .

In the absence of an official student government during the first few decades at Georgia Tech , the ANAK society acted as an unofficial student government and proposed an Honor Code , modeled on that of West Point 's , in 1908 . ANAK worked to set up a more formal organization , the Student Council (later the Student Government Association) , in 1922 , at which point it relinquished any decision @-@ making privileges it had over the student body .

Other student organizations ANAK claims to have established include a chapter of the YMCA in 1910 and the Ramblin ' Reck Club in 1930 . The former claim , however , contradicts evidence of a YMCA chapter existing before 1908 , and possibly as early as 1901 . In 1912 , ANAK additionally formed the Koseme Society , a comparable honor society geared towards sophomores and juniors at Georgia Tech .

= = = Traditions = = =

The ANAK Society is credited with beginning a number of lasting Georgia Tech traditions . ANAK created the " Rat Cap " , a gold baseball cap still distributed to new Georgia Tech students , in 1915 in response to distinctive freshman headgear popularized at other educational institutions at the time . ANAK organized the first homecoming celebration combined with an alumni reunion around 1920 , a tradition that continues to this day .

= = = Civil rights = = =

Beginning in the early 1920s , the ANAK Society involved itself in a number of civil rights activities . In 1921 , ANAK spearheaded an effort to prevent the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan from setting

up a chapter at Georgia Tech . The effort was successful .

Around 1960 , ANAK held a series of secret dinner meetings with the families of Ford Greene , Ralph A. Long , Jr. and Lawrence Michael Williams , Georgia Tech 's first three African American students . The goal of these meetings , facilitated through the Georgia Tech YMCA , was to discuss the range of potential situations that could arise when the three students enrolled at Georgia Tech the following year , as well as appropriate reactions to each of these situations . When Greene , Long , and Williams enrolled in the fall semester of 1961 , ANAK members discreetly kept a close watch on the three students for the first two weeks to ensure their safety . As a result of ANAK 's efforts and those of other Institute and city organizations , none of the students was involved in any serious incident , paving the way for continued peaceful racial integration .

= = Philanthropy = =

A philanthropic organization , the ANAK Society annually awards two undergraduate student scholarships , the George Wingfield Semmes Memorial Scholarship and the Merri Gaye Hitt Memorial Scholarship . Semmes and Hitt were both Georgia Tech alumni and ANAK members ; Semmes , the Class of 1910 and Hitt , the Class of 1977 . Additionally , the society annually recognizes distinguished Georgia Tech alumni with the Joseph M. Pettit Distinguished Service Award (formerly the ANAK Service Award) . Finally , since 1942 (annually since 1947) , the society has presented the ANAK Award to an outstanding Georgia Tech faculty member . This award is considered " the highest honor the undergraduate student body can bestow on a Georgia Tech faculty member " . For example , upon his retirement in 1999 , Georgia Tech professor David J. McGill recalled winning the ANAK Award in 1990 as the highlight of his teaching career , despite having also won two Outstanding Teaching Awards (in 1974 and 1986) and being named the Carnegie Foundation 's Professor of the Year for the state of Georgia in 1996 .

The ANAK Society has donated a number of gifts to Georgia Tech . In 1921 , the society donated a staircase connecting Tech Tower to the D. P. Savant Building . The staircase bears a plaque naming ANAK as the benefactor , one of very few conspicuous declarations of the society 's existence on the Georgia Tech campus . On September 26 , 1947 , ANAK presented a life @-@ size bronze bust of Georgia Tech football head coach William A. Alexander to the Georgia Tech Athletic Association to commemorate the society 's 40th anniversary . The bust was sculpted by Julian H. Harris , a noted sculptor , architect , and Georgia Tech professor from 1936 to 1972 . Along with the Class of 1924 , ANAK gifted a portrait of William Henry Emerson , Georgia Tech 's first dean , to Georgia Tech in 1924 . The portrait was painted by noted Atlanta artist Kate Edwards . After being lost some time in the 1980s , the portrait was found and restored in the early 1990s . It has hung in the atrium of the Lyman Hall Building since October 15 , 1992 . Along with the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society , ANAK was involved in the dedication of the Paul G. Mayer Memorial Garden on May 30 , 1987 . The garden , located between the Georgia Tech Library and the William Vernon Skiles Classroom Building , features a plaque bearing the lidless eye symbol of the ANAK Society .

In 2002 , the ANAK Society donated a collection of its records from 1948 to 1983 to Georgia Tech . The records are publicly available through the Georgia Tech Library 's Archives and Records Management Department and include constitutions , anniversary dinner invitations , and member directories .

= = Controversy = =

In recent years , ANAK 's influence and status as a secret society has raised suspicion and controversy among Georgia Tech students . In particular , the society had " fallen under heavy scrutiny " during a series of student government election scandals in the late 1990s .

In 1998 , Marc D. Galindo , a Georgia Tech student and ANAK member , defeated competitor Vikas Chinnan in Student Government Association runoff elections after Chinnan was disqualified for repeated campaign violations . The disqualification , however , was eventually overturned by the

Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet (the judiciary branch of student government) . Although Galindo had committed a similar (but not identical nor a repeated) campaign violation , the Elections Committee did not disqualify him . Galindo had used his staff account to distribute campaign information while Chinnan had repeatedly used academic email distribution lists not available to the general public . Allegations of corruption erupted when two members of the Elections Committee turned out to be Galindo 's fellow ANAK members ; however , no proof of wrongdoing was ever uncovered . Chinnan , at the time of the election , was dating Anu Khurana , the then @-@ president of the ANAK Society . Chinnan had agreed with and acknowledged that Galindo had not wanted him to be " disqualified on a technicality " .

A similar incident occurred at Georgia Tech the following year . During Student Government Association elections in 1999 , rumors circulated that Wendy Horowitz , a candidate for Student Body President , was a member of ANAK . " Conspiracy theories " and " intense debate " ensued among students regarding the society 's intentions , benevolent or otherwise . Horowitz lost the election , a result widely attributed to her purported ANAK affiliation . It was later revealed that Horowitz , in fact , had served as president of the ANAK Society for the 1999 ? 2000 term .

As a result of these controversies , a general feeling of distrust towards the ANAK society propagated throughout the Georgia Tech campus , epitomized by an anonymous email circulated in 1999 that accused ANAK of " being the ' lapdog of President Clough ' [and] improperly influencing elections , scholarships , and the press , among other things " . Critics expressed concern that ANAK members were shirking accountability for " their mistakes , their bad ideas , and their bad decisions " under the guise of eschewing " praise for their accomplishments " . The Student Government Association 's policy towards secret societies was called into question , resulting in a Joint Campus Organizations Committee (JCOC) resolution to consider the issue of accountability among student organization leaders . The controversial JCOC resolution , strongly opposed by ANAK representatives , would " require candidates for officer positions to recognize all campus affiliations including position and duration of involvement " . The resolution failed , ensuring that ANAK membership rosters and meetings would continue to remain confidential .

= = Notable members = =

The ANAK Society has granted honorary membership to a host of notable individuals associated with Georgia Tech , including former United States senator Sam Nunn , former Georgia Tech football head coach Bobby Dodd , former Georgia Tech basketball head coach Bobby Cremins , sportscaster Al Ciraldo , former United States president Jimmy Carter (inducted 1946) , and most of Georgia Tech 's presidents . Notable ANAK members who were active in the society as Georgia Tech students include former Atlanta mayor Ivan Allen , Jr . (inducted 1933) , Scientific Atlanta founder Glen P. Robinson , former United States astronaut John W. Young (inducted 1952) and former Georgia Tech football head coach William A. Alexander (inducted 1912) , and Lucius Sanford and Reggie Wilkes , former Georgia Tech and NFL football players (inducted 1978) . George P. Burdell , Georgia Tech 's most famous fictional student , has been a member of the ANAK Society since 1930 .