

FIELD NOTES

School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology

Ep. 1: You're In! Now What?

Segment 1: INTRO

<SOUND OF STUDENTS MILLING THROUGH MASON BUILDING LOBBY>

JOSHUA STEWART: This is the Mason Building — the heartbeat, really, of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. It's a Tuesday, right between classes, and the building is hopping. Your future classmates are hustling to class or labs or dropping into our Student Commons — one of the best study spaces on campus, by the way, and available to you 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week as a civil or environmental engineering major. This lobby is always busy during the semester. And I bet you're gonna spend quite a bit of time here, if you decide to come study with us.

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STEWART: Welcome to Field Notes, the podcast of ideas and conversations from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Georgia Tech. I'm Joshua Stewart. For this first go-round of our podcast, we're all about prospective students — you, I hope. We've pulled together students, alumni, and some folks here in the School to help you understand more about civil and environmental engineering — what studying here is like, what kinds of jobs you'll have after you leave, what you'll need to know as a freshman. Stick around.

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Segment 2: WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

STEWART: We're going to start with the guy who runs the show — School Chair Reggie DesRoches. He's been teaching here for quite a while and now sets the direction of our program. He also talks with lots of alumni in all kinds of different fields, so he has a 30-thousand-foot view of what you can do with a civil or environmental engineering degree.

DESROCHES: One of the nice things about this major is that you can do a variety of things, and so our graduates end up working in many different areas. So they can work for small firms or large firms — depending on which area of civil engineering or environmental engineering you focus on, it will sort of dictate where you work. Many of them work for your traditional structural engineering firms or design firms or architectural firms. But then you'll find many of them will often work

in the business sector for consulting firms like McKinsey. Some of them go work in the health sector. And so there's really very little you can't do with a civil and environmental engineering degree.

STEWART: I don't want to pass that by, because you interact with a lot of alumni all the time— and we do have folks in what might be called “traditional” civil engineering occupations — but then there are many, many others. Something like 50 percent of our alums do other things.

DESROCHES: Yeah. And I think that's interesting. We find that five years out, half of our graduates aren't working in what you'd consider traditional civil or environmental engineering firms, and I think that's very unique. It's part of the major that gives you that breadth to be able to go out and tackle a lot of different problems that aren't directly focused in what you may have learned in school, but you have that knowledge set and that skill set that lets you do some really interesting things.

STEWART: What do they tell you about how well they felt like they were prepared to go out and do those other things?

DESROCHES: They say they were very well prepared. And in particular what we do well here, and we've been doing it better and better, is what we call the “softer skills” — the communication skills, the business skills — that we've focused on as part of our curriculum both within the classroom and outside the classroom to really help prepare our students, not only to do well on the jobs, but to be leaders.

STEWART: What are some of the things you've started to put together to really teach those softer skills, to build leadership into the curriculum?

DESROCHES: We've always had a communications program, at least for the last four to 10 years we've had a communications program. We've expanded that now that we have a full-time person that just focuses on communications, both writing and oral communications.

STEWART: In an engineering context?

DESROCHES: Yes, so we infuse her in the various classes that we have, senior design and others. She's embedded in those classes, and she helps the students communicate their technical ideas to perhaps non-technical audiences. And then two years ago, of course, we started our global engineering leadership minor, which teaches the students more communication skills but also business skills and leadership skills and how you go out and start a business and take that business globally.

STEWART: I'm going to put in a plug here and say were going to talk to a student who didn't do the minor but has gone out and started her own business with a fellow grad in just a few minutes. So why do this work? Why become a civil engineer or why become an environmental engineer?

DESROCHES: When I talk to the students and ask them why they chose this major, I mean they could have gone to any major at Georgia Tech or anywhere else, and they say they want to make a difference in the world. And this is what we do, whether we're solving a problem with water or infrastructure or air quality, civil engineers make a profound impact in people's lives.

STEWART: Growing up in California that was certainly a motivation for you, right?

DESROCHES: Absolutely. I wanted to study earthquakes. I was originally a mechanical engineer, got my degree in mechanical engineering, but switched to civil when I saw what the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake did to so many lives and the cities of San Francisco and Oakland. I realized that was sort of a calling for me to go and do something different.

STEWART: This was the one that iconically you see the bridge, the highway, that sandwiched, the cracks in Candlestick Park. This is the one that so many people think of when they think of California earthquakes.

DESROCHES: Yeah. It was really our last big earthquake. There have been two big earthquakes in the last 50 years that have been large enough to result in casualties, and that was one of them. And it really changed how I viewed what engineers can do and how engineers can have an impact in the world.

STEWART: Before we wrap up, let's get the elevator pitch. What is the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering about? Why come here?

DESROCHES: It's hard to put it in 30 seconds or less, but if you want to get into a very exciting field, if you want to make a difference in the world, if you want to travel the world while you're studying at Georgia Tech, I think this is the field for you.

STEWART: Reginald — Reggie — DesRoches is the Karen and John Huff Chair of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. You really should come meet him when you get to campus. Thanks, Reggie.

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Segment 3: MEET YOUR CLASSMATES

STEWART: That's who we are as a School. Now let's talk to some of the people who, not so very long ago, were sitting right where so many of you are right now: trying to pick a college and a field of study.

I'm here with four of our current students who've agreed to be all-out honest about life as civil or environmental engineering student at Georgia Tech. Robert Barclift and Monica Martelly are at opposite ends of their studies as civil engineering students — Monica's just getting started and Robert is nearly finished. Diane Chumak and Daniel Huckaby are both well into their environmental engineering degrees. Welcome to all of you!

STUDENTS: Thank you.

STEWART: So can we go around and each of you just tell us why you wanted to study either civil or environmental engineering?

BARCLIFT: So in high school I did an eagle scout project, and it was a pretty cool amphitheater on the back of my high school, and every day seeing the progress and the project develop gave me a real sense of pride. But it was really not anything compared to what I felt once I completed the project. So looking back, I realized I wanted to do something in the built environment, and I came out of high school wanting to work in construction and really be either a superintended or a project manager for a general contractor. And being from Georgia, going to Georgia Tech and studying civil engineering was absolutely the best route for that. Throughout my course of studies, I've changed direction and moved towards wanting to pursue a career in more of an engineering path as a land development civil engineer.

STEWART: Diane?

CHUMAK: I also started off in high school, I took A.P. Environmental Science and I got super passionate about the environment, but I also wanted to incorporate more math and science, and I thought environmental engineering was the right way to go with that.

STEWART: What about you, Daniel?

HUCKABY: I actually came in as a biology major, so I decided in my second year that I actually wanted to be more on the ecological side and waste- and pollution-management side of things, rather than just studying in a lab.

STEWART: And Monica, what about you?

MARTELLY: I actually didn't come in as civil either. I started as a chemical engineering major because I was very interested in sustainable energy and I was

told that chemical engineering is a great route for that. But through some mentorship programs that I started in my freshman year, I started to realize that what I was passionate about was more on the infrastructure level rather than the molecular level of things. So that's when I decided to switch to civil engineering, and I'm really happy to be here now.

STEWART: What advice would you guys offer to a student that is thinking about this place, thinking about a civil engineering degree or an environmental engineering degree? Diane, do you have any thoughts?

CHUMAK: It has a reputation for being tough, and it is, but if you're accepted, then you can definitely do it. And then, there's also a lot of things that come with it that I didn't expect, like, I learned a lot about leadership with the global engineering leadership minor that I didn't expect going into Georgia Tech that I would have with a technical environmental engineering degree.

HUCKABY: I didn't expect that we had such a strong connection with our alumni. Like with the Student Alumni Association, SAA. They have many programs that connect people with alumni, like Dinner Jackets and Mentor Jackets, so you can always get help from people who are in your field. This school has the best alumni network of any school, I think.

STEWART: Diane you said something that was interesting; it's hard. Did you find that when you needed help, or you needed resources, that they were available for you to find?

CHUMAK: Yeah, I think there's always resources to go to. There's always TAs, you can always talk to your professor; everyone's willing. There's other people that have taken the class before that you can speak to as well. I think there's always help. There's Help Desk. There's a lot of resources to help you out along the way.

MARTELLY: I would add along with that that I think Georgia Tech does a good job of really supporting you through your education. They're not here to kick you out of the school or "weed out" the people that aren't supposed to be here, because if you got an acceptance letter, they believe that you have what it takes to graduate.

STEWART: Robert, as you were doing interviews, did you feel prepared going into those?

BARCLIFT: Pretty interesting: I've never interviewed for any of the internships I've been able to do. It's all been through networking prior to the experience and knowing people at the company. Some of the times, it's been that the company didn't feel the need to interview and other times there's been a time crunch and they were already confident that I'd be the right fit for the company. But I think that

Georgia Tech has really helped prepare me technically, and I think that's part of where the confidence that they have comes from, that they know me coming out of a program like Georgia Tech, that I'll be a suitable candidate.

STEWART: Daniel, do you remember back when you were starting as a freshman, first semester, lot of change, right? Like, stuff's kinda crazy, you're trying to figure out what it means to be not only in college but be an "adult." Is there any sort of big piece of advice you would offer for an incoming freshman, or even a warning?

HUCKABY: I would just suggest go and do all the fun events that you can, within reason. Like, don't, like, fail classes because you're going everywhere. Because in my freshman year, I didn't go out too much, so I missed out on a lot of fun things to do. But it is a big part of the Georgia Tech experience to do any of the traditions, and these parties.

STEWART: Well, now, wait a second! Because I thought Georgia Tech was all about academics, you gotta study hard, you're never going to have time to do anything fun.

<LAUGHTER>

MARTELLY: Definitely not true

HUCKABY: Well, it depends. Like, if you're only putting your nose to the grindstone, you might not enjoy it as much. So you have to find time to do some fun things.

BARCLIFT: I've found that it's very easy to get in the mindset of push, push, push for academia, but if you don't take the time to step back and really enjoy your college experience, you're not going to get everything out of it. Because college in itself isn't solely about the academics. There's a lot of life lessons that you learn here too, and you're really going to regret the end of your four years, or five years in my case, at Georgia Tech if you haven't taken the time to make these friendships and make these memories that are really lasting.

STEWART: Diane and Monica, you guys are about to do study abroad. What sort of enticed you to want to do that?

CHUMAK: I think I have a general interest in going to other countries, and then what enticed me to study abroad is partly the funds that are available to us. So you can do a study abroad faculty-led program where you go with members of Georgia Tech, or you can do an exchange. I'm doing both.

STEWART: And Monica you're going to Georgia Tech-Lorraine.

MARTELLY: Yes, I'm very excited! And I think the better question is, why not study abroad? I really have not seen any reason to stay on campus and stay here while you could be in France or in China or literally anywhere else in the world having fun and learning at the same time and having great experiences. So it was obvious for me.

STEWART: Let's talk about Atlanta for a second. I think one of the nice things about Tech is that we're a big school, but we're also in a big city, so there's all kinds of stuff going on. Culture and sports and nightlife. Do you like going to school in a big city?

MARTELLI: I love it. I think its really great, and I think even though we're in a big city, we still get that "on campus" feel. You don't feel like you're walking the streets of a really big city when you're walking on campus. It does still feel like you're at Georgia Tech; you're not just walking around anywhere in Atlanta.

STEWART: For all the Georgians around the table, did you all live in Atlanta so is this not much of a change?

HUCKABY: I have to say, I didn't want to go to a school in Atlanta when I was first applying to colleges, but I've really enjoyed it here. And Georgia Tech is in a central location, its right in Midtown, so there's so many things within walking distance that are just very fun and you would not get in a small town.

STEWART: What do you guys like specifically about the city?

BARCLIFT: Atlanta's fun, it's got a great nightlife, it's got a beautiful park just a couple minutes from campus, and a beautiful skyline too. I love sitting on campus and just looking at the pencil building illuminated at night. A lot of fun things to do. Whatever it might be that you're interested in, Atlanta probably has it.

MARTELLY: I would add in, for all the music fans out there, Atlanta is possibly the best place to go to college, because anyone who goes on tour anywhere, really, stops in Atlanta. And I would definitely take that into consideration.

STEWART: That's Monica Martelly, who, along with Robert Barclift, Diana Chumak and Daniel Huckaby, has been telling us about life as a CEE student at Georgia Tech. Good luck to all of you, and thanks for being here today.

STUDENTS: Thanks. Thank you.

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Segment 4: AFTER GRADUATION

STEWART: The whole point of this college education thing is to go out and get a job once you graduate, right? We talked to a few of civil and environmental engineering alumni about their experiences and advice for prospective students, including their view of the job market in the years ahead.

First up is Lana Tassada, a vice president with J-E Dunn Construction in Atlanta. She graduated in 2005. It's good to talk to you!

TASSADA: Thank you! I'm glad to be talking with you.

STEWART: Was construction always what you wanted to do?

TASSADA: No, I wasn't sure really what I wanted to do. I thought I wanted to be an architect, and then realized I'm not really all that creative, but I was very good at math and kind of went to school to figure out what that path was going to be.

STEWART: Why did you ultimately decide civil engineering?

TASSADA: So that's kind of a funny story. I started off undecided, and then I went into industrial engineering and I had a lot of fun at Tech my first couple years, and I had some of the core classes, I dropped a class, my parents were not happy with that. And I was like, so what does an IE do? An industrial engineer? And I couldn't really articulate it, and I've always had a passion for ... I grew up on a farm in Colorado, and I liked the idea of developing and being able to see what land could do, and the more I spent time looking into engineering schools, civil engineering seemed to be more of that.

STEWART: Judging by all the construction cranes I see just in Atlanta, I have to guess you guys are really busy.

TASSADA: We are. We're very, very busy right now. Which is nice. There was definitely a time when we were not.

STEWART: How do you feel about how things are going from now?

TASSADA: I think there's so much opportunity, especially in the construction industry. I mean, there's so much being built. I think there's a lot of opportunity. For a while. I don't see a downturn coming.

STEWART: What would you tell a student who was thinking about studying either civil or environmental engineering at Tech?

TASSADA: Definitely get some work experience. It's hard to really understand what you want to do with just staying in the classroom. The more you get into education, talk to people, the more you understand all these different fields. So real world experience will help. And have some fun, too, because that's important!

STEWART: That's something our students were just telling us: Tech's hard, but you can still have fun, and that's okay.

TASSADA: Yeah, you can! And I think it makes you a more well-rounded person. We want people who can really communicate and foster relationships with clients or with different peers or trade partners that we work with.

STEWART: Iana Tassada, a 2005 civil engineering graduate and now with JE Dunn Construction. Thanks so much!

TASSADA: You're welcome!

STEWART: Josh Rowan finished his degree in '96, and now he's the Atlanta branch manager for the civil engineering firm MBP. He says civil engineering found him, rather than the other way around. He planned to study mechanical engineering but couldn't get into Tech in that program. So he picked civil from among the other engineering majors — and he never looked back.

ROWAN: I fell in love, actually, with the structural side of things, and it really just kind of enveloped me once I got in. And after about my first year, I had no interest in even trying to get over to mechanical at that point.

STEWART: So what kinds of projects do you work on?

ROWAN: I would say I'm Jack of all trades, master of none. My background has been in large infrastructure programs. I've managed a lot of project teams for Georgia DOT. Today, we actually have a contract with Georgia Tech trying to build buildings in a computer model before we actually build them on site, trying to find ways to improve efficiency and reduce cost at the same time. Another project that I'm working on now is working with a contractor helping them with more — I would even call it strategic planning for means and methods at the Emory University hospital.

STEWART: Is this a good career? Do you like what you're doing every day?

ROWAN: I like it because I've never wanted to be trapped doing one thing. I've been on a lot of different project types and the thing I learned early on is that engineering fundamentals are engineering fundamentals, and you can apply those to different project types.

STEWART: What kind of opportunities do you see for students who would be starting college here in six to eight months, and then you're gonna have a few years, and then they're going to come out and be looking for jobs?

ROWAN: You know, the thing that has fired me up early in my career, and still kind of lights the fire in me, is still finding that better way to do something. Projects are becoming bigger and more complex. As they become bigger and more complex, there's a real opportunity, I think, to come in and find new processes to deliver projects, you know, innovative materials. And there's a global demand.

STEWART: What about infrastructure spending in the coming years?

ROWAN: As we sit here today in Atlanta, we've got an additional 900 million over 10 years. Per year, over 10 years. That's huge. You know, our infrastructure's dated; I don't personally believe we're going to be building a lot of brand new infrastructure. It's going to be finding ways to repurpose what we have. I think when the day is done, we're gonna end up being experts in renovation, be it renovating interstate highways or renovating buildings. Our built environment is essentially built. Now how do we get more out of what we have?

STEWART: Which is actually sustainable. Something else that civil engineers spend a lot of time thinking about.

ROWAN: Yes, exactly. You know, sustainability is so important. Energy efficiency is so important. And just from a stewardship perspective, you know, I've always struggled with, why are we tearing down an old bridge to build a new bridge? There are ways to extend the lifecycle of these things. The flip side of that is, you're seeing more time spent up front, and how are we delivering quality that maybe will extend the lifespan?

STEWART: Josh Rowan manages MBP's branch in Atlanta. He earned his civil engineering degree in 1996, so happy 20th anniversary on that! Thanks, Josh.

ROWAN: No problem!

STEWART: Shannon Evanchec has taken her environmental engineering degree from 2016 and turned it into TruePani, a nonprofit startup venture trying to keep household drinking water clean in developing countries. Along with co-founder Samantha Becker, another CEE grad, Evanchec has been testing their system and trying to turn their idea into a viable company. Shannon, it's great to talk to you again.

EVANCHEC: Thanks, its great to be here!

STEWART: So did you always plan to be an entrepreneur?

EVANCHEC: No, it was a very spur-of-the-moment decision. I graduated and was looking at a few jobs that were on the table and was deciding what I wanted to do — and at the same time working on TruePani — and I sort of had a realization that this would be the best time in my life to try and make a company successful, so we've gone all in and are still working on it.

STEWART: And you did the InVenture Prize, we should mention that.

EVANCHEC: Yes, that was what got the ball rolling. This project originated out of a research project at Georgia Tech, and then we sort of figured, let's try the InVenture Prize and see what happens, and got a lot of publicity and got the People's Choice Award from that, and that was a natural stepping stone into the Create-X startup summer program through Georgia Tech. That gave us our initial funding and mentorship.

STEWART: This all came about because you went to India for a summer to work on a research project with Joe Brown, right?

EVANCHEC: Yes, during that time in India, we were testing people's water and that's where we came across this problem of household contamination. And so that's where TruePani came out of.

STEWART: Why did you pick environmental engineering when you were thinking about going to college?

EVANCHEC: I don't know. I think it was a pretty natural selection for me. I've always been pretty interested in the environment, and I think environmental engineering seemed like there was a lot of different things you could do with it. You could go more into the consulting side of things, or you could go more into a research type of position. It could lead to a career in public health, or you could still use a traditional type of engineering skillset to get a job.

STEWART: Are you glad you ended up at Georgia Tech?

EVANCHEC: Oh definitely. It's been life-changing. It definitely has taken me down this path and given me opportunities that I don't think I would have had at any other school. I don't think there's any other school that encourages their students to go abroad, get a co-op, explore different career paths, do research. It's really cool all the different things you can take advantage of and all the opportunities you have.

STEWART: What would you say to a student who's thinking about Georgia Tech and thinking about environmental engineering?

EVANCHEC: I mean I would say do it, but — you really just have all these resources you can take advantage of, and I feel like I did a pretty good job of that over the course of my college career, but really the last year was when I got involved with the InVenture Prize, and there's the whole Invention Studio on Georgia Tech's campus. They have access to all these tools and machinery that you can use. It's really awesome to have that, because there might not be another point in your life where you can use these machines that cost tens of thousands of dollars, and you're just allowed to make whatever you want on there.

STEWART: Shannon Evanchec is co-founder of TruePani. You should go check out their work at www.truepani.com. That's T-R-U-E-P-A-N-I-dot-com. Thanks, Shannon!

EVANCHEC: Thank you!

STEWART: As School Chair Reggie DesRoches said at the top, we have alumni doing everything from law and medicine to founding businesses and working in finance and real estate. You can read more of their stories and see where else we work at <http://ce.gatech.edu>.

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Segment 6: NUTS + BOLTS

STEWART: Tracy Boothe-Miller and Shanta Hutchins are probably two of the people here you've already met. They run our info sessions and on-campus visits for prospective students. And they do all the advising for civil and environmental engineering undergrads. They're gonna give us the scoop on everything you need to know as a freshman starting at Tech. Tracy, Shanta — thanks for shooing the students out of your offices for a minute to talk to us.

BOOTHE-MILLER: Thanks for having me!

HUTCHINS: Thanks for having us.

STEWART: How soon do you start to see freshmen who have decided they want to study civil or environmental engineering once they get to Tech?

HUTCHINS: I would say right away. We have FASET, which is student orientation, so we get to talk to them that way. We try to make sure we sit with every single

student. If they have a schedule in mind or we have a schedule pre-prepared for them, and then we have implemented mandatory advisement for the new freshmen, so they have to see us before the next semester registration starts.

STEWART: For first-year students, what are the things they need to be thinking about in those early days on campus, in that first semester?

BOOTHE-MILLER: They have to start thinking about how they're going to tackle their classes. So, basically, when we meet with them during the first FASET, we talk with them about scheduling, we talk about class load, how many classes you should be taking, don't overload yourself, don't get too involved, things like that.

STEWART: That's something you hear sometimes on campus: You get into Tech, you're clearly the best of the best. You're used to succeeding and excelling, but it's a little different once you get on campus.

BOOTHE-MILLER: Yeah, and I think when we meet with students, they expect it to be a different kind of feeling, but not until they're actually in classes do they see, "Oh this is the reality."

HUTCHINS: The rigor. The rigor and the pace. They realize, "It is not what I thought it was going to be." They feel like they're more prepared initially, and sometimes they'll come in before their mandatory meeting and they'll be a little in panic. They may fail their first exam and be like "Oh my God, I need to drop this class. I'm getting an 'F,'" and we're like, "Wait a minute, you're not going to fail the class just because you didn't do well on the first exam. You're not going to fail out of school just because you didn't do well the first semester." So a lot of the times they have such high expectations and they have so much pressure that they've, most of the time, put on themselves — or parents put on them — that they go into a full panic mode. So a lot of the time, having them come in is to help them become more in line with reality.

BOOTHE-MILER: Yeah, and I think some students, when I talk to them, think they're the only ones going through this situation. I'm the only one that's struggling, I'm the only one that doesn't understand, I'm the only one that's a little bit behind. And we have to let them know that, "No, you're just one of many," because it happens to a lot of our students.

HUTCHINS: This is the one thing that I want all of our students to know: The resources would not be here if they weren't needed. You would not be charged fees for resources that were not necessary. They're here because they're needed.

STEWART: Keep that in mind. It's okay to ask for help.

HUTCHINS: You're paying for it!

STEWART: I wanted to go back to something you said a second ago, Tracy, which was about not getting over-involved. And I think that can be a tendency when you come and you see all these organizations, and so part of that — I wanted to talk a little about that, and also, still, what are the opportunities within civil, because we have a whole bunch of student organizations.

BOOTH-MILLER: There's so many things on Georgia Tech's campus. I mean, you have fraternities, sororities, clubs, organizations, volunteer positions, anything! So when our students come, they're like, "Yes, I have my classes, I know what my major's going to be, but I want to join this and that and that and that." And then all of that intertwines into how well you do academically, because that's all about well-roundedness and time management and being a good student. So I tell students, don't join anything that first semester. Don't do anything outside class.

STEWART: So you can just kind of get the lay of the land?

BOOTH-MILLER: Yeah, just be a student.

HUTCHINS: Walking up to like a game or something is OK —

BOOTH-MILLER: Yeah, but don't become president, vice president, treasurer...

STEWART: I'm sure there's student who just was to jump right into that ...

BOOTH-MILLER: Of course!

STEWART: ... because you've been a senior in high school where you've risen to leadership in your organizations.

BOOTH-MILLER: Right. Now, I do say attend meetings. If you want to attend an ASCE meeting and see what its about, or if you want to join a club at some point, attend their meeting and see what its about. Don't jump into it.

STEWART: So I want to go back to academics for a second and talk about all the options that student may have heard about as they've been applying to Tech, or maybe some of the reasons they applied. I'm thinking co-op, undergrad research, study abroad, even doing a minor.

HUTCHINS: Certificates, internships.

STEWART: Yeah. Where do you start? What do you consider?

BOOTH-MILLER: For most of those, a GPA is required. So the first semester for most of those — if not all of those — you've got to wait at least until the second semester.

STEWART: I just wanted to put in a plug, there's lots of information about all the stuff we've been talking about — student organizations, different degree options — all on our website <http://www.ce.gatech.edu>, and I think the takeaway is make sure you come and see Tracy and Shanta right from the beginning so you sort through all of this stuff and make the plan that is really custom to what you want to do.

HUTCHINS: Yes, and I have candy in my office!

STEWART: That's Shanta Hutchins, who — along with Tracy Boothe-Miller — advises all of our civil and environmental engineering undergrads. They're a team, I should note, who are regularly recognized as some of the best advisers on campus. So get to know them early! Thanks to both of you.

STEWART: And that's it for Field Notes from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. We'd love to hear your questions or feedback. Email us at communications@ce.gatech.edu.

And you can see so much more of what we're up to online. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter — we're CEEatGT on all of those networks. And, of course, lots more info is on our website, <http://ce.gatech.edu>.

I'm Joshua Stewart — thanks for listening, and we'll see you soon.

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