Housing and
Residence Life

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025-26








WELCOME HOME
WELCOME
YELLOW
JACKETS

A Message from the Housing and Residence Life Leadership Team

Over the past year, it has been so exciting to lead and participate in the work, growth, and collective spirit of our Housing and Residence Life (HRL) department. Each year, we reaffirm our commitment to students by supporting their personal development and academic endeavors while providing a safe and comfortable living environment. As we look back on this past year, we are deeply proud of the ways our team has strengthened that commitment—through innovation, collaboration, and a shared dedication to resident success.

HRL plays a profound role in shaping the student's experience. We provide more than a place to sleep; we offer a foundation for belonging, exploration, and personal transformation. This year, we expanded our impact through strategic improvements to our residential engagement and overall experiences, refined student support initiatives, and cultivated partnerships that enhanced well-being. These efforts reached thousands of students and helped ensure that every resident has access to the resources, guidance, and sense of community they need to flourish.

Our achievements are a direct result of the exceptional professionals who lead and support our residential communities. As leaders, we are continually inspired by the care and expertise our staff bring to their roles—from responding to resident needs, to developing engaging programming, to building the conditions for a safe, inclusive community. This year, we invested intentionally in professional development opportunities designed to strengthen the skills of our team, broaden their perspectives, and empower them to continue growing as leaders in the field.

Most importantly, this year we reinforced our north star and aligned our work in the pursuit of creating caring, connected communities. Whether addressing challenges, celebrating milestones, or imagining new possibilities, our team consistently came together with compassion and creativity. As we look ahead, we remain committed to creating living-learning environments that uplift every student and empower every staff member.

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kari White
Executive Director (Interim), Housing and Residence Life

Quinton Evans,
Director, Budget and Finance

Grant Burlew,
Director (Interim), Residence Life

Randy Simon,
Sr. Director (Interim), Facilities

Dr. Tegra Myanna,
Director, Program & Event Operations, Residence Life

John Nussear,
Director (Interim) , Operations & Strategic Alliances



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CREATING CARING, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

For more than a century, Housing and Residence Life (HRL) has adapted our spaces, programs, and services to meet the changing needs of Georgia Tech students. In spring 2026, we established our North Star: **creating caring, connected communities**. Two goals guide that work: fostering a highly engaged workforce and increasing housing capacity while advancing modernization.



Advancing Housing Capacity and Modernization

As Georgia Tech grows, we are balancing the need for more housing with the long-term renewal of the communities we already have. In Fall 2026, we opened the Bud and Val Peterson Residence Hall, adding 862 beds and creating the capacity needed to begin taking older residence halls offline for improvements.

This academic year, we worked to make access to limited housing more transparent and responsive. We introduced the Housing Allocation Lottery, a process to prioritize housing as enrollment continued to outpace available beds. Student and resident feedback helped us refine that process, and in Spring 2026 we added the Waitlist Recertification process, allowing students to confirm they still needed housing or remove themselves from the waitlist without penalty.

Modernization extends beyond our buildings. We introduced Browzer-Welcome to make housing information and processes easier to navigate while providing the information students and families need before they get to campus. The shift to Swarm Support at Buzz STOP, a campus services wide initiative, brought the ability to add AI capabilities to Zendesk, our customer service system, and pulling information from consistent HRL-based platforms to answer questions more efficiently. Together, these tools help us close information gaps, simplify housing-related processes, and provide more responsive service.

Fostering a Highly Engaged Workforce

We started by assessing our organizational structure to ensure employee roles, responsibilities, and resources aligned with our strategic and operational goals. From there, we expanded opportunities for employees to get involved, grow professionally, share their expertise, and improve how we work together.

Professional Development and Engagement Committee (PDEC)

We launched the Professional Development and Engagement Committee (PDEC) to give employees at every level a greater voice in shaping their growth and experience within HRL. Through two staff-led subcommittees, PDEC creates opportunities for professional development, employee recognition, and department-wide engagement—giving our people more ways to learn from one another, contribute ideas, and celebrate great work.

Building Operational Excellence

We invested in both the skills of our people and the processes that support their work. Residence Life piloted a task force during Yellow Jacket Training focused on the purpose and practice of operational efficiency, while Conference Services developed Building Buzz, a framework to help staff approach their work with the needs of students, campus partners, and colleagues in mind.

We also expanded staff development through CliftonStrengths and Lean Six Sigma. Our two certified CliftonStrengths coaches provide strengths-based training and individual coaching, while more than 40 staff members earned Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certifications focused on identifying opportunities for improvement and increasing efficiency.

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"Working with Conference Services through the Intern Lodging Program as an intern gave me hands-on experience in customer management and project coordination in a fast-paced environment. Beyond the professional growth, I collaborated with such an amazing team of people who I'm still close friends with to this day."

CHIAMAKA IBEANUSI
GTCS STUDENT MANAGER

STAFF TESTIMONIAL

"Georgia Tech and Housing and Residence Life are always evolving. In my close to 26 years, I have served in 3 different roles, and I was the first person to be in each of those roles. It offered me the opportunity to help establish these roles and how they can contribute to the department and the students who live on campus. I learned a great deal from those early years about Georgia Tech, the Department, and our students."

ALEX BECKING, ASSOC. DIR.
RESIDENCE LIFE



Grounded in the 8 Dimensions of Wellness (financial, spiritual, environmental, intellectual, emotional, social, physical, and occupational), HRL provides a holistic and enriching educational experience that nurtures growth and enhances the overall student journey. Whether peer- or professional-led, our in-hall programing provides space to create community, connect with key campus resources,and opportunities for engagement.

Although focusing on holistic wellness for every resident is no small task, HRL has built and refined their residential model to increase proactive efforts to support the "whole student" and ensure that all students are receiving the care they deserve.

STAFF TESTIMONIAL

"My experience supporting Conference Services in HRL has helped me grow professionally through large scale operations, staff training, and cross department collaboration. The summer conference season offers constant opportunities to learn, adapt, and refine leadership and organizational skills. I appreciate being part of HRL at Georgia Tech because of the strong sense of teamwork and shared commitment to service."

JENNIFER WATSON,
PROGRAM & OPERATIONS MANAGER



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"I had a blast working in housing as the president of the Residence Hall Association this past year. I had a unique position where I was able to engage with both housing leadership and residents and make sure the student's voice was represented and responded to. I felt supported by housing leadership and my team to make sure we gave residents an amazing programming experience and empowered them to put on their own programs as well.""

ETHAN MORLU, RHA

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"Working as an RA for the past three years has been one of my favorite parts of my experience as a Georgia Tech student. I was able to build strong communities while forming meaningful relationships with both residents and fellow staff members, all while gaining valuable leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills that I will carry with me into the workforce after graduation. If I had the opportunity to do it all over again, I absolutely would."

DESTINY LEWIS, RA



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

8,500
Residents

3.5M sq. ft
Housing inventory (square footage)

17,597 lbs
of materials collected and diverted from landfills during Spring move-out

Green Goodbyes Collection

44,895
across all 8 dimensions

Wellness Conversations Held

3,237
unique conference guests

as of August 23, 2026 Residence Life created
over 2000
unique engagement opportunities for residents

Programs

3,704
residents moved in August 15 – 16 (new first-year, grad, or transfers)

300
Volunteers

Move-In

Student Employees
370

23,437
requests completed (Aug. 9, 2025 – Aug. 23, 2026)

Facilities Requests Completed

43,225
conference guest bed nights

Average conference stay
15.3 Nights

Conferences

WEEK OF WELCOME
330
unique programs

Week of Welcome

SUPPORTING A MORE **SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS**

With thousands of students living on campus, small choices can add up. In partnership with the Office of Sustainability in Campus Services, we expanded our move-out collection program that supports Green Goodbyes, giving students an alternative to throwing away items they no longer need. By donating reusable items and disposing of waste responsibly, residents helped reduce waste and give usable goods a second life for the Yellow Jackets that come after them.











RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Experience Programs

First-Year Residential Experience

The First-Year Residential Experience (FYRE) is designed to support students during their critical transition into campus life. With a strong emphasis on the first eight weeks of the academic year, anchored by Move-In and Week of Welcome, the First-Year Residential Experience integrates the 8 Dimensions of Wellness to foster connection, community, and a lasting sense of belonging within residential spaces. Through intentional programming, staff training, and ongoing assessment, first-year residents receive a cohesive, holistic experience that promotes student success and well-being throughout the year.

Graduate Year Residential Experience

The Graduate Year Residential Experience (Grad House) offers new graduate students a seamless transition to Georgia Tech by intentionally connecting their residential living experience with academic orientation, campus resources, and the GT6000 course. Through structured programming, mentorship, and community building during the critical first weeks of the year, students gain early connections, stronger belonging, and practical life skills that support both academic success and personal well being. Participating in Grad House places students at the center of a coordinated support network designed to enhance engagement, satisfaction, and confidence as they begin their graduate journey.

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"My time at HRL has been both engaging and informative -- while I've been able to work with a great team to coordinate events on campus, I've also had the opportunity to learn about Tech's amazing resources. I have learned how to use Engage and integrate the 8 Dimensions of Wellness within our planning to best support students during their journey. As a first-year student myself, I have found the work extremely rewarding!"

SOPHIA WILSON, STUDENT ASSISTANT - FYWE, CLASS OF 2029



FALL 2026 MOVE-IN

Each year, we welcome thousands of new and returning Yellow Jackets to campus. We continuously strive to improve the resident and family experience for all providing a premier service as their introduction to HRL.

3,700
New Residents

3,200
Returning Residents

6,900
Residents to Campus

WOW
WEEK OF WELCOME

Student Attendance

Over 8,400
Unique Students Attended Events

6,400
New-To-Tech Students

New and returning students attended an average of 3 events throughout the week

61.5% of events were hosted by RSO/DRSO

38.5% of events were hosted by GT Departments

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE MASTER PLAN

Smith Residence Hall Offline 2026, Howell Residence Hall Offline 2027

While preserving their historic character, the proposal to fully renovate Smith and Howell Residence Halls and construct a new connector is underway as of May 2026. In addition to refreshed finishes, new lighting, and improved amenities, this renovation is set to enhance restroom privacy, improve ADA accessibility to all floors, upgrade building systems, and envelope performance. Part of a multi-year plan to renovate the east campus housing inventory, this project made way for the construction and eventual opening of the Bud & Val Peterson Residence Hall.

This project will also include design and construction improvements to the adjacent landscape addressing pedestrian circulation, service requirements, outdoor common space, infrastructure improvements, and stormwater management.

Experiential, Financial, and Programmatic Impacts to the Resident Experience

Residents will experience a more connected and supportive community environment. By increasing opportunities for engagement and introducing new amenities and spaces, this initiative helps cultivate a stronger sense of belonging, encourages participation, and makes the community a more vibrant and enjoyable place to live. These renovations enhance the resident experience by strengthening community connections, increasing feelings of belonging and support, and creating excitement through new amenities and shared spaces

The collaborative space offered to our students in the first-year housing community strongly supports and enhances the Institute's academic mission and student-first priority. This model provides students with a sense of connection and, consequently, a stronger sense of community. Opportunities for interaction and engagement are particularly beneficial to first-year students, who are the primary occupants of these and adjacent residence halls. The renovated halls will capture and expand upon these benefits and further improve the student's experience through the inclusion of enhanced amenities, such as providing student study lounges, laundry areas, and community kitchens.

STAFF TESTIMONIAL

"My experience with Housing and Residence Life has been incredibly positive. As a new employee at Georgia Tech, I was welcomed with strong support and meaningful opportunities to grow professionally, including the ability to build collaborative relationships with colleagues across campus. Through HRL, I have also participated in valuable professional development both within Georgia Tech and externally through organizations such as NASPA."

CHRISSONIA MCCALL,
PROJECT SUPPORT SPECIALIST SR.

STAFF TESTIMONIAL

"I have recently completed the Level-Up program where we delved into our leadership styles - whether personal or professional; resulting in some introspection into how our leadership skills and styles affect how we and our teams perform. Other opportunities that I have been afforded were the completion of the ASPIRE cohort and obtaining Six Sigma Green Belt certification. I like being here at Ga Tech because of endless opportunities for meeting people, growth, collaboration, and diversity of cultures. As an Atlanta native, I have been able to witness growth throughout the community."

HAROLD GETER,
ACQUISITIONS COORDINATOR

BUD AND VAL PETERSON RESIDENCE HALL OPENING

Dedication Ceremony

In August 2026, before welcoming the inaugural group of residents to the Bud and Val Peterson Residence Hall, we had the honor of dedicating the building to its namesakes, former Georgia Tech president, Bud Peterson and his wife, Val. This meaningful occasion offered a chance to celebrate more than the opening of a physical space but an opportunity to honor the vision, dedication, and collective efforts of the individuals, organizations, and campus partners whose contributions made the building possible.



A Message from the Associate Vice President, Campus Services, Dr. Kasey Helton

The Role of Housing and Residence Life in Supporting Campus Services

Campus Services is the foundation of a connected, supportive, and thriving institute. While much of our work happens behind the scenes, its impact is felt every day—in the spaces students call home, the communities they form, and the systems that allow them to focus on learning, growth, and discovery.

Housing and Residence Life (HRL) plays a vital role in this ecosystem. Our residence halls are more than places to live; they are environments intentionally designed to support student well being, belonging, and success. Through thoughtful facility stewardship, responsive services, and meaningful engagement, HRL remains deeply connected to the academic mission of the institute while prioritizing the holistic needs of our students.

What makes HRL especially impactful is its ability to bridge connection—between students and campus resources, peers and mentors, and the institute's values and daily lived experience. From move in to graduation, HRL staff are present partners in student development, providing structure, care, and community at moments that matter most. This consistent presence fosters trust, resilience, and a sense of belonging that extends far beyond the residence halls.

As an institute, we recognize that student well being is not the responsibility of any one unit—it is a shared commitment. HRL exemplifies this commitment by collaborating across departments, aligning services with student needs, and ensuring that care, communication, and connection remain central to residential experiences. In doing so, HRL helps create a campus where students feel supported as whole individuals and empowered to engage fully in their educational journey.

Campus Services, Housing and Residence Life in particular, are essential partners in shaping an environment where students can thrive. Their work strengthens our community, sustains our mission, and reinforces our collective responsibility to care for one another.

Dr. Kelsey Helton
Associate Vice President
Campus Services

FINANCIAL HEALTH

From FY25 to FY26, HRL maintained its commitment to providing safe and comfortable residential communities while making ongoing improvements to its housing inventory. Strategic expense management and preventive maintenance efforts helped offset revenue pressures and generated more than $2 million in savings across overtime, repair, and maintenance expenses.

Fiscal Closeout Wins

↓ $344K
Overtime — 23% lower YoY vs FY2025 close

1st
Personnel Services — Goal met first time in 3 years

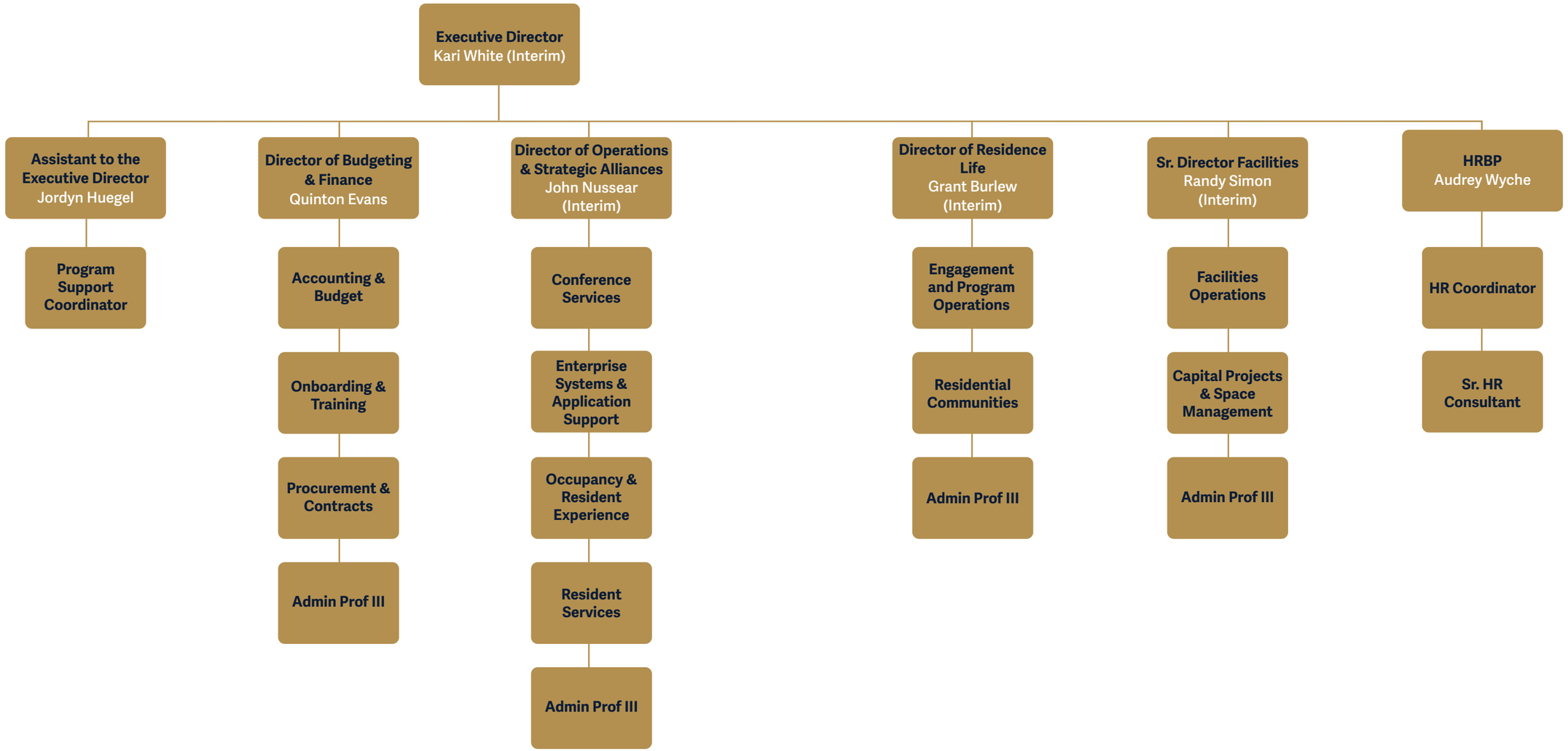
↓ $2.0M
Repairs & Maintenance — Year over year preventive maintenance impact

FY2026 Closeout Story

LOWER OCCUPANCY → Revenue pressure
COST DISCIPLINE → Focused controls
STRONGER EXECUTION → Operating response
$12.4M NET INCOME — 90% of budget

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

As of September 1, 2026




630



Housing and
Residence Life

ABOUT US

From first-year students beginning their college experience to graduate students and families seeking a home away from home, we provide well-maintained, sustainable, and affordable housing designed to meet the diverse needs of our community.

Our portfolio includes 52 residence halls that house more than 9,500 residents in thoughtfully designed traditional halls, suites, and apartments. We offer more than a place to live. Our residential communities provide the foundation for academic success, personal growth, and meaningful connections. Supported by more than 200 professional staff members and 300 student leaders, we create an exceptional living experience that empowers students to thrive both personally and academically.

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