

NEWS From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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BLIND RESEARCHER AT GEORGIA TECH CHOSEN
ONE OF ATLANTA JAYCEE'S OUTSTANDING MEN

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For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, GA.....A blind researcher-inventor-designer from Georgia Tech has been named one of the Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce's "Five Outstanding Young Men of the Year." Gary Wynn Kelly, 27, a native Atlantan, is the coordinator of programs for the handicapped at Tech and also a research engineer at Tech's Engineering Experiment Station.

According to the Atlanta Jaycee Chapter, Kelly's selection is the result of his many contributions to assist the handicapped. Knowledge of Kelly as a unique individual began with a WAGA news feature seen last year by a Jaycee past president, Steve Black of Georgia Power Co. "I was totally amazed," commented Black, "that this enthusiastic and blind young man had accomplished more than many of us do in a lifetime. I felt that this was a person who needed to be recognized for his accomplishments to his fellow man, and so I placed his name in nomination for our FOYM award. 'Service to humanity is the best work in life' is part of our Jaycee creed, and Gary is using his outstanding abilities to exemplify this tenet."

Kelly was the first blind person to graduate from Tech in over 30 years and began working for Tech's Experiment Station about a year ago under a CETA grant. Later he was hired as a researcher and also as a leader in

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in the affirmative action program on the Georgia Tech campus.

At Georgia Tech, Kelly is active in the invention and design of devices for the visually impaired which include an elevator alert system which would allow the visually impaired to determine at which floor an elevator has stopped and also a display for the visually impaired to be used with computers and calculators as a substitute for visual digital outputs. Such a display would allow the blind to work in banks, credit bureaus and other places using computers.

While at Emory University, Kelly served as principal investigator and inventor of the sonic urinimeter for blind diabetics and also as project administrator on "Cognitive Assist in Motor Learning," a film technique for teaching skills in using crutches.

Kelly has also founded and manages a group called VIFACS (Visually Impaired Families Advisory & Counseling Services) which offers services to people who have become visually impaired or to their families.

Unabashed by his "visual inconvenience," as he terms his blindness, Kelly declares, "I can design anything if someone will build it." His forte is designing, assisting the handicapped in employment and in personal lives. Because Kelly has a 5% tunnel vision in one eye, he is able to see what amounts to the area of a pin hole in a piece of paper. He reads 200 wpm and retains 90-95%. "Handicapped people would say that I had all the breaks," remarks the high-spirited Atlantan.

Residing in Sandy Springs, Kelly and his wife, who is also blind, are expecting their first child.