

## JULIAN HARRIS ARCHITECTURE

“Julian “Judy “ Harris was born in Carrollton, Georgia in 1906.

Louis T. Griffith in his article on Georgia Sculptors in the Georgia Journal commented on the childhood of Julian Harris. *“Confined to the house by boyhood ailments, Harris recalls hours sprawled on the floor, reading, drawing and sketching. He also has warm memories of hours spent listening to his father read stories of another Georgia Harris-Joel Chandler (no relation).”*



He received his BS degree in Architecture from Georgia Tech in 1928. After working for a year with an architectural firm in Atlanta, he accepted a position with an architectural firm in Philadelphia. While there he enrolled in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts--the primary reason for his accepting a position in Philadelphia.

**JULIAN HOKE HARRIS**  
*“As a teacher I always placed a great deal of responsibility on my students.”*

He won a three year full tuition scholarship at the Academy and graduated in 1934. He was licensed as an architect in Georgia in 1932 and returned to Atlanta in 1934. Upon returning he opened a studio where he began his career as a sculptor.

“Judy” accepted a part time position with the School of Architecture at Georgia Tech in 1936. He taught on both a part time and full time basis for 36 years until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1972.

The works of Julian Harris contribute to the quality of the Georgia Tech campus. The windows and limestone corbels in Brittain Dining Hall, the bronze gates at the old Naval Armory and later moved to the Navy ROTC building are several examples. The portrait plaques of Monie Ferst, Thomas Hinman, William Vernon Skiles, and Fred Wenn are other examples.



Julian Harris designed and executed sculpture for more than 50 public buildings in the Southeast, including the marble relief's on the State Agricultural Building and six bronze relief's on the State Office Building.

He also executed sculpture for seven buildings for the City of Atlanta.

Harris has designed and executed over 20 medallions, including Tech's Sigma Xi -Monie A. Ferst Award medal. the President's badge of office, former president Jimmy Carter's official inaugural medallion, and the Bicentennial Medal for the State of Georgia.

He created a bronze portrait bust of Robert Woodruff for the lobby of the library at Emory University.

Above is a picture of life-size bronze bust of William A. (Bill) Alexander, Coach Alex, presented to Georgia Tech by ANAK at their fortieth anniversary banquet in 1947. Coach Alex sat ten times for Julian Harris to complete the sculpture.

The above picture is a sculpture created by Julian Harris to represent Georgia in the fine arts exhibit of the 1939 World's Fair in New York City.



HEAD OF A  
GEORGIA  
NEGRO



GEORGIA TECH SEAL SIDE-1  
OF THE MEDALLION

The Georgia Tech Medallion was designed and created in 1978 by Julian Harris. The Georgia Tech seal is on one side of the medallion. The design of the seal, which was approved for use on April 24, 1918, originated with Professor Francis P. Smith, head of the Department of Architecture until 1922. The center of the seal consists of a shield bearing the old university gate in Athens, a symbol adopted by the University System of Georgia and by the State itself. Above the shield burns an eternal flame symbolizing knowledge. The shield is surrounded by the gearwheel of technology. The banner across the bottom of the shield proclaims the Institute's motto: progress and service. The words "Seal of the Georgia Institute of Technology" and the school's date of founding, 1885, encircle the design. (Prior to the Institute's official name change in 1948, the inscription read "Georgia School of Technology.")

Side-2 of the medallion embodies symbols that recall memories close to the heart of any Georgia Tech alumnus or supporter. Stating at the top, the Tech Tower of the main administration building, the first structure built on campus, stands strong among the sleek skyscrapers of Atlanta's modern skyline. Moving clockwise, the "Golden Tornado" of the 1920's symbolizes a golden era of sports under Coach William A. Alexander. The helmet with the popular GT logo represents modern football and is followed by an architectural detail of the Student Center, which ushered in a new life-style for everyone on campus. The basketball stands for another



GEORGIA TECH MEDALLION  
SIDE-2

Tech sport coached with warmth and pride for performance, and the first few bars of the Ramblin' Wreck fight song represent Tech's international reputation. Next, the Apollo spacecraft descending to splashdown symbolizes the space program and Georgia Tech's many contributions to the realization of the space dream. The small figure wearing a rat cap is symbolic of the freshman dreams that so often are brought to fruition through the professional preparation students receive at Tech. The steam whistle, of course, has awakened many a groggy student for class and has celebrated numerous thrilling sports victories. The slide rule is the basic tool of any engineer and is a symbol of the quantitative logical thought for which the Tech graduate is famed. The symbol of an atom represents the nuclear age and a new age of science in which Tech plays a predominant role. Mythical student George P. Burdell still thrives at Georgia Tech and undoubtedly will remain an integral of student life for generations to come. The Yellow Jacket has been the symbol of sixteen varsity sports over the years, and the "Maxie hat" is a latter day sports symbol that reminds us of how the sons of Georgia Tech always return. The supersonic aircraft represents the bright future of technology as Tech moves into a new era of human awareness. In the center of the medallion sits the Ramblin' Wreck, a perennial symbol of Georgia Tech's ongoing spirit. The cheerleader on the

Wreck's running board represents the firmly established place of women at the Institute as well as predictions for increasing numbers of women engineers in the future. Finally, running alongside the Ramblin' Wreck is Sideways, an abandoned dog who was taken in and cared for by Tech students in the mid-1940's. Sideways has come to represent human compassion in an age of technology and efficiency.

The commissioning of the Georgia Tech Medallion was made possible by a gift from Robert H. Tharpe, Class of 1934, in memory of Mercer McCall Tharpe, Class of 1926.

Other medals related to Georgia Tech included the Georgia Tech Centennial Medal signed in 1984 and Philip Trammel Schutze Alumni Award signed in 1981. This latter medal is awarded by the Georgia Tech College of Architecture.

Judy's feet bothered him over the years --probably a result of his standing for long hours while at work on his sculptures. As a consequence he rarely walked if it could be avoided. Professor Joseph Smith recalls that even though his house was a block and one-half from the Architecture building, his wife Jean would drive him to the building and pick him up later in the day. Judy enjoyed football but Jean did not. Again, Jean would drive him the short distance to the football stadium and arrange to pick him up after the game.

Julian Harris was born August 22, 1906 in Carrollton, Georgia.

Education included:

Carrollton Public Schools

BS in Architecture, Georgia School of Technology, 1928.

Studied Sculpture, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA., 1930-33, Full tuition scholarship 1931-33

Traveled in Europe, India, and Egypt.

He was a member of Beta Theta Pi, Pi Delta Epsilon, and Kappa Kappa Psi.

Military Service included.

He was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Army on May 20, 1942.

He served overseas as a Major and Chief of the Special Planning Section at Headquarters of the Army Air Force India Burma Theatre.

He was a member of the inactive reserve beginning February 3, 1946.

Judy received many honors during his professional life. Include in these honors were being elected fellow in the American Institute of Architects and election to fellow in the National Sculpture Society.

He had a private practice as a sculptor in Atlanta beginning in 1934.

He taught in the School of Architecture at Georgia Tech from 1936 until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1972.

He was married to Jean Fambrough in 1938. They had two daughters, Jean Olivia-  
"Chatty" and Judy Anne-"Missy".

Julian Harris died January 25, 1987.