

September 18, 2018

Rock climbing is a pathway to improved physical, emotional, and mental health. If you are a rock climber at Georgia Tech, you know Jonah Weil. Jonah has transformed the climbing community at Georgia Tech, engaged hundreds of additional individuals in healthy lifestyle pursuits, and raised the confidence level of both those who teach the sport and those who participate. He has accomplished this in addition to numerous other significant impacts on campus life at Tech.

Jonah is the current Climbing Wall Manager at the Campus Recreation Center. In addition, he has volunteered with ORGT since October 2014. He previously worked as an attendant at the climbing wall as well.

Once upon a time, rock climbing was a sport enjoyed by a small fringe element -- That is no longer true. At Georgia Tech that is especially true in large part due to Jonah Weil's influence.

Jonah is the past Vice President of the ORGT rock climbing -- a service-based outdoor recreation program devoted to providing adventure experiences and potentially transformational experiences for 4,000 Tech students annually. He is ORGT's current Vice President of New and Prospective members. He is also a past president of the Competitive Climbing Club at Georgia Tech. Membership in ORGT climbing and the GT Climbing Club has more than doubled under Jonah's leadership.

Jonah has worked on building a partnership with the Arthur Blank YMCA (on North Side), engaging GT climbers to work with children to teach and coach them in the sport of rock climbing. He is worked to increase the competitive base of the climbing club by hiring a coach. He told me recently, "I want the climbing experience to be the reason people come to Tech.

Jonah devotes a minimum of 7-8 hours per week building the climbing community at Tech. Two years ago, he instituted weekly skill clinics through ORGT which have since engaged 10-15 individuals per week in building skills required to engage in the sport independently.

For many, involvement in climbing becomes an important component of a healthy and physically-active lifestyle. Jonah recognizes that his work contributes to the overall health and wellbeing of the Tech community.

Jonah is committed to quality; he is committed to interpersonal and individual growth through participation in a positive community; and he is committed to building an institution that continues to contribute to the Tech community. His leadership has significantly increased healthy opportunities for Georgia Tech students. His attention to detail, his incredible teaching skills, and his commitment to safety and risk management have introduced hundreds to a new and healthy lifestyles.

Upon first meeting Jonah four years ago, he comes across as unassuming, genuine, and casual. The more one spends time with him, though, the more one realizes the depth of his commitment to community, to individual health and achievement, and to creating opportunities for others. I was impressed with his vision years ago, but not overly so -- I'd heard similar dreams from others who failed to transform them to reality. Three years later, though, I marvel at his accomplishments. He has achieved the very results he predicted he would achieve.

Jonah Weil's contributions to life at Tech are multi-dimensional. They go far beyond his contributions as a CRC employee. He has logged literally thousands of hours as a CRC volunteer as well through ORGT. It is an honor to recommend him for this year's student spotlight.

Jonah balances many roles at Tech. These are just a few of them:

- He conducted research with Dixon Lab 2014 through December 2017 and is currently working on a micro fluidic device that cultures lymphatic symptom parasites for use in drug screenings and other applications.
- He has co-authored a paper and is currently working through the publication process. This paper also has to do with lymphatic filariasis.
- Currently training with the Paravastu Lab, working on molecular modeling and data analysis.
- He received Faculty Honors each semester at Tech and currently has a 3.97 GPA in chemical engineering.
- He received the Presidents Undergraduate Research Award (Fall 2016).
- He has devoted thousands of hours to ORGT as a volunteer:
- Rock Climbing Scribe (2014), Rock Climbing Training Czar (2015), Rock Climbing VP (2016), VP of New and Prospective Students (2018)
- Expedition Leader -- 2016 ORGT Squamish Climbing Expedition;
- Expedition Leader – 2017 ORGT Red Rocks Climbing Expedition
- Atlanta Summer Program Expedition w/visiting Chinese students (July 2016)
- ORGT Rock Climbing Trip Leader
- ORGT Vertical Caving Instructor
- Leadership role with 40 ORGT instructional trips & 50+ training clinics

Jonah Weil is a person of conviction, a person of vision, and a person committed to engaging others in positive pursuits. He represents the CRC, Campus Services, and Georgia Tech in an extremely positive light and has for the last 4 years. His tireless efforts and patience have greatly enhanced the campus experiences of hundreds and hundreds of Georgia Tech students.

Sincerely,



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