

FEEDBACK

LEAVE NO TRACE?

Kudos to alumnus Michael Grigsby, IE 93, ("Rarefied Air," *Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine*, Fall 2016, Vol. 92 No. 3) for scaling Mount Everest and rest of the Seven Summits!

However, it's jarring to see in his photo that Everest's summit seems to resemble a garbage dump. I've read that lower slopes are even worse, with even the dead left behind. Could not the climbing community or Nepal organize some sort of (extremely difficult and dangerous) cleanup? A task for the future and better technology, I suppose.

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[Ed. Note: Michael Grigsby was happy to clarify what you saw at the summit: "The peak of Mount Everest is carefully adorned with Buddhist prayer flags left by climbers as they reach the summit in celebration and gratitude. It is a holy site for the Sherpa people who inhabit the Khumbu region. With possibly 10 feet of snow falling in a single day during the monsoon season and winds of 100 miles per hour as the jet stream sits over the peak of Everest, these summit markers are anything but permanent. The sensationalist reports in the media about the trash on Everest do not reflect the reality. While there are some remnants of failed expeditions frozen into ice wall of the Lhotse face, the creed of "leave no trace" is strongly adhered to in the mountaineering community and tremendous efforts are made to leave the area just as it was found."]

WHAT A WALK!

Well, you've done it again. This "Walk This Way" edition of the *Georgia Tech*



Alumni Magazine (Fall 2016, Vol. 92 No. 4), is another outstanding winner. Many of us try to think of ways to describe Georgia Tech to those who don't know us well. This one, featuring numerous examples of how Tech alumni, faculty and students "make things work" was an excellent way to get that job done.

The magazine's sharp content continues to be heartwarming to all of us Yellow Jackets, young and old.

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BRAINTEASERS FOR TECH'S 131ST BIRTHDAY

The Georgia Institute of Technology was founded on Oct. 13, 1885. Three years later, Tech officially opened its doors to students on Oct. 3, 1888, when the first 84 students took the entrance exams. Classes began on Oct. 8. This year, Oct. 13, 2016, marks Georgia Tech's 131st birthday and, for this occasion, I prepared the following numerical brainteasers as a birthday gift:

1. Last year, Georgia Tech celebrated its 130th birthday on Oct. 13, 2015 which was numerically special since 130 equals the product of 10 and 13,

which are the month and day numbers of Tech's birthday.

2. Tech's 131st birthday is also numerically special since the reverse of 1310 representing Tech's birth date of 13 Oct. results in 0131 (same as 131). Also, 131 is the 32nd prime number where the reverse of 32, namely 23, equals 10 plus 13.
3. Oct. 13 expressed as 1013 minus the sum of its digits, namely 5, results in 1008 representing Oct. 8, which coincides with the first day of classes at Georgia Tech in 1888.
4. This year, 10/08/2016 marks the 128th anniversary of Oct. 8, 1888, where interestingly enough, if 10/08/2016 is split into 1008 and 2016, twice 1008 yields 2016.
5. Furthermore, 131 (this year's birthday number) is the 32nd prime number where 32 is 25, 128 is 27, and the product of the digits of 1888 (the year when Tech opened) is 29.
6. Moreover, if this year's birthday expressed as 10/13/2016 is split into 1013 and 2016, the difference of these two numbers yield 1003 representing Oct. 3, the official opening day of the Institute in 1888.
7. If numbers 1 to 26 are assigned to the letters of the English alphabet as A being 1, B being 2, C being 3, etc., the sum of the numbers assigned to the letters of Georgia Institute of Technology equals 344. Interestingly enough, seven times the reverse of 344, namely 443, results in 3101, which is the reverse of 1013 representing Tech's birth date, Oct. 13.
8. The sum of the digits of 10/13/1885 (Tech's full birth date) equals 27. Coincidentally, the sum of the numbers assigned to the letters of GT also equals 27.

Happy (Belated) 131st birthday to Tech!

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