

Georgia Tech Valedictorian Garrett Excels at Art Plumbing

The transcript from Camden County High School has three years of construction courses listed. The Georgia Tech diploma on the wall says that Scott Garrett graduated “With Highest Honors” four years later. What’s right with this picture?

“The construction courses I took helped me learn how to work,” Scott said as he prepared for another busy day as an Assistant Project Manager at Art Plumbing Contractors in Smyrna, Georgia. “We learned to prepare a plan, gather our materials, and then work our plan. That’s true for anything you do, whether it is building a house or doing a project for a college course. Working with your hands like we did in Mr. Jones’ class just made the lesson all the more obvious.”



Scott Garrett checks the progress of a hospital project being built in Henry County. He is talking to the Art Plumbing Contractors field supervisor to make sure the materials needed for the day’s work have arrived on site. Scott visits sites from Athens, Ga. to Henry County at least once a week “I need to be out there to make sure I have the latest information to manage the projects. We never have people standing around waiting on me to deliver,” he said with pride.

Carlos Jones Sr., construction instructor at Camden County High, remembers Scott well. “He is one of the most motivated individuals I have ever met. He works well with everyone. He can learn to do anything he wants to do,” Mr. Jones said. “I knew Scott was going to excel at whatever he chose to do. People just like to work with him.”

And excel he has. Scott won first place in the state SkillsUSA carpentry competition his senior year, he was the Salutatorian of his class at Camden County, and the Valedictorian of his class at Georgia Tech.

Asked why he got into construction, he said, “I had an elective and construction looked interesting. When I got into the class, I found out that I like to work with my hands and build things. We did some community projects for high school construction class. I really enjoyed doing the design of the projects and then bringing the design to life. I was hooked. In fact, that’s why I went into construction management at Tech. I want to build things.”

Scott is building things. He is on a project team that is building a hospital in Henry County and another that is building the Paul Coverdell Laboratory in Athens, GA. He gets to work on all aspects of the project from design, to scheduling, to ordering materials.