

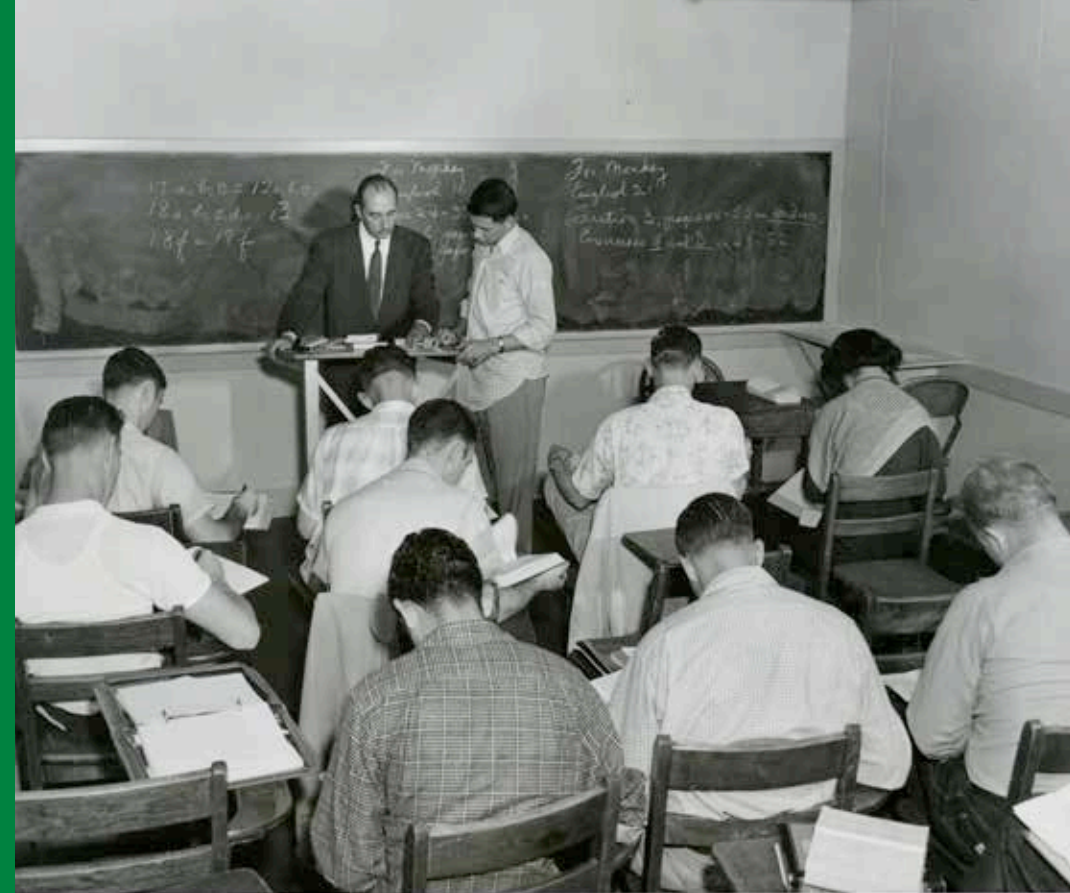
1950s

1959

Lawrence V. Johnson becomes director of Georgia Tech's Engineering Extension Division and Hoyt L. McClure becomes acting director of Southern Tech.

1958

The Board of Regents votes unanimously to move the Southern Tech campus to Marietta.



Classroom at Southern Tech, ca. 1950s



Southern Technical Institute students surveying, 1950s



Site plan of new Southern Tech campus in Marietta, 1959



Southern Technical Institute Glee Club, 1952

1949

The Board of Regents approves a name change from The Technical Institute to the Southern Technical Institute.

1948

The Technical Institute holds its first registration. The students who successfully enrolled included 115 men and one woman, Barbara Hudson.

1947

The Board of Regents allocates \$60,000 to Georgia Tech for Fiscal Year 1948 to establish a technical institute in Chamblee once a lease with the Navy was completed.

1946

President Van Leer obtains lease for twenty-three buildings at the Atlanta Naval Air Station in Chamblee, Georgia for use by Georgia Tech.

1944

Georgia Tech President Blake R. Van Leer creates Committee on Technical Institutes at Tech and urges Board of Regents to place federally-established training institutes within the University System and under the supervision of Georgia Tech.



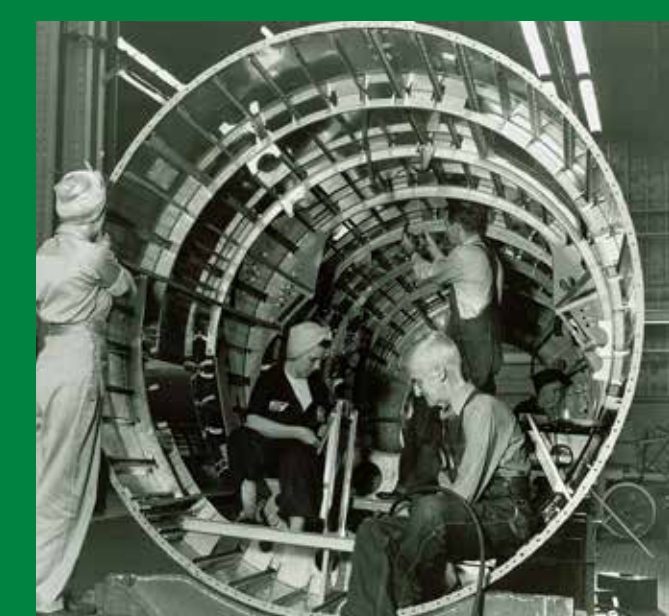
Southern Tech Chamblee campus, circa 1950

1949

The Southern Technical Institute (Southern Tech) holds its first commencement ceremony with 55 students receiving certificates.

1947

Lawrence V. Johnson assumes office as The Technical Institute's first director.



Employees at Bell Bomber plant in Marietta, ca. 1942-1945

1945

The return of World War II veterans to the workforce and the beginning of the Cold War leads to a push from both the federal government and the industrial sector to provide training for technicians.

1944

Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (G.I. Bill)

1940s

1980s

1988

Southern College of Technology awards its first master's degrees.

1980

Dr. Stephen R. Cheshier becomes the first president of Southern Tech.

1979

The Board of Regents vote to separate Southern Tech from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Governor Jimmy Carter visiting Southern Tech, 1973

1971

Southern Tech awards its first baccalaureate degrees.

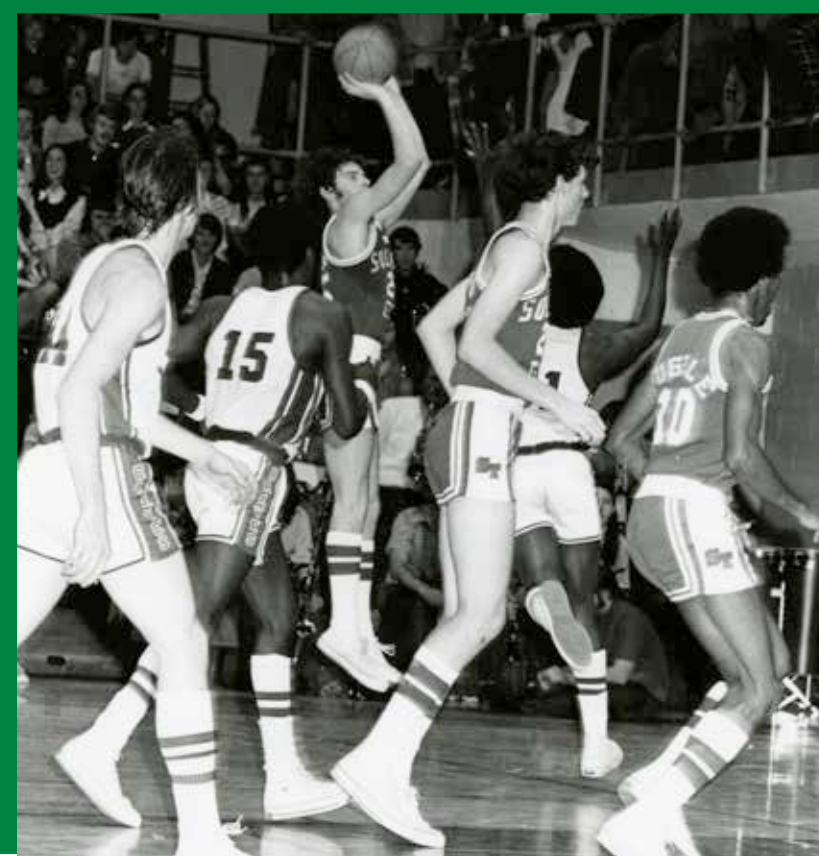
1970

The Board of Regents approves the elevation of Southern Tech into a senior college.

1970s

1970

Under a new administrative structure, Walter O. Carlson becomes the dean of Southern Tech with Hoyt McClure as associate dean.



Southern Technical Institute basketball game, circa 1970s



GIAC Championship Banner awarded to the Southern Technical Institute basketball team, 1978

1986

The Board of Regents changes the name of the Southern Technical Institute to the Southern College of Technology, which officially went into effect on October 1, 1986.

1966

Southern Tech holds its first annual Bathtub Race, an event that would give the school nationwide publicity for 25 years. Increased safety precautions and changing campus priorities brought the races to an end in 1991.



Director McClure making a speech, circa 1961

1961

The Southern Tech campus opens in Marietta. The new campus plan consisted of eight buildings, although only two were totally completed at the time of the opening.

1967

John Patillo becomes the first librarian at Southern Tech.



Southern Tech Librarian, John Patillo, assisting a student, undated

1962

The official dedication of Southern Tech's Marietta campus.



Former Southern Tech Director L.V. Johnson reviewing construction at the new Southern Tech campus in Marietta, 1961

1960s

2010

2014
SPSU holds its final commencement ceremony.

2013
The University System of Georgia issues a press release announcing its plan to consolidate Kennesaw State University (KSU) and SPSU into a new institution to be named Kennesaw State University with Dr. Daniel S. Papp as the president of the new university.



Southern Polytechnic State University mascot, circa 2009



SPSU Lady Hornets home game, 2008

2002
SPSU's establishes its first women's basketball team, the "Lady Hornets."

2000

2015
SPSU officially consolidates with KSU.

2013
Despite an anti-consolidation petition signed by several thousand individuals, the Board of Regents votes unanimously to consolidate KSU and SPSU.

2008
SPSU celebrates the 60th anniversary of its establishment and the 10th anniversary of Dr. Lisa Rossbacher's presidential administration.



Commemorative bathtub race, 2010

1998
Dr. Lisa Rossbacher becomes the first woman president of SPSU.

1997
Dr. Daniel S. Papp takes office as interim president of SPSU.

1998
The Board of Regents approves the request of Interim President Daniel S. Papp to name the library the Lawrence Virgil Johnson Library in memory of the founding director of the Technical Institute.

1996
Upon the recommendation of Chancellor Stephen R. Portch, the Board of Regents grants university status to the Southern College of Technology and changes its name to Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU).



Dedication of the Lawrence V. Johnson Library, 1998

1991