

John E. Thornton, II, M.F.A.

Principal Academic Professional and Director of Film and Media

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech

School of Literature, Media, and Communication

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EDUCATION

2011	Savannah College of Art and Design Master of Fine Arts in Film and Television
2003	Clark-Atlanta University Bachelor of Arts in English

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024 - Present	Principal Academic Professional and Director of Film and Media School of Literature, Media, and Communication The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
2019 - 2024	Senior Academic Professional and Director of Film and Media School of Literature, Media, and Communication The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
2011 - 2018	Academic Professional and Video Production Coordinator School of Literature, Media, and Communication The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
2010 - 2011	Graduate Teaching Assistant Savannah College of Art and Design

PROFESSIONAL FILM EXPERIENCE

2024	Director Cinematographer <i>Navigating Autism in Communities of Color</i> Award-winning feature length documentary
2023	Director Writer <i>Code Name Brenda</i> Award-winning narrative short

2021	Director Cinematographer <u>MothaFCKN Artist</u> Award-winning short documentary
2019	Cinematographer <u>New Day</u> Music Video
2018	Director <u>Spaceships and Dope Sh*t: Episode 1</u> Docu-series
2018	Director <u>Spaceships and Dope Sh*t: Episode 2</u> Docu-series
2018	Co-Producer BTS Cinematographer <u>Teach Love</u> Short documentary
2017	Cinematographer <u>Our Westside Story</u> Award-winning short documentary

SELECTED GRANTS and FUNDED PROJECTS

2024 - Present	External Co-Principal Investigator Collaborators: Susanna Morris, Ph.D; Kinitra Brooks, Ph.D. Mellon Foundation grant to support <i>The Earthseed Project</i> is a humanities centered collaboration of Afrofuturist students, scholars, and community stakeholders based at the Georgia Institute of Technology (GT) and Michigan State University (MSU). \$575,000
2024	Internal Principal Investigator Arts@GT ISP grant to support LMCFilms. \$20,000
2024 - 2025	External Co-Principal Investigator Collaborator: Ida Yoshinaga, Ph.D. BMW grant to support the CinèInnovate Studios Vertically Integrated Project. \$20,000
2021- 2022	Internal Principal Investigator Digital Integrated Liberal Arts Center funding to support the Reimagining Virtual Reality and IRETI Virtual Production project. \$14,000

2021 - 2022	Internal Co-Principal Investigator Collaborators: Jillann Hertel, MFA; Melissa Foulger, MFA Tech Fee funding to support the School of LMC Arts@Tech multidisciplinary requests for equipment to support LMCFilms, the CoLab, and DramaTech. \$81,000
2022	Internal Senior Personnel Collaborator: Jennifer Singh, Ph.D. Wardlaw Foundation funding to support the production of the documentary <i>Navigating Autism in Communities of Color</i> . \$3,500
2019 - 2022	Internal Senior Personnel Collaborator: Richard Simmons, Ph.D. Funding to support the production of the Energy 101 Massive Online Open Course revamp videos and the Big Data Project for the Strategic Energy Institute. \$32,000
2017 - 2018	Internal Senior Personnel Collaborator: Paul Alonzo, Ph.D. Funding to support the production of the pilot episodes of <i>Covering Latino American Popular Culture for US Audiences</i> . \$3,500
2018	Internal Principal Investigator Ivan Allen College Curriculum Innovation grant to support the development and design of a new film production course. \$3,500
2017 - 2018	Internal Principal Investigator Funding to support the LMCFilms Social Justice Student Film Festival and to develop a Mobile Journalism and Documentary Toolkit. \$9,250
2013 - 2014	External Principal Investigator Hyundai funding to produce a short film for the Hyundai Lens of Loyalty Contest. \$10,000

PRESENTATIONS

2022	“Media Representations as Cultural Perspectives on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,” Diversity Symposium, Georgia Institute of Technology.
2020	“What is Black Media Studies and What is it Doing at Georgia Tech?” Planet Deep South Conference, Georgia Institute of Technology
2019	“Mobile Documentary Filmmaking Techniques,” Subsume Summit, Atlanta GA

2018 “What Does Net Positive Equity Look Like?” Net Positive Symposium,
Georgia Institute of Technology

COURSES TAUGHT

Principal Academic Professional and Director of Film and Media, GT

2011 - Present **Undergraduate Courses Taught Annually**

Fall, Spring, and
Summer

Cinematography
Video Production
Advanced Video Production
Documentary
Documentary Production
Screenwriting

Courses Taught Previously

Music Video Production (as a Special Topics)
Filmmaking Technology / Immersive Filmmaking (as Special Topics)
Global Documentary Theory and Practice (Graduate)
Master's Project (Graduate)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, SCAD

2010 - 2011 Digital Cinematography
Intro to Film
Advanced Cinematography

ADVISING

2023 Kara Kanter, *Exploring Latin X: Transgender and Non-Binary Rights within Argentina and the U.S.* Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with

2023 Paula Sanhueza, *Metalsome Mondays Music Ethnography*, Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with Phil Auslander, Ph.D.

2023 Bryan Rocha, *Home Visits: When a DFCS Employee visits homes*, Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with Paul Alonzo, Ph.D.

2022 Tishya Bhatnagar, Loy Boyer, *Tomorrow, I Will Ask You to Marry Me*, Capstone, Bachelor of Science in Literature, Media, and Communication, GT.

2022	Nicole Butler, <i>Challenge Camerounais</i> , Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with
2022	Mark Lannaman, Examining Sustainability in Bogota, Columbia and Atlanta, GA through Urban Agriculture, Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with
2021	Angelik LaBoy, <i>IRETI</i> , Bachelor of Science in Computational Media, GT.
2019	Kelsie Anderson, <i>The Grey Tsunami</i> , Master of Science in Global Media and Cultures, GT. Co-Advised with

CURRICULUM INNOVATIONS

New Course Developed for the Black Media Studies Minor
 LMC 3454 Producing Podcasts and Documentaries
New Course Developed for the School of LMC
 LMC 3352 - Immersive Filmmaking
New Course Developed for the Schools of LMC and ML
 LMC 8803 - Global Documentary Theory and Practice
New Course Developed for the School of LMC
 LMC 4500 - Music Video Production
Programmatic Innovation - Rebranding the "LMC Video Lab" to LMCFilms

SERVICE and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2020 - Present	Juror - Television Academy of Arts and Sciences
2019 - Present	Juror - International Documentary Association
2019 - Present	Juror - Film Independent Documentary Awards

INSTITUTE CONTRIBUTIONS

2024 - 2025	GT's Non-Tenure Track Academic Faculty Promotion Committee
2023 - 2024	Search Committee Chair, Lecturer in Film Production, School of LMC
2023 - 2024	Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Film, School of LMC
2020 - 2022	Global Media and Cultures Program Admissions Committee
2021	GT Inclusive Leaders Academy Graduate
2021 - Present	GT's Arts Square Film Arts Working Group

2021	GT Inclusive Leaders Academy Graduate
2019 - 2020	Search Committee Chair, Lecturer in Film Production, School of LMC
2019 - Present	School of LMC Tech Fee Coordinator
2018	Ivan Allen College Freshmen Internship Program Mentor

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Television Academy of Arts and Sciences (active member)

International Documentary Association (active member)

Film Independent (active member)

South-East Emmy's Association (active member)

Part 107 Certified Drone Pilot (active license)

Fullbright Specialist Roster (2020 - 2025)