OneUSG Connect Training Begins in Early March

OneUSG Connect will require all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions to follow the same procedures and consistent guidelines. As employees, all of us will need to learn new ways of interacting with the system and with each other. For example, the way Tech recruits, hires, and onboards employees will change, and many will transition to new timekeeping systems. Managers will be given the tools and resources to better view and manage information to support their direct reports.

“Currently, managers ask someone (a member of the HR community) to initiate a transaction for them,” said Kim Harrington, associate vice president for Human Resources. “This system will now enable managers to enter the system themselves and begin to initiate actions on behalf of their employees. So managers are empowered to do much more in the system than they ever have been before.”

Employees will be offered training based on their specific job functions. To maximize time efficiency and ensure that employees are trained in critical areas, some courses will be required and others will be highly recommended based on their future use of the system. Employees will be able to complete most required courses as either part of an instructor-led training (in-person or webinar) or through self-paced, web-based trainings, depending on preference and learning style.

see OneUSG CONNECT, page 3

Organizational Changes for Office of Undergraduate Education

CORY HOPKINS
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Recent organizational changes in the Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE) support recommendations stemming from the final report of the provost’s Academic Advising Task Force.

Among the changes, a newly created unit for Undergraduate Academic Advising and Transition will be located in the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons and directed by Beth Spencer. The unit brings together programs such as exploratory advising, academic coaching, and academic intervention programs as well as the first-year and transfer-year transition courses GT1000, GT2000, and Project One. The unit will also coordinate learning support, campuswide assessment of advising, and advisor training and development.

“Georgia Tech’s advising structure is currently very decentralized, and we have many talented and passionate professionals who work in advising roles in our colleges and schools,” said Colin Potts, vice provost for Undergraduate Education. “This unit will support the work that our academic advisors do and provide additional centralized programs and services that serve all students.”

Additional organizational changes, effective Jan. 1, include:
- A new director overseeing tutoring and academic support programs, replacing the former Center for Academic Success
- Chris Reaves will lead a new area, Academic Engagement Programs, which includes Living Learning Communities, Undergraduate Research, Student Innovation, and Summer Session Initiatives
- Pre-Graduate and Pre-Professional Advising, led by Shannon Dobranski, is now a separate unit. Pre-teaching advising is now part of CEISMC; pre-law advising was relocated to the School of Public Policy in July 2019. The unit plans to increase its resources for pre-law advising.

see OUE, page 3

Four Georgia Tech Professors Elected to National Academy of Engineering

JERRY GRILLO
PARKER H. PETIT INSTITUTE FOR BIOENGINEERING AND BIOSCIENCE

Four Georgia Institute of Technology faculty members have been elected as new members of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). Marilyn Brown, Thomas Kurfess, Susan Margulies, and Alexander Shapiro will join 83 other new NAE members for 2020 when they are formally inducted during a ceremony at the academy’s annual meeting on Oct. 4.

Election of new NAE members recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education and to “the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.”

“It’s the honor of a lifetime to be recognized by the National Academy of Engineering for the impact we’ve had on understanding lung injuries in the critical care unit and traumatic brain injuries in children,” said Margulies, chair of the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University.

“ar work is deeply collaborative, and 1 am grateful to the engineers, scientists, physicians, and patients who are partners in our journey,” Margulies added.

Margulies, a researcher in the Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience at Tech and a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in###

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OneUSG Connect Town Hall

Want to learn more about how Tech employees will manage their time when we go live with OneUSG Connect? On Feb. 24, Enterprise Resource Planning will host a town hall to help answer your questions.

More information at:
transformation.gatech.edu

Piano Recital by PianoForte

PianoForte, Tech’s student pianist organization, invites faculty, staff, and students to attend—or perform in—its inaugural piano recital on Feb. 28. The event will celebrate Georgia Tech talent and music from a variety of backgrounds and genres. Visit:
gatech.universitytickets.com

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JOSHUA STEWART
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

When Atlanta natives Hamilton E. Holmes and Charlayne Hunter-Gault stepped onto the University of Georgia campus in January 1961, they also stepped into history. Their court-ordered enrollment integrated the state's flagship university and sparked riots. But it also sparked other colleges across Georgia to begin planning their own desegregation — including Georgia Tech, which admitted three black students months later, peacefully and without a court order.

It took many more years for the state's universities to become equally accessible to students of all races, but it started with Holmes and Hunter-Gault. In recognition of their bravery — and the ripple effects of their willingness to fight for equality — Georgia Tech awarded them the 2020 Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage on Feb. 5.

Hunter-Gault, an accomplished and award-winning journalist, said she was “blown away” when she found out she would receive the prize this year.

“I never, in all my years, expected to join so many of the pioneers who have received this award,” she said. “I also stand on the shoulders of Hamilton Holmes, whose all-too-short life remains alive as an example to all of us to pursue our dreams and not to let anybody turn us around.”

Holmes died in 1995, so members of his family joined Hunter-Gault on campus for a day of events celebrating the pair’s place in history.

“My father was not the kind of man who was looking to be a trailblazer or make history,” said Hamilton E. Holmes Jr. “He simply wanted to attend the best university that could prepare him for a career as a medical doctor, and, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, that school was the University of Georgia.”

As Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera told guests at the ceremony, “That’s why we have this award — to remind ourselves that change doesn’t just happen, and to provide ourselves with the courage to keep doing the deed.”

Holmes also integrated the Emory University School of Medicine and became an orthopedic surgeon, leading departments at the Atlanta Veterans Administration hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital.

Hunter-Gault has reported for The New York Times, PBS, NPR, The New Yorker, and CNN, winning Emmy and Peabody awards along the way.

“The Ivan Allen Prize comes at a time when we journalists need all the support we can get to withstand the outrageous attacks on a profession that has never been more needed than now,” she said.

ivanallenprize.gatech.edu

Nominations for Staff Awards Are Open Until March 2

TRESHEA WADE
OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Do you work with an outstanding co-worker or team member? Is there a new hire in your department who exhibits visionary leadership? Are you the team member who regularly identifies problems and potential solutions? Then take the time to nominate them, and help them be recognized.

Nominations for Staff Awards are open until March 2. Staff Awards are non-monetary awards. They honor, regardless of if you win or not,” said Candice Bovian, a work-life specialist who manages the Staff Awards process.

Four awards come with monetary prizes ranging from $2,750 to $3,000: Excellence Award, Leadership in Action Award, Creating the Next Award, and Process Improvement Excellence Award. The Spirit of Georgia Tech Award and Service to the Community Award are now non-monetary awards.

Recipients are selected by a cross-functional campus committee and will be recognized at the Georgia Tech Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon on April 24. More information on the awards, nomination criteria, and instructions can be found at hr.gatech.edu/staff-awards.

Submit calendar entries to hr.gatech.edu/staff-awards nomination criteria, and instructions can be found at hr.gatech.edu/staff-awards.

whistle.gatech.edu • THE WHISTLE
Technology Square Phase III to Include George Tower

Second new tower in Tech Square named for philanthropists Bill and Penny George

Momentum for Technology Square Phase III continues to grow with the naming of its second tower — this one in honor of longtime supporters of Georgia Tech. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the naming of George Tower at its meeting Feb. 11 in recognition of philanthropists William “Bill” and Penny George.

George Tower will be home to the nation’s No. 1-ranked H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, as well as other programs. George Tower will complement Scheller Tower, also planned on the site, to house the graduate and executive education programs of the Scheller College of Business.

“Bill and Penny George have been dedicated philanthropists of Georgia Tech for many years,” said Steven P. Girardot, associate vice provost for Undergraduate Education. “These helped inform the work of my career has been working toward solutions with colleagues across disciplines,” Brown said.

Shapiro is the Russell Chandler III Chair and professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, where his research is focused on stochastic programming, risk analysis, simulation-based optimization, and multivariate statistical analysis. Since earning his Ph.D. from Israel’s Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in 1981, Shapiro has made substantial contributions to the field, and he was elected to NAE “for contributions to the theory, computation, and application of stochastic programming.”

Kurfess is professor and HUSCO/Ramirez Distinguished Chair in Fluid Power and Motion Control in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, where he has helped guide the evolution of technology as a pioneer in the digital transformation of manufacturing. He earned all of his degrees at MIT. He was elected by the NAE “for development and implementation of innovative digital manufacturing technologies and system architectures.”

INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING
Live, face-to-face session in a classroom setting with opportunities to ask questions and complete hands-on activities.

WEBINAR
Live, virtual session with opportunities to ask questions via chat.

SEMINAR
Live, face-to-face session in an auditorium or large classroom with opportunities to ask questions.

WEB-BASED TRAINING
Prerecorded, narrated presentation that may include demonstrations and hands-on exercises.

JOB AIDS
Step-by-step instructions on how to complete specific transactions.

Getting Started with Training

The course catalog is the hub for training details, providing a list of the training topics and available formats. To view the full course catalog and training schedule, visit transformation.gatech.edu/

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Training will launch on March 2, in a variety of formats:

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

Feb. 20
School of Public Policy Associate Professor Richard Barke will deliver a lecture, “How Can Scientists and Engineers Influence Public Policy?”

Feb. 21
Lessons Learned From the Field” from 4:30 to 6 p.m., in Room 105, D.M. Smith Building.

Feb. 24
Gen. John Raymond, inaugural Chief of Space Operations for the U.S. Space Force, will visit campus for a distinguished lecture at 6 p.m. in the Kendeda Building.

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

Feb. 20
Elisabeth Loftus, Distinguished Professor of Psychology in the University of California, Irvine, will speak from 6 to 7 p.m. on “The Fiction of Memory” in Room 1116-1116 of the Marcus Nanotechnology Building.

Feb. 27
Join SGA’s Cultural Diversity and Affairs and Sustainability Committees for a conversation on environmental racism. The event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 1460 of the Klaus Advanced Computing Building.

Mar. 2
The School of History and Sociology and the Society of Women Engineers welcome Amy Bix, professor of history at Iowa State University, who will give a talk on “How Coeds Came to Georgia Tech: A History of Women and Engineering Education,” at 4 p.m. in room 102, Hall Building.

MISCELLANEOUS

Feb. 25
Join the Global Change Program and the Atlanta Global Studies Center for a screening of the climate change documentary, Chasing Traces From the Past, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design.

Feb. 26
Men’s Basketball hosts Clemson at 9 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion.

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
It’s not always clear to me how magic fits in, for some reason that I can’t fully explain, commentary throughout the book. A group of magicians providing running stories about magic, and how it followed him into technology is indistinguishable from magic. Just how frenetic is Baker’s life? In addition to teaching math classes in some challenging topics like algebraic and arithmetic geometry, he is a Fellow of the Georgia Magic Club, including a number of full-time professionals, he says. A mathematician who moonlights as a working magician might call to mind one of Arthur C. Clarke’s “three laws” dealing with science, discovery, and the future. The famed science fiction author, who wrote the original story that director Stanley Kubrick turned into space Odyssey, addressed magic in his third law: Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. “Definitely, there are lots of connections between science and magic, and also between math and magic,” says Baker. “For example, there are many interesting magic tricks—especially card tricks—based on clever and intriguing mathematical principles.”

Math Professor Is Also Award-Winning . . . Magician

Matt Baker, the 2019 Greater Atlanta Magician of the Year, has been fascinated by feats of magic since he was a toddler. Because Baker is also a professor in the School of Mathematics, he has proof.

There is, in a photo from his fourth birthday party, watching a magician entertain the youngsters. The photo is in his 2019 book about magic, The Ruina Vista Shuffle Club. “I’m the kid with his mouth agape,” Baker writes in the introduction.

The book’s title, a play on the name of a famous group of Cuban musicians, describes his love of card tricks, the enduring appeal of magic, and how it followed him into adulthood. His “shuffle club” is a fellow group of magicians providing running commentary throughout the book.

“For some reason that I can’t fully explain, I’m passionate about magic and have been since I was a little kid,” Baker says in his book. “It’s not always clear to me how magic fits in, or should fit in, my already frenetic life. Even with the demands of family and a busy professional life, magic is where my mind always wants to go out to play. I’m unable to shake it, even when I try.”

Just how frenetic is Baker’s life? In addition to teaching math classes in some challenging topics like algebraic and arithmetic geometry, he is a Fellow of the School of Science’s first associate dean for Faculty Development. Named to the role in 2018, Baker helps develop programs that enhance the institutional research, and career opportunities for faculty, with a focus on hiring, mentoring, retention, diversity, and inclusion.

Baker has published many mathematics research papers, and his accomplishments have won him numerous awards and honors, including his election as a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society in 2012, and selection for the Simons Fellowship in Mathematics in 2017. Baker has also edited or written four books, but only his most recent one is about his magic obsession. In this arena, Baker has earned his share of honors as well. He previously won the Greater Atlanta Magician of the Year award in 2015 and has now been crowned with the honor for a second time.

“It’s a big honor to win the Greater Atlanta Magician of the Year award, especially given that we have so many more accomplished magicians in the Georgia Magic Club, including a number of full-time professionals,” he says. A mathematician who moonlights as a working magician might call to mind one of Arthur C. Clarke’s “three laws” dealing with science, discovery, and the future. The famed science fiction author, who wrote the original story that director Stanley Kubrick turned into space Odyssey, addressed magic in his third law: Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. “Definitely, there are lots of connections between science and magic, and also between math and magic,” says Baker. “For example, there are many interesting magic tricks—especially card tricks—based on clever and intriguing mathematical principles.”

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Russell D. Dupuis has been honored with the Materials Today Innovation Award. He was presented with the award at the 2019 Materials Research Society Fall Meeting and Exhibit, held in Boston, Massachusetts. Dupuis holds the Steve W. Chaddick Chair Professor, and the director of the Center for Photonics and Imaging.

Professor Alper Erturk has been elected to the grade of Fellow of SPIE (International Society for Optics and Photonics) for his “achievements in nonlinear energy harvesting, bio-inspired piezoelectric actuation, and metamaterials.” Fellows are members of distinction who have made significant scientific and technical contributions in the multidisciplinary fields of optics, photonics, and imaging.

Mary Frank Fox, ADVANCE Professor in the School of Public Policy, has been elected chair of the Social, Economic, and Political Sciences Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The AAAS is the largest multidisciplinary science society in the world and publishes the Science family of journals. Fox researches the role and influence of gender in scientific occupations and organizations.

Richard Fujimoto, Regents Professor in the School of Computational Science and Engineering was named an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Fellow and a 2019 Interservice/ Industry Training Simulation, and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) Fellow for his work in parallel and distributed discrete event simulation. The announcement for both of these recognitions came only two years after he was named an Association for Computing Machinery Fellow in 2017.

Ilya Kaminsky, the Bourne Chair in Poetry at Georgia Tech, won the 2019 National Jewish Book Award in poetry for his book, Def Republic. The Jewish Book Council announced Kaminsky had won the Berrin Award for Poetry in Memory of Ruth and Bernie Weiland on Jan. 13. Kaminsky, professor in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication and director of poetry at PoetryTech, will be honored at the organization’s March 17 awards dinner in New York.

Pinar Keskinocak assumed the presidency of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) in January. Keskinocak is professor and William W. George Chair in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, a College of Engineering ADVANCE professor, and the director of the Center for Health and Humanitarian Systems at Georgia Tech.

Daniel Gugenheim School of Aerospace Engineering Professor Marilyn J. Smith has been elected to the status of Fellow by the Royal Aeronautical Society. The director of Georgia Tech’s Vertical Lift Research Center of Excellence, Smith was recognized by the Society for her technical research and leadership in the field of computational aerodynamics and aeroelasticity.