



# The Whistle

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## Covid-19 Dashboard Breaks Down Vaccination Trends by Race at County Level

ANNE WAINSCOTT-SARGENT  
RESEARCH NEWS

The U.S. continues to see Covid-19 vaccinations gradually increasing nationwide, with nearly 66% of all adults now having at least one vaccine dose according to CDC's COVID Data Tracker, yet disparities have been noted in vaccination rates across races and geographic areas. A new dashboard shows differences in vaccination rates by race across Georgia's counties.

The Georgia COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard displays vaccination rates by race and county, and the differences between white and black vaccination rates, for the entire population and for the 65+ age group. The dashboard also has an interactive map as well as an interactive table, which allow users to compare and rank counties by vaccination rates, social vulnerability index, and other indicators of equity.

As of June 3, the dashboard indicated that vaccination rates among white residents are higher than those of Black residents in all

see **DASHBOARD**, page 2

## JACKETS MOVING FORWARD



Photo by Christopher Moore

"I'm looking forward to hearing the marching band practicing on the rec fields when I leave work in the evening," said Jonathan Etriss, senior facilities manager in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering. "Tech has taken Covid-19 seriously from the start and has done a great job making the campus safe." Learn more about Jackets Moving Forward at [health.gatech.edu/tech-moving-forward](https://health.gatech.edu/tech-moving-forward).

## Organizational Changes for A&F Effective August 1

KELLY FOX  
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Recently, leadership in Administration and Finance (A&F) met with direct reports and hosted all-hands gatherings to announce changes in A&F that, beginning August 1, will more effectively align our resources to better serve the campus community and accomplish our strategic goals.

Some changes are outlined here. View the complete message at [af.gatech.edu](https://af.gatech.edu).

### Organizational Changes in Sustainability, Facilities, and Safety

Sustainability, Facilities, and Safety will be renamed Infrastructure and Sustainability to reflect the new organizational structure as described below.

We are moving Capital Planning and Space Management into the organization to better align our campus planning, design, construction, and ongoing maintenance of the campus.

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**DASHBOARD**, from page 1

large metro counties as well as around 70% of all Georgia counties.

“There is a lot variability in different regions of the state, so we wanted to take a closer look from an equity perspective,” said Pinar Keskinocak, the William W. George Chair and professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech and co-founder and director of the Center for Health and Humanitarian Systems (CHHS), an interdisciplinary research center at Georgia Tech.

The Georgia Tech team, including Ph.D. students Akane Fujimoto and Tyler Perini, was able to set up the dashboard, working closely with partners at the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). They shared early demos of the dashboard with both DPH and the Georgia Covid-19 Health Equity Council.

Robert Breiman, professor of global health, environmental health, and infectious diseases at Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health, considers the dashboard critical to the job facing the public health community both in targeting areas and population segments in the state with low vaccine coverage rates and understanding broader trends.

“The data contained within the vaccine equity dashboard are immensely important for Georgia. While figures like 70% to achieve herd immunity are often quoted, they are only meaningful if applied locally,” Breiman said. “Even if herd immunity targets are achieved nationally overall, where there are communities that have far lower coverage rates, the potential for virus transmission will persist. This dashboard will help to focus context-specific messaging programs and immunization campaigns so that we can close the doors on this pandemic.”

Georgia Tech’s vaccination dashboard results come as a new CDC Morbidity

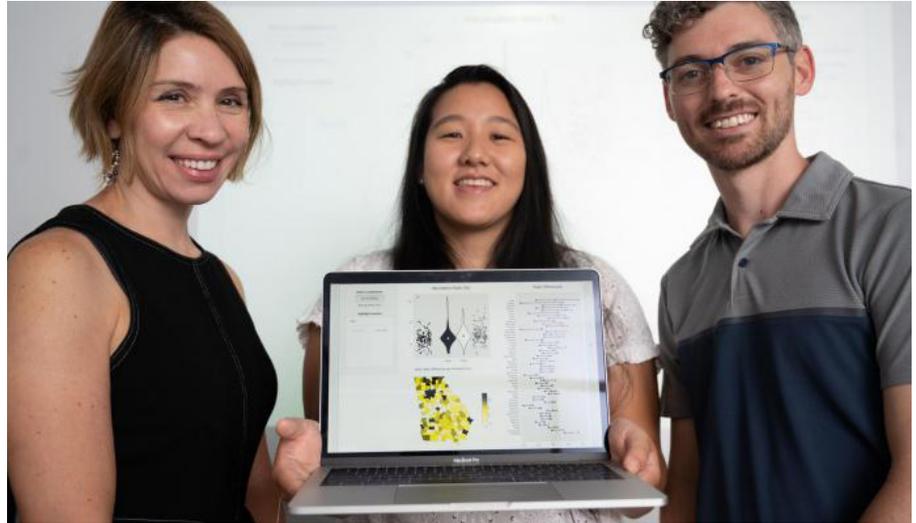


Photo by Rob Felt

(L-R): Dima Nazzal, Akane Fujimoto, and Tyler Perini.



**Covid-19 Vaccines at Georgia Tech**

Covid-19 vaccines continue to be available to all Georgia Tech students, faculty, and staff, as well as their family members ages 12 and older. Vaccine clinics are now taking place every Tuesday on campus.

Book an appointment at [mytest.gatech.edu](https://mytest.gatech.edu) using your Georgia Tech login credentials.



and Mortality Weekly Report released at the end of May shows vaccination coverage was lower among adults living in counties with the highest social vulnerability. According to the CDC, disparities in county-level vaccination coverage by social vulnerability have increased as vaccine eligibility has expanded, especially in large suburban

and nonmetropolitan counties.

Vaccination coverage among adults was lower among those living in counties with lower socioeconomic status and with higher percentages of households with children, single parents, and persons with disabilities.

According to CHHS Research Director Dima Nazzal, Georgia Tech’s dashboard shows high vaccination rates across both racial groups in some counties, and low rates in those below the poverty level, compared with the national average. Some counties currently have higher vaccination rates among white residents, including some of the large metro counties, while in a few counties the vaccination rate is higher among Black residents. The researchers acknowledge the multifaceted outreach efforts of DPH and local health departments to increase vaccination rates across the state and hope that the dashboard will support these efforts.

The research team is updating the dashboard as new data becomes available and finalizing a manuscript summarizing the key findings.

They also are actively collecting data from other states to integrate into the dashboard.

## STOCKING THE SHELVES



Photo by Jason Wright

Monday, June 28, was the start of a return for books at the Georgia Tech Library. The effort to bring physical collections back to the Library after the pandemic begins with the circulating science fiction collection, housed on the first floor of Crosland Tower in the Science Fiction Lounge. (L-R): Library Portfolio Manager Kim Sheldon, Assistant to the Dean Donna Riley, Dean Leslie Sharp, Public Outreach Librarian and science fiction subject matter expert Charlie Bennett, Facilities Manager Robert Jordan, President Ángel Cabrera, and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Steven McLaughlin. Coming next is the popular reading collection, which will be shelved on the first floor of Price Gilbert. Learn more at [library.gatech.edu/news](https://library.gatech.edu/news).

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

**Vince Calhoun** has been elected as a Fellow of the Organization of Human Brain Mapping (OHBM). OHBM is an international society dedicated to using neuroimaging to discover the organization of the human brain. Calhoun is the Distinguished University Professor of Psychology at Georgia State University and the director of the Center for Advanced Brain Imaging, a joint venture between Georgia State University and Georgia Tech.

**Yuhang Hu**, an associate professor jointly appointed by the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering and School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, has been named the 2021 recipient of the Sia Nemat-Nasser Early Career Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

**Asif Khan**, assistant professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been chosen for a DARPA Young Faculty Award. Khan is receiving this award for his research on ferroelectric field-effect transistors for embedded non-volatile memory applications.

Two biomedical engineering professors are joining the standing groups of accomplished researchers who review applications for National Institutes of Health grants. **Michelle LaPlaca** was invited to serve on the Acute Neural Injury and Epilepsy Study Section, which primarily reviews patient-oriented research into central nervous system injuries caused by concussion, stroke, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, and spinal cord injury. As a member of the

Cellular and Molecular Technologies Study Section, **Ankur Singh** will consider applications focused on developing and applying new methods, tools, and techniques for studying cellular processes. LaPlaca is a professor and Singh is an associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering.

School of Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor **Patricia Mokhtarian** has been named the 2021 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association for Travel Behaviour Research for her significant contributions to the field. Mokhtarian is the first woman to receive this prestigious honor, which has only been awarded to nine others since its creation in 2003.

# ADVANCE Program Welcomes 3 New Professors

COURTNEY HILL  
INSTITUTE DIVERSITY, EQUITY,  
AND INCLUSION

The ADVANCE Program at Georgia Tech welcomed three new professors on July 1: Ana “Annie” I. Antón (College of Computing), Nancey Green Leigh (College of Design), and Mary G. McDonald (Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts). The trio replaced outgoing program professors Dana Randall, Catherine Ross, and Mary Frank Fox as College representatives, respectively.

Supported by Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the ADVANCE Program builds and sustains a network of professors who are world-class researchers and role models to support the community and advancement of women and minorities in academia.

“Professors Antón, Leigh, and McDonald bring impressive records as accomplished scholars and leaders into the ADVANCE Program,”



Photos courtesy of the ADVANCE Program

(L-R): Antón, Leigh, and McDonald.

Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vice President Archie Ervin said. “Together, with the ADVANCE Professors from the College of Business, the College of Engineering, and the College of Sciences, I look forward to the group’s continued visibility and active leadership addressing gender and racial equity issues for the Institute and across higher education.”

The National Science Foundation began awarding grants to universities to establish ADVANCE programs in 2001, designed to increase the participation

and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers. When the Foundation’s grant expired in 2007, Georgia Tech upheld and expanded its ADVANCE Program to include the support and retention of women and minority faculty.

Antón is a former chair of the School of Interactive Computing, where she currently serves as a professor. In 2016, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to the 12-person bipartisan Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity.

Leigh is a professor in the School of City and Regional Planning and associate dean for Research in the College of Design, where she oversees its seven major research units. She is also engaged in building research connections within Georgia Tech between the College of Design, the other five Colleges, and its Interdisciplinary Research Institutes.

McDonald serves as the Homer C. Rice Chair in Sports and Society for the School of History and Sociology, where she directs its Sports, Society, and Technology program, an interdisciplinary initiative that brings together sports studies, science, and technology by studying sport in the contexts of historical and contemporary culture.

Terry Blum (College of Business), Kim Cobb (College of Sciences), and Martha Grover (College of Engineering) complete the Institute’s six-member ADVANCE Program team.

## A&F, from page 1

In addition, the Georgia Tech Police Department, including the Office of Emergency Management, will report directly to the vice president and deputy chief business officer for A&F to enable more nimble responses and planning from executive leadership.

## Organizational Changes in Finance and Planning and Information Technology

Jennifer Bentson Hubert is assuming the role of associate vice president for Finance and Planning. In this expanded role, Hubert will serve as a

deputy and strategic advisor to the vice president for Finance and Planning. She will focus on enhancing longer-term Institute planning functions, including capital financial planning, financial systems governance, and financial compliance and outreach.

The Enterprise Resource Planning organization has completed implementation of the Workday and OneUSG systems and is ready to transition into an operational mode. This change will result in the technical portions of the organization moving into the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the human resources functional leads moving back to Georgia Tech

Human Resources. The Organizational Readiness and Service Delivery portions will move into the new Administrative Service Center (ASC) to help provide support for the Institute-wide process improvement initiative. Once the ASC is activated later this year, it will report to the vice president and deputy chief business officer for A&F.

Lastly, the Enterprise Data Management organization will move into OIT to enable the creation of an Institute data strategy that is built upon a new data governance structure being led by OIT.

Read more and view an organizational chart at [af.gatech.edu](http://af.gatech.edu).