President Cabrera Launches Strategic Planning Initiative

As we embark on a new chapter of our history, I invite you to engage in a communitywide process to define our collective aspirations for the next decade.

For generations, Georgia Tech has prepared students to build extraordinary, meaningful careers; pushed the boundaries of technology through research, driven innovation; created economic opportunity; and helped transform societies at home and around the world.

There is no shortage of examples that make me proud to be a part of Georgia Tech — from the pioneering online Master of Science in Computer Science, which has shown how technology can help expand student access, to the development of Midtown into the appropriately named Tech Square. I was moved a few weeks ago by the investing history of Georgia Tech — from the ground up — what a campus building was moved a few weeks ago by the

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INVESTITURE: AN INSTITUTE MILESTONE

As the Institute celebrates the Investiture of its 12th president, Ángel Cabrera, we looked back at the meaning of the event and what it has looked like at Tech in the past.

Joseph L.A. Hughes, professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, chair of the Faculty Executive Board, and a member of the Investiture planning committee, shared some of his insights. Hughes was involved in planning Tech’s 11th Investiture, and was on campus for its 10th.

One interesting element for Georgia Tech is to have two past presidents still on campus as a new one takes the reigns.

“Georgia Tech has gone from Clough to Peterson to Cabrera with smooth transitions,” Hughes said. “The fact that we now have two former presidents who are actively connected to Tech in very positive ways is unique.” Read more at c.gatech.edu/ investiturehistory.

Thrills and Chills: What to Read at Halloween

Some books are comforting or relaxing. Others send a shiver down your spine. With Halloween approaching, we asked faculty members in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication (LMC) to recommend a haunting tale.

Fierce Kingdom: A Novel

“As someone who often does research in supernatural horror fiction (Bram Stoker’s Dracula is still one of my favorite books), I’ll say that this perfectly plausible story of a mother and her four-year-old son is one of the scariest books I’ve read recently. The two are trapped in a zoo after hours and hunted by two psychopaths who have already killed a number of other people. Phillips explores the profound love between a mother and son and her desire to protect him both physically and psychologically from the terrors that haunt her. It also reveals the panic that accompanies the failure of technology (in this case her dying cellphone) and the disorientation of being in a dark and familiar/unfamiliar setting (the zoo at night is not the same zoo they visit during the day). As someone who spends a lot of time reading Gothic literature, I admired Phillips’ ability to transform traditional Gothic tropes into something entirely plausible and ‘ordinary.’”

—Carol Senf, director of Undergraduate Studies, LMC

“Young Goodman Brown”
By Nathaniel Hawthorne. The story is included in Mosses from an Old Manse, Modern Library Classics (2003)

“My usual recommendations would be something traditionally Halloween-ish, like I Am Legend by Richard Matheson, or else some of the very interesting graphic horror novels that have come out of the past decade or two (e.g. Infidel by Aaron Campbell, Jose Villarrubia, et al., The Sandman series by Neil Gaiman, Uzumaki by Junji Ito). But for the past three or four years, I keep coming back to Nathaniel Hawthorne’s very short and very disturbing

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ALLIE MCFADDEN
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

Sabahu Barashango, the newest fellow at the Constellations Center for Equity in Computing at Georgia Tech, is soft-spoken, and holds a third-degree black belt in martial arts. Numbers and math formulas are his love language and he likes to draw in his spare time. Drawn to computer science because it combines his artistic and mathematical interests, Barashango is looking forward to helping more students and teachers in the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) district, where he is partnering to teach computer science.

A Philadelphia native, the devout Eagles fan arrived in Atlanta as an undergraduate at Morehouse College in 1991, where he earned a degree in mathematics and French. A brief flirtation with law and economics during his first year of school left Barashango unfulfilled and seeking self-redemption.

He discovered that he was happiest when giving his time to help others. Barashango often lent a hand to classmates in high school and college, sometimes skipping lunch to tutor his peers.

“IT was ingrained in me from an early age that it’s important to give back to the community,” he said. “I started to think about my skill set and how I could use that to give back. Becoming a teacher seemed like a clear answer.”

A Star in the Making

Barashango started his teaching career immediately after graduation, with no teaching experience. While earning his master’s degree in math education from Emory University, he gathered firsthand classroom experience at McNair High School (then a junior high school).

After briefly moving to Delaware where his wife was stationed at Dover Air Base, he returned to Atlanta. Barashango took a job at DeKalb County Schools, where he worked as an educator and webmaster from 2002-19. His contributions were recognized in 2007 and 2016, when Barashango was named Teacher of the Year.

Nothing Can Stop You

In college, Barashango had a professor who gave everyone the honorific of “doctor” followed by their last name. He never asked the professor why he did it, but Barashango has adopted it into his teaching style over the years.

“I call all of my students doctor because I want them to know that no matter what they choose to do in life, scholastic or medical or not, that they can reach that high level of potential. I want them to get used to hearing being called that title, because after a while you start to believe it — and once you believe it, nothing can stop you.”

Barashango, who is multiracial, hopes to be a role model to his students and inspire underrepresented minority students to chase their dreams.

“If people don’t see people who look like them in a field, then subconsciously or consciously, they start to think that they can’t do that either. I hope I help them see that that’s not true.”

A Cheerleader for Teachers

Barashango also understands the struggles that many teachers face. “I was the only computer science (CS) teacher in my school, which made it extremely hard to collaborate with my colleagues on creating a great curriculum,” he said. With 181 school districts in Georgia, and around 100 qualified computer science teachers, Barashango’s experience is normal — and part of a larger teacher shortage issue.

A significant portion of his time as a fellow is dedicated to teacher professional development.

“My role is to help the teacher as much as I can. I’m here to help empower the teacher and keep them feeling empowered so that they can better assist their students,” Barashango said.

Working with teachers at Douglass High School and Grady High School — his two assigned schools in APS — Barashango expects to have some serious conversations and reflections about what’s happening in the classroom. Together, they will figure out ways to help improve student success and student performance.

“I’m looking forward to being their teammate and bringing positive energy into it.”

For someone whose name literally means, “He who takes the struggle upon himself,” the role of a Constellations Fellow seems like a perfect fit.

Barashango on the Binary Bridge that connects the Klaus Advanced Computing Building and College of Computing Building.

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celebration of our first trailblazing African American students and their role in our journey to become more inclusive.

I was inspired by the tenacity and resilience of the G. Wayne Clough Tech Promise Scholars who overcame major barriers to get here. I was impressed by the work that went into creating the Center for Assessment, Referral, and Education to promote student well-being and support student success.

I have heard the gratitude of a National Guard aviator who told me how his life and many others were saved by aircraft equipment developed at GTRI. I was delighted to find out how we’re partnering with Bill Gates to invent a new toilet with the potential to save lives. I have admired the ingenuity, sustainability, and beauty of The Kenduda Building for Sustainable Innovative Design. And there’s so much more that happens here every day thanks to the hard work and creativity of thousands of members of the Georgia Tech community. And, as impressive as all of this is, we’re just getting started.

The changing of the guard at Tech offers a unique opportunity for us to reimagine our future, craft a new vision, and develop a new strategic plan. In doing so, we want to dream big together. We will have time to plant our feet on the ground, be realistic about our goals, and smart about how to achieve them. But nothing big was ever achieved without first imagining an exciting new future.

Over the next few months, we will use a process called “appreciative inquiry” to craft that vision. Appreciative inquiry leverages the power of positive conversation and stories of success to build on an organization’s strengths. You can read more about it at president.gatech.edu/blog. From these conversations, we will construct a mission, vision, core values, and overall strategic themes that will serve as the core of our strategic plan. We will then look at the data, evaluate our context, and develop specific goals that support each of the themes, develop metrics to track our progress, and put in place an annual institutional planning process that will make the plan a living document that guides our daily efforts.

I hope that everyone in the Georgia Tech community will participate in these conversations, whether in person or online. Look for announcements coming shortly and add your voice to the conversation. If you have questions or comments about the process, email strategicplan@gatech.edu.

This is an exciting time to be at Georgia Tech, and I look forward to working with all of you to help write the next chapter in Tech’s history.

Let’s get started.

See the Events sidebar of this issue for upcoming visioning sessions. To learn more about the Strategic Plan Initiative, visit strategicplan.gatech.edu.
**READER, from page 1**

story, Young Goodman Brown, written in 1835. It’s a brief description of a newly married man, who while traveling through the woods one night, stumbles upon a demonic mass, attended by more or less everyone from his hometown, including his wife — and then he wakes up.

The story isn’t particularly terrifying, but the larger point of the story — the man is left shattered by the idea that his neighbors all privately hold evil beliefs, loses his faith in society, and spirals into bitterness and resentment — is hard to shake, and actually quite scary, particularly given the divided and distrustful nature of the country right now.

—Aaron Santos, professor, LMC

**The Handmaid’s Tale**

By Margaret Atwood, McClelland and Stewart (1985)

“This futurist novel describes Gilead, an imagined totalitarian, theocratic republic where religious fundamentalism enslaves women by forbidding them access to money, careers, and relationships. Some are executed outright, others are imprisoned in households as breeders or domestic workers serving elite male leaders, while elite women are wives of ancient households or ‘Aunts’ who train girls and women to accept their subversive status. Atwood’s description of gender discrimination enshrined in law is chilling as readers observe legislatures attempting women’s reproductive rights today.

—Carol Colatrelia, professor and associate dean for Graduate Studies, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

**The Blood of the Vampire**

By Florence Marryat, Valancourt Books (2009)

“There are so many Victorian Gothic novels and ghost stories that come to mind as we approach this season of spookiness. One I would recommend is The Blood of the Vampire (1897) by Florence Marryat. Published in the same year as Bram Stoker’s Dracula (which I’d also recommend!), Marryat presents us with a very different vampire: Instead of being a bloodsucking creature who bites, Marryat’s vampire is a beautiful and vivacious character who unintentionally drains the life out of those she loves without close physical contact. She is an energetic vampire whose victims slowly wither away and die. Like many Victorian figures, Marryat was interested in mesmerism, channeling, and life beyond death and claimed to be a medium herself. The Blood of the Vampire is creepy in the way it explores capacities of the mind and energies that cannot be seen, and ways that dangerous forces can be at play beyond the physical realm.”

—Narin Hassan, associate professor, LMC

**Lovecraft Country: A Novel**

By Matt Ruff, HarperCollins (2016)

Lovecraft Country follows the adventures of African American army veteran Atticus Black as he joins up with his friend Letitia and his Uncle George to embark on a road trip across 1950s Jim Crow America in search of his missing mysterious mother.

Along the way, Black and his traveling companions find they must battle both the natural horrors of American racism and the supernatural horrors of the Elder Gods. Ruff’s book is an absolute page-turner that will fascinate (and everyone!) interested in weird fiction, horror, or American history — especially as that history reveals the utter strangeness of our country’s racial legacy. And creepy monsters! Did I mention the creepy monsters? They are something else, too. How do you speak of the human or inhuman monsters here? You need to read it to yourself to find out! For those who prefer their horror in visual form, I’d note that HBO is turning Lovecraft Country into a miniseries that is already being touted as the next Game of Thrones. I know I can’t wait to check it out!”

—Lisa Traczek, professor, LMC

**Medieval Monsters**

By Damien Kempf and Maria L. Gilbert, British Library (2015)

We often project the scary backward into the past, periods whose superstitions we think we have overcome. In fact, the Dark Web, and 8Chan, etc. are the contemporary equivalents of the monsters that scared (and sometimes delighted) our forebears in the age of Alessandro ‘il moro’ de’ Medici and Joan of Arc. If you want to satisfy your curiosity about demons, mythical monsters, and other creatures captivating the imagination of women and men alive only 30 to 40 generations ago, this lavishly illustrated book from the British Library is the right season choice.

—Richard Uitz, chair and professor, LMC

*“Passion” is the next topic in the What to Read series, scheduled for February 2020. We’re looking for recommendations of books about great romances, unrequited love, or people with a passion for their work or hobbies. The book can be a new release or a classic. Send your recommendations to editor@comm.gatech.edu.*

**EVENTS**

**SEMINARS AND LECTURES**

**Nov. 7**

From Myth to Marvel: The Role of Elements in Science, Fiction, and Culture will feature Georgia Tech science fiction authors and scientists as panelists. The discussion will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Seventh Floor Reading Room, Cromsid Tower.

periodicals.gatech.edu

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

**Nov. 1**

The Bermuda Sound concert will feature music from the Georgia Tech Marching Band from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ferst Center for the Arts. The concert is free to the Tech community, and $12 for all others.

music.gatech.edu

Through Dec. 31

The Ancient Minerals exhibit will be on display in Cromsid Tower, featuring chemical elements in fiction and highlighting objects from Georgia Tech periodic table events throughout the year.

periodicals.gatech.edu

**WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING**

**Oct. 30**

The Georgia Tech Library hosts a workshop on “Avoiding Plagiarism and Citing Your References Correctly” from 2 to 3 p.m. in Classroom 2130, Cromsid Tower.

library.gatech.edu

**HOMECOMMING**

**Nov. 1**

The Mini 500 Tricycle Race will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Peters Parking Deck.

homecoming.gatech.edu

**Nov. 2**

The Wreck Parade will take place from 8 to 9 a.m. beginning at Ferst and Fowler Streets.

homecoming.gatech.edu

**Nov. 2**

Georgia Tech Football hosts the University of Pittsburgh at 4 p.m. at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

ramblesreel.com

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Nov. 2**

Daylight Saving Time ends. Clocks should be set back one hour.

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
As you might expect from Georgia Tech, biology lab courses have increasingly adopted more innovative teaching techniques. They have embraced the inquiry-based model in which students are provided with greater freedom to design experiments, investigate real-world problems, and participate in ongoing research projects. As a result, they are moving away from older teaching tools, including specimens preserved in liquid, traps in BIOL 1220 Sex and Death. (1) Skulls (L-R): This collection illustrates convergent evolution between distantly related species: Tasmanian wolf (extinct), and domestic dog, and shows the dramatic effects of artificial selection on the English bulldog. (2) Colin Harrison, director of the Introduction to Biology Labs, gets a microscope for his class. He teaches BIOL 1510 Biological Principles, 1511 Biological Principles, 1520 Intro to Organismal Biology, and 1521 Honors Intro to Organismal Biology. (3) Alison Onstine, manager of the Biology Prep Lab, tests a fruit fly containment tent before students use it to trial custom designed fly traps in BIOL 1220 Sex and Death. (4) The Biology Prep Lab has a vintage collection of fluid preserved specimens. Lack of information regarding where these specimens were collected make them more valuable for education than research. (5) A fish, encased in resin, is part of the Biology Prep Lab’s vintage collection of specimens.

Hidden Georgia Tech is a photo essay series highlighting places on campus that may largely go unnoticed but are sometimes hidden in plain sight. If you know of a place worth exploring, email editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Written by Victor Rogers // Photos by Rob Felt