



# The Whistle

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## Return to Campus, Return to Testing

When you've returned to work from winter break, it's time to return to weekly surveillance testing. Sites have reopened, and will return to full capacity beginning Monday, Jan. 11. To see current operating hours and locations, visit [health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing](https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing).

## The Tension Between Awareness, Fatigue With Covid-19

Pandemic fatigue is real. A Georgia Tech expert looks at how the tension between awareness and fatigue affects case counts and preventive measures. Read more at [c.gatech.edu/awareness](https://c.gatech.edu/awareness).

## New Staff Council Leadership Takes Reins

### Eight New Faces Take Roles in the Organization

STACY BRAUKMAN  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As its sixth full year of operation winds down, the Georgia Tech Staff Council will welcome eight new faces in 2021. November's election brought the following staff members onto the Council to serve three-year terms beginning in January:

### Administrative and Professional

- Candice Bovian, Human Resources – Program Manager
- Courtney Hill, Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Communications Manager

see **COUNCIL**, page 2



(L-R): Candice Bovian, Alicia Wood-Jones, William Jimerson, Kevin Ellis, Courtney Hill, Loran Crabtree, Melody Austin, and Eric Sembrat.

# THREE COLLEGES CELEBRATE THREE DECADES



Georgia Tech students were able to major in topics related to the sciences and liberal arts since the early 1900s. But in 1990 the Institute officially organized those academic programs as colleges. The College of Sciences and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts were joined that year by the College of Computing — one of the first of its kind in the country.

Learn more about how the colleges came to be at [news.gatech.edu/features](https://news.gatech.edu/features).

## COUNCIL, from page 1

- William Jimerson, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts – Director of Human Resources
- Loran Crabtree, Georgia Tech Police Department – Detective

## Science and Research

- Alicia Wood-Jones, Environmental Health and Safety – Associate Lab and Chemical Safety Officer

## Information Technology

- Kevin Ellis – Enterprise Resource Planning – ERP System Analyst Lead
- Eric Sembrat – College of Engineering – Application Developer Lead

As a result of two additional vacancies in 2020,

the following members will serve temporary terms based upon receiving the next highest number of votes from this year’s election:

- Melody Austin, Human Resources – HR Business Partner (Term: 2021)
- Eric Sembrat – College of Engineering – Application Developer Lead (Term: 2021-22)

Quinae Ford, administrative manager in Facilities, will serve as Council chair, succeeding Byron Fitch. Candice Bovian, program manager in Georgia Tech Human Resources, will succeed Ford as vice chair; Alicia Wood-Jones, lab and safety officer in EHS, will succeed Alex Gutierrez as secretary; and Kevin Ellis, ERP system

lead, will succeed Lizzie Lack as treasurer. The rest of the 2021 Staff Council leadership team includes:

- Jonathan Etrass – Parliamentarian
- Courtney Hill – Chair, Communications Committee
- Will Jimerson – Chair, Compensation and Benefits Committee
- Juan Archila – Chair, Campus Physical Environment Committee
- Melody Austin – Chair, Employee Engagement Committee
- Alex Gutierrez – Chair, Health and Well-Being

“As we embark on our seventh year as a Staff Council, it is my honor to welcome our newly elected members,” said Byron

Fitch, senior consultant, Strategic Consulting. “We have accomplished so much this year even amid the Covid-19 pandemic, race and social justice concerns, budget cuts, and many other stressors that have affected us both personally and professionally. It is our goal to continue to engage, inform, and advocate on behalf of our staff to support them in every way possible.”

In addition, Staff Council would like to recognize and thank the following members who finished their three-year or temporary terms this year: Carly Bloomingdale, Stacy Braukman, Jassen Ceci, Joscelyn Cooper, Jonathan Hart, and Chris Walker.

To learn more about the Staff Council and ways to get involved, visit [staffcouncil.gatech.edu](https://staffcouncil.gatech.edu).

# CAP, GOWN, MASK

Georgia Tech's Fall Commencement — the only one to take place in 2020 — had all the pomp and circumstance of celebrations past, but with public health protocols in place to protect graduates, their families, event staff, and guests. See more photos from the weekend at [flickr.com/photos/georgiatech](https://www.flickr.com/photos/georgiatech) and [youtube.com/georgiatech](https://www.youtube.com/georgiatech).



Photos by Allison Carter, Rob Felt, and Christopher Moore



# TECH TO HELP MANAGE SAVANNAH RIVER LABORATORY



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

The Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BRSA) — which includes Georgia Tech — has been selected by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage one of the country’s premier environmental, energy, and national security research facilities—the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). Employing approximately 1,000 staff, SRNL conducts research and development for diverse federal agencies, providing practical, cost-effective solutions for the nation’s environmental, nuclear security, energy, and manufacturing challenges. As the DOE’s Environmental Management Laboratory, SRNL provides strategic scientific and technological support for the nation’s \$6 billion per year waste cleanup program. Learn more at [news.gatech.edu](https://news.gatech.edu).



## Monthly Transit Passes Reduced By \$5

Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) is reducing all metro transit pass prices by \$5, effective Feb. 1. PTS offers monthly passes for MARTA for students, faculty, and staff and for Xpress, Gwinnett County Transit, and CobbLinc for employees. Prices will be adjusted automatically for employees currently enrolled in payroll deduction. New payroll deduction customers should sign up by Jan. 4 for February passes.

To learn more and for instructions on how to purchase passes, visit [pts.gatech.edu/regional-transit](https://pts.gatech.edu/regional-transit).



Photo Courtesy of Midtown Alliance

