



# THE WHISTLE

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## Georgia Tech Launches Climate Action Planning Process

RACHAEL POCKLINGTON  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech strives to be a leader in climate action across the Institute's operational, educational, research, and economic development missions. As such, a process is underway to leverage this knowledge and develop a comprehensive, cross-cutting Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action Plan, a key deliverable of the Sustainability Next Plan, will support the Georgia Tech strategic plan efforts to lead by example in solving some of the most pressing issues of our time. Once developed, this plan will lay the pathway forward for the Institute to achieve its climate goals, including reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

### About the Process

The planning process launched last year and will extend through 2023. Led by Infrastructure and

see **CLIMATE**, page 4

## What's on the Horizon for 2023

Members of the Tech community share plans for the new year.

VICTOR ROGERS  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The new year is often a time of reflection and planning. With this in mind, we asked several members of the Georgia Tech community to share what they are looking forward to — personally or professionally — in 2023.

"My lab moved to Cherry Emerson late last year. So, this year I am looking forward to hallway conversations with my new neighbors, and I am hoping to strike up some new collaborations at the

interface between biophysics, microbiology, and evolutionary biology."

—Peter Yunker, associate professor,  
School of Physics

"I'm looking forward to shaping a more fulfilling and engaging employee experience at Georgia Tech. In Human Resources, we've been working tirelessly to develop programs and practices that will help Tech recruit, support, and develop our talented workforce. I'm excited for faculty and staff to experience positive culture shifts and hope we inspire enthusiasm as we share and celebrate the

see **NEW YEAR**, page 3

## MLK LECTURE



Photo by Allison Carter

Eddie Glaude Jr. delivered the 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture on Thursday, Jan. 12, at the Exhibition Hall. He interacted with attendees at the event, including Yolanda Cameron, assistant general counsel. MLK Celebration events continue this week. Learn more at [diversity.gatech.edu/mlk-celebration](https://diversity.gatech.edu/mlk-celebration).

# Cold Snap Takes Toll on Plants

VICTOR ROGERS  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The recent days of below-freezing temperatures showed little mercy on plants and shrubs, leaving many severely battered and in some cases dead. Now, gardeners are assessing the landscape and determining what to do.

“First, I would remove anything that is clearly dead,” said Steve Place, horticulturalist in Infrastructure and Sustainability. This advice applies to herbaceous plants — those with no woody stems above ground — including many perennials and nearly all annuals and biennials. Those plants are not coming back, so it’s OK to discard them.

But perennials with a woody stem, like hydrangeas, require a different approach.

“Hydrangeas flower on old wood, so even if they look dead, leave them alone,” Place said. Neil Fuller, interim associate director of Landscape Services

in Infrastructure and Sustainability, agrees. Because plants are mostly dormant this time of year, it will be hard to tell what the overall damage is until they start pushing new growth.

“Unless there is obvious structural damage, such as major broken limbs or huge cracks, I would not cut anything back just yet,” Fuller said. “Should we get a second run of extreme cold, any heavy pruning now could allow for even more damage. Also, a plant that looks like a goner may be perfectly healthy. So, typically, we reserve hard pruning for the tail end of winter so that when the temperatures start to rise, the plants begin rejuvenating.”

If you are unsure if a branch is damaged, Place suggests scraping it with a clean, sharp blade and looking for green just underneath the bark.

“A small scrape should suffice,” he said. “As the plant flushes back out, more damage may be obvious. At that time, you can conduct a harder and more thorough pruning. The key is to



Outdoor plants were severely harmed by below-freezing temperatures.

let the plant tell you where it needs to be pruned rather than brutally pruning a plant that is already stressed.”

Bottom line: If you have doubts regarding a plant’s condition, doing nothing will avoid further harm.

## Input Sought for Next Quality Enhancement Plan Topic

BRITTANY AIELLO  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech is set to embark on a new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and is seeking input and topic ideas from all faculty, staff, and students. QEP topic selection is a key part of the Institute’s reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), scheduled for 2025.

As outlined by SACSCOC, the QEP is a carefully designed course of action

that addresses a well-defined topic or issue related to enhancing student learning and student success. Georgia Tech’s next QEP topic will be tied closely to the Transformative Teaching and Learning goals identified in the Institute’s strategic plan.

“The reaccreditation process ensures academic quality, accountability, and continuous improvement — areas that align closely with our strategic goals and values,” said Steve McLaughlin, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. “The QEP is not only a required part of that process, but it is also an incredible opportunity for us

to work together to create new ways to serve our students and our community and continue to realize our strategic plan.”

A QEP topic selection committee was appointed by McLaughlin in October, and is co-chaired by Laurence Jacobs, senior vice provost for Education and Learning, and Steven Girardot, vice provost for Undergraduate Education. The committee will host town halls to receive input, feedback, and ideas from Georgia Tech faculty, staff, and students.

Learn more at [provost.gatech.edu/quality-enhancement-plan](https://provost.gatech.edu/quality-enhancement-plan).

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Georgia Tech Professor **Douglas Blough** and recent Ph.D. graduate **Yuchen Liu** have won the best paper award at the 20th Association for Computing Machinery International Symposium on Mobility Management and Wireless Access. The winning paper is entitled “Environment-Aware Link Quality Prediction for Millimeter-Wave Wireless LANs.”

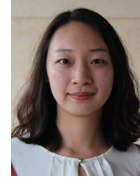


Assistant Professor **Ahmet Coskun**, the Bernie Marcus Early Career Professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, has been named a Rising Star by the Biomedical Engineering Society Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering Special Interest Group. The award recognizes a handful of outstanding junior investigators every year for work that advances the medical field



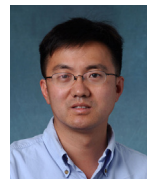
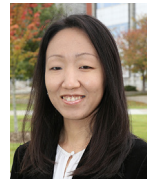
through the study of cells, molecules, and microenvironments.

**Yutong Guo**, a postdoctoral fellow in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded the 2022 Andrew J. Lockhart Postdoctoral Fellowship. The one-year fellowship is given by the Focused Ultrasound Foundation and is designed for early-career researchers who could advance the development and clinical adoption of focused ultrasound in immuno-oncology. Yutong's research studies the impact ultrasound-actuated microbubble dynamics can have in the treatment of brain diseases.



Faculty members in the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering have been recognized by the Society of Engineering Science for accomplishments in their field. Associate Professor **Yuhang Hu** has been selected to receive the Young Investigator Medal for 2023 and Professor **Jerry Qi** has been named

the J.R. Rice Medalist. The Young Investigator Medal is awarded to a promising early-career researcher whose work has already had an impact in their field within the engineering sciences. The J.R. Rice Medal is awarded to a mid-career researcher in engineering sciences who has had a substantial impact within their field.



Associate Professor **Aaron Young** of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering has been awarded the prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director's New Innovator Award. This is the second NIH award for Young, who was previously awarded the NIH National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research Young Investigator Award.



### NEW YEAR, from page 1

deep love that exists for working at Tech.”

—Skye Duckett, vice president and chief human resources officer

“Personally, I am looking forward to spending more time with my wife, Amanda, and our dog, Buzz, at our family place on the coast. I'm also looking forward to watching my fellow 2001 alumnus, Coach Brent Key, lead our Yellow Jackets this fall!”

—William Smith, director, Office of Emergency Management and Communications

“I am very much looking forward to taking the Cultivate Well-Being strategic focus to the next level as we are able to start planning and implementation in earnest, guided by our roadmap.

I am also excited about the prospect of enhancing our efforts to promote student belonging and facilitate student success as we launch the new John Lewis Student Leadership Pathways and move toward making the Black cultural center a reality. I am also planning to visit the Georgia Tech-Europe campus for the first time! On the personal front, I can't wait for Season 7 of *Outlander* (Starz) or Season 2 of *Shadow and Bone* (Netflix). I also get to celebrate my blue point Siamese kitten turning one year old in February.”

—Luoluo Hong, vice president for Student Engagement and Well-Being

“I am looking forward to all that 2023 has to offer me personally. I am the one who's usually immersed in my professional career and family and friends. However, this year, it's all about me, and accomplishing some of the

personal goals that I've set for myself. So, I am excited and looking forward to the completion of my first children's book series. I have been working on it for a few years and it's finally coming together. It will be released in August 2023.

—Quinae' A. Ford, administrative manager, GTRI Project Management Office

“The Georgia Tech Alumni Association has named this the Year of Engagement. I am excited about connecting with even more alumni and inviting them to gather on campus and with Yellow Jackets in their community, to grow together with our professional education programs, and to give back to each other and the Institute. We are closing in on 200,000 living alumni this year.”

—Dene Sheheane, president, Georgia Tech Alumni Association



# Memorial Endowment Honors Billiee Pendleton-Parker

BEVERLEY SYLVESTER  
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Billiee Pendleton-Parker, a beloved community member and honorary alumna of Georgia Tech, was a powerful engine of positive change during her 30 years of service to the Institute. Known for always having an open door and open mind, she made her office a space of safety, inclusivity, welcome, and warmth for all students to find what they needed: candy, advice, or even a couch on which to sleep. Pendleton-Parker was a guide and a home for students who felt alone, scared, or unsure. She died in January 2021.

An endowment celebrating her life and work will support three areas she championed: the MLK Day of Service, the LGBTQIA Resource Center, and the Women's Resource Center.

Alumni George Ray, MGT 2009, PUBP 2009,



Photo by Randy McDow

Billiee Pendleton-Parker was a beloved community member during her 30 years of service to the Institute.

and Anna Pinder, ME 2003, are two of the many who were positively affected by Pendleton-Parker during their time at Georgia Tech. They have worked alongside others to establish and raise awareness about the endowment fund created in her memory.

"It is difficult to identify any singular way Billiee affected my life or the lives of so many others — because she changed us completely," Ray said. "From empowering us to be true to ourselves

to instilling in us the value and importance of empathy and service to others, Billiee changed our entire approaches to life."

Rick Clark, assistant vice provost and executive director of Undergraduate Admission, said, "Billiee's true gift was simply being present. Amid everything students juggle, Billiee was a calming and reassuring oasis. Her office was a bedazzled sanctuary where students went for respite because they knew they would be

safe, accepted, and loved. She was incredibly genuine as a person and earnest as an educator. Her mark on Georgia Tech is indelible."

Pinder said, "This endowment is meant to reflect Billiee, her love of Tech students, and her love of campus. With this fund, we're supporting campus causes that were meaningful to Billiee because they were meaningful to students."

Pinder said the goal is to continue to grow the fund to "meet more of the needs of these and other student-focused programs that are life-sustaining and in some cases life-changing, just like Billiee was for those lucky enough to have known her."

Pendleton-Parker said that people "need to strive for significance" because "significance has a ripple effect that never ends."

To learn more or make a gift, visit [mygeorgiatech.gatech.edu/giving/pendleton-parker](https://mygeorgiatech.gatech.edu/giving/pendleton-parker).

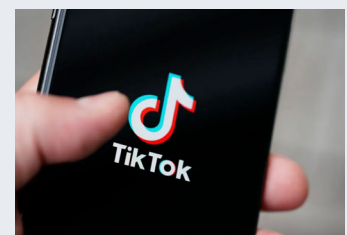
## CLIMATE, from page 1

Sustainability, the process will include developing a greenhouse gas inventory; modeling potential mitigation strategies; and engaging with faculty, students, and staff from across campus. The engagement process will include an advisory task force and individual working groups that focus on specific climate solutions. Once complete, the plan will align with Georgia Tech's broader commitments to address climate change and provide an actionable roadmap to achieving carbon neutrality and climate justice.

The campus community is invited to take part in helping to develop the Climate Action Plan. Contact [sustain@gatech.edu](mailto:sustain@gatech.edu) to express your interest, or visit [sustain.gatech.edu](https://sustain.gatech.edu) for more information.

## Guidance on Removing Select Social Messaging Apps From State-Owned Devices

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp recently announced the prohibition of select social messaging apps on state-owned devices. Following that announcement, the University System of Georgia has provided its member institutions, including Georgia Tech, with guidance.



In response, the Office of Information Technology is asking anyone who has downloaded any of these three apps — TikTok, Telegram, or WeChat — onto a device owned by Georgia Tech or the state to delete them immediately.

Limited exceptions apply. For full details, see the Office of Information Technology's Knowledge Base article at [c.gatech.edu/tiktok](https://c.gatech.edu/tiktok).