



THE WHISTLE

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IT'S ELECTRIC



Photo courtesy of Parking and Transportation Services

A new hybrid electric Stinger bus is now running on the Gold Route of campus transit. The EZ Rider II was unveiled this month and marks a step toward decreasing Tech's carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. One of the key advantages of this hybrid bus is its zero-emission electric mode, which allows the bus to operate fully electric for about 20% of the route. This not only helps to improve air quality but also reduces noise pollution. This new addition to the Gold Route is the first of nine hybrid electric buses to come to the Georgia Tech campus. The remaining fleet will arrive in April.

Staff Awards Nominations Now Open

CHAUNDRA GRANT
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, but focuses on potential solutions? Then take the time to nominate them, or yourself, for a Staff Award.

The Staff Awards recognize employees for outstanding achievements over and beyond their

regular job duties and who model Georgia Tech's core values and vision for the future. There are a total of 12 awards. All faculty and staff, regardless of job function, are eligible and encouraged to submit a nomination. The nomination process ends on Friday, Feb. 17.

Learn more about the awards and how to nominate someone at hr.gatech.edu/staff-awards.



What to Read, Watch During Black History Month

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

February is Black History Month, a time to reflect on the struggles and achievements of Black Americans, and their centrality to U.S. history. We asked several faculty and staff members for reading and viewing recommendations that explore race, identity, history, and memory. The recommendations range from an analysis of 500 years of Black history to a memoir by acclaimed actress Viola Davis.

Kindred

By Octavia Butler,
Doubleday & Company
(1979). *Television adaptation available on FX/Hulu.*

"Remember Marty McFly's fading photograph, his future existence dependent on his parents' romance in Zemeckis's 1985

Back to the Future? Now imagine a more terrifying parallel: A fierce Black heroine is mysteriously, repeatedly catapulted from her 1976 California home to an 1815 Maryland plantation, where, as a suddenly enslaved non-person, she must save her white ancestor to ensure her own future existence. Adapted as a 2017 graphic novel by Kevin Duffy and John Jennings, and now for FX/Hulu by playwright and showrunner Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Octavia Butler's 1979 *Kindred* is an ever-relevant, masterful reminder that a reckoning with history is always about our present, and that our future



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GTPD Emphasizes Education, Enforcement for Micro-Mobility

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As Georgia Tech's campus community grows and evolves, and as the number of alternative transportation methods increases, campus streets and sidewalks are now filled with cars, pedestrians, cyclists, scooters — even electric unicycles.

Pursuing its mission of maintaining a safe and secure campus for the entire community, the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) is stepping up education and enforcement of violations among all user groups and modes of transit.

“As part of a broader plan, the enforcement is aimed at making campus a safer and more pedestrian-friendly place,” said Captain Marcus Walton.

The department's plan addresses the increase in the number of motor vehicles, micro-mobility vehicles, and pedestrians traversing through and around the Georgia Tech campus, with a goal of reducing the number and severity of accidents. It is part of a collaborative partnership between GTPD and the City of Atlanta's Solicitor's Office and follows a sustained increase in the number and severity of accidents over the past year.

GTPD has recently purchased 38 lighted pedestrian crosswalk signs and 14 radar speed detection signs that have been installed in strategic locations around campus. Officers will begin by issuing traffic warnings and collaborating with campus groups, including Starter Bikes and the



Photo by Brice Zimmerman

A student traverses campus on an electric scooter.

Bicycle Infrastructure Improvement Committee, to promote safe ridership and even distribute safety equipment such as lights and helmets.

Following the educational campaign, which began last week, GTPD will implement targeted enforcement efforts and begin issuing citations using City of Atlanta ordinances. They will monitor and adapt enforcement efforts to determine if the plan is effective in reducing accidents on campus. GTPD is also working with Capital Planning and Space Management on long-term infrastructure changes for campus that will continue to improve pedestrian and rider safety.

GTPD defines micro-mobility vehicles as bicycles, electric bicycles, electric scooters, and electric skateboards. For the safety and concern for those riding micro-mobility vehicles, GTPD asks that everyone wear

the appropriate safety gear and follow all traffic laws and safety rules. State of Georgia law considers bicycles and electric scooters to be vehicles while in operation. Learn more about rules of the road and safety tips from Georgia Tech Parking and Transportation at pts.gatech.edu/commute/commute-options/bicycling-pmds, and review the campus Bicycle and Personal Mobility Devices Use Policy at policylibrary.gatech.edu.

Reviewing the rules of the road:

- Bicycles and scooters must obey all traffic laws and sidewalks.
- Motorized vehicles may not be driven or ridden on the sidewalks.
- Vehicles must yield to all pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Pedestrians must use the crosswalks.
- Park all scooters responsibly.

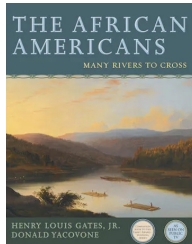
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always depends on it.”

—Nihad Farooq, associate professor,
School of Literature, Media, and
Communication

The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross

By Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Donald Yacovone, Smiley Books (2013)



“I remember watching the six-hour documentary series on TV about 10 years ago, and it has stuck with me ever since. This book is the companion piece.

It provides a comprehensive analysis of 500 years of Black history, beginning with the journey of Black people before they were enslaved in Africa and brought to the U.S. and other countries. The book explains how Africans were thriving and that Black women were strong leaders both in their respective tribes in Africa and when they were enslaved in America. It also highlights the ingenuity, resilience, and creativity of enslaved people as they fought with every weapon they had for their freedom.

The book also talks about the critical role of white allies, who wanted freedom for the enslaved Africans as much as they did. Many suffered the same fate as disobedient enslaved Africans.

I went back to watch the series after reading the book, which concludes with the election of the first Black president, Barack Obama. It was a totally new viewing experience because of what I learned and read. If you’ve never seen the documentary, start with the book. Like me, you’ll learn so much.”

—Raheem Beyah, dean and Southern Company Chair, College of Engineering

Finding Me: A Memoir

By Viola Davis, HarperOne (2022)

“Most know Viola Davis is an actress and producer, notably from the award-winning television series *How to Get Away With Murder*. Davis is the

recipient of various accolades, including an Academy Award, a Primetime Emmy Award, and two Tony Awards; she is the sole African American to achieve the triple crown of acting. Her autobiography is an intriguing account of a life well lived, detailing her journey to shape herself into the woman we experience through her work today. She tells her story honestly and authentically. There are moments that everyone can relate to. This book is a fantastic read (and listen, as she narrates the audiobook version). Davis draws us in with her realness. I related to her frankness, which she set the stage with from the opening sentences. *Finding Me* is juicy, as she tells her intriguing life story. She holds nothing back. You can feel her passion on every page.”

—LaTrese Ferguson, director, Workplace Learning and Professional Development



National Education Television (forerunner of PBS) live conversation with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and four other civil rights leaders before the historic March on Washington (1963).

Available on YouTube.

“This live television broadcast is a discussion focusing on the planned March on Washington, but much more is expounded on throughout the conversation. The discussion includes major issues concerning civil rights and equality, most of which are still an issue today. The content shows the progress that has not completely been reached. The question is why we are still fighting



the battle for equality. Quite possibly the answer is best described in a comment by Martin Luther King Jr. during the program: ‘Well, isn’t it true we’re grappling with a problem that constantly emerges in history that you have a few people who are crusaders in the right direction ... and the vast majority are out there in the middle somewhere with a great deal of apathy and complacency?’ We owe it to these men, who put forth great effort to extinguish racial inequality, to be vigilant on our own toward the struggle for equality.”

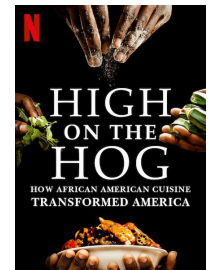
—Valerie Edward, stationary engineer,
Infrastructure and Sustainability

High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America

Docuseries by Netflix, released in 2021

“This docuseries is full of rich insights about African American culture and history (thus American culture and history) — all through the lens of food. It follows Stephen Satterfield, a chef and writer, as he explores food traditions from African countries such as Benin to states such as the Carolinas, Virginia, and Texas in the U.S. Through powerful images, stories, and interviews, this four-episode series details a history of innovation, joy, resilience, and community.”

—Tiffany D. Johnson, assistant professor, Scheller College of Business

**Dawn (Book 1 in the trilogy, Lilith's Brood)**

By Octavia Butler, Warner Books (1987)

“Dawn is the strange, gorgeous invitation into Butler’s speculative fiction masterwork, *Lilith’s Brood*. Lesser known than later novels like *Kindred*, *Dawn* and the two books that follow it showcase Butler’s genius for exposing the exquisite foibles of humankind. Race and the experience of Black womanhood is critical to the epic trilogy

Strategies for Rebounding From Failure

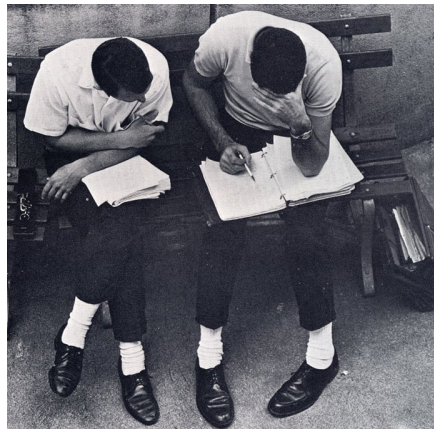
DANIEL P. SMITH
GEORGIA TECH ALUMNI MAGAZINE

For some, failure proves paralyzing. It compels avoidance and halts the pursuit of promising adventures. Other people, however, use failure as a catalyst for growth. Defeat and struggle become tools for learning, invitations to pursue new endeavors, and opportunities to discover how far we might go.

Sonia Alvarez-Robinson, executive director of Strategic Consulting and head of the Resilience Employee Resource Group at Georgia Tech, champions the latter approach.

“When we work to overcome failure, we open ourselves to so much that can push us forward — a stronger sense of our personal strength, discovering new possibilities, fortifying relationships, and gaining a deeper appreciation for life,” says Alvarez-Robinson, who also leads a five-week “mini-mester” course for Georgia Tech students titled “Resilience Building Strategies: Growing Through What We’re Going Through.”

To bounce back from failure, Alvarez-Robinson suggests using these strategies to fuel recovery and growth.



Employ mindfulness and reprogram defeatist thinking. “Failure can cause us to beat up on ourselves and go toward negative messaging that harms our self-perception,” Alvarez-Robinson says. “Pay attention to the chatter in your mind and remind yourself what you’re good at, proud of, and optimistic about.”

Jotting down positive reflections can help reprogram the mind to focus on positivity, restore confidence, and define steps toward redemption.

Surround yourself with supportive people. Alongside positive self-talk, Alvarez-Robinson urges people to surround themselves with encouraging,

supportive voices when they encounter adversity and struggle.

“This often means reevaluating who is in your inner circle, setting boundaries, and knowing who you need around you when you’re experiencing moments of failure,” she says. “Even those who love you might not be good for you as you’re facing adversity.”

Control the controllables.

Sometimes, failure is the result of things outside of one’s control. Let those things go, Alvarez-Robinson says.

“Devote your efforts instead to things you have partial or total control over, like your effort. This is how you can learn and salvage a situation,” she says.

Put failure in its proper perspective. Often people build failure into something bigger than it is and rush to the worst-case scenario, Alvarez-Robinson says. A failed midterm exam, though, rarely cripples one’s job prospects. And a divorce doesn’t mean you’ll die alone.

Respond by identifying realistic remedies and outline a path to recovery, so that failure drives positive outcomes — namely progress, learning, and resiliency.

Georgia Tech Arts Presents ‘32 Sounds’

ELIZABETH GEIGER
GEORGIA TECH ARTS

Sound may be something we all take for granted on a daily basis, but it has the power to transport us into our memories and beyond. One simple sound can take us across time and place, and we all experience sound differently based on our own life stories.

On Friday, Feb. 10, filmmaker Sam Green and legendary DJ and composer JD Samson will share an immersive and transformative adventure through sound with *32 Sounds*.

This documentary film and sensory

experience features live narration by Sam Green, highlighted with an original soundtrack composed and performed live by Samson.

According to Green, “*32 Sounds* is my latest experiment in form — a live documentary focusing on the power of sound to bend time, cross borders, and profoundly shape our perception of the world around us.”

Participants will be given headphones that play the 3D sound score, allowing them to be submerged in the film and experience the aural and visual journey.

Tickets start at \$5. Visit arts.gatech.edu to learn more and purchase tickets.

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and the interplay of power, reproduction, and survival, but Lilith, the Black protagonist, and her choices are never reducible to a moral or agenda. In *Dawn*, readers will find world-building and tropes that have shaped so much of contemporary dystopian fiction, but *Dawn* is weirder and more beautiful — in my accounting — than any of its ‘offspring.’”

—Ruthie Yow, service learning and partnerships specialist, Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain

