Staff Award Nominations
End March 1

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? Take the time to nominate someone for a Staff Award.

In addition to the seven existing awards, there are five new awards this year. The Staff Awards recognize employees for outstanding achievements above and beyond their regular duties and who model Georgia Tech’s core values and vision for the future. All staff, regardless of job function, are eligible and encouraged to submit a nomination. The nomination process ends March 1.

“The act of nominating someone shows that you value that person and hold them in high regard. To be nominated for a Staff Award is an honor, regardless of whether you win or not,” said Candice Bovian, program manager in Human Resources, who manages the Staff Awards process.

Award recipients are selected by a cross-functional campus committee and will be recognized at the Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon on April 29. Nomination criteria and instructions for submitting a nomination can be found at hr.gatech.edu/staff-awards.

MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS: A LEGACY UNFOLDING

As a Black 16-year-old growing up in Atlanta’s Adamsville community, Mayor Andre Dickens couldn’t even tell you where the Georgia Tech campus was located. That’s not what he wants for today’s local youth.

Dickens, the first in his family to attend college, is the first Black alumnus to be elected mayor — and only the second Tech alumnus to hold the position, following in the footsteps of the late Ivan Allen Jr.

In an interview earlier this month, he said running for mayor was always in the cards. If you ask his mom, the dream began at the age of 12. But it wasn’t until he stepped onto Tech’s campus that he really began to understand and apply what it means to lead, to manage conflict, and to build community.

“**You have a mayor now who’s walked those same halls. I invite all of you — all of the faculty and staff — to continue to join forces with the city of Atlanta in the excellent work we’re doing.**”

Get to know the 61st mayor of Atlanta at c.gatech.edu/andredickens.
Leaders Selected for Provost Office Roles

Laurence J. Jacobs has been selected as Georgia Tech’s senior vice provost for Education and Learning (SVP-EL) in the newly established office. As SVP-EL, Jacobs’ primary objective will be to lead the Institute’s strategic initiative to define and implement a transformative learning strategy that builds on the foundations of established, successful programs. He will elevate student success, education, and learning while also providing dedicated strategic leadership for graduate, postdoctoral, and undergraduate education through the direct supervision of administrative and support services provided by the offices of Undergraduate Education, Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, and the Center for Teaching and Learning. He will also serve on the President’s Cabinet. Jacobs began in his new role Feb. 14.

He previously served as professor and associate dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Engineering, where he was responsible for the College’s undergraduate, graduate, and international academic programs. He has been a leader in undergraduate curricular reform that emphasizes multidisciplinary design, innovation, problem-based learning, and interdisciplinary minors.

Michelle Rinehart, associate dean for Academic Affairs and Outreach in the College of Design, has been named Georgia Tech’s vice provost for Faculty. The newly created Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty supports and advocates for the interests of Tech’s almost 4,000 faculty members, to deliver an exceptional faculty experience through the recruitment, advancement, and retention of a diverse and talented workforce. Rinehart will begin in her new role March 1.

She has 18 years of administrative leadership in faculty affairs and development, academic affairs, assessment and accreditation, student success, and enrollment management. Rinehart has been at Georgia Tech since joining as assistant dean in 2013. She was interim dean in the College of Design from August through December 2021.

Options Available for Home Covid-19 Tests

The federal government has launched a Covid-19 over-the-counter tests website for online ordering. This site allows each household to order up to four free Covid-19 tests. They can be ordered at covidtests.gov.

Over-the-counter tests are also available through the USG Healthcare plan without a prescription. As a member, you can receive up to eight tests per 30-day period.

For employees enrolled in the Consumer Choice HSA, Comprehensive Care, or BlueChoice HMO plans:
- Tests are available through in-network pharmacies at no cost, if they are purchased through one of the following options:
  1. Order online through CVS’s Member Website or the CVS Mobile App at caremark.com/covid19-otc.html. Covered tests will be available within the hour, at the location with available test kits.
  2. At an in-network pharmacy location. Covered tests must be purchased at the pharmacy counter. Find an in-network pharmacy at caremark.com/covid19-otc.html.
- If you paid out of pocket, you may request reimbursement online through the CVS website. Members who choose this option will be reimbursed up to $12 per test up to the eight tests per 30-day limit.
- If you have questions or need help submitting for reimbursement, please reach out to Accolade at 866-204-9818.
- For Kaiser plan members, visit the Kaiser website (healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/georgia/health-wellness/coronavirus-information/testing) for information on where to obtain the tests and how to submit them for reimbursement.

For more information about the types of tests available and in-person testing sites, please see the Georgia Department of Public Health website (dph.georgia.gov/covidtesting).

Information is also available on the USG Benefits website at benefits.usg.edu/benefits-resources/usg-benefits-covid19.
Equity and Compliance Programs Updates Reporting Options

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

A new online reporting form for Title IX and sexual misconduct cases is now available for use by students, staff, and faculty. The form can be found on the Title IX website, titleix.gatech.edu.

As of Monday, Jan. 10, all reports should be submitted through the online form, which allows for anonymous reporting when needed or appropriate. The form does not function as a police report. The information provided is sent to the Title IX Coordinator, who will review the information and reach out to affected individuals to discuss any immediate needs, resources for support, and options, including the formal complaint process under Title IX.

For more information, contact Chris Griffin, Title IX Coordinator, or Alexis Martinez, executive director for Equity and Compliance Programs.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Two assistant professors in the College of Sciences have been selected to receive prestigious Sloan Research Fellowships. Hannah Choi in the School of Mathematics and Henry S. “Pete” La Pierre in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry are among 118 early career researchers across the U.S. and Canada named as 2022 Sloan Fellows.

College of Computing Professor Ashok Goel has been elected as a 2022 Fellow of the Society by the Cognitive Science Society, a consortium of global researchers working to better understand the human mind through a broad spectrum of research disciplines.

The Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies, an international group of scholars, named Narin Hassan, associate professor in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication, as its president, effective Jan. 1. Hassan will serve a two-year term.

Four Georgia Tech faculty members have been elected to the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) College of Fellows. They include Omer Inan, associate professor and Linda J. and Mark C. Smith Chair in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Shella Keilholz, associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering; Wilbur Lam, professor in the Coulter Department; and Ankur Singh, associate professor in the Coulter Department. Being elected as an AIMBE fellow is an honor reserved for the top 2% of medical and biological engineers in the country.

Three Georgia Tech faculty members are among the newest members of the National Academy of Engineering. Christopher Jones, John F. Brock III School Chair in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; Sandra Magnus, professor of the practice with joint appointments in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, School of Materials Science and Engineering, and the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs; and Nick Sahinidis, Gary C. Butler Family Chair in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, have been elected to the NAE, one of the highest professional distinctions awarded to an engineer.

Pinar Keskinocak, the William W. George Chair and professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has been honored as the recipient of the 2021 Award for the Advancement of Women in OR/MS. This award is given by the Women in OR/MS Forum of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences to celebrate and recognize a person who has significantly contributed to the advancement and recognition of women in OR/MS.

Several Georgia Tech faculty members have received the National Science Foundation’s prestigious Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, which carries a five-year term. They include Wenjing Liao, assistant professor in the School of Mathematics; Siva Theja Maguluri and He Wang, assistant professors in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering; and Chengzhi Shi, assistant professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. Chengzhi Shi also has received an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Program Award.

Susan Lozier, dean and Betsy Middleton and John Clark Sutherland Chair of the College of Sciences, is the recipient of the 2022 Henry Stommel Research Medal from the American Meteorological Society for her “theoretical, observational, modeling contributions, and leadership in significantly improving our understanding of Atlantic Ocean circulation.”

The Society for Biomaterials has bestowed the Mid-Career Award with the Mid-Career Award for 2022. Singh will be honored at the society’s annual meeting later this spring and have the opportunity to make a presentation about his work. Singh’s Mid-Career Award honors biomaterials researchers 10-20 years into their career who have demonstrated outstanding achievements.

James Stubbs, professor of the practice in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, is the first person at Georgia Tech or Emory University elevated to the rank of Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors. Senior Members are elected for their success in securing patents and licensing or commercializing their ideas.
Paella: A Cabrera Family Tradition

As part of the Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine's recent food-focused issue, President Ángel Cabrera shared a narrative of how he cooks paella, a traditional dish from his home country of Spain. Read more from the magazine at gtalumni.org/magazine.

The Cabrera paella tradition began in Benicàssim, a beautiful beach town in Valencia, where Beth, the kids, and I like to spend time in the summer. Valencia happens to be the rice producing region in Spain and the place where paella originated.

Years ago, my friend Miguel invited us to a paella lunch, and I accepted under the condition that he would let me be his sous-chef. That day proved to be transformative in our family's culinary journey. I continued to build on my learnings from that day and, years later, I even dared to cook paella for Spanish celebrity chef and global philanthropist José Andrés. I could have hung up my apron after peaking so spectacularly, but I kept going.

The “recipe” I will share here is the result of years of practice — and, as a disclaimer, doesn’t come with the blessings of either Miguel or Chef José Andrés.

My paella, like all my cooking, is more intuitive than prescriptive, and trying to codify anything I cook is nearly impossible. Because of my love for Georgia Tech, I’ll give it my best here.

Paella is cooked on a special-purpose pan that is actually called “paella” in the language spoken in Valencia — thus the name of the dish. Heat your paella pan on a nice wood fire. Your grill or kitchen stove will also do — especially with modern pans that are good at distributing the heat. Pour good olive oil into the pan, being careful not to burn it. I can't tell you how much oil. You just have to feel it and let the fun begin.

Dice and sear a few chicken breasts — well fried until golden brown or, like Miguel likes to cry, “bien fritito!” Push the chicken toward the rim of the pan and throw in some diced red or yellow peppers. When they start to brown, push them also to the rim and add two or three peeled and diced tomatoes. Once fried, push them also to the rim and add other vegetables. Feel free to experiment with artichoke hearts or your favorite veggies — I've even used eggplant. You can be excommunicated if you admit in public to using onions in paella, although many do. If you do, don't tell anyone I told you. Green peas, snow peas are great. Maybe green beans if you're so inclined (no thanks). Please no Brussels sprouts. Garlic, parsley, and salt are a must. And paprika, but only if you have the deliciously smoky variety produced in La Vera, Cáceres, near my mom's hometown. Otherwise, don’t bother.

This is when I add a few strands of saffron. It makes paella taste amazing.

Next, add water. As a reference for the amount of water to add, look to fill the pan up to the screws that connect the handles to the pan. Bring all to a boil. Taste and add more salt, if needed.

Finally, add the rice. This is serious. Do not attempt to cook paella with any other rice besides “arroz bomba.” They sell it online. Trust me on this. How much? Forget grams or ounces or cups. Add four little mountains of rice so they barely emerge from your broth. Four rice icebergs, so to speak.

Lower the fire, spread the rice, and let it sit for 25 minutes. Do not panic thinking you have too much broth or rice. Relax with a glass of Rioja. Talk with friends. Leave the paella alone.

Remove the paella from the heat. Cover with kitchen cloths. In Valencia, they cover it with the local newspaper and even claim out-of-town newspapers don’t do the trick. I’m not convinced. Clean kitchen towels do just fine. Decorate. Bring the paella to the table to serve. Don’t worry if the bottom of the rice is slightly charred. In Spain we fight for that burnt layer of rice — we even have a name for it, socarrat, from the Valencià language. Serve with fresh lemon or homemade aioli. Accompany with a fresh, simple, green salad. Open another bottle of Rioja. Take your time and enjoy!