



# THE WHISTLE

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## KNOW YOUR STINGERS



Photos by Joya Chapman and Maxwell Guberman

As the spring season commences, insects have emerged from their winter homes to do their part to pollinate the environment. While Georgia Tech is of course home to yellow jackets, it's also home to many other insects that are part of the complex ecosystem of campus. When you see something buzzing, how do you know if it will sting? Jennifer Leavey, who directs the Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project, offers tips and knowledge at [c.gatech.edu/sting](https://c.gatech.edu/sting).

## Nominations Open for Faculty Governance

KRISTEN BAILEY  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Committees are vital to faculty governance at Georgia Tech, with many initiatives and new programs originating there. Nominations to faculty committees for the Spring 2023 elections are being solicited through March 31.

Georgia Tech faculty members are invited to participate in faculty governance by seeking election to the Faculty Standing Committees or the Faculty Executive Board. Nominations

(including self-nominations) are now open and can be submitted online at [c.gatech.edu/facgov2023](https://c.gatech.edu/facgov2023) or by emailing Cam Tyson ([cam.tyson@cos.gatech.edu](mailto:cam.tyson@cos.gatech.edu)), chair of the nominating committee.

All nominees will be contacted to confirm their intent to run for election prior to review of the nomination by the nominating committee and posting of the election ballot. The committee will attempt to honor requests for specific committees, but some elections are constrained by requirements associated with particular seats and the maintenance of a balance of campus

representation on all committees. For a description of each standing committee and its duties and charge, visit the Georgia Tech Policy Library at [policylibrary.gatech.edu](https://policylibrary.gatech.edu). Elected members are expected to serve a three-year term, from August 2023 through July 2026.

For any additional information or questions, contact Rhett Mayor ([rhett.mayor@me.gatech.edu](mailto:rhett.mayor@me.gatech.edu)), secretary of the faculty, or Cameron Tyson ([cam.tyson@cos.gatech.edu](mailto:cam.tyson@cos.gatech.edu)), vice chair of the Georgia Tech Faculty Executive Board and chair of the nominating committee.

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) has awarded the 2023 SIAM Activity Group on Control and Systems Theory Best SICON Paper Prize to



**Yongxin Chen**, assistant professor in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, and his co-authors for their paper titled “Multimarginal Optimal Transport With a Tree-Structured Cost and the Schrödinger Bridge Problem.”

Georgia Tech and Emory University researchers have received a 2023 Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance award. The collaborators received



the Team Science Award of Distinction for Early Stage Research for their recent work using live explanted human hearts to better understand arrhythmias. The award recognizes multidisciplinary research, with a winning team comprised of Georgia Tech physicists and Emory electrocardiologists and cardiac surgeons. The team is led by **Flávio Fenton**, a professor in the School of Physics, and Neal Kumar Bhatia, an assistant professor of medicine at Emory.

**Andrés J. García**, Regents' Professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, received the Founders Award from the Society for Biomaterials. The award recognizes long-term, landmark contributions from an individual within the area of biomaterials.



**Charles Isbell**, dean and John P. Imlay Jr. Chair in the College of Computing, is the 2023 recipient of the Computer Research Association's



A. Nico Habermann Award, which recognizes efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in computing.

**Peter Loutzenhiser**, associate professor in the Woodruff School, has been named a fellow by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Fellows are a select group of ASME members recognized for significant achievements in their field of engineering.



**Jorge Macedo**, Frederick L. Olmsted Early Career Assistant Professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has received the 2023 Young Researcher Award from the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering's Technical Committee on Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering. The award recognizes early-career scientists and engineers who have exceptional promise for excellence in research and have made significant contributions in the field.



The American Chemical Society Catalysis Science and Technology Division has recognized **Andrew J. Medford**, assistant professor in the School of Chemical and



Biomolecular Engineering, with the Early Career in Catalysis Award. Medford will receive the award at a special symposium at the ACS Fall National Meeting in August.

Professor and entrepreneur **Mark Prausnitz** has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), joining a membership that includes the nation's most distinguished engineers. Prausnitz is the J. Erskine Love Jr. Chair of the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and director of Georgia Tech's Center for Drug Design, Development, and Delivery.



The Steel Bridge Task Force has selected **Ryan Sherman** as the recipient of the 2023 Robert J. Dexter Memorial Award Lecture. Sherman is an assistant professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The lecture program provides an opportunity for individuals early in their careers in structural engineering to present a lecture on their steel bridge research activities to the Steel Bridge Task Force and to participate in its semiannual three-day meeting.



The Combustion Institute has announced that **Adam Steinberg**, professor and associate chair for graduate programs in the Guggenheim School, has been elected a fellow of the 2023 class. Fellows are recognized by their peers as distinguished for outstanding contributions to combustion.



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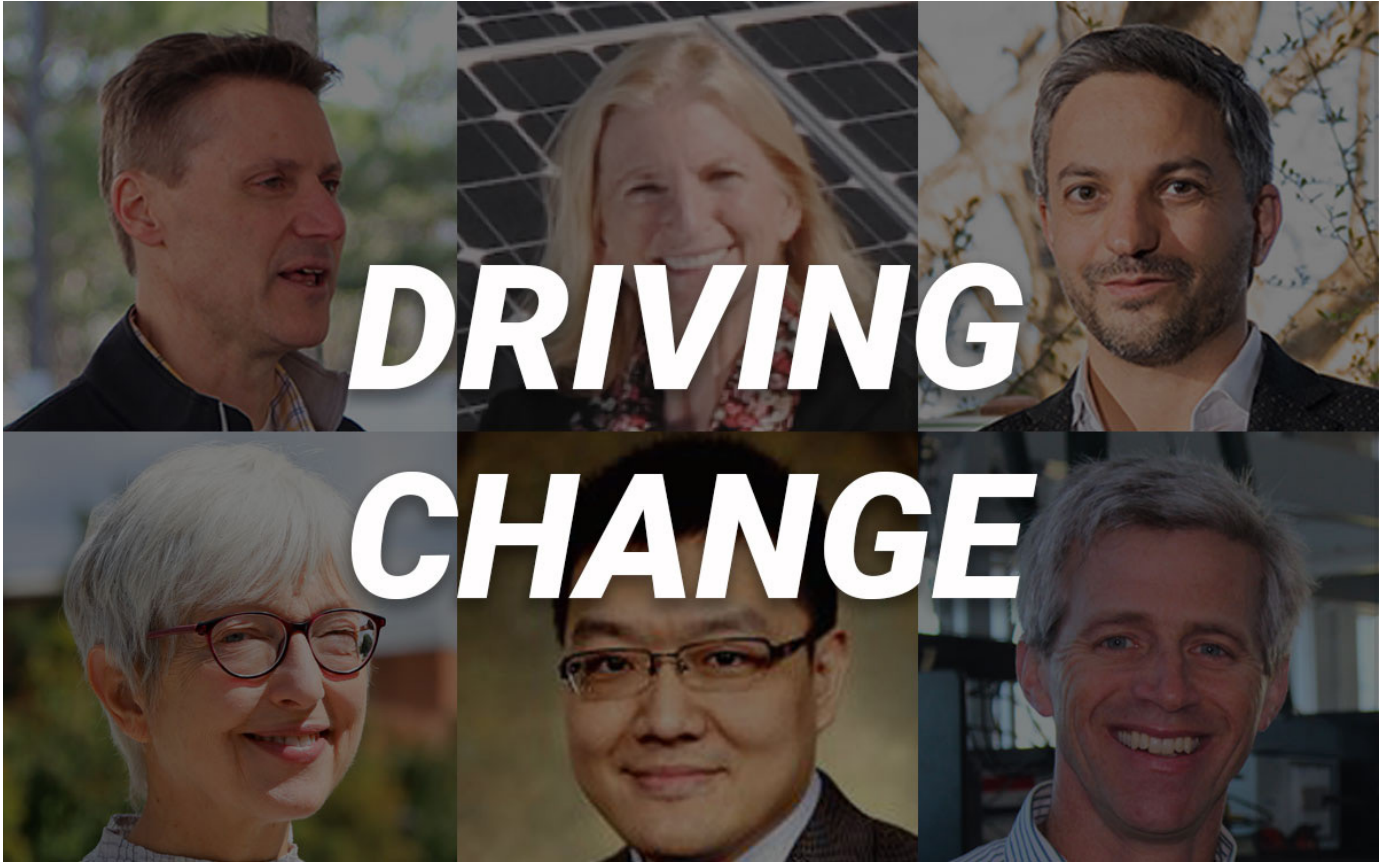
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**GT Georgia Tech.**

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## Georgia Tech Experts Lead in Electrification of America's Roads

Idling at a crossroads no longer, the automotive industry is embracing electrification like never before. With more electric vehicles purchased in 2022 than any year prior, consumers are beginning to follow their lead. Yet, while opportunity abounds, new challenges will require an innovative approach to ensure a sustainable and accessible electric future for all.

With historic investments from major players in the EV space, including Rivian, Kia, and Hyundai, the state of Georgia is uniquely positioned to serve as a leader in this effort. As the state's leading research institute, Georgia Tech is on the cutting edge of the movement.

The transportation sector is the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the U.S. at nearly 30%, with passenger vehicles accounting for around 80% of the sector's total output as of 2019. Electric vehicles are widely regarded as a budding solution to reduce emissions, but even as both demand and production continue to increase, EVs currently account for around 1% of the cars on America's roadways.

From the supply chain to the infrastructure needed to support alternative-fuel vehicles alongside consumer hesitancy, achieving the goals set by both the public and private sectors – including the Biden Administration's target of EVs making up at least 50% of new car sales by 2030 – will not be easy. Through research and development, policy, and collaboration, Tech experts are working toward finding solutions that will serve as catalysts during this transitional period for the environment and the way Americans drive.

Learn how Georgia Tech is leading the way at [c.gatech.edu/drivingchange](https://c.gatech.edu/drivingchange).

# Elevating Employee Well-Being

RACHEL MEYER  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

About three years after the onset of Covid-19, the pandemic's far-reaching effects continue to alter the way we approach work. Almost overnight, Covid-19 changed the way both employees and employers view work, and as a result, new needs and expectations for employee well-being emerged. For companies striving for stability amid an uncertain economy and historically low unemployment, ensuring employee well-being is a critical necessity.

“Demographic trends and immigration policies combined with robust manufacturing growth will continue to put a premium on good people,” said Paul Todd, group manager for operational excellence at Georgia Tech’s Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership. “To attract and retain those people, the successful employer must be the preferred choice in terms of culture, opportunity, compensation, and benefits.”

## Understanding Your Workforce

As the economy and workforce change, it is important for organizations to understand and empathize with their employees’ feelings, needs, and perspectives.

“Over the past few years, people have experienced change in varying levels on a variety of different fronts,” said Hilarie Warren, director of Georgia Tech’s OSHA Training Institute.

Covid-19 added a layer of complexity to workplace safety while also introducing a mass increase of remote work into the equation. With 66% of the U.S. workforce utilizing remote work at least part of the time, employers have to consider a new range of questions for workplace health and satisfaction, while remembering that everyone has a



Photo by Allison Carter

Rozenn Pineau, left, and Sarah Sundius, right, stroll through the garden area outside of the Krone Engineered Biosystems Building.

unique set of preferences and needs.

To think inclusively, being proactive is key. By frequently asking for employee feedback, companies can adjust to meet employee expectations.

“In today’s workplace environment, the ability to give and receive feedback is key to interpersonal and organizational effectiveness,” said LaTrese Ferguson, director of Workplace Learning and Professional Development at Georgia Tech Professional Education (GTPE). Doing this is not only an effective workplace best practice but also contributes to employee well-being in itself by demonstrating that employee voices are being heard.

In order for this to happen successfully, however, organizations must cultivate conditions of psychological safety.

“People are encouraged to ask questions and offer innovative ideas without fear of negative consequences,” Ferguson said. “Organizations have to make this a priority and take deliberate actions to cultivate this way of being into the day-to-day practices of the organization.”

## Communication in the Future of Work

Creating and reinforcing an inclusive and empathetic culture is the first step to promoting employees’ well-being. With the knowledge that their organization cares about their well-being, employees feel safer and more content in their workplace.

However, successful alignment around goals and priorities also depends on clarity. As employee needs have shifted, effective communication is imperative. A recent survey of manufacturing and warehouse employees asked respondents for the most effective ways that employers can improve workplace safety, and three out of the four top recommendations centered on speedy, transparent, comprehensive communication. Effective communication requires a thoughtful approach.

“Considering our post-pandemic era, effective communication is more of a challenge now than ever, even with our advanced collaboration tools and technology,” said Chris Carter, academic program director for project management at GTPE.

Read the full story at [c.gatech.edu/elevatingwellbeing](https://c.gatech.edu/elevatingwellbeing).