



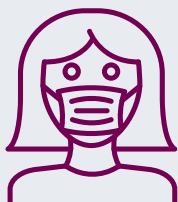
The Whistle

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH • March 29, 2021

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WALK AND TALK



Staff Council to Host Second PPE Event

Staff Council will be back in action for its second personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution event this year. All staff members are invited to stop by the Exhibition Hall on Wednesday, March 31, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to receive free PPE supplies and to engage with Staff Council members.

Learn more about the Georgia Tech Staff Council at staffcouncil.gatech.edu.



Photo by Rob Felt

Jason Gregory (right), senior planner in Capital Planning and Space Management, speaks to members of the president's cabinet during a tour of the EcoCommons on Tuesday, March 16. The group took its usual meeting on a walking tour of the new space as part of well-being day activities.



Photo by Allison Carter

Yoshioka-Cefalo in his office in the Architecture East Building.

Meet Sei Yoshioka-Cefalo, Academic Program Manager

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

After providing counseling services to college students for 19 years, Sei Yoshioka-Cefalo decided to make a change. In November 2019 he became the academic program manager for the School of City and Regional Planning in the College of

see **SEI**, page 2

SEI, from page 1

Design, where he oversees finance and budgeting, human resources, and general operations.

"I made a huge career change," said Yoshioka-Cefalo, who has a master's degree in counseling psychology from New York University and worked for City University of New York, Pepperdine University, and Emory University. He said he feared he wasn't going to be an expert anymore, and he was scared about trying something new.

"When I spoke with people who know me well, they all said that maybe it was time to step out of my comfort zone," he said. "So I took a leap of faith and accepted my current position. Each day has been exciting because I'm learning a new set of skills and new systems."

Yoshioka-Cefalo said he is gaining a better understanding of the business of higher education and that will help him become a better administrator. He also values the encouragement he has received from his colleagues in the School of City and Regional Planning and across campus. It has helped him grow more comfortable in his new role.

"The level of support that I've gotten from the people I work with has been absolutely amazing. I appreciate their patience and their willingness to help,"



Photo by Allison Carter

Yoshioka-Cefalo collects model airplanes, some of which are on display in his office. At home, he has nearly 200 airplanes on display in an airport layout, complete with multiple levels and terminals.

he said. "Even if I make a mistake they provide me with the resources to make sure I don't make the same mistake again. That kind of accountability is something that I really appreciate."

Drawing on his experience as a counselor, Yoshioka-Cefalo began facilitating virtual check-in meetings with graduate students last fall.

"The meetings are casual and they give me an opportunity to see how our students are doing," he said. "Graduate programs are hard. So this is an open forum for them to tell us what they need to succeed. It's important for them to know they have resources for support. If it's something that I can take care of at the School, I will. And if they need to be referred out for counseling, I call the Center for Assessment, Referral, and Education (CARE)."

Away From the Office

Yoshioka-Cefalo's interests include aromatherapy, candle making, and commercial aviation.

"I know that some people say aromatherapy is not science. But I believe that certain scents have an effect; lavender is calming, sweet orange is uplifting, and peppermint perks you up," said Yoshioka-Cefalo, who has been into aromatherapy for more than 20 years.

"One day I just went into a shop and bought a few books and a few bottles of essential oils," he said, explaining how it began. Working with essential oils led to candle making.

"The first time I made candles they were lopsided and ugly and the wicks were not placed properly. They weren't functional at all," he said, laughing. Then he watched YouTube videos and improved his technique.

"Now my candles are very nice," he said. He doesn't sell the candles, but he sometimes gives them to family, friends, and co-workers.

His fascination with commercial aviation began when he was a child and has never waned.

As he put it, "Most people just want to get in and out of an airport, but I could literally sit at an airport and watch planes take off and land all day long." He has a collection of almost 200 diecast airplane models displayed at home in an airport layout.

"I have a small airport here in my office as well, but my airport at home is expansive," he said. "It has upper, mezzanine, and lower levels; terminals 1, 2, and 3; satellite terminals A, B, and C, and the Bucchi and Slinky Memorial Concourse — named for my two cats that I had for 17 years," he said.



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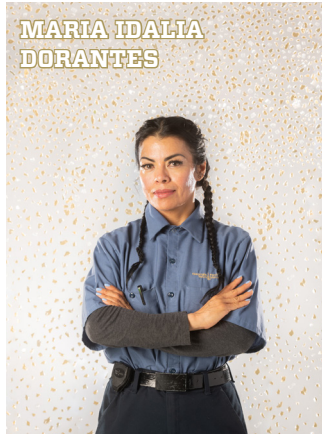
BREAKING HISTORY

Breaking the glass ceiling isn't just for high-profile political figures. At Georgia Tech, we have women who are making new strides in a wide range of male-dominated fields, at all levels. In celebration of Women's History Month, we have asked a few of them to share their journeys and achievements, along with their advice for other women who hope to one day lead at Georgia Tech and in the broader community. Read their stories at news.gatech.edu/features/breaking-glass-ceiling.

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AUDREY DUARTE



MARTHA GROVER



JOY HARRIS



CHRISTIN SALLEY



PRERNA SINGH



MARILYN SMITH



NAZIA ZAKIR



ON THE DANCE FLOOR



Photos courtesy of Georgia Tech Athletics

For the second time in program history, Georgia Tech women's basketball team made it to the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament. They lost to South Carolina on Sunday, March 28.

Town Hall Highlights Future of University Research

JOHN TOON
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Research universities will likely face significant challenges ahead, and addressing them begins with understanding the issues involved. That is the goal for the Phase 1 report from the Commission on Research Next (CRN), an initiative brought together by Georgia Tech's executive vice president for Research, Chaouki T. Abdallah.

The CRN – led by Tim Lieuwen, Regents Professor, David S. Lewis Jr. Chair in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, and executive director of the Strategic Energy Institute; and Wen Masters, deputy director, Information and Cyber Sciences in the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) – tapped the knowledge and expertise of Georgia Tech faculty, staff, and students to analyze what the research landscape will look like ahead, for Georgia Tech and for other research-intensive universities. The report's authors provided an overview of their findings at a town hall meeting on March 17. The Phase 1 report is available online at researchnext.gatech.edu.

The report includes six chapters:

- Framing the Research Landscape (Chapter 1) sets the stage by asking one question: If we were to develop the university research enterprise from scratch, what would it look like? This question arises from the growing complexity and interconnectedness of modern research universities.
- The World Beyond (Chapter 2) analyzes the external global factors that are beyond the control of any individual research university, but which affect how these universities function. Specifically, it addresses how evolving conditions could shape the topics, methods, funding, partnerships, and other resources important to conducting research.
- Research That Matters (Chapter 3) identifies grand challenges, emerging topics, and requisite methods that will be addressed at major research universities. By tackling these areas, leading research universities will enhance society by fostering discovery through curiosity-driven research.
- Working With Others (Chapter 4)

focuses on university partnerships, analyzing the connection between research, education, and the value flow between them. In particular, it addresses the question of how research universities can cultivate a portfolio of purposeful strategic relationships, amplifying impact across individual, institutional, city, state, regional, national, and global dimensions.

- The World Within (Chapter 5) examines the explicit and implicit functions and structures employed by the university research ecosystem to carry out its mission.
- Chapter 6, Closing Remarks, brings together the findings and sets the stage for the second phase of the initiative – developing a plan for how the Georgia Tech research enterprise will respond to the challenges identified.

A second team of faculty, staff, and students is now working on Phase 2 of the effort, which will be to develop a strategy for how Georgia Tech's research enterprise will – in alignment with the Institute's new strategic plan – move forward into the decades ahead. There are 82 members of committees working on the six goal teams for Phase 2.