



THE WHISTLE

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH • April 10, 2023

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Changes Coming for *The Whistle*

For decades, *The Whistle* has been a mainstay of connecting employees to the happenings at Georgia Tech. Before email, it was the primary way news was disseminated to faculty and staff members. It has captured the stories of presidential visits and mayoral inaugurations, the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta,

research breakthroughs, faculty and staff achievements, policy changes, and campus growth.

As email and digital communications became part of work life, *The Whistle* continued to serve an important role and stood out as a print publication in a world of digital noise. Well into the 2010s, faculty and staff members

regularly replied to survey outreach, sharing their affection for a print channel, with stories of reading it on the Tech Trolley or being glad to find it in their mailbox every other week.

The Covid-19 pandemic changed many things in our lives, including

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A PIECE OF THE MOON



Photo courtesy of the College of Engineering

Fifty-one years ago, Georgia Tech alumnus John Young walked and drove on the moon as commander of the Apollo 16 mission. He and his crew returned to Earth with 209 pounds of lunar samples in tow. Now, a piece of one of those rocks has come to his alma mater. On loan from the Young family and NASA, the lunar sample is on display on the Grove level of the Price Gilbert Library. A private unveiling ceremony included Young's family, friends, former NASA colleagues, and Georgia Tech leadership.

Proposed Policies Would Alter Campus Closure, Class Procedures During Emergencies

BRITTANY AIELLO AND STEVEN GAGLIANO
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

To limit potential academic interruptions and streamline decision-making in hazardous weather and other potential emergency situations, the Georgia Tech Department of Emergency Management and Communications, the Office of the Provost, and the Registrar's Office have proposed a pair of policies that will alter current campus procedures.

Both policies will be open for public campus

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how we work and how we receive information. Many employees now avail themselves of a hybrid work schedule, coming to campus fewer days per week. Others have moved to a new workspace where they don't have a dedicated desk or office, but instead share space with others and sit somewhere different each day.

At the onset of the pandemic, *The Whistle* pivoted to a digital publication that has since been shared as a pdf in the Daily Digest every other week. After three years of operating in this format, *The Whistle* is relaunching as a biweekly email publication beginning Monday,

April 24.

Though the format will change, the vision and content remain the same. *The Whistle* is designed to enhance the experience of working at Georgia Tech by sharing information employees can use to perform their jobs better and connect to the greater Georgia Tech community. It will continue to share important news updates, personal stories, upcoming events, classified ads, and other pertinent information that captures the operations and the spirit of the Institute. Stories and content will be prioritized based on what is relevant to the greatest number of employees and how it reflects or supports Georgia Tech's strategic goals and values.

All faculty and staff members will receive *The Whistle* and may choose to opt out at any time. Others are also welcome to opt in or out at any time. It will continue to be published every other Monday, with a brief hiatus in December for winter break.

We hope finding *The Whistle* in your email inbox is as informative and delightful as it was finding it in your campus mailbox — if perhaps a bit less inky. We welcome feedback during this transition at editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Kristen Bailey
Editor-in-Chief, *The Whistle*
Director of Campus News
Institute Communications



When the Whistle Blows

Georgia Tech's
Remembrance Ceremony

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
5:15 P.M.
KESSLER CAMPANILE

Nothing can replace the joy that a loved one or cherished friend brings to our lives. We at Georgia Tech are deeply saddened when we suffer the loss of members of our own community.

Each spring, we honor the memory of the students, faculty, and staff who died the previous year. This year, we honor those who died in 2022. Join us as we pay tribute to these individuals who have touched our lives and contributed so much to Georgia Tech.

Vikrant Bathala
Undergraduate Student
Computational Media

Alan Flury
Lecturer
Scheller College of Business

Gossul Rohoman
Custodian
Housing and Residence Life

Jonnette Book
Senior Administrative Professional
Computer Science

William Fricke
Instructional Associate
Analytics

Annette Ross
Travel and Expense Manager
Accounts Payable

Vincent Bostic
Stingerette Driver
Campus Transportation

Gordon Gray
Groundskeeper
Infrastructure and Sustainability

Joseph Saleh
Associate Professor
Aerospace Engineering

Gregory Clower
Custodial Supervisor
Infrastructure and Sustainability

Lance Johnson
Utilities Engineer
Infrastructure and Sustainability

Darrel Simpkins
Research Associate
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Almeisha Dallas
Financial Analyst
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Eric Kaltenbacher
Senior Research Engineer
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Bill Threewitt
Machine Shop Supervisor
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Kyle Davis
Senior Research Engineer
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Pranav Koushik
Undergraduate Student
Electrical Engineering

Brian To
Undergraduate Student
Computer Science

Jeffrey Donnell
Principal Academic Professional
Mechanical Engineering

Kristie Macrakis
Professor
History and Sociology

Shirl Trawick
Financial Administrator
Materials Science and Engineering

Tiara Farmer
Custodian
Infrastructure and Sustainability

Russell McCrory
Principal Research Engineer
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Amanda Wilson
Graduate Student
Analytics

Bobby Price
Surgical Technician
Global Center for Medical Innovation and T3 Labs



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comment on April 3 for a period of two weeks. If adopted, the policies would replace “campus closure” and “class canceled” designations with Modified Campus Operations for faculty and staff and Digital Learning Days for students.

Explaining the genesis of the reshaped policies, the policy owners emphasized that closures result in the loss of valuable instruction, research, and operational time campuswide. The new procedures attempt, when possible, to limit emergency and hazardous weather impacts on the Institute’s operations by optimizing remote work and virtual teaching and learning.

Modified Campus Operations

Under this proposed designation, departments will continue offering essential services on-site (when necessary) and virtually. Each department will identify the employees needed remotely when the Institute enters modified operations and communicate expectations accordingly.

When on-campus activities are suspended under Modified Campus Operations, Digital Learning Days will provide a way for instruction to continue if possible. Students will be expected to check Canvas or other communication methods for updates and expectations from their instructors.

Employees who are not needed on campus and cannot perform their work virtually will see no change under the proposed updates to the policy.

Digital Learning Days

With developments and improvements to digital instruction over the past few years, the goal of this policy is to leverage digital learning as much as reasonably possible. When the Institute moves to modified operations, it is proposed that classes be shifted to a virtual setting, whenever viable.

Professors will be given discretion on the scheduling of digital instruction and/or makeup classes due to Modified Campus Operations.

Should an exam fall on a Modified Campus Operations day or Digital



Learning Day, the best practice is for the faculty member to administer the exam during the next in-person class meeting. If a long-term interruption occurs (more than three days), the Office of the Provost reserves the right to determine the need for makeup classes.

With the safety of the campus community in mind, the proposed changes afford managers and instructors the discretion to assess individual situations rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach — while minimizing interruptions to Institute operations.

Notifications

In the event of hazardous weather, students, faculty, and staff can find out about campus closures and Tech’s response in several ways. All announcements, including specific changes to campus services, such as transportation or dining services, will be shared on the Georgia Tech homepage.

In the event of Modified Campus Operations, an alert will be sent via the Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System (GTENS). Concurrently, notifications will be announced across official Georgia Tech social media accounts.

Staff can expect to be notified directly by their supervisor of their role during Modified Campus Operations and Digital Learning Day implementation.

It is expected that students will receive communication from their instructors regarding digital instruction schedules and makeup classes or exams.

Finally, Institute Communications will immediately notify local radio and television stations to include Georgia Tech on their lists of closures in the area.

Campus Comment Period

The campus comment period for both proposed policies began on April 3 and will remain open for two weeks.

If you would like to read the detailed proposed policy documents, they are available at policylibrary.gatech.edu/policy-announcements/opencampuscomment.

Submit feedback about the Digital Learning Days for Modified Campus Operations policy via the feedback form at c.gatech.edu/weatherpolicies.

Submit feedback about the Modified Operations During Emergencies and Campus Interruptions policy to oem@gatech.edu.



Spring 2023 Commencement Schedule

The Georgia Tech community will celebrate its Spring 2023 graduates with four ceremonies at Bobby Dodd Stadium this semester.

Want to help? Volunteers are needed for various days and roles. Learn more at commencement.gatech.edu/volunteer.

Ph.D. Ceremony

Friday, May 5
10 a.m. – noon
Gates open at 9 a.m.
Bobby Dodd Stadium

President's Graduation Celebration

Friday, May 5
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Exhibition Hall

Master's Ceremony

Friday, May 5, 2023
3 – 5:30 p.m.
Gates open at 2 p.m.
Bobby Dodd Stadium

Bachelor's Morning Ceremony

Saturday, May 6
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Bobby Dodd Stadium
Gates open at 8 a.m.

Bachelor's Afternoon Ceremony

Saturday, May 6, 2023
3 – 5:30 p.m.
Gates open at 2 p.m.
Bobby Dodd Stadium



Photo by Allison Carter

Mark Your Calendar for Earth Month Events

STEVEN GAGLIANO
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

On April 22, communities across the U.S. and countries around the globe will come together in observance of Earth Day. Georgia Tech takes the opportunity to educate and celebrate the importance of protecting the environment a step further with Earth Month.

Events throughout the month allow students, faculty, and staff to familiarize themselves with sustainability efforts being put forward by the Institute and practices they can incorporate into their daily routines.

“The Earth Month lineup highlights the numerous ways that community members can embrace this year’s theme, ‘invest in our planet,’” said Abby Bower, sustainability program support coordinator. “Today, the planet faces daunting challenges, but we all have the opportunity to pitch in to solve them. Georgia Tech has many great organizations, departments, and individuals dedicating their time and resources to making a better world, and we are excited to highlight them all month long.”

A few of the month’s events are listed below. For a full list of events and registration links, visit earthday.gatech.edu.

Earth Month Bike Ride

April 11, 4:30 – 6 p.m., Meet in front of the Campus Recreation Center

The leisurely 7-mile, no-drop ride promotes an alternate form of transportation and a healthy lifestyle. The ride will begin with a welcome from noted bike enthusiast President Ángel Cabrera and provide an overview of infrastructure projects that are making campus increasingly rider-friendly from Institute Landscape Architect Jason Gregory.

Propel ATL City Cycling Class

April 13, 4 – 5 p.m.

Propel Atlanta invites the Georgia Tech community to learn the rules of cycling during this instructional group ride. Participants will practice skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Earth Day Org Fair and Celebration

April 18, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., The Kendeda Building

Student organizations, academic departments, and groups around Atlanta will have tables set up to promote a sustainable and environmentally conscious community. Enjoy free King of Pops, and bring a t-shirt, tote bag, or other item to be screen-printed with Earth Day designs. The Office of Sustainability will also have recovered shirts that can be used.