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Georgia Tech Trailblazers Awarded Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage

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INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

In 1961, three Black students began classes at Georgia Tech and made history. Civil unrest was rampant throughout college campuses across the South.

In recognition of their roles as trailblazers, Tech's first Black students — the late Ford C. Greene, Ralph A. Long Jr., and Lawrence Williams, along with the first Black graduate, Ronald Yancey — were awarded the 2022 Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage on April 20 at the Biltmore Ballroom in Atlanta.

A symposium was led by 2020

Ivan Allen Jr. Prize recipient Charlayne Hunter-Gault. Long Jr., Williams, and Yancey discussed the integration of the Institute, the former students' personal experiences, and the continued struggle for racial equity and inclusion at higher education institutions across the nation. During the panel session, the three former students recounted the racism they encountered — despite a modicum of peaceful integration. Although their experiences left them feeling socially and intellectually isolated from most

see **COURAGE**, page 4



Photo by Allison Carter

Raheem Beyah, dean and Southern Company Chair in the College of Engineering, speaks at the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage event on April 20 at the Biltmore.



State Holidays Expanded to Include Juneteenth

TRESHEA WADE
HUMAN RESOURCES

Beginning this year, Georgia Tech will add Juneteenth to its list of Institute-wide holidays. Juneteenth National Independence Day, which falls on a Sunday this year, will be observed on Monday, June 20.

During official holidays, classes do not meet and administrative offices are closed. Any events, exams, or meetings scheduled to occur on June 20 will be shifted in keeping with the observance.

The change was enabled earlier this month, when legislation signed by Governor Brian Kemp changed state law, expanding the number of annual paid holidays for state employees from 12 to 13. Last week, the University System of Georgia's (USG) Board of Regents voted to update its own policy to align with the state code. The state actions follow last year's establishment by the federal government of a national holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

For questions, employees are encouraged to visit Georgia Tech's policy for Holiday Schedule for Employees at policylibrary.gatech.edu or connect with their HR Business Partner or Representative.

BlueJeans to Sunset at Georgia Tech May 30

COURTNEY HILL
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Georgia Tech will sunset the BlueJeans videoconferencing solution on Monday, May 30. Campus users are encouraged to migrate stored recordings before then.

The BlueJeans decommission is a culmination of a review by the Video Collaboration Review (VCR) Committee. The group was established to evaluate new videoconferencing solutions for academic course delivery and collaboration against existing services. Driven by Georgia Tech Professional Education (GTPE) and the Office of Information Technology (OIT), the committee brought in student, faculty, and staff voices from across the Institute to identify video collaboration service offerings. Ultimately, plans to sunset BlueJeans and WebEx (except for the Georgia Tech Research Institute*) were formalized.

The VCR Committee also announced

a soft launch of the Zoom video collaboration platform.

“Not only did Zoom, to a large extent, meet our committee’s criteria, but it is also one of the most widely used video collaboration tools,” Yakut Gazi, associate dean for Learning Systems at GTPE, said earlier this year. “Many of our students, faculty, and staff have participated in Zoom meetings during and even before the pandemic, which we anticipate will facilitate adoption at Georgia Tech.” Since the soft launch, the platform has facilitated over 2,700 meetings and webinars by Tech users.

In preparation for the transition from BlueJeans, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to migrate stored lecture, meeting, and event recordings to Kaltura MediaSpace via the BlueJeans Video Exporter tool. The exporter will move a maximum of five videos simultaneously, with each video typically taking a few minutes to upload. Archived videos can take up to five hours, depending on the video’s

length.

OIT has published an 11-step illustrated knowledge article to guide campus users during the recording transfer process. Those who need further assistance can also submit a help request via the Services and Support site at gatech.service-now.com/home.

In addition to Zoom, Georgia Tech will continue to offer and support Microsoft Teams, which offers videoconferencing, secure file storage, chat, meeting, calling, and file-sharing capabilities.

OIT will work with the Georgia Tech community throughout the rest of the spring semester to prepare for the transition from BlueJeans. Upcoming communications will share additional information.

The BlueJeans Video Exporter tool can be accessed at mover.bluejeans.gatech.edu.

**The Georgia Tech Research Institute will continue to use its version of WebEx (gtri.webex.com).*

Faculty and Staff to Be Honored This Week

The Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon recognizes those who have received accolades and awards throughout the previous academic year.

This year’s event will take place Friday, April 29, at the Historic Academy of Medicine. Award winners will be shared in a future issue of *The Whistle*.

Learn more at specialevents.gatech.edu/faculty-and-staff-honors.

Tech Introduces Code of Ethics

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech’s Office of Ethics and Compliance is excited to introduce a Code of Ethics, a resource to support employees as they navigate decision making at Georgia Tech. The Code of Ethics is aligned with the Institute’s nine strategic values and a culture of ethics.

When developing the Code of Ethics, the Office of Ethics and Compliance assembled a working group of faculty and staff stakeholders to share their subject

matter expertise and review content. They worked to make the document easy to understand, eliminating legalese whenever possible.

“The Code of Ethics is not a rule book or a policy. It is a living document that is a tool to help employees navigate ethical decisions they may face,” said Sally Robertson, senior counsel in the Office of Ethics and Compliance. “And while it can’t tell you what to do in every situation, it can provide a great starting point.”

Read the code at ethicsfirst.gatech.edu/codeofethics.

DOWN TO EARTH, EVERY DAY



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Photos by Allison Carter, Joya Chapman, and Rob Felt



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6

Earth Day activities took place every day on campus last week. (Photos 1–3) The week began with a bike ride on Tuesday, April 18, that took riders around campus and through the area directly south of campus. (4) The next day, a bird walk with the Georgia Audubon showcased campus wildlife around The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design. (5–6) The week culminated with the Sustainability Fair, which featured campus sustainability groups and opportunities to get involved. Participants also were able to take home succulents and T-shirts. Other events during the week included a waste audit, tree planting, e-waste recycling, and clothing swap.

Fiscal Year 2023 Looks Promising

KELLY FOX
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Support from the governor and the state legislature, along with healthy state tax revenues, is bringing positive news for the University System of Georgia (USG) and its 26 member institutions, including Georgia Tech. Pending approval by Governor Brian Kemp, the University System of Georgia will allocate an unprecedented additional \$97.2 million to Georgia Tech for the upcoming fiscal year (FY23). This brings Georgia Tech's total state appropriations to nearly \$457 million — a 27% increase.

"We are deeply grateful to Governor Kemp, the General Assembly, and the University System of Georgia for their ongoing support and their continued investment for the coming year," said Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera. "Their willingness to invest

in our people — both students and employees — is a testament to their support of higher education as well as Georgia Tech's commitment to offer an excellent educational experience to our students and a top-notch place to work for every member of our faculty and staff."

The funds appropriated by the state will allow Georgia Tech to eliminate the Special Institutional Fee, which amounts to \$344 per semester for graduate students and \$544 for undergraduates. In addition, the Board of Regents voted to keep tuition steady for the third consecutive year. "At a time of great national concern over the mounting cost of higher education, it is comforting to see that the cost of a Georgia Tech education will not only not go up this year but indeed will be reduced," Cabrera said.

The new budget will also fund a Cost of Living Adjustment of \$5,000 per

employee that will begin to appear this month in employee paychecks.

Along with next year's budget allocation, the USG also approved several capital projects, to be paid for with institutional funds, at Georgia Tech including a new Student-Athlete Performance Center, an Aerospace Engineering Aircraft Hangar Facility, and improvements to the Blake R. Van Leer Building for Electrical and Computer Engineering, as well as safety and accessibility enhancements to Ferst Drive and campus streetscapes. The USG also approved the establishment of the Master of Science in Global Development.

Georgia Tech's Institute Budget Planning and Administration will submit the FY23 budget to the Board of Regents for spending approval in advance of the Board of Regents meeting in May. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

COURAGE, from page 1

of the student body at the time, the pioneers expressed their hope that future generations of Black students at Tech feel at home on campus.

"I'm so thankful for those who continue to matriculate here and carry on the tradition," said Williams.

A video greeting from Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, a Georgia Tech chemical engineering graduate himself, was presented at the celebration. Dickens honored the trailblazers for their courage in making history and acknowledged the hardship they faced along the way.

"I cannot imagine the tremendous amount of courage they had to arm themselves with every day they had to walk on campus," he said. "Thank you for paving the way for those of us who would come behind."

The Ivan Allen Jr. Prize honors those who have made a positive difference

by risking their careers, livelihoods, and even their lives to stand up for moral principles. For these trailblazers, though their college years were not easy, they went on to have long and successful careers.

Greene studied chemical engineering at Georgia Tech. He completed his bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science at Morgan State University and worked in telecommunications and information technology systems. He died in 2020 at the age of 76.

After attending Tech, Long completed his bachelor's degree at Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) in mathematics and physics and was the first Black systems engineer for the Large Systems Group in the Southeastern U.S. at IBM Atlanta.

After his time studying electrical engineering, Williams served honorably in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, earning several distinctions

and honors.

A week after graduating with a degree in electrical engineering from Tech, Yancey began a successful career with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Because Greene died in 2020, members of his family joined the other prize recipients at the Biltmore for the day's events celebrating the honorees' place in history.

"Ford has always been a change agent, a disruptor, and him being a recipient of this prestigious award solidifies his place in history that he so richly deserves," said Frankie Hall, Greene's wife.

The inaugural prize was awarded in 2011 to former Senator Sam Nunn. Other past recipients include Dr. Anthony Fauci, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, John Lewis, and humanitarian activist Nancy Parrish.

Learn more about the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage at ivanallenprize.gatech.edu.