



The Whistle

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH • April 26, 2021



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GET YOUR SHOT



Photo by Christopher Moore

What started as a single shipment of 1,200 Covid-19 vaccine doses on Jan. 12 has grown to a full-fledged campus vaccination effort that sees nearly 1,000 people inoculated daily. With Covid-19 vaccines available to everyone age 16 and older, Georgia Tech's vaccine clinics are now able to meet the demand of students, faculty, and staff who have been eager for appointments. Make yours today at mytest.gatech.edu.



The Future of Work at Georgia Tech

While the Institute is planning to restore normal occupancy in residence halls, classrooms, and laboratories, many employees are asking what "normal" means for employee offices, cubicles, and other workspaces. What is the new normal for employees? To answer those questions and more, the Institute launched the Future of Work @ Georgia Tech working group. With a focus on the fall semester, the cross-campus partnership seeks to understand what the optimal return-to-work strategy should be for Georgia Tech. This new project builds on the foundations created by the Workforce of the Future Initiative.

The group expects to make recommendations in June. Learn more at hr.gatech.edu/news/future-work-georgia-tech.

Meet Dr. Jon Duke, Principal Research Scientist

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Jon Duke is the director of the Center for Health Analytics and Informatics at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) and a principal research scientist at the School of Interactive Computing in the College of Computing. He began working at Georgia Tech in 2016. His career before Tech was entirely in medical environments, both as a physician and a researcher.

At Georgia Tech his research focuses on advancing techniques for identifying patients of interest from diverse data sources with applications spanning research, quality, and clinical

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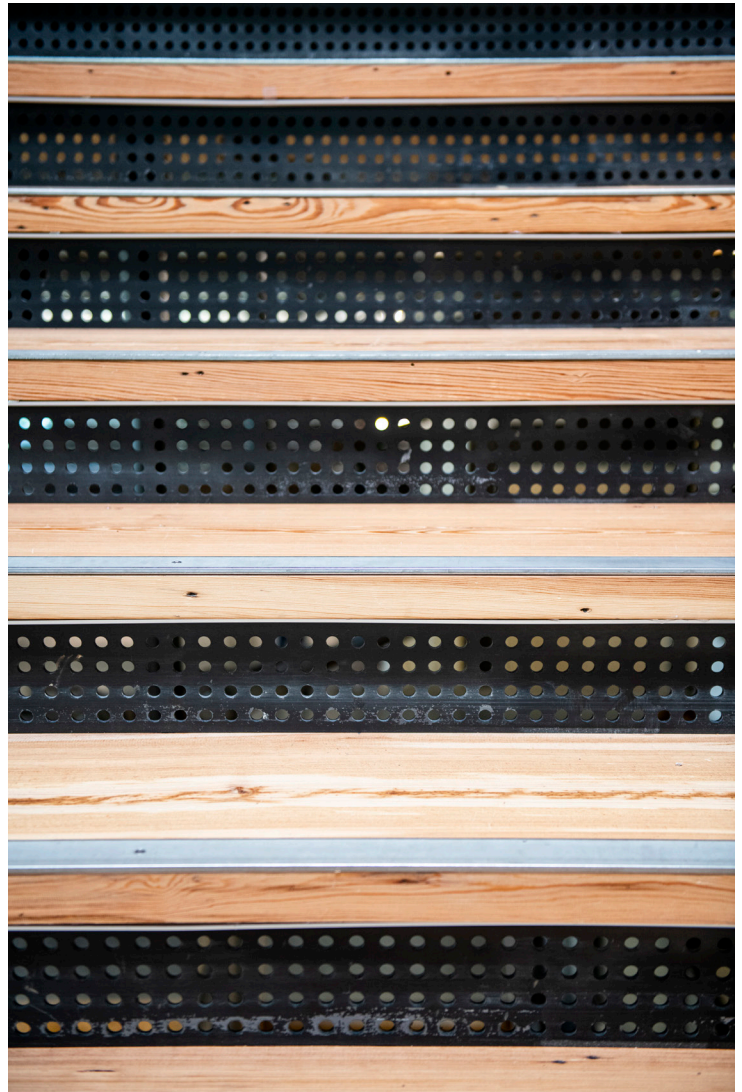


Photo by Christopher Moore

Dr. Duke is a member of Georgia Tech's Covid-19 Recovery Task Force.

EARTH DAY AT GEORGIA TECH

This year's Earth Day celebration was marked with remembrance, stewardship, and celebration. The week began with the grand opening of the EcoCommons on Monday, April 19. On Wednesday, April 21, a historical marker was unveiled at the EcoCommons acknowledging the racial injustices of the past that took place at the site. On Thursday, April 22, The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design was officially declared a Living Building, making it one of the most sustainable buildings in the world. Read more about all the week's events at news.gatech.edu.



Photos by Allison Carter, Rob Felt, and Christopher Moore

(Top left, middle left): Attendees reflect on the history of the EcoCommons at the former site of the Pickrick Restaurant. (Bottom left): Volunteers transplant trees from the grove at the Krone Engineered Biosystems Building to the Biotechnology Quad. (Above): The steps in The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design are an example of its sustainable construction — they are salvaged from a renovation of Tech Tower.

2021 Faculty & Staff Honors Celebration

These awards recognize faculty and staff for their work throughout the previous year.

Sigma Xi Awards

Sigma Xi Faculty Best Paper Award

Clio Andris, Zeb Rocklin, and Joshua Weitz

Sigma Xi Young Faculty Award

Cassie Mitchell and Kyriakos Vamvoudakis

Sigma Xi Sustained Research Award

Eberhard Voit

Institute Research Awards

Outstanding Achievement in Research Enterprise Enhancement

Leslie Schlag

Outstanding Achievement in Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Research

Stefan France

Outstanding Achievement in Early Career Research

Ryan Lively

Outstanding Achievement in Research Innovation

Christopher Jones

Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Advisor Award

Omer Inan

Outstanding Faculty Research Author Award

Konstantinos Konstantinidis

Outstanding Achievement in Research Program Development Award

Anton Bryskin, Gregory Gibson, Pinar Keskinocak, Michael Shannon, Joshua Weitz, Loren Williams, JulieAnne Williamson

Staff Awards

Excellence Award

Georgia Tech Remote and Hybrid Teaching Academy (GTRHTA)
Christian Birk, Jason Brewer, Pamela Buffington, Jassen Ceci, Troy Courville, Samba Diop, Ameet Doshi, Shakis Drummond, Desmond Gardfrey, Yakut Gazi, Marlee Givens, Warren Goetzel, Christie Hayes, Elizabeth Holdsworth, Nilufer Korkmaz, Matt Lisle, Valerie Morrison, Chaohua Ou, Rebecca Pope-Ruark, Alison Reynolds, Tami Salz, Norah Sinclair, Vincent Spezzo, Carol Sullivan, Alison Valk, Joyce Weinsheimer, Chris Williams, Kate Williams, Charlie Wright

One Giant Leap Award

Testing Site Operations
Dale Allgood, Alfred Blue, Tokiki Brown, Anton Bryksin, Jenny Cotton, Greg Gibson, Sheree Gibson, Benjamin Holton, Jamison Keller, Brian Liu, True Merrill, Alex Ortiz, Miles Paca, Mike Shannon, Nicholas Speller, Sara Warner, Joshua Weitz, JulieAnne Williamson

Postal Services Team

Felice Albany, Jerome Barbour, Gwenda Bryant, LaKesia Collins, Karen Jesnowski, Michael Maddox, Nelson Moncada, Jonathan Moody, Shannyah Vaghn, Kenric White, Gary Wright

One Small Step Award

College of Sciences Asset and Endpoint Management Dashboard
Steven Daniele, Justin Filoleta, Troy Hilley, Jeffrey Lowe, Nguyen Nguyen, Arian Padron, Michael Sheldon, Troy West

Leadership in Action Award

Jeremy Gray

Rising Wreck Award

Tyler Barker

Service to the Community Award

Steven Sheffield

Student Emergency Fund

Will McKenna and Gina Summers

Spirit of Georgia Tech Award

Grace Battle, James Godard, Chung Kim, OIE ISS Advising Team: Nikolas Baranco, Scott Bleiweis, Frances Davis, Casey Giacomini, Kayli Harlan, Evelyn Hill, Sarah Scott, Jamie White-Jones, Leyu Wondwossen

ANAK Award

Jennifer Hirsch and Dr. Benjamin Holton

CTL Curriculum Awards

Curriculum Innovation Award

Dima Nazzal, Andreas Bommarius, Mark Prausnitz

CTL Undergraduate Educator

Todd Fernandez and Stephanie Reikes

Geoffrey G. Eichholz Faculty Teaching Award

Amy D'Unger and Dan Margalit

CTL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Claudio Di Leo, Ellen Yi Chen Mazumdar, Young Jang, Koushyar Rajavi, Danielle Wilkens

Innovation and Excellence in Laboratory Instruction Award

Himani Sharma

GT Faculty Award for Academic Outreach

Chandra Raman

Innovation in Co-Curricular Education Award

Ameet Doshi, Monica Halka, Paul Verhaeghen

Teaching Excellence Award for Online Teaching

Pascal Van Hentenryck

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award

Michael Evans and Carrie Shepler

Faculty Honors

Steven A. Denning Faculty Award for Global Engagement

Adjo Amekudzi-Kennedy and Rudolph Gleason

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor (Senior Faculty)

Ying Zhang

Outstanding Use of Educational Technology

Aaron Lanterman

Class of 1934 Outstanding Service Award

Andrew Peterson

Class of 1934 Outstanding Interdisciplinary Activities Award

Elizabeth Mynatt

Class of 1940 W. Roane Beard Outstanding Teacher Award

Pamela Pollet

Class of 1940 W. Howard Ector Outstanding Teacher Award

Susan Burns

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domains.

“Explaining health informatics and healthcare to someone who does not spend their time in that world is definitely a challenge. I’m certain that my mom would say she still doesn’t know what I do,” he joked. “I describe it like this. Health analytics is all about making sure that people have the information they need to make decisions about health. Sometimes the person is a patient. At other times it’s a doctor, an executive at a health system, a policymaker, or a public health official.”

Dr. Duke and his fellow researchers look at data from a variety of sources in different formats. For example, health information may come in as billing codes, doctors’ notes, or patient responses to a question like, “How do you feel today?” The answer can go in many different directions, so the researchers must apply different technologies to pull the data together in a harmonious manner that can be analyzed and communicated effectively.

His current projects include work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), addressing a variety of illnesses from Covid-19 to chronic diseases.

“Getting to work on challenging problems that have really affected people’s lives is extremely rewarding,” he said. “We are an applied research shop, so balancing new innovations with improving existing approaches is always a



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challenge.”

Dr. Duke has been a member of Georgia Tech’s Covid-19 Recovery Task Force since March 2020.

“Throughout my time on the task force I have been impressed by how much expertise Georgia Tech has brought to bear on everything from epidemiology and vectors of transmission to vaccine logistics and communications,” he said. “How many places can bring together that type of expertise? I’m so very privileged to be here.”

Dr. Duke, who grew up in Atlanta, has a bachelor’s degree from Emory University, a master’s degree in human-computer interaction from Indiana University, and a medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He speaks Japanese, and when he was in medical practice he had several hundred Japanese patients.

“People are sometimes

surprised to hear that I speak Japanese. I was a history major in college and I studied a lot of Japanese history. I also spent time in Japan in college, and I lived there for a while after college,” he said.

Away From the Office

When he isn’t working, Dr. Duke enjoys exploring the city on his bike, writing a novel with his wife, and playing chess with his children.

“We live in Midtown, and a stretch of the BeltLine goes behind our street,” he said. “There’s a string of parks, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, going through Decatur. I’ve driven down Ponce de Leon Avenue a hundred times, but it’s amazing to bike through the parks.”

In November 2019 Dr. Duke and his wife started writing a novel as part of National Novel Writing Month. Coincidentally, the

novel was about a pandemic and its impact.

“We had to change a lot of things about the story because reality caught up with us and it seemed a little too on the nose at this point,” he said. “It’s been fun to do something together like that. Hopefully we’ll finish it this year.”

He also plays chess with his 7-year-old son, who was given a book on chess at the beginning of the social distancing period.

“We started to get into chess, and now he’s better than I am. But I try not to get too depressed about it,” Dr. Duke said. “There’s something mentally cleansing about those games. During the pandemic you have to make your brain work differently by getting off your Zoom brain for a while. It’s been fun playing chess with my kids, but it’s not all chess at our house. We still play a fair amount of Nintendo.”