



# THE WHISTLE

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH • May 23, 2022

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## Covid-19 Surveillance Testing Continues This Summer

Georgia Tech's free asymptomatic Covid-19 testing will continue this summer at the Georgia Tech Library.

Testing is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a one-hour closure for lunch from 1 to 2 p.m. Travel testing is also available at the Price Gilbert Library testing site but is now being done using campus test kits.

For more information, visit  
[health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing](https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing).

## TAKE IT OUTSIDE



Photo by Joya Chapman

Going outside for just a few minutes each day can improve your overall wellness, from relieving stress to improving your sleep. Georgia Tech's campus is filled with gardens and green spaces that are perfect for eating lunch, having a meeting, or catching a breath between work. Go outside to one of your favorite spots or discover a new one to promote and explore your own wellness. See a few of Tech's outdoor spaces at [c.gatech.edu/takeitoutside](https://c.gatech.edu/takeitoutside).

## Post-Pandemic Workplaces: Take Control of Your Career

KELSEY HARRIS  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck in the spring of 2020, entire industries and labor markets saw disruption seemingly overnight. From furloughs to job losses and the transition to remote work, the pandemic rapidly changed the trajectory of the workforce.

For working professionals, this unprecedented disruption and uncertainty required adjustment, but also presented an opportunity to gain clarity around their personal and professional goals. And for many, the

pandemic presented an opportunity to change course in their careers.

If you have been reassessing your own priorities over the last two years, you're not alone. According to a recent *Washington Post*-Schar School poll, nearly 1 in 5 U.S. workers are considering a professional shift, regardless of income level, industry, or occupation.

While the full impact of this "Great Reassessment" remains to be seen, the pandemic has certainly opened the door to job or career pivots, profoundly affecting how we think about our work. Whether you're thinking about

changing directions, expanding your network, or getting serious about your education, here are three steps to consider as part of your current (or next) career.

### Take advantage of experiential learning

As the workforce becomes more transient, a career design rooted in a strong foundation is necessary to ensure stability and sustainable success.

From understanding personal motivations to building competency in your technical capabilities and fine-tuning

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your human skills, these foundational attributes help drive behaviors and habits, ensuring you have the tools to manage your career path effectively.

“Most of our learning in the traditional sense takes place in environments such as classrooms and study halls, or our couches and living rooms, but that doesn’t necessarily resemble the environment in which the skills will be applied,” noted Yakut Gazi, associate dean for Learning Systems.

Taking the form of stretch assignments, job rotations, or collaborative projects, experiential learning opportunities embrace growth, allowing for the active pursuit of new competencies and developing skills such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and empathy — all critical for filling workplace needs that even the most sophisticated robot cannot.

To start, Gazi recommends taking a moment of self-reflection to gain clarity on your long-term goals. Then, seek opportunities to learn, observe, and execute a new skill. For example, you may decide to take a course on data analytics and later participate in a project run by a skilled analyst, followed by an opportunity to examine one or more data sets yourself.

“If you are looking for growth in your career, examine the skills and competencies needed for that next level of responsibility and try to calibrate your behaviors against those expectations,” she said.

**Foster interpersonal relationships**

Now more than ever, the workplace feels the need for connectivity, and who we surround ourselves with is an indicator of individual development and career direction.

“When thinking about how to develop in our careers, most of us tend to focus on experience, knowledge,

and credentials, often overlooking one key piece of the career design: your professional relationships,” said LaTrese Ferguson, director of Workplace Learning and Professional Development.

Whether it’s a manager who coaches you through leadership skills or a personal board of directors that provides accountability, these interpersonal relationships enable you to learn from a diverse collection of colleagues, boosting guidance and decision-making.

While fostering these relationships can be difficult in remote and hybrid environments, consider how you can intentionally expand your internal network, either by reaching out to colleagues outside your team or participating in cross-functional collaboration projects.

And know that not all relationship-building has to happen within a traditional workplace setting. Virtual networking sites, conferences, and professional associations can also be great resources for making or strengthening connections.

**Identify opportunities for growth and development**

Even before the pandemic, changing technologies and new ways of working were disrupting jobs and the skills employees needed to do them, making reskilling and upskilling a reliable way to increase future employability while facilitating the development of professional career goals.

But how do you know when it’s time for additional training and education? Chris Carter, director of the project management program at Georgia Tech, recommends taking an honest assessment of where you are in your career and what you’ll need to be able to move forward.

From alternative credentials to individual short courses and industry-

specific certificates, professional education can help complement prior education and experience while closely aligning with career goals.

After transitioning into a project management-focused role with Toyota North America, Carter had a mid-career realization that he had built a strong foundation but lacked the formal education. So, he decided it was time to earn his project management certification. His new knowledge added a new layer to his career, allowing him to become the local subject matter expert and propelling him into a senior leadership role.

“I had the regional and global exposure in leading projects but knew I needed to learn more about the industry,” Carter recalled. “I was able to use additional training as part of my career design and make more of an impact on my organization and team. After I got my project management certification, my career took off.”

**Readiness to change**

A career today is characterized by change, uncertainty, and ambiguity, largely due to the significant shift in the workplace over the past decade – and since the onset of the pandemic.

“The collective experience of the past two years has left a lasting imprint on the workforce,” said Nelson Baker, dean of Professional Education. “As such, professionals will need to be more purposeful in their career planning, intentionally building networks and looking at opportunities for continued growth.”

And the latest numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics further emphasize this career evolution, with the average employee spending around four years in a job.

“It’s clear that the time is right to rethink what a successful career design looks like, but it’s not a one-size-fits-all model,” says Baker.



# AGAIN WE COMMENCE

Georgia Tech celebrated its 262nd Commencement at Bobby Dodd Stadium May 6–7, welcoming more than 4,000 new graduates to the family of Yellow Jacket alumni.



Photos by Allison Carter, Joya Chapman, and Rob Felt





# CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

The following members of the Tech community were honored at the 2022 Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon on Friday, April 29.

## Georgia Tech Chapter Sigma Xi Awards

### Best Faculty Paper Award

**Roman Grigoriev**  
Professor, Physics

**Nga Lee (Sally) Ng**  
Associate Professor,  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

### Young Faculty Award

**Samuel Coogan**  
Assistant Professor,  
Electrical and Computer  
Engineering

**Diyi Yang**  
Assistant Professor,  
Interactive Computing

### Sustained Research Award

**Dimitri Mavris**  
Regents Professor,  
Aerospace Systems Design  
Lab

## Institute Research Awards

Outstanding Achievement  
in Research Enterprise  
Enhancement

**Michelle Wong**  
Assistant Director, Business  
Operations, Parker H. Petit  
Institute for Bioengineering  
and Bioscience

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

**Cassie Mitchell**  
Assistant Professor,  
Biomedical Engineering

Outstanding Achievement in  
Early Career Research Award

**Matthew McDowell**  
Associate Professor,  
Mechanical Engineering

Outstanding Achievement in  
Research Innovation Award

**Natalie Stingelin-Stutzmann**  
Professor, Materials Science  
and Engineering

Outstanding Doctoral Thesis  
Advisor Award

**Manos Tentzeris**  
Professor, Electrical and  
Computer Engineering

Outstanding Faculty  
Research Author Award

**Zhiqun Lin**  
Professor, Materials Science  
and Engineering

Outstanding Achievement  
in Research Program  
Development Award

**RADX TEAM (The  
Rapid Acceleration of  
Diagnostics)**

**Oliver Brand**  
Professor, Electrical and  
Computer Engineering

**Hang Chen**  
Senior Research Scientist,  
Institute for Electronics and  
Nanotechnology

**Sarah Farmer**  
Research Scientist I,  
Center for Advanced  
Communications Policy

**David Gottfried**  
Regents Researcher,  
Institute for Electronics and  
Nanotechnology

**David Ku**  
Regents Professor,  
Mechanical Engineering

**Wilbur Lam**  
Professor, Biomedical  
Engineering

**Amanda Peagler**  
Research Scientist II,  
Center for Advanced  
Communications Policy

**Erika Tyburski**  
Program and Operations  
Manager, Institute for  
Electronics and  
Nanotechnology

## ANAK Award

**Carol Senf**  
Professor, Literature,  
Media, and Communication

**Joi Alexander**  
Director, Health Initiatives

## Staff Performance Awards

Acting With Ethics First  
Award

**Terry Lee Grumley  
Bridges**

Unit Director, Ethics and  
Compliance, GTRI

## Cultivating Well-Being Award

**Denise Ocasio Thomas**  
Assistant Director,  
Retention Initiatives,  
OMED

## One Small Step Award

**Shandra R. Jones**  
Public Services Associate  
Lead, Library

## One Giant Leap Award

## Office of The Arts

**Justin Camp**  
Theater Production  
Assistant

**Paul D. Cottongim**  
Theater Production  
Manager

**Joe T. Davis**  
Stage Audio Technician

**Ben A. Dosta**  
General Operations  
Manager

**Dorcas Louise Ford-Jones**  
Senior Administrative  
Professional

**Elizabeth B. Geiger**  
Communications Officer I

**Rachel C. Haage**  
Event Coordinator II

**Almelida Rene  
Merriewether Baker**  
Patron and Event Services  
Assistant

**Holley E. Mitchell**  
Box Office Coordinator

**Twanesia Rucker**  
Box Office Assistant

**Aaron David Shackelford**  
Director

## Leadership in Action Award

**Kevin M. Ellis**  
Assistant Director,  
Financial Operations,  
Aerospace Engineering

**Samuel Evans III**  
Fleet Services Manager,  
Infrastructure and  
Sustainability

## Leading By Example in Sustainability Award

**Emma C. Brodzik**  
Campus Sustainability  
Project Manager,  
Infrastructure and  
Sustainability

## Rising Wreck Award

**Samba Diop**  
Senior Digital Learning  
Specialist, Office of  
Information Technology

Service to the Community  
Award

**Richard A. Bedell**  
Electrical Engineer  
III, Chemistry and  
Biochemistry

**Sarah Strohmenger**  
Student Life Program  
Director, Student  
Engagement and  
Well-Being

## Putting Students First Award

**Laura Tyler Paige**  
Academic Advisor II,  
Parker B. Petit Institute  
for Bioengineering and  
Bioscience

**ChBE Academic Advising  
Team**

**Adrienne Rice Hillman**  
Academic Advisor II,  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

**Ellen Murkison**  
Academic Advising  
Manager, Chemical and  
Biomolecular Engineering

**Ami B. Waller-Ivanecky**  
Academic Program  
Manager I, Chemical and  
Biomolecular Engineering

## Excellence Award

**Large-Scale Covid-19  
Vaccination Clinic**

**Ina Collins**  
Nursing Manager

**Benjamin Royce Holton,  
M.D.**  
Senior Director

**John W. Scuderi**  
Director, Health Operations

**Theron Harold Stancil III**  
Assistant Director, Health  
Systems

**Nina Lee Thoman**  
Pharmacy Manager

**Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans**  
Gender Equity Award

**Carol Colatrella**  
Associate Dean,  
Literature, Media, and  
Communications

**Sybrina Atwaters**  
Academic Professional,  
Institute Diversity, Equity,  
and Inclusion

## Spirit of Georgia Tech Award

**Lauren B. Evans**  
Program and Operations  
Manager, Honors Program

**Robert William Hampson**  
Administrative Manager II,  
History and Sociology

**Joshua E. Stewart**  
Communications Manager,  
Biomedical Engineering

## Center for Teaching and Learning Awards

Curriculum Innovation Award

**School of Chemical and  
Biomolecular Engineering**

**Fani Boukouvala**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

**Martha Grover**  
Chair, Chemical and  
Biomolecular Engineering

**A.J. Medford**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

**J. Carson Meredith**  
Professor, Chemical and  
Biomolecular Engineering

**David Sholl**  
School Chair, Chemical and  
Biomolecular Engineering

**Undergraduate Educator  
Award**

**Jacqueline Garner**  
Senior Lecturer, Scheller  
College of Business

**Amit S. Jariwala**  
Senior Academic  
Professional, Mechanical  
Engineering

**Geoffrey G. Eichholz** Faculty  
Teaching Award

**Michael Evans**  
Senior Academic  
Professional, Chemistry  
and Biochemistry

**Christie N. Stewart**  
Senior Academic  
Professional, Biological  
Sciences

**CTL/BP Junior Faculty  
Teaching Excellence Award**

**Katie Badura**  
Assistant Professor,  
Scheller College of Business

**John James Blazeck**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering

**Neha Garg**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemistry and  
Biochemistry

**Allen Hyde**  
Assistant Professor, History  
and Sociology

**Natalie Khazaal**  
Assistant Professor, Modern  
Languages

**Annabelle C. Singer**  
Assistant Professor,  
Biomedical Engineering

Innovation and Excellence in  
Laboratory Instruction Award

**Christy O'Mahony**  
Senior Academic  
Professional, Chemistry  
and Biochemistry

**Faculty Award for Academic  
Outreach**

**James R. Sowell**  
Principal Academic  
Professional Physics

**Innovation in Co-Curricular  
Education Award**

**Mary Hudachek-Buswell**  
Lecturer, Computing

**Fisayo Omojokun**  
Senior Lecturer, Computing

**Jake D. Soper**  
Associate Professor,  
Chemistry and  
Biochemistry

**Teaching Excellence Award  
for Online Teaching**

**Michael Evans III**  
Senior Academic  
Professional, Chemistry  
and Biochemistry

**Scholarship of Teaching and  
Learning Award**

**Emily G. Weigel**  
Senior Academic  
Professional, Biological  
Sciences

## International Initiatives Award

**Steven A. Denning**  
Faculty Award for Global  
Engagement

**Aris Georgakakos**  
Professor, Civil and  
Environmental Engineering

## Faculty Honors Committee Awards

Outstanding Undergraduate  
Research Mentor Award

Junior Faculty

**Cassie Mitchell**  
Assistant Professor,  
Biomedical Engineering

Senior Faculty

**Jaydev P. Desai**  
Professor, Biomedical  
Engineering

Outstanding Use of  
Educational Technology

**Aselia Urmanbetova**  
Academic Professional,  
Economics

Class of 1934 Outstanding  
Service Award

**Pinar Keskinocak**  
Professor, Industrial and  
Systems Engineering

Class of 1934 Outstanding  
Interdisciplinary Activities  
Award

**Thomas Orlando**  
Professor, Chemistry and  
Biochemistry

Class of 1940 W. Roane  
Beard Outstanding Teacher  
Award

**Brendan Saltaformaggio**  
Assistant Professor, School  
of Cybersecurity and  
Privacy

Class of 1940 W. Howard  
Ector Outstanding Teacher  
Award

**Carrie Shepler**  
Principal Academic  
Professional, Chemistry  
and Biochemistry

## Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award

**Marilyn Brown**  
Regents Professor,  
Public Policy