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.

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
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
Zhiquin Lin, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Outstanding Achievement in Research Program Development Award
RADX Team (The Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics)

Olive 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 Kuo, Regents Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Wilbur Lam, Professor, Biomedical Engineering
Amanda Pegler, 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, and Communication
Joi Alexander, Director, Health Initiatives

Staff Performance Awards

Acting With Ethics First Award
Terry Lee Grunum 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
Almelda Rene Merriweather Baker, Patrol and Event Services Assistant
Holley E. Mitchell, Box Office Coordinator
Twanaesia Bucker, Box Office Assistant
Aaron David Shackelford, Director

Leadership in Action Award
Kevin M. Ellis, Assistant Director, Financial Operations, Aeropace 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 H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience
ChBE Academic Advising Team
Adrienne Rice Hillman, Academic Advisor II, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering
Ellen Murkison, Academic Advising Manager, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

Amit B. Waller-Ivaneyck, Academic Program Manager I, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

Excellence Award
Large-Scale Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic
Ina Collins, Nursing Manager
Benjamin Royce Holton, M.D., Senior Director
John W. Scuder, Director, Health Operations
Theron Harold Stancll III, Assistant Director, Health Systems
Nina Lee Thomas, Pharmacy Manager
Lauren R. 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 Biomedical Engineering
Fani Boukouvala, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

Martha Grover, Chair, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering
A.J. Medford, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering
J. Carson Meredith, Professor, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering
David Sholl, School Chair, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

Undergraduate Educator Award
Jacqueline Garner, Senior Lecturer, Scheller College of Business
Ami S. Jarjwala, 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/JP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
Katie Badura, Assistant Professor, Scheller College of Business
John James Blazek, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering
Neha Garg, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Allen Hyde, Assistant Professor, History and Sociology
Natalie Kazhaal, 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

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 Urmantsetova, 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 Salfaromaggi, Assistant Professor, School of Cybersecurity and Privacy

Class of 1940 W. Howard Ector Outstanding Teacher Award
Carrie Sheple, Principal Academic Professional, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award
Marilyn Brown, Regents Professor, Public Policy