



# THE WHISTLE

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH • August 1, 2022

Georgia  
Tech.

Vol. 47, No. 16  
whistle.gatech.edu

## A CENTER REIMAGINED



Photo by Allison Carter

The renovated student center is now open to the public. Employees will get a chance to enjoy dining specials during a special event on Thursday, Aug. 4.

## John Lewis Student Center Opens to Public This Week

JENNIFER DUNCAN  
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELL-BEING

The newly renovated John Lewis Student Center and Stamps Commons will officially open on Monday, Aug. 1. Until the start of the fall semester, it will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fall hours of operation will be available at the Student and Campus Event Centers website.

The renovation has brought exciting new dining venues, lounge and

study areas, and event spaces such as community favorite Tech Rec back to the heart of campus after more than two years of construction. To honor the building's namesake, meeting rooms are named after streets in the 5th Congressional District, which John Lewis represented.

Tech Dining is offering faculty and staff a sneak peek of the dining venues on Thursday, Aug. 4, from 10 a.m. to

see **CENTER**, page 4



### Popular Reading Collection Continues to Expand

Looking for something to read? The Georgia Tech Library's Popular Reading Collection, located on the first floor of Price Gilbert, continues to expand, with more than 1,300 titles available 24/7.

Browse the collection at [c.gatech.edu/popularreading](https://c.gatech.edu/popularreading).

## Campus Museum Features African American Works on Paper

VICTOR ROGERS  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech's Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking is presenting *A Community of Artists: African American Works on Paper From the Cochran Collection*, from Aug. 5 to Dec. 2. The exhibit showcases 51 Black artists whose works are a testament to the social conversations and artistic

see **EXHIBIT**, page 4

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

**Yongxin Chen**, assistant professor in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, has been awarded the Donald P. Eckman Award from the American Automatic Control Council for his work in stochastic control. The award recognizes outstanding young engineers in the field of automatic control.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers has honored Georgia Tech aerospace engineering professor **George Kardomateas** with the Spirit of St. Louis Medal for exemplary work in the progress of aeronautics and astronautics. He is in great company as Daniel Guggenheim, Neil A. Armstrong, John E. Northrup, John W. Young (AE 1952), George W. Lewis, Charles S. Draper, Robert G. Lowey, Michael Collins, and the late Dewey Hodges have also received this premier medal.

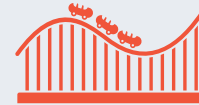
Postdoctoral fellow **Jinhwan Kim** has been awarded the Pathway to Independence Award by the National Institutes of Health. Jinhwan is a researcher in the Georgia Tech School of Electrical and Computer Engineer, the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, and the Emory School of Medicine.

**Bonnie Ferri**, vice provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Development, has been named the recipient of the 2022 John R. Ragazzini Education Award from the American Automatic Control Council. The prestigious award is presented annually to one individual in recognition of their contributions to automatic control education in any form.

**Ye Zhao**, assistant professor at the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, director of the Laboratory for Intelligent Decision and Autonomous Robots and member of the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machines, has been granted an NSF CAREER Award. Ye and his team will use the funding to develop a novel task and motion planning framework for bipedal robotic locomotion interacting with complex environments. Zhao's goal is to achieve safe and autonomous robot locomotion that will move legged robotic systems from the confines of research labs into real-world application domains such as disaster relief, first responder assistance, surveillance for civil and mechanical infrastructures, and use in agricultural environments.

## Georgia Tech Nights Coming Up at Six Flags, Truist Park

Three upcoming events will let Georgia Tech faculty, staff, and students enjoy local venues at a discounted rate.



**Georgia Tech Night at Six Flags** is planned for Friday, Sept. 16. Tickets are on sale now and are \$28 for faculty and staff members and their guests. Learn more and purchase tickets at [c.gatech.edu/sixflags](https://c.gatech.edu/sixflags).



The Atlanta Braves will celebrate their annual **Georgia Tech Night at Truist Park** on Tuesday, Aug. 2, when the defending World Champions host the Philadelphia Phillies. First pitch is set for 7:20 p.m.

The event will include special activities for Yellow Jacket fans, including the opportunity to visit Buzz, the Ramblin' Wreck, and Tech cheerleaders, who will be stationed at the Third Base Gate when gates open at 5:30 p.m. Ticket packages for Georgia Tech fans include an exclusive Braves/Georgia Tech co-branded stadium seat. Additionally, \$3 from every Georgia Tech Night ticket package sold will be donated to Georgia Tech athletics' Alexander-Tharpe Fund. Ticket packages begin at \$40 and can be purchased online at [braves.com/GT](https://braves.com/GT).



**A University System of Georgia Night at Truist Park** will also take place Saturday, Sept. 3, as the Atlanta Braves take on the Miami Marlins. Learn more and purchase tickets at [c.gatech.edu/usgbraves](https://c.gatech.edu/usgbraves).



**THE WHISTLE**  
WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH

Editor: Kristen Bailey  
Copy Editor: Kelly Adams  
Photographers: Allison Carter,  
Joya Chapman, and Rob Felt

Published biweekly throughout the year by  
Georgia Tech Institute Communications.  
Archives are posted at [whistle.gatech.edu](https://whistle.gatech.edu).

**GT Georgia Tech.**

Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.

# Working on the Future of Work

RENAY SAN MIGUEL  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

In 2019, when School of Psychology Professor Ruth Kanfer was working on a book that would feature the latest science regarding an aging and age-diverse workforce, Kanfer and her three co-authors wanted to write a manual of sorts for supervisors, human resources managers, and organizational leaders — not necessarily academics and scholars.

Then 2020 happened, and science, in the form of the pandemic, had other ideas on how to influence *Ageless Talent: Enhancing the Performance and Well-Being of Your Age-Diverse Workforce* (Routledge, 2021).

“As we were writing, we started thinking about what managers would need to know post-pandemic, how it was affecting workers of different age groups,” says Kanfer, a member of the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program and founding director of Georgia Tech’s Work Science Center. “Toward the end, we wrote about possible implications and what issues might come up.”

Motivating workers in a disrupted and transformed workforce is one of those issues. Motivation related to work has long been Kanfer’s primary research interest. Kanfer will continue to study work motivation in the National Science Foundation’s new National AI Institute for Adult Learning in Online Education (AI-ALOE). Led by Myk Garn of the Georgia Research Alliance, University System of Georgia, and Ashok Goel, professor in the College of Computing at Georgia Tech, the AI-ALOE will study foundational AI issues and develop AI systems to enhance adult learning.

Kanfer recently spoke with the College of Sciences about AI-ALOE, where the future of the workforce is heading post-pandemic, and whether

older workers will return to the workforce.

## **What are the biggest lessons for you on how the pandemic changed the workplace and workforce, particularly the aging workforce?**

There are four lessons. First, the pandemic caused a real upsetting of the apple cart in terms of labor shortages. That does have to do with the aging workforce. The 55 and older group was the fastest-growing segment of the workforce prior to the pandemic, so you can imagine that their sudden departure would have an outsized impact. I had a manager once say to me that 40% of the workplace on the front lines of their company was over the age of 55, but if they managed retirements carefully, it would be fine.

Well, during the pandemic no one could manage workforce exits well, and the pandemic caused a lot of early retirements. Whether those folks will come back is unknown, but the loss was substantial. Almost a third of the workforce shortage comes from older workers who did not want to be exposed to the virus or chose to retire a bit earlier than planned.

Second is the issue of worker well-being. There wasn’t really a lot of interest in this prior to the pandemic. It was more about productivity and new technologies. The pandemic changed that. If you want to preserve your workforce, not just the older workforce, you must pay attention to well-being, and that has stuck. I think we are much more focused on worker well-being than we were pre-pandemic.

The third lesson comes from the impact of technology. The pandemic

caused a massive shift to remote work for many people and has accelerated the development and implementation of new technologies. But it is very clear that technological developments cannot fully replace human workers. Technology didn’t obliterate jobs, it changed jobs, and it’s still doing that. What technology can’t do well, yet, in implementation, is make complex decisions about things that are not black and white.

Technology also isn’t very good with factoring in emotions. Tech is a double-edged sword. It has helped people, and it has provided tools. It has made some jobs more interesting, some less interesting. It’s also pushed humans into new learning, and usually with the workforce, most of the learning you do is on the job after graduation. It used to be that on the job, someone older would train you, but that is often not the case when it comes to implementing new technologies. Now it’s continuous learning, and new skill-learning as part of your job is front and center.

The fourth lesson has to do with work arrangements. Sending everybody home to do remote work has upended assumptions that organizations have long had — that you need to have your employees at the workplace, that you need to be continuously supervising them, or you’re not going to achieve your goals. Well, during the pandemic workers were still productive. And this has left a lot of organizational leaders asking, what are we going to do with all this real estate if workers want to be remote? And if I let my workers be remote, how am I going to bind them psychologically to the organization? This has not been a temporary disruption. It has changed fundamental motives about work, and what binds people to organizations.



Ruth Kanfer

This story has been edited for length. Read the rest of the story at [c.gatech.edu/work](https://c.gatech.edu/work).



**CENTER**, from page 1

2 p.m. Employees will receive a 40% discount on mobile orders with the code STAFFTXS. Download the mobile ordering app at [dining.gatech.edu/mobileordering](https://dining.gatech.edu/mobileordering). Employees can also enjoy free bowling and billiards at Tech

Rec during the event.

The opening of the John Lewis Student Center is one phase of a larger project to renovate the area, which is comprised of several buildings including the Exhibition Hall, Pavilion, and Experiential Pathway. Over the next few months, the next phase of the

project will take place, including the retrofitting of spaces in the Exhibition Hall and Pavilion. A formal dedication and grand opening celebration of the John Lewis Student Center will take place this fall. Find more information at [studentcenter.gatech.edu/campus-center-project](https://studentcenter.gatech.edu/campus-center-project).

**EXHIBIT**, from page 1

movements of 20th-century American art.

It is different from the museum's usual exhibit content, but it has relevance and connection to the state. Jerushia Graham, museum coordinator and curator of many of the museum's shows, selected the pieces. "The exhibit has three central themes — Georgia artists and how they fit into the broader story, women artists, and Black master printmakers," Graham said. Featured artists include Jacob Lawrence, Emma Amos, Hale Woodruff, Dox Thrash, and Benny Andrews.

The pieces are on loan from the Cochran Collection, courtesy of Wes and Missy Cochran from LaGrange, Georgia. The Cochrans have been collecting for almost 50 years. Their focus on African American artists began in 1988 when they attended an Atlanta exhibition of works by five Black women artists, including Howardena Pindell. In less than a week, the Cochrans visited Pindell at her New York studio, and she introduced them to other Black artists.

"Missy and I went around with these lists of artists and phone numbers in New York, and that's how we began collecting," said Wes Cochran in an interview for



Photo by Joya Chapman

Jerushia Graham, museum coordinator, installs pieces for the exhibit *A Community of Artists: African American Works on Paper* from the Cochran Collection. The exhibit opens this week.

*Colliding With History*, a catalog produced by Georgia State University in 2021.

"It was unusual at the time for a young white couple from a small town in Georgia to be in New York buying Black art," he said. "This was so different from the big-name artists we had collected. We were spending the same hard-earned money, but it was not on artists we were seeing in museums. The Black artists had the same education, and they'd been making art for as many years. They had collided with history, but it was just a silent history."

The Paper Museum will host an in-person reception

and artist talk on Oct. 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Artists Jim Alexander, Radcliffe Bailey, Kevin Cole, and Tina Dunkley, who are also featured in the exhibit, will discuss their work.

The museum will also host a three-part virtual lecture series:

- Sept. 6, 7–8 p.m.: Jamaal Barber will discuss "Black Master Printers and Their Impact."
- Sept. 20, 7–8 p.m.: Anne Collins Smith will discuss "The Power of Women's Voices in the Cochran Collection and Spelman Museum Collection."

- Nov. 1, 7–8 p.m.: Kimberly Diana Jacobs will talk about "Telling the Broader Story of Art History Through the Cochran Collection and Clark Atlanta Museum Collection."

The Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking, located at 500 10th Street NW, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is free to the public for self-guided visits during operating hours. Groups of 10 or more must schedule their visit in advance.

For more information and event registration, visit [paper.gatech.edu](https://paper.gatech.edu).