



THE WHISTLE

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH • August 15, 2022

GT Georgia
Tech.

Vol. 47, No. 17
whistle.gatech.edu

Sports Medicine Available to Campus Community

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The Georgia Tech Athletic Association's Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance is dedicated to enhancing the performance of Tech's student-athletes. But did you know the facility also offers physical therapy and chiropractic services to all Tech students, employees, and their families?

"I've had many on-campus patients begin treatment and say, 'I sure wish I had known about this five years ago,'" said Randy Rhino, chiropractor for Georgia Tech Athletics. Rhino often partners with Charlie Ridgeway, a physical therapist on staff at the center.

Because many employees have been working from home more often during the pandemic, Rhino has seen an increase in patients experiencing more aches and pains in their backs, shoulders, and necks.

see **SPORTS**, page 2

Updated Flexwork Form Now Live

CHAUNDRA GRANT
HUMAN RESOURCES

The Working @Tech Arrangement form has officially launched. Founded on our pursuit to lead by example, champion

innovation, and maximize efficiency through the AdminX initiative, the new digital process replaces the former DocuSign flexwork arrangements form and expands data collection to include all employees.

The updated form enables the Institute to provide enhanced reporting and analytics regarding how employees work at Georgia Tech. All full-time,

see **FLEXWORK**, page 2

PEYBACK TIME



Photo by Danny Karnik

The PeyBack Foundation, the charitable organization founded and led by Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning and his wife, Ashley Manning, has established the Demaryius A. Thomas Scholarship Endowment in memory of Manning's Denver Broncos teammate and Georgia Tech football legend Demaryius Thomas. The PeyBack Foundation and Georgia Tech Athletics made the announcement on Wednesday, Aug. 8, with family and friends of Thomas — including the Mannings.

Scholarship Endowment Honors Demaryius Thomas

GEORGIA TECH ATHLETICS

The Demaryius A. Thomas Scholarship Endowment will endow academic scholarships to attend Georgia Tech for

incoming first-year students from Laurens County, Georgia, where Thomas was born and raised, or surrounding areas who demonstrate significant financial need. Scholarship

awards will range from full scholarships to partial scholarships that may be combined with other forms of aid and split to cover

see **THOMAS**, page 3

SPORTS, from page 1

Employees without an ergonomically correct workstation at home often resort to sitting in a regular chair at the kitchen table. This can result in forward head tilt syndrome.

"The muscles in your neck and shoulders are having to compensate to hold up your head," Rhino explained. "Students and employees come in with a stiff neck or tightness in the mid-back from sitting awkwardly and staring at a computer."

A former Georgia Tech football player, Rhino is physically active and warns about the dangers of sitting for long periods. He gets up from his chair at least once an hour. And he believes there is merit to the saying that sitting is the new smoking.

"I use that phrase all the time in my talks," he said. "The medical profession is finding that prolonged sitting leads to a lot of health issues other than just neck pain. This includes digestive issues and even coronary issues."

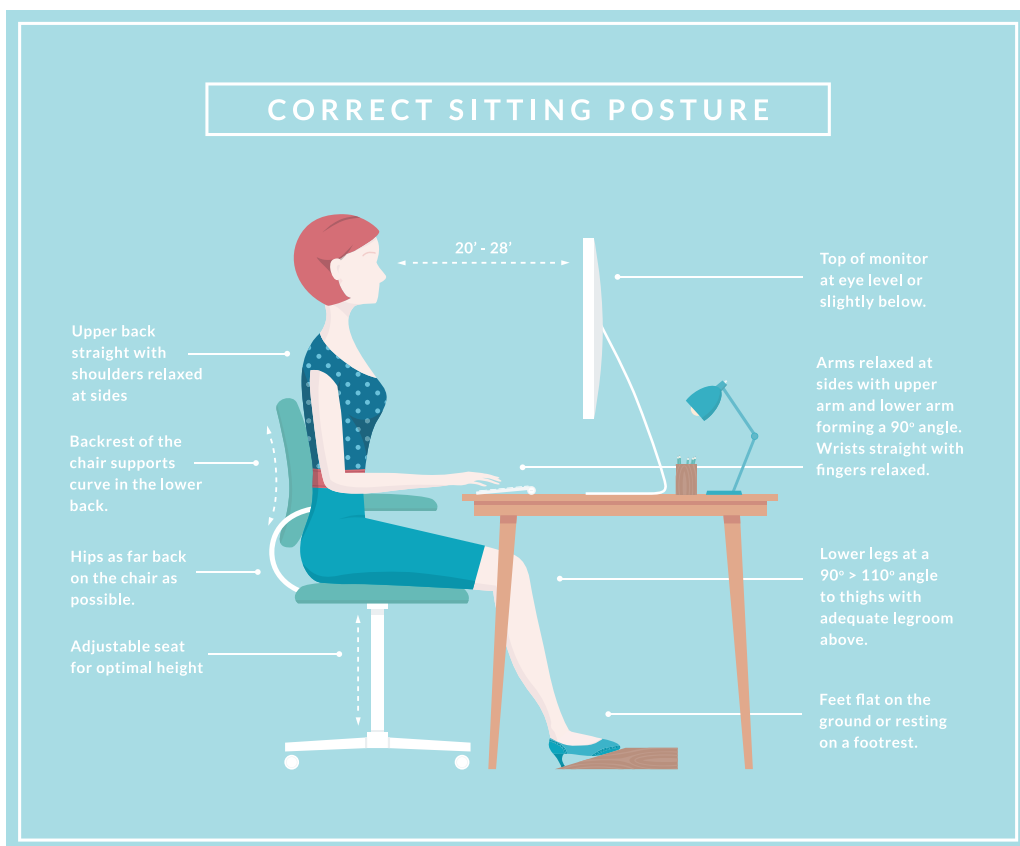
Rhino suggests implementing an exercise program to increase flexibility, maintain mobility, and strengthen the spine.

"We need to treat our spine the way we treat our teeth," he said. "You brush your teeth every day. You don't just wait until your

appointment and let the hygienist clean your teeth. It should be the same with your spine. You need to do daily stretches and exercises to strengthen your spine."

The chiropractic and physical therapy practices at the Homer Rice Center are Blue Cross Blue Shield

preferred providers. A referral is required for physical therapy. No referral is needed for chiropractic services. Patients may pay out of pocket if they choose. To inquire about chiropractic services, call 404.385.0446. For physical therapy, call 404.385.4115.

**FLEXWORK**, from page 1

benefits-eligible faculty and staff will be asked to complete this form in the Fall 2022 academic semester. Look for more details to come throughout the semester.

Part-time and temporary employees may also be asked to submit their work arrangements, as needed. GTRI employees will continue using the existing GTRI's Flexible Working

Arrangement/Telecommuting Form, through the JIRA Service Desk.

Additional Resources

Employees needing assistance completing the Working @Tech Arrangement should visit the Working @Tech website. There, they will find links to the form, a job aid, FAQs, and an opportunity to submit questions to Georgia Tech Human Resources.

In addition, Human Resources is hosting a virtual campus info session, where colleagues will walk through the components of the form and answer attendees' questions. The session will take place Monday, Aug. 22, from 11 a.m to noon. More information and a link to join are available at c.gatech.edu/flexwork8-22.

HR Business Partners or College Directors are also available to provide assistance.

THOMAS, from page 1

costs for multiple need-based students. Scholarships will follow recipients through the completion of their degree at Georgia Tech, provided they remain in good academic standing. To initially qualify for the Thomas Scholarship, recipients must have a 3.2 or higher high school grade point average and should have demonstrated community service involvement.

“Demaryius Thomas was an incredibly talented and unselfish teammate, but more importantly, he was a special person and friend,” Peyton Manning said. “My family and I miss him dearly, and we wanted to honor D.T.’s memory by partnering the PeyBack Foundation with Georgia Tech to establish the Demaryius A. Thomas Scholarship Endowment.

“An important part of Demaryius’ legacy was the way he inspired the next generation to pursue their dreams with the same perseverance and determination that defined him. Through this scholarship to Georgia Tech, Demaryius will have a lasting impact on deserving youth from his hometown area who can follow in his footsteps and accomplish great things in life.”

In honor of the establishment of the Thomas Scholarship, Georgia Tech Athletics announced that August 8 (8/8) of each year will be recognized by Tech as Demaryius Thomas Day, beginning this summer. Chosen in memory of the jersey No. 8 that Thomas wore at Georgia Tech and No. 88 that he wore for the majority of his NFL career, including his eight and a half seasons with the Broncos, 8/8 will be the date each season that Tech football will recognize the student-athlete(s) chosen to wear jersey No. 8. Other 8/8 festivities will include Georgia Tech Athletics recognizing the Thomas Scholarship recipient and partnering with a local youth-oriented organization for a community service event, as well as a friend, teammate, or family member being invited to speak to the Yellow Jackets’ football student-athletes.

Additionally, Georgia Tech football



Photo by Danny Karnik

Demaryius Thomas runs the ball during a game against the University of Georgia on Nov. 29, 2009.

will honor Thomas’ memory throughout the 2022 season with a No. 8 helmet decal and a No. 8 memorial painted on the field for home games at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

One of the greatest wide receivers in Georgia Tech football history, Thomas redshirted as a true freshman at Tech in 2006 and played three seasons for the Yellow Jackets from 2007 to 2009.

Thomas became the 12th first-round draft pick in Georgia Tech history when the Broncos selected him with the 22nd overall pick in the 2010 draft. He went on to play 10 seasons in the NFL. He holds 16 Broncos franchise records.

As a pro, he is perhaps best remembered for being one of the most prolific postseason performers in the Broncos’ illustrious history. Making his NFL playoff debut in the divisional round of the 2011 playoffs versus the Pittsburgh Steelers, he caught four passes for a Denver postseason record 204 yards, including the game-winning 80-yard touchdown reception on

the first play of overtime that lifted the Broncos to a 29-23 win over the Steelers. A season later, Manning joined the Broncos and the duo helped lead Denver to a pair of Super Bowl appearances. In Super Bowl 48, Thomas set a then-Super Bowl record with 13 receptions in a loss to the Seattle Seahawks. In 2015, the team won Super Bowl 50 with a 24-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers. After leaving the Broncos in 2018, he closed his NFL career with the Houston Texans and the New York Jets. He announced his retirement in 2021.

Affectionately nicknamed “Bay Bay,” Thomas was born on Christmas Day, 1987, in Laurens County. He graduated from West Laurens High School in 2006. He was known at Georgia Tech and in the NFL for his work in the community, particularly with youth initiatives. He died suddenly on Dec. 9, 2021, at the age of 33. His memorial service was held on Dec. 18, 2021, at Georgia Tech’s McCamish Pavilion.

Georgia Tech Child Care Info Session



Georgia Tech offers a child care program for faculty, staff, and students through its two on-campus child care centers managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions. Learn more about the centers during a virtual information session on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 10 a.m. Hear from teachers and staff and also tune in for a chance to win a children's activity basket. Learn more at campusservices.gatech.edu/child-care. Additional sessions will take place in September and October.

Tech Faculty Tapped for Regents Awards

PATTI FUTRELL
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Along with the Georgia Tech faculty tapped and reappointed as Regents' Professors and Researchers at the Aug. 9 University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents meeting were five Georgia Tech professors named to the new distinction of Regents' Entrepreneur.

Georgia Tech faculty named as the first Regents' Entrepreneurs in the USG include:

- **Farrokh Ayazi**, Ken Byers Professor in Microsystems, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **Kirk Bowman**, professor, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
- **Andrei Fedorov**, Neely Chair and professor, George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering and the Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience
- **Mark Prausnitz**, Regents' Professor, J. Erskine Love Jr. Chair, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- **Gleb Yushin**, professor, School of Materials Science and Engineering

The Board of Regents approved the title of Regents' Professor to:

- **Facundo Fernández**, professor and Vasser Woolley Foundation Chair in Bioanalytical Chemistry, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry

- **Willie Pearson**, professor, School of History and Sociology
- **Krishnendu Roy**, professor, Robert A. Milton Endowed Chair, NSF Engineering Research Center for Cell Manufacturing Technologies, Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering
- **Beril Toktay**, Professor of Operations Management and Brady Family Chair, Scheller College of Business

Those named as Regents' Researchers include:

- **Stephen Balakirsky**, principal research scientist, Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI)
- **Anton Bryksin**, principal research scientist, Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience
- **Walter Bradley Fain**, principal research scientist, School of Public Policy
- **Anita Pavadore**, principal research engineer, GTRI

Receiving a first-time reappointment as Regents' Professor was **Surya Kalidindi**, Rae S. and Frank H. Neely Chair, George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. Receiving a first-time reappointment as Regents' Researcher was **Margaret Loper**, principal research scientist, GTRI.

Other Reappointments

Regents' Professor and Researcher designations only require

Institute approval for second-time reappointments. Second-time Regents' Professor reappointments at Georgia Tech include:

- **Sy Goodman**, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
- **Nicholas Hud**, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- **Vladimir Tsukruk**, School of Materials Science and Engineering

Receiving a second-time Regents' Researcher reappointment was **Alexa Harter**, director of the Cybersecurity, Information Protection, and Hardware Evaluation Research (CIPHER) Laboratory at GTRI.

New Recognition for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The board approved the Regents' Entrepreneur designation in their February 2022 meeting to recognize and support faculty entrepreneurship and innovation. The Regents' Entrepreneur designation may be granted by the Board of Regents to an outstanding full-time tenured faculty member who has an established reputation as a successful innovator and who has taken their research into a commercial setting.

The Regents' Entrepreneur designation is bestowed by the board only upon the unanimous recommendation of the USG institution president, the chief academic officer, and the chancellor, and upon the approval of the Committee on Academic Affairs.