



THE WHISTLE

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Find Your Next Learning Opportunity

KELSEY HARRIS
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

After a recent move aimed at centralizing workforce development and professional learning at Georgia Tech, the collaboration between Workplace Learning & Professional Development (WLPD) and Georgia Tech Professional Education (GTPE) continues to grow with the launch of a new online hub dedicated to the development needs of the campus community.

“As the Institute’s partner in

see **LEARNING**, page 2

SIX DECADES ON



Photo by Christopher Moore

On September 20, 1961, three young men walked on to campus and became the first Black students to attend Georgia Tech. Sixty years later, our current first-year class has 60% more Black students than the first-year class from just five years ago. Ford C. Greene, Ralph A. Long Jr., and Lawrence Williams were Georgia Tech’s trailblazers.

Earn \$200 Credit for Getting the Covid-19 Vaccine

Effective Aug. 30, 2021, the USG well-being credit maximum will be increased to \$200 from \$100 and employees/spouses that receive the vaccine will be eligible for the full \$200. Employees/spouses must be registered on the USG well-being platform to receive the credit. USG will waive the current requirement for employees to complete a health assessment to become eligible for well-being credits for 2021.

For instructions on how to claim your credit, visit c.gatech.edu/vaxcredit.

If you have not yet been vaccinated, visit mytest.gatech.edu to make an appointment at Stamps Health Services.



LEARNING, from page 1

faculty and staff professional development, the WLPD team is committed to supporting campus learners,” said LaTrese Ferguson, manager for WLPD. “We wanted our new website to emphasize these meaningful professional development experiences while providing interactive, personalized learning closely aligned with the Institute’s mission, beliefs, and values.”

The new website — pe.gatech.edu/wlpd — highlights the importance of continual learning and growth throughout one’s career while showcasing the dynamic services and solutions provided by WLPD, including a refreshed employee learning platform and a variety of resources to support faculty and staff throughout their career.

Whether exploring a leadership mindset, seeking professional partnerships, or embracing values congruence, WLPD’s offerings are relevant and engaging, allowing you to facilitate the development of your professional learning goals and add value to your career at Georgia Tech.

To help get you started, here’s a preview of how you can use the WLPD website to find your next learning opportunity.

Learning Rooted in Our Values

As you navigate through the new site, you’ll see a special emphasis on values. Representing Georgia Tech’s newly articulated strategic plan, these nine values are the cornerstone for learning workshops and serve as a professional roadmap.

“Our values are foundational in everything we do, defining who we are and who we aspire to be as a community,” said Yvette Francis, senior training generalist. “When developing the new site, it was important that we crafted learning and development opportunities that embraced these

values while providing a framework for how we can live out these guideposts every day.”

In-Depth Development Programs

These values are also interwoven throughout signature programs like ASPIRE, the New Employee Experience, MentorTech, and Professional Development Circles, echoing the importance of innovation, collaboration, and learning across campus units.

“Regardless if you’re a new hire, an established employee, or a recently promoted manager, having a connective community makes your ability to navigate the workplace more seamless,” notes Bryan Harber, training generalist. “Our in-depth development programs cultivate and build upon our diverse communities while creating a long-term path for development.”

Cross-Campus Learning Resources

Built on the belief that effective individuals and organizations never stop learning, WLPD recognizes that self-directed learning, which can take the form of books, podcasts, or massive online courses, is a powerful tool for personal and professional growth. To aid in these learning modes, they have curated a list of learning recommendations, both on and off campus, designed to help faculty and staff engage in self-development throughout the year.

“Whether you’re looking to develop your people leader skills or taking advantage of online tutorials, we’ve planned a catalog of learning resources to serve your appetite for professional development, and allowing the flexibility to learn at a time convenient to you,” says Monte Hammon, training coordinator.

Personalized Learning and Development

Additionally, WLPD serves as a learning partner to campus, providing

More Professional Development Resources

Campus Learning Directory

pe.gatech.edu/wlpd/resources/campus-learning-directory

Professional Development Circles

pe.gatech.edu/wlpd/programs/circles

Aspire

pe.gatech.edu/wlpd/programs/aspire

customized training to help teams build upon their talents while navigating specific work-related challenges.

“Professional development isn’t a one-size-fits-all model,” explains Rachel Watts, senior training generalist. “Sometimes, you may need a more tailored approach or an external facilitator to offer an unbiased perspective to complex conversations. Our team has the knowledge and expertise to offer these custom services to the campus community.”

What’s Ahead

While the partnership between GTPE and WLPD has created a comprehensive center of lifetime learning advocates, it has also amplified professional learning opportunities for Georgia Tech employees and professional learners alike.

“The most effective organizations provide relevant training programs to their employees regularly to meet the current and future demands of the workplace,” notes Nelson Baker, dean of Professional Education. “With the launch of WLPD’s new website, the Institute will now have a one-stop shop for training, learning, and development, serving even more professionals throughout their lifetime.”



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GT Georgia Tech.

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Staff Appreciation Day Set for October

Thursday, Oct. 14 • 11 a.m to 4 p.m. • Tech Green

Join the Georgia Tech Staff Council for food, fun, and giveaways during Staff Appreciation Day. You can also participate in friendly competition with colleagues in the Staff Appreciation Day Games. To sign up for a team, email erik.johnson@stucen.gatech.edu or timothy.mention@finaid.gatech.edu.

Registration is required to attend the event. Register at bit.ly/StaffAppreciationDay.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The National Institutes of Health has invited **Karmella Haynes** to help advise the government on oversight of biological research that could be misused. Haynes, an assistant professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, is joining the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, a federal advisory committee chartered to provide “advice, guidance, and leadership” for what the U.S. government terms dual-use research — in other words, research with legitimate and important scientific purpose that could also yield technologies or information that could prove harmful if misused. Haynes will serve a three-year term.

Tushar Krishna, associate professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), and **Arijit Raychowdhury**, Motorola Solutions Foundation Professor in ECE, have been selected for 2021 Qualcomm Faculty Awards (QFA). The

QFA program supports key professors and their research, with the goal of strengthening Qualcomm’s engagement with faculty who also play a key role in Qualcomm’s recruiting of top graduate students. **Raychowdhury** has also been selected for the 2021 Technical Excellence Award by the Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC). The Technical Excellence Award, first presented in 1991, is the highest technical award presented by SRC and recognizes key contributors of innovative technology that significantly enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the semiconductor industry.

G.P. “Bud” Peterson, president emeritus of Georgia Tech, has been named chair of The Kummer Institute Foundation Board of Directors. Board members unanimously elected Peterson during their meeting Wednesday, Aug. 11. He succeeds the late Fred Kummer, the organization’s

founding chair, who died earlier this year.

Renewable and low-carbon fuel standards, such as the Federal Renewable Fuel Standard and the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard, are major U.S. programs for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels. These standards rely on life cycle assessment as a method to estimate fuel greenhouse gas emissions. However, current life cycle assessments differ notably in how they are implemented, with disagreements pertaining to data quality, modeling approaches, and key assumptions. Now, a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee will study Current Methods for Life Cycle Analyses of Low-Carbon Transportation Fuels in the United States. Professor **Valerie Thomas**, Anderson-Interface Chair of Natural Systems in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has

been appointed to chair the committee, which will meet through April 2022.

Jun Ueda, professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, and faculty member of the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machines and the Institute for Electronics and Nanotechnology, was named a Nagamori Foundation Awardee for 2021. Ueda was recognized for his research, “Cellular actuators inspired by biological muscles and their human assistive applications.”

Joshua Weitz, professor and Tom and Marie Patton Chair in the School of Biological Sciences, and co-director of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Quantitative Biosciences, is one of four 2021 recipients of the Blaise Pascal International Chair of Excellence. Weitz will be based at the Institute of Biology at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. Previous winners of the Pascal Chair of Excellence include several Nobel Prize recipients.

New Leadership Position to Focus on Workplace Culture

KELLY FOX
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Administration and Finance (A&F) strives to build and foster a culture consistent with the Institute's values and is working on several initiatives designed to build relationships and create an inclusive and high-performing environment for our employees and students. To successfully implement these initiatives, I am creating a new role that will report directly to the executive vice president (EVP) for A&F: Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for Special Initiatives.

I am pleased to announce that Kim D. Harrington, Chief Human Resources Officer for Georgia Tech, has accepted my appointment to this new role. In this new position, she will serve as an advisor to the EVP for A&F and



Kim Harrington

a liaison to campus leadership — including faculty, staff and students — to help strengthen the workplace culture and create an environment that is healthy and productive.

Kim's previous leadership experience as director of the Student Center, combined with six-plus years leading Georgia Tech Human Resources, makes her uniquely qualified to lead this people-centric effort. In this new role, Kim will be responsible for the following:

- Create an inclusive environment that demonstrates commitment through accountability to inclusive practices throughout the organization.
- Inspire the A&F community to engage with students and lead from a student-centered approach.
- Serve as a representative of the A&F leadership team to campus leadership and establish effective relationships with both internal and external constituencies.

In addition, the Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for Special Initiatives will lead the following strategic initiatives for A&F:

- A&F Staff Culture Advisory Council
- Emerging Leaders Program
- Ethics Ambassador Program
- A&F Student Engagement Committee

I want to thank Kim for her leadership of Georgia Tech Human Resources. Kim will remain in her current role as CHRO until new leadership is brought on board. We will immediately begin a search for the permanent CHRO position with plans to welcome new leadership in early 2022. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

During this time, the work on Administrative Excellence and the HR Transformation will continue. I ask that you remain fully engaged in these efforts as we are actively laying the foundation for the future success of these projects.

Elect Your Next Staff Council Representatives

COURTNEY HILL
STAFF COUNCIL

All employees who are staff members within the JCCS (Job Classification & Compensation System) are eligible to vote in the Staff Council elections. This year, there are a total of nine open Staff Council seats within five categories.

Employees can vote for up to:

- 4 staff in Administrative and Professional
- 2 staff in Information Technology
- 1 staff in Skilled Trades
- 1 staff in Development
- 1 staff in Science and Research

Candidates in this year's election are:

Administrative and Professional

- Chikaya Bolton
- Ashley Carr
- Curtis Carrell
- Dominique Niccole Coleman
- Savitra Dow
- Erik Johnson
- Cheryl Kelley
- Julie Kimble
- Cassy McInnis
- Raquel Plaskett
- Tonya Tynes

Development

- Jennifer Brazelton
- Trisha Sisk

Information Technology

- Kevin Mcvay
- Gabriel Vannice
- Nate Watkins

Science and Research

- Kalah Byrd

Skilled Trades

- Samuel Evans
- Victor Summey

Bios for each candidate are available at staffcouncil.gatech.edu/elections/2021/candidates.