



# THE WHISTLE

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## Open Enrollment Is Underway

University System of Georgia (USG) Open Enrollment is taking place Oct. 25 through Nov. 5. More information is available at [benefits.usg.edu/open-enrollment](https://benefits.usg.edu/open-enrollment).

View the complete booklet of plans and information for next year at [c.gatech.edu/usg-health-2022](https://c.gatech.edu/usg-health-2022), and view a rubric of plans and premium costs at [c.gatech.edu/usg-2022-premiums](https://c.gatech.edu/usg-2022-premiums).

A virtual benefits fair will take place Oct. 25–29 via [usg.vfairs.com](https://usg.vfairs.com). Attendees will be able to view presentations and chat with vendors every day. View an agenda of presentations at [usg.vfairs.com](https://usg.vfairs.com).

## Cornacchia Honored During National Police Week

VICTOR ROGERS  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Thousands gathered in Washington, D.C., to honor fallen officers during National Police Week, Oct. 12–17. The late James Michael Cornacchia, an investigator with the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD), was among 701 officers recognized.

Investigator Cornacchia contracted Covid-19 during the



see **CORNACCHIA**, page 3

# Be Afraid: What to Read at Halloween

VICTOR ROGERS  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

With Halloween approaching, we asked faculty members in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication (LMC) to recommend a haunting tale. The books range from Victorian ghost stories to a supernatural rapper haunting a bookstore.

### ***The Scarlet Plague***

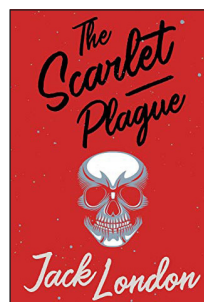
By Jack London

“As someone who writes about vampires, I read or reread a bunch of vampire fiction as well as tried to catch up on Stephen King (who writes faster than I read!). The most terrifying book I read during the pandemic, however, was London’s novella, which I stumbled on this summer.

The postapocalyptic story of the

scarlet plague (told with hideous detail) that decimated the planet is narrated by James Smith, a classical scholar and one of the few people who remembers pre-plague times. Traveling with his grandsons, who live as hunters, he shares his memory of the plague but realizes he cannot share his knowledge of a lost culture with his primitive and largely illiterate grandsons.

I recommend London’s novella to people who like horror but also to people who want to reflect on what will happen in a post-Covid-19 world. Smith observes that the survivors in his



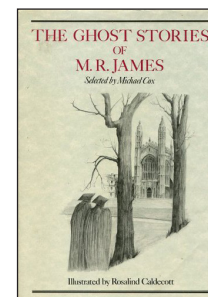
world ‘have forgotten everything.’ We have not, so we have much on which to rebuild.”

—Carol Senf, professor and director of Undergraduate Studies, LMC

### ***The Ghost Stories of M.R. James***

By M.R. James

“If you are in the mood to time-travel to some quaint early 20th-century European small town, complete with some gentleman scholar whose discovery of medieval manuscripts or antiquarian objects conjures up threatening supernatural



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# Staying Active in Life and Community

ZOE ELLEDGE  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

From golfing to biking to serving together at church on Sundays, LaJauna and Kevin Ellis don't spend much time at home.

"Sometimes people say they can't catch us," Kevin said. "You're not going to see us sitting around for a whole day."

LaJauna has stayed in one place for a while: this is her 25th year at Georgia Tech. She started on campus the same year Atlanta hosted the Olympics, initially as project coordinator with the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering's (ECE) director of research administration. She would later serve as assistant to Gary May when he was ECE chair.

When May was named College of Engineering dean in 2011, he asked LaJauna to join him. Ten years and two deans later, she's still in Tech Tower.

"Working with the different deans over the years has truly been a partnership. My ideas are appreciated, and it's been a rewarding experience," said LaJauna, the College's director of administrative and strategic initiatives.

Kevin's Georgia Tech career isn't as long, but it started in the same place as his wife's. He began working full-time on campus seven years ago in ECE's University Center of Excellence for Photovoltaics Research and Education (UCEP). After a stint in the College of Computing and Enterprise Resource Planning, Kevin is back in the College of Engineering as the assistant director of financial operations for the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering. His team maintains the school's fiscal budget and supports faculty research initiatives.

"I've always had a passion for



Photo by Candler Hobbs

Kevin and LaJauna Ellis outside Tech Tower, where LaJauna works in the College of Engineering.

helicopters and jets, and it's been a huge opportunity to work with the people who design aircraft and make them better and safer," Kevin said.

The Ellises are actively involved in the Georgia Tech community. Kevin is treasurer for Staff Council. LaJauna has been a member of the College of Engineering's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council since its creation in 2017. She's also active in the College's Staff Culture Advisory Council, and GRIOT, Women of Georgia Tech, and RESILIENCE Employee Resource Groups.

"I really enjoy the diversity found at Tech and our city," she said. "You can experience so many different cultures in Atlanta, just like here on campus."

LaJauna's office in Tech Tower is about a football punt from Bobby Dodd Stadium. That's where you can find a third member of the Ellis family. Jordan Yates is one of the couple's 17 grandchildren and a quarterback for the Yellow Jackets. Although athletics and academics keep him busy, LaJauna and Kevin say they're able to see Jordan during the workday when time allows.

"We've had the opportunity to see Jordan's development from elementary school through high school to now," Kevin said. "We've always had front row seats to watch him play and grow."

"It was definitely a bonus, when I decided to come to Georgia Tech, to have them working here," said Yates, who graduated from Milton High School in a suburb north of Atlanta. "With them being on campus, we try to get together about once a month. Being close to home and having family nearby is very convenient and a great way to stay in touch."

Away from campus, LaJauna and Kevin are active in their church community, which is where they met. They have participated in service projects through Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Roswell, including a mission trip to Uganda in 2012.

On their days off, you can find LaJauna and Kevin staying active, usually outdoors, and incorporating their spiritual life into their daily adventures.

"Working together is great. Now we speak a common language when discussing our jobs," LaJauna said. "When we worked separately, it was difficult to communicate about our roles, but since Kevin joined me in higher education, it clicked for us. We're now part of the same work family too."

**CORNACCHIA**, from page 1

commission of his job duties. He had worked traffic detail at a Covid-19 testing site on campus. He succumbed to complications from Covid-19 on June 1, 2020, after serving the Georgia Tech community for nearly 20 years.

Representing GTPD at the event were Investigator Chris Huggins, Officer Tim Foster, Sergeant Jacob Crossley, and Sergeant Jessica Howard.

"The Cornacchia family was there, and we were there to surround them with support while we honored our fallen brother in blue," Howard said.

The week's events included a candlelight vigil, a police survivors' conference, and a memorial service recognizing fallen officers from 2019 and 2020, as the event was canceled last year because of the pandemic.



Photo courtesy of GTPD

Attending a National Police Week luncheon are (seated): Investigator Cornacchia's parents, Dyana and Chet Cornacchia. Standing (L-R) are GTPD Investigator Chris Huggins, GTPD Sergeant Jessica Howard, and Christal Cornacchia, Investigator Cornacchia's widow.

## Staff Council Welcomes New Members for 2022

COURTNEY HILL  
STAFF COUNCIL

As it heads into its eighth year of operation, Georgia Tech Staff Council will welcome new members in 2022.

Elections held in September brought the following nine staffers from the respective Job Classification and Compensation System categories onto the Council to serve three-year terms beginning in January 2022:

### Administrative and Professional

- **Dominique "Niccole" Coleman**, client manager, Institute Communications
- **Savitra Dow**, program and operations manager, Academic Transition Programs
- **Julie Kimble**, consultant, Georgia Tech Research Institute
- **Raquel Plaskett**, faculty support coordinator, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

### Development

- **Trisha Sisk**, associate director of development stewardship,

### Office of Development

#### Information Technology

- **Gabriel Vannice**, information technology support manager, Office of Information Technology
- **Nathaniel "Nate" Watkins**, enterprise resource planning system analyst lead, Office of Information Technology

#### Science and Research

- **Kalah Byrd**, biosafety specialist, Environmental Health and Safety

#### Skilled Trades

- **Samuel Evans III**, fleet services manager, Facilities

As a result of four vacancies this year, the following members will serve temporary terms based upon receiving the next highest number of votes from the 2020 and 2021 Staff Council elections:

- **Erik Johnson**, program advisor, Student Center
- **Twyla Moore**, assistant director of human resources,

### College of Design

- **Jeneen Parker Mosley**, administrative professional, Environmental Health and Safety
- **Diana Sutton-Fernandez**, organizational readiness specialist, Administrative Service Center

"As Georgia Tech Staff Council closes out its seventh year, it is my honor to welcome our newly elected members," 2021 Chair Quinae Ford said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the role of chair this year and look forward to witnessing the exceptional work that will continue to engage and inform our staff."

Ford will remain a part of the group through 2022 as past-chair ex officio.

Staff Council would also like to thank and recognize the following members who finished three-year or temporary terms this year: Melody Austin, Jeffrey Bridges, David Brown, Sterling Dunkley, Jonathan Etrass, and Byron Fitch.

To learn more about the Georgia Tech Staff Council, visit [staffcouncil.gatech.edu](https://staffcouncil.gatech.edu).



**READ**, from page 1

presences, M.R. James' ghost stories are just what you need. James (1862-1936), a professor of medieval studies and university administrator, is one of the founders of the ghost story genre. His work inspired the likes of H.P. Lovecraft, Ruth Rendell, Kingsley Amis, and Stephen King."

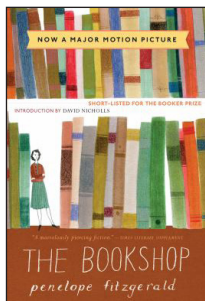
—Richard Utz, associate dean,  
Faculty Development, Ivan Allen College  
of Liberal Arts

**The Bookshop**

By Penelope Fitzgerald

"Fitzgerald's novel describes Florence Green, a middle-aged woman who in 1959 sets up a bookshop in Hardborough, where she has lived for 10 years. This small seaside town doesn't have another bookshop or a library, and the town's residents have read all the books they can access through the mobile library. Having worked as bookstore assistant, Florence secures Old House, a historic building, to serve as her shop and residence. But her attempts to attract customers are challenged by a powerful society matron who had other plans for Old House and a poltergeist, a supernatural rapper haunting the building."

—Carol Colatrella, professor and  
co-director, Center for the Study of  
Women, Science, and Technology

**Let's Play White**

By Chesya Burke

"This short story collection by Chesya Burke — whose writing is regularly compared with that of Octavia Butler and Toni Morrison — revolves around a frightening truth: that life for Black women in the United States is often horrifying. Burke's stories take back the stereotype of the Black woman as a monstrous threat that needs to be policed, disciplined, and otherwise contained and turns it on

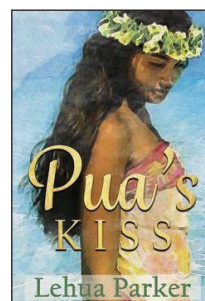
its head, allowing her conjure women, demons, and ghosts to speak out and share their terrifying experiences of slavery, genocide, white supremacy, and colonialism. Because yes! There are literal monsters galore in Burke's stories — but they are so searingly, tenderly wrought that we know they are not really bad people, even if they sometimes do bad things. Indeed, even as Burke's characters grapple with the harsh realities of their worlds, they sometimes manage to connect with each other across time and space in creative, generous, and often surprising ways that can and should inspire us all."

—Lisa Yaszek, Regents Professor of  
Science Fiction Studies, LMC

**Pua's Kiss (Laele Fractured Folktales Book 1)**

By Lehua Parker

"In the not-too-spooky but persistently popular horror subgenre of paranormal romance, where vampire-werewolf-human teen love triangles rule the roost, Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) author Lehua Parker draws on Maoli folklore to create this sparky meet-cute between Justin, a newly rejected groom from the U.S. continent, and Pua, the rebellious daughter of ocean god Kanaloa, in the fictional seaside town of Laele, Hawaii. Blending 'The Little Mermaid' with Hawaiian spiritual storytelling, this breezy comic novel starts when the restless Pua, a shapeshifting shark who hangs out on the beautiful white beaches of Laele (site of Parker's other book series such as the Niuhu Shark Saga), is discovered by depressed writer-artist Justin while in her human form, whom he finds sleeping on the sand.



Soon the two share a deep connection despite their different origins (and Pua's natural desire to devour people), as Parker deftly deploys both paranormal romance beats (especially unresolved sexual tension or UST) and her Indigenous sociocultural knowledge to feed this modern YA fairytale. Even grown humans can enjoyably surf the hormonal (but PG-rated) UST wave to the end of the couple's story — as well as ride other imaginatively romantic entries in Parker's 'Kiss' series of Laele Fractured Folktales including *Rell's Kiss* (Cinderella) and *Nani's Kiss* (Beauty and the Beast)."

—Ida Yoshinaga, assistant professor,  
LMC

**The Cold Embrace and Other Ghost Stories**

By Mary Elizabeth Braddon

"There are many dark and uncanny Victorian ghost stories perfect for this season. Mary Elizabeth Braddon, who was a bestselling author of the period, wrote several popular sensational novels and ghost stories. I recommend two pieces by Braddon that address ghostly and vampiric themes. 'The Cold Embrace' is a chilling short story about ghostly revenge in which a young aristocratic man is haunted by his former fiancée. 'Good Lady Ducayne,' which has vampiric elements, is about an elderly woman who is fixated upon youthfulness and (with the help of her doctor) drains the blood of her young caregiver. Braddon wrote over 100 novels and short stories so there are many to choose from. She is best known for her novels, *Lady Audley's Secret* and *Aurora Floyd* (both are page turners full of plot twists and turns), and I would recommend those as well as her creepier short stories."

—Narin Hassan, associate professor  
and director of Graduate Studies for  
M.S.-Global Media and Cultures

