



# THE WHISTLE

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH • November 8, 2021

**GT** Georgia Tech.  
Vol. 46, No. 23  
whistle.gatech.edu

## Federal Executive Order for Covid-19 Vaccine

A recent Federal Executive Order will require most federal contractors, including federal contractors within the University System of Georgia, to comply with Covid-19 guidance from the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force.



Under this guidance, federal contractors must ensure that all employees covered under the Executive Order, including those working remotely, are fully vaccinated.

Georgia Tech does work on federal contracts and is subject to the provisions of this order.

Georgia Tech is notifying all employees who fall into categories for which a vaccine is required. Vaccines will be available at Georgia Tech for covered employees.

Learn more at [health.gatech.edu/vaccine-executive-order](https://health.gatech.edu/vaccine-executive-order).

## Charitable Campaign Is Still Open

### Accepting Contributions Through Nov. 16

VICTOR ROGERS  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Whether it provides groceries to a family in need or feeds an animal in a shelter — every dollar donated to the Georgia State Charitable Contributions

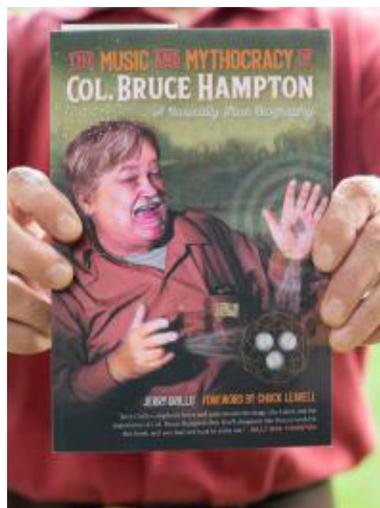
see **CAMPAIGN**, page 3

# Meet Jerry Grillo: Lifelong Storyteller

VICTOR ROGERS  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Jerry Grillo is a lifelong communicator. He wrote for his high school newspaper, studied journalism in college, worked for years as a newspaper reporter, sportswriter, and editor, and spent another 15 years as an editor for *Georgia Trend* magazine before joining Georgia Tech as a research communications officer and writer in 2014.

“My job is kind of like working for the community news service of an institution of tens of thousands



Photos by Allison Carter

see **GRILLO**, page 4

Jerry Grillo is a research writer on campus. He also recently published his first book.

# Ethics Week Returns With Community Engagement Events

KRISTEN BAILEY  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

One of Georgia Tech's core values, "We act ethically," guides our priorities every day. But Ethics Awareness Week puts a spotlight on that value and the ways we engage ethically around campus.

This year's events, taking place Nov. 8–12, will be a mix of scheduled in-person, virtual, and hybrid events, daily ethics IQ questions, and in-person ethics tables around campus. Experts from the Veterans Resource Center, the LGBTQIA Resource Center, Ethicx, and the Alumni Association, among others, will join the Office of Ethics and Compliance to showcase ethics in a variety of contexts.

Kara Tucker, lead counsel and director of Ethics and Compliance in the Office of the General Counsel, said partnering with campus departments helped create a diverse schedule of events that provides an opportunity for everyone to engage.

"As an organization whose mission is to develop leaders in our students, faculty, and staff, we know that leading ethically is a critical component. A leader is anyone who influences others, and we aim to create leaders who not only act ethically, but also influence others to act ethically."

View a full list of the



week's events and chances to win door prizes at [ethicsfirst.gatech.edu/ethicsweek](https://ethicsfirst.gatech.edu/ethicsweek).

A few events to look forward to:

- Game Time Mashup With Executive Leadership:** President Ángel Cabrera and Executive Vice Presidents Steven McLaughlin, Chaouki Abdallah, and Kelly Fox will go head-to-head playing familiar games with an ethical twist. Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m. Register to attend.
- Sticker Blitz With the Ramblin' Wreck:** Visit the Ramblin' Wreck, take photos, collect vinyl stickers, and receive Ethics First giveaways. Nov. 8, 11 a.m., Exhibition Hall. No registration required.
- A "Google Chat" With Google's Chief Compliance Officer, Spyro Karetzos:** Keynote speaker Spyro Karetzos, chief compliance officer at Google, will offer insight about expectations and best practices at Google. Nov. 9, 10 a.m. Register to attend.
- Preparing Future Leaders for Ethical Challenges:** An interdisciplinary panel of faculty in biological sciences, civil and environmental engineering, business, and public policy discusses teaching ethics and preparing students for ethical dilemmas in their careers. Nov. 10, 11 a.m. Register to attend.
- Gender Equity From the Perspective of Military Leadership:** Examine gender equality and equity in the military through the experiences of two U.S. military members and current Georgia Tech students. They will discuss gender bias and equity, stereotypes, sexism, and how these challenges affect veterans transitioning to civilian life. Nov. 12, 12:30 p.m. Register to attend.

All in-person and hybrid events will have giveaways and beverages or light refreshments.

This year, Ethics Awareness Week coincides with the annual online compliance training that is required of all employees. The four training modules must be completed by Nov. 19 in the Georgia Tech Learner Dashboard.

Learn more about ethics at Georgia Tech at [ethicsfirst.gatech.edu](https://ethicsfirst.gatech.edu).



**THE WHISTLE**

WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH

Editor: Kristen Bailey  
Copy Editor: Stacy Braukman  
Photographers: Allison Carter, 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.



Photo by Michael Goodisman

Yellow jackets exhibit extreme social behavior.

## Yellow Jacket Nests Being Collected for Campus Research

Georgia Tech Researchers Study Highly Social Behavior of Yellow Jackets

KRISTEN BAILEY  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Fall is yellow jacket season. Not football or basketball, but the time of year when colonies of yellow jackets — the insects — reach their maximum size. It's also when Professor Michael Goodisman and the Goodisman Research Group collect their nests.

"We typically collect nests for a month or so beginning in late October, which is prime time for collecting. The colonies usually die off around Thanksgiving, and are completely dead by Christmas — although climate change may be moving the dates," said Goodisman, associate professor in the School of Biological Sciences.

Goodisman is asking those in the Tech community to contact him ([michael.goodisman@biology.gatech.edu](mailto:michael.goodisman@biology.gatech.edu)) if they have a yellow jacket nest in their area. He and his

team will come out and collect the nest for their research. (Historically, his nests have primarily been collected from placing a classified ad in *The Whistle*.)

Humans usually cross paths with the yellow jackets' underground nests a couple of times a year. The first is between April and June, when people tend to mow their lawns frequently. The second is fall, when it's time to rake leaves.

"Yellow jackets are particularly aggressive this time of year," said Goodisman, whose team collects the insects alive, albeit somewhat sedated. The underground nests typically have a single hole, about the size of a silver dollar, for entering and exiting.

"We pour a little bit of anesthetic into the hole. It does the same thing to them that it does to us — it knocks them out," Goodisman said. "Then we try to dig up the nest very quickly before they come to. We pull the nest out and bring it back to the lab."

*This story has been edited for length. Read the full story at [c.gatech.edu/jackets](https://c.gatech.edu/jackets).*

### CAMPAIGN, from page 1

Program (GASCCP) helps a worthy cause. The GASCCP is a benefit for state of Georgia and University System employees that allows contributions to their charity of choice through payroll deductions or a one-time donation. The campaign is open through Nov. 16.

Since beginning in mid-September, Georgia Tech's charitable campaign has raised more than \$118,477.80 (71.8% of the goal), with 424 participants (59.1% of the goal). Since 2017, an average of 717 Tech employees have participated in the campaign each year.

There are more than 700 local, state, and national nonprofit organizations to which you can contribute. You can support cancer research, provide food and shelter to the hungry and homeless, or assist children learning to read — along with hundreds of other ways to make a difference.

#### To contribute:

- Log in to OneUSG Connect and select "Make SCCP Contribution" on the "State Charitable Contributions Program" button in the upper left of the Employee Self Service screen.
- Select "Make Charitable Campaign Pledge" and follow the instructions.
- Choose "Payroll Deduction" to set up the amount you choose to pledge in equal installments. Deductions will begin in January 2022.
- If you would rather download a pledge form, you can complete it and submit with your check to your unit ambassador or to Erick Maxwell, the campaign chair, at mail code 0866. (Visit [gascpp.org/search-charities](https://gascpp.org/search-charities) to access the State Charitable Contributions Program search tool where you can locate approved charities and their six-digit codes, which must be included on the pledge form.)



If you have questions, contact your unit ambassador or email the campaign team at [charitable@gatech.edu](mailto:charitable@gatech.edu).

**GRILLO**, from page 1

of people with a bunch of alumni and students who are all interested in what's happening at Georgia Tech," Grillo said. "So, in many ways I have approached it the same way I did other jobs I've had, which were community news oriented."

He covers stories for the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering and for the office of the executive vice president for Research. He said his approach to writing is the same as his previous writing jobs in some ways, but the result and the goal are very different.

"We're not out just covering the news," Grillo said. "We take a journalistic approach to telling our stories, both those targeting our own community here at Georgia Tech, and those stories that are about Georgia Tech that we think are interesting to a wider audience. We always hope the media finds them interesting enough so that our story about, say, Alzheimer's research will be picked up by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Science Daily*, or some other news outlet."

The process of going live with a story isn't the same as it was when he was a magazine editor, said Grillo, who thinks of his writing for Georgia Tech as a hybrid between journalism and marketing. And what he's marketing is scientific research, so there is a real collaborative process involved in getting it right.

"I want my sources to read what I write, especially when I'm talking to researchers who are working on biomolecular physics and the sort of topics that are over my head. I want to make sure I get it correct, and make sure they have a chance to review it so we have the science right," he said.

The most rewarding part of his work is when he puts the final touches on a story and sends it to the researchers involved for approval. He enjoys the camaraderie and the Georgia Tech environment that fosters creativity. The most challenging part of his job is "going to school" for almost every story.

"It's a 'brain melting exercise,'" he joked. "I'm reshaping my brain to be a

better brain each month. One week I'm doing a story on a researcher creating nanocarriers to deliver RNA drugs to a brain tumor. The next week I'm working on a story about how the chemistry in the liver works to process drugs," he said. "I'm not a scientist and was never trained as a scientist. So, that's a challenge, and it's one I welcome."

**Away From Work**

Grillo and his wife Jane have a 34-year-old daughter, Samantha, and a 20-year-old son, Joseph. Jane works for the school system as a parent mentor for the special education community and is a full-time disability advocate.

Grillo occasionally writes freelance stories and his first book, a biography of legendary guitarist and bandleader Bruce Hampton, was published recently. It's a project that took eight years to complete.

"I took my time," he said. "The first six years were mostly interviews and information gathering." In total he interviewed 150 of Hampton's bandmates, family, friends, and fans, and quoted about 90 of them in the book.

*The Music and Mythocracy of Col. Bruce Hampton: A Basically True Biography* (University of Georgia Press, 2021) talks about Hampton's life and career, including how he died in 2017 — on stage at the Fox Theatre during an encore at his 70th birthday celebration. Released in April, it will debut as an audiobook in November.

"I knew Bruce well enough to know that he could hold the attention of everyone in the room, and he would tell stories accordingly. He was the classic southern storyteller," Grillo said.

He added that writing the book was quite a departure from his other work because it "required a lot of discipline that I typically don't have. When I'm off work, I like to be off work. I hang out with my family and do other things. But this work was never-ending."

The experience taught Grillo that he can take a complex, meandering subject and boil it down to its essence without losing anything.

"That seemed like the real trick," he said. "Along the way, I learned that I'm a pretty good writer."



## In Memoriam

### Anne Clough

*The following message is shared on behalf of G. Wayne Clough, Georgia Tech's 10th president.*

Dear Friends of Anne Clough:

I am saddened to inform you that my wife, best friend, and companion of 59 years, Anne Robinson Clough, passed away in her sleep on October 30th, 2021. The cause of death was cancer. She died in our home in Big Canoe, Georgia, a place she loved because of its beauty and embrace of nature.

Anne was a remarkable person. She filled her 79 years of life with love and joy. We both agreed that we were among the luckiest people in the world. Including me, her husband, she is survived by her son Matthew Clough and his wife Ann-Marie Clore, her daughter Eliza Clough Pritchett and her husband Blaine Pritchett, and four grandchildren, Madeline Clough, Bridget Clough, Jake Pritchett, and Carter Pritchett.

According to her wishes, her body will be cremated. Later, there will be a celebration of life ceremony in Atlanta near the Georgia Tech campus. This will be announced when appropriate.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Anne Robinson Clough Promise Scholarship Fund in care of the Georgia Tech Foundation, 760 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30308.

—Wayne Clough