



THE WHISTLE

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What to Read During Winter Break

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

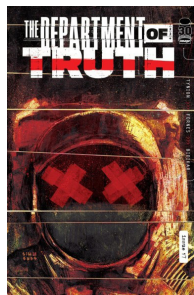
The weather outside may be frightful but snuggling with a good book sounds delightful. What should you read?

We asked several Georgia Tech Library staff members for recommendations. The books range from a graphic novel series on how disinformation can become reality to a memoir by longtime *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek.

The Department of Truth

By James Tynion IV,
author, and Martin
Simmonds, artist,
Image Comics
(2021 and ongoing)

“Cole Turner has always been a bit of a conspiracy theorist: JFK assassination, lizard people, shadowy government superagencies, and the like. He had no idea that he was right. This ongoing graphic novel series details what goes on when Cole gets recruited into the government agency that helps determine what reality is. This series is a dystopian contemporary science fiction take on how disinformation can become reality — and it is both farfetched and a little too real. The



see **BOOKS**, page 3



Photo courtesy of Kelsey Gulledge

Fellow NASA Social attendee Kate Gunderson, a 2018 Georgia Tech graduate, and Kelsey Gulledge (right) get a closer look at Artemis.

Go for Launch

Employee gets front row seat to shuttle launch.

KELSEY GULLEDGE
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

After two failed attempts, Artemis I successfully launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC) on Nov. 16. Kelsey Gulledge, communications manager for the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, was on site for the historic launch.

Selected as a NASA Social program attendee, Gulledge was among 100 people from across the globe invited to tour NASA facilities, meet and greet NASA engineers and scientists, and view the launch of the Space Launch Systems (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft.

Gulledge chronicles her three visits to the space coast, where she ran into

a few Yellow Jackets along the way.

Failure to Launch

My first trip to “the Cape” began a day prior to the scheduled launch. Day one included tours, meetings, and exclusive access to NASA content. My group included about 100 scientists, engineers, photographers, videographers, communicators, influencers, artists, the Harlem Globetrotters, lovers of space, and everything in between.

We met with two current NASA astronauts and also heard from NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy, and Associate Administrator Bob Cabana.

see **LAUNCH**, page 2

LAUNCH, from page 1

I was amazed that they took so much time to meet with our group and pose for photos during a very busy and hectic week at NASA. We toured the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB), the launchpad, and got up close and personal with the crawler that drove SLS between the two locations.

On launch day, we loaded into our buses at the KSC Visitor Complex at 1:30 a.m. We had a pretty stellar view. From our vantage point at the VAB, we were just 4.2 miles from launchpad 39B.

The NASA merchandise shop and food trucks kept everyone occupied and awake as we counted down to the scheduled 8:22 a.m. launch time.

As liftoff neared, we anxiously listened to the reports coming in from mission control — it wasn't looking good. Although we saw a beautiful sunrise, we would soon learn that the launch was scrubbed due to a hydrogen bleed line with one of the rocket's four core stage engines.

Round Two

I arrived back at the Cape on a Friday night, with instructions to report to the NASA press site at 6 a.m. on Saturday. Our original group of 100 fell to about 50 due to work obligations, Covid-19, financial limits, and a slew of other logistical hurdles. It was like going back to adult space camp without the whole crew.

As we waited outside the VAB, we saw the sunrise and were anxiously checking the broadcasts and launch updates. After a few hours, the feeling of another scrub set in because of a leaky fuel line in one of the propellant tanks.

Just after the scrub was announced, astronaut Doug “Wheels” Wheelock, a Georgia Tech aerospace engineering alumnus, visited us. Small world! He shared stories about his journey



Photo courtesy of Kelsey Gullledge

Gullledge and Doug “Wheels” Wheelock outside the VAB.

of becoming an astronaut, and how watching Neil Armstrong walk on the Moon and Apollo 11 had fueled him to pursue his dreams.

Third Time's the Charm

Once the new date was set, I made my way back to Florida. At this point, I was a KSC regular. I set up my camera and grabbed a good seat right outside of the VAB. The wait began for the 1:47 a.m. launch.

The countdown stopped at T-10 minutes due to a leak and, yet again, the feeling of another scrub crept into our minds. Crew members worked to fix the issue and just like that, we heard that the countdown would resume at T-10 minutes.

Everyone was buzzing with excitement as the clock inched past 1:37 a.m. My heart was racing, and the energy was electric. We were finally going to, as the kids say, “light this candle.”

Moments from history, we were playing the broadcast audio and getting closer to “all systems go.” At T-10 seconds, the group became quiet. Then a voice in the dark shouted “any second now!” And then the thrusters ignited

and what could only be described as a second sun was rising right before us. We could feel the heat of the flames as the rocket started to lift off.

We cheered and screamed and shed a few tears as we watched in amazement. About 18 seconds later, the sound hit us. Doug Bradley was correct: it was a “multisense” experience. The rocket gave off a familiar sound of a jet flying overhead, but quickly turned into a rattling sound of firework explosions that somehow grew louder and louder. We could feel the sound. It was easily the loudest thing I've ever heard.

Artemis moved further and further away, as did the sound and heat, but everyone still stared. We had finally witnessed the start of the Artemis generation. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I still haven't been able to fully grasp. The next Artemis missions will feature a crew of astronauts including the first woman and person of color who will walk on the moon, and I can't help but think of the kids who — like Wheels — are now inspired to pursue their dreams.

We are going. And we are going together.



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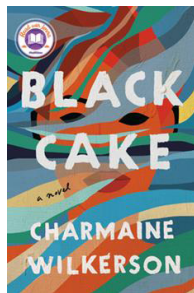
first three trade collections are currently out and will make quick reading for those without lots of spare time over the break.”

—John Mack Freeman,
head of public services librarian

Black Cake

By Charmaine Wilkerson, Ballantine Books (2022)

“Estranged siblings Benny and Byron reunite when their mother passes away, leaving them just two things: an eight-hour voice recording (and a stipulation that they must listen to the whole thing together, in the presence of their family lawyer), and a black cake (a traditional Caribbean dessert).



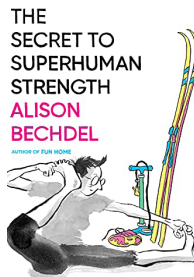
Listening together, they hear the story of a determined Caribbean girl named Covey who loves to swim. They learn long-kept family secrets, turning what they thought they knew about their mother on its head. This evocative and beautifully written story traces the extraordinary journey of a family forever changed by the choices of its matriarch.”

—Alex McGee, university archivist

The Secret to Superhuman Strength

By Alison Bechdel, Mariner Books (2021)

“What compels some of us to time every mile we run, track our resting heart rate, or buy the coolest new workout gear? Alison Bechdel’s incisive, funny *The Secret to Superhuman Strength* is a memoir focused on exercise and the aging body. Anyone who takes an obsessive interest in a sports hobby only to pick up a new favorite a few years later will see themselves



affectionately skewered here. Bechdel’s illustrations are lovely and sardonic; the details and small gags throughout reward repeat readings.”

—Liz Holdsworth, librarian for STEM disciplines and digital learning objects

The Guest List

By Lucy Foley, William Morrow (2020)

“This mystery novel is set on an island off the coast of Ireland with a cast of characters thrown together for a wedding. The characters narrate chapters from their own perspective, and their complex web of relationships is revealed while the plot advances. As the festivities begin, old resentments, feelings, and traditions begin to surface, and eventually someone turns up dead. This novel reads like a classic Agatha Christie novel — full of clues and a bit dark, yet cozy.”



—Catherine Mancini,
public programming and
community engagement specialist

The Midnight Library

By Matt Haig, New York: Viking (2020)

“*The Midnight Library* tells the story of Nora Seed, a woman who may be at the end of a life full of regrets and resentments. Before she goes, however, she passes through a liminal space full of books (overseen by a librarian) that tell the story of her life’s choices and how things might have otherwise turned out. The librarian acts as a spirit guide, but at heart, she is a true librarian — not giving Nora the answer but providing the tools Nora needs to find her own way toward happiness.”



—Marlee Givens,
librarian for modern languages and
Library learning consultant

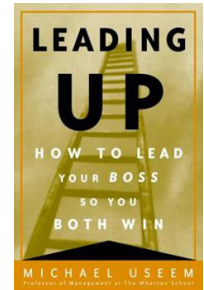
Leading Up: How to Lead Your Boss So You Both Win

By Michael Useem, Soft Cover: Three Rivers Press, Hard Cover: Crown Business (2001)

“This book explores the role of leadership from several different levels. The author uses historical events that most readers would be familiar with, such as the Rwandan genocide, and cleverly weaves them into a compelling leadership story and coaching session

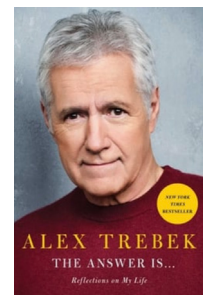
The complete disconnect between the front line in Kigali and the executive suite in New York was a reminder that getting an unwanted message up to the top can be one of the most challenging but also one of the most important actions for the upward leader.”

—Garth Milford,
IT service delivery manager

**The Answer Is...: Reflections on My Life**

By Alex Trebek, Simon & Schuster (2020)

“The book is a quick and easy read and touches on everything about Alex Trebek’s life. It includes lots of photographs and short chapters on life, humility, courage, conscience, camaraderie, teamwork, work-life balance, and of course, *Jeopardy!* Trebek delicately managed the art of writing an engaging memoir on his life, even with his own impending mortality. His writing is humorous, philosophical, optimistic, self-effacing, and engaging. The audience will enjoy reading his stories about celebrities (Queen Elizabeth), *Jeopardy!* champions, and his favorite books (by Bronte and Maugham). It is a real treat for



BOOKS, from page 4

Jeopardy! and non-*Jeopardy!* fans alike.”

—Anu Moorthy, electronic resources librarian

Robert L. Jordan Jr., facility manager for the Library and Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, recommended two books:

Read Until You Understand: The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature

By Farah Jasmine Griffin, W.W. Norton & Company (2021)

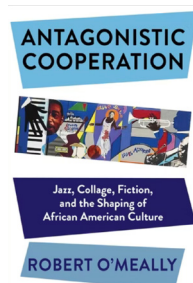
“This, by far, has been my favorite read of the year. The journey that these 10 chapters take you on, as Professor Griffin recounts her personal story of growing up in Philadelphia and providing insights and lessons from the Black American writers, is amazing. In the introduction she writes, ‘This book begins with a girl and ends with grace. Along the way, through a combination of memoir and readings of African American literature, it touches upon the question of mercy, the elusive quest for justice, the prevalence of beauty, even in the presence of death and throughout, hope in the face of despair.’ I enjoyed this book because it gives insight through the readings of literature and music on the themes that we face and struggle with daily. Not only read until you understand, but also listen.”



Antagonistic Cooperation: Jazz, Collage, Fiction, and the Shaping of African American Culture

By Robert O'Meally, Columbia University Press (2022)

“Although this book deals with a little heavier subject matter, I still found it entertaining and informative. Professor O'Meally explains how the concept of antagonistic cooperation is modeled in jazz performance through friendly competition, challenge, and support to create beautiful musical experiences. Through the works of artists such as Romare Bearden and Jean-Michel Basquiat, the literature of Ralph Ellison and Toni Morrison, and the music of Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, he provides illuminating examples of antagonistic cooperation. When we face challenges when cooperating with others as colleagues and leaders, antagonistic cooperation can help us to grow, develop, and mature. Through the author's eyes, ‘antagonistic cooperation’ is a form of community building competition and coordination with a jazz player's spirit of love.”



Spring Dates Set for Special Events

Mark your calendar! The following is a schedule of major Institute events for the Spring 2023 semester. Additional details for each event can be found at specialevents.gatech.edu.

When the Whistle Blows

Thursday, April 6

Reception, Invite only
Bill Moore Student Success Center
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

Ceremony
Harrison Square
5:15 – 6 p.m.

Student Honors Celebration

Wednesday, April 19

Historic Academy of Medicine
5 – 5:45 p.m.

Faculty and Staff Honors Celebration

Friday, April 21

Midtown Ballroom, Exhibition Hall
Lunch, 11:30 a.m. – noon
Program, noon – 1 p.m.

President's Graduation Celebration

Friday, May 5

Tech Green
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Spring Commencement

Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6

Ceremony times will be set in mid-January

Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage

To be announced