



The Whistle

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Pfizer Covid-19 Vaccine Gets Full FDA Approval

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

If you've been hesitant to get the Covid-19 vaccine and a reason for that hesitancy has been that vaccine approval came through an Emergency Use Authorization, there is an important development to consider. Earlier this week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave full approval to the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for people ages 16 and older — the very same vaccine administered by Stamps Health Services since January 2021.



Photo by Christopher Moore

Quinae Ford, president of the Georgia Tech Staff Council, displays the sticker Tech employees get after receiving the Covid-19 vaccine on campus.

The Pfizer vaccine has proven to be effective at preventing severe illness,

and the recent full FDA approval supports this finding. Data across the U.S.

show that new hospitalizations and deaths due to the virus variants are associated almost entirely with unvaccinated individuals.

As a reminder, if you are unvaccinated and are exposed to someone with Covid-19, you will be subject to quarantine per current Georgia Department of Public Health guidelines. And, if you are unvaccinated, you are at risk of contracting Covid-19 and infecting others, with potentially severe consequences for you or

see **VACCINE**, page 3

Institute Address Set for This Week

Thursday, Sept. 2
11 a.m.

Room 152, Clough Commons,
and online at president.gatech.edu

During the Institute Address, President Ángel Cabrera will highlight recent Institute achievements, convey his vision and goals for the upcoming academic year, and answer audience questions. The campus community is invited to join in person or watch live on president.gatech.edu.

Email your questions in advance to townhall@gatech.edu. Questions should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 31.



12 FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE REGENTS RECOGNITION



The University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BOR) appointed 12 Georgia Tech faculty members to Regents Professors and Regents Researchers. This is the highest faculty honor bestowed by the USG. Regents Professors and Regents Researchers with new appointments or reappointments this year include (Top row, L-R): Amy Bruckman, John Cressler, Greg Gibson, David Gottfried, Ajay Kohli, and Tim Lieuwen. (Bottom row, L-R): Glenn Parker, Michael Rodgers, Catherine Ross, David Sherrill, Gregory Showman, and John Stasko.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Omar Asensio, assistant professor in the School of Public Policy, has been named to the 2021-23 New Voices Cohort of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The Academies chose Asensio and 21 other early to mid-career experts (within 10-12 years of their Ph.D.) from among nearly 300 applicants for this honor.

School of Interactive Computing joint Associate Professor **Neha Kumar** was elected president of the Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction

for 2021-24. She will serve a three-year term for the group, which is the premier international society for professionals and academics interested in human-computer interaction.

The international Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience organization, which supports neuroscience research and education, named **Christina Ragan** as the winner of its 2020 Carol Ann Paul Neuroscience Educator of the Year Award. Ragan has been a lecturer of biology and the director of outreach for Georgia Tech's

B.S. in neuroscience program since January of this year.

A National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee will study Current Methods for Life Cycle Analyses of Low-Carbon Transportation Fuels in the U.S. 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.

PUT ON YOUR HARD HAT



Rendering

The Student Center transformation will be complete in Fall 2022. Don't wait until then to get familiar with the space. Join the Student Center team every other week on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. for a group hardhat tour of the site. You'll get an exclusive look inside the construction site to learn more about the project and what will be in the new space. Sign up at c.gatech.edu/hardhattour. If you have questions or concerns about tours or availability, contact Jalen Teal at jalen.teal@stucen.gatech.edu.

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someone else.

If you have questions or concerns about vaccination, you should discuss them with your healthcare provider, or any member of our Stamps Health Services team led by Dr. Ben Holton, senior director. Getting vaccinated at Georgia Tech is easy and free.

Beginning Aug. 31, vaccines will be offered at Stamps Health Services. Hours of operation will be:

- Sept. 7–10 and Sept. 13–17 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 21.

Parking will be provided in the W02 deck. Make your appointment today at mytest.gatech.edu.



USG Offers Leave Time for Vaccinations

To encourage unvaccinated University System of Georgia (USG) employees to schedule their Covid-19 vaccine appointment by Dec. 31, 2021, and to thank those who are already vaccinated, the USG will provide employees with eight hours of administrative leave. This leave is in lieu of and aligns with Governor Kemp's Vaccination Day closing of state offices on Sept. 3, 2021.

All employees are eligible to request eight hours of administrative leave, regardless of whether they previously received the Covid-19 vaccine. No proof of vaccination is necessary or required to use this leave.

Additionally, Georgia Tech employees may take up to eight hours of leave time to receive the Covid-19 vaccine through Non-Closure Emergency Leave. Learn more about criteria and how to take this leave at hr.gatech.edu/using-leave-covid-19-vaccination.

When and How to Register Youth Programs

SALLY ROBERTSON
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

It's back-to-school season for the Georgia Tech community and the greater Atlanta area, and minors are excited to participate in the many youth programs and extracurricular activities that Georgia Tech has to offer.

Last year, many programs successfully pivoted to a virtual setting due to the pandemic and turned out to be a great success. This year, some programs plan to return to an in-person setting, while others plan to continue the success that was found in a virtual setting.

Regardless of whether the program is in-person or virtual, the Youth Programs Policy still applies. Below are the requirements for hosting a youth program.

For more information and resources on youth programs, visit youthprograms.gatech.edu. If you have questions, contact Sally Robertson at sally.robertson@carnegie.gatech.edu.

All Youth Programs Require:

Registration Form

- The registration form must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to the start of the program.
- The registration form can be found on the youth programs website.

Background Checks

- Background checks are run through HR.
- They are required for all those in direct contact with minors.
- Even in an online setting, a videoconference or an email are still considered direct contact.

Training

- Training is administered through Canvas for employees and through the Training Request form for students and non-employees.
- Training is required for all those in direct contact with minors.

Staff and Volunteer Code of Conduct

- All staff and volunteers, whether in

direct contact or not, are required to sign the Staff and Volunteer Code of Conduct.

- There is a separate code of conduct specifically for virtual programs.

Mandatory Reporter

- The mandatory reporter requirements apply for virtual and in-person programs. If you see something, say something.

Supervision Ratios

- Virtual programs use the Rule of Three, meaning there are always at least three people present with the minor(s): one child and two adults.
- In-person programs must use the American Camp Association Supervision Ratios.

Parental Release Form

- For all programs, every participant must have a parent or guardian sign and complete the parental release form.

WELCOME, NEW YELLOW JACKETS



Photos by Allison Carter

Georgia Tech's newest class was officially welcomed to campus on Sunday, Aug. 22, at New Student Convocation (above). In the spring, summer, and fall of 2021, Georgia Tech welcomed 4,876 students, including 100 more first-year students from Georgia than last year. Undergraduate Admission also increased dual enrollment and transfer enrollment. Read more about the first-year class at news.gatech.edu. New graduate students will be welcomed at Graduate Student Convocation on Wednesday, Sept. 1.