

December 11, 2017

Georgia Tech's Faculty/Staff Newspaper • Vol. 42, No. 25 • whistle.gatech.edu

# **A FINAL FLING**



Snow unexpectedly canvassed the campus on Friday, Dec. 8. Students built a snowman to accompany Einstein. To plan ahead for future winter weather, review some suggestions from Emergency Preparedness at c.gatech.edu/winterweather.

# **University System Honors Tech Staff Members**

KRISTEN BAILEY INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech employees take the Institute's motto of "Progress and Service" seriously. This year,

two individuals and two teams were honored by the University System of Georgia (USG) for dedication to excellence and service to the campus community and beyond.

The ceremony for the annual USG Chancellor's Service Excellence Awards took place Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Georgia State University Stadium. The annual awards program honors faculty and staff members from the USG's 28 colleges and universities.

#### **Outstanding Individuals**

Lisa Safstrom, campus transportation planner, earned the Silver Outstanding Individual Award. Safstrom came to Tech in 2013 and oversees alternative transportation, commute options, and related programs for Parking and Transportation Services.

"Lisa remains dedicated to continued process improvements and implementing programs that encourage clean commuting travel options," said Sherry Davidson, director of business operations in Parking and Transportation Services. "She represents qualities that Georgia Tech values such as innovation, leadership, and improved service."

Safstrom's favorite part of working at Tech is channeling her passion for sustainable, active transportation options to support the Institute's motto of Progress and Service.

"The people I work with are fantastic, and I enjoy the collaboration my job entails with different departments and constituencies," she said.

Sirocus Barnes earned the Bronze Outstanding Individual Award. In his role at Georgia Tech, Barnes oversees the Horizons Program in CEISMC, which provides educational enrichment in math and reading for underserved children.

"Sirocus is committed to making a lasting impact and influence on the next generation of leaders," said William Jimerson, educational outreach coordi-

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GEEK

HERESY

# **5 Things to Read during Winter Break**

VICTOR ROGERS INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Read any good books lately? Well, the winter break may be your chance.

We asked several members of the Tech community for recommendations. The books range from a tale in which a record listening group's strict rules result in factions and chaos to an edgy trilogy in which much of humanity is wiped out by a virus, and a few colonies hold out against the infected masses.

### The Forensic Records Society

### By Magnus Mills, Bloomsbury (2017)

"Magnus Mills writes his novels in succinct language, and his protagonists are regular blokes in the U.K. Two friends convince their local pub owner to allow a

through 8th-grade children

more at:

whose parents are Tech faculty, staff, or

crc.gatech.edu/tech-wreck-break-camp

students. Registration begins in January. Learn

record listening group to hold meetings in an empty room on Monday nights. However, the strict rules of the club spawn other groups, and chaos ensues.

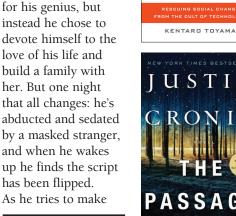
This short novel will require at least two readings: one to understand the plot, and later, to divine the deeper meaning of technology and new connections to others."

> —Isabel Altamirano, Engineering and Chemistry Librarian

**Dark Matter** By Blake Crouch, Broadway Books (2016)

"This sci-fi thriller from the writer behind the popular Wayward Pines trilogy plays like a blockbuster movie in your mind with its tightly paced plot and existential scares. Facing a choice early in his professional life, a brilliant physicist could have focused all his energies advancing his career and being celebrated





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Registration Opens Soon for 2018 Camps Tech Wreck Summer Camp is a day camp offered for 1st-

### Building Resilience through Loss The Resilience Employee

The Resilience Employee Resource Group is hosting two upcoming sessions about coping with the loss of a loved one. The sessions take place Dec. 12 and Dec. 13. Learn more about Resilience Circles or sign up at:

sdie.gatech.edu/resilience-circles





# EVENTS

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Dec. 12, 19

Flu shots are available for Tech employees at the Stamps Health Services Pharmacy from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Additional dates are available in December.

health.gatech.edu

## WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

### Jan. 9, 2018

A Research Issues Workshop for Campus Communicators will discuss research compliance and related topics specifically as they relate to the role of campus communicators. The session takes place from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Seminar Room, Research Administration Building. Register to attend at: c.gatech.edu/researchcomm

**MISCELLANEOUS** 

#### **Through Dec. 14**

Final exams will take place for the fall semester. Reading periods will take place on Dec. 6, 7, and 12.

#### Dec. 13-14

The MetroLab Network Annual Summit, in partnership with the City of Atlanta, will bring together representatives of government, research universities, and industry at the Historic Academy of Medicine. metrolabnetwork.org

**Dec. 16** 

End of fall semester term.

#### **Dec. 17**

Men's Basketball hosts Florida A&M at 4 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion. ramblinwreck.com

**Dec. 19** 

Grades available online at 6 p.m. **registrar.gatech.edu** 

#### **Dec. 19**

Women's Basketball hosts Charleston Southern at 7 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion. ramblinwreck.com

#### **Dec. 21**

Women's Basketball hosts Southern Mississippi at noon at McCamish Pavilion.

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ramblinwreck.com

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# Actualizing the Dream: The Future of Nonviolent Protest

The commemoration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is an annual celebration at Georgia Tech. This year's slate of programming includes educational programs, service opportunities, arts, and more. For more information about the events or to register to attend, visit **diversity.gatech.edu/mlk-celebration-events**.

# MLK LECTURE: Actualizing the Dream: The Future of Nonviolent Political Protest

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018 3 p.m., Student Center Ballroom

Joy-Ann Reid, national correspondent for MSNBC and author of *Fracture: Barack Obama, the Clintons, and the Racial Divide*, will discuss the future of Dr. King's legacy and vision of a beloved community, achieved through nonviolent principles.

#### **OPEN MIC: Creating a Beloved Community**

*Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018* 7 *p.m., Under the Couch (Second Floor, Student Center)* This event will be a creative expression of social justice through open mic performances.

#### FOCUS PROGRAM

Jan. 11–14, 2018 Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center Focus is one of the nation's premier programs for raising awareness of graduate education. It is designed to attract the brightest underrepresented minority students and encourage them to pursue graduate degrees at Georgia Tech.

#### MLK Day of Service Monday, Jan. 15, 2018

8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Student Center Ballroom This campuswide initiative honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. Participants will serve in teams and engage in service projects with metro Atlanta community partners. Registration and event details can be found at **engage.gatech.edu**.

#### **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Commemorative Service** *Monday, Jan.* 15, 2018 10 a.m., Ebenezer Baptist Church

Sponsored by The King Center, this annual church service is an ecumenical endeavor, engaging members of various religious traditions and state, national, and international governments. This year, 20 spaces will be available to the Georgia Tech community through the MLK Day of Service program.

# CAMPUSWIDE STUDENT CELEBRATION: Actualizing the Dream: Creating A Beloved Community

*Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018* 7 *p.m., Student Center Ballroom* This celebration will feature student speeches, cultural performances, and a candle-lighting ceremony for student organizations. Reception to follow.

# MLK "SUNDAY" SUPPER: A Community Meal and Conversation *Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018*

6–8 p.m., President's Suites, Bill Moore Student Success Center Come together over a meal and engage in meaningful dialogue about the MLK Celebration events, Dr. King's legacy, and the future of nonviolent political protests. There are 100 spaces available.

## **50 ACTS FOR MLK** Jan. 22–26. 2018

### Georgia Tech Campus

50 Acts for MLK is a week-long student event for committing acts of kindness and appreciation in the name of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. across the Georgia Tech campus. More information can be found at the Georgia Tech MLK Student

Board Facebook page at facebook.com/gtmlksb.

#### ACTUALIZING THE DREAM: THE ROLE OF HIP-HOP IN POLITICAL PROTEST

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 6 p.m., Ferst Center for the Arts

Award-winning author and professor Bettina Love will discuss the origin of hip-hop and its role in activism of the past and present in our society. At the conclusion of Love's presentation, members of Georgia Tech's hip-hop community will have an exhibition performance to demonstrate what makes this genre more than just a beat, but a true international movement. This program is sponsored by the Department of Housing and Office of Student Diversity Programs.

# Staff to Participate in Comprehensive Administrative Review

RACHAEL POCKLINGTON INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As recently announced by Chancellor Steve Wrigley, all colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia (USG), as well as the system office, will be participating in a Comprehensive Administrative Review (CAR). Beginning Dec. 11, Georgia Tech will begin implementing the CAR among its staff.

"The CAR process provides an opportunity for employees to provide input on how we can improve administrative processes to enhance our ability to deliver on our teaching, research, and service mission," said President G.P. "Bud" Peterson.

When this systemwide initiative was announced last spring, Chancellor Wrigley stated that the project would be focused on creating efficiencies, streamlining processes, and finding ways to more effectively utilize USG resources. The USG is working with Huron Consulting to perform this review.

Administrative functions across the USG have been identified, and staff within each function will be selected to participate in a series of reviews as detailed below. Because the CAR initiative will focus only on nonteaching activities and roles, faculty will generally not be involved in the process.

#### **Opportunity Identification Survey**

Starting this week, an Opportunity Identification Survey will be conducted with supervisors, managers, and select groups — approximately 1,100 individuals. The goal of the Opportunity Identification Survey is to collect information on functions and processes that work well and those that present an opportunity for improved administrative effectiveness, efficiency, and best practices.

The Opportunity Identification Survey is voluntary and should take 15 minutes to complete. An email was sent on Dec. 11 to those who have been selected to participate in the survey. The survey is open from Dec. 11 to 20.

#### **Focus Groups and Interviews**

In support of the Opportunity Identification Survey, Huron Consulting will conduct on-site focus groups and interviews beginning Jan. 8, 2018.

#### Activity Assessment

In mid-January, approximately 3,600 staff employees at Tech will be asked to participate in the Activity Assessment to better understand how resources are allocated to perform the various administrative functions.

Those selected to participate should expect to receive an email on Jan. 16, 2018, with more details related to the assessment. The assessment is open from Jan. 16 to 30.

Participation in the assessment is mandatory for the selected individuals and should take, on average, 30 minutes to complete. In addition, supervisors and managers will be asked to review and validate the assessment submissions between Feb. 5 and Feb. 13, 2018.

#### Next Steps

Huron Consulting will prepare a draft report containing key findings and recommendations to deliver to Georgia Tech's leadership, as well as the USG, in Spring 2018. A final report will be generated once all 28 institutions have completed this process in 2019.

Visit the USG Comprehensive Administrative Review website for more information on the systemwide project.

Questions about Georgia Tech's participation in this process may be forwarded to **askcar@gatech.edu**.

The USG Office of Organizational Effectiveness, under Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness John Fuchko III, will manage this project. Huron Consulting has been hired to perform this assessment under the leadership of the USG and CAR Steering Committee. University of West Georgia President Kyle Marrero is the chair of the Steering Committee, which is comprised of representatives from the USG institutions, including Kim Harrington, associate vice president for Human Resources at Georgia Tech.

Editor: Kristen Bailey Photos: Rob Felt or Christopher Moore, unless noted Published biweekly throughout the year by Georgia Tech Institute Communications.

comm.gatech.edu

Calendar submissions should be emailed to **editor@comm.gatech.edu** at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. For more information, call 404-385-7061. Archives are posted at **whistle.gatech.edu**.

Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.



#### USG, from page 1

nator for CEISMC. "He prepares innovative events and programming for the students and families his program serves."

Outside his job responsibilities, Barnes also teaches GT 1000, works with the annual MLK Celebration, volunteers with his fraternity, and serves as president of Valdosta State University's Atlanta alumni chapter.

Barnes finds inspiration in a quote from Shirley Chisholm — "Service is the rent you pay for the privilege of living on this earth" — as well as in Tech's motto and his colleagues.

"I love working in a place where you have the best and brightest in their respective fields," he said.

#### **Outstanding Teams**

Georgia Tech's Complete College Georgia (CCG) initiative, led by Steven Girardot, earned the Gold Outstanding Process Improvement Award for Increasing Effectiveness and Efficiency.

CCG is a statewide initiative that began in 2012, charging all USG institutions with increasing retention and graduation rates. Under the leadership of Girardot, associate vice provost for Undergraduate Education; Sandi Bramblett, assistant vice president for Institutional Research and Enterprise Data Management; and Debbie Pearson, retention and graduation manager, Georgia Tech has seen growth in all metrics related to the program.

"Steven, Sandi, and Debbie have not only been diligent leaders in these efforts, but they are studentcentered administrators with long histories at Georgia Tech and individuals who care deeply about the individual success of each Georgia Tech student," said Colin Potts, vice provost for Undergraduate Education.

Since 2012, Georgia Tech's first-to-second-year retention rate has increased from 93 to 97 percent, and its six-year graduation rate has increased from 79 to 86 percent. Girardot credits the campus support and CCG steering committee members for



Georgia Tech staff members celebrate the Institute's honorees at the Chancellor's Service Excellence Awards ceremony on Dec. 5. (L-R) Paul Kohn, vice president for Enrollment Services; Sandi Bramblett; Colin Potts, vice provost for Undergraduate Education; Debbie Pearson; Steven Girardot; Steve Wrigley, chancellor of the University System of Georgia; E. Gerome Stephens, associate dean for Student Engagement; Lisa Safstrom; David W. Williamson, director of transportation; Kelly Cross; Juana Cunningham, senior consultant and Georgia Tech's Service Excellence Ambassador; and John Fuchko, USG vice chancellor.

#### the success.

"Designing and implementing our Complete College Georgia plan has been a true campus effort involving faculty and staff from nearly every college and unit on campus," Girardot said. "While I am proud that Tech has achieved historic high retention and graduation rates, I am even more proud that CCG has motivated the development of new resources, programs, and initiatives designed to enhance student success for all undergraduate students."

The Silver Award for Increased Service to Students went to the Student Engagement team, led by Kelly Cross, youth programs compliance specialist in Legal Affairs and Risk Management. The award was given for Cross' work in her previous role as assistant director of Student Organizations in Student Life. There, Cross implemented the use of OrgSync, an online management tool that handles registration and management for Tech's student organizations.

Cross, in partnership with E. Gerome Stephens and the Student Engagement Student Assistant Team, oversaw the research, testing, implementation, and training of the tool for its many constituents, including students, <image>

Sirocus Barnes gives instruction in an extracurricular science and technology class at Drew Charter School.

faculty, and staff.

"This process improvement is truly the perfect example of goal five of the Institute's Strategic Plan — to relentlessly pursue institutional effectiveness," said John Stein, dean of students and vice president of Student Life. "Kelly worked tirelessly to communicate, train, and support each one of our student organizations, helping them step-by-step through the implementation and helping each be successful."

Cross spent three years in Student Life before moving to her new role in Legal Affairs and Risk Management in June. She said implementing a technology solution at a technology-focused institution was a challenge, but she found support from colleagues across campus.

"I love working with people and students who work hard and are thoughtful in how they do their jobs," she said. "There's a great energy on campus at Georgia Tech. People have the space to be excited about whatever it is they're excited about and pursue it."

came to a surprise conclusion: social innovation and community processes are the solutions to difficult societal problems, not technology. The pervasive cult of technology indoctrinates us with the idea that miraculous new apps or gadgets bring social progress. This technology myopia results in fancy gizmos and repeated failures in sustainable social change. Products don't solve problems, local people do."

> —Kirk S. Bowman, Associate Chair and Jon Wilcox Term Professor of Soccer and Global Politics, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

# **EVENTS**

#### **Dec. 22**

Men's Basketball hosts Wright State at 9 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion. ramblinwreck.com

#### Dec. 25–29

Campus is closed for winter break.

#### **Dec. 27**

Men's Basketball hosts Coppin State at 7:30 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion. ramblinwreck.com

#### **Dec. 28**

Women's Basketball hosts Louisville at 7 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion. ramblinwreck.com

#### **Dec. 31**

Women's Basketball hosts Clemson at 2 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion. ramblinwreck.com

Jan. 1, 2018

Campus is closed for New Year's Day.

#### Jan. 6, 2018

Men's Basketball hosts Yale at 7 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion. Discounted faculty and staff tickets are available. c.gatech.edu/facstaffbball

#### Jan. 8, 2018

Classes begin for spring semester. Phase II registration also begins.

#### Jan. 9, 2018

Teaching assistant orientation will take place from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Peachtree Room, Student Center. ctl.gatech.edu

## COMMENCEMENT

#### **Dec. 15** Ph.D. Ceremony 9 to 11 a.m.

McCamish Pavilion

President's Graduation Celebration 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tech Tower Lawn (Weather Backup: Student Center Ballroom)

Master's Ceremony 3 to 5:30 p.m. McCamish Pavilion Tickets required.

#### Dec. 16

Bachelor's Ceremony 9 to 11:30 a.m. McCamish Pavilion Tickets required.

More information for all ceremonies is available at: commencement.gatech.edu

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit **calendar.gatech.edu**.

### BOOKS, from page 1

sense of this alternate reality and searches for his wife and son, he is forced to face the startling ramifications of the path he thought he didn't follow." —Roger Slavens, editor,

Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine

*The Miracle Morning* By Hal Elrod, Hal Elrod International Inc. (2017)

"For the past several months, I have been recommending *The Miracle Morning* due to its powerful introduction to an almost fatal accident that was life changing for author Hal Elrod. Through this experience, Elrod introduces the concept of LIFE SAVERS, 'the most effective, proven practices which combine to make up the Miracle Morning.' If you are looking for something to help jumpstart the new year, *The Miracle Morning* is a definite read!"

> --Colleen Riggle, assistant dean of students/director of Women's Resource Center

#### *The Passage* By Justin Cronin, Ballantine Books (2012)

"For those of us who need an edge on all the holiday cheer, I recommend The Passage trilogy by Justin Cronin. In the series, most of humanity is wiped out by a virus, and only a few colonies hold out against the infected masses. The novels are readable, thrilling, and humane; they're perfect for long delays at the airport or twenty minutes of stolen peace at home." —Liz Holdsworth, STEM Librarian

Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social

#### Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama, Public

Affairs (2015) "This star computer scientist

designed technology for global development for a decade and

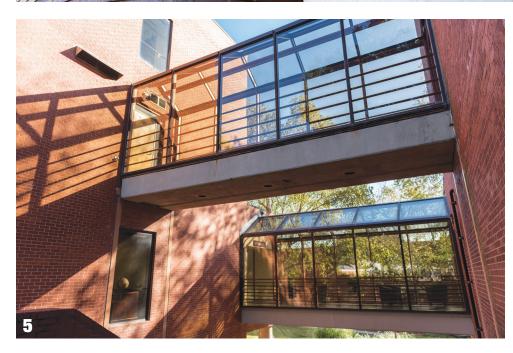








# HIDDEN GEORGIA TECH ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS, PART II





(1) Student Center Commons (2) Van Leer Building (3) West Architecture Building (4) Callaway Manufacturing Research Center (5) Bridges between the Groseclose Building and the Industrial and Systems Engineering Main Building (6) Manufacturing Related Disciplines Complex (7) Van Leer Building

Hidden Georgia Tech is a photo essay series highlighting places on campus that may largely go unnoticed but are sometimes hidden in plain sight. If you know of a place worth exploring, email editor@comm.gatech.edu. View more from the series at c.gatech.edu/hidden.

Written by Victor Rogers // Photos by Rob Fel Witten by Victor Rogers // Photos by Rob Fel buildings, Georgia Tech's main campus is filled with a range of architectural styles, including Collegiate Gothic, dating to 1888 when the university opened.

In part two, we're challenging you to see how well you know the details. Take a closer look and find the answers at the bottom of the page. See more from this installment, and a map of where they're all located, at **c.gatech**. **edu/hgtdetails**.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## **VEHICLES**

For Sale: 2010 Lincoln MKZ. Silver w/ leather interior, 99k miles, excellent condition inside and out. Well maintained. Includes both keys, brand new spare tire. Lots of upgrades. \$9,500. Call 706-878-6730.

## **REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES**

Looking for young working professional, graduate student, or visiting professor to rent furnished, private bedroom in East Midtown adjacent to Piedmont Park. Available Nov. 1 – June 1. \$850/mo. Includes utilities and internet. Walking distance to MARTA, Tech Square, restaurants, entertainment, shopping. Contact 312-218-7686.

Young, working graduate student seeking living accommodations as a roommate in Buckhead, Midtown, or Downtown location, close to public transportation. I am responsible, cordial, respectful of space, and have excellent study habits. 404-406-2663.

Looking for young working professional, graduate student, or visiting professor to rent 2BR/2.5BA house. Fully furnished house in private community. Sun porch, enclosed patio. Located near GTRI-Cobb County. Close to food markets, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, public transit. Referrals on request. \$1,800/mo. Includes utilities, cable, internet, parking. Contact 770-364-3692, sandra.sheppard67@gmail.com.

Looking for young working professional, graduate student, or visiting professor to rent furnished private bedroom and bath (w/ access to all living spaces) in Buckhead. \$875/mo. Includes utilities, cable, wifi, parking. No smoking, pets, or children. Walking distance to food markets, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, public transit, churches. Request 12-month lease. Referrals upon request. Contact 404-514-7662, reba.darr@gmail.com.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Working vintage IBM PCjr: 640K memory, 3.5" and 5.25" floppy drives, clock doubler / fast boot cartridge, parallel printer port, color monitor, regular keyboard, and complete manual set. Asking \$125. Contact 404-407-6304, erik.kjeldsen@gtri. gatech.edu.

Three-piece leather sofa set. Sofa, loveseat, and chair, all in very good condition. \$200 OBO. Buyer will need to transport. Contact Juan Jewell, jewell.juan@hotmail.com.

1960s Hobart M. Cable upright piano w/ bench. Piano body in excellent shape but piano needs tuning. Buyer responsible for moving. Asking \$350. Contact 404-735-7611, james. corbett@gtri.gatech.edu.

Free yellow jacket nest removal. Nests to be used for research in the School of Biology. Call 404-385-6311 or e-mail michael.goodisman@biology. gatech.edu.

Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.