

Update from Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera  
August 2023



## From the Desk of the President



Beginning at noon on Sept. 28, the Coda Building courtyard in Tech Square will host a free, public expo called the Street Innovation Showcase. The event will launch Avant South at Georgia Tech, the Institute's new annual convention that will explore the risks and opportunities of transformative technologies.

Dear Friends:

A new academic year is here, and our beautiful campus has sprung to life again. Our stellar new incoming class of more than 3,800 first-year Yellow Jackets joins our returning students to make their way to lectures, labs, club meetings, and social events. At fields, courts, and training rooms across campus, our student-athletes are prepping for a new season of thrilling competition. It's a wonderful sight, and I send all our students my best wishes for a productive and successful semester.

We've got a lot more in store this fall, however — including the debut of a new public flagship event for our city. We call it Avant South at Georgia Tech, and we're holding the inaugural two-day summit Sept. 28 – 29. With it, we're aiming to create an annual convention that will bring the finest minds and voices to Atlanta every autumn to explore and discuss the most consequential issues related to technology facing humanity.

As its name suggests, Avant South will always look ahead to the future. Headlined by experts and targeted at leaders and professionals of every stripe, this summit will explore the opportunities and risks created by transformative technologies, forecast the dangers and challenges on the horizon, and discuss strategies for driving innovation ethically and responsibly.

Fittingly, this year's inaugural edition will focus on artificial intelligence and its responsible

stewardship, and we have several dynamic, trailblazing speakers from industry and academia lined up, including Tom Gruber, one of the architects behind Siri.

The festivities will begin at noon on Sept. 28 with a free expo, open to all, called the Street Innovation Showcase. Held in the courtyard of the Coda Building, this six-hour, festival-like attraction will feature interactive demonstrations from experts in Atlanta's higher education and corporate communities — students, faculty, researchers, and professionals. (Whether or not you register for the full event, I strongly encourage you to come check out the public expo so you can experience our exciting new convention at no cost!)

That evening, we'll host a catered reception for registered attendees, where they can connect with each other and hear our first keynote, delivered by alumnus and former College of Computing Dean Charles Isbell. The following day, registrants will attend a full day of keynotes, breakout sessions, and panel discussions at the nearby Fox Theatre.

Avant South is part of [InnovATL](#), a monthlong series of distinctive events that celebrate our city's innovation ecosystem and entrepreneurial spirit. Our summit will fall during the first week — right between Venture Atlanta, one of the nation's largest venture capital conferences, and the A3C Festival, which honors our city's hip-hop legacy and impact in music, technology, and entertainment.

Georgia Tech is an anchor institution for our city and state. We're the nation's fastest-growing public university, a key component of our nation's innovation fabric, an engine of development and entrepreneurship, and Georgia's global gateway for talent and research.

That's why we created Avant South — to amplify our impact and champion the very best technological innovation and thought leadership around. To show the world that Georgia Tech is where the world's best minds convene, and that Atlanta is where leaders, thinkers, creators, and companies go to move our species forward.

I hope you will make plans to be in Atlanta in late September. We'd love to welcome you to our inaugural edition of Avant South. [You can check out the schedule, read more about speakers and sessions, and register to attend at AvantSouth.com.](#) Thank you for your support, and I hope to see some of you there!

In Progress and Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel', with a long horizontal line extending to the right and a large loop at the bottom.

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## **Avant South at Georgia Tech Coming in September**

Driven by its mission to advance solutions that improve the human condition, the Institute is launching a new public annual event to explore the opportunities and risks created by the world's most transformative technologies. The inaugural edition, named Avant South, will be held Sept. 28 – 29, bringing together experts and thought leaders across multiple fields and disciplines to explore the responsible stewardship of artificial intelligence.

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### **Tech's \$4.5 Billion Impact Powers State Economy**

A recent report from the University of System of Georgia (USG) shows that Georgia Tech's statewide economic impact surged to \$4.5 billion in fiscal year 2022. Increasing by 7.4% over the previous year, Tech's impact was the largest among the USG's 26 member institutions and accounted for more than 22% of the combined impact of the entire system.

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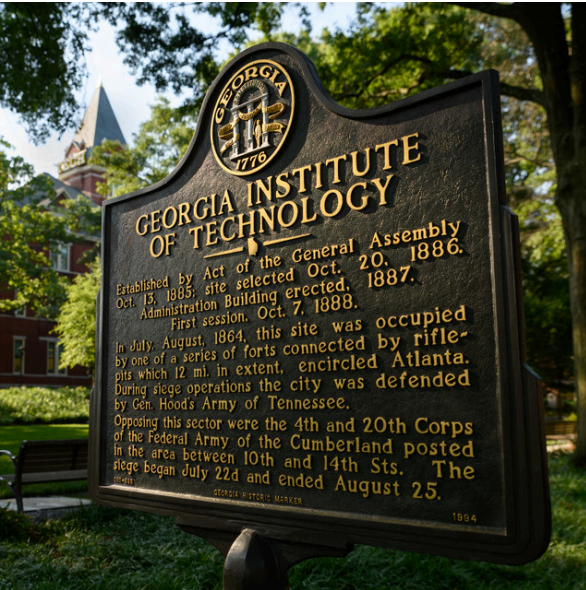


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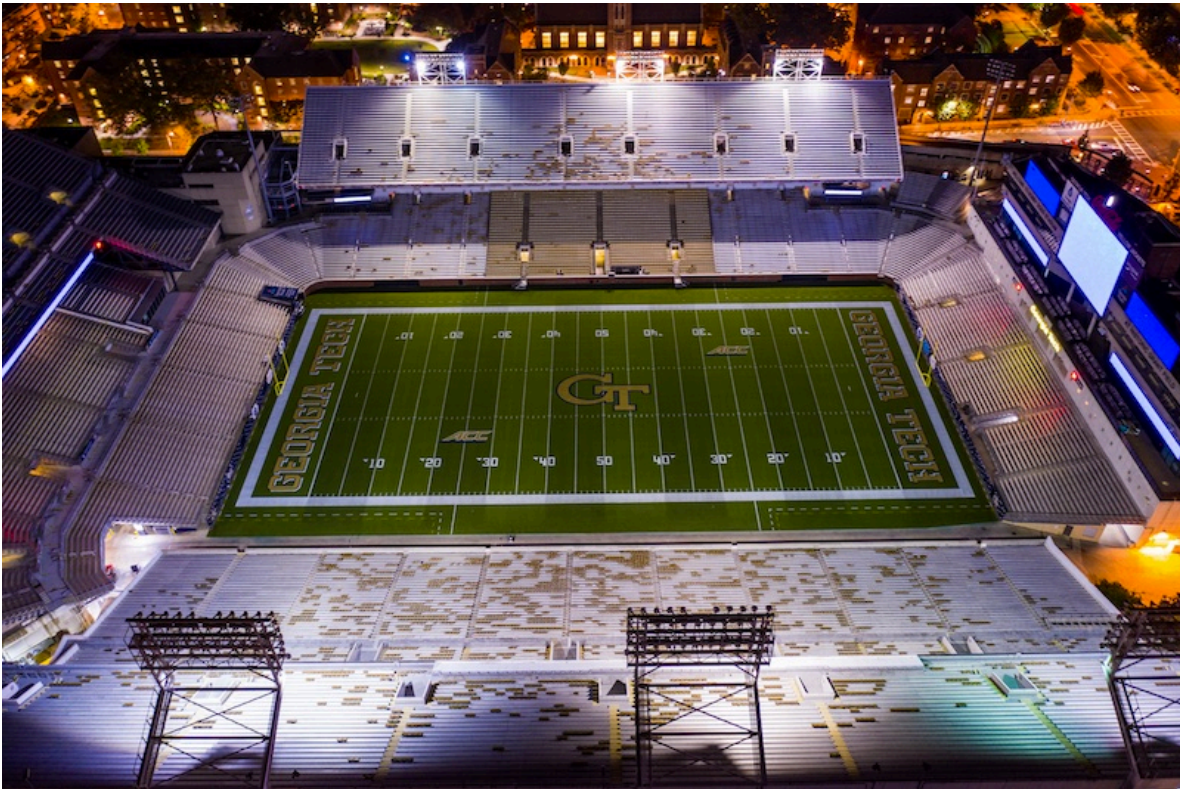


## Tech Faculty Receive 2023 Regents' Distinctions

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents announced 12 first-time Georgia Tech appointments to Regents' distinctions and affirmed the renewal of existing distinctions for four esteemed faculty members. Regent's distinctions — which include Regents' Professors, Researchers, Entrepreneurs, and Innovators — are granted by the Board of Regents to outstanding, tenured professors, based on excellence in research and contributions to their profession and to Georgia Tech.

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## Georgia Tech and Hyundai Announce Partnership

Georgia Tech and Hyundai Motor Company announced a multi-decade partnership on Aug. 8 as part of Hyundai's investments in the state of Georgia. The vision for the partnership includes research and applications to support the future of sustainable mobility, hydrogen economy, workforce development, and smart cities, among many other areas of cooperation. The partnership also includes field-naming recognition at Bobby Dodd Stadium, which will now be known as Bobby Dodd Stadium at Hyundai Field.

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## After Cancer Bout, Dean Beyah Has a Message

Raheem Beyah, dean of the College of Engineering, has now been officially cancer-free for a full year after being treated for prostate cancer. Now that he's hit that milestone, he hopes sharing his own journey publicly for the first time will encourage other men to get tested.

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## Protecting Public Utilities From Cyber Threats

Supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, Georgia Tech researchers have developed a new cybersecurity technology to help protect electrical utilities and other critical industrial systems from malicious attacks. The technology, which is called GridTrust, relies on the unique digital fingerprint of individual semiconductor chips and has been successfully tested at a municipal power substation in Marietta.

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## Meet Tech's 40 Under 40 Class of 2023

The Georgia Tech Alumni Association's 40 Under 40 for 2023, an exceptional class of Yellow Jackets who are making an impact in fields all over the world, are working to improve the way we live through their diligence and expertise. From furthering space exploration to revolutionizing healthcare, these alumni have made the Institute community proud.

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