



The Whistle

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Let's Get Ethical: Spotlight on Ethics This Week

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Though ethics is a year-round priority, Ethics Awareness Week puts a spotlight on how to make ethical decisions, where to find related resources, and Georgia Tech's Office of Ethics and Compliance.

This year's events, taking place Nov. 9 – 13, will be a mix of online presentations, on-demand activities, and in-person tabling around campus.

Experts from the College of Computing; Veterans Resource Center; LGBTQIA Resource Center; Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Office of International Education; and Human Resources, 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

see **ETHICS**, page 4

SWARM TO THE POLLS



Photo by Sydney Durrah

Members of the women's basketball team direct traffic at McCamish Pavilion on Election Day Tuesday, Nov. 3. The site was one of two on campus — the other at the Historic Academy of Medicine — and was staffed entirely by student poll workers. Read more at c.gatech.edu/vote.



Photo by Allison Carter

Aaron Shackelford stands in the Ferst Center for the Arts, which has made accommodations for physical distancing.

A Pandemic Pivot: Arts in the Time of Covid-19

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The coronavirus pandemic has touched practically every industry, changing how people work, dine, shop, and travel. The pandemic also changed the entertainment field, bringing a halt to in-person performances from local theaters to Broadway. Aaron Shackelford, director of Georgia Tech Arts, saw the change coming.

"I have colleagues who work in Hong Kong and on the West Coast, so I saw it coming at us as things started to shut down," Shackelford said, sitting in the Ferst Center for the Arts' Westbrook Lobby, which now serves as an asymptomatic Covid-19 testing site

on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "In early February my team started creating checklists of procedures in case we had to cancel events — how we were going to update websites, how to contact patrons, and how to handle refunds. We were as prepared as we could be for having these things happen."

Shackelford recalls being at the annual Clough Art Crawl in March talking to students whose work was on display when he received the email from President Cabrera announcing that students, faculty, and staff would not return to campus the following week.

"I remember the very

see **ARTS**, page 3

Meet Cristina Fannin, Construction Manager

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Cristina Fannin likes a challenge. As a young adult, she left her close-knit family and a comfortable career as an architect in the Philippines to strike out on her own in the U.S.

“I was working as an architect for the National Commission for Disabled Persons, making government buildings ADA compliant,” Fannin said. “I was making good money, but I was never going to be independent surrounded by my immediate family. I wanted more. I wanted to explore the world.”

She landed a job at Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson in Silver Spring, Maryland, working as a drafter. Even though she has an architecture degree from the University of Santa Tomas, the license requirements in the U.S. were not the same as in the Philippines.

“I went from living like a princess with everything I wanted in the Philippines to living in an apartment with my aunt and uncle, and sleeping on a pull-out bed in their living room,” Fannin said. But she was happy. While working in Maryland she met her husband, Alan, and moved to Georgia.

She worked for Pond and Company, an engineering consulting firm. Then she worked for DeKalb County government for almost 15 years as a construction manager in charge of multimillion dollar projects. Her last project was a \$13 million animal shelter on Chamblee Dunwoody Road.

“We had a ribbon cutting for the facility, and two days later I started at Georgia Tech. After 15 years I needed a new environment with different challenges,” Fannin said. She came to Tech in August 2017 as a construction manager for Facilities Management Design and Construction.

Fannin’s job is to help campus depart-

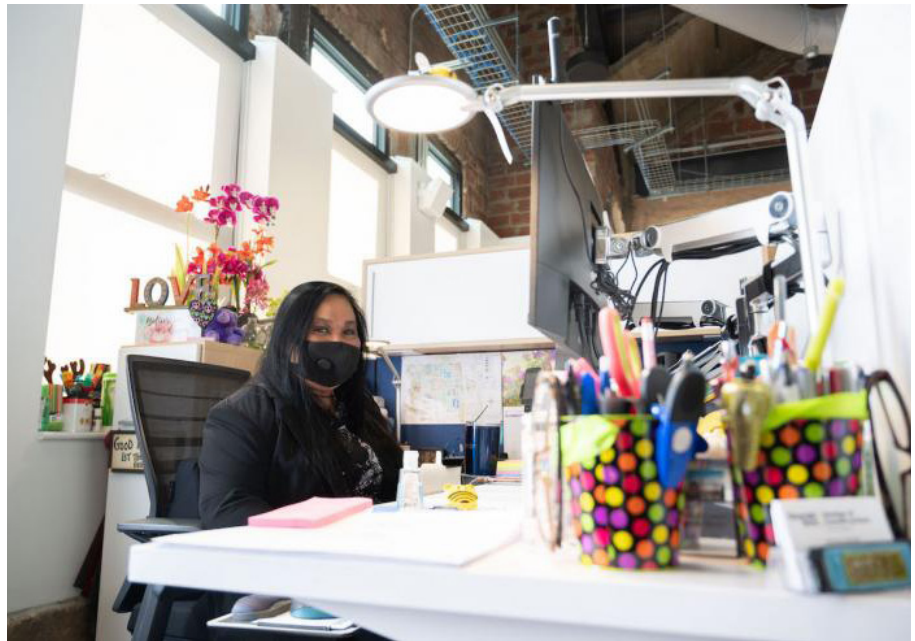


Photo by Allison Carter

Cristina Fannin in her office in the Lyman Hall Building.

ments make changes to their workspace. Once the design is completed, Fannin manages the construction project.

“That is exciting for me,” she said. “I like seeing the project come together from drawings. I am thrilled when a project is completed and the customer is happy. It doesn’t matter if it’s an office space, a lab, or a whole building.”

Fannin said her group, the special projects team, is very supportive.

“I’m glad I came here. I’m around a lot of engineers and architects, and I like that. My group is like brothers and sisters. We support each other. I love it here,” she said.

Away From the Office

Fannin enjoys going out to dinner with her husband and hanging out with her friends.

“My husband is a homebody, but I am a social butterfly. He knew that when he married me,” she said, laughing. Not being able to socialize

with her friends during the last several months has been a challenge.

“I relied on technology — using FaceTime and calling to stay in touch. It was a test, but I survived,” she said.

Fannin enjoys listening to smooth jazz and R&B, reading motivational books, and traveling.

“I like listening to music while I’m working, but I don’t like using headphones,” she said. “I can’t work without background music. Not loud music.” She also reads a lot. “I don’t like mushy books. I like reading things that will help me become a better person.”

Fannin also loves traveling. One of her graduation gifts from her parents was a trip to Europe.

“My best friend and I traveled to see the cathedrals and everything else that we drew in school. We were in awe,” she said. “I have traveled all over Asia. One of the places I haven’t been is the Middle East, so it’s on my bucket list.”



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FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) announced that **Dave Goldsman**, professor and director of master's programs in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has been chosen as an INFORMS Fellow for 2020. Fellows are selected for outstanding lifetime accomplishments and contributions to the field of operations research and analytics, and it is one of the highest honors in the profession.

Karen Head, associate chair and associate professor in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication, has been named the inaugural Fulton County Poet Laureate, a position created by the Fulton County Arts Council. The Fulton County Board of Commissioners approved Head for the position in a vote on Sept. 16.

Asif Khan, assistant professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been named as one of the 10 awardees of the 2020 Intel Rising Star Award. The awards were given based on progressive research in computer science, engineering, and social science in support of the global digital transition.

Emily Snelling, marketing and communications professional in the School of Modern Languages, has been chosen for the 2020–21 Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta Junior Board of Directors. Snelling is one of 24 members of the inaugural class.

May Dongmei Wang, professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, was one of 31 newly inducted Fellows of The International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering (IAMBE) who were welcomed on Sept. 18 during the Virtual Meeting of 2020 Carnegie Mellon Forum on Biomedical Engineering and Annual Symposium of International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering.

ARTS, from page 1

quick walk from Clough back to the office, to execute the plan we had in place," he said. Georgia Tech Arts canceled its final two performances of the spring season. The Ferst Center remained closed to outside events from March to August, while the staff worked remotely developing free, virtual content for campus and public audiences.

"We went back to our core values. The reason why there is an arts organization on Georgia Tech's campus is to foster creativity and innovation, and bring people together to understand the importance of art," Shackelford said. The staff used their production expertise and tapped into the technological expertise of colleagues across campus to figure out how to create a radically different mode of presentation.

"We're in the midst of a transition in Georgia Tech Arts of shifting from simply being a place where art happens to being a place that is the hub of the intersections of technology and media. We are still building up the resources and the collaborations needed in order to be on the vanguard, the way in which the strategic plan imagines Georgia Tech in the next 10 years," Shackelford said. "So, we are really on month six of our 10-year journey. But the pandemic made us do in three months what I originally thought was going to take three years. There is nothing like an emergency to make you get up and get things done. In a strange way it has been beneficial for us as an organization."

Moving Forward

Georgia Tech Arts has been working with the Recovery Task Force developing a plan to safely invite students, artists, and audiences back to campus. This includes turning the theater into an academic space for hybrid lecture classes for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 and serving as an asymptomatic Covid-19 testing site.

"The value of being at a place like

Georgia Tech is being able to collaborate with various experts across campus who were all thinking about this problem," said Shackelford, who was a member of a Recovery Task Force subgroup specifically focused on external and public facing events. "My team has been incredible, spending hours doing research and literally measuring the distance between seats."

Other steps taken to ensure the health and safety of audiences include moving to a virtual box office format allowing for exclusively contactless payment online or by phone. Seat maps and procedures have been developed in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines limiting the number of people in the Ferst Center and allowing for physical distancing in the lobby, restrooms, backstage, and auditorium.

"We are exceedingly fortunate because of Georgia Tech's surveillance testing system," Shackelford said. "It allows us to feel confident that we can bring live experiences to our students more quickly and more confidently than a number of our colleagues around the country."

In September Georgia Tech Arts presented a hybrid performance by Dad's Garage and hosted by the Student Center Programs Council, using the Ferst Center stage with an audience spaced according to CDC physical distancing guidelines. Georgia Tech Arts facilitated a livestream of the program for remote viewers.

Last month Georgia Tech Arts hosted its first artist on campus since the spring. Composer and guitarist Kaki King performed the world premiere concert of *Modern Yesterdays*, her latest album, at the Ferst Center. The live performance was closed to the public, but Georgia Tech Arts recorded the show and then streamed it via Facebook Live and YouTube.

"We are being very intentional and incremental in bringing people together," Shackelford said. "As we go through each milestone we feel more confident that we can do this."

Nominations Open for 2021 Inclusive Leaders Academy

COURTNEY HILL
INSTITUTE DIVERSITY, EQUITY,
AND INCLUSION

Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (IDEI) is now seeking nominations for the fifth cohort of the Inclusive Leaders Academy.

Launched in 2017 by IDEI's Staff Diversity, Inclusion, and Engagement (SDIE) unit, the Inclusive Leaders Academy (ILA) facilitates the growth of campus managers – in becoming “Culture Champions.” The ILA works to build a leadership community that will positively shape the campus culture through modeling inclusive excellence. The community has grown to more than 300 members and has exposed more than 500 managers to various modules.

“It’s encouraging during this double pandemic to hear and see greater interest from our executives to continue cultivating inclusive leadership capacity,” said Pearl Alexander, SDIE’s executive director of diversity, inclusion, and engagement. “Leaders own the culture of the Institute, and accelerating our progress toward inclusive excellence requires proactive, intentional, and focused efforts among the various levels of administrators and managers here. Top-down development is essential to support the Institute’s values and goals.”

Cheryl Cofield, SDIE’s director of inclusion and engagement, added, “Through e-learning modules,



Photo by Rob Felt

Cheryl Cofield, Archie Ervin, and Pearl Alexander attend a past event for the Inclusive Leaders Academy. Next year’s program will take place virtually.

interactive dialogues, storytelling, and group coaching sessions, this all-virtual experience will help leaders to proactively consider their legacies.”

Curriculum content for the program is curated from the NeuroLeadership Institute on the neuroscience of teams, unconscious bias, and research on inclusion. The 2021 cohort will also study “Dare to Lead,” written by and based on the research of Brené Brown, *New York Times* bestselling author. Participants will practice integrating these concepts and tools to learn competencies that support inclusive and overall effective leadership.

The Inclusive Leaders Academy program is designed for those who supervise others as direct reports

(including deans, associate deans, school chairs, vice presidents, executive directors, senior directors, directors, and department heads); and leaders of large-scale programs or projects (including program and project managers, communications managers, executive assistants, administrative managers, Employee Resource Group officers, Staff Council, and diversity council leads).

The 2021 program will run from February through May. Participants will be expected to complete 18-20 hours of curriculum. Nominations, including self-nominations, will be accepted through Friday, Nov. 13. For more information and to nominate, visit sdie.gatech.edu/InclusiveLeadersAcademy.

ETHICS, from page 1

Ethics and Compliance in the Office of the General Counsel, said partnering with campus departments was intentional to ensure there is something for everyone in this year’s programming.

“Ethics is embedded in everything we do at Georgia Tech,” Tucker said. “We want everyone’s brains to churn around ethical topics in application, like ethics in AI, global collaboration, and diversity.”

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, keynote speaker Steven Bay, who supervised Edward Snowden at the NSA, will recount Snowden’s story and reflect on recognizing threats, ethical culture, and accountability. Register at c.gatech.edu/nov10-keynote.

“Snowden remains the subject of controversy, and Steven Bay has a unique inside story of the 2013 classified information leak,” Tucker said. “The event highlights the intersection of ethics and cybersecurity, a huge academic growth area at Georgia Tech

right now.”

View a full list of the week’s events and chances to win door prizes at ethicsfirst.gatech.edu/ethicsweek.

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. 16 at training.hr.gatech.edu.

Learn more about ethics at Georgia Tech at generalcounsel.gatech.edu/ethics-first/ethics-compliance.