Volunteers Wanted to Teach GT 1000 This Fall

MARGARET TATE
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech’s First-Year Seminar is taught entirely by faculty and staff volunteers, with upperclassmen serving as team leaders (TLs). The instructor application deadline for this fall is Tuesday, March 28. If you’ve ever thought about going to the head of the class but would like to know more before applying, read on.

The primary goal of GT 1000 is to support the success and retention of first-year students. Each section of the 1-credit course — there are about 100 every fall and a handful in the spring — meets an hour a week and is taught by either a faculty member or a staff member who has earned a master’s degree or higher. (Staff with bachelor’s degrees may apply to co-teach.) Each instructor has a set of TLs, with one for approximately every five students.

Class sizes typically top out at 20, and there are three types of sections: major specific; cohort or special interest (such as Honors Program or undergraduate research); and interdisciplinary. Most sections are led by staff members, noted Lacy Hodges, who serves as academic transition program manager. “Faculty have a teaching load already, but a lot of staff members might not have an opportunity to work closely with students,” she said. “GT 1000 gives them that opportunity.”

For faculty who teach GT 1000, the class offers a more intimate, discussion-based approach, Hodges said. “They can have a different relationship with the students,” she said. “It can be a lot less intimidating than ‘this is the person giving me the scary tests.’”

The curriculum is guided by specific learning outcomes — each student must write a resume, take a study skills course — there are about 100 every fall and a handful in the spring — meets an hour a week and is taught by either a faculty member or a staff member who has earned a master’s degree or higher. (Staff with bachelor’s degrees may apply to co-teach.) Each instructor has a set of TLs, with one for approximately every five students.

For Director of Athletics Todd Stansbury, Georgia Tech has felt like home since he played football for the Yellow Jackets in the 1980s, and again when he returned to Tech as assistant athletic director for academics from 1988 to 1995. Since then, he always hoped to make it back to Tech but didn’t expect it to take so long.

“I’ve been on a 22-year walkabout,” Stansbury said at a recent Inform Georgia Tech event, where he shared his vision for Tech’s athletic programs with faculty, staff, and students. “So much has changed, but the culture, the DNA, the constant commitment to excellence has not.”

When discussing priorities for Georgia Tech Athletics at the Feb. 23 event, Stansbury put the success of student-athletes as No. 1. “These students are special from the day they decide to come here. They had other easier options, but they chose Tech,” he said. “Our job is to make them market-ready when they leave here.”

As a student-athlete at Tech, Stansbury was a benefactor of this strategy. His first year as a player was also the first year for then-athletic director Homer Rice, who designed and implemented...
**EVENTS**

**ARTS & CULTURE**

**March 17**
ArtsTech hosts DJMUNELine Live at 8 p.m. at the Frist Center for the Arts.
arts.gatech.edu

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**

**Through April**
Employees can use their insurance to get a flu shot without an appointment every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Stamps Health Services Pharmacy.
health.gatech.edu

**March 8–9**
The Campus Recreation Center hosts Health Check Services, offering an on-site health screening program for various medical conditions. Comprehensive screenings are $40 and cardiac screenings are $120. Learn more and register at c.gatech.edu/healthcheck

**March 11**
The Women’s Resource Center and LGBTQIA Center are hosting a women-only hike. Registration is $20.

**Trainings**
Learn more and sign up at c.gatech.edu/womenonlywildness

**SEMINARS & LECTURES**

**March 8**
The IMPACT Speaker Series hosts Terry Mapie, Elizabeth S. Watts Professor Emeritus at Georgia Tech, who will discuss Designing the Future for Wildlife in Human Care. The event takes place at 4:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business.
scheller.gatech.edu/impact

**March 15**
The Office of Human Resources hosts a BBA wellness, Financial Planning for Women, from 11 a.m. to noon. Register to attend at c.gatech.edu/financewomen

**WORK GREEN WITH CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY**

**Sarah Neville**

**CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY**

Georgia Tech strives to be a leader in sustainability, a commitment that extends beyond teaching and research. The Office of Campus Sustainability’s Work Green certification program celebrates and supports staff and faculty who contribute to campus goals by promoting sustainable practices in the workplace.

“Every member of the Georgia Tech community must play a role in preserving resources and preserving our environmental impact, and inspiring action toward sustainable outcomes,” said Anne Rogers, associate director for the Office of Campus Sustainability. “Work Green is entering into its second year, and we are very excited to build upon its successful launch to 13 offices in 2016.”

In order to achieve certification, faculty and staff must record their sustainable practices in areas including energy and water efficiency, waste management, engagement, safe and healthy environments, purchasing, transportation, and innovation. There are three levels of certification reflecting the percentage of sustainable practices implemented: Striving for Work Green, Certified Work Green, and Certified Gold Work Green.

Work Green participants will be:
1. Recognized by the Office of Campus Sustainability through its social media channels, e-newsletter, and website.
2. Given a green door decal to display in their office.
3. Supported by the Office of Campus Sustainability to implement additional sustainable practices.
4. Invited to attend networking and learning events throughout the year.

Staff and faculty can learn more about the program at sustain.gatech.edu/workgreen

Applications will be accepted online between March 8 and April 21. Questions can be submitted to workgreen@gatech.edu.

**EARTH DAY AWARDS, DONATION DRIVES NOW UNDERWAY**

**Kristen Bailey**

**INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS**

Earth Day at Georgia Tech will celebrate its 20th year in April, and part of the tradition is honoring those on campus doing outstanding environmental work.

The Earth Day committee is now accepting nominations for its Environmental Leadership Award and Environmental Initiative Award. Nominees can be individuals or groups who are making a positive environmental impact on campus and beyond, either through a new initiative or a body of work. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, March 26.

Nominees should be Georgia Tech students, faculty, staff, alumni, or retirees who demonstrate a positive environmental impact, a commitment to restoring and enhancing the environment, and an ongoing commitment to environmental leadership. Self-nominations are also accepted.

Winners of this year’s awards will be honored at Tech’s annual Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 21. The festival takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. at Tech Walk and the surrounding areas. Download the award nomination form at c.gatech.edu/earthdayawards

The Earth Day committee is also now accepting donations for the event’s office supply exchange and clothing swap. New or gently used office supply donations can come from students, faculty, or staff. At the Earth Day Festival, anyone with a valid BuzzCard can shop donated office supplies for free. Campus departments can contact recycle@gatech.edu to schedule a donation pick-up or drop-off.

Clothing donations can be taken to designated containers around campus. For a list of buildings, visit c.gatech.edu/earthdayswap

Office supply and clothing donations will be accepted through Friday, March 17. Registration is also open for booth reservation and to volunteer at the festival. More information is available at earthday.gatech.edu.

**Volunteer for Publix Georgia Marathon Hydration Station**

For runners of the Publix Georgia Marathon and Half Marathon, the last miles are some of the toughest. After winding through Midtown, the course comes into campus from Tech Square, climbing on Edaville hill along North Avenue and eventually up Tech Parkway. Luckily for runners, there is a hydration station along the way that has become notorious for its motivating music and friendly supporters. Faculty and staff are invited to volunteer at the station during this year’s race on Sunday, March 19.

All volunteers receive a Mizuno race pullover, Georgia Tech T-shirt, headband, and goodie bag. Friends and family are also welcome to volunteer. To sign up, visit c.gatech.edu/gamarathonvolunteer and enter “jackets17” in the password field.

**GT 1000 Info Session**

Faculty and staff interested in teaching GT 1000 this fall can attend an information session for new instructors on Monday, March 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. in Clough Lounge (Suite 205, Clough Commons).

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self-assessment, explore career options, and complete a team presentation — but beyond that, there’s “a good bit of leeway,” Hodges said. “We really encourage instructors to kind of take the temperature of their class and see what the students are interested in.”

All new and returning GT 1000 instructors are required to take a day of training in the summer. TLs receive a half day of training in April. As for time commitment, in addition to class time, there are generally several hours of weekly preparation involved.

Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Steven Girardot has taught GT 1000 since 2005 and previously directed the course. Over time, he said, instructors naturally become more familiar with the content and flow of the course, and some co-teach to share the workload. Still, he said, volunteers should anticipate and be prepared to manage the full range of instructional responsibilities:

“The Center for Academic Enrichment provides a lot of resources and lesson plans to reduce the administrative workload and make it as easy as possible, but at minimum, you’ve got to be present from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tech Walk every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. That’s the minimum commitment to the course, and some co-teach to share the workload. Still, he said, volunteers should anticipate and be prepared to manage the full range of instructional responsibilities.

“One component of the class that Girardot thinks makes GT 1000 especially valuable to students, as well as satisfying to teach, is the instructor/TL partnership. “Once you create a good synergy, it’s an instructional team, and that’s nice. TLs add a lot of value to the course,” he said.

TLs serve as an additional contact point for first-year students and help shape their experience by facilitating small group discussions and offering mentoring in and outside of class. A Team Leader Advisory Board (TLAB) helps guide their participation.

Craig Womack, assistant dean and director of Undergraduate Programs for Scheller College of Business, was selected by students as GT 1000 Instructor of the Year in 2015. He has taught the class for five years, and not once has he considered giving it up. “It’s an amazing experience,” he said. “Just that personal achievement you feel when you see the students and when they start and where they finish.”

Just as teaching GT 1000 is voluntary, so is participation. About 65 percent of incoming students take the course.

Some students sign up for the course with a degree of skepticism, Womack said. “They come in thinking maybe there’s not going to be much value added to their curriculum, but they quickly realize that there are some great takeaways.”

To learn more and apply for this year, visit gt1000.gatech.edu.

**Georgia Tech’s Faculty/Staff Newspaper**

**THE WHISTLE**

Editor: Kristen Bailey
Photos: Bob Felt and 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 404-385-7681.
Archives are posted at whistle.gatech.edu.

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probably had Medina as a teacher.

“She’s done a fantastic job of teaching students across the Institute about the importance of art and design,” said Steven P. French, dean and John Portman Chair in the College of Design. “The large numbers of students that take her classes are a testament to the quality of her teaching and students’ desire to enhance their creativity with their knowledge of science and technology.”

The Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine recently caught up with Medina for a crash course in design.

What kind of material do you teach in the History of Industrial Design?

We follow a “maternal culture” approach in which we look at everything designed as being motivated by culture. Whether it is through designed objects or art, we as humans develop ways to problem solve within cultural constructs, and culture finds a way to express itself through all layers of culture. So we are getting information invisibly. There are no telephone lines or wires. And this invisibility translated itself through all layers of culture as transparency. So we are looking in chairs that were transparent. Even one of the original personal computers, the iMac G3, was designed so that you could see into the interior and view the mechanism. Transparency of the internet got translated into a lot of areas of design.

It’s called looking at the “zeitgeist.” It’s a German word that means the “spirit of the age.” You can look at any historical period and identify what the prevalent trends are, the zeitgeist, and see how it distributes itself through all layers of culture.

What is the zeitgeist we’re in now?

Right now, we’re moving into a zeitgeist about robotics: self-driving cars, houses that schedule themselves, all that is starting to happen, and it’s just a continuation of ubiquitous computing. With the internet available everywhere: how do you make use of that? We’re not going to be carrying around clunky cellphones. We’re going to be wearing them or have them tattooed on our bodies. And with robotics and wearable computing already in the curriculum here at Georgia Tech, we’re going to be right in the center of this trend.

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Georgia Tech’s Total Person Program. The program is based on an ethos that excellence should encompass academic, athletic achievement, and personal well-being. It provides a well-rounded training package for student-athletes to prepare them for life beyond sport, including stress and time management, nutrition and training, drug and alcohol use, sexual assault awareness and prevention, etiquette, and nutrition.

Stansbury has implemented the same program at each university where he has worked. At Tech, he believes we are the differentiator for student-athletes.

“I consider it as important as being a revenue-producing sport,” he said. “That means it gets the same attention and support we put into those programs.”

Another emphasis is in innovation in sport, but not just among Tech’s teams or in locker rooms. Stansbury wants to capitalize on the leading research and innovation that is found across campus.

“We want to be part of that excellence and consider ourselves the center for innovation in intercollegiate athletics,” he said. “We want to incubate ideas with our faculty.”

“These students are special from the day they decide to come here.”

—Todd Stansbury, director of athletics

For faculty and staff, Stansbury hopes they attend an athletic event soon. “We want you to know we appreciate you and want you at our games. It’s pretty incredible to see these young people who are going to change the world competing in collegiate athletics at such a high level.”

The campus community will have another chance to hear from Stansbury on Tuesday, March 28, from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 301 of the Student Center, as part of the ADVANCE Demythifying Georgia Tech series. The next Inform Georgia Tech event, hosted by Staff Council, is set for Tuesday, May 9, featuring Georgia Tech Police Chief Rob Connolly. The time is not yet set but will be shared at staffcouncil.gatech.edu.

To keep up with Georgia Tech Athletics, see full team schedules at ramblinwreck.com, or follow Georgia Tech Athletics on social media at twitter.com/gathletics and facebook.com/gathletics.

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
Science Takes Over Atlanta for Fourth Year

This year’s Atlanta Science Festival will take place March 14–25 throughout the Metro Atlanta area, and Georgia Tech will have a strong showing. The festival shines a light on the region’s science and technology community, showcasing local discoveries, innovation, and learning opportunities.

The festival culminates on Saturday, March 25, at Centennial Olympic Park with more than 100 interactive exhibits, hands-on experiments, and mind-blowing demos and performances at the Exploration Expo. Georgia Tech is a founding partner of the festival, along with Emory University and the Metro Atlanta Chamber. See below for events featuring members of the Tech community. Visit atlantasciencefestival.org for a full listing and to get tickets for events below. Events are free unless otherwise noted.

Science Happy Hour
Thursday, March 16, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
SweetWater Brewing Company, 195 Ottley Drive NE
$20 (in advance or at the door)
Join the Georgia Tech School of Physics and SweetWater Brewing Company for happy hour with scientists and brewmasters as we investigate the role of specific gravity in the fermentation process. Explore interactive homebrewing demonstrations and take a guided tour of the SweetWater Brewery. Attendees (21 and up) will enjoy SweetWater beverages in a keepsake beaker/pint glass.

Story Collider
Thursday, March 16, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Highland Inn Ballroom, 644 North Highland Avenue NE
$10 (in advance or at the door)
The Story Collider brings true, personal stories about science to life. At this live show, you’ll hear from scientists about all the times things went wrong, and occasionally right, in their labs, and you’ll also hear from people who haven’t had a formal connection to science in years. Physicists, comedians, neuroscientists, writers, and actors will tell stories that are both heartbreaking and hilarious.

5th Annual Latino College and STEM Fair
Saturday, March 18, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech Student Center
This free event will include bilingual workshops, hands-on family activities, a college fair, a majors fair, and an inspirational panel with Latino college students, parents, professors, and other professionals. The event is organized by Georgia Tech GoSTEM and the University of Georgia LISELL-B program.

What’s All the Buzz About Nanotechnology?
Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Marcus Nanotechnology Building
Learn how scientists and engineers interact with a world too small to see at Georgia Tech’s Institute for Electronics and Nanotechnology. Explore how micro and nanoscale objects can be seen with powerful microscopes. Learn through hands-on participation about unique properties at the nanoscale. Bring a sample (must be dry and smaller than an inch) to scan with a tabletop scanning electron microscope, and take home a digital copy of what we see.

Nerdy Derby
Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Hollis Innovation Academy, 225 Griffin Street NW
Build your own innovative car and bring it to Nerdy Derby for some fun, crazy racing, and come get help from folks from Georgia Tech and Decatur Makers to create your own personalized vehicle to speed down the more than 30-foot track. The Nerdy Derby is a twist on the Pinewood Derby, but where all rules are thrown out, and the focus is on rewarding creativity, cleverness, and ingenuity. Competition categories include slowest, fastest, funniest epic fail, cutest, and many others. Cars can be made from metal, wood, plastic, LEGO’s, cardboard, cheese, or whatever you can dream up. Just make sure the wheels are 1½ apart and the car isn’t more than 8” high or 3” wide.

Science of Cannabis
Saturday, March 18, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Manuel’s Tavern, 602 North Highland Avenue NE
Free (RSVP preferred)
Join us for an evening of getting into the weeds of weed. Science comedian and Georgia Tech chemical engineering professor Pete Ludovice will share his research on the science of cannabis biochemistry and production, and his recent work consulting on a TV show on cooking with cannabis.

Circus Science
Sunday, March 19, 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Buck’s Sports Barn, 2303B Peachtree Rd
$12 presale, $15 at the door
Immerse yourself in the circus arts while learning basic scientific principles that make these feats of strength and balance possible. We will incorporate traditional circus disciplines, demonstrated by skilled Imperial Opa Circus acrobats, and scientific principles, explained by Georgia Tech “Science Clowns.” Attendees will even be able to learn circus skills to experience the science firsthand.

Science Rock and Comedy
Sunday, March 19, 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Smith’s Olde Bar, 578 Piedmont Ave. NE
Earth’s first genetically modified rock band, Leucine Zipper and the Zinc Fingers, emerges from the labs of Georgia Tech and Zoo Atlanta to laugh it up with members of the Geekapalooza comedy tour in this night of science-themed music and comedy.

Science Improv
Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Whole World Improv, 1216 Spring Street
$10 (5 for students)
Improv comedy with a science twist. Georgia Tech scientists, improvisation artists, and the audience combine to show the lighter side of science and life in the lab through short improv games and sketches.

Introducing the Next...
Friday, March 24, 7 to 10 p.m.
Ferst Center for the Arts
$25 ($22 with discount code SCIENCE) Daytona’s Dance Canvas and Art@Tech come together to explore the bridges between movement, technology, science, and life. With a focus on humanity, culture, and how dance can innovate, this performance highlights the creativity of emerging new voices in dance. The performance begins at 8 p.m. but come at 7 p.m. for a special Atlanta Science Festival talk-back with the choreographers to discuss collaborations between arts and tech.

Atlanta’s biggest interactive science event is free and open to adults, families, and children of all ages and interests. The Exploration Expo promotes science exploration, discovery, and innovation with more than 100 interactive exhibits, hands-on experiments, and mind-blowing demos and performances.