Tech Graduate Comes Home to Put Down Roots

Meet Chaouki Abdallah, the New Leader of Tech’s Research Enterprise

Chaouki Abdallah is a proud Yellow Jacket alumnus, parent of two Georgia Tech students, and the newest member of the Institute’s executive leadership team. As Georgia Tech’s executive vice president for research, he has returned to what he considers home after nearly 30 years as a professor, chair, provost, and president at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque. The holder of Georgia Tech master’s and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering, parent of twin Georgia Tech first-year students Carter and Calvin, and the spouse of a Georgia Tech industrial engineering graduate who started a successful logistics company, Abdallah has a unique perspective on the institution that ranks 8th among public universities in the latest U.S. News & World Report.

Tech Talent on Display

Stephanie Lee, marketing manager for the Office of the Arts, watches as Justin Camp, theater production assistant, and Madison Cario, director, hang art in the Ferst Center for the Arts. The Office of the Arts is hosting the second annual Arts@Tech Faculty and Staff Art Exhibit from Nov. 13 through Jan. 31, 2019. At the opening reception and during the first week of the exhibit, visitors can vote for their favorite piece. More information is available at arts.gatech.edu.

ETHICS AWARENESS WEEK: CULTIVATING CHARACTER

Taking a Closer Look at EthicsPoint

RACHEL POCKLINGTON
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Since 2005, the EthicsPoint reporting portal has enabled the Georgia Tech community to securely and anonymously file complaints related to ethics violations. While EthicsPoint has received a lot of attention lately, most people don’t fully understand how reports are processed and, furthermore, how to monitor the status of a complaint.

Melissa Hall, associate director for Internal Auditing, helps answer some of the most common questions related to EthicsPoint and offers a few pointers on navigating the reporting system.

How many complaints are generally filed through the EthicsPoint reporting portal each year?

Historically, about 40 percent of all complaints have been reported through EthicsPoint. However, we expect that to rise significantly. Since July 1, we have received nearly 200 complaints — about a 90 percent increase compared to complaints filed through EthicsPoint for all of fiscal year 2018.

To what do you attribute this rise?

We have been encouraging the campus community to report through EthicsPoint for many years, including during the annual Integrity and Compliance Campaign. However, recent events at Georgia Tech have increased focus on employee ethical responsibilities and brought even greater visibility to EthicsPoint. Employees recognize that EthicsPoint is an option for elevating ethical issues, which have been reported at a unit level but not appropriately addressed; or where an employee has a reasonable belief that reporting at the unit level could negatively affect their current employment.

Can you walk us through how to use EthicsPoint?

Employees can either report online at ethics.gatech.edu or call 1-800-400-5678. They are also encouraged to contact the EthicsPoint hotline during normal business hours (M-F 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) at 678-387-3651.

Why We Can’t Ignore Climate Change

Kim Cobb, ADVANCE Professor, Georgia Power Chair in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and director of the Global Change Program, writes in The Washington Post about what we can learn from Hurricane Michael.

NEWS BRIEFS

Get to Know Tech Students

Whether or not your job has you working with students on a regular basis, you can get to know a few of the thousands who make Tech unique in a new series of profiles at c.gatech.edu/gettingtoknowtech

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**EVENTS**

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

**Nov. 15**
PoetryTech hosts An Evening of Poetry at 7:30 p.m. in the Kress Auditorium, Renewable Bioproducts Institute, featuring Kamilah Aisha Moon, Travis Denton, and Valzyna Mort. poetry.gatech.edu

**WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING**

**Nov. 27**
The ADVANCE Program hosts a Demystifying Georgia Tech session focused on professional development programs for faculty and staff, from 11 a.m. to noon in Press Room A, Bill Moore Student Success Center. c.gatech.edu/demystify

**Nov. 29**
Serve-Learn-Sustain hosts a Teaching Toolkit Workshop on Climate Change, Health, and Equity from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. in Clough Lounge (Room 205, Clough Commons). serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu

**SEMINARS AND LECTURES**

**Nov. 14**
The Global Change Program hosts Katharine Wilkinson, vice president of communication and engagement at Project Drawdown and lead writer of the New York Times bestseller Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Seminar Room, Krone Engineered Biosystems Building. globalchange.gatech.edu

**Nov. 19**
Physics professor Andrew Zangwill gives a talk on the history of physics from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 104, Old Civil Engineering Building. bsoe.gatech.edu

**Nov. 28**
Human Resources hosts a Bi Weekly session on Powers of Attorney from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 320, Student Center. RSVP at hr.gatech.edu/biweekly

**ROLLING RECOVERY**

Students in the Collegiate Recovery Program are bringing a new coffee option to campus. The students built a coffee cart around a bike frame and will debut it on campus this week. The cart will serve freshly brewed pourover coffee for free to those who are willing to have a brief conversation about recovery and related campus resources while their coffee brews, which usually takes around three minutes. Learn more about the program at c.gatech.edu/recovery.

**GRIOT Food Drive**

The GRIOT Employee Resource Group is holding a canned food and toiletry drive for the month of November. Some of the food items needed most are single-serve soups, single-serve cereals/oatmeal, canned tuna, and breakfast bars. Full-sized toiletries such as deodorant, shampoo, and toothpaste are also requested. Donation bins have been set up around campus in the following areas:

- College of Engineering (CEED office)
- Global Learning Center (Reception Desk)
- Scheller College of Business
- Tech Tower lobby

All donations go to Klemis Kitchen, which serves as a food pantry and resource for Georgia Tech students with dietary needs and financial concerns that limit their access to proper nourishment.

GRIOT is a Georgia Tech Employee Resource Group for employees who self-identify as black, African, African-American, or West Indian, and their allies. GRIOT provides a unique forum for building relationships through networking and professional development.

For more information, contact erg-griot@gatech.edu.

**ABDALLAH, from page 1**

News & World Report survey.

“When I was here as a student, Georgia Tech was a good university. It has now become great, world-class – probably because I left,” he joked. “I feel indebted to Georgia Tech. In everything I have done, I can point to my education from Georgia Tech. I’m honored to come back to campus in this capacity.”

After proposing to her on the Skiles Walkway, Abdallah married Catherine Cooper, who earned her bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering at Georgia Tech. “Every time I walk there, it brings back good memories,” he said.

**A Top Research and Education Institution**

His sons, his service on the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering advisory board, and roles as UNM provost and president give Abdallah a special view of how education and research fit together at a top research university like Georgia Tech.

“For a long time, we thought that undergraduate and graduate education were two different things,” he said. “It’s actually a continuum. We have undergraduates doing great research here and a lot of research embedded in undergraduate education. Being a top research institution really complements our educational activities.”

The skills essential to academic success are also among those essential to research, he notes. Researchers work in interdisciplinary teams to find answers to challenging questions, just as students labor on team projects. Researchers communicate persuasively to convince colleagues to join their projects and funding agencies to provide them support. Just as students make presentations, write term papers, and take exams. The results of education and research are final products: a journal paper, a new technology, a new product, a new company, or a diploma.

“Research allows us to make the undergraduate and graduate experiences better,” he said. “It helps get students to the point that they are contributing to the development of knowledge, rather than just being its passive consumers.

Research also satisfies a human need to find the answers to questions. Often, those answers ultimately make someone’s life better and society more prosperous, Abdallah noted. “We are in the business of education, and education doesn’t simply mean classroom teaching. It involves teaching and research, which produce critical skills that are essential to everything we do in a modern society.”

This story has been edited for length. Read the rest of the story at c.gatech.edu/chaouki.
ETHICS AWARENESS WEEK: CULTIVATING CHARACTER

ETHICSPoint.com or through the telephone hotline 866-204-5363. Either way, the complaint goes into the ETHICSPoint reporting system.

If using the online portal, you should first enter “Georgia Tech” as the organization’s name. Then you will need to select a category and topic that most closely align to your area of concern — it doesn’t need to be an exact match. Then, you enter your “location” on campus.

After that, it asks you for your information, including if you wish to remain anonymous. It is important to remember to click “yes” or “no” in this section. If you give personal information like your name, you cannot remain anonymous even if that was your intent.

Then it asks you to complete information related to your complaint. You can even upload supporting files.

After you complete the report, including all the required fields, you hit submit. The system will generate a number that is referred to as a Report Key. You will need the Report Key to check on the status of your complaint. Please don’t lose the Report Key because it is generated one time and only to you, so if lost, we cannot retrieve it.

What happens next to the information you submit?

The complaint is assessed and triaged in terms of its nature. At that point, it is assigned to a member of the appropriate investigative team who then requests documents, conducts the interviews, and determines if further information is needed to complete the investigation.

While this is the general process, I want to stress that each case is different, so the process and time involved can vary. Some of our more complex cases may take several months.

Who can see the information submitted?

There are several departments that have oversight of the information including Ethics, Compliance and Legal Affairs, Office of the President, University System of Georgia, and, of course, Internal Auditing. As with all documents generated as a state agency, this information is also subject to the Georgia Open Records Act.

How can you check on the status of a complaint?

The person filing the complaint is responsible for going back to the ETHICSPoint portal to check on the status of their case. This is why you must save your Report Key. People assume they will get a direct notification from the review team, but for varying reasons that is not always possible. For example, if the complaint was filed anonymously, we do not have any way to make contact except through ETHICSPoint. Accordingly, the team will post notes to the ETHICSPoint site regarding the status of the report including if more information is needed. If the complaint has been resolved, the appropriate information will be posted on the site.

Given your experience with managing cases in ETHICSPoint, what are the top reminders for the campus community?

First, if you are filing a complaint, provide as much detail as possible about the complaint. This is immensely helpful as we review the information and assess possible paths to resolution.

Second, users are skeptical about remaining anonymous and think their IP (Internet Protocol) address will be traced. I can assure you it will not. Since the ETHICSPoint portal is hosted by a third party, Georgia Tech doesn’t have the ability to trace IP addresses.

Third, although this third-party hosting facilitates the anonymity of the person filing the complaint, in order to remain anonymous, users should be careful to remove their personal information from any files before they upload them to the system.

Fourth, if people listed in the “engaged behavior” or “manager” sections happen to be on the review team, he/she cannot access the report. They are blocked, and it will be handled by another investigator.

And finally, you must keep the Report Key that is generated when you submit your information. You will need this to check the status of your case on the ETHICSPoint site.

For more information on ethics at Georgia Tech, including the ETHICSPoint reporting portal, visit farmgatech.edu/ethics-georgia-tech.

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**Ethics Awareness Week Events**

**Movie screenings, theatrical performances, and thoughtful conversations will take place this week at events across campus, all centered on the topic of ethics. More information is available at gatech.edu/about/ethics.**

**Engaging Ethics through Media: The Big Short**
- Monday, Nov. 12
  - 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
  - Press Room B
  - Bill Moore Student Success Center

**Engaging Ethics through Media: Fargo**
- Monday, Nov. 12
  - 2 to 5 p.m.
  - Press Room B
  - Bill Moore Student Success Center

**Engaging Ethics through Media: Gattaca**
- Tuesday, Nov. 13
  - 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
  - Press Room A
  - Bill Moore Student Success Center

**Lunch and Learn: Atlanta Compliance and Ethics Roundtable**
- Tuesday, Nov. 13
  - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  - Gordy Room, Wardlaw Center

**Engaging Ethics through Media: Casablanca**
- Tuesday, Nov. 13
  - 2 to 5 p.m.
  - Press Room A
  - Bill Moore Student Success Center

**Take the Pledge Day**
- Wednesday, Nov. 14
  - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Locations around campus

**Town Hall with the President**
- Wednesday, Nov. 14
  - 3 to 4 p.m.
  - Technology Square Research Building Auditorium

**Non-Retaliation Policy Presentation and Listening Session**
- Wednesday, Nov. 14
  - 3 to 4 p.m.
  - Peachtree Room, Student Center

**Take the Pledge Day**
- Thursday, Nov. 15
  - 11 a.m. to noon
  - Room 152, Clough Commons

**Town Hall with the President**
- Thursday, Nov. 15
  - 2 to 3:30 p.m.
  - Student Center Theater

**A Man for All Seasons**
- Thursday, Nov. 15
  - 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
  - Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse

**Non-Retaliation Policy Presentation and Listening Session**
- Thursday, Nov. 15
  - 3 to 4 p.m.
  - Peachtree Room, Student Center

**Take the Pledge Day**
- Friday, Nov. 16
  - 10 to 11 a.m.
  - Room 011, Molecular Science and Engineering Building

**A Man for All Seasons**
- Friday, Nov. 16
  - 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
  - Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse

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**Events Calendar**

**Dec. 5**
*The Blockchain Roundtable will bring together faculty, scientists, students, and industry experts interested in applications of the blockchain technology, from 1 to 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Academy of Medicine. RSVP at: blockchain.gatech.edu*

**Dec. 12**
*Georgia Tech’s Smart Cities and Inclusive Innovation initiative and Newsweek host a seminar on How Driverless Cars Will Change the World from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Technology Square Research Building. smartcities.gatech.edu*

**Health and Wellness**

**Dec. 4**
*Human Resources hosts a Healthy Cooking Demo from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 543, Student Center. RSVP at: hr.gatech.edu/benefits*

**Miscellaneous**

**Nov. 14**
*The Resilience Employee Resource Group hosts a dialogue on the Rising Strong Process™ based on the research of Brené Brown, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center. Register at: sdin.gatech.edu/resilience-dialogue*

**Nov. 15**
*Parking and Transportation Services and the Georgia Tech Police Department host a free bike safety class from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 240, Campus Recreation Center. pta.gatech.edu*

**Nov. 17**
*Football hosts Virginia at 3:30 p.m. at Bobby Dodd Stadium, ramblinwreck.com*

**Dec. 2**
*Women’s Basketball hosts Georgia State at 2 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion, ramblinwreck.com*

**Dec. 3–4**
*Final Instructional Class Days take place for the fall semester.*

**Dec. 6–13**
*Final exams take place for the fall semester.*

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.*
The Design & Construction Department of Facilities Management provides architectural and engineering design, construction management, and interior design services for campus projects. Its three-person interior design team creates functional and beautiful spaces including classrooms, student lounges, meeting spaces, and offices. Their work spans the campus, including the colleges, athletics, and Campus Services. Interior design projects range in size and scope from a desk chair, to a professor’s office, to a large capital project like the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons. Take a closer look at the Interior Design Department, located in the O’Keefe 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.

(1 and 2) The designers spend a lot of time in the O’Keefe Interiors Library, which is stacked with sample books — carpet, fabric, laminate, and furniture — for finishing projects. (3) The office space for the Interior Design Department has high ceilings and is filled with light. (4) The department has three senior interior designers (L-R): Allison Gerstung, Reagan Donley, and Polly Patton. See the full photo gallery at c.gatech.edu/design.

McIntosh for sale: 1.3 cu. ft. Panasonic, stainless steel. 1 year old, barely used. $95 OBO. Contact John, 404-430-7600.

Keurig K-cup coffee/tea machine w/ reusable coffee filter. Slightly used. Great shape. $35. Pick up on Tech campus or near Midtown MARTA Station. Call Lynne, 770-547-3189.

Men’s DryJoy brand golf shoes, size 9M; cloth bag; golf balls; gloves. Used, in good shape. $35. Pick up on Tech campus or near Midtown MARTA Station. Call Lynne, 770-547-3189.

Fore Sale: Queen size mattress set; 25” JVC TV (crt); red leather couch set; cream La-Z-Boy recliner; brown loveseat; reclining loveseat; 3-piece solid wood wall unit; 9-piece dining room set; 10” miter saw; couch table and end table set; distressed wood finish curio cabinet w/ glass shelves; plastic patio chairs and table. Pictures available. Contact cdirby63@gmail.com for details.

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.