

# CELEBRATING DISTANCE TEACHING & LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

Transforming Education in the Distance Learning Landscape



20  
23



Center for  
Teaching and Learning



# AGENDA

**9-9:15AM**

**Opening remarks**

**9:15-10:15AM**

**Keynote speaker: Lance Eaton - Looking All Around: A Retrospective & Forward-Looking Discussion of Generative AI**

**10:15-10:45AM**

**Post Keynote discussion in breakout rooms**

**10:45-11AM**

**Break**

**11-NOON**

**Featured speaker: Dr. Joel Sokol - An Army of TAs**

**NOON-1PM**

**Lunch**

**1-2PM**

**Serving as a TA in an Online Course: Words from the Wise(r)**

**2-2:15PM**

**Break**

**2:15-3PM**

**Birds of a feather discussions**

**3-3:15PM**

**Break**

**3:15-4:15PM**

**Dr. Lauren Barbeau - Observing Critical Teaching Behaviors: What Does Good Teaching Look Like Online?**

**4:15-4:30PM**

**Closing remarks**



# ACCESSING THE SYMPOSIUM WITH ZOOM

The 2023 Celebrating Distance Teaching & Learning Symposium will utilize Zoom to host all of our virtual sessions. Below you will find the basic meeting information and the link for Monday, Oct 30th.

If you need additional assistance or information not included below, please reach out to [Vincent.Spezco@gatech.edu](mailto:Vincent.Spezco@gatech.edu) prior to the start of the event.

## Zoom Meeting Link

<https://gatech.zoom.us/j/92633554631>

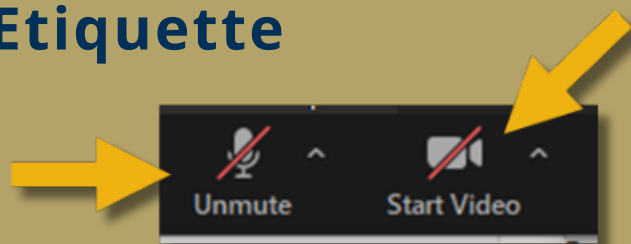
Meeting ID: 926 3355 4631 | Dial in (305) 224 1968 US

## New to Zoom?

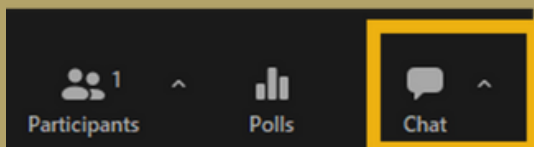
If you haven't used Zoom before, we recommend downloading the program prior to the event. You can download zoom from: [https://zoom.us/download#client\\_4meeting](https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting)

## Zoom Etiquette

When not speaking please turn off your microphone. You may also choose to turn off your Camera.



During Q&A, you can ask your questions by typing in the chat tool and the moderator will read it aloud for you.



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & LINKS

As part of our commitment to an interactive online experience, we will be hosting a Padlet board alongside each of our sessions. Padlet is a collaborative online bulletin board that allows participants to post text, images, links, documents, videos, and voice recordings as well as comment and react to each other's posts.

Throughout the symposium, we encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas, insights, resources, links, etc. to the Padlet board under the appropriate heading. The Padlet board will stay up well after the symposium ends to serve as a community networking and resource hub. So be sure to visit the Padlet during and after the symposium to get the most out of the collaborative resource.

*(NOTE: Questions for panels and presenters should be submitted in Zoom chat.)*

**Padlet link:**

<https://gatech.padlet.org/vincentSpezzo/23CDTLS>



## End of Symposium Survey

Once the symposium is over, we kindly ask for you to complete our survey and let us know your thoughts on the event and its sessions.

You can use the below link to access our anonymous survey.



<https://tinyurl.com/32edabcz>

# **SYMPOSIUM FACILITATION**

**This year's Celebrating Distance Teaching and Learning Symposium was organized and will be facilitated by**

**Dr. Vincent Spezzo  
Assistant Director of  
Teaching and Learning Online  
Center for Teaching and Learning**



**with assistance from**



**Dr. Lauren Barbeau  
Assistant Director for  
Learning and Technology Initiatives  
Center for Teaching and Learning**



# SESSION INFORMATION

**Keynote Speaker: Lance Eaton**

## *Looking All Around: A Retrospective & Forward-Looking Discussion of Generative AI*

November marks nearly a year since ChatGPT made its debut and while so many things feel different, there's still so much that hasn't changed. In this talk, Lance Eaton will explore the year in review around Generative AI in education and also look to the next year of what it could mean, particularly for online learning and the unique challenges and opportunities it represents.



Lance Eaton is the Director of Faculty Development & Innovation at College Unbound, a part-time instructor at North Shore Community College, and a PhD student at the University of Massachusetts, Boston with a dissertation that is focusing on how scholars engage in academic piracy. His work is often engaging with the possibility of digital tools for expanding teaching and learning communities while considering the various deep issues and questions that educational technologies open up for

students, faculty, and higher ed as a whole. He has given talks, written about, and presented at conferences on artificial intelligence generative tools in education, academic piracy, open access, OER, open pedagogy, hybrid flexible learning, and digital service-learning. His musings, reflections, and ramblings can be found on his blog:

<http://www.ByAnyOtherNerd.com>.

# SESSION INFORMATION

**Featured Speaker: Joel Sokol**

***An Army of TAs:  
The organization behind a 1600-person Online  
Master of Science in Analytics course***

Joel Sokol is the Harold E. Smalley Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech. He is also Director of the interdisciplinary Master of Science in Analytics degree (on-campus and online).

Joel Sokol was recognized as the 2023 Winner of Georgia Tech's Teaching Excellence Award for Online Teaching for his exceptional contributions as the founding director of the online M.S. in Analytics program. He believes in engaging online education for learners of all backgrounds, and has transformed thousands of students' lives through the program. Despite the large number of students he educates, Dr. Sokol is known for his personalized mentoring approach, which helps his students achieve their goals. He is a highly regarded expert in online education and has been quoted in several prestigious publications, including Forbes and NPR.





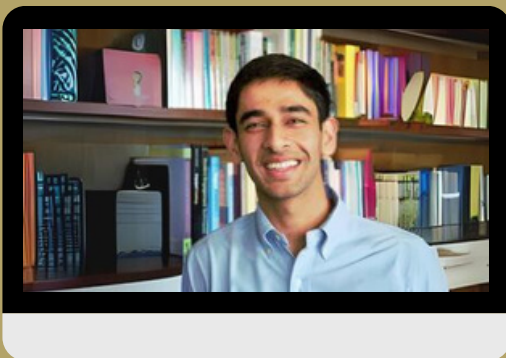
# SESSION INFORMATION

## Serving as a TA in an Online Course: Words from the Wise(r)

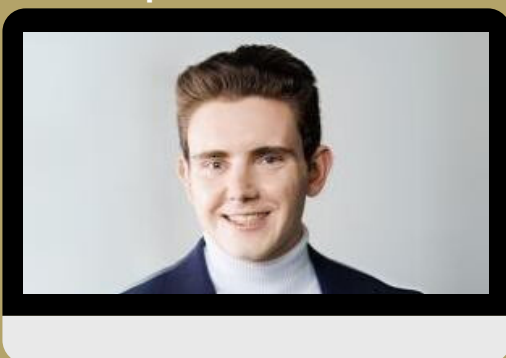
In this session, we will hear from Georgia Tech's online TAs and Head TAs who recently won our 2023 Institute-wide TA of the Year Award.

Panelists will share their experiences interacting with students while serving as a Teaching Assistant and give their perspective on some of the latest developments in distance education pedagogy. Panelists will address a mix of moderated questions as well as questions from attending participants. So if you've ever wondered about what it's like being a TA for an online course or what unique challenges they face, join us for this session and get your questions answered.

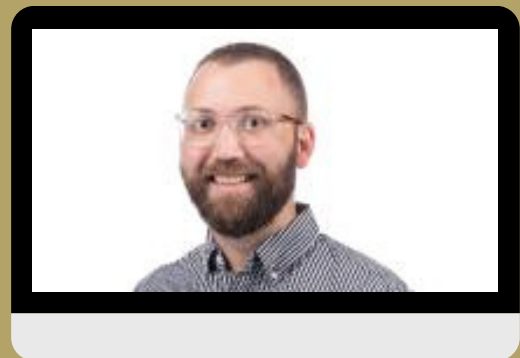
**Adavya Bhutani**  
Division of Computer  
Instruction



**Aleksandr Kalenchits**  
Division of  
Computer Instruction



**Ryan Ellis**  
Economics



**Abdulaziz Qwbaiban**  
Electrical & Computer  
Engineering

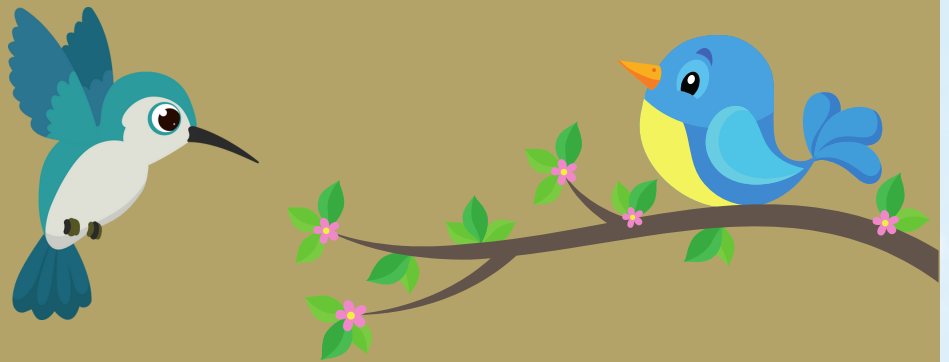


# SESSION INFORMATION

## Birds of a Feather

Five different topics will be offered for discussion in breakout rooms by various Georgia Tech online and technology experts from across the institution.

Participants are welcome to choose their own breakout rooms and engage in conversation with their peers. Topics and facilitators are posted below.



**A(academic) I(integrity)  
in the Age of AI - Led by  
Lauren Barbeau, CTL**

**Faculty Presence and  
Connecting with  
Students Online- Led by  
Karen Franklin, CTL**

**Exploring Generative AI  
in Student Assessment  
- Led by Yahong Xu &  
Lachelle Smith, OIT  
Digital Learning Team**

**Navigating Canvas  
Mastery Paths for  
Personalized Learning -  
Led by Simeon Payne &  
Samba Diop, OIT Digital  
Learning Team**

**Learning Analytics:  
Should Faculty Become  
Data Scientists? -Led by  
Myk Garn,  
Professional Education,  
& Laura Carruth,  
Transformative  
Teaching and Learning  
& CTL**

# SESSION INFORMATION

**Closing Speaker: Lauren Barbeau**

## *Observing Critical Teaching Behaviors: What Does Good Teaching Look Like Online?*

Classroom observations teaching are common practice in higher education as a means of providing formative feedback. This process typically involves an observer sitting in on a class meeting to take notes for discussion with the instructor, but how does the process work when your class never meets? This talk will discuss the Critical Teaching Behavior (CTB) observation instruments which provide guidance to observers who want to provide feedback on both design and delivery of online courses.

Lauren Barbeau is the Assistant Director for Learning and Technology Initiatives for the Center for Teaching and Learning. In this role, she coordinates the Teaching with Technology



partnerships and assists faculty in finding the right technology tools to meet their pedagogical needs. She developed an interest in the intersection of pedagogy and technology as a graduate student Liberman Teaching with Technology Fellow. This interest led her to faculty development positions at Georgia Southern University and the University of Georgia. Her co-authored book project, *Critical Teaching Behaviors: Defining, Documenting, and Discussing Good Teaching* (Stylus Publishing, 2023), offers instructors a framework for identifying, implementing, and

documenting effective teaching behaviors as well as aligned peer observation and student feedback instruments to help them gather external perspectives on their teaching. Lauren earned her Ph.D. in English, specializing in 19th century American Literature with a certificate in American Culture Studies, from Washington University in St. Louis.

