

Virtual Student Cluster Competition - 2020 - Team Phoenix (11) - Team Profile
Georgia Institute of Technology

- What is the name of your team and why did you choose it?

We are **Team Phoenix**, a 2020 revival of our very first 2017 Georgia Tech SCC predecessors. A **Phoenix** is defined as “a mythological bird that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again.” The Georgia Tech team at SCC 2017 was our university’s first SCC team, and we haven’t sent another team to SCC until this year.

- Why do you think your team will have an edge in the event (what's your secret sauce)?

We have the most supportive, passionate mentors and instructors; they’ve created a comfortable space for our team to learn HPC. It is noted that all of our team members are entirely new to the HPC space. Since January 2020, we all enrolled in a class designed to prepare us for SCC by teaching us the fundamentals of HPC. Through the class, we would access Georgia Tech’s instructional supercomputer cluster, called PACE-ICE.

Our faculty/graduate advisors consist of: Dr. Richard Vuduc, Dr. Jeff Young, Will Powell, Aaron Jezghani, and Vijay Thakkar. Collectively, they have a lot of knowledge in the field of HPC, and they have been able to help us navigate many of the challenges we’ve faced while preparing for this competition.

Our last little advantage is that SC is being held in Atlanta (in spirit), which makes us the home team! Granted, Atlanta teams aren’t exactly known for being great at defending their home fields/courts, but we plan to be the exception to this rule!

- What have you done to prepare that makes your team unique?

Each of our team members was a part of the same SCC course, and we all got hands-on experience with a supercomputer well before the training budgets kicked in. Additionally, we have been working with each other for almost 10 months now.

- What are you most looking forward to in the competition?

First and foremost, we are looking forward to bringing the heat and competing at a very high level. We hope to have a performance that makes Georgia Tech proud! Our team is also looking forward to meeting other like-minded SCC students from across the world, and we hope to learn more about their experiences.

And the most important: we look forward to having fun! For all six of us competing, this will be our first HPC conference. We plan to take advantage of the student programs being offered to us to network and learn cool things about HPC.

- What time zone is your team competing from?

We are competing in the Atlanta Area, in EDT time zone (UTC - 4:00 New York Time)

- What do your team members do for fun?

Our team members engage in a variety of fun activities, and read through their corresponding fun activities/hobbies listed below!

Aman: play and watch basketball, watch football, chess, woodworking, and frisbee

Marissa: frisbee, spikeball, painting, reading manga, cooking, color sudoku, and learning chinese

Ali: martial arts, lifting, travelling, cooking (since quarantine)

Albert: video games, reading

Nicole: languages and conlanging! and also running sometimes

Sudhanshu: running, watching Top Gear, cooking

- If your team had a theme song, what would it be?

Our team's theme song would definitely have to be one of Georgia Tech's famous fight songs: "Up with the White and Gold" or "Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech"

- Can you share an interesting fact about your team?

1. None of us are seniors! We are all juniors, except for Ali, who is a sophomore.
2. Most of us have not attended conferences before! This is a very new and exciting opportunity for all of us.
3. Nicole and Aman went to the same middle school and high school in a suburb of Cleveland, OH.