Get on the Bus

LGBTQIA Resource Center Bus Tour Provides Fun, Informative Way to Meet Community Leaders

STACY BRAUKMAN
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Everyone looked surprised when the private charter coach pulled up to the curb on Ferst Street. For one thing, it was massive, with more than enough room for the 28 or so Tech employees waiting to board. For another, it was emblazoned with larger-than-life photos of Atlanta Braves players and Fox Sports South logos.

It’s not the means of transportation anyone would have imagined for the Queer Atlanta Bus Tour. But it makes perfect sense, considering the tour is the first session of a five-part course for Georgia Tech employees, sponsored by the LGBTQIA Resource Center, called Level Up 2. The center first offered the tour to students in 2015 and, based on the interest she was hearing among faculty and staff, director Aby Parsons decided to incorporate it into this semester’s Level Up curriculum.

The program itself launched in Fall 2017. It was designed to build on the knowledge and skills developed in Safe Space training (a prerequisite) in the pursuit of bolstering allyship for LGBT people at Georgia Tech. “Our students and employees still face many significant challenges because of their gender

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Marder Honored with Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Seth Marder is on faculty development leave at various institutes across Europe, taking a break from his daily routine and attempting to allow himself time to think deeply about research.

“In most of the places that I’m visiting, I have collaborations,” he said. “This faculty development leave allows me to have quality time with the people with whom I’m collaborating or developing new collaborations with around the world, which is very intellectually stimulating.”

He’ll return to campus for the Faculty Staff Honors Luncheon on April 11, where he will receive Georgia Tech’s highest award given to a faculty member: the Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching, research, and service. Instituted in 1984 by the Class of 1934 in observance of its 50th reunion, the award is presented to a professor who has made significant long-term contributions — contributions that have brought widespread recognition to the professor, to his or her school, and to the Institute.

In 2008, Marder (left) and Yanrong Shi, a graduate student, examine the separation of compounds for photonics applications being done by community chromatography.

In 2008, Marder (left) and Yanrong Shi, a graduate student, examine the separation of compounds for photonics applications being done by community chromatography. "The award means a lot to me because Georgia Tech is near and dear to my heart," said Marder, Regents Professor of Materials Science and Engineering (courtesy). "I care a lot about the various aspects of my job that transcend the standard research and teaching aspects. I think this award is a reflection of the fact that the Institute values a faculty member’s contributions beyond teaching and research. It’s very special to have that kind of recognition.”

Marder is the third chemistry professor to receive the Distinguished Professor Award in recent years. Gary Schuster was the recipient last year, and Charles Lisaus was honored a few years ago.

"The School of Chemistry and Biochemistry is a special place," Marder said. “There are a lot of people in the school who are really dedicated to working to make Georgia Tech a better place. They’re willing to invest the time to do so.”

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identity or sexual orientation,” said Parsons. “Allies play a crucial role in mitigating the impact of those challenges and dismantling barriers to access and inclusion.”

On the tour, Tech employees learned firsthand about the efforts of local organizations to fight discriminatory legislation, improve access to health care, and incorporate anti-racist work into queer activism, among other issues. In addition to personal engagement, the goal is for faculty and staff to “use the knowledge they’ve gained to educate others, engage in service and volunteerism with these organizations, and grow in their commitment to allyship.”

The first stop was the Phillip Rush Center, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in February. Here, the center’s manager, Sebastian Beckham “Becks” Nix, walked the group around the facility.

He gave a brief history and overview of the work that has been done there by organizations such as the Health Initiative, Georgia Equality, Atlanta Prime Timers, Lost-N-Found Youth, Black Lives Matter, and dozens of others.

The Rush Center provides affordable, much-needed space to grassroots groups and nonprofits with a progressive or social justice focus. Though not exclusively LGBT, they are all allies. Linda Ellis, executive director and dismantling the Health Initiative (which began two decades ago as the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative), told the Level Up class, “We’re getting our work done, and we want others to have a place to do their work too. We have been forging great relationships with non-LGBT progressive groups. She added that the center’s “heart is rooted in the queer community, but it’s bigger than that.”

When asked about what motivated her to enroll in Level Up, Gia Lockett-Hart, an investigator with the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD), explained, “I wanted to be more educated about the resources that the LGBT community has in Atlanta. I don’t think a lot of people know about some of the organizations that are around.” She came away with a new understanding, “not just about LGBT issues, but also about other identities that people might not be that familiar with. Classmate Chris Thompson, associate director of Technology and Student Activities at CEIDSMC, concurred. “I’ve learned a lot being a part of this,” he said. “I have met some great people, and I am trying to take things that I’ve learned here back to my office and encourage other folks to go through the training in the future.”

Next it was on to Charis Books and More, where the class met E.R. Anderson, executive director of Charis Circle, the store’s nonprofit programming arm. Founded in 1974 in Little Five Points, Charis is the Southeast’s oldest independent feminist bookstore.

Charis Circle hosts about 270 events a year — everything from poetry readings and book clubs to a Sunday morning yoga class and a trans support group. They have a special interest in reaching out to people who are affiliated with colleges and universities, whether it’s faculty, staff, or students. “You do amazing things,” Anderson told Level Up participants. “You have access to resources that many people in the city of Atlanta don’t. But you have the potential to reach a broad audience, and we would love for you to share that here.”

The class responded to the tour with enthusiasm. Kate Fu, assistant professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, noted, “Seeing places where I could help as we walked through the Rush Center made me think that volunteering was something I could do there. That felt exciting.”

For Fu, the entire Level Up course has been rewarding in another way, too. “It was really invigorating to have readings and hard thinking to do,” she said.

It was also a place where she could feel a sense of community and belonging with “allies and like-minded people” on a campus where she hasn’t always felt that. Thanks to this course, she is now “feeling a little bit more at home at Georgia Tech.”

This semester, Level Up 2 offered workshops on non-monosexual identities, intersex issues, and legislative advocacy. Through presentations, class discussions, and readings, participants have gained wide-ranging insights into how to make the Tech campus more inclusive. Enrollment was limited to 25, and the course, which Parsons developed and taught with graduate assistant Adreanna Nartel, filled quickly. Participants who attended all five sessions will receive a completion certificate at this year’s Lavender Graduation on April 19. Those who have completed both Levels 1 and 2 will be given a plaque at the ceremony. Enrollment for the next offering of Level Up 1 will open this summer. Learn more about campus programming at lgbtqa.gatech.edu.

Fine-Tuning of Tech Parkway Corridor to Take Place Next Week

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The PATH Foundation will dispatch crews to campus next week to address a snag section of the Tech Parkway corridor.

The modification will relieve a pinch point for vehicular traffic near the Campus Recreation Center. Curbs in two places will be moved approximately two feet into the median from Means Street to the small parking area just north of the Campus Recreation Center. The project is scheduled to take place April 9-20, and some lane closures will take place during construction.

Information about other campus construction projects is available at facilities.gatech.edu.
THE WHISTLE • whistle.gatech.edu

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New York City School system. His parents valued education and encouraged him to question authority and conventional wisdom.

After earning a bachelor's degree from MIT, a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and completing postdoctoral studies at Oxford University and Caltech, he worked at Caltech and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) for several years. He was a professor at the University of Arizona for five years before joining the Georgia Tech faculty in 2003. He came to Tech as part of a team, with three other faculty members.

"One of the things that was so attractive about Georgia Tech was that the place was on the move," Marder said. "And, I felt that people who have the desire to work to build a better place really could have the opportunity to do so in the environment that Georgia Tech fosters. Fifteen years later that still proves to be true."

Marder's research pertains to organic materials — essentially plastic-like materials — for photonics and electronics. Organic materials for photonics have applications in areas such as 3-D microfabrication (where Marder's contributions with Professor Joseph Perry led to a successful spinoff company) and very high-speed data processing and communication. Materials for organic electronics have found application most significantly in organic light-emitting diode (OLED) displays, which are now ubiquitous in cellphones, but also as photovoltaic materials and as components of detectors, sensors, and electrodes.

Marder is part of an interdisciplinary team that tries to understand from first principles how to design and synthesize materials that enable these applications. He attributes his success to working closely with many researchers around the globe — most notably a team at Georgia Tech with whom he has worked on average over 25 years. The team includes Joseph Perry, Jean-Luc Bredas, Bernard Kippelen, and John Reynolds. Marder's work resulted in over 475 papers that have been cited more than 38,000 times, and he is an inventor on 39 issued patents, many of which were licensed.

"I think within our team there is a sense that there is something bigger than what we each individually do in our research group that's important," Marder said. "We're also very grateful to be at an institution where the desire that we have to contribute to the institution can be realized. That's one of the things that I find extraordinarily attractive about being at Georgia Tech."

The Importance of Giving Back

In addition to his stellar record in teaching and research, Marder is known across campus for his tireless service work. He is often called upon to serve on committees and task forces, because of his reputation for offering a fresh approach, the ability to cut to the heart of a problem, and a communication style that is considered honest — or even blunt. He is dyslexic, and he believes that it influences how he approaches problem-solving.

"The mind thinks differently [if you are dyslexic]," he said. "We see the world differently, and we see patterns that other people don't see. Dyslexia makes it more difficult to do certain things that other people can do easily. But it enables us to make contributions that other people likely wouldn't. When you add someone like myself to a team, there's going to be a bit of an oddball way of thinking that sometimes really helps. Consequently, I very much enjoy having the chance to work with people who have diverse ways of thinking about things. They learn from me, and I learn from them."

Marder said being a professor is a tremendous opportunity to learn and contribute to many facets of the Institute's activities; therefore, he views his service work as a way to learn and get to know many extremely talented people on campus who work on areas pertaining to diversity, international affairs, staff development, industrial relations, and other topics.

He has mentored more than 150 graduate students, postdocs, and research scientists in his group over the years, many of whom are now leaders in industry and academia around the globe. He also mentors staff and faculty members.

"My job in my capacity as a professor, particularly at this point in my career, is largely to enable other people to aspire to achieve more than they thought was possible," he said. "In that regard, I ask myself if there are people around me who are now doing things that they would not otherwise do because I helped facilitate that by either encouraging them to do that, creating the opportunity for them to do that, or teaching them how to do that."

Marder said the Distinguished Professor Award is, at some level, a testament to what one can do at a place like Georgia Tech. "We get to have an impact, and people pay us to do it. That's a pretty good gig."

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

School of Interactive Computing Professor Amy Bruckman was selected as a 2018 inductee into CHI Academy. She will be recognized at CHI 2018 in April in Montreal, Canada.

School of City and Regional Planning Senior Lecturer Richard Dagenhart was given the PEDS Golden Shoe award for the course he developed on Good Urbanism 101 with the Georgia Conservancy.

Stacey Doremsus, assistant director of LEAD Programs and Systems in Tech's Leadership Education and Development program, earned the Excellence in Teaching First-Year Seminars Award from McGraw-Hill Education and The National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina.

School of Interactive Computing Assistant Professor Alex Endert received a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation for a project titled CAREER: Visual Analytics by Demonstration for Interactive Data Analysis.

Robert Goldburg, Pettit Director's Chair in Bioengineering and Biocomputational Executive Director of the Parker H. Pettit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience, and Professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, earned a 2018 Industry Growth Award in Georgia Bio's 2018 Life Sciences Health Impact Awards.

Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering Professors Brian Gunter and Panagiotis Tsiriotis have each been selected by the Georgia Tech Center for Space Technology and Research for summer fellowships at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Sathyanarayana Hanagud, professor in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, received a Platinum Jubilee Award from his alma mater, the Aerospace Engineering Department of the Indian Institute of Science.

Omer T. Inan, assistant professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, received an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award for his project entitled Wearable Assessment of Wartime Blood Volume Status using Graph Mining Algorithms.

School of City and Regional Planning Assistant Professor Anna Joo Kim was named a track co-chair for the Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning for a three-conference term through 2020.

Satish Kumar, professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering, has been selected as a 2018 POLY Fellow of the American Chemical Society. He was honored during the group's spring national meeting in New Orleans.

Geoffrey Ye Li, professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, earned the 2017 IEEE Donald G. Fink Overview Paper Award, which is given by the IEEE Signal Processing Society.

Mary G. McDonald, professor and Homer C. Rice Chair of Sports and Society in the School of History and Sociology, was honored as a Georgia Power Professor of Excellence during Georgia Tech's home men's basketball game against Duke University in February.

Ursula Reynolds, associate director of graduate programs in the Scheller College of Business, received the 2018 Georgia Tech Women's Leadership Conference's Outstanding Staff Woman of Distinction Award. The award honors a staff member who demonstrates exemplary leadership abilities.

Jianjun "Jan" Shi, Carolyn J. Stewart Chair in Engineering at the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, was selected to the National Academy of Engineering's Class of 2018. Election is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

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Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon

Marder, along with faculty and staff members from across Georgia Tech, will be honored at the annual Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon on Wednesday, April 11.

More information is available at c.gatech.edu/fsbl.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

April 4

The Center for Teaching and Learning hosts a session on Unleashing Creativity and Innovation through Alternative Approaches to Course Assessments from 12 to 2 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center. ctl.gatech.edu

April 5

Legal Affairs and Risk Management hosts a webinar on Student Disability Accommodation Requests, with a Q&A. The event will take place from 2 to 4 p.m., in President’s Suites C and D, Bill Moore Student Success Center. ada.gatech.edu

April 9

The Georgia Smart Communities Challenge Workshop will inform communities about the Challenge and the future of smart communities in Georgia and at Georgia Tech. The event will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the GTRI Conference Center. smartcities.ipat.gatech.edu

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
Not Just Renovation, But Restoration

In Carnegie Building, Historic Meets Modern

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Like many of Georgia Tech’s facilities, the Andrew Carnegie building has a storied history, beginning as the original campus library.

Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie donated $20,000 to Georgia Tech for the construction of the library. He gave the money with the stipulation that the Board of Trustees would allocate $2,000 annually to the library’s operating budget.

The Carnegie Library’s groundbreaking was in November of 1906, and the library opened in 1907 with a donation of 700 books from Columbia University.

The building remained a library until 1953, when the Price Gilbert Library opened.

The building now serves as offices for Tech’s executive leadership team: the president, the provost, the executive vice president for Administration and Finance, and the executive vice president for Research.

The building’s 2016 renovation adds another chapter to its history. The renovation began as a plan to repair some squeaky floors and refresh the carpet and paint. After further discussion and examination of the overall condition of the building, the plan expanded to include replacing windows and doors, making the restrooms ADA compliant, remodeling the offices, and installing an elevator – a first for the two-story building.

“We also opened up the front entry stair,” said Liz Punch, manager of Construction Administration in Facilities Design and Construction, who managed the renovation. The door to the stairwell to the lower level was removed, making the entry more inviting.

The building had to be vacated while the work was done, beginning in spring of 2016. “I like a challenge,” said Punch, who had a short timeline to complete the renovation. “We did the construction in four and a half months – from the time they moved out until when they moved back in.”

Schneider Wright, Inc. was the architecture firm for the project, with Tech graduate Eric Clementi as the lead architect.

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation presented the 2017 Preservation Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation to Georgia Tech for the Carnegie Building.

See the full photo essay at c.gatech.edu/carnegie.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

For rent: 1BR/1BA apartment in Home Park, duplex residence, available April 1. Amenities include: washer/dryer, off-street parking, security system, A/C, ample storage, $975/mo. Contact 404-512-4618.


For rent: 2BR/1BA apartment in Home Park. Convenient to Tech campus. Email bdespy@hotmail.com.

For rent: 3BR/2BA apartment in Home Park, duplex residence. Includes both keys, brand new spare tire. Lots of upgrades. $950. Call 706-878-6730.

MISCELLANEOUS

For sale: Simmons Beautyrest “Firm” full mattress and Tempur-Ergo Premier Adjustable Frame (frame w/warranty). 18 months old. Original $3,800, selling for $1,800 OBO. Contact jamie@mattresstop.com.

Looking for a carpool partner for the daily commute from East Cobb to Tech campus. Email bdespy@hotmail.com.

Researchers in the School of Interactive Computing and Institute for People and Technology seeking parents of children ages 1 to 5 years old for a study using an e-book to track development. Learn more at c.gatech.edu/ibookstudy.

Free yellow jacket nest removal. Nests to be used for research in the School of Biology. Call 404-385-6311 or e-mail michael.goodisman@biology.gatech.edu.

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.

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