Celebrate Earth Day with us!

The 20th annual Earth Day festival takes place Friday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tech Walk. The event will feature live performances, a clothing swap, office supply exchange, a maze, and remarks from President G.P. “Bud” Peterson.

c.gatech.edu/earthday
**ARTS & CULTURE**

April 20, 21, 22

DramaTech Theatre presents The Musical of Musicals: The Musical. All shows begin at 8 p.m. dramatech.org

April 20, 21, 22

Georgia Tech choirs and guest artist Jane Sapp present Music for Hanukkah at 3 p.m., Ferst Center for the Arts. The performance is free. arts.gatech.edu

May 6-7

The Tech in Joy exhibit features interactive works, computational music installations, and augmented performance from the Tech Arts Practicum in collaboration with Eyedrum and local artists. The exhibit takes place May 6 from 7 to 11 p.m. and May 7 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Eyedrum Art and Music Gallery, 88 Forsyth Street. eyedrum.org

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**

April 22

The Alumni Association hosts the 45th annual Pi Mile Road Race. The race begins at 7:30 a.m. at Tech Tower Lawn. gatelumni.org/pimile

May 3

Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on Caring for Aging Parents, from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 320, Student Center. Register at: ehr.gatech.edu/bewell

**MISCELLANEOUS**

April 18

Staff Council hosts a series of town halls at 6 a.m., O’Keefe Break Room; 11 a.m., Room 152, Clough Commons; and 3:15 p.m., Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Seminar Room, Engineering BioSystems Building. staffcouncil.gatech.edu

April 19

The Resilience Employee Resource Group hosts Getting Grounded in Times of Chaos, a workshop focused on well-being, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 319, Student Center. RSVP at: e.gatech.edu/chaos

April 19

Ideas 2 Serve finals will showcase student innovations designed to create a better world, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Scheller College of Business Atrium. scheller.gatech.edu/2s

**EVENTS continued on page 3**

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**COMMUTE** from page 1

than when I used to have to drive,” she said. “Not being in a car, I get time to de-stress, listen to a podcast, or call friends and family. You get a buffer between work and home, and you’re being more active and walking.”

Helmken has a job that often requires her presence on campus outside regular business hours. She uses SmartPark for when she needs to work particularly early or late. Offered by Parking and Transportation Services, SmartPark is a pay-as-you-go program available for $25 a year, plus $6 each time you park.

“Even when I leave SmartPark, it’s less than what I’d be paying for an annual pass,” she said. Jim Kirk, assistant vice president for Institute Budget Planning and Administration, has been using alternative transportation for 15 of the 17 years he’s been at Tech. Kirk rides his bike to a Cobb County Transit (CCT) stop near his home in Marietta, then brings the bike with him to campus to get from the bus stop to his office in the Lyman Hall Building. His initial impetus for trying transit 15 years ago was when he had two cars stolen in one weekend.

The addition of biking came as part of his therapy after having knee surgery. He practiced several routes until he found one that felt safe and efficient. That leg of his commute works his body, but the rest of the time rewards his mind. He uses time to read books, catch up on news, and even sleep.

“I can reduce my blood pressure and leave the driving to someone else,” he said.

**Getting the Right Gear**

As a senior administrator, Kirk’s role on campus often involves meetings and presentations where he wears business clothing and shouldn’t look like he just hiked across campus in the Atlanta heat. For those considering biking, he recommends getting a pannier for your personal gear, and leave the driving to someone else,” he said. Kirk logs his commutes at gacommuteoptions.com.

For some, the options may seem limited until they take the first step. “A lot of people see Atlanta as a city where you can only drive to get around,” Helmken said. “There are certainly limitations, but there are a lot of options if you get creative and think about it. The more methods we use, the better traffic will be, and the healthier people will be.”

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**Commuting Resources**

- **Georgia Commute Options (gacommuteoptions.com):** Plan your route, find a carpool, and earn monetary incentives for clean commutes.
- **Parking and Transportation Services (parking.gatech.edu):** Learn about employee discounts, setting up payroll deduction for transit passes, and alternative parking permit options.
- **MARTA Army (martaarmy.org):** Learn more about the MARTA Army, or volunteer to help others navigate it.
How do you feel about the event?
Weissburg: It seems like we're drawing a bunch of really diverse people. If this is just scientists marching, then it's not going to do what we want it to. When we start to get other groups involved, and people from the community recognize the importance of science for their daily lives and want to come out and support it, that's a really good sign.

Bras: This is probably one of the few times where scientists are organized to make a statement that goes beyond our lab walls. We need to do that far more often. We need to be able to articulate to the public at large why science is important and explain it in ways people understand. We live and die by science and technology, and that's what creates value, businesses, and wealth in the modern world.

What is the disconnect with the public?
McGuire: There is a lot of cherry-picking of information for specific agendas. Part of the message is wanting to step back and really look at perspectives that are more broad and that come out of a scientific community.

Weissburg: We as scientists often communicate in a way that makes sense among ourselves, but we don't break things down in a way that allows the lay person to say, 'This is really what's important to me.' The more we as scientists learn to communicate things through that kind of value-based process—telling the story, essentially—the more people will appreciate why they need to support science.

Why is it important to make time for getting involved in policy or sharing science?
Balanchander: It's great when people in the lab work for something that has an impact 20-30 years down the line, but right now there are so many important things that need to be addressed. You have to shape your thinking and realize we're all in this together, so let's try to make this a better society, which also includes animals, the environment, and other countries.

McGuire: Much of our funding is public-based. It's our responsibility to get out there and use our understanding to improve society and to make science-based policy as best we can. We're starting to realize that and move in that direction. As much as we can reach out and connect to the public, we should, because this is why we are working here.

Is the march political?
Weissburg: It is political, but not partisan. As a society, we get together as a group with different values, different things that are important to us, and different priorities, and we make decisions using the democratic institutions that we have. Scientists are part of that. The data that scientists generate and the processes that science uses are in that public space, and it is, therefore, political. The political agenda here is to point out that that's a really important process for scientists to be involved in and that it affects all of us. It is, of course, the only factor in making these decisions. But again, if you don't know what the facts are, then anything that comes after that is not going to be good. It is nonpartisan in the sense that we're not trying to endorse a specific set of policies.

McGuire: A lot of the reasons we've laid out for why we are marching is across the aisle and very easily supported, but easy to lose track of as one is promoting specific policies. So it's really about emphasizing this need for grounding ourselves more in science.

Balanchander: We're not fighting—we're celebrating how science has evolved. It's about giving people the right resources and right education to help them make their own decisions.

— Kristen Bailey and Jason Maders

For more about the March for Science Atlanta, visit marchforscienceatlanta.org

What does a world without sexual violence look like?
Sexual violence causes so many issues and problems for victims-survivors and the communities in which they live. On an individual level, survivors can experience different mental health issues as a result of their trauma, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety, and a general disruption of their daily lives. On a broader level, a world without sexual violence would mean a lot of other sociological issues that are root causes of sexual violence, such as sexism, racism, transphobia, and ableism, would hopefully also be lessened.

What is the most challenging part of your job?
One challenging part is not always being able to help the student the way you would like. It can be disheartening and frustrating at times.

Students who have experienced sexual violence and need support can contact Katy Berten at 404-385-4451, or Jennifer Gagen at 404-385-4464. To reach an advocate after business hours, call the Georgia Tech Police Department at 404-894-2500, ask to be connected to the on-call advocate, and provide your phone number.

Services are free, confidential, and available to any student survivor of any identity.

MARCHING FOR SCIENCE

(continued from page 1)
Humor, Vision, and the Distinguished Professor Award

Gary Schuster Reflects on Time at Tech, Latest Honor

VICTOR ROGERS 
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

To the uninitiated, Gary Schuster can be hard to read. He takes full advantage of that.

“I have a somewhat unusual sense of humor,” he said. “I think it can be used as an effective communication tool; it’s rarely direct, almost always oblique. It forces people to think, Is he kidding? And, at that point, he’s won — they’re thinking and engaged.

Schuster, the Vasser Woolley Professor and Regents Professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, uses that technique with his students when teaching organic chemistry. For example, one topic he covers is intermolecular forces — those that operate between molecules. He introduces this topic by first asking an unexpected question: “Have any of you ever taken a bath?”

“They look at each other like, ‘Is this a metaphor?’” he said. Then they cautiously raise their hands to answer yes. Schuster follows with, “Did you dissolve? They shake their heads no. So, then he asks, ‘Why not?’ — which leads to a discussion of hydrogen bonding, hydrophilic and hydrophobic forces, and other intermolecular interactions.

“They’re thinking and engaged, and I hope all of them will understand intermolecular forces,” he said. “But, I guarantee everyone comes out knowing why they don’t dissolve in water. Early Days at Tech

After 20 years at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Schuster arrived at Tech in 1994 to be dean of the newly established College of Sciences.

Schuster said that in those early years, there was the sense that Georgia Tech could not get the best or be the best.

“Slowly, because of optimism and the making of no small plans, that attitude changed to that which we know today: We’re Georgia Tech. We can do that. We can compete with the best. And we win. We’re not going to win every time, but we’re in the game,” he said.

Changing the attitude of an institution in such a fundamental way is not an easy thing to do, Schuster said.

“Somehow, the culture changed. You don’t do that by demanding or commanding. You do that by leading by example and fulfilling your promises,” he said. “I was fortunate to be a part of that. The recognition of being a part of that energized me and energized the campus.

And, it’s an energy that we still feel today.

The Distinguished Professor Award

Following his time as dean of the College of Sciences, Schuster served as Tech’s provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs from 2006–2010 and as interim president from 2008–2009.

Now, he is the recipient of 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 and is presented to an active professor who has made significant, long-term contributions — contributions that would have brought widespread recognition to the professor, or to his or her school, and to the Institute.

“Being recognized with the Distinguished Professor Award really is a great honor — as great an honor as any that I have received,” he said. “But, it think it’s necessary for me to acknowledge that my accomplishments are really the contributions of many others. I am eternally grateful to my colleagues at Georgia Tech, to my students, and to the institution itself for having provided me with the opportunity to be here, to learn here, and to be a part of Tech’s transformation.”

Schuster, who was retiring this year, was recently joined by about 25 of his former students who came from as far away as Japan to celebrate with him at a dinner.

“People said nice things about me. Some of which were true,” Schuster said. “I feel grateful that I had the opportunity to help guide so many people over the past 45 years or so. It has been my good fortune to have been allowed to be a professor at Georgia Tech. It’s a privilege that I get to do exactly what I love doing. Interacting with students, guiding them to a future in an uncertain world, and helping them through the challenging spots in their professional and sometimes personal lives.

This has been a gift given to me that I strive to deserve.”

Schuster is also quick to share his scientific accomplishments with his research students and colleagues.

In acknowledging the contributions he made that advanced science and technology, he responded by re-telling what he recently said to his students when they were gathered for dinner.

“I told them, ‘Ideas aren’t even worth stealing. It’s making them work that’s the hard part. Most ideas don’t work as conceived. They have to be tried and modified. What succeeds and what fails has to be figured out, and that’s where it gets difficult.’ It’s my students who solved those problems; they deserve the recognition for whatever achievements we’ve made.

“Another factor is my colleagues here at Georgia Tech,” said Schuster, who came to Tech to be dean of Sciences and was appointed professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

“I understood it with a baseball trade metaphor,” he said. “I came to Tech as dean, and the chemistry professor was like the ‘player to be named later.’ You don’t know exactly what you’re getting, but you know it’s probably not going to be very good. But my colleagues in chemsity and other disciplines throughout Georgia Tech immediately welcomed me, accepted me, and supported me throughout the 23 years that I have been on this campus. It’s their support and contributions that have allowed me to do the things that we have done.”

When asked what retirement will look like for him, Schuster replied, “I am retired, but working. What that means so far is that I don’t come in on Fridays.”

REFERRALS FOR RENT

Schuster (left) attends Commencement during his term as interim president in 2008.