Architecture students reach out to community

By Trevor Stittleburg
Staff Writer

Curious children approached a large neon green structure standing in the atrium of the High Museum of Art last Sunday, pushing and pulling on the object and watching it stretch and fling back to its original shape.

The structure is called “Space Index,” and Tristan Al-Haddad, a faculty member at the College of Architecture, designed it for the High’s “Celebrate Architecture!” Family Day event.

The High came to the College of Architecture at Tech looking for volunteers to run the workshops.

The College of Architecture helped the High put on the event and many undergraduate and graduate students volunteered, running workshops designed for kids and parents to learn more about architecture.

Al-Haddad’s “Space Index” welcomed visitors to the event and he explained that not only was it “something interactive and fun for the kids” but also a demonstration of his research area, digital design and manufacturing.

“It’s focusing on methods of fabricating intelligent form embedded within the parts,” Al-Haddad said.

In one workshop architecture students worked with kids who were building models with wood pieces.

Kids had colorful model-building materials at their disposal to construct miniature museums and gallery rooms, complete with their own works of art.

“We have a lot of wood products here: popsicle sticks, dipsticks, notched popsicle sticks that they can fit together like Lincoln logs, wood blocks and these wood sticks, some colored, some not,” said Matt Lewis, a graduate student in Architecture.

One child created a “sunlit” arched ceiling using a piece of media.

“This gives the kids a chance to be exposed to different things. My son Justin likes math and architecture has a lot to do with math, and I wanted to show him the kinds of things he can do with that,” said Lisa White, a parent attending the event.

“My favorite part is just helping out, playing with the kids. We take for granted that it starts with kids putting things together spatially. It shows people who don’t usually associate Tech with helping the community that we [reach out],” said Evan Watts, an Architecture major who volunteered for the event.

In another workshop, focused on showing kids 3-D designs, children drew on a large piece of paper on the wall of the room, while volunteers from the IMAGINE lab (Interactive Media Architecture Group in Education) traced over the drawing in Rhino, a software program used for 3-D modeling.

“Kids draw shapes on the wall and he’s extruding them into three dimensions,” said Phi Tran, a third-year Architecture major and a volunteer at the workshop.

“This event shows people who don’t usually associate Tech with helping the community that we reach out.”

Evan Watts
ARCH major

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11,000 videos a year, compared to 400 or 500 Hollywood titles released in the same period of time.

According to Leahy, the definition of pornography is “any material designed with the express purpose of arousing you sexually.” While it is “the result of a creative process,” it lacks artistic value.

Many things that were once considered pornographic are now commonplace; advertisers use sex as a tool to sell products, and because television is most people’s primary information source, the increasing sexualization of television affects culture. Teenagers see an average of 14,000 sexual images or messages every year.

His story is a sad one. He was first exposed to porn at the age of 11, when he saw another child’s pack of playing cards adorned with topless women.

He said that he liked it but had an opposing feeling to it; like most people, he decided to keep it a secret. This was the beginning of 35 years of keeping his secret.

“It was more than a sideline thing or a novelty,” Leahy said. “It was a relationship.” Because of his addiction to porn, dating became a relationship. Because of his addiction to porn, dating became a relationship. Because of his addiction to porn, dating became a relationship.

He was “interested in what the speaker had to say, because I know porn is a growing problem.” So he went to the program. “It was awesome,” he said.

Ben Perry, first-year Computer Engineering major, came to the program as a “bible study event.” He thought it was “informative” and “stressed the importance of keeping your secrets.”

Civil Engineering graduate student Kennan Crane also thought it was “a really cool presentation.” He really portrayed some non-religious aspects porn has on our culture [in a non-confrontational way]."

Ben Perry - First-year CMPE major

I want to see sexy action news breasts! Amandas in a hawiie Boobs are wonderful There are boobs on my elbow Submitting slivers together I want to see sexy action news tigger yum yum I drive the trashed silver ford ranger.......

Dorkbot introduces art, explores creativity among engineers

By Hernando Jimenez Contributing Writer

Ballet, microprocessors, paintings, movement tracking software, a classical symphonic composition, a hijacked videogame console... while they may not seem to have much in common, all these elements go hand in hand within the minds of those attending dorkbot meetings.

Dorkbot is an informal monthly gathering of scientists, engineers, designers, artists and all others interested in various forms of electronic art where presentations of ongoing work are given for peer review.

What started in New York more than five years ago as an effort to foster creativity and collaboration between experts of different fields is currently a list of groups in over 45 cities including London, Melbourne, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, London, Melbourne, Melbourne, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Rotterdam.

The local group in Atlanta, dorkbot-atl, is hosted by the Georgia Tech Music Department and is coordinated by one of its newest professors, Jason Freeman. “There is fascinating artwork occurring behind the scenes in the sciences and engineering departments. Dorkbot can provide a means for it to surface,” Freeman said.

Students and faculty from different departments present in the first two meetings of the Atlanta group reflect the wide spectrum of backgrounds that form dorkbot.

“A lot of the people that come are like the students here at the music department. We have very diverse backgrounds, but we are discovering how to make them work together beyond any paradigm,” Freeman said.

With a mostly technical student body, some think that Tech provides a unique environment for dorkbot to develop and contribute towards the growth of the community. “It’s going to give some oxygen,” said Kevin Quennesson, a graduate student in Information Design and Technology who presented at the last dorkbot meeting.

There are a lot of high-tech tools and great talent [at Tech], but there is a lot to be explored if using these tools for purposes different to what they were intended for,” Quennesson said.

Others, like Hartmut Koenig, a Ph.D. student in Literature, Communication and Culture, recognize a major challenge amid their excitement and optimism.

“We work at the intersection of humanities and technology. It is very difficult to overcome a great division between these two disciplines,” Koenig said.

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WES WILSON
Computer Science alumnus
Beauty and the Geek contestant

When Wes Wilson went out with friends the night before he graduated from Georgia Tech last August, he had no idea that at a nightclub, he would be approached with a life-changing opportunity: “I work for the WB...I do casting for Beauty and the Geek. Have you ever heard of it?”

After encouragement from his friends and family, the Computer Science graduate landed himself on the WB reality show Beauty and the Geek, known as a social experiment and produced by Ashton Kutcher.

Everyone on the current season of the show went to open casting calls, but only Tech alumni Wes Wilson was recruited.

“I guess I’m the only one who’s just that geeky. It wasn’t until later I figured it out...I was like, ‘You weren’t looking for geeks in the club’ and she [the recruiter] was like, ‘No, we were looking for beauties, but we got you.’”

The show’s premise puts eight gorgeous girls, known as the “beauties,” and eight brainy but socially awkward guys, known as the “geeks,” together, all living in the same house. They are paired off in teams, one beauty and one geek, and in each episode. They compete in various challenges to stay in the house. These challenges usually test the geeks on their social skills and pop culture and the beauty’s gardening skills and on how well they can combine their skills to create a dish that is described as “flavorful” and “appealing.”

By Jane Wong

Contributing Writer

PETER LUDOVICE
Chemical Engineering professor
Comedian a.k.a. ‘Dr. Ludicrous’

Just take one look at Peter Ludovice’s business cards with the infamous picture of Albert Einstein sticking his tongue out and his personality immediately becomes apparent. Ludovice is an associate professor of Chemical Engineering by day and a stand-up comedian by night.

Most recently, Dr. Ludovice—or “Dr. Ludicrous” as he is known on stage (a nickname his students reportedly gave him in reaction to his high expectations of grading in his classes) performed his most well-known act “Pocket Protectors and Other Fashion Statements” at Atlanta’s Showcase Comedy Club for the MIT Club of Atlanta.

Ludovice performs most often at locations in Atlanta such as the Academy Theater and the Funny Farm Comedy Club in Alpharetta; however, he has also performed at many corporate functions and comedy clubs nationwide.

“The corporate audiences just rule. I think almost all comedians will agree with that,” Ludovice said. Ludovice likes to pride himself on being a nerd at heart and often makes fun of chemical engineers in his act.

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By Emily Tate
Contributing Writer

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By Jane Wong

Contributing Writer

The 3rd Annual Black History Month Gala
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Children’s Miracle Network thanks all who took part in the Dance Marathon at Georgia Tech. This year, participants and organizations came together to raise $19,744.95 for the patients at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, pushing the total money the event has raised to almost $70,000.

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The month-long experience on the show turned out to be much more rewarding than he or any of the other cast members anticipated. The stereotypes were the first border that everyone had to break. Wilson appreciated the success of the show in expanding everyone’s horizons.

“You get past [the stereotypes] pretty quickly. You kind of start to pick up off each other. At first, the bea"ites were kind of separate and had their own sense of humor, and the geeks had ours. As it went, they started to overlap where the girls started quoting Carmen from South Park, so we knew we were making progress. We would talk about shopping. It’s kind of weird. And we’d start learning about celebrity gossip and celebrities’ kids and clothing lines. Is got scary there, a little too successful! So yeah, we did fit into our stereotypes but there was common ground. Once you reach the common ground, it’s like creating a monster.

Although Wilson went into the show with personal goals to become more confident and comfortable with himself, the producers of the show also had goals for each member of the cast.

“We had producers observing our actions twenty-four seven.....they just bring to your attention your flaws. In real life, no one talks to you and no one says, ‘You know what, you kind of have self-defeating behavior. Look at what you did here; look at what you did here. Can you explain that?” Wilson said.

Wilson and Tenbush both agree that they were skeptical about the cheesy things they heard before going on the show, such as learning life lessons and making life-long friends.

“I heard, ‘You’ll remember your life before the show and your life after the show,’ and I remember laughing at them in my head, going, ‘Whatever!’ and now we’re living that,” Tenbush said.

Wilson and Tenbush became good friends with Ankut, known as “M.I.T. graduate” on the show, when the three of them began staying up late every night, talking, goofing off and calling themselves the “Late Night Crew.”

“Much of the bonding on the show never makes it on air; however, what does make the final cut and is shown to audiences is actually only 1% of the total time they spent together during filming, a number that Tyson, ‘Rubik’s Cube Record Holder,’ calculated for everyone.

What is shown on air is often one-sided and exaggerated, but both Wilson and Tenbush felt that the show’s producers did a good job on casting and editing.

“They’re going to have to cut out a whole lot of things. They might exaggerate things by only showing certain sides of people...but, you kind of have to do that. We’re taking both sides. [The producers] stayed true [to everyone], but they still had to do what they had to do to make ratings,” Wilson said.

Wilson and Tenbush felt that the changes all of the cast members made during the show is “Tracks Monkeys with Lasers,” something he did while the show is “Tracks Monkeys with Lasers,” something he did while

The season is currently halfway through its run, with only three teams remaining. The show airs on the WB on Thursday nights at 9 p.m.

We’d like to hear from you. Write us a letter.
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backgrounds,” Koenitza said. Steve Everet, a professor in the Music department at Emory University, presented his work on oriental music (from Java) used in shadow puppet theater at the meeting. He used some visual and optical techniques and also composed and directed pieces in this ancient musical form while using state of the art audio technology to manipulate some of the sounds to enhance the overall experience delivered to the audience.

Kristen Jarvis, an employee at the Center of Puppetry Arts in downtown Atlanta, attended the meeting when she heard that Everet was presenting. “I am very interested in Steve Everet’s work… I couldn’t miss his presentation,” Jarvis said. So how do participants at dorkbot attempt to close the gap between art and technology? This is the case of Doug Bakum, a Ph.D. student in the department of Bioengineering and presenter at the next dorkbot meeting who works involves researching neurons connected to a drawing arm and fed signals from a camera recording the drawings. “[Dorkbot] gives the general public exposure to new art forms, new ways of expression and creativity...”

Doug Bakum Graduate student

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“These young engineers, they don’t appreciate a good vinyl pocket protector, because not only does it keep you from getting that big-ass stain on your shirt, but in a pinch, it’ll double as a condom...and I know it’s kind of scratchy, so maybe that’s why most of these people use the engineer’s preferred mode of birth control is their personalities.” Ludovice said in one of his stand-up performances in Sunnyvale, CA.

Ludovice started performing stand-up comedy routines when he was 42, which he describes as part of his midlife crisis. He has a PhD. from MIT which he said actually means “Mutants In Training” and has done postdoctoral work for familiar organizations such as IBM and NASA. He describes his sense of humor as well as his teaching style as being most like that of famous comedian George Carlin.

“[Dorkbot] gives the general public exposure to new art forms, new ways of expression and creativity...”

Doug Bakum Graduate student

Ludovice sometimes even references an old joke that almost every Tech female has heard at least once: “Ladies, the odds are good, but the goods are odd!” Ludovice doesn’t just restrict his performances to comedy clubs, however. He has performed at Tech events such as FAST and plans to present lectures to incoming Presidential Scholars on dating with professors, which is titled: “Your Professor: Human or Alien Swan.” Ludovice also has taught a GT 1000 course geared specifically towards Chemical Engineering majors. Many of his jokes stem from experiences with his students, especially from Tech students. He has also become familiar with freshmen specifically through the Department of Housing as a Freshman Partner (member of the faculty who works with Peer Leaders in the Freshman Experience dorms). I’ll try and start an 8 a.m. class off with a few jokes in order to wake everyone up a little bit, but the minute I say anything, whadda you do? They write it down...and then there’s the inevitable student in the front row who asks if this is going to be on the test,” Ludovice said.

For Women’s Awareness Month, Ludovice is working with the Women’s Resource Center by hosting the second annual Funny Girls Comedy Show on March 31 at 8 p.m. “The truth is that there are more men in comedy than there are women...My theory is that women aren’t into a job where you essentially make an ass out of yourself...I will definitely be wearing my ‘Women Kick Ass’ t-shirt,” Ludovice said. He also said that his dialogue would contain complaints about the shirt making him look “fat.”

Ludovice has also been part of the comedy acts scheduled at Under the Couch in previous years. Ludovice used this opportunity to bring a sense of humor back to campus in the midst of the stringent study habits of most students. According to Ludovice, Bill Hunt a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering has also taken up the second job of stand-up comedian. 1620 AM Radio Sandy Springs features Ludovice and Hunt together on a technical radio talk show airing on Sunday mornings.

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