Greetings from Georgia Tech! With the holiday season upon us and the new year approaching, I find myself reflecting on our campaign progress with deep gratitude. 

Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech was publicly launched a year ago, and I am encouraged by all we have achieved since then.

As President Cabrera often says at campaign events, “it takes a village” to continue the success of Georgia Tech. Since the on-campus launch in December 2022, this idea continues to resonate with me throughout all of the interactions we have had with the broad Georgia Tech community. Alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, corporations, and foundations are all part of a collective group that is bolstering Georgia Tech and demonstrating their belief in the Institute as we find ourselves at this extraordinary moment in time. 

As the fastest growing public university in the nation and the number one institution for return on investment, the Institute is receiving external recognitions and accolades acknowledging what we have long known — Georgia Tech is a special place. And we are well positioned to seize this opportunity and continue to excel as a result of this campaign.

At more than halfway through the campaign timeline (ending December 2027) and more than halfway to the $2 billion-plus goal, I am grateful to the nearly 84,000 donors who are investing in our future. Transforming Tomorrow donors reflect a great mixture of people who have supported Georgia Tech for many years and others who have reached a point in their lives where they can invest in the Institute for the first time. From those who give to Roll Call each year and/or support intercollegiate athletics, to donors who direct their philanthropy to student scholarships and graduate fellowships, to others who provide for faculty, research, or facilities projects, every gift is included in Transforming Tomorrow and continues to fuel our momentum and success.

This edition of Campaign Quarterly highlights recent events and features strategic philanthropy in action across the Georgia Tech community. You will learn what motivates one of our campaign co-chairs to give, read about exciting news on the athletic front, and discover more examples of the transforming power of philanthropy. I know you will enjoy learning how alumni such as Melany Arjona, M.S. ECE 2000, and Vicente Reynal, ME 1995, are helping increase student access. I have had the privilege to meet Melany and Vicente personally, and their story echoes the amazing Georgia Tech journeys so many of you have shared with us while we are on the road. The establishment of their scholarships is a reflection of the collective and personal power this campaign has to make a lasting impact on this place and in the lives of our students and faculty.

This is just a glimpse of the many stories included in these pages — I invite you to read more and hope you will be as inspired as I am. Please know that every gift matters to Georgia Tech and will provide the resources necessary for the Institute to continue to realize its greatest aspirations as a research powerhouse, an economic driver, and a catalyst of change, positively affecting the trajectories of students’ lives.

Best wishes for this holiday season and thank you for your support of Georgia Tech.

With appreciation,

—Jen
CAMPAIGN UPDATE

THE CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY INTERVIEW WITH CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

KELLY BARRETT

A retired senior vice president, Home Services of The Home Depot, Kelly H. Barrett, IMGT 1986, has made a profound impact on her community and her alma mater. In addition to her involvement with the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta Rotary Club, and YMCA of Metro Atlanta, Barrett also serves the Institute through her volunteer leadership on the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business Advisory Board (past chair) and the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees. She and her husband Rick Barrett, IE 1985, have demonstrated their commitment to Georgia Tech through transformative philanthropy directed to undergraduate student scholarships, intercollegiate athletics, and Scheller College.

What role did Georgia Tech play in preparing you for your career?

Georgia Tech not only prepared me for my career, it prepared me for life. It teaches you that there is no problem that can’t be solved and the value of hard work and tenacity.

It is an incredible credential to say that you graduated from Georgia Tech. If you can “get out” of Georgia Tech, you can do anything. There’s a high degree of respect for someone who has graduated from Tech, and that has been elevated even more now because it’s so much harder to get into Tech.

What is your favorite memory from your time at Tech?

Some of my fondest memories have come after I graduated as I became reengaged. It started when I returned to speak to Professor Debbie Turner’s class. She was my favorite professor and sparked my interest in starting my career in public accounting. Coming to campus and spending time with the students is incredible. The more engaged I become with Georgia Tech, the more my love for Tech grows. The lifelong friendships that I’ve made with other alumni volunteers are very special.

What inspires you to give back to Georgia Tech and other philanthropic organizations that are important to you?

I worry about our society in terms of the “haves” and the “have nots,” and the deep division that we have in our society today. Making investments one person at a time will change that. It’s why need-based scholarships are so important.

I think about students who are struggling to make ends meet while going to Georgia Tech who are already stressed about getting through school. I was blessed because I came from a solid middle-class family, and I never wanted for anything. For me, it’s about giving back to others.

Why is Georgia Tech a good philanthropic investment?

At Georgia Tech, we say “We can do that” and that ties into my problem-solving comment. The amount of innovation, technology, and ideas coming out of Tech is truly mind blowing. For me, need-based scholarships are critical to the continued success of Georgia Tech. Every student who gets into Tech should have the same opportunity to attend no matter their financial situation. I believe that making investments in our students is how Tech will continue to change the world.

Why is athletics such an important aspect of the Georgia Tech experience?

Athletics is extremely important to the overall Development efforts. It keeps alumni connected and engaged. My father was a high school head football coach and athletic director, so I’m naturally disposed to athletics. Growing up, I also saw the difference that athletics made in the lives of the kids my dad coached. We’re developing these amazing and hardworking student-athletes who are going to go on to represent us and do great things.

What is the top philanthropic priority for Transforming Tomorrow?

I believe it’s need-based scholarships right now. But every dollar counts. It might feel like small gifts don’t make a big impact, but they do. Every dollar changes Georgia Tech. I am also very focused on how we are engaging our young alumni. We have an incredible older alumni base that has been generously supporting Tech for years. But the majority of our alumni have now graduated since 2000, and it’s important to make sure we are keeping them engaged and demonstrating how every gift matters.

Anything else you would like to add?

There is so much energy and excitement surrounding Georgia Tech. We are truly blessed to have President Ángel Cabrera at the helm and his wife and alum Beth by his side. There are no two bigger advocates for Tech. Ángel’s strategic vision coupled with his genuine belief in inclusion and empowering all will take Georgia Tech to the next level. ///
CAMPAIGN ON THE ROAD

Recent campaign events include gatherings in Miami, Dallas, and Houston, as well as an all-alumni event hosted by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association in Houston. Next year we will hold more events in Atlanta and beyond as we share the campaign message with alumni and friends across the country.
CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The accounting period for Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech is January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2027. The following update reflects progress toward goals through September 30, 2023.

Funds Raised to Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$1.102B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>$1.102B</td>
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57.4% time elapsed

Giving by the Numbers

- 83,800+ donors
- 47% of funds raised given by Georgia Tech alumni
- $147 million raised for low and limited income student scholarships
- 5,883 parents have given to the campaign
- $154 million raised for research

Funds by Use

- CURRENT OPERATIONS: $540M (Goal: $1B)
- FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: $139M (Goal: $300M)
- ENDOWMENT: $422M (Goal: $700M)

Learn more about the priorities and goals of Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech at transformingtomorrow.gatech.edu.
Co-Chairs
Kelly H. Barrett, IMGT 1986, and Rick L. Barrett, IE 1985
Atlanta, Georgia
Sarah L. and Thomas A. Fanning, IMGT 1979, M.S. IMGT 1980, HON Ph.D. 2013
Atlanta, Georgia

Vice Chair
Michael K. Anderson, IE 1979
Atlanta, Georgia

Honorary Chairs
Atlanta, Georgia
Shawn S. and Brook Byers, EE 1968, HON Ph.D. 2010
Menlo Park, California
Penny P. and William W. George, IE 1964, HON Ph.D. 2008
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Elizabeth H. and Francis S. “Bo” Godbold, IE 1965
Tierra Verde, Florida
Billie and Bernie Marcus, HON Ph.D. 2015
Atlanta, Georgia
Naples, Florida
Miami, Florida
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
Alfred P. West Jr., AE 1964, HON Ph.D. 2010
Coatesville, Pennsylvania

At-Large Members
Miami Beach, Florida
Richard L. Bergmark, IMGT 1975, HON Ph.D. 2022
Houston, Texas
José M. Bern, CE 1995
Doral, Florida
Kathy S. and G. Niles Bolton, ARCH 1968
Atlanta, Georgia
Sarah Beth Brown
Marietta, Georgia
Tricia F. and Kenneth G. Byers Jr., EE 1966, M.S. EE 1968
Atlanta, Georgia
Elizabeth J. Cabrera, M.S. PSY 1993, Ph.D. PSY 1995
Atlanta, Georgia
Donna C. de la Guardia, IMGT 1982, and Mario M. de la Guardia Jr., IMGT 1982
Amelia Island, Florida
Kara and Walter G. Ehmer, IE 1989
Atlanta, Georgia
David D. Flanagan, IE 1976
McLean, Virginia
Beth and Daniel F. Flowers Jr., ME 1983
Houston, Texas
Alessandro S. Hatami, CE 1983
London, U.K.
Thomas M. Holder, IMGT 1979
Atlanta, Georgia
Helen B. and Roger A. Krone, AE 1978
Annapolis, Maryland
Andrea L. Laliberte, IE 1982, M.S. IE 1984
Jacksonville, Florida
Megan B. Langley, IE 2009, and Garrett S. Langley, EE 2009
Atlanta, Georgia
John A. Lanier
Atlanta, Georgia
Jenny K. and Michael G. Messner, CE 1976, HON Ph.D. 2023
Atlanta, Georgia
Bonnie and Charles W. “Wick” Moorman IV, CE 1975
Charlottesville, Virginia
Gregory J. Owens, IMGT 1982
Atlanta, Georgia
Magd M. Riad, IE 2001
Atlanta, Georgia
Jean Marie F. Richardson, MGT 2002, and Harry L. Richardson, BIOL 2002
Brookhaven, Georgia
Patricia D. and Carl D. Ring, ME 1978
Memphis, Tennessee
Jacquelyn R. Schneider, BC 2006, MBA 2018
Brookhaven, Georgia
Wayne Sellers and Teresa M. Smith, IMGT 1983
McDonough, Georgia
G. Leigh Teixeira, ID 2001, and Mark C. Teixeira, BA 2022
Austin, Texas

Ex Officio Members
Betsy A. Bulat, IAML 2004
Chair, Georgia Tech Alumni Association
President Emeritus
Lance M. Fritz
Chair, Georgia Tech Advisory Board
Thomas M. Holder, IMGT 1979
Chair, Georgia Tech Foundation
G.P. “Bud” Peterson
President Emeritus
David P. Rowland, IMGT 1983
Chair, Georgia Tech Foundation Development
Teresa M. Smith, IMGT 1983
Chair, Georgia Tech Foundation Stewardship
Carrie and Michael P. Zamora
Chairs, Georgia Tech Parents Advisory Board
In September, in front of a standing-room-only crowd inside the John Lewis Student Center’s Atlantic Theater, global leaders from the Hyundai Motor Group and Georgia Tech signed a memorandum of understanding, creating a transformative partnership focused on sustainable mobility, the hydrogen economy, and workforce development.

As the automaker continues to construct its Metaplant America site in Bryan County — the cornerstone of Hyundai’s $12 billion investment into electric vehicles and battery production across the state of Georgia — the signing ceremony symbolized the vision that Hyundai and Georgia Tech share on the road to advancing technology and improving the human condition.

“It’s clear, we are in the right place with the right partners,” Jay Chang, president and CEO of Hyundai Motor Company, said. “Hyundai and Georgia Tech have a lot in common. We have proud histories. We celebrate excellence, and we have very high standards. What we love about Georgia Tech is the vision to be a leading research university that addresses global challenges and develops exceptional leaders from all backgrounds.”

The state of Georgia and the Institute have positioned themselves as leaders in the electrification of the automotive industry. Hyundai is among the top sellers of electric vehicles in the United States, as the company aims to produce up to 500,000 vehicles annually at the $7 billion Savannah plant when production begins in 2025. The plant will create 8,500 jobs, and the company’s total investments are projected to inject tens of billions of dollars into the state economy while spurring the creation of up to 40,000 jobs.

José Muñoz, president and global COO of Hyundai Motor Company and president and CEO of Hyundai and Genesis Motor North America, said the company quickly realized the potential impact of the newly forged partnership with Georgia Tech.

“Imagine zero-emissions, hydrogen-powered vehicles here on campus, advanced air mobility shuttling people to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, or riding hands-free and stress-free in autonomous vehicles during rush hour on I-75 and I-85. Together, Georgia Tech and Hyundai have the resources to fundamentally improve how people and goods move,” he said.

The partnership also includes field-naming recognition at Bobby Dodd Stadium, which is now known as Bobby Dodd Stadium at Hyundai Field, and provides student-athletes and teams with the resources needed to compete at the highest levels, both athletically and academically.

For more information or to inquire about corporate engagement opportunities at Georgia Tech, contact Mark Nolan, associate vice president of Corporate Engagement, at jnolan34@gatech.edu.
INCREASED SUPPORT FOR TECH STUDENTS

The rising costs of higher education mean that supporting students is more urgent than ever. Recent initiatives expand access for talented, deserving students. Here are updates about three important programs that support students and their educational experiences at Georgia Tech:

EXPANDING THE STAMPS PRESIDENT’S SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Stamps family is expanding its support of the Stamps President’s Scholars Program, Georgia Tech’s premier merit-based scholarship, increasing the program cohort from 40 to 50 Stamps President’s Scholars per year from 2024 and beyond. This expansion will make it one of the largest, most generous merit aid scholarship programs in the nation. An invaluable recruitment tool for Georgia Tech, the Stamps President’s Scholars Program drives prospective students to apply early, engages top students throughout the application process, and helps the Institute attract and retain the best and the brightest. Recipients are selected based on demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, progress, and service. Stamps President’s Scholars receive Stamps funding that is matched with funds from Georgia Tech. The program provides full-ride scholarships and includes Faculty Guides, retreat opportunities, seminar courses, international travel opportunities, and funding for Stamps President’s Scholars to explore their individual interests. Participants have gone on to be named Rhodes, Goldwater, and Truman Scholars, attend top graduate schools, and launch impressive careers across a wide variety of industries.

E. Roe Stamps IV, IE 1967, M.S. IE 1972, HON Ph.D. 2014, and his late wife, Penny, used the model of the Stamps President’s Scholars Program that began at Georgia Tech to establish a national and international program through partnerships with institutions across the nation (and into the U.K.) that recognizes and rewards exceptional students who exemplify leadership, scholarship, and service. The prestigious scholarship program is renowned for helping extraordinary students become meaningful leaders throughout society.

VAL-SAL PROGRAM LAUNCHES

This fall, Georgia Tech extended its commitment to academic excellence and access for Georgia students by establishing the Georgia Tech Val-Sal Scholarship. Valedictorians and salutatorians from Georgia high schools who have significant demonstrated need, typically under $75,000 in annual gross household income, may now be considered for a $2,500 or $5,000 per year award, depending on need level. This scholarship, made possible by Institute discretionary funds, extends the Georgia Tech Scholars Program, an initiative that guarantees admission to graduating valedictorians and salutatorians from accredited Georgia high schools with 50 or more students who meet the requirements for the program. “The Georgia Tech Val-Sal Scholarship is another exciting step in our ongoing commitment to expand access and to support even more of the most talented students from all over our state,” said Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera.

FREE PASSPORT INITIATIVE TAKES OFF

Delta Air Lines is sponsoring a free passport program at Georgia Tech and five other Atlanta educational institutions to help increase access to global education experiences and foster international perspectives among students. Awarded through the Atlanta Global Research and Education Collaborative as part of Delta’s efforts to expand student access to global educational opportunities, Georgia Tech’s Free Passport Initiative launched in mid-September and demonstrates the Institute’s commitment to students connecting globally. Open to students with demonstrated financial need who are receiving financial aid, this initiative aims to eliminate the financial barriers that might hinder their ability to obtain a U.S. passport. By covering the passport application and photo fees, the program provides a gateway for eligible students to embark on journeys of international exploration and learning. “We are grateful to Delta for their generous support of our students,” said Lorie Johns Páulez, director of Education Abroad. “Georgia Tech’s mission to create access for all students to connect globally is a top strategic priority, and this funding is critical to getting us closer to this goal.”
Many Georgia Tech friends and alumni have been key supporters of Tech's School of Music, a fast-growing and highly innovative program.

Its students engage in groundbreaking research as well as enriching performances. And plans are underway for an experimental multimedia space that will be “a testbed for charting music’s future,” says School Chair Jason Freeman.

With over 100 students per year pursuing undergraduate and advanced degrees in music technology, the School generates approximately 40 concerts per year, drawing participants from across campus. The donors making a difference to the School likewise come from varied backgrounds.

The late Robert “Bob” Gibeling Jr., BMGT 1972, was a passionate supporter of music, as were his parents, Robert W. Gibeling, ARCH 1941, and Naomi Gibeling. Bob sang in Tech’s Glee Club and his church choir throughout his life. The Gibeling family’s endowed support has made an enormous impact on the School, especially its choir program.

“The endowment has helped to grow our choir programs at Georgia Tech,” Freeman says, “and to create an inclusive, welcoming community for all of our student musicians and music technology students.”

The late Richard Guthman, IE 1956, wanted to honor his wife, Margaret Guthman, a pianist, while supporting music at Tech. And what began in 1996 as a piano competition evolved into the annual Margaret Guthman Musical Instrument Competition, attracting musicians from around the world to showcase new ideas about instrument design and engineering. According to Margaret, it represents “what Georgia Tech does best — innovation.”

It was that technological innovation that inspired Robert Gaudio to support the School. “Technology has become the great equalizer,” he said, “and allows creative people another form of expressing music even if they’re not proficient in any particular instrument.”

The keyboard player for Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Gaudio is a singer and songwriter who penned favorites including “Sherry” and “December 1963 (Oh What a Night).” Gaudio has collaborated with artists such as Barry Manilow, Diana Ross, Neil Diamond, and Roberta Flack and played a pivotal role in producing Jersey Boys.

Now, he is having an impact on Tech’s School of Music through student scholarships.

Longtime friends of the School, Col. Stephen C. Hall, IM 1967, and his wife, Pamela Hall, increased their support by adding to the Pamela M. and Stephen C. Hall Scholarship Fund in honor of Jerry Ulrich, as well as funding a scholarship to honor Gaudio. He also was moved to contribute. “I was truly honored and inspired to increase the support for another student,” said Gaudio.

The generous philanthropy of these donors is helping Tech’s School of Music thrive and build community.

“Music,” says Freeman, “is a way for us to explore our own humanity and build deep connections with others.”

To inquire about making a gift or commitment in support of the School of Music, contact College of Design Development Associate Jacquelyn Schneider at jacquelyn.schneider@design.gatech.edu.
On Sept. 8, current and former George Fellowship recipients gathered with Bill George, IE 1964, HON Ph.D. 2008, Sean Malone, president of the George Family Foundation, and H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) faculty for an afternoon “T.”

George is the former CEO of Medtronic and a senior fellow at the Harvard Business School, where he specializes in developing authentic leaders. His wife, Penny George, is a leader in the national movement to transform healthcare through the principles and practices of integrative medicine. In 1994, they founded the George Family Foundation to support transformative programs that use a systems approach to improve people’s lives. Their foundation focuses on Penny’s passion for integrative health and healing, Bill’s passion for authentic leadership, and a shared passion for community.

Through the George Family Foundation, the couple established a fellowship program in the ISyE at Tech to recognize exceptional students who are interested in research and activities related to health systems, and to prepare students for leadership roles in healthcare and medtech fields.

At the tea, George Fellows discussed their current research endeavors, which span a broad array of disciplines, from public health and policy to machine learning and data science. A shared sentiment among them was gratitude for their Tech education, their faculty mentors — including Pinar Keskinocak, the William W. George Chair, ISyE professor, and director of the Center for Health and Humanitarian Systems — and the leadership training they receive as part of the George Fellowship. This training, they said, allows them to know themselves better and to gain clarity about their professional and personal goals, as they address questions such as “Who do I want to become?” and “Why do I want to become that?”

During his remarks, George emphasized the importance of these types of questions for bright, successful students who will soon enter the professional world of healthcare technology. “Most of you will be called upon to lead,” he said, “and I think we need more leaders with both sound knowledge underpinnings, like you’ll have with your master’s and doctoral work, and who also have the character and moral capacity to lead organizations to right ends.” He underscored how current and former George Fellows are the grounded leaders of tomorrow who will be able to find solutions to complex challenges within the medtech and healthcare fields.

George also urged the fellows to build their careers, whether in academia or industry, on a strong values-based and mission-driven foundation. “Think about how you’re helping other people in your work, and foster your life with a sense of purpose, where you find your personal goals and values can align with the organization that you’re working for,” he said. “If you have that sense, then you can build a great career and have great joy in your work. Always think about how you’re helping others and how the results of your work are impacting humankind.”

In addition to the George Fellows and Leadership Program in ISyE, the Georges have directed their philanthropy to undergraduate scholarships as well as endowed faculty support. One of the new towers in Tech Square Phase 3 will be named George Tower, in recognition of Bill and Penny George, and will house the top-ranked H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.
Melany Arjona, M.S. ECE 2000, and her husband, Vicente Reynal, ME 1995, consider giving back to the community an essential part of their family life. They model this value for their three young daughters by regularly volunteering as a family and by supporting causes that will have a positive effect on the world around them. This desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others has inspired the couple to establish a Tech Promise Scholarship and a Dean’s Scholarship in the College of Engineering. They hope that these undergraduate scholarships will not only benefit the students who receive them, but also will inspire their children as they grow older to see the importance of giving back and helping others.

Reynal and Arjona met at Georgia Tech, though they started at the Institute at different points in their educational paths — Reynal as an undergraduate and Arjona as a graduate student. Reynal’s brother, Alejandro, ME 1994, M.S. ME 1996, came to Georgia Tech a year before Vicente. Both brothers left their home in Puerto Rico for Atlanta at young ages — Vicente when he was only 16 years old. While he was at Tech, he worked three jobs to cover his tuition and living expenses. He hopes that supporting scholarships will alleviate financial stressors like these for students so they are able to put all of their focus on their education and career development.

Arjona came to the United States from Panama for her undergraduate degree. She, like Reynal, worked to pay for her school through her undergraduate and graduate studies, and emphasizes how scholarships can be especially meaningful to students from other countries. “I was an international student, so I didn’t have as many opportunities for scholarship support and financial aid,” she said. “Each semester I had to find new sources of help, while keeping a job.” She hopes that their scholarships will help students feel secure, and that students’ appreciation for this security will lead them to pay it forward later on.

The couple also is excited by the opportunity to mentor their scholarship recipients. In Reynal’s current role as chairman and CEO at Ingersoll Rand, he spends a lot of time coaching and mentoring within the company. He looks forward to offering this expertise to Georgia Tech students. “Hopefully we can generate value for them by answering questions and guiding them based on what we have seen in the real world,” Reynal said. “We want to build relationships where we can be helpful, not just from the monetary perspective, but also on the professional and personal development sides as well.”

Arjona shares Reynal’s passion for guiding and developing next-generation leaders, and sees Georgia Tech as a key part of students’ future successes. “Education changed both of our lives, and Tech opened so many doors for us,” she said. “We see the value of education for everyone.”

For more information or to make a gift for scholarship support, contact Brad Hastings, assistant vice president of Development, at brad.hastings@coe.gatech.edu.
The Power of Family Giving

Often, as parents watch their children grow and thrive at Georgia Tech, they choose to make a gift in honor of their child’s experience, beginning deep conversations about family values and leading to integral philanthropic support directed across campus. Inspired by their children’s experiences and their own involvement at Tech, parents Alan Kirshenbaum, Terrence Hahn and Joan Stanescu, and Michele and Grant Campbell have supported the Institute through well-placed philanthropy and service on the Parents Board.

Kirshenbaum knew the importance of giving from a young age, and has dedicated time and resources to causes close to his heart. One of his three children, Joshua, is an electrical engineering student at Tech. Since Joshua’s matriculation, Kirshenbaum has supported multiple areas at Tech, including the John Lewis Student Leadership Pathways, a program that equips students with holistic leadership skills in the tradition of the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis; the Parents Fund, one of Tech’s primary sources of financial support for students and student organizations; and a family legacy endowment, a fund parents set up while their child is a student at Tech and the child selects the designation of the gift.

He hopes his philanthropy and service on the Parents Board will instill in his children the value of supporting areas that make a difference in the world. “My parents taught me a philanthropic focus,” Kirshenbaum said. “And I’ve tried to teach that to my kids by having them involved in the charitable giving that I do.”

Two of Joan Stanescu and Terrence Hahn’s three daughters currently attend Georgia Tech — Jocelyn, a fourth-year biomedical engineering student, and Rene, a third-year mechanical engineering student. The Hahn children grew up all over the world and first learned about Tech when they moved from Switzerland to the United States while in high school. “We visited Tech and knew it aligned with our criteria,” said the Hahn sisters. “It is a best-in-class engineering university with amazing academics, a beautiful campus, a diverse student body, and study abroad programs — and it’s in the center of a dynamic city.”

Throughout Jocelyn and Rene’s time at Tech, the family has been impressed by the students and faculty. These factors, along with the family’s dedication to education and helping others, have inspired them to provide support for the Biomedical Engineering Design Garden and to establish family legacy endowments for Rene and Jocelyn.

Michele and Grant Campbell knew they wanted to be involved at Tech from the moment they dropped off their son, Cole, for FASET orientation. They heard faculty and administrators speak about the Institute and were immediately impressed. “It felt like coming home,” said Michele. In Cole’s four years as a mechanical engineering student, they have become more impassioned about Tech and its prioritization of students and the student experience.

The Campbells have included Cole throughout the process of making their planned gift and a family legacy endowment as a way to discuss important life lessons. “We’ve given to charities over the years, but now that Cole is an adult, we are partnering with him and talking about how we’re able to give back some of the blessings we’ve been given,” said Grant. “I hope this will lead to a lifelong notion that it’s important for him to keep doing things for the betterment of society.”

John Stein, associate vice president for Student Life and Brandt-Fritz Dean of Students Chair, has helped these families and others navigate the process of supporting the Institute. “Parent giving has been powerful and transformative for Georgia Tech and for the families that give,” he said. “I’ve seen many parents who can use these gifts as opportunities to begin or to continue important conversations about philanthropy and family values with their young adult children.” Parent giving provides the opportunity for families to have these meaningful conversations while supporting the Institute and its mission and contributing to the success of Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech.

To learn more about family giving, contact Director of Development for Student Engagement and Well-being Emily M. Wong at emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu.
Celebrating Founders’ Council at Pregame Tailgate

Families and friends gathered at The Flats to support the Yellow Jackets football team as they took on the South Carolina State Bulldogs at a pregame tailgate for Founders’ Council members on September 9. Attendees were entertained by the Yellow Jacket Marching Band, the Glee Club, the cheerleading squad — and an appearance by Buzz!

Named in honor of individuals who were instrumental in the founding of Georgia Tech, Founders’ Council recognizes generous alumni and friends who have made provisions of at least $25,000 for the future financial strength of Georgia Tech. Planned gifts include non-contingent bequests, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, gifts of retirement-plan assets, charitable lead trusts, retained life estate gifts, pooled income funds, and life insurance.

To learn more, visit plannedgiving.gatech.edu.
Three Questions with Jen Howe, Dene Sheheane, and Al Trujillo

Georgia Tech’s Office of Development and affiliates the Georgia Tech Foundation and the Georgia Tech Alumni Association work closely together for the benefit of the Institute. Here, Jen Howe, vice president for Development, Al Trujillo, AE 1981, president of the Foundation, and Dene Sheheane, MGT 1991, president of the Alumni Association, discuss the complementary efforts of the three organizations as they collaborate to ensure the success of this campaign and Georgia Tech’s future.

What makes this collaboration so effective?

Sheheane: It is intentional. We each have unique goals — the Alumni Association focuses on engagement, Development on fundraising, and the Foundation on the investment and management of the precious resources that donors generously provide.

Trujillo: Our strong alignment comes from the Institute’s strategic plan and provides the playbook. We have different roles, responsibilities, and governing structures, but at the end of the day, we have strong alignment.

Howe: And we have three leaders committed to communication and what is best for the Institute, what is best for our students, and what is best for our donors who are investing in us.

Why is this a unique time for Georgia Tech?

Sheheane: We are close to topping 200,000 living alumni for the first time in our history. We have supportive alumni across the globe and the largest of number of students we have ever had. We’re growing at a pace that requires further investment.

Trujillo: We are an outsider in higher education. It’s not normal what Georgia Tech is experiencing, this growth on all dimensions. Georgia Tech is in the right place at the right time. We are educating the next generation of engineers and scientists, and that is what the world needs right now. We have an obligation to do the most good with the current situation.

Howe: While I am not an alum like Al and Dene, I’m very familiar with the national higher education landscape. From my experience, I see an enormous opportunity much like a wave on the horizon that has been building over time on the hard work of Georgia Tech. The question is, are we going to seize the opportunity to ride the wave successfully or let this perfect wave or moment in time pass us by. If our three organizations are aligned, we will be able to control our direction and have a real impact on our students and community, and to establish the new standards for what people expect from Georgia Tech.

What do you hope Transforming Tomorrow accomplishes?

Sheheane: I hope the campaign provides the needed resources to enable us to continue to attract the most exceptional faculty, staff, and students to Georgia Tech so that they can be involved in breakthrough research that will solve the world’s most pressing problems. We want to live out the strategic plan and realize that mantra of improving the human condition.

Trujillo: Our success is also our biggest challenge. To those outside, Georgia Tech looks rich. We proudly recite numbers of $1.5 billion worth of research. I hope this campaign delivers the message that in spite of all that good activity, we need more support to achieve the opportunities before us. We need more people involved, and this obligation that we mentioned is not just for Georgia Tech, it’s for our community. If you want to see impact, put a student with need through Georgia Tech. You transform the student’s life and their parents’ lives forever. It’s the best investment.

Howe: One of our pride points is the greater percentage of people who have made their first-ever commitments to Georgia Tech in this campaign. While it is not a public goal for this campaign, it’s something we have to be cognizant of because broadening that base of those in the conversation who understand the power of philanthropy is really important to the future of this special place.
REUNION GIVING UPDATE:
Investing in the Future

Georgia Tech’s Reunion Giving program brings together generations of alumni to reconnect and give back. Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2023 included an exciting Yellow Jackets’ victory over ACC rival the University of North Carolina as well as successful milestone reunion dinners and collective philanthropy. Alumni from the Classes of 1973, 1983, and 1998 chose Georgia Tech students to be the beneficiaries of their philanthropic focus, and their support will have a profound impact on students for generations to come.

Members of the Classes of 1974, 1984, 1999, and 2014 interested in serving on their respective class reunion committees next year should contact Stefanie Smith, director of development, Reunion Giving, at stefanie.smith@dev.gatech.edu for more information.

COMPETITIVE DRIVE INITIATIVE TURN 2

The Competitive Drive Initiative was an enormous success in fall 2022 thanks to extraordinary support from donors, and Georgia Tech Athletics hopes for the same success this year.

To fuel the success of the Yellow Jackets and continue momentum, the Georgia Tech Athletic Association has launched Competitive Drive Initiative Turn 2. A collaborative effort including President Ángel Cabrera, the Georgia Tech Foundation, Georgia Tech Athletics, and the Alexander-Tharpe Fund, Competitive Drive Initiative Turn 2 will accelerate funding for student-athlete scholarships and other operational needs.

Turn 2 has a goal of raising $2.5 million in new gifts to Georgia Tech’s Athletic Scholarship Fund by December 31, 2023, with matching support for the first $2 million being contributed by the Institute and Georgia Tech Foundation. Donors who participated in the Competitive Drive Initiative last fall can renew their gifts to earn matching support.

For more information or to make a gift in support of Competitive Drive Initiative Turn 2, please contact Executive Associate Athletics Director for Development Robby Poteat at rpoteat@athletics.gatech.edu.
These new members of the Georgia Tech Advisory Board (GTAB) will serve three-year terms ending in June 2026. The 61-member board advises Institute leadership on policy matters in accordance with their expertise in business, government, and higher education management, and works to advance and support the interests of the Institute among alumni and non-alumni alike, including constituencies such as governmental agencies, philanthropic foundations, higher education, business, and industry.
“My gift is not about me. It’s about Dean Griffin. His presence and influence made a difference in the lives of everyone who knew him.”

— Donald R. Meaders, IM 1956, (1933-2021)

The late Don Meaders couldn’t say enough good things about George C. Griffin, Georgia Tech’s Dean of Students from 1946 to 1964. Meaders, retired after a long and successful career at Lockheed Martin, credits Griffin for — among other things — his graduating from Georgia Tech.

A transfer student in 1952, Meaders nevertheless had to start over at Tech as a first-year RAT. During orientation, he heard the then-standard “only one of every four of you will graduate.” He decided to be among the 25% who did. “I made a commitment that I would graduate from Georgia Tech, and I would do it in four years,” Meaders said.

Academically, he had no trouble. Registering for all the required courses in sequence, however, proved challenging. “When I was approaching my junior year, I found I couldn’t make my schedule without dropping ROTC,” Meaders said. This didn’t sit well with the ROTC program, and “they called the draft board, and lo and behold, I got a notice telling me to report,” he said. “I went to see Dean Griffin, told him my story, and he wrote the draft board on my behalf — and, apparently, they reconsidered.” Meaders fulfilled his obligation to the Army after graduation.

In 2020, Meaders established a charitable gift annuity directed to the George C. Griffin Hip Pocket Endowment. While serving as dean, Griffin was known to provide loans from his own personal account to students facing financial need. Although the “Hip Pocket” loans are now history, Meaders requested that his gift be used to help students in difficult circumstances. He said his goal was “not ambiguous, theoretical help, but direct gifts where they are needed.”
Georgia Tech’s School of Public Policy is set to create a new generation of sustainable energy and environmental management leaders in Washington, D.C., thanks to the generous support of Brook Byers, EE 1968, HON Ph.D. 2010, and the Byers family. The family’s significant gift will support the GTDC: Pathways to Policy program and sustainable energy and environmental management studies, allowing for the creation of the Byers Family Pathways to Policy Fellowships. The fellowships will cover tuition for 18 public policy graduate students over three years and provide a stipend to support them during a year-long internship with a governmental, nonprofit, or private-sector organization in D.C.

“This gift is absolutely transformative,” said Cassidy R. Sugimoto, Tom and Marie Patton Chair in the School of Public Policy. “This experience expands the School’s profile in D.C., but more importantly will allow these students to build networks, earn a seat at the table in Washington, and utilize the strong education they’ve received here at Georgia Tech in future policymaking.”

Like the existing GTDC program for Tech undergraduates, students chosen for the Byers Family Fellowship will benefit from opportunities to connect with alumni and policymakers in Washington, gain valuable work experience, integrate scholarship and policymaking, and explore public service as a possible career path.

The graduate program will focus on climate change, one of the greatest threats to global society.

“These public policy graduate students will bring their Georgia Tech training and discipline to government agencies, Congress, and administrations to advocate for innovation in regulations, legislation, and decisions that can have high-leverage effects in energy and sustainability going forward,” Byers said. “Our family has been very impressed with the achievements and impact of Professor Marilyn Brown and others at Tech.”

Graduate students in the School of Public Policy who are studying sustainable energy and environmental management issues will be eligible to apply for the highly selective fellowships beginning in January 2024.

For more information about making a gift in support of graduate fellowships, contact Senior Associate Vice President for Major Gifts and Next Generation Philanthropy Jim Hall at jim.hall@dev.gatech.edu.