

Campaign

Quarterly



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The Yellow Jacket Marching Band cheers the team on at the season opener, the Aer Lingus College Football Classic in Dublin, Ireland, where Georgia Tech defeated Florida State.



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For information about giving to Tech, contact the Office of Development at 404.894.1868. To share your comments about Campaign Quarterly, contact Anne Stanford at 404.894.6701 or anne.stanford@dev.gatech.edu.

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A Message From Jen Howe



Jen Howe
Vice President
for Development

Time and again, I am heartened by the many ways in which the Georgia Tech community comes together to bring an idea to life. When Tech alumni unite around a particular cause, it is amazing how quickly their vision becomes reality. As noted in the pages of this issue of *Campaign Quarterly*, sometimes it takes just one person to inspire and fund an idea, and other times, it is a collective.

For example, as I write this, *Pathway of Progress: Celebrating Georgia Tech Women* is taking shape in the heart of campus and will open in early 2025. Alumna Andrea Laliberte had an idea that the women of Georgia Tech should be recognized for their many contributions to the Institute in an even more dynamic way. The installation will provide a tangible testament to the impact of women across campus, and a dollar-for-dollar, anonymous matching challenge launching in January will further its reach by inspiring additional funding around undergraduate scholarships and programmatic support in conjunction with *Pathway of Progress*.

We often think of the power of the collective through annual giving. Georgia Tech has an incredible tradition through Roll Call (there is still time to make your calendar-year-end gift). We see the effects of Roll Call across campus every day, as it helps fuel financial aid, student programming, improvements to facilities, and other priorities identified by President Ángel Cabrera that normal budgetary resources would not be able to address. It cannot be overstated how important Roll Call is to Georgia Tech and how each gift makes a difference.

Our community rallied again to honor and memorialize Walt Ehmer, the late CEO of Waffle House Inc. and a 1989 Georgia Tech graduate. More than 100 friends, family, colleagues, and alumni came together to fund the Walter G. Ehmer Scholarship and the newly dedicated Walter G. Ehmer Theater, previously the Atlantic Theater, in the John Lewis Student Center. The new name honors and perpetuates the legacy of Walt, who gave so much to his alma mater through his interactions with students and his extensive volunteer leadership and service.

Full Steam Ahead is another important initiative that is inspiring our community to step forward in support of the Yellow Jackets. When *Full Steam Ahead* was announced at the Duke football game on Oct. 5, we had an opportunity to recognize some of the initial donors who have already made major gifts to intercollegiate athletics and are building the momentum around this initiative that will fund capital projects as well as athletic scholarships — at a time when such support is critical to athletics.

From the one to the many, it truly takes a swarm. Please know how grateful we are for all of you who are giving to Georgia Tech and helping the Institute realize its greatest ambitions to transform tomorrow for our campus, our community, and our world. I wish you all the best this holiday season.

With appreciation,

—Jen

THE CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY INTERVIEW WITH
CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

BETSY BULAT

Betsy Bulat, IAML 2004, received her bachelor's degree in international affairs and modern languages from Georgia Tech, where she was a member of the cross country and track teams. Bulat earned her Juris Doctor degree from Georgia State University College of Law and is a partner with Martenson, Hasbrouck, and Simon LLP. In 2017, she was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, recognizing alumni younger than 40 who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to Georgia Tech, the Alumni Association, and their communities and professions. Bulat remains active with Georgia Tech, recently serving as the chair of the Alumni Association Board of Trustees.



Why did you decide to attend Georgia Tech?

I thought I wanted to be an engineer. I was living in New Jersey, and Tech was on the top of my list of schools. I attended a recruiting event where I met then-Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough. He treated me like I was as important as anybody else. We spoke for half an hour, and it made me feel so welcomed. I applied for a President's Scholarship (now Stamps President's Scholarship). Before I heard back, I was recruited by the Tech track coach. When I found out that I got the President's Scholarship, it was a no-brainer.

What led you to study international affairs?

I was a chemical engineering major for three years and realized it wasn't for me. I knew I didn't want to be a chemical engineer, and I knew it didn't fit with my skill set. At the end of the first semester of my third year, I switched my major to international affairs with a concentration in Spanish. I already had some credits because I had studied abroad and was able to make the switch and still graduate in four years. I loved it. I didn't know what I wanted to do at that time, but I knew I liked the curriculum and could do well because I liked it.

How have you been involved with Georgia Tech?

I have always loved Tech and always wanted to give back. When I graduated, I made a mental note that I wanted to repay the gift that had been given to me, specifically as a scholarship recipient. Even before I could do that financially, I started to get involved through the Alumni Association. I jumped into it and became a committed volunteer. There were so many engagement opportunities available to me, even as a young professional, and it made it easy. As I grew in my career, I was able to give back in different capacities, including serving on the Board of Trustees of the Alumni Association.

I've been a Yellow Jackets football season ticketholder ever since I left Tech. Our athletic programs are like a billboard for our school, and we can really spread the word about what we do at Georgia Tech because of athletics. You can bring so many people into the fold through athletics that you might not reach otherwise. It was always a goal of mine to establish an athletic scholarship, and I was in a position where I could do it and the timing felt right with the campaign going on.

Why is Georgia Tech a good philanthropic investment?

There is nothing more powerful you can do for a kid than enable them to get a degree from Georgia Tech. It sets them up to provide for themselves and for their families — for the rest of their lives — and it brings families out of poverty. It brings opportunities to folks who didn't have them before, and there's really nothing better you can do for that person. That cross-section of all types of people brightens and deepens the work that we can do by having diverse perspectives. Those perspectives broaden horizons for everyone and enable better work.

What do you hope the campaign will accomplish?

I hope we can provide more opportunities to more kids. I don't think it's hyperbolic to say we can change the world if we can provide the resources. It's never too early to make an investment in the future. Those kinds of investments are more rewarding than the return you might get on your 401(k). ///

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 our reported progress toward goals through September 30, 2024.



Funds Raised to Date



Giving by the Numbers

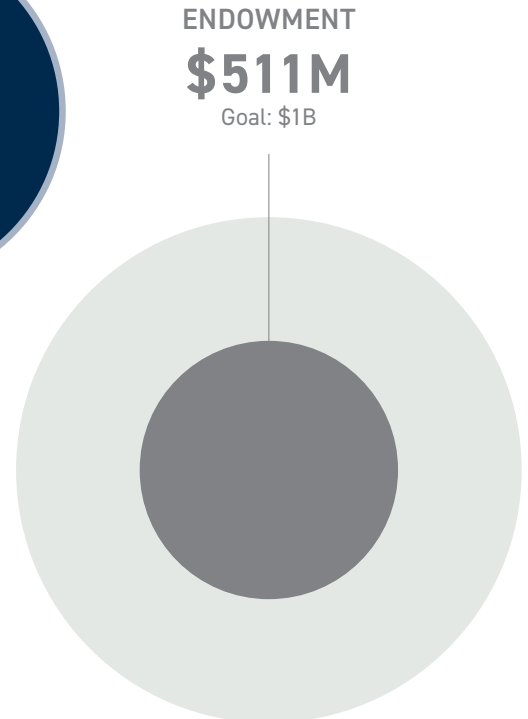
89,668+
total recognized donors

\$611 million
given by Georgia Tech alumni

\$173.5 million
raised for low- and limited-income student scholarships

\$712 million
raised for Colleges and Schools

Funds by Use Progress to recommended goals



Learn more about the priorities and goals of *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech* at transformingtomorrow.gatech.edu.

STEERING COMMITTEE *as of Fall 2024*

Co-Chairs

Kelly H. Barrett, IMGT 1986,
and Rick L. Barrett, IE 1985
Atlanta, Georgia

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IMGT 1979, M.S. IMGT 1980,
HON Ph.D. 2013
Atlanta, Georgia

Vice Chair

Michael K. Anderson, IE 1979
Atlanta, Georgia

Honorary Chairs

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M.S. 1971, HON Ph.D. 2016
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
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“Bo” Godbold, IE 1965
Tierra Verde, Florida

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Atlanta, Georgia

Roberta R.* and Ernest Scheller Jr.,
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Naples, Florida

E. Roe Stamps IV, IE 1967, M.S.
IE 1972, HON Ph.D. 2014, and
Elizabeth Ann Stamps-Ridgeway
Miami, Florida

Suzanne S. and Michael E.
Tennenbaum, IE 1958,
HON Ph.D. 2016
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

Alfred P. West Jr., AE 1964,
HON Ph.D. 2010
Coatesville, Pennsylvania

* Deceased

At-Large Members

Michelle L. Adkins, IMGT 1983,
and Rodney C. Adkins, EE 1981,
M.S. EE 1983, HON Ph.D. 2013
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Richard L. Bergmark,
IMGT 1975, HON Ph.D. 2022
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José M. Bern, CE 1995
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Atlanta, Georgia

Sarah Beth Brown
Marietta, Georgia

Betsy A. Bulat, IAML 2004
Atlanta, Georgia

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EE 1966, M.S. EE 1968
Atlanta, Georgia

Elizabeth F. Cabrera,
M.S. PSY 1993, Ph.D. PSY 1995
Atlanta, Georgia

G. Wayne Clough, CE 1963,
M.S. CE 1965, HON Ph.D. 2015
Big Canoe, 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 Fort 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

G.P. “Bud” Peterson
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

Melba and Alfredo Trujillo,
AE 1981
Atlanta, Georgia

Karen and Alan C. Warren,
PHYS 1978
New York, New York

Mary and James A.
Winnefeld, AE 1978
McLean, Virginia

Ex Officio Members

Richard S. Herren, IE 1984
Chair, Georgia Tech Advisory Board

Tommy Herrington, IMGT 1982
Chair, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Thomas M. Holder, IMGT 1979
Chair, Georgia Tech Foundation

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*

Smith's Gift Celebrates His Parents

For Kofi Smith, IE 1999, MBA 2009, his recent gift to Tech Square Phase 3 is an expression of two of his core values: faith and family.

Kofi's educational and philanthropic journeys were inspired by his parents, Patricia and Johnny Smith. As husband and wife, they were both pursuing doctorates when they found out they were expecting Kofi. They decided to leave their respective programs and return home to Alabama to work.

Years later, when Kofi was deciding where to attend college, he received a football scholarship from Georgia Tech. He studied industrial and systems engineering and played cornerback for the Yellow Jackets. While he faced setbacks and challenges as a student, he persevered and was elected as a permanent team captain in his senior year. At his final home game, he scooped up a fumble and returned it 90 yards. For the next 22 years, he held the record for the longest fumble recovery return.

After Kofi graduated, he took a job at Milliken & Company, where he applied the lessons he learned from his studies and football. He quickly found success and was promoted six times in four years.

"My industrial engineering degree allowed me to look at systems and processes," said Kofi. "Coupling that with the fact that I was an athlete meant I could look at and rearrange people into positions where they would be successful and positively affect systems at the same time."

In 2003, he left Milliken to follow his football dream, joining indoor arena leagues for four seasons. Then, following in his parents' footsteps, Kofi paused his dreams to better provide for his 12-year-old son, whose biological father died before his birth. He returned to corporate America and later came back to Georgia Tech to earn his MBA.

Kofi eventually graduated with an Executive Doctor of Business Administration degree from Georgia State University, which he dedicated to his parents for the sacrifices they had made for him.

In this spirit, Kofi has made a gift supporting the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business and the H. Milton Stewart School of



Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE). He has directed his philanthropic support to name a "nexus" connecting the seventh floors of the Scheller Tower and George Tower in honor of his parents. These connected towers will pair two of the Institute's most celebrated programs through Tech Square Phase 3, a project that will offer new opportunities for collaboration, interdisciplinary research, and business development to advance Georgia Tech, the city of Atlanta, and Georgia for generations to come.

This shared space is a way for Kofi to support two areas of Georgia Tech that set his career in motion and to encourage current ISyE and Scheller students to consider how these academic programs might position them for their own career success. "The industrial engineering degree trains you to be able to look at systems and processes. Scheller gives you the business acumen you need for operational execution, strategic thinking, organizational behavior, economics, finance, and marketing. The combination creates someone who is unstoppable. There is nothing someone with a Scheller and ISyE background cannot do."

Kofi has remained engaged with Georgia Tech through his volunteer service and leadership on multiple boards, including the Scheller College Advisory Board, School of Building Construction Advisory Board, Georgia Tech Advisory Board, and Georgia Tech Alumni Association Board of Trustees. This most recent gift builds upon his previous philanthropy directed to athletic scholarships and unrestricted support for the Institute. Aligned with the collaborative nature of Tech Square Phase 3, Kofi's support celebrates connections — between Scheller College and ISyE and between Kofi and the students who will see themselves in his story.



*To make a gift directed to Scheller Tower, contact **Duante Stanton**, senior director of Development for Scheller College, at duante.stanton@scheller.gatech.edu. To make a gift directed to George Tower, contact **Nancy Sandlin**, senior director of Development for the Stewart School, at nancy.sandlin@isye.gatech.edu.*



STUDENTS NETWORK WITH ALUMNI ABROAD

Georgia Tech's international programs provide numerous opportunities for students to have transformative educational experiences, helping to make our students global citizens with cross-cultural competencies. This summer, 28 students on the Oxford Summer Program connected with Georgia Tech's international network and met with alumni in London, at a gathering organized by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association and the Office of International Education. Business student Asher Hogan said, "This event opened my eyes to the extensive reach that Georgia Tech has throughout the world and that there are alumni all over the globe willing to connect with the new generation of Tech students."

Computer science student Sherry Li said, "It reinforced that being part of the Georgia Tech community means having a lifelong network of support, no matter where you are."

For program advisor Kayla Cooper, she hoped "the students who attended the event left with confirmation that their options after Tech extend across the globe, and their international experience doesn't have to end with their summer abroad."

The students on the Oxford Summer Program spent five weeks taking classes in various cities around continental Europe, including Rome, Prague, and Barcelona, before their in-residence portion began in Oxford. ///

To make a gift or commitment to the Georgia Tech Education Abroad Program, contact Senior Associate Vice President for Major Gifts and Next Generation Philanthropy **Jim Hall** at jim.hall@dev.gatech.edu.

Family Scholarship Supports International Experiences



For Gregg Worley, CHE 1986, and his wife Karla Worley, current Executive MBA candidate, Georgia Tech is a family tradition. Gregg and Karla have three daughters. Their oldest, Maisie, is currently a biomedical engineering student at Tech, and their younger daughters, Josephine and Anslie, are in high school. All three of the Worley daughters grew up attending summer camps and going to football games at Tech, and now that their mother is pursuing an MBA at the Scheller College of Business, the family's school spirit has never been stronger.

Gregg and his family recently established the Worley Family Scholarship Endowment to support undergraduate students who are participating in study abroad, internship abroad, or work abroad programs at Tech. The scholarship is especially significant to Gregg and Karla because the study abroad program at Tech has had a significant impact on Maisie's time at the Institute. Maisie met some of her closest friends during her study abroad experience, and she bonded with her grandmother, Margaret, when talking about the program. "Even though my mom had dementia at that time, she could still remember important things from their lives and their travels," said Gregg. "She would give Maisie advice like 'Remember to bring rain boots to England.'"

The family's decision to create the Worley Family Scholarship Endowment was inspired by a desire to honor Gregg's parents, H.E. and Margaret Worley, both of whom recently died. H.E. and Margaret

were both first-generation college students and their lives continue to inspire Gregg and his family.

Margaret was the oldest of eight, and her decision to pursue higher education paved the way for her younger siblings to attend college as well. She grew up in a home without much money in the Mississippi Delta, in a small town where there were not many professional or higher education opportunities for women. Margaret worked hard throughout her youth and earned her undergraduate degree from Mississippi State College for Women, began a career as a K-12 educator, and later went on to earn a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Mississippi.

H.E. grew up in similar circumstances. He was one of seven children, and his father died when he was 2. His mother had to care for the large family while working in a small town in Tennessee. H.E. joined the Air Force after graduating high school and served for 22 years. He was stationed in Florida when he met Margaret, who was teaching there at the time. They built a life together full of travel as H.E.'s military career took the family across the country and the world, including a period where they lived with preschool-aged Gregg and his sister in Germany. During that time, the four of them would regularly travel to different European countries, memories that Gregg cherishes.

After H.E. retired from the Air Force, he also became the first in his family to go to college. He graduated with an associate's

degree in engineering technology.

When Gregg's parents died, he decided to honor them by supporting two areas that mattered to them: education and travel. "I had a scholarship to Tech when I first started, and I've always had the mentality that you give back," said Gregg. "So when my parents passed, I was looking for a way to honor them, and I knew a study abroad scholarship would do that."

During his time at Tech, Gregg was interested in the study abroad program at Oxford but could not afford it. Now he and his family have seen how meaningful study abroad has been for Maisie, and they want to make that a possibility for future students to broaden their horizons and enhance their education.

"This scholarship is especially meaningful because of Maisie's great experience and my own understanding of how much people today need a worldview to gain broader perspective," said Gregg. This scholarship will do just that: help generations of Georgia Tech undergraduates have access to meaningful study abroad experiences that they might not otherwise be able to afford while honoring and perpetuating Margaret and H.E.'s legacies. ///

To make a gift directed to programs through the Office of International Education, contact Jim Hall, senior associate vice president for major gifts and next generation philanthropy, at jim.hall@dev.gatech.edu.

DONORS STEP UP FOR FULL STEAM AHEAD



On Oct. 4, the Georgia Tech Athletic Association officially announced *Full Steam Ahead*, an initiative aimed at enhancing infrastructure across multiple athletic facilities, delivering a best-in-class gameday experience for Yellow Jackets fans, and providing the resources needed to compete for championships at the highest level in the next era of intercollegiate athletics. As a part of *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech*, the initiative builds upon the nearly \$300 million already raised for athletics and increases Athletics' fundraising goal to \$500 million within the more than \$2.1 billion effort for the Institute.

Full Steam Ahead will fund capital projects such as a renovation of Bobby Dodd Stadium at Hyundai Field, the oldest continuously operating on-campus football venue in America; a revamp of the Zelnak Basketball Center, Tech's practice facility for men's and women's basketball; and a modernization of O'Keefe Gym, home to volleyball.

"*Full Steam Ahead* will not only provide resources needed to navigate the ever-changing landscape of college sports but will also help deliver an enhanced gameday experience for fans who attend games at Bobby Dodd Stadium and O'Keefe Gym — two incredible, tradition-filled facilities," said J Batt, Georgia Tech director of Athletics.

Gail Panarello Smith, CE 1978, and her husband, David Smith, have provided key support for *Full Steam Ahead*. "Georgia Tech was an excellent academic environment for me when I was a student, and its reputation has continued to grow," Smith said. "Academically, Tech produces some of the country's best scholars, and as a lifelong Yellow Jackets fan, I want our student-athletes to have an athletic environment with the same prominence. The *Full Steam Ahead* initiative will provide that environment."

Travis Collins, IMGT 1979, and his wife Rose shared similar sentiments. "Rose and I chose to invest in the *Full Steam Ahead*

initiative because we have always believed that Georgia Tech belongs in the very first rank of intercollegiate athletics, the same position that we occupy as an elite academic institution. We also see the energy and commitment coming from the Institute to reach that same goal thanks to President Ángel Cabrera and J Batt and his team at the Athletic Association. We think that's what *Full Steam Ahead* is all about, and we invite everyone who loves Tech athletics to get on board to help make our shared vision a reality."

Construction on the Zelnak Center addition is set for Spring 2026, with renovations to Bobby Dodd Stadium beginning the following fall. The anticipated completion date for both projects is Fall 2027. ///

To make a gift or commitment to *Full Steam Ahead*, contact **Robby Poteat**, executive associate athletics director for Development, at rpoteat@athletics.gatech.edu. To learn more about *Full Steam Ahead*, visit <https://atfund.org/full-steam-ahead>.





Renderings are conceptual and subject to change. All projects are subject to approval by the University System of Georgia and the GTAA Board of Trustees and dependent upon fundraising success.



COMPETITIVE DRIVE INITIATIVE TRIPLE PLAY

Georgia Tech athletics has once again partnered with the Georgia Tech Foundation for the third annual installment of the successful Competitive Drive Initiative, known this year as CDI Triple Play. Part of *Full Steam Ahead*, CDI Triple Play has a goal of raising \$2.5 million in new gifts to the Alexander-Tharpe Fund's Athletic Scholarship Fund by Dec. 31. As in the past two years, the Georgia Tech Foundation will continue to provide financial support to the year-end scholarship drive. In honor of the third year of the initiative, contributors will receive triple points for their cash gifts that are received by Dec. 31. For example, a person who makes a \$500 contribution to CDI Triple Play by Dec. 31 will receive benefits at the Wreck 'Em giving level (\$1,500) and receive 30 A-T Fund Priority Points, instead of 10.

To be eligible for the triple point allocation, a donor must make a gift to the Athletic Scholarship Fund by Dec. 31. Donors who made previous multiyear pledges will receive triple points for pledge payments received by Dec. 31.

For more information on CDI Triple Play and to contribute today, visit www.atfund.org/tripleplay.



A Conversation With J Batt and Jen Howe

Georgia Tech's Office of Development and Athletic Association work in tandem for the benefit of the Institute. Here, Jen Howe, vice president for Development, and J Batt, director of Athletics, discuss the coordinated efforts of their teams as they collaborate to ensure the success of the campaign and athletics at Georgia Tech.

How does the tradition and expectation of excellence extend across Georgia Tech?

Howe: We have an amazing history of striving for and achieving excellence in academics, research, and athletics. It is the three-pronged commitment to excel in all that we do that I believe our alumni and our supporters expect. Being competitive is a critical part of our DNA. Our students, alumni, fans, and faculty are competitive in everything they do — that includes achieving success in and out of classrooms and labs, on fields and courts of play, or in their personal and professional lives. Many of their fondest GT memories are linked to moments across all three of these areas.

Batt: Georgia Tech graduates, rightly so, are very proud of their institution. That pride is particularly tied to the academic rigor of this great institution, of what it took to get out of Georgia Tech. Athletics is a part of that fabric, and so it is pervasive. Our students are competitive across the board, and so for anything that bears the Georgia Tech logo, the expectation is that it's held to that same high standard.

Why is it important for the Yellow Jackets to be able to compete for championships at the highest level?

Batt: Athletics is positioned within Georgia Tech purposefully because it is a part of our great institution. It is a reflection of the students, the faculty, the brand, and the alums. It's important that athletics reflects that excellence. And from a brand perspective, it reflects all the great work of Georgia Tech within the classrooms and research labs and innovation that happens each and every day. The other part is building shared experiences. Being successful, competing at the highest level, and winning championships helps build those shared experiences across campus.

Howe: To add to J's point about competitiveness and brand — earlier this year we gained international and expanded national exposure at the season opening football game against Florida State in Dublin. In this instance and others like it, people come to know Georgia Tech through sports who would have never known us otherwise.



What makes this a unique time for Georgia Tech athletics?

Batt: We are in a fundamental shift in the collegiate athletics model, and we need to be focused and successful during this time. There's a huge opportunity in this change, and so for us, being successful on the field of play, continuing to be successful around academics and what we do to help prepare our student-athletes for the future, is supremely important. The same pride that our alums feel for our athletics teams, we need to reflect that pride into the college athletics landscape broadly.

What do you hope *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech* and *Full Steam Ahead* will accomplish?

Howe: *Transforming Tomorrow* and *Full Steam Ahead* can further strengthen the culture of philanthropy here and elevate the overall fundraising outcomes of the Institute in a much more permanent way. Georgia Tech is one of the top public universities in the U.S. and in the world — and we need the resources to fuel the growth and quality required to sustain and expand our success. Fully sharing in that expectation as a community is one goal. Another is bringing new people into the conversation. We are so grateful for those who are already engaged through their philanthropy, time, and expertise — and we are equally excited about the new donors and volunteers who are giving to our comprehensive campaign and stepping forward to support athletics.

“This is such a proud fan base and brand with incredible history. I’m most excited to return Georgia Tech athletics to the place it belongs.”

— J Batt, Director of Athletics

Batt: Absolutely. Getting new and different folks to step up is necessary and will set ourselves up for the next decade. Particularly in college athletics, there’s so much uncertainty and change. Being in a position of strength will help us navigate that change. Our goals and the standard of excellence remain the same. However, what that requires will certainly involve increased levels of resources, and my hope is that we put ourselves in a position to be successful across that long-term horizon.

How do the Office of Development and the Athletic Association collaborate to ensure success for this initiative and the overall campaign?

Howe: We recognize that alumni and donors see us as one Georgia Tech. They expect us to know how they are involved across our campus — whether it is donating to a particular College or School, contributing to Roll Call, holding season tickets for 30 years, or serving as a volunteer on an advisory board. We need to communicate, coordinate, and be as thoughtful as we can. J and I agree that maximizing the impact or the outcome for Georgia Tech is our ultimate goal, and we can only achieve that together.

Batt: It’s always our responsibility to keep the big picture in mind, and making sure that we’re supportive of all of the donors’ passions has been really important to our teams. This is such a great institution and there are multiple opportunities for connectivity and philanthropy across Georgia Tech. Our job is to make sure that all those come together smoothly for the donor.

Howe: One of the things that I appreciate in our work together is how J makes a point to talk about our collaboration and recognizes when people have multiple interests. I love how he closes his public remarks by saying, “You already do so much. I’m asking you to buy one more ticket. Come to one more game. Attend one more lecture.” He mentions things that are not just in his domain and encourages people to be more present and stretch to do more for Georgia Tech.

Batt: We need each other, and Georgia Tech is at its best when everybody’s pulling in the same direction. We have lofty goals, not only on the fundraising side, but institutionally, and to achieve that high level of success, we have to be pulling in the same direction.

What opportunities for Georgia Tech and athletics are you most excited about?

Batt: This is such a proud fan base and brand with incredible history. I’m most excited to return Georgia Tech athletics to the place it belongs.

Howe: As part of this shared experience, it’s been great to see the stands packed with students at football games and volleyball games, and to see our students on campus interacting directly with student-athletes. The memories they are making today will be the things that tie them back to this special place in the years to come.

Batt: We continue to add student season tickets to heights we’ve never had. Student attendance has been great, and it really adds to the experience. Our alums love to see it and are energized by it.

Anything else you want to mention?

Batt: Part of the mission of Development but also a core function of our Athletics department is around that collaboration. We’ve got great teams and a really good blend of people who have been here for a long time with institutional history, but also new folks who have come to the table with fresh ideas and energy. The best organizations have a blend of institutional knowledge and new perspectives. Our people continue to enhance what we’re able to do together as an overall fundraising apparatus.

Howe: If done the right way, we can accelerate the momentum we have and do something generationally different here. One of the things we hear with a lot of frequency is that there’s not been a time where the president and his leadership team, the Georgia Tech Foundation, the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, the Athletic Association, and Development are all focused on making sure that the Institute thrives, our students are well served, and we carry forward this rich tradition that J was referencing. A lot of places will say “It’s our time.” We have the ability to own that statement. Our research awards are up, our ROI is the highest in the nation, our quality of students is phenomenal, and we have a moment to seize here.

Batt: To your point, Jen, it comes down to what I said earlier that Georgia Tech is at its best when everybody’s pulling in the same direction. The measurables are incredible — whether it’s from the demand of prospective students, quality of education, value of education, and research. It’s all the superlatives that you can come up with, it’s meteoric. From an athletics perspective, we are hoping to raise the bar to match that. ///



ROTC Fitness Facility Honors Tech Alum, Soldier

Georgia Tech's Lt. Tyler Brown Fitness Facility was dedicated on Nov. 8, honoring Tech alumnus and Army Officer Lt. Tyler Brown, MGT 2001, HTS 2001, bringing state-of-the-art equipment and renovated training space for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), housed within the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech.

The new facility is named in honor of Lt. Tyler Brown, who was killed in combat in Ramadi, Iraq, in 2004. Brown served as Student Government Association president at Georgia Tech in 2001, earning dual degrees in management and history, technology, and society. Commissioned as an infantry officer, Brown completed Airborne

and Army Ranger School before deploying to Korea. He was later deployed to Ramadi, Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and he was killed on Sept. 14, 2004.

A generous donation from the B. and B. Stern Foundation supported the renovation and upgrade of the ROTC Facility, with plans to include an area dedicated to all Army ROTC alumni who visit the program, creating a space for Tech veterans to stay connected to the program and each other. Brown's father, Carey Brown, stated, "The renovation and dedication of the facility is all about honoring Tyler by honoring others."

Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera joined representatives of Georgia Tech's ROTC and other members of the campus community to dedicate the new fitness facility. "We are, as a community, vigorously committed to honoring the legacy of Yellow Jackets who have served and continue to serve our country," Cabrera told the gathered crowd. "We're committed to supporting our student veterans and ROTC cadets, midshipmen, and airmen. We're committed to strengthening our relationships with

the armed forces and growing our ROTC programs. And this new facility will help all of those commitments."

The new fitness facility aims to better prepare cadets to compete for professional assignments upon commissioning and to prepare them for the physical demands consistent with the Army. According to Commanding Officer and ROTC Professor of Military Science Lt. Col. Brad Morgan, such a facility is critical for cadets. "Physical preparation leads to mental, spiritual, and emotional maturity and capability," he said. The new facility supports the ROTC mission of building a team to meet the demands of the 21st century by bringing advanced-level sports science training to the program. ///

*For more information or to make a gift or commitment to ROTC at Georgia Tech, contact **Lauren M. Kennedy**, director of Development for the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, at lauren.kennedy@dev.gatech.edu, or **Laura Gregory**, associate director of Development for the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, at laura.gregory@iac.gatech.edu.*

2024-2025

Georgia Tech Advisory Board Members

These new members of the Georgia Tech Advisory Board (GTAB) will serve three-year terms ending in June 2027. 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.

2024-25 GTAB CHAIR

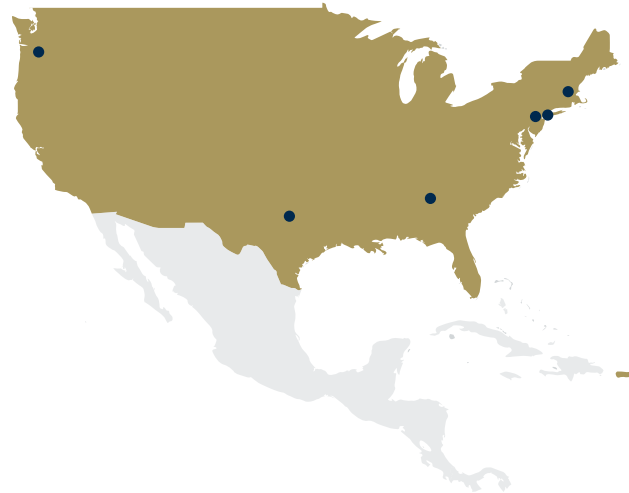


Richard "Scott" Herren
IE 1984
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer
Cisco Systems
Atlanta, GA

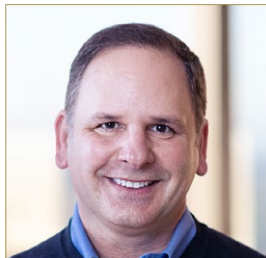
2024-25 GTAB VICE CHAIR



Anne Chow
Former Chief Executive Officer
AT&T Business
Dallas, Texas



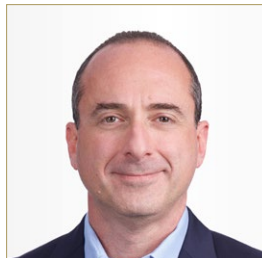
NEW ELECTED TRUSTEES



Salvatore "Sal" Abbate
IE 1991
Chief Executive Officer
Veritiv Corporation
Atlanta, GA



Lakecia N. Gunter
M.S. EE 1996
Chief Technology Officer, Global
Partner Solutions, Microsoft
Hillsboro, Oregon



Alan Kirshenbaum
Chief Financial Officer
Blue Owl Capital Inc.
Short Hills, New Jersey



Roberto E. Mercade
IE 1990
President, The McDonald's Division
Coca-Cola
Atlanta, Georgia



Alejandro Reynal
ME 1994, M.S. ME 1996
President and Chief Executive Officer
Four Seasons
Miami, Florida



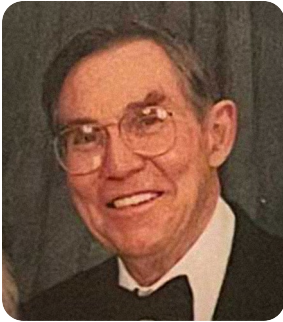
Sophia M. Velastegui
ME 1998
Former General Manager of AI Products
and Chief AI Technology Officer
Microsoft
Boston, Massachusetts



Kevin M. Widmaier
PUBP 2008
Partner, Head of Portfolio Management,
Portfolio and Wealth Advisory
BBR Partners
New York, New York

IN MEMORIAM

Georgia Tech mourns the recent passing of these extraordinary alumni and friends of the Institute.



Warren Batts, EE 1961

Successful businessman, community leader, and devoted friend to Georgia Tech, Warren Batts, EE 1961, died on Sept. 2. A veteran of the U.S. Navy Reserve, Batts covered the costs of his Tech education through his participation in Co-op, scholarship support, an algebra teaching assistantship, and his work at the Engineering Experiment Station (now the Georgia Tech Research Institute). He went on to earn his MBA at the Harvard Business School. He was a successful business leader and served as chairman and CEO of multi-billion-dollar companies including Tupperware, Premark International, and Dart & Kraft. Batts supported Georgia Tech through strategic philanthropy directed to endowed scholarships and the establishment of the TI:GER program, which fosters innovation and entrepreneurship among students. He served on the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees and was chair of the Georgia Tech Advisory Board.



William B. Cutts II, PHYS 1985, M.S. APHY 1988, M.S. EE 1990

Beloved member of the Georgia Tech community William B. “Bill” Cutts II, PHYS 1985, M.S. APHY 1988, M.S. EE 1990, died on Oct. 14. A proud Georgia Tech alumnus and devoted father, Cutts embodied the spirit of Georgia Tech and left an indelible mark on all he encountered. For more than two decades, he was a valued member of the Georgia Tech staff, holding positions with the Georgia Tech Research Institute and most recently with the Office of Corporate Engagement, where he served as senior director, Industry Collaboration. In this role, he developed and managed partnerships with organizations strategically important to the Institute. Prior to returning to Georgia Tech, Cutts worked in consultative sales, focusing on embedded systems.



Bernie Marcus, HON Ph.D. 2015

Bernie Marcus, a visionary entrepreneur whose philanthropy has had a transformative impact on Georgia Tech and the Atlanta community, died on Nov. 5. Marcus, co-founder of The Home Depot, was a passionate supporter of education, research, and innovation. Over nearly two decades, The Marcus Foundation provided strategic and significant support to Georgia Tech. His most visible contributions are the Marcus Nanotechnology Building, a state-of-the-art facility that features the largest cleanroom laboratory dedicated to the fabrication and assembly of biomedical and semiconductor devices in the Southeast, and the Marcus Center for Therapeutic Cell Characterization and Manufacturing, which has been pivotal in advancing the manufacturing process of cellular medicines. His support also extended to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among students. Marcus was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree by Georgia Tech in December 2015. This honor acknowledged his revolutionary contributions to the home improvement retail industry, his transformative philanthropy, and his advancement of Georgia Tech’s research enterprise. Marcus was an honorary chair for *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech*.



John H. Weitnauer Jr., IE 1949

Inspiring leader John H. Weitnauer Jr., IE 1949, died on Oct. 13. While attending Georgia Tech, his education was interrupted by World War II. After serving in the United States Army Air Forces, Weitnauer returned to Tech to complete his degree. A successful businessman, he rose through the corporate ranks to become Richway’s chairman and CEO. Weitnauer remained committed to Georgia Tech throughout his life, serving as a member of the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering Advisory Board, vice chair of the Georgia Tech Centennial Campaign, and trustee and president of the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees. He received the Joseph Mayo Pettit Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his lifetime of leadership, achievement, and service to the Institute and to the community. Weitnauer also provided significant philanthropic support for faculty positions in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory.



Perpetuating Walt Ehmer's Legacy

On Oct. 5, Georgia Tech unveiled the Walter G. Ehmer Theater in the John Lewis Student Center. Previously the Atlantic Theater, the new name perpetuates the legacy of Walt Ehmer, IE 1989, the late CEO of Waffle House Inc. More than 100 friends, family, colleagues, and alumni came together to fund the Walter G. Ehmer Scholarship and the newly dedicated theater in Ehmer's honor and memory to amplify his impact both on students and the Institute he dearly loved.

An esteemed business and community leader, Ehmer remained engaged with Georgia Tech after he graduated and often returned to campus to speak with students about leadership. The dedication celebrated Ehmer's legacy and featured speakers including Executive Director for Student Engagement and Well-Being Kim Harrington; Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera; Ehmer's son, Gregory Ehmer, BA 2015; and Ehmer's friend and fellow alumnus, Tom Noonan, ME 1983. Cabrera said that Ehmer "truly enjoyed those moments of connection with students" and called the theater a fitting tribute to Ehmer, who selected this space for the ideas and

conversations that will happen in the room for years to come.

The theater offers an immersive experience within its raked seating for 297 guests, showcasing cutting-edge technology and a full performance stage. In her remarks about the impact of the Walter G. Ehmer Theater for the Georgia Tech community, Harrington said that the space "inspires students and cultivates a sense of belonging."

A proud lifelong Yellow Jacket, Ehmer began his career at Allen-Bradley before joining Waffle House in 1992. He held various positions there, becoming co-president and chief operating officer in 2006, chief executive officer in 2012, and chairman in 2022. Throughout his professional and personal life, Ehmer focused on building relationships and serving others, both within and beyond Waffle House. He served on numerous boards including the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation, the Atlanta Police Foundation, Aaron's, and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

Ehmer provided extensive volunteer leadership to Georgia Tech through his service on the Georgia Tech Alumni

Association Board of Trustees, the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees, the Georgia Tech Advisory Board, the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering Advisory Board, and the *Transforming Tomorrow* Campaign Steering Committee, among others. This year, he received the Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni Distinguished Service Award, the highest award conferred by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. Ehmer met his wife, Kara, through Georgia Tech, and in addition to his son Gregory, his daughters Anna Ehmer, BA 2017, and Lesley Ehmer, IE 2000, are also Yellow Jackets.

Describing Ehmer's extraordinary dedication to his community and strong ties to the Institute, Noonan said, "Walt's life embodied service, leadership, integrity, and a deep, deep love for Georgia Tech." ///

To learn more or make a commitment or gift to the Walter G. Ehmer Scholarship, contact **Meagan Burton-Krieger**, executive director of Campaign Operations and Institute Strategic Priorities, at meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu.

REUNION GIVING UPDATE:

Investing in the Future

Over the course of Homecoming & Reunion Weekend in November, generations of Georgia Tech alumni converged to reconnect with classmates and cheer on the Yellow Jackets as they squared off against the University of Miami Hurricanes. Continuing a proud Tech tradition, the Classes of 1974, 1984, and 1999 marked their respective 50th, 40th, and 25th milestone reunions by channeling their generosity to give back to the Institute. Collectively, their philanthropy will propel the Institute forward and leave a legacy of impact for decades to come.

Members of the Classes of 1975, 1985, 2000, and 2015 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.

50TH CLASS REUNION
Class of 1974

\$8,500,000

CLASS OF 1974 CHAIR
Larry Calhoun, EE 1974
Raleigh, NC



40TH CLASS REUNION
Class of 1984

\$9,847,984

CLASS OF 1984 CHAIR
Jim Butterworth, IE 1984
Boulder, CO



25TH CLASS REUNION
Class of 1999

\$3,075,311

CLASS OF 1999 CO-CHAIRS
Christina Scherrer, IE 1999, M.S. IE 2001, Ph.D. IE 2005
Dunwoody, GA
Greg Scherrer, EE 1999
Dunwoody, GA



BIG BETS

Georgia Tech's strategic priorities to amplify impact, champion innovation, expand access, connect globally, cultivate well-being, and lead by example remain our focus as we look ahead. We have made remarkable progress on our strategic plan since 2019.

Now, we are entering the second half of this decade-long, ambitious plan. We are laser-focused on four Big Bets — the top four strategic priorities that we will carry across the finish line by 2030 — and a series of foundational priorities to continue building on the Institute's growth.



Scan here for more information on our strategic plan.



Be a national leader in outcomes and value for all students.



Double the number of degrees granted and non-degree learners.



Double the scale and amplify the impact of our research.



Build a national hub for innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

“My dad taught me the power and grace of giving.”

— J. Ben Wauford, ARCH 1979, M. ARCH 1981,
and Christopher W. Broderick



Several factors influenced J. Ben Wauford’s decision to support the School of Architecture through an estate plan, but his father’s views of philanthropy had perhaps the greatest impact.

“During the last two years of his life, I talked to my dad about his intentions in his Will — I was his executor — and his notions about giving really resonated with me,” Wauford explained. “My dad said, ‘I only give to things that are going to help people. I don’t give to things that create monuments to myself or to others.’”

After discussing it with his partner, Christopher W. Broderick, Wauford decided on a mid-seven-figure estate gift for unrestricted support for the School of Architecture in the College of Design, where he earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Wauford opted for an unrestricted gift

because “the future is anything but a straight line. While there are many things within the School I would love to support, it’s most effective for whoever is managing the show then to decide what is needed,” he said. “I trust Tech and its people.”

A retired partner with Cooper Carry, Wauford was the founding partner of the New York City office and served as principal in charge, racking up multiple design awards along the way. Broderick runs his own financial training group specializing in training bank employees.

Although “being a gay student and not out in 1975 at Georgia Tech wasn’t easy,” Wauford said the cohesion and collegiality within his cohort in the School of Architecture was priceless. “That was the overriding characteristic of my time at Tech. It helped create my future.”



Georgia Tech
Founders' Council

Founders' Council is the honorary society recognizing donors who have made estate or life-income gifts of \$25,000 or more for the support of Georgia Tech. For more information, please contact: 404.894.4678 • giftplanning@dev.gatech.edu • plannedgiving.gatech.edu

Save the Date:

Challenge Opportunity for Scholarships and *Pathway of Progress: Celebrating Georgia Tech Women*

On January 1, 2025, the Pathway of Progress: Celebrating Georgia Tech Women Challenge opportunity will launch. Funded by anonymous donors, the dollar-for-dollar challenge is designed to inspire scholarship support for students with low and limited income who demonstrate a commitment to advancing women in STEM while increasing programmatic support associated with *Pathway of Progress*, preserving its legacy and impact in perpetuity.

Set to open in early 2025, *Pathway of Progress* is the permanent tribute to the lives and legacies of women at Georgia Tech, now under construction near the John Lewis Student Center and Stamps Commons. The architectural sculpture and accompanying digital experience will celebrate 70 graduates, as well as 98 women and events with historical significance to the Institute. The *Pathway of Progress* installation was made possible by generous support from Andrea L. Laliberte, IE 1982, M.S. IE 1984, and designed by Merica May Jensen, MGT 2008, M. ARCH 2011. The campuswide grand opening of the tribute is planned for March 2025.

Philanthropic support is crucial to strengthening Georgia Tech's reputation as one of the nation's premier universities that is open to all qualified students, regardless of their financial circumstances. Funding for scholarships ensures that these students are able to achieve their STEM education goals and fosters a vibrant campus community that is reflective of our world.

For more information, contact **Meagan Burton-Krieger**, executive director of Campaign Operations and Institute Strategic Priorities, at meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu.



Renderings provided by Gray Matters



The Pathway of Progress: Celebrating Georgia Tech Women Challenge will run from January 1 to June 30, 2025, and will inspire new gifts and commitments to undergraduate scholarships for students with low or limited income and a demonstrated interest in advancing women in STEM fields and for programmatic support. Stay tuned for more information about how to participate.

Scan here to learn more about *Pathway of Progress: Celebrating Georgia Tech Women*.