

# Campaign

Quarterly



Gift Honors  
Alumnus  
Father

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Cycle track opening event and bicycle ride around campus.

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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 Jim Hall



**Jim Hall**  
Vice President  
for Development

Thanks to the generosity and support of donors like you, Georgia Tech closed out its most successful fundraising year ever — nearly \$300 million raised in fiscal year 2025. This incredible milestone reflects your commitment to Georgia Tech and its mission to develop leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition. With this continued momentum, *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech* is on track to reach our campaign targets by 2027.

Building upon the success of our best-ever fiscal year and an overall record-breaking year for Georgia Tech (more on page 19), as we were going to press with this issue, we announced the largest individual gift in the Institute's history. The late John W. Durstine, a mechanical engineering alumnus who graduated in 1952, made a historic bequest provision to his alma mater — an approximately \$100 million gift to the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. In the weeks, months, and years ahead, we will celebrate John Durstine and the impact of his visionary investment, which will be directed to support academic excellence in the Woodruff School through the recruitment, development, and retention of outstanding faculty members.

We remain deeply grateful for donors like John Durstine — and for all of you — who are contributing to the success of the campaign and making a profound difference at Georgia Tech now and for generations to come.

Looking ahead, we will be focusing on what we call the “depth of victories” — the idea that we are not just meeting our \$2 billion overall campaign target, but we are doing so with strength across all areas. These priorities will include ensuring every College meets its goal; advancing our student support goal of \$700 million, which includes both undergraduate and graduate student support; elevating our research initiatives; and funding key capital projects like the Aerospace Engineering Building and the Medical Innovation Building.

This issue of *Campaign Quarterly* features stories about transformative gifts that are propelling the campaign's success — a testament to the collective generosity of our donor community. From the Invest in the Best Scholarship Challenge, to the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation's latest extraordinary investment in the College of Engineering, to John H. Martinson's visionary support of the Honors Program, these stories highlight the enduring impact of philanthropy across the Institute.

Thank you again for your belief in Georgia Tech and for helping us transform tomorrow.

Go Jackets,

—Jim

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## RICHARD L. “DICK” BERGMARK

**Richard L. “Dick” Bergmark**, IMGT 1975, HON Ph.D. 2022, former executive vice president, chief financial officer, and treasurer of Core Laboratories NV, has made a profound impact on current and future generations of students at Georgia Tech. In addition to his significant philanthropic support across campus, Bergmark has provided indispensable advice and counsel to his alma mater through his involvement on the Scheller College Advisory Board, the Alexander-Tharpe Board, the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Transforming Tomorrow Campaign Steering Committee. In 2021, he received the Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni Distinguished Service Award, the highest award conferred by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, recognizing lifetime leadership, achievement, and service to the Institute and to the community.



### **What are some of your favorite memories from your time at Georgia Tech?**

I have two that stand out — one social and one academic. Socially, it was the camaraderie with the swimming and diving team. I didn’t have time for fraternity life, so the team became my circle. We trained, competed, and bonded every day. Academically, it was my senior-year business case study class. It was a Harvard-based curriculum, and it brought together everything I’d learned in my previous years. That class made it all click — it was my “aha” moment. Suddenly, all the courses I’d taken had relevance. I’ve carried that learning with me throughout my career and daily life.

### **How did Tech prepare you for your career?**

My degree had a production and financial management focus, which led to my first job at Datapoint Corporation, an early innovator in desktop computing. I was optimizing manufacturing processes — directly applying what I learned at Tech. Afterwards, I went on to work at Gulf Oil (which is now part of Chevron) in Houston and stayed in finance and energy ever since. That first job, though, was thanks to my Tech degree. It gave me a strong foundation and opened doors.

### **How have you remained engaged with Tech over the years?**

It started when I moved to Houston. I began attending alumni meetings with my brother, who is also a Tech grad. Eventually, I became president of the Houston alumni group.

That was my first real reengagement with the Institute and a way to give back through my time. Years later, when I had the means, I wanted to repay the scholarship I received. That led to creating a swimming scholarship for student-athletes and making an estate gift to Scheller. From there, I have focused my giving around three themes: general needs at Tech, specific needs at Scheller, and improving the student-athlete experience.

### **What inspired you to support the Institute?**

My giving has always been rooted in gratitude. The swimming scholarship I received made it possible for me to attend Tech as an out-of-state student. I never knew who funded it, and that stuck with me. I wanted to ensure that today’s students not only receive support but also know someone believes in them.

Over time, I’ve become very intentional about how I give. I focus on areas where I believe my support can make a meaningful difference. I’ve seen how that kind of focused giving can create a ripple effect. Some of the students I supported early on have already gone on to endow scholarships themselves. That’s the kind of long-term impact I hope for.

The personal engagement part has been so meaningful — getting to know students, spending time with them, and learning from them. I’ve always enjoyed the mentoring aspect of those relationships, though honestly, I often feel like I’m the one being mentored. These students help me

understand what’s really going on in the world today. That’s part of why I helped launch the Young Alumni Advisory Board at Scheller. I remembered what it felt like to lose connection after graduation, and I wanted to help create a structure that keeps young alumni engaged and supported.

### **What are your hopes for Georgia Tech’s future?**

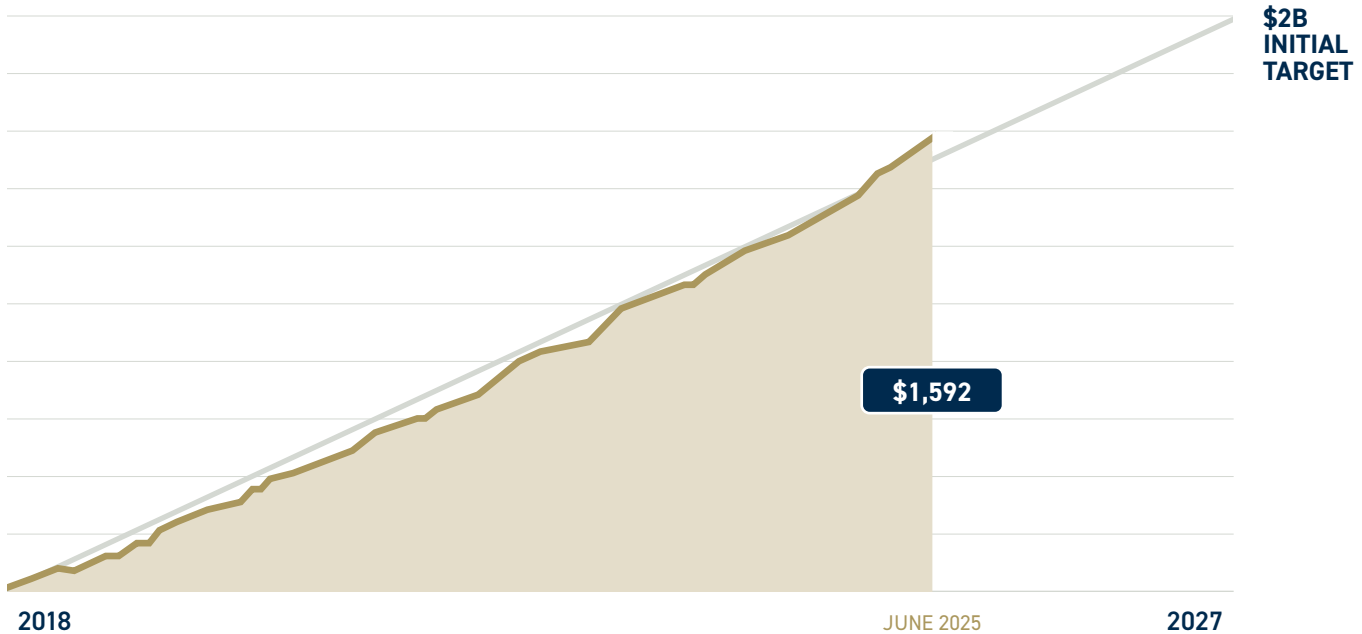
I hope Tech stays focused — in my opinion, we don’t need to be all things to all people, and we don’t need to grow for growth’s sake. Tech’s strength is in its focus and quality. I also believe the top fundraising priority should be need-based scholarships. If a student can get into Tech, they should be able to afford to attend. That’s how we improve someone’s life.

### **How can supporting *Transforming Tomorrow* make a difference?**

The campaign is a powerful opportunity to show that giving to Georgia Tech is an investment — with real, measurable returns. The Institute does a great job telling that story. But we need to keep emphasizing that this isn’t just about buildings or rankings — it’s about people. If we can create structures that improve someone’s life outcome — whether through scholarships, mentorship, or opportunity — that’s a success. And when alumni see that impact, they’re inspired to give back. Engagement leads to philanthropy. That’s been true in my experience, and I think it’s key to the campaign’s success. ///

## CAMPAIGN PROGRESS TO DATE

The accounting period for Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech is Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 31, 2027. The following update reflects our reported progress toward initial targets through June 30, 2025.



### \$467+ million

**Student Support**

*Toward \$700 million goal*

### \$342+ million

**Athletics**

*Toward \$500 million goal*

### \$214+ million

**For Facilities**

*Toward \$300 million goal*

Join Us at Upcoming  
*Transforming  
Tomorrow Events*

**Panama**

Sept. 17: Panama City

**Illinois**

Oct. 2: Chicago

**South Carolina**

Nov. 6: Greenville

**Spain**

Dec. 2: Madrid

*If interested in attending any of these events, please contact  
**Meagan Burton-Krieger**, executive director of Campaign Operations  
and chief of staff, at [meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu).*

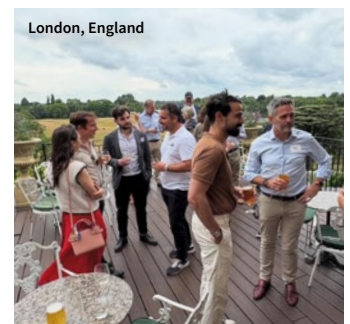


## COLLEGE OF SCIENCES SURPASSES CAMPAIGN GOAL

The College of Sciences recently met its initial \$75 million campaign target — a tremendous milestone made possible by the generosity and commitment of donors. As *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech* continues, the College's focus remains on faculty and graduate student support, while need-based undergraduate scholarships continue to be a top priority across the Institute. ///

## TRANSFORMING TOMORROW ON THE ROAD

This summer, Georgia Tech brought the campaign message to alumni and friends at events across the state of Georgia and the world, including stops in Madrid, London, and Paris. Visit [transformingtomorrow.gatech.edu](https://transformingtomorrow.gatech.edu) for more information about upcoming campaign events in your area. ///





# Quadrant-i Gift Honors Alumnus Father



Steve Braverman (right) with his brother David Braverman and father Neil Braverman

Steve Braverman, on behalf of the space technology venture capital firm CreationsVC, has made a significant gift to Quadrant-i, Georgia Tech's incubator for bringing faculty innovation and intellectual property to market. The result of a confluence of several factors, including the recent launch of Tech's Space Research Institute (SRI), the gift honors Braverman's father, Neil Braverman, IM 1960, a proud Georgia Tech alumnus and successful technology entrepreneur. The gift will support Quadrant-i's commercialization of faculty-driven space exploration technologies.

CreationsVC specializes in investing in space tech, AI, and related technologies. The firm sponsors Creation-Space, an Israeli-based global innovation hub that is fostering innovation to enable humanity's expansion beyond Earth. Steve said the gift is focused on "identifying innovative technologies that address challenges on Earth, with a focus on solutions that demonstrate 'dual value' — meaning they drive positive outcomes on Earth, with future application in space."

Steve had long wanted to recognize his father's entrepreneurial spirit with a gift to his alma mater. Steve says Neil chose to attend Tech because he knew that "Tech was going to give him the real capabilities, the real skill set, to not just manage the entrepreneurial process but to create it." Neil's education instilled in him what Steve

calls "a strong appreciation for problem-solving and for addressing unforeseen needs and tough questions in a way that is grounded in entrepreneurship."

After Neil graduated from Georgia Tech with his degree in industrial management, he went on to enjoy an accomplished career in textile manufacturing, founding and leading successful companies such as Safeskin Corporation, the top manufacturer of latex gloves for the healthcare and electronic markets. Over the years, Neil supported his alma mater in many ways, including the establishment of a dean's scholarship in the Scheller College of Business, but Steve wanted to honor his father's entrepreneurial spirit further. He met with Rahul Saxena, director of CREATE-X, Tech's incubator for undergraduate commercialization, and discovered Quadrant-i and Tech's newly created SRI.

SRI is the hub for all things space-related at Georgia Tech. It connects the Institute's Schools, Colleges, Interdisciplinary Research Institutes, and labs to lead conversations about space in Georgia and the world. Supporting Quadrant-i and its relationship with SRI was a natural fit for Steve and CreationsVC.

Jonathan Goldman, director of Quadrant-i, sees the organization as a "resource to help the commercialization activities of SRI." The CreationsVC gift will help Quadrant-i support the commercialization

of faculty intellectual property and spinoff companies, while encouraging them to take root in Atlanta, enhancing an already vibrant space tech ecosystem. As Goldman points out, Georgia's biggest industry is aerospace, and with Georgia Tech's Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering consistently ranked among the best in the country, "There's tremendous opportunity to build more space-centric businesses in the state of Georgia."

Tech's strong support of faculty entrepreneurship also captured Steve's attention. "We were stopped in our tracks in a positive way," he says, "by Tech's vision of a university that rewards entrepreneurship not only at the student level but at the faculty level." Supporting Quadrant-i commemorates his father's entrepreneurial spirit and legacy as a proud Tech alumnus by investing in innovation that is "grounded in true financial metrics that deliver." Steve's gift to Quadrant-i furthers his vision of "doing good by doing well" and aligns with Tech's mission of advancing technology and improving the human condition. ///

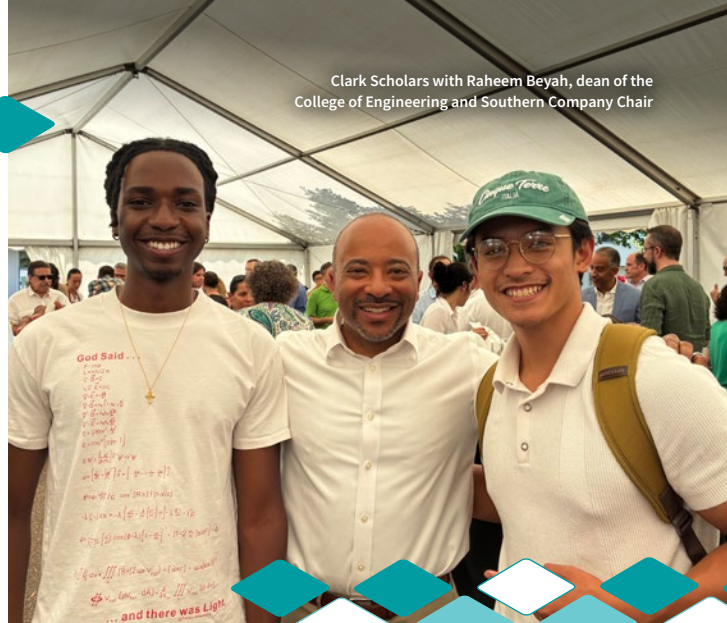
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To make a gift in support of Quadrant-i or SRI, contact **Meagan Burton-Krieger**, executive director of Campaign Operations and chief of staff, at [meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu).

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# Clark Foundation Expands Legacy of Transformative Student Support



Seven years after partnering with Georgia Tech to establish its Clark Scholars Program, the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation is making a visionary \$11 million investment to strengthen the initiative. The new investment will support three essential areas:

- Undergraduate need-based student scholarships.
- Program support to enhance the student experience.
- A new philanthropy challenge aimed at teaching the next generation of philanthropists.

“Georgia Tech’s commitment to excellence and its unwavering support for students align perfectly with the Clark Foundation’s mission,” said Courtney Clark Pastrick, board chair of the Clark Foundation. “This investment will allow Georgia Tech to reach even more talented engineering students, enrich their educational journey, and instill in them the values of service and philanthropy that were so important to my father.”

The Clark Foundation’s initial investments in 2018 included endowed funding that covers the unmet need for 10 new students each year. Each Clark Scholars Program cohort is supported through their undergraduate career, resulting in 40 to 50 actively supported students at any given time. This latest investment will elevate the number of supported students to upwards of 100, once the additional funding is fully deployed.

As part of the Clark Scholars Program, students meet with Georgia Tech leadership and alumni mentors, receive tutoring, participate in career planning, and volunteer for community service projects.

“This support allows our students to have hands-on learning experiences, obtain career development skills, and support for mental health and well-being,” said Raheem Beyah, dean of the College of Engineering and Southern Company Chair. “I’m grateful for the countless ways the Clark Foundation has changed the lives of our engineers. This investment is a testament to the meaningful partnership between Georgia Tech and the Clark Foundation and perpetuates the Foundation’s lasting impact.”

As part of its Invest in the Best Scholarship Challenge, Georgia Tech is committed to removing financial barriers and enriching the educational experience for bright, qualified students. Through this initiative, the Georgia Tech Foundation matched the scholarship portion of the Clark Foundation’s recent funding dollar-for-dollar, increasing the total number of students the Clark Scholars Program will support.

These collective funds will double the number of scholarships for highly deserving engineering students with low and limited income, allowing them to have the resources necessary to attend Georgia Tech. The funds will also cover academic fees and expenses in addition to learning opportunities such as research, study abroad, and summer courses.

Additionally, the Clark Foundation’s recent investment will support programmatic elements of the Clark Scholars Program, ensuring that Scholars are successful on campus and equipped with the skills and life experiences to graduate as well-rounded, highly skilled engineers.

“Georgia Tech demands an enormous amount from its students. In addition to funding their education, a gift like this ensures that our Scholars can focus on their coursework because they know that mental health support and professional development curricula are in place to promote their success,” said David Torello, Clark Scholars program director at Georgia Tech. “It also gives us the resources to provide life skills to our students, such as financial advising and career coaching. The Foundation’s support is radically changing our students’ life trajectories.”

Finally, the Clark Foundation is funding a new initiative — the Clark Scholars Philanthropy Challenge. The Challenge will help educate Scholars on the work of nonprofit organizations and the impact individual giving can have on their local communities.

Students will evaluate local nonprofits by studying financial filings, reviewing impact reports, and interviewing leadership. The Scholars will then donate to one of the organizations using funds from the Philanthropy Challenge Endowment. The hands-on experience will allow students to learn about philanthropy and philanthropic grant-making, cultivate a charitable spirit, and create and strengthen the connection between the Scholars and their local communities.

“The Clark Foundation’s vision and generosity continue to have a lasting impact on the College of Engineering and Georgia Tech,” Beyah said. “Mr. and Mrs. Clark’s enduring legacy allows our students to gain the skills and experiences they’ll use to make the world a better place as service-minded leaders in their fields.” ///

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To make a gift to the College of Engineering, contact **Dave Zaksheske**, executive director of Development for the College of Engineering, at [davez@coe.gatech.edu](mailto:davez@coe.gatech.edu).

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# Georgia Tech Honors Program Receives \$10 Million Commitment, Named for John H. Martinson

Georgia Tech's Honors Program recently received a transformative \$10 million commitment from philanthropist and venture capitalist John H. Martinson. In recognition of his generous investment, the program will now be known as the John H. Martinson Honors Program.

Martinson is a longtime advocate for excellence in higher education and has provided significant philanthropic support for honors programs at several leading institutions across the country. As a result of this commitment, Georgia Tech will expand and enhance its Honors Program to serve more students, enrich the undergraduate experience, and elevate the program's national standing.

"We are deeply grateful to Mr. Martinson for his generosity and commitment to the next generation of leaders," said Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera. "Through this extraordinary investment in the newly named John H. Martinson Honors Program, we will help more of our students reach their full potential and expand the high-impact opportunities available to them."

Martinson is chairman of Martinson Ventures, a private technology investment firm. His personal connection to Georgia Tech runs deep — his father, Raymond Martinson, earned a mechanical engineering degree from Tech in 1941.

Thanks to this commitment, the Honors

Program will increase its entering class size and enhance programming designed to help students deepen their academic experience and graduate with the Honors Program designation. The expanded program is scheduled to launch in fall 2026, with the goal of achieving national prominence among honors programs across peer institutions.

"We've built a strong foundation, but this donation is what will take it to the next level," said Amy D'Unger, faculty director of the John H. Martinson Honors Program. "It has the power to be transformative, creating an experience that will enhance our ability to create the next generation of leaders."

Alongside the naming, the Honors Program will shift from its former place within the Undergraduate Curriculum unit to become a standalone unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education and Student Success. This change reflects both the program's expanded scope and its growing impact on Georgia Tech's academic community.

"This commitment will empower the Honors Program to reach new levels of excellence, while remaining deeply rooted in the values that make Georgia Tech a top destination for high-achieving, purpose-driven students," said Steven Girardot, vice provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success. "We are incredibly grateful to Mr. Martinson for investing in our Honors

Program and in the future of undergraduate education at Georgia Tech."

Martinson said he was drawn to the Georgia Tech Honors Program because of its commitment to experiential learning and entrepreneurial emphasis. "Georgia Tech students are among the brightest and most innovative in the country," he said. "I am vested in the success of the program and seeing it double the total number of participating students while engaging faculty to achieve a top 10 honors program ranking nationwide."

The John H. Martinson Honors Program serves students across the Institute, providing interdisciplinary coursework, faculty mentorship, and community-based learning. As it grows in size and ambition, the program will continue to shape the next generation of scholars, leaders, and innovators — both at Georgia Tech and beyond.

Martinson's commitment has propelled the continued momentum of *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech* and contributed to the Institute's record-setting fundraising year in fiscal year 2025. ///

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To learn more or to make a gift to the John H. Martinson Honors Program, contact **Emily Wong**, director of Development, at [emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu).

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# Investing in Excellence: John H. Martinson on Supporting Georgia Tech's Honors Program



*John H. Martinson, a visionary philanthropist, entrepreneur, and advocate for STEM education, recently made a transformative investment in Georgia Tech's Honors Program. In this conversation, Martinson reflects on his personal ties to Georgia Tech, his motivations behind his support for higher education, and his vision for the future of honors education at Georgia Tech.*

## What is your family's connection to Georgia Tech?

My father graduated from Georgia Tech right at the start of World War II. He was a Co-op student, which meant he worked while studying, and that helped him afford college. His parents had emigrated from a small island jointly owned by Sweden and Finland and settled on Long Island. He learned to play golf there, right on the famous Bethpage course. Georgia Tech appealed to him because it was warm, had a strong engineering program, and offered paid Co-op opportunities. He also had an ROTC scholarship. We visited campus together many times, especially during football weekends. He was disappointed I didn't choose Tech, but I wanted to fly, and the Air Force Academy offered that path. Still, he remained proud of his alma mater and followed its progress over the years.

## What do you think your father would say about your investment in Georgia Tech?

I think he'd be very proud. He wasn't involved in philanthropy beyond giving to the church, but he valued education deeply. I believe he'd appreciate the focus on attracting and developing the brightest and most motivated students. He would have seen this as a meaningful way to support the next generation of leaders and innovators.

## What inspires you to give back to educational institutions?

I benefited tremendously from my own education. The U.S. government, through the Air Force, provided me with an excellent undergraduate program and two master's degrees. I want to pay that back. I'm also passionate about encouraging high school and college students to pursue STEM fields. It's a way to channel their creativity and innovation into building livelihoods for

themselves and contributing to the American economy. Supporting education is one of the most effective ways to uplift individuals and society as a whole.

## Why are honors programs good philanthropic investments?

Honors students are incredibly deserving. They're full-time, year-round learners. During summers, they're doing research, studying abroad, or engaging in entrepreneurial activities. During the academic year, they take heavy course loads and pursue research projects. These are the students who go on to start companies, lead organizations, and uplift society. Investing in them is investing in the future of innovation and leadership.

## What makes Georgia Tech students unique?

Georgia Tech does an excellent job of blending its role as a state institution with attracting high-caliber students from all over the world. The school's urban campus has become a development engine for Atlanta, encouraging top technical companies to locate nearby. That proximity creates opportunities for research, co-ops, and jobs. In recent years, Tech has vaulted into the lead on entrepreneurial programs, encouraging both undergraduate and graduate students to launch startups. It's becoming an economic force, rivaling MIT and Stanford in student caliber, motivation, and creativity. The students are not only technically proficient but also driven to innovate and lead.

## What impact do you hope your investment will have on the Honors Program?

Georgia Tech already has an excellent Honors Program, but the leadership, faculty, and students all agree that it can go

even higher. I'm enthusiastic about both upgrading and expanding the program. The goal is to become one of the best in the country and to extend its benefits to more students. That means more opportunities for research, mentorship, and interdisciplinary learning. It's about creating an environment where students can thrive and push boundaries.

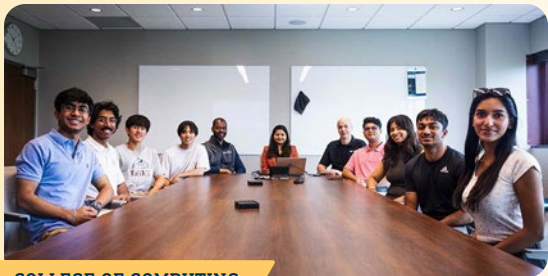
## What are your hopes for the John H. Martinson Honors Program at Georgia Tech?

I'd like it to attract an even higher quality of student while also broadening the number of outstanding students it serves. I want it to be recognized as a center of accomplished achievement and high standards of learning. It should also be a hub for innovative teaching approaches and personalized learning. Ultimately, I hope it produces graduates who make an even greater impact on the world. I also hope it becomes a model for other institutions looking to elevate their honors offerings.

## Anything else you would like to share?

One of the things that attracted me to this initiative is its alignment with Georgia Tech's campuswide Leaders in Progress and Service initiative. We're not just hoping these scholars become academic standouts — we want them to become leaders in their fields, heads of organizations, and creators of new endeavors. That takes more than expertise; it requires leadership qualities. I'm enthusiastic about the Faculty Fellows program, which will attract top teaching professionals to engage with honors students. I also believe in engaging alumni and parents to support and inspire students. Honors students are ideal ambassadors for Georgia Tech, and I'm proud to support their journey. ///

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

## AT&T and Georgia Tech Launch Boot Camp-to-Internship Pipeline

Thanks to a new venture with AT&T, the College of Computing is piloting a new summer experience for undergraduate students that blends academic instruction with industry engagement.

This is the first time the College has offered a boot camp-to-internship model to provide students with a seamless path from classroom learning to real-world application. The new program consists of a four-week boot camp followed by an eight-week internship at AT&T. Led by Nimisha Roy of the School of Computing Instruction, the boot camp prepares students to contribute meaningfully in the workplace by combining technical rigor with project-based learning.

“Outside of hands-on training and real-world experience for the students, it’s a job placement,” said Stephanie Stare, director of technology at AT&T. “The idea is to extend offers to those who are a good fit at the end of the summer and have them join full time next year.” ///

*To support students in the College of Computing, contact **Jason Zwang**, senior director of Development, College of Computing, at [jason.zwang@cc.gatech.edu](mailto:jason.zwang@cc.gatech.edu).*

COLLEGE OF DESIGN

## Mapping Heat. Protecting People

Extreme heat is one of the deadliest climate risks — and not all communities experience it equally. At Georgia Tech, Professor Rounaq Basu is leading the NO-HEAT initiative to change that. Originally developed during his time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and now expanded through the College of Design’s Center for Urban Resilience and Analytics, the project uses high-resolution, street-level temperature data to identify which areas of Atlanta face the highest heat exposure. By combining this data with environmental and socioeconomic indicators, the team is uncovering disparities that disproportionately affect historically marginalized neighborhoods. The goal is to give planners and public health officials the information they need to target heat mitigation strategies — like shade, cooling centers, and infrastructure — where they are needed most. It is a powerful example of how Georgia Tech research supports community resilience and climate equity. ///

*To make a gift to fund innovative research in the College of Design, contact **Kelly Smith**, director of Development, College of Design, at [kelly.smith@design.gatech.edu](mailto:kelly.smith@design.gatech.edu).*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



## Painting a Target on Cancer to Make Therapy More Effective

Georgia Tech biomedical engineers have created a treatment that could one day unlock a universal strategy for treating some of the hardest-to-treat cancers — like those in the brain, breast, and colon — by teaching the immune system to see what it usually misses.

In lab tests, the therapy didn’t damage healthy tissues, and it stopped cancer from returning. While still in early stages of development, the treatment builds on well-established technologies, giving it a clearer, quicker path to clinical trials and patient care.

The technique developed by Gabe Kwong, Robert A. Milton Chair and associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, is a one-two punch. First, it flags tumor cells. Then specially enhanced T cells from the patient’s own immune system recognize and eliminate the disease.

Marking tumors this way offers a potential path to treating cancers without the targets that drugs typically go after, giving options to patients who often don’t have many. ///

*To support innovative faculty research in the College of Engineering, contact **David Zaksheske**, executive director of Development, at [davez@coe.gatech.edu](mailto:davez@coe.gatech.edu).*





## COLLEGE OF LIFETIME LEARNING

## Gift to Support Faculty and New Dean Named

The College is pleased to share that it has received its first gift from the Bill Kent Family Foundation to fund faculty support. This three-year fund will allow faculty across Georgia Tech to experiment with AI. This will help empower educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate AI tools into their teaching practices — and help to transform higher education at Georgia Tech. The effort will be led by the College's Center for 21st Century Universities.

The College also welcomed Bill Gaudelli as their inaugural dean, effective Aug. 1. Gaudelli brings more than 35 years of experience as an educator, researcher, and academic administrator to this role. An internationally recognized scholar on global citizenship education and teacher development, he has authored more than 85 scholarly works, including several books on the topic of teaching and learning through a global lens. ///

*Philanthropy will expand the College of Lifetime Learning's educational offerings, support life-changing research, and drive societal impact. To make a gift to the Dean's Excellence Fund in the College of Lifetime Learning, contact **Ashley Coogan**, assistant vice president for Unit Development, at [ashley.coogan@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:ashley.coogan@dev.gatech.edu).*



## COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

## First Harry and Anna Teasley Professor Named



The College of Sciences named Jenny McGuire as the first recipient of the Harry and Anna Teasley Professorship in Ecology. The newly endowed faculty position supports research and teaching that meaningfully advances the understanding and responsible stewardship of species and community dynamics amid evolving ecological interactions driven by global environmental change.

McGuire, an associate professor in the School of Biological Sciences and the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, was selected for her pioneering ecological research and exceptional teaching efforts.

"Jenny's creative and fundamental research in spatial and community ecology is helping to position Georgia Tech as a leader in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation," says Todd Streelman, professor and chair of the School of Biological Sciences. "Her appointment continues a trend in the School to award research endowments to our most promising early- and mid-career scientists and highlights the strong support and generosity of alumni such as the Teasley family." ///

*To make a gift in support of promising faculty, contact **Dan Warren**, director of Development for the College of Sciences, at [dan.warren@cos.gatech.edu](mailto:dan.warren@cos.gatech.edu).*

## IVAN ALLEN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

## Morris Receives Mellon Foundation Award

Susana Morris, associate professor and associate chair in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication, has received a six-figure grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the Earthseed project she oversees. The funds will be used to broaden discussions and create solutions to climate change's impact on Black communities.

Through the use of Afrofuturist curriculum, medicinal community gardens, podcasts, films, research symposia, and scholarship, Morris and her colleagues seek to address the significance of climate change in Black communities in the South and Midwest.

Earthseed is an Afrofuturist digital humanities research project that incorporates Black media studies, digital media, and science fiction studies. It began in 2022 as a digital media hub of Afrofuturist literature organized by Morris and her students. ///

*To make a gift to fund research in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication, contact **Lauren Kennedy**, director of Development in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, at [lauren.kennedy@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:lauren.kennedy@dev.gatech.edu).*



## Three New Interdisciplinary Minors Launched

The Scheller College of Business is expanding opportunities for students with three interdisciplinary minors that bring fresh energy and sharpened career focus.

Undergraduates can now pursue a Fintech minor, which integrates finance, computing, and data science to prepare students for careers at the leading edge of financial services. This minor builds on resources available through the new Center for Finance and Technology, established through a generous gift from Mike and Jenny Messner.

The Business of Sports and Entertainment minor, also for undergraduates, combines management, marketing, and analytics to equip students for dynamic roles in athletics, media, and global events.

At the graduate level, the Real Estate Development and Finance minor offers students a rigorous blend of finance, urban planning, and strategy.

Each of these minors strengthens the connection between academic knowledge and career preparation. Students graduate with both the analytical rigor and the practical insights employers value, ready to make their mark across a variety of industries. ///

To enhance academic programs within the Scheller College of Business, contact **Duante Stanton**, senior director of Development, Scheller College of Business, at [duante.stanton@scheller.gatech.edu](mailto:duante.stanton@scheller.gatech.edu).

## Sharp Reappointed

Following a comprehensive administrative review, Leslie Sharp has been reappointed to a second five-year term as dean of Libraries at Georgia Tech, effective July 1. This decision follows a review process, which includes feedback from faculty, staff, students, and external library colleagues and an evaluation of Sharp's performance and accomplishments during her term.

Sharp, who has served as dean of Libraries since 2020, has played a pivotal role in advancing Georgia Tech's mission of supporting research, teaching, and learning across the Institute. Her leadership

has guided the Library's focus on interdisciplinary collaboration and expanded services, saving students, faculty, and staff more than \$2.12 million in 2024 through course reserves, interlibrary loan, Gadgets equipment lending, locker rentals, and room reservations. Sharp's work has ensured that the Library is one of the most desirable places on campus to study, work, and collaborate. ///

To support Dean Leslie Sharp's vision for the Library, contact **Heather Howarth**, director of Development for the Library, at [heather.howarth@library.gatech.edu](mailto:heather.howarth@library.gatech.edu).

## Alpert Named Vice President and Director of Athletics

Ryan Alpert, a seasoned collegiate athletics executive and one of the nation's most respected leaders in revenue generation and athletic operations, was named vice president and director of athletics at Georgia Tech on July 8. Alpert comes to The Flats from the University of Tennessee, where he served as senior deputy athletics director and chief revenue officer.

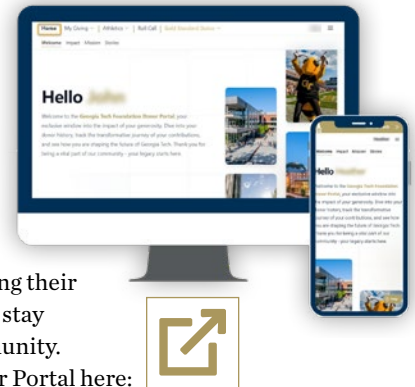
At Tennessee, Alpert oversaw business and finance, development, marketing, ticketing, capital projects, sponsorships, and more — collectively helping Tennessee Athletics increase its annual revenue by over \$100 million since 2022. In fiscal year 2024 alone, the department generated a record \$228 million in operating revenue and raised nearly \$140 million through the Tennessee Fund. He also served as the lead on the Neyland Entertainment District, a transformative public-private partnership that is revitalizing Knoxville's riverfront and enhancing the game day experience around Neyland Stadium. ///

To learn more or to make a gift to Full Steam Ahead, the athletics initiative that is transforming athletic facilities, elevating the gameday experience, and providing resources to compete at the highest level, contact **Robby Poteat**, executive associate athletics director for Development, at [rpoteat@athletics.gatech.edu](mailto:rpoteat@athletics.gatech.edu).



## Keeping Profile Information Current

To maintain and update current contact information for Georgia Tech alumni and donors, the Georgia Tech Foundation has developed a constituent profile update form. This form allows alumni and donors to provide their updated contact details, so Georgia Tech can share relevant and informative updates about campus happenings, alumni achievements, and the progress of *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech*. By keeping their contact information current, alumni and donors can stay connected and engaged with the Georgia Tech community. The form can be accessed via the Georgia Tech Donor Portal here:





## RESEARCH

## Two New Interdisciplinary Research Institutes Launch

Georgia Tech has launched two new Interdisciplinary Research Institutes (IRIs) — one focused on neuroscience, the other on space. These areas are both rich in potential research discoveries and applications. **The Space Research Institute (SRI)** is the hub for all things space-related at Tech, connecting Schools, Colleges, labs, and partners to lead space innovation in Georgia and beyond. Through collaboration with business, government, philanthropy, and academia, the SRI will help keep Georgia Tech — and the state of Georgia — at the forefront of space exploration and technology.

The **Institute for Neuroscience, Neurotechnology, and Society (INNS)** is a dynamic center for brain-related research — from biology and behavior to medical breakthroughs and ethical questions. INNS will explore human intelligence, movement, neurotechnology, and the future of brain-connected systems.

Even as federal research budgets face uncertainty, Georgia Tech is investing strategically in areas with high potential for impact and diverse funding sources.

Together, the IRIs drive innovation across campus, the nation, and around the world. Donor support will help accelerate discoveries that improve lives and shape the future. ///

*To fund research that advances innovation and technology in sectors of strategic importance, contact **Meagan Burton-Krieger**, executive director of Campaign Operations and chief of staff, at [meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu).*

## ROLL CALL

## Give to the 79th Roll Call

Georgia Tech continues to evolve while remaining true to its mission: developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition. Thanks to your support, the Institute has earned top national and global recognition:

- Georgia Tech was named the best value public college by The Princeton Review for the third consecutive year.
- Forbes recognized Georgia Tech among the top 10 “new Ivies” for a second year in a row.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked Georgia Tech among the top 10 public universities in the country for 2025.
- The National Science Foundation has ranked Georgia Tech’s research enterprise No. 1 in the U.S. among institutions without a medical school for four years in a row.
- Roll Call gifts from Georgia Tech alumni and friends help fuel this continued excellence. Help shape Georgia Tech’s future with your gift to the 79th Roll Call today. ///



[Click here to make your gift to Roll Call.](#)

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELL-BEING

## Reflections From a “Super Senior” Administrator Luoluo Hong

After four years at Georgia Tech, I’ve entered my “super senior” year. Reflecting on this time, one lesson stands out: Our students continually teach and inspire us. Each generation challenges the status quo, brings fresh perspectives, and reminds us why the work of supporting their success is so vital.

Students today demonstrate extraordinary resilience, navigating rigorous academics with grit while persevering through global uncertainty with courage. Their creativity, compassion, and drive hold us accountable and fuel our purpose. To ensure they can thrive, we must not only celebrate their achievements but also invest in the structures, resources, and experiences that sustain them. I have witnessed countless moments of transformation, each one made possible by the people and programs surrounding our Yellow Jackets. This is why the Student Engagement and Well-Being Fund for Holistic Student Success is so critical: It provides the flexibility to meet emerging needs and strengthen the initiatives that help students flourish intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

As I look back on my own “super senior” year, I’m reminded that the heart of Georgia Tech lies in its people. With strategic support, we can make certain every student has the opportunity not only to excel academically, but to grow as leaders, innovators, and engaged members of our community. ///

*To support the Student Engagement and Well-Being Fund for Holistic Student Success, contact **Emily Wong**, director of Development, at [emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu).*



## REUNION GIVING: Leaving a Legacy

This fall, members of the Classes of 1975, 1985, 2000, and 2015 will return to campus for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, October 23 – 25, to commemorate their milestone reunions. They'll be joined by alumni from the Class of 1965 who are celebrating 60 years since they graduated from Tech. In the spirit of Progress and Service, these classes will honor the past and invest in the future through their collective philanthropic support that will advance the Institute's mission.

For more information about Homecoming events, visit [gtalumni.org/homecoming](http://gtalumni.org/homecoming). For information about Reunion Giving, contact **Stefanie Smith**, director of Development, Reunion Giving, at [stefanie.smith@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:stefanie.smith@dev.gatech.edu).

### 60TH CLASS REUNION

## Class of 1965

"The Class of 1965 had a record-breaking 50th reunion, with more than \$41 million raised and a 50% class participation rate. When I realized that Georgia Tech didn't have a formal 60th reunion, I asked President Cabrera to establish one. He said, 'Do it. You have the ball.' I went back to the same four co-chairs of our 50th, and all agreed to help again. Off we go in our quest for a fun weekend and to set more giving records."

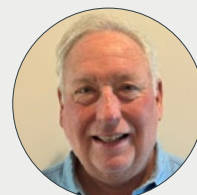


**Bo Godbold, IE 1965**  
Tierra Verde, Florida  
CLASS OF 1965 CHAIR

### 40TH CLASS REUNION

## Class of 1985

"My family always encouraged me to work hard academically, which allowed me the chance to achieve my dream of becoming a Yellow Jacket. Being asked to co-chair the Class of 1985 40th Reunion is an honor. It allows me the opportunity to give back as well as reconnect with old friends and classmates. When Georgia Tech is in your blood, serving is a privilege."



**Barry Cowart, IMGT 1985**  
Maggie Valley, North Carolina  
CLASS OF 1985 CO-CHAIR

### 50TH CLASS REUNION

## Class of 1975

"I feel gratitude to Georgia Tech for the lasting friendships and for helping me launch my career. My five years at Tech were special. Filling the chair role is a small way of saying 'thank you!' Our committee shares similar feelings of gratitude and a desire to give back to Georgia Tech. For our class project, we are endowing a Class of 1975 need-based scholarship. It is our hope that future students will enjoy similar positive Tech experiences and will continue the Tech legacy of Progress and Service"



**Ted Haile, CHE 1975**  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
CLASS OF 1975 CHAIR

"While serving on the advisory board of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, I not only reconnected with Tech but once again realized what made it an amazing place. Its investments in making a world-class education achievable for the underserved are a blueprint that higher education should embrace. As a reunion co-chair, my hope is to help others reconnect with this great institution."



**Steve Pinsky, ME 1985**  
Plainview, New York  
CLASS OF 1985 CO-CHAIR





25TH CLASS REUNION

## Class of 2000

“Our love for Georgia Tech runs deep. Jonathon is a fourth-generation Yellow Jacket, and together we are thrilled that our daughter will continue the tradition as a member of the Class of 2029.

As proud members of the Class of 2000 — the final class to graduate in the 20th century — we are honored to serve as chairs of our 25th Reunion Committee. Our class witnessed a time of tremendous change on campus — from the rise of the internet to the shift from quarters to semesters, and even the excitement of the Centennial Olympic Games. We have loved reconnecting with so many members of our class — the greatest class in Georgia Tech history. We hope to see everyone at Homecoming in October. We are grateful to be part of such a special alumni community.”



**Jonathon Barge, ME 2000,  
M.S. BC 2002**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

**CLASS OF 2000 CO-CHAIR**



**Sarah Barge, IE 2000**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

**CLASS OF 2000 CO-CHAIR**

10TH CLASS REUNION

## Class of 2015

“This reunion is our opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and reconnect with the people who shaped our formative years and to proudly be the first-ever class to celebrate a 10-year reunion at Georgia Tech. Our reunion committee chose to support Students’ Temporary Assistance and Resources Services (STAR) because no student should have to choose between basic needs and academic success. From food insecurity to emergency housing, the STAR team works behind the scenes to ensure students can stay enrolled and focused. Our class goal of raising \$30,000 will expand that impact, bolstering the safety net for those who need it most.”



**Erin Lightfoot Robinson, IE 2015**

*College Park, Georgia*

**CLASS OF 2015 CHAIR**

Jonathon Barge (second from right) with his grandfather Otis Barge (second from left) and family



## A Family Legacy of Engagement

For Jonathon Barge, ME 2000, M.S. BC 2002, the ties to Georgia Tech are deep and longstanding. Jonathon's great-grandfather, Otis A. Barge Sr., ME 1912, graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in mechanical engineering. As Class of 2000 Reunion Committee co-chair, Jonathon was researching the Reunion Giving program on Tech's website when he made a surprising discovery: His grandfather, Otis A. "Alvin" Barge Jr., ARCH 1941, had served as co-chair of the Class of 1941 Reunion Recognition Council.

Alvin Barge ran a successful building company in Atlanta for many years and remained engaged with Tech, serving his alma mater as co-chair of the Class of 1941 Reunion Recognition Council in 1991. That

council helped to establish the first \$1 million endowment to support class legacy donors to recognize past, present, and future alumni who make gifts to Georgia Tech in honor of their reunions. The program celebrates three milestone reunion years: the 25th, 40th, and 50th. Donors continue to be recognized thanks to the generosity of the Class of 1941.

Like Alvin Barge, the Barge family remains committed to Georgia Tech. Jonathon's father, Al Barge, graduated from Tech in 1968 with a degree in management. Now, Jonathon and his wife, Sarah, IE 2000, co-chair the Class of 2000 Reunion Committee. The two met while undergraduate students here. Their daughter, Peyton, is a new Yellow Jacket, beginning her first year and studying industrial engineering.

Speaking of his family's deep affection for Tech, Jonathon said, "Georgia Tech has been woven into the fabric of the Barge family for over a century, spanning five generations. The education and connections I gained during my time there have been instrumental to my professional success. It is also where I met my wife, a moment that continues to shape my life today and has only deepened our shared love and connection to the school. Now we are thrilled to watch our daughter carry on the family tradition." ///

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For more information about Reunion Giving, contact **Stefanie Smith**, director of Development, Reunion Giving, at [stefanie.smith@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:stefanie.smith@dev.gatech.edu).

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# Giving Together: A New Chapter in Student Support

A new giving initiative is taking shape across our Colleges: need-based scholarship endowment funds. These scholarship endowments — one each for the College of Computing, College of Design, College of Engineering, College of Sciences, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, and Scheller College of Business — are designed to expand access and opportunity for students through collective donor support.

Each pooled endowment fund begins with gifts and commitments totaling at least \$25,000, creating a foundation that grows over time and ultimately supports named scholarships. This model offers a new way for Georgia Tech alumni, friends, faculty, and staff to contribute meaningfully to student success. With annual gifts starting at \$5,000 and the potential to leverage employer matching programs, donors can help build a lasting legacy without having to establish a six-figure endowment in the near term.

The launch of this initiative was marked by a significant gesture from the Scheller College Young Alumni Advisory Board, which made the first gift of \$25,000 to Scheller College's Need-Based Scholarship Endowment. Their commitment reflects the power of alumni collaboration and a shared interest in investing in students and the future of Scheller College.



Donors will receive annual impact reports and opportunities to engage with the students whose lives they help transform. Each endowed fund is structured to grow over time, eventually supporting named scholarships that directly benefit students within the donor's chosen College.

This initiative represents a new chapter in the ways in which donors support students — one built on shared purpose, accessible giving, and long-term impact. It underscores the belief that every gift counts and can create enduring support for students. ///

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*To learn more or make a gift or commitment to a college's need-based scholarship endowment, contact **Ashley Coogan**, associate vice president of Unit Development, at [ashley.coogan@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:ashley.coogan@dev.gatech.edu).*

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## Transforming Lives Together

The Invest in the Best Scholarship Challenge was a resounding success. Donors unlocked \$100 million in new endowed scholarship support for low- and limited-income students, thanks to the dollar-for-dollar match provided by the Georgia Tech Foundation. The challenge has created 93 new scholarships and expanded the reach of 41 existing funds, doubling donor impact and expanding opportunities across campus.

The challenge is making an immediate impact on Georgia Tech, expanding access to students of all backgrounds while placing the highest value on developing individual talents, regardless of students' financial circumstances. ///

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*To learn more or to make a gift in support of undergraduate scholarships, contact **Meagan Burton-Krieger**, executive director of Campaign Operations and chief of staff, at [meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu).*

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2025-2026

# Georgia Tech Foundation Members

Effective July 1, the newly elected members of the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees assumed their roles. Established in 1932 as a 501(c)(3) foundation, the Georgia Tech Foundation serves the Georgia Tech community by promoting the cause of higher education in Georgia, assisting the Institute in its role as a leading educational and research university, and receiving and managing charitable gifts made in support of the Institute. Trustees are appointed to four-year terms on the 45-member board. For more information, visit [gtf.gatech.edu](http://gtf.gatech.edu).

## 2025-27 CHAIR



**James R. "Jim" Borders**  
ME 1983  
Atlanta, Georgia

## NEWLY ELECTED TRUSTEES



**Stanley W. Connally Jr.**  
ME 1993  
Mountain Brook, Alabama



**Jacquelyn B. Hamilton**  
BIOL 1996  
New York, New York



**Anthony H. Kepano Jr.**  
IMGT 1986  
Atlanta, Georgia



**Christopher B. Lofgren**  
Ph.D. IE 1986  
Naples, Florida



**Thomas E. Noonan**  
ME 1983  
Fernandina Beach, Florida



**Gregory J. Owens**  
IMGT 1982  
Senoia, Georgia



**John D. Ratliff**  
IE 1981  
Raleigh, North Carolina



**Frances G. Rogers**  
ECON 1983  
Atlanta, Georgia

2025-26 GEORGIA TECH  
ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

**Anne Chow**  
Southlake, Texas

## ALUMNI CHAIR ELECT



**James L. Mitchell**  
CE 2005  
Atlanta, Georgia

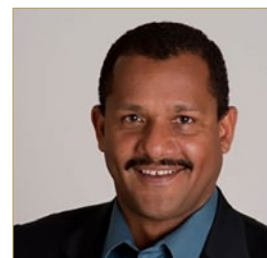
## NEW EMERITUS TRUSTEES



**Rodney C. Adkins**  
EE 1981, M.S. EE 1983,  
HON Ph.D. 2013  
Miami Beach, Florida



**Laurie D. Bagley**  
IMGT 1984  
Clermont, Georgia



**Robert N. Stargel Jr.**  
EE 1983  
Alpharetta, Georgia



# Record Year for Georgia Tech

**Nearly  
\$300 million**

**Raised in fiscal year 2025  
thanks to over 25,000 donors**

**Approximately  
67,000**

**Applicants to Georgia Tech**



**4,050**

**First-year students**



**1,300**

**Transfer students**



**53,000**

**Approximate number of  
students enrolled for Fall 2025**



**13,000+**

**Degrees conferred in  
academic year 2024-25**



**\$1.47 billion**

**Research awards for  
fiscal year 2025**



**\$5.8 billion**

**Economic impact  
on Georgia**

**No. 1  
Best Value**

**Third year in a row  
(Princeton Review)**

## 2025-2026 ALEXANDER-THARPE FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Ex Officio President

Ángel Cabrera

### Ex Officio Vice Chair

Jenna Jordan

### Ex Officio Secretary

Jim Hall

### Ex Officio Treasurer

Tricia Chastain

### Ex Officio

Ryan Alpert

### Board Members

Mark Alexander, MGT 1987

Bird D. Blitch Sr., IE 1997

Brittney Bottoms

Joe Brucella, IE 1972

Brad Carroll, CE 1997, M.S. CE 1998

Barry E. Cox, CHE 1982

Erin C. Dasher

Charles Peyton Day, IMGT 1983

Sheldon J. Fox, EE 1981, M.S. EE 1982

Thomas M. Holder, IMGT 1979

Keith F. Holmes, MGT 1990

Wab Kadaba, ME 1992

John M. McKenney, IE 1990

Mark F. Moon, IE 1985

Lynn Houston Moore, IE 1999, M.S. IE 2000

John K. Porter Jr., IMGT 1986

Kyle Porter, MGT 2004

Jean Marie F. Richardson, MGT 2002

Zach Richmond, IE 2016, M.S. CS 2022

Luke Salter

Danny Shepherd, GMGT 1973

Gail Smith, CHE 1978

Teresa M. Smith, IMGT 1983

Reggie W. Wilkes Sr., BIOL 1978

Katy Williams

Marshall D. Wingo, TEXT 1968

S. Brent Zelnak, MGT 1994

# Fellowship Recipient Driven by Curiosity and Passion

Pathbreakers Fellow Carlos Carrasquillo, M.S. AE 2025, M.S. CS 2025, is on pace to earn his Ph.D. in robotics in 2026, adding to his Georgia Tech master's degrees. Combined with his dual bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and computer engineering from the University of Florida, the Tampa native is amassing degrees in rigorous STEM fields at an astonishing clip: five in less than nine years.

As a University of Florida undergraduate, Carrasquillo quickly took to mechanical engineering. His roommate was studying computer engineering, and Carrasquillo was so intrigued by his roommate's projects that he chose to pursue an additional computer engineering degree.

With this dual focus, Carrasquillo discovered his interest in designing controls for robotic systems, and after watching the movie *Iron Man* for the first time, he narrowed his focus to exoskeletons and prosthetics. As a result, Tech's robotics Ph.D. program landed on his radar.

Once at the Institute pursuing his Ph.D., Carrasquillo joined the Exoskeleton and Prosthetic Intelligent Controls Lab, where he began developing control systems for wearable robots. He figured a master's degree in computer science would complement his work in robotics.

Carrasquillo also joined the Dynamic Adaptive Robotic Technologies Lab. There, curiosity again got the best of him. He and other lab members took an aerospace engineering (AE) course, which Carrasquillo, "purely out of interest," followed with another AE class, and then another, and eventually, another master's degree.

Carrasquillo's time at Georgia Tech would not be the same were it not for the Pathbreakers Fellowship Program. It provides outstanding



STEM Ph.D. students with opportunities for mentorship, professional development, and additional financial support during their studies. Thanks to the funding provided by the fellowship, Carrasquillo has been able to pour his energy into his work and his passions.

"One of the benefits of the fellowship is I can take extra classes without having to pay more, and I can always feed my curiosity that way," he said.

Carrasquillo has been able to simultaneously pursue three graduate degrees and still dedicate time to creative outlets and hobbies: the Yellow Jacket Marching Band and the Georgia Tech Campus Recreation SCUBA program. He is also working toward his pilot's license with an Atlanta-based flight school.

As he enters the home stretch of his doctoral degree, Carrasquillo is weighing plans for life after Georgia Tech. He is still deciding between a career in academia or industry.

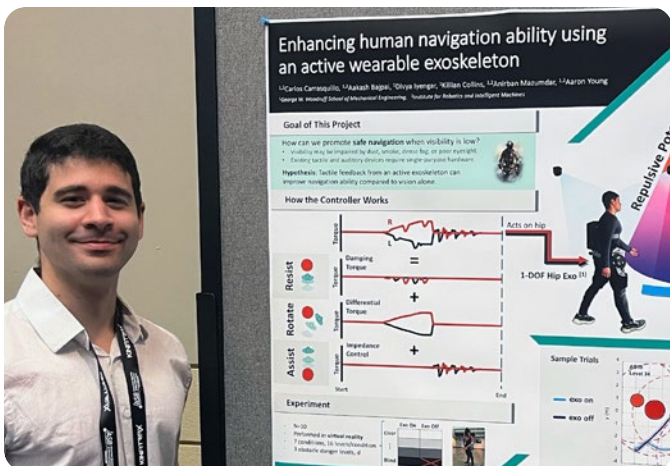
"I love teaching. It's easily the most rewarding thing I do," he said. "But I love working on robots and hardware that people can actually use. And to get your stuff out into the world, you have to collaborate with industry. So, I'm going to pursue both and see what opportunities lie ahead of me and make the decision then."

Some aspects of his future, however, are settled. He is engaged to fellow Tech robotics Ph.D. student Marilyn Braojos, whom he met when both were undergraduates at the University of Florida.

When asked about the goals and interests he has yet to pursue, Carrasquillo paused thoughtfully.

"I don't think I've ever said this before, at least not out loud: I'd love to be an astronaut one day."

For Carrasquillo, it seems, not even the sky's the limit. ///



To learn more or make a gift in support of graduate fellowships, contact **Meagan Burton-Krieger**, executive director of Campaign Operations and chief of staff, at [meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu).



**“For national excellence in STEM, we must give our most qualified, creative engineering minds the chance to solve the world’s toughest problems at our best institutions.”**

— Deborah Kilpatrick, ESM 1989, M.S. ME 1994, Ph.D. ME 1996



When Deborah “Deb” Kilpatrick left her small hometown in Georgia to attend Georgia Tech, she embarked on a life-changing journey, ultimately earning her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. Since then, she has become a respected expert in the medtech sector, rising to executive chair of the Board and former CEO of Evidation Health. Grateful for the support she received during her education at Georgia Tech, she has dedicated her time and resources to give back to the Institute.

Kilpatrick’s wife, Kathleen “Kacey” Fitzpatrick, shares Kilpatrick’s philanthropic spirit and commitment to supporting diverse students and faculty in STEM. Fitzpatrick earned her undergraduate degree in design and architecture from Stanford University and built a residential design and construction business. Together, they have used their success to invest in creating a sustainable and equitable future through an estate provision and current use funds directed to support the Women in Engineering program, the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, and the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems.

They have been impressed by the Institute’s commitment to creating a better future — one that brings a wide range of voices to the table to solve the problems of tomorrow. “I would like to see more women and people of color access leadership paths of all types in our country, with representation in STEM fields being critical,” said Fitzpatrick. They also appreciate the interdisciplinary work and emphasis on real-world application in the Woodruff School.

Through their gifts to Georgia Tech, the couple is supporting areas that will lead to the tomorrow they want future generations to experience. “Georgia Tech is incredibly important to STEM education,” said Kilpatrick. “Not just in the United States, but in the world.”



**Georgia Tech**  
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## Georgia Tech's Medical Innovation Building: Transforming Healthcare Through Technology and Collaboration

Georgia Tech is launching a transformative initiative — the Medical Innovation Hub — to redefine healthcare through technology-driven, interdisciplinary innovation. Positioned at the intersection of engineering, bioscience, and medicine, the Medical Innovation Hub will catalyze breakthroughs in diagnostics, therapeutics, and medical devices by translating faculty research into real healthcare solutions.

Anchored by top-ranked academic units and Interdisciplinary Research Institutes, including the new Institute for Neuroscience, Neurotechnology, and Society, the Medical Innovation Hub will foster partnerships with leading hospitals, universities, and public health organizations. It will support translational research in areas such as regenerative medicine, neurotechnology, immunoengineering, wearable sensors, and AI-driven diagnostics.

The Medical Innovation Building, a six-story, \$180 million to \$200 million facility adjacent to Georgia Tech's BioQuad, will serve as the headquarters for the new Medical Innovation Hub. The leading-edge building will house faculty labs, makerspaces, and collaborative areas. It will serve as a launchpad for education, innovation, and commercialization, enhancing Georgia Tech's impact on regional and global health.

Private philanthropy is essential to realizing this vision, securing additional funding, and beginning construction. Donors have a unique opportunity to shape the future of healthcare by supporting a facility that will empower researchers, students, and partners to deliver life-changing solutions, enabling Georgia Tech to lead the future of healthcare innovation and improve the human condition across Georgia and beyond.

*To learn more or make a gift in support of the Medical Innovation Building, contact **Meg Hendryx**, associate vice president for Principal Gifts, at [meg.hendryx@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:meg.hendryx@dev.gatech.edu).*

