

Campaign

Quarterly



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A Message From Jim Hall



As a result of your generosity and belief in Georgia Tech, this past calendar year marked the most successful fundraising year in the Institute's history. We raised more than \$417.6 million. That's record-breaking – even without alumnus John W. Durstine's extraordinary \$100 million estate gift for the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. The breadth of support behind *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech* reflects a shared commitment to the Institute and to advancing education, discovery, and impact at scale.

Donors are investing in areas that remain central to Georgia Tech's future, such as expanding undergraduate and graduate student support, fueling innovative research, and moving forward transformational facilities projects, including the Aerospace Engineering Building and the Medical Innovation Building. Recent momentum includes The Delta Air Lines Foundation's \$5 million commitment to the Aerospace Engineering Building, an important early investment that helps advance this critical project. (Read more about this commitment and its impact on Page 5.) While important work remains, these efforts reflect meaningful progress across campus and are beginning to translate into real impact for students, faculty, and research.

This progress is the result of a collective effort. We are grateful to Georgia Tech's faculty and staff, whose leadership, engagement, and relationships with donors are essential to advancing the Institute's priorities. Our donor community – alumni, friends, parents, faculty, staff, foundations, and corporations – continues to increase in both size and reach. We are also thankful for the new donors who are choosing to invest in Georgia Tech. These are the supporters whose connections to the Institute may be new but whose belief in its potential is already making a difference.

With two years remaining in the \$2 billion comprehensive campaign, we have raised more than \$1.839 billion in eight years. This amount surpasses Georgia Tech's previous record-setting 11.5-year campaign. As we enter the homestretch of *Transforming Tomorrow*, we remain focused on achieving outcomes that are not only ambitious but lasting. The campaign's success will be defined by every College, School, and unit reaching their fundraising goals. Together, we are securing the resources needed to support students, fuel research, advance discovery, and create spaces where innovation thrives.

Thank you for making this unprecedented year possible and for helping ensure that Georgia Tech's impact continues to grow – today and for generations to come.

Go Jackets!

– Jim

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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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THE CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY INTERVIEW WITH KEY VOLUNTEERS
JOCELYN AND BOB STARGEL

Jocelyn Stargel, IE 1982, M.S. IE 1986, and Bob Stargel Jr., EE 1983, share a lifelong connection to Georgia Tech rooted in their student years and sustained through decades of leadership, service, and philanthropy. The couple enjoyed accomplished careers and served in leadership positions — Jocelyn with Southern Company and Bob with Kimberly-Clark Corporation — and have provided indispensable advice and service to the Institute through their extensive involvement on multiple boards across campus. Jocelyn and Bob are also Georgia Tech parents, and their daughter, Chloe Engler, IAML 2015, joins them in preserving the family tradition on North Avenue. Here, they discuss their Tech experiences and hopes for the campaign and Georgia Tech.



How did Georgia Tech become part of your story?

Jocelyn: Tech brought us together 47 years ago as first-quarter freshmen, and we've been married 44 years.

Bob: I was headed to the University of Pennsylvania. But a Tech grad at Procter & Gamble reached out. My family situation wasn't great — my dad was out of work, and Penn had offered a strong package. He said Tech could match the academic aid, plus I'd keep my Pell Grant, plus the co-op program would help me pay for food. Even if it was only about \$8 an hour when I was making \$4 at Kroger, it made all the difference.

Jocelyn: I was from Maryland, but I had family in Columbus, Georgia, so Tech felt far enough but still close by. Sometimes that's how the big decisions happen.

I always tell students not to do what I did — I graduated on a Friday and got married the next day. My parents were living overseas and could only make one trip. We moved into married student housing, and I started working while Bob finished his last co-op. I like to remind him that I paid for that year.

What is a favorite memory from your student days at Tech?

Bob: Because of co-op, I was only on campus fall and spring, so I remember the football games, though the team wasn't great back then.

Jocelyn: But we tied Notre Dame! I'm a huge college football fan, so the games were fun for me. I made lifelong friends at Tech. The African American community was tight-knit. And pledging my sorority was foundational.

How did you become involved in Tech as volunteers and donors?

Jocelyn: Shirley Mewborn encouraged me to help with a women's group in the late '80s, and that gave me a peek behind the curtain. In the workplace, I began to see the advantage Tech grads have. People who went to Tech solve problems differently. When someone across the table is a Tech grad, you automatically understand each other.

Bob: Over time we got more involved. I chaired the Alumni Association Board of Trustees in 2015, and Jocelyn chaired it in 2020. Through our involvement and philanthropic support, we have formed strong relationships — we look forward to seeing people at events like the Gold & White Honors Gala, football games, all of it.

What inspires your giving?

Bob: For us, it's "Progress and Service." I didn't even know that was the motto until after I graduated. We give our time and whatever money we can because we love watching students grow.

Jocelyn: And access has been our theme from the beginning. We started by supporting African American students and expanded from there. Providing access to a Tech education means students can have the opportunity to solve the world's big problems — and that's what Tech students do.

What makes Tech a good philanthropic investment?

Bob: Look at the output — astronauts, CEOs, entrepreneurs, unicorns. You can't beat that ROI.

Jocelyn: And yet there's still huge unmet need, especially for student support at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

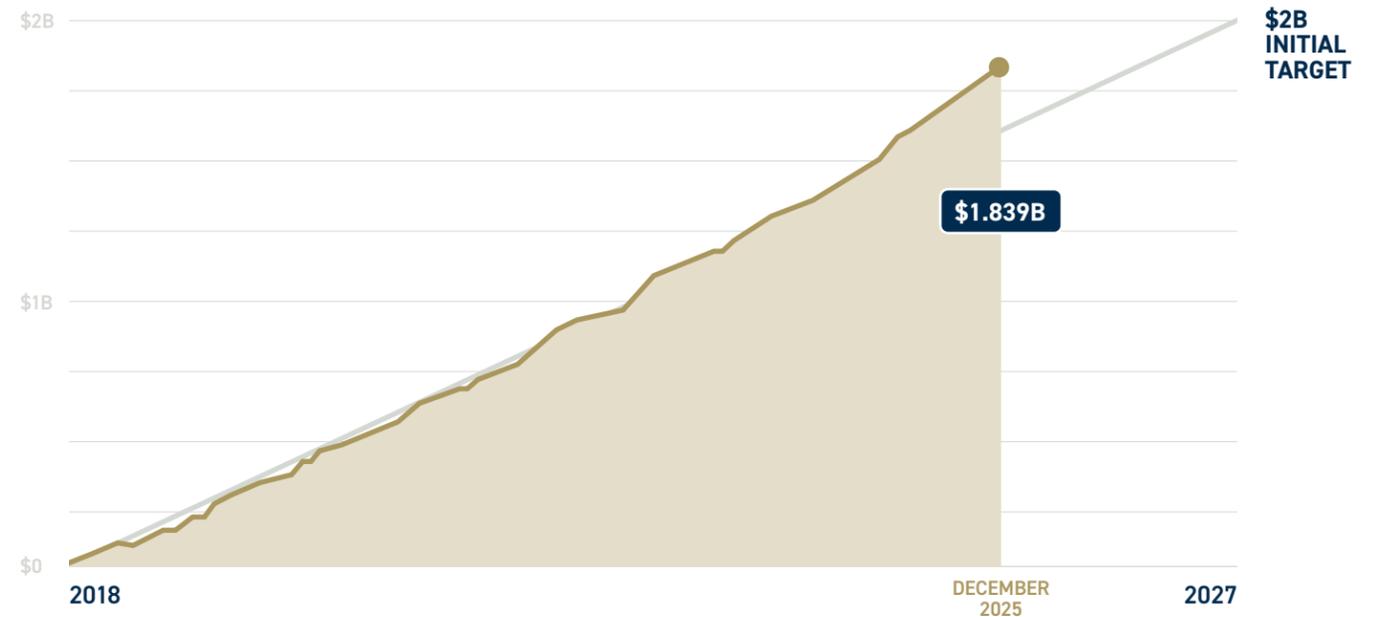
What do you hope *Transforming Tomorrow* will achieve?

Jocelyn: If the campaign can deliver on access, that would be incredible for Tech's future.

Bob: Agreed. Access is where Tech can change lives. ///

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 Dec. 31, 2025.



\$495+ million

Student Success
 Toward \$700 million goal



\$772+ million

Endowment
 Toward \$1 billion goal



\$226+ million

Facilities
 Toward \$300 million goal

Click Here for More Information About Upcoming *Transforming Tomorrow* Events:



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.

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Atlanta, Georgia

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Brookhaven, Georgia

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Brookhaven, Georgia

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Atlanta, Georgia

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Chairs, Georgia Tech Parents Advisory Board

* Deceased

The Delta Air Lines Foundation Commits \$5M for New Aerospace Building

The Delta Air Lines Foundation has made a \$5 million commitment to advance the construction of Georgia Tech’s new aerospace engineering building. The ambitious capital project will elevate one of the nation’s top-ranked aerospace programs, fuel the state’s economy, and accelerate innovation across the aviation industry.

The building will expand research capabilities in areas such as advanced aircraft design, propulsion, materials, cybersecurity, autonomy, and emerging technologies, including hydrogen and electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft concepts. These efforts will help drive innovation, benefiting the aerospace ecosystem.

“I am deeply grateful to The Delta Air Lines Foundation for their support of this new world-class facility that will house one of the best aerospace engineering programs in the world,” said Ángel Cabrera, president of Georgia Tech. “Their help and participation will be key to the development of the talent, research, and innovation that will secure our state’s position as a global hub for aerospace technology.”

The building will serve as the home for Georgia Tech’s Daniel Guggenheim School

of Aerospace Engineering (AE), which is ranked No. 1 among public institutions and No. 2 overall by U.S. News & World Report. Enrolling more than 2,300 students and leading \$54.5 million in annual aerospace-related research activity, the School is one of the largest and most influential aerospace engineering programs in the country.

“At The Delta Air Lines Foundation, we are committed to supporting education to advance the future of aviation. Our collaboration with Georgia Tech reflects our belief in the impact of innovation and sustainable technologies. This investment will help equip students to explore new ideas, develop more efficient solutions, and contribute to a stronger, forward-looking aerospace industry,” said John Laughter, trustee of The Delta Air Lines Foundation and Georgia Tech graduate.

The Delta Air Lines Foundation’s commitment aligns with Georgia Tech’s goals to expand the AE program, bolster the talent pipeline, and drive economic impact for Georgia and the Southeast.

Mitchell Walker, AE’s William R.T. Oakes Jr. School Chair, said, “This commitment from The Delta Air Lines Foundation



strengthens our ability to deliver a rigorous, hands-on aerospace engineering education through modern spaces for research, instruction, and collaboration. It will also convene leaders in aerospace technology to accelerate our work in sustainable aviation and the workforce development needed to achieve cleaner and more efficient flight.”

This investment builds on the long-standing collaboration between The Delta Air Lines Foundation, Delta Air Lines, and Georgia Tech, supporting research, innovation, and workforce development that strengthens Georgia’s economy and contributes to progress across the global aviation industry. By supporting Georgia Tech’s leadership in aerospace education and research, The Delta Air Lines Foundation is helping catalyze the ideas, technologies, and talent that will shape the future of aviation in Georgia and beyond. ///

*To learn more or make a gift to the Aerospace Engineering Building, contact **Dave Zaksheske**, assistant vice president – Development, College of Engineering, at davez@coe.gatech.edu.*

Tony Kepano Joint Center for Real Estate Launches

Georgia Tech is launching the Tony Kepano Joint Center for Real Estate, a new collaborative hub that will elevate real estate education, industry engagement, and alumni involvement across campus. The center is made possible through a significant commitment from accomplished real estate leader Tony Kepano, IMGT 1986.

It will bring together the strengths of the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business and the College of Design's School of Building Construction, serving as the Institute's primary platform for preparing students to pursue careers in the real estate industry. Designed for both undergraduate and graduate students, the center will provide academic support, professional development opportunities, academic research, and deeper connections with industry partners.

Kepano credits the lessons he learned at Georgia Tech for profoundly influencing his life and career. "I would not be where I am without my Tech experience," he said. As an out-of-state football and track and field student-athlete, he carried a full academic load while working night shifts at Delta Air Lines. The discipline, perseverance, and problem-solving mindset he honed at Tech laid the foundation for his successful four-decade career in commercial real estate. Today, Kepano serves as vice chairman with CBRE's Industrial and Logistics Advisory & Transaction Services.

This commitment builds upon Kepano's previous philanthropy directed to Georgia Tech, including support for scholarships and fellowships for business students and Athletics. He has also provided volunteer leadership and currently serves on the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees and the Scheller College Advisory Board.

Kepano sees the center's interdisciplinary model, which integrates business, design, architecture, city planning, and building construction, as uniquely powerful. Students, he said, will graduate with a "360-degree understanding of development" and a significant advantage in the field.

"My vision is for Georgia Tech to become one of the top thought leaders in commercial real estate — producing students who are uniquely qualified, prepared, and capable of driving the next wave of innovation in the industry," said Kepano. "I hope that 10 or 20 years from now, we can look back



at all the people this program has influenced, and how they've gone out and impacted their environments and communities in a positive way."

With a focus on offering students a pathway into one of the state's most dynamic fields, the Tony Kepano Joint Center for Real Estate will serve as a bridge between academic study and real-world practice. "At Georgia Tech, we have a broad base of offerings that are related and connected to real estate. That gives us a competitive edge in providing a well-rounded education and a portfolio of courses and activities that most universities can't offer. The center brings all of this together — engineering, design, construction, business — so students can experience the full range of real estate opportunities across the Institute," said Rick Porter, director of the Master of Real Estate Development program in the College of Design.

The Tony Kepano Joint Center for Real Estate aligns with Georgia Tech's commitment to preparing leaders who can shape the built environment and the business landscape that surrounds it.

Jonathan Clarke, senior associate dean for strategic initiatives at Scheller College, said, "The future of real estate will be shaped by rapid advances in technology and innovation. Success in this evolving industry will require an integrated understanding of finance, design, and technology. The Tony Kepano Joint Center will play a vital role in preparing students with this multidisciplinary foundation, so they're ready to lead where real estate is headed." ///

*To learn more or make a gift to the Tony Kepano Joint Center for Real Estate, contact **Duante Stanton**, senior director of Development, Scheller College of Business, at dstanton30@gatech.edu, or **Kelly Smith**, director of Development, College of Design, at kelly.smith@design.gatech.edu.*

Alumnus' Gift Supports ISyE, ECE Faculty

Georgia Tech alumnus Jim Moylan Jr., IE 1972, and his wife Joanne have made a generous gift in support of faculty in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). The endowed funds will strengthen Tech's ability to attract and retain eminent teacher-scholars.

Moylan came to Tech from Savannah, Georgia, to study math. He excelled academically, earning an impressive 4.0 GPA and a Borden Scholarship in his first year, before switching his major to industrial engineering. After graduating from Tech, he went on to earn an MBA from Harvard and serve in key leadership positions with companies such as Westinghouse and Georgia-Pacific. He ultimately retired as chief financial officer of the global telecommunications company Ciena Corporation.

Moylan credits his Tech education for much of his success.

"I am very grateful to Georgia Tech for the education that it provided me, the work ethic that it instilled in me, and the fact that it has put us in a position to give back to this great school," he said. Now, he and his wife are demonstrating their appreciation to Tech with their support of ISyE and ECE.

The endowed funds will provide critical support for ISyE and ECE faculty, underscoring Moylan's belief that "a great school is powered by its faculty." The significant gift will help fund professorships, director's chairs, faculty chairs, professors-of-the-practice, and early career professorships. Reflecting on the potential scope of the impact, H. Milton and Carolyn J. Stewart School Chair Pinar Keskinocak, said, "We are deeply grateful to Jim and Joanne for their belief in the power of education

and research to drive progress, and for their generous support. This endowment will strengthen ISyE's ability to attract and retain exceptional talent, accelerate research, and support the translation of innovation into long-lasting impact."

Similarly, Arijit Raychowdhury, the Steve W. Chaddick School Chair in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, expressed his appreciation for

"We have some of the best minds in every STEM and business discipline. I want that to continue because that advances Tech's reputation."

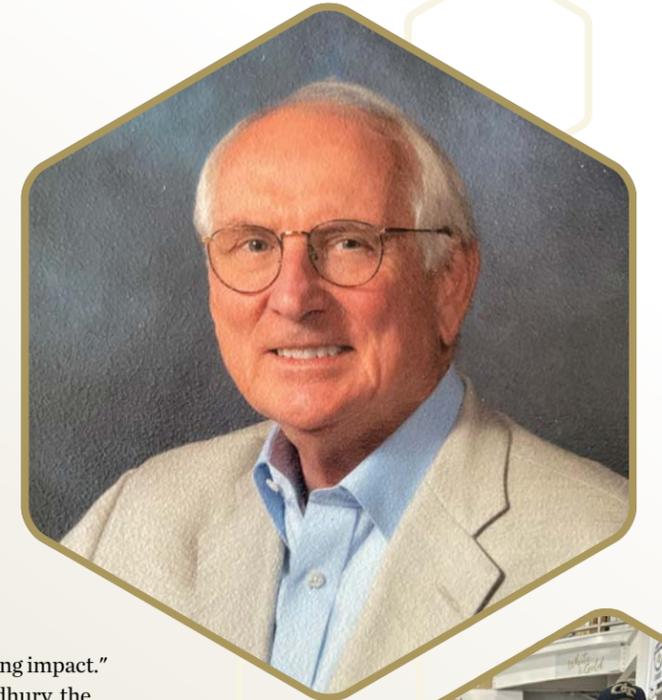
— Jim Moylan, IE 1972

the Moylans' support and the impact it will have on early-career faculty.

"Supporting early career faculty is one of the most powerful ways to strengthen our academic community," he said. "Early support accelerates the launch of research programs, enriches teaching, and sets the stage for lasting contributions. The Moylan family's gift empowers our young faculty to take bold steps at a defining moment in their careers."

Not only does this gift reflect Moylan's gratitude for Tech, it also reflects his pride in his alma mater.

"I was proud that I earned my Georgia Tech degree in the 1970s," he said. "But Georgia Tech has since then become a



nationally and internationally renowned research institution. We have some of the best minds in every STEM and business discipline. I want that to continue because that brings other faculty, it brings students, and it advances Tech's reputation." ///

*To make a gift in support of ISyE, contact **Carol English**, director of Development in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, at carol.english@isye.gatech.edu. To make a gift in support of ECE, contact **Jeff Colburn**, director of Development II in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, at jeff.colburn@ece.gatech.edu.*

COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

Alumnus' Commitment to Support Faculty

Githesh Ramamurthy, M.S. ICS 1983, has made a commitment to establish a fund to support faculty in the College of Computing, with a special focus on artificial intelligence.

"I see the power of AI to change people's lives," said Ramamurthy, the chair and CEO of CCC Intelligent Solutions. He believes AI is a "force multiplier" that will lift people, societies, and human achievement in general. Ramamurthy decided to give to Tech for two reasons. First, he appreciates how thoughtful the Institute is about the costs students pay. "Tech truly spends money on educating students," he said. Second, he views his gift as a force multiplier in its own right. "What I love about Tech is the impact it had on me," Ramamurthy said, "and also the impact my gift could have on a large industry." ///

To provide support for computing faculty and their innovative research, contact **Jason Zwang**, senior director of Development, College of Computing, at jason.zwang@cc.gatech.edu.

COLLEGE OF DESIGN

Celebrating Generosity, Legacy, and the Future of Design

At the close of 2025, the School of Architecture and the School of City and Regional Planning brought together distinguished alumni donors and student fellows for a gathering at the John and Joyce Caddell Building. The event highlighted the enduring impact of philanthropy on student success and the shared commitment to mentorship, excellence, and community across the College of Design.

Donors connected with students supported by the Gwinner Student Award, the School of Architecture Class of 1979 Endowment, the Bolton Prize, the Kennedy Fellowship, and the Eastman Fellowship. Conversations centered on professional journeys, mentorship, and the importance of paying opportunity forward.

The gathering reinforced how philanthropic support extends beyond scholarships — cultivating leadership, connection, and a lasting culture of generosity that continues to shape the next generation of architects and planners. ///



To support scholarships for design students, contact **Kelly Smith**, director of Development, College of Design, at kelly.smith@design.gatech.edu.



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Woodruff School Welcomes New Chair

Carolyn Seepersad, M.S. ME 2001, Ph.D. ME 2004, is the new leader of the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. She began her role as the Eugene C. Gwaltney Jr. School Chair on Jan. 1.

Seepersad has been a Woodruff School faculty member since 2023. She co-leads the TechMade Initiative, which is building an engineering design community on campus. The initiative spans the College of Engineering, the College of Design, and the Scheller College of Business to provide students with hands-on exposure to the full spectrum of product realization, from design to manufacturing, regardless of their major.

Her appointment comes after the Woodruff School recently received a \$100 million bequest from alumnus John Durstine, ME 1957. The gift will establish endowed chairs, professorships, and faculty awards; support innovation infrastructure; and seed bold ideas.

A former Rhodes scholar, Seepersad has focused her research and teaching on design for additive manufacturing, process innovation in additive manufacturing, and simulation-based and data-driven engineering design. ///

To learn more and support Carolyn Seepersad's vision for the Woodruff School, contact **Jaimie Hayes**, senior director of Development, George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, at jaimie.hayes@me.gatech.edu.

SHELLER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dean's Scholarship Program Attracts Top Students

Since its inception, the Scheller College of Business Dean's Scholarship Program has been a beacon of academic excellence and leadership development. Now in its 16th year, the program fueled by philanthropy has benefited more than 200 exceptional students from across the United States selected not only for their academic merit, but also for their leadership, community service, and potential to thrive throughout a rigorous undergraduate business curriculum.

These scholars don't just succeed — they lead. They elevate the classroom experience, enrich the campus community, and go on to make meaningful contributions in industries and organizations around the globe. Their presence has been instrumental in Scheller's rise in national prominence, including its top placements among the world's most influential business schools. As Scheller continues to grow, merit-based scholarships funded by donors are vital to attracting the most talented and deserving students. ///

To provide scholarship support for talented business students, contact **Duante Stanton**, senior director of Development, Scheller College of Business, at dstanton30@gatech.edu.



COLLEGE OF LIFETIME LEARNING

Inaugural Cohort of Bill Kent Fellows Advances Ethical AI Applications

The College of Lifetime Learning's inaugural cohort of Bill Kent Fellows was recently selected from a competitive field of applicants representing all seven Colleges at Georgia Tech. The 2025-26 Fellows — Flavio Fenton, Joy Arulraj, Patrick Danahy, and Ying Zhang — are leading projects that demonstrate how thoughtful, evidence-based uses of artificial intelligence can enhance learning across disciplines. Their work spans AI-supported tutoring, personalized engineering education, design ideation, and new instructional tools that strengthen conceptual understanding in the sciences. The fellowship reflects Georgia Tech's commitment to advancing ethical and effective applications of AI in education and supports faculty innovation that will help learners at every stage of life. ///

To learn more or to support the College of Lifetime Learning's programs for learners at every stage, contact **Macie Thompson**, director of Development, at macie.thompson@dev.gatech.edu.



IVAN ALLEN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Advisory Board Establishes Endowed Scholarship

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts Advisory Board, leveraging the Invest in the Best Scholarship Challenge in 2025, has established the IAC Advisory Board Dean's Scholarship Endowment, which will fund need-based scholarships for Ivan Allen College students. This initiative reflects two of the board's top priorities: increasing financial aid and attracting top talent to the Ivan Allen College.

Cora Harris, a first-year economics and international affairs student, is the first student to receive the scholarship. Harris wants to pursue a career in international business and government, and the scholarship is helping her take the first steps toward that goal.

Gene Kansas, M.S. DM 2016, vice chair of the Advisory Board, said, "As board members of Ivan Allen College, we put great emphasis on demonstrating what's possible. The IAC Advisory Board Dean's Scholarship is self-fulfilling in this endeavor while also helping Georgia Tech attract and retain the best and brightest. As with anything of great consequence, this was a team effort and one we're all proud of, for this generation and many to follow. ///

To ensure liberal arts students with financial need have access to a Georgia Tech education, contact **Lauren Kennedy**, director of Development, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, at lauren.kennedy@dev.gatech.edu.



COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Gift to College of Sciences Supports Glaucoma Research

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Hannah Youngblood's work on pseudoexfoliation glaucoma was recently highlighted by the BrightFocus Foundation, catching the attention of Jennifer Rucker of Alabama, who was diagnosed with the condition several years ago.

Inspired to support research that could change outcomes for people like her — and proud that it's happening at the alma mater of her husband, Philip Rucker, EE 1972 — Rucker reached out to Raquel Lieberman, professor and Kelly Sepcic Pfeil Chair in Chemistry in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

That outreach led to the creation of the Georgia Tech Glaucoma Research Fund (Wreck Glaucoma! Fund). "As the wife of a Georgia Tech graduate and an individual with pseudoexfoliation glaucoma, I was inspired to support the scientists whose efforts may help me and others," said Rucker.

This new fund strengthens Tech's leadership in vision-saving discoveries — and invites others to join the effort. ///

To fund groundbreaking faculty research in the College of Sciences, contact **Dan Warren**, director of Development, College of Sciences, at dan.warren.cos@gatech.edu.

ROLL CALL

Giving Day and Ramble the Night Celebrations Boost Impact

On April 16 – 17, Yellow Jackets will come together through Georgia Tech Giving Day and Ramble the Night — a powerful blend of philanthropy, connection, and community pride.

Georgia Tech Giving Day is a high energy, 24-hour online giving event where the Tech community rallies to support scholarships, student needs, and programs that enhance the student experience. Giving Day begins April 16 at noon and runs through April 17 at noon.

Connect with Jackets in your community during Ramble the Night, a one-night-only global gathering on April 16. Thousands of Yellow Jackets gather at events around the globe to meet old friends and make new ones, share memories, and celebrate Georgia Tech. ///

Click here to make your gift.

LIBRARY

The Marilyn Somers Living History Collection Preserves Georgia Tech's Past

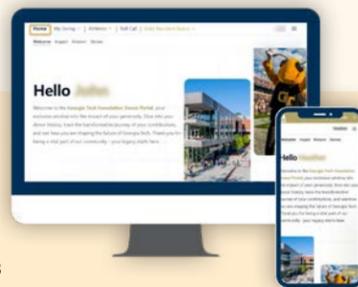
Featuring nearly 550 interviews — with more added soon — the Marilyn Somers Living History Collection offers an unparalleled look into the history of those who made Tech what it is today.

Few people have done more to preserve Georgia Tech's rich history than Somers, who retired Dec. 31, 2020, as director of the Living History Program, which she built from the ground up in 1994. Somers died in January 2024.

The program preserves and catalogs the stories of Georgia Tech alumni and friends, and Somers conducted 1,192 video interviews, including hall-of-famers, World War II heroes, and every "helluva engineer" in between. She produced more than 200 documentaries for Tech and made more than 700 public presentations on Tech's history. In recognition of her many contributions to the Institute and the Yellow Jacket community, Somers was named an honorary alumna by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association in 2008.

This collection is made possible by the Marilyn Somers Endowment Fund for Living History and Archives. ///

To support collections such as this housed within the Georgia Tech Library, contact **Emily Wong**, senior director of Development, Student Experience, at emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu.



Click here to view.

RESEARCH

Georgia Tech Climbs to No. 2 in Federally Sponsored Research Expenditures

As a leading R1 research university, Georgia Tech is shaping the future of basic and applied research by advancing inventive solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. Powered by philanthropy alongside public and private support, our faculty, researchers, staff, and students collaborate across disciplines to push new frontiers in science and technology and deliver impact at scale.

The National Science Foundation's latest Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey ranks Georgia Tech No. 2 nationally in federally sponsored research expenditures for 2024, our highest position ever and a 70% increase since 2019. Across all externally funded research, Georgia Tech ranks No. 6 nationally and remains No. 1 among universities without a medical school.

This momentum reflects exceptional talent and growing confidence in Georgia Tech's ability to deliver transformative, solutions-driven research. Philanthropic investment is essential to sustaining this momentum, fueling bold ideas, and accelerating discoveries into real-world impact. ///

To support Georgia Tech's research enterprise, contact **Meagan Burton-Krieger**, executive director of Campaign Operations and chief of staff, at meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu.

PHILANTHROPY AT WORK



ATHLETICS

Athletics Celebrates Golden Jackets

Georgia Tech Athletics' inaugural Golden Jackets Ceremony and Recognition Weekend took place Nov. 21 – 22, 2025. As part of the festivities, Tech Athletics celebrated 11 new Golden Jackets — the highest level of recognition of support for Athletics through the Alexander-Tharpe Fund. Golden Jackets have made cumulative cash gifts of \$1 million or more in support of Georgia Tech Athletics.

The newest Golden Jackets were honored during a celebration in which Georgia Tech Vice President and Director of Athletics Ryan Alpert presented the honorees with gold jackets in recognition of their generous support.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, the newest Golden Jackets were publicly recognized in an on-field ceremony during the Georgia Tech-Pittsburgh football game at Bobby Dodd Stadium at Hyundai Field. ///

To learn more or make a gift to Athletics, contact **Robby Poteat**, executive associate athletics director for Development, at rpoteat@athletics.gatech.edu.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELL-BEING

MH-RISE: Expanding Access to the Care Students Need

Launched this academic year, Mental Health Resources in the Surrounding Environment (MH-RISE) is a pilot program focused on providing Georgia Tech students with access to timely, high-quality mental health care beyond on-campus services. Support from donors is essential to sustaining this program. Through partnerships with trusted off-campus providers, MH-RISE covers up to 12 outpatient therapy sessions for eligible students, removing financial and logistical barriers and helping students access care quickly when it matters most.

Students come to Georgia Tech to pursue ambitious goals, yet mental health challenges can disrupt academic focus and well-being. While many students find support through the Center for Mental Health Care & Resources, some require longer-term or higher-level outpatient care. Too often, cost or insurance limitations prevent students from accessing community-based services. MH-RISE was created to close this gap and ensure students can continue their education with the support they need. ///

To learn more or to enhance the student experience at Georgia Tech, contact **Emily Wong**, senior director of Development, Student Experience, at emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu.

GEORGIA TECH FOUNDATION

Stay Connected to Your Impact at Georgia Tech

Discover the Georgia Tech Foundation Donor Portal, a secure, user-friendly hub for tracking your contributions and staying informed. With advanced encryption protecting your personal data, the portal offers 24/7 access to everything you need, including: Athletics Gift Summaries, Complete Giving History, Enhanced Endowment Reports, Annual Gift Statements, Roll Call Summaries, and Profile Updates. Your support shapes the future of Georgia Tech. Now, you can see the difference you make — anytime, anywhere.

Event Celebrates Durstine's Vision

In Dec. 2025, Georgia Tech hosted “John W. Durstine’s \$100 Million Bequest: The Making of a Transformational Gift” with Bill Wepfer, former Eugene C. Gwaltney Jr. School Chair of the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering; Ann Dibble, retired director of Gift Planning at Georgia Tech; Dawn Schluter, attorney and counselor at law; and Ángel Cabrera, president of the Georgia Institute of Technology. In an engaging and meaningful conversation moderated by Cabrera, the panelists spoke about the power of philanthropy, the enduring impact of a Georgia Tech education, and the late John Durstine and his path to making this extraordinary gift. Carolyn Seepersad, the new Eugene C. Gwaltney Jr. School Chair, briefly spoke about her vision for the Woodruff School and how Durstine’s gift and the support of other donors will provide the School with the resources necessary to realize its ambitious goals for the future. ///

Click here to view the event: 



President Ángel Cabrera with Dawn Schluter and Ann Dibble.



Alumni speak with students after the event.



Panelists with President Ángel Cabrera and Carolyn Seepersad (center)



Carolyn Seepersad, incoming Eugene C. Gwaltney Jr. School Chair

Q&A With Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Raheem Beyah

Raheem Beyah, M.S. EE 1999, Ph.D. ECE 2003, assumed the role of Georgia Tech’s provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs on Nov. 1, 2025. Beyah completed his bachelor’s degree at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University and earned his master’s and Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from Georgia Tech. A leading expert in network security and privacy, he previously served as the dean of the College of Engineering and Southern Company Chair at Georgia Tech.



Tell us about your background and your role as Tech’s chief academic officer.

I am an Atlanta native, attended Atlanta Public Schools, and enrolled at Georgia Tech as a graduate student in 1998. My experience at Tech started then, and I never really left. I’ve been affiliated with Tech in various capacities, from research engineer to adjunct faculty member, associate and full professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), and associate chair in ECE. I served as the interim chair of ECE and the vice president for interdisciplinary research before becoming dean.

In this new role, I have oversight responsibilities for academic and related units and their budgets; for maintaining the quality of the student body and academic excellence of our degree programs and their accreditation; and for the recruiting, hiring, retention, and performance of faculty, among other duties.

What are your priorities for fulfilling Georgia Tech’s academic mission?

The priorities are expressed in the first two Big Bets of the strategic plan refresh: to be a national leader in outcomes and values for all students and to double the annual number of degrees granted and non-degree learners.

Georgia Tech is already a leader in outcomes for students. Our four-year graduation rate is over 79%, a huge jump from when President Cabrera took office. We’ve also begun tracking the three-year graduation rate.

We’re focused on doubling the number of degrees granted and non-degree learners. The success we’re seeing in these areas is fueled by our online master’s programs, which continue to grow. Our on-campus population has also grown significantly over the last several years.

What most excites you about this new role?

We are in a time of tremendous disruption and profound change. I see an opportunity to rethink higher education and to engage our partners — industry and government — in the process. We can seize this opportunity to go back to first principles and ask questions like: What do we teach our students? How do we teach our students? And how do we prepare our students for the workforce?

To prepare our students, we’ve begun to foster a much deeper integration with industry. Our students begin working on significant real-world problems while they’re on campus.

What role do donors play in advancing Tech’s academic mission?

Georgia Tech donors are transforming the Institute every day. *Transforming Tomorrow* has already raised more than \$1.8 billion. Georgia Tech and the campaign are firing on all cylinders, and that success is only possible because of the support from our state — our biggest investor — and the incredible support from our donors. We cannot be successful without amazing donors who continue to invest in Tech’s mission.

Any other thoughts?

One area that is incredibly important to who we are as an Institute is access. We need to ensure that we remain an elite institution without becoming an elitist institution. We need to continue doing everything to make sure that we bring in students from all 159 Georgia counties and from all over the world. If you’re smart enough to get into Georgia Tech, we should have the resources to help you get here and excel. That’s the work I’m going to continue to focus on and raise money for because it’s incredibly important. ///

Scholarship Brunch Highlights Different Journeys, Shared Opportunity

At this year's Scholarship Brunch held Feb. 14 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, scholarship donors saw firsthand the transformative impact their giving has on students' lives. Attendees heard from alumni donors Jocelyn Stargel, IE 1982, M.S. IE 1986, and Bob Stargel Jr., EE 1983, and three students whose lives have been shaped by need-based scholarship support.

Giuli Capparelli Sanabria, a third-year biology major, described her dream to become a veterinarian, which requires both undergraduate and graduate school. Receiving the G. Wayne Clough Tech Promise Scholarship has allowed her to attend Tech without incurring student loan debt and keep veterinary school an option.

Colin Fravel, a fourth-year industrial engineering student from Massachusetts was prepared to take on significant debt to finish his Tech degree. Before his second year, he opened his tuition bill to find a surprise: a scholarship funded by the Lizanne and Robert A. Milton Scholarship Endowment. "I cried while showing my parents," Fravel said. "I was able to eat food on the weekends that wasn't peanut butter and jelly, and I could travel home more than once a semester."

Andrés Robles Sotomayor, a fifth-year aerospace engineering student and native of Puerto Rico, shared how Hurricane Maria left his family homeless in 2017, prompting their relocation to Georgia. When he was accepted to Tech, his mother asked, "How are you going to pay for it?" The answer came in the form of the G. Wayne Clough Tech Promise Scholarship. Robles Sotomayor has interned at Northrop Grumman, Gulfstream Aerospace, and Pratt & Whitney, and will join Lockheed Martin's Advanced Development Program after he graduates.

Plans are already underway for next year's celebration. ///





David Torello Named Executive Director of the John H. Martinson Honors Program

David Torello, M.S. ME 2013, Ph.D. ME 2017, has been selected to serve as the executive director of the John H. Martinson Honors Program. Torello will provide strategic oversight and direction for the John H. Martinson Honors Program as it assumes a new strategic role at Georgia Tech as a premier national honors program with a distinctive institutional identity.

“The executive director of the John H. Martinson Honors Program will play a critical role in shaping the next chapter of honors education at Georgia Tech,” said Steven Girardot, vice provost for Undergraduate Education and Student Success. “With a strong background in engineering and STEM education, a proven record of academic leadership and program-building, and demonstrated success partnering with major donors, Torello brings the experience and perspective needed to advance the program’s growth, deepen its impact, and position it among the nation’s premier honors programs.”

Torello has over a decade of experience designing and leading high-impact, student-centered educational initiatives at Georgia Tech. As a faculty member in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, he has combined teaching, mentorship, and program leadership to advance undergraduate success. Beyond the classroom, he has led large-scale, donor-funded scholarship and enrichment programs, including the A. James Clark Scholars Program and the College of Engineering Dean’s Scholars Program, which integrate financial support with holistic student

development, academic achievement, leadership formation, and sustained investments in student mental well-being and belonging.

Torello holds doctoral and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech and a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. His doctoral research focused on nonlinear acoustics and nondestructive evaluation, with technical specializations in dynamics, vibrations, experimental mechanics, and computational methods.

The creation of the executive director role was enabled by a transformative gift from philanthropist and venture capitalist John H. Martinson and comes ahead of the program’s 20th anniversary next year.

Further expansion of the program will include automatic admission offers for all Stamps President’s Scholars and Gold Scholars in support of a goal to grow the program by 5% to 10% over the next several years. The curriculum will also be revised to incorporate more enriched classes and educational and community-building events and activities, as well as the required completion of the campuswide, mission-driven Leaders in Progress and Service initiative beginning with the next incoming class.

In addition to his role as executive director of the John H. Martinson Honors Program, Torello will continue to hold a faculty appointment in the Woodruff School. ///

“Georgia Tech gave me the tools to succeed. I want to give others that same opportunity.”

— Fred E. Ehrensperger, ME 1954, M.S. NE 1960



From left to right: David E. Ehrensperger, son of Fred, and Fred E. Ehrensperger.

For Birmingham, Alabama, native Fred E. Ehrensperger, ME 1954, M.S. NE 1960, the path to Georgia Tech was not straightforward. Ehrensperger had planned to stay in state for college until he saw how much his older brother, Bill Ehrensperger, ME 1947, learned at Tech.

With his brother’s help, Ehrensperger overcame significant financial obstacles to attend Tech, where he balanced his rigorous coursework in mechanical engineering with the demands of ROTC and physical training. While at Tech, he went on a blind date with Joyce, who would become his wife of 68 years. After graduation, two years in the Air Force, four years working at Lockheed, and a second graduation from Tech, he and Joyce returned to Birmingham where they raised their family. Ehrensperger went on to enjoy a successful career with Southern Company Services, managing nuclear plant licensing and coal-fired plant planning. He later reconnected with his alma mater through his involvement with the Georgia Tech Club in Birmingham, where he served several years as president.

In 2008, he established the Steven Ehrensperger Endowed Scholarship Fund, honoring the memory of his grandson, a passionate Georgia Tech fan. Originally merit-based, the scholarship evolved into a need-based scholarship, reflecting

Ehrensperger’s desire to support students facing financial barriers — just as he once did. “I wanted to help students from Birmingham who might not otherwise have the chance to attend Tech,” he said.

Ehrensperger’s commitment to the Institute did not stop there. A longtime supporter of Roll Call and Georgia Tech Athletics, he held season tickets for Yellow Jacket football and men’s basketball for many years.

For Ehrensperger, one of the most enjoyable outcomes of his engagement with Georgia Tech has been meeting scholarship recipients, hearing their stories, and witnessing their achievements. “It’s about more than academics,” he emphasized. “It’s about character, discipline, and the drive to succeed.”

To ensure the scholarship’s longevity, he made a planned gift through his IRA, a strategic move that offers tax advantages. “It’s a way to give back and encourage others to do the same,” said Ehrensperger. He hopes that the gift will continue to open doors for future generations of students from Birmingham, fostering the same sense of pride and accomplishment he felt upon graduating. Grateful for his educational experience at the Institute, Ehrensperger said, “Georgia Tech gave me the tools to succeed. I want to give others that same opportunity.”



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



Office of Development
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0220

Building the Future of Aerospace Engineering

The Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering (AE) is a globally recognized program that prepares students to address the current and future needs for human flight and space exploration. AE is ranked No. 1 among public universities and No. 2 overall by U.S. News & World Report. It educates more than 2,300 students each year who are shaping the future of the field.

The School is currently housed in outdated buildings that were constructed in the 1930s and 1960s. Georgia Tech sees capital improvements as an essential factor

in maintaining its stellar reputation and propelling the School's expansion to realize its transformational goals. To educate and empower the next generation of aerospace engineers, Georgia Tech plans to build a new 225,000-square-foot facility for aerospace education and research. Advanced laboratories will support work in aerodynamics, robotics, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, propulsion, and space technology.

Planning is underway to define program- and research elements. The initial

total cost is estimated at approximately \$200 million. Donor support will provide critical resources for the construction of the building that will shape aerospace innovation, transform lives, and secure Georgia's global aerospace leadership for decades to come.

*To make a gift or commitment to the Aerospace Engineering Building, contact **Dave Zaksheske**, assistant vice president for Development, College of Engineering, at davez@coe.gatech.edu.*

