THE IMPACT OF PHILANTHROPY AT GEORGIA TECH

SUMMER 2026

Campaign Quarterly

Preserving Husband's Legacy
PAGE 4

Launching AI-Driven Health Center
PAGE 6

Fanning Student-Athlete Center Opens
PAGE 12

Steve Denning's Impact
PAGE 15

Yellow Jackets embraced the World Cup spirit.

CONTENTS

02 Interview With Parent Board Chairs
04 Preserving Husband's Legacy
05 Nash Commemorative Benches
06 Launching AI-Driven Health Center
08 Philanthropy At Work
12 Fanning Student-Athlete Center Opens
15 Steve Denning's Impact on Georgia Tech
16 Next Chapter for GT-Europe

Georgia Tech

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****.*

Copyright 2026
Georgia Institute of Technology
Institute Communications
27-R6001

COVER PHOTO: This summer, Georgia Tech's Solar Racing team won first place at the Sun Grand Prix, a multi-day, cross-country race from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Amarillo, Texas. Photo via GT Solar Racing.

A Message From Jim Hall

Fiscal Year 2026 was a truly historic year for Georgia Tech and the Office of Development. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations, we raised more than $415 million, making it the most successful fundraising year in Institute history. Together, we also surpassed the initial $2 billion campaign target for *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech* — with 18 months remaining in the 10-year campaign. This achievement builds on the strongest two-year fundraising performance in Georgia Tech's history and reflects broad support across the Institute.

I hope this milestone brings great pride to the thousands of donors who have chosen to invest in Georgia Tech and its future. Your support is creating opportunities for students, strengthening academic programs, advancing research, and providing the spaces and resources needed for our community to thrive. We have seen that support take shape in new facilities, expanded scholarship and fellowship opportunities, and investments that help our faculty and researchers continue their important work. To all who have supported the Institute, thank you for your confidence in Georgia Tech and the impact our students, faculty, and researchers can make in the world.

I would also like to recognize President Ángel Cabrera for his leadership of Georgia Tech and *Transforming Tomorrow.* During his tenure, the Institute has made extraordinary progress, and the success of this campaign reflects the vision and momentum he has helped create. The president and his wife, Beth Cabrera, M.S. PSY 1993, Ph.D. PSY 1995, have built and fostered countless relationships essential to our success.

As we near the end of the campaign, we remain focused on achieving the priorities that will have a lasting impact on Georgia Tech's future. Those priorities include raising more than $75 million for a new Aerospace Engineering Building, securing lead donors for a new medical innovation building that will anchor the Medical Innovation Hub, and expanding philanthropic support for students and the faculty and research that drive discovery and innovation. These priorities are central to our ability to attract talented students, support groundbreaking research, and prepare Georgia Tech to meet emerging opportunities in the years ahead.

The momentum we have built together through the first eight years of the campaign positions us to have an impact that is historic and transformative. We are committed to fulfilling the broader vision of the campaign and ensuring that every College, School, and unit has the resources needed to advance its priorities. With your continued help as a donor or volunteer, we can build on this progress and continue creating opportunities that benefit students, faculty, and the communities we serve.

Thank you for your commitment to and belief in Georgia Tech. I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the months ahead.

Go Jackets!

—Jim

THE *CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY* INTERVIEW WITH CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

STACIE AND MIKE KILGORE

For Stacie and Mike Kilgore, Georgia Tech has grown from their children's college choice into a community they have embraced. The couple's three children all chose Tech — recent alumni Grace and Sarah, as well as Eli, a current industrial engineering student — and their connection deepened from there. As chairs of the Parents Board and members of the Campaign Steering Committee, the Kilgores are advocates, donors, and voices for the parent and student experience. Here, they discuss what led to their involvement with the Institute.

How did your engagement with Georgia Tech begin?

Stacie: After our first daughter started at Tech, I got very interested in Klemis Kitchen. We wanted to figure out how to make this a great experience for every student and what we could do to be more engaged. Our kids tell us a lot, but not everything. It has been really rewarding to understand all the aspects of the Institute and share that with other parents.

Mike: My involvement goes back further as an employer, but it was more at arm's length. I spent my entire career in supply chain, and we felt that Tech students were a step above everybody else. When you get that peek behind the curtain, you see what an incredibly well-run institution this is — you can't help but want to be a bigger advocate.

What advice do you have for parents who want to become involved with Tech?

Stacie: It starts with awareness. Once you become aware of what's happening on campus, you're more interested and want to help. I always say Georgia Tech gets the same amount of money as other schools in the state — and look what they do with it. When you give to the Parents Fund, 100% of that money goes directly to your student through clubs and organizations. We're also piloting a new parent ambassador program — the idea is to help parents navigate how to engage in whatever way they want.

What inspired your giving to Georgia Tech?

Mike: It's important for students to be well-rounded and to fully embrace student life, and the clubs and organizations have a lot to do with that. Beyond that, we're trying to set an example for our kids — to set them up to continue to support the institution that launched them for the rest of their lives.

Stacie: We have always been very focused on giving to organizations that help create a future for young people. When we saw the impact that a dollar made on a student's life, it's just such a direct connection to their future.

Why is Georgia Tech a good philanthropic investment?

Mike: What this institution has accomplished is amazing — not just for students, but for the world, in terms of research. You know it's a good investment, that they're going to be responsible in investing those resources back in the students, in the community, and in the world.

Stacie: The single word is impact. That community, that engagement, that well-being — all of those things were critical to our children being successful. Georgia Tech is one of the best by far when you draw a correlation between the money you spend going to a school and what your five- and ten-year salaries look like.

What has serving on the Campaign Steering Committee meant to you?

Stacie: It has given us a much broader perspective — seeing the research arm and getting an understanding of institutional goals and priorities. It's a great way to gain insight we can then communicate back to parents.

Mike: We're the voice of the parent — we get to represent the student and parent experience to the Campaign Steering Committee members.

What do you hope *Transforming Tomorrow* will accomplish?

Stacie: I'm excited about the focus on scholarships for students. Giving access to this institution to everyone who wants to be a part and is capable of thriving here is such a fantastic goal.

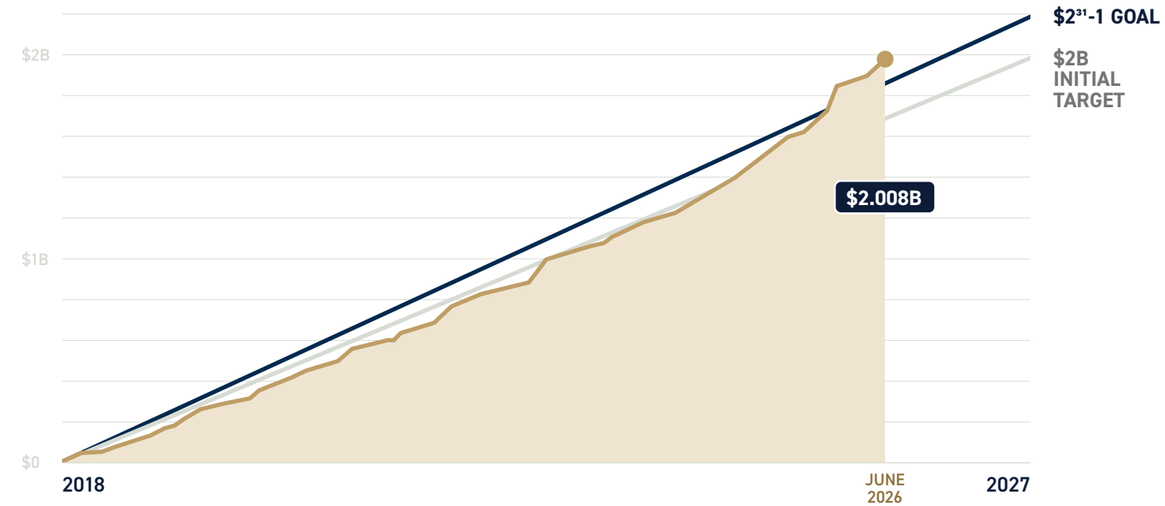
Any thoughts for alumni and the next generation starting out?

Mike: So many of the people who have participated in the campaign are alums who have been away from Tech for decades. They should know what an incredible investment it is in terms of how Tech is a steward of their resources, making the world a better place, and launching high-potential kids into the world.

Stacie: I love the increased focus on engaging younger alumni. It's a mindset shift in terms of figuring out the needs for someone who is 25 versus someone who is 55, but continuing to create that connection that lasts is a great opportunity. ///

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, 2026.*



KEY CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Investing in people, discovery, and places that transform lives. We are committed to ensuring that all Colleges and Schools surpass their campaign targets.

Scan 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.***

$513 million+

Student Success

Toward $700 million goal

73% OF GOAL

$250 million+

Research

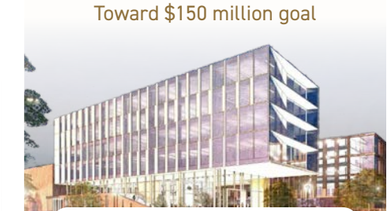
Toward $350 million goal

71% OF GOAL

$10.06 million+

Priority Capital Projects

Aerospace Engineering Building
Medical Innovation Building
Toward $150 million goal



7% OF GOAL

Commitment Preserves Husband's Legacy

Eloise Batts, wife of the late business leader Warren Batts, EE 1961, has honored her husband's legacy with a significant commitment for the Technology Innovation: Generating Economic Results (TI:GER) program in the Scheller College of Business. The gift builds upon the couple's longtime support of Georgia Tech.

"It's a beautiful program," she said of TI:GER — a program that reflects her late husband's core business values.

According to Eloise, Warren never tired of sharing his appreciation for his Georgia Tech education. He graduated valedictorian from Tech with a degree in electrical engineering, an opportunity made possible by Tech's co-op program. He then went on to earn his MBA at Harvard Business School on a fellowship. He enjoyed a successful career in business, rising through the ranks to become chairman and CEO of several multibillion-dollar corporations. He specialized, she said, in "turning around companies," and was known among business leaders and peers as a problem-solver.

Over the years, Warren and Eloise directed their transformative philanthropy across campus, beginning with an endowment fund for scholarships in the co-op program that made Warren's Tech education possible. The couple later established the Warren L. Batts Scholarship Endowment Fund, which focuses on third-year electrical and computer engineering students interested in integrating commercialization into their academic pursuits. In 2005, they established an endowment fund for the TI:GER program.

A multidisciplinary educational initiative, TI:GER pairs MBA students with Ph.D. students in computing, engineering, and sciences to collaborate on bringing advanced technology to market.

> "For more than two decades, the Batts' support has affirmed the educational benefits of TI:GER's interdisciplinary approach, providing students with essential knowledge, diverse perspectives, and practical skills."
>
> — Jonathan Giuliano

Eloise said the program's unique coordination of business and engineering is what appealed to her husband.

"He thought it was the best way to help graduate students whose research has led to an idea or an invention but still need the guidance on how to get it to market," she said. The program, she added, represented for Warren "the very epitome of quality education."

TI:GER instills in students the confidence to lead and to bring their intellectual property to bear on solving real-world problems and improving lives. For instance, Alef Vallipur, a Ph.D. student in electrical and computer engineering, said the program "allowed me to see myself as an innovator capable of bringing life-changing technologies from the lab to patients."

Shane Connelly, an MBA graduate from Scheller, recalled his TI:GER experience as an "incomparable opportunity to acquire hands-on experience in strategy and innovation."

Jonathan Giuliano, TI:GER's academic director and executive director, expressed his appreciation for the couple's generosity, saying, "For more than two decades, the Batts' support has affirmed the educational benefits of TI:GER's interdisciplinary approach, providing students with essential knowledge, diverse perspectives, and practical skills."

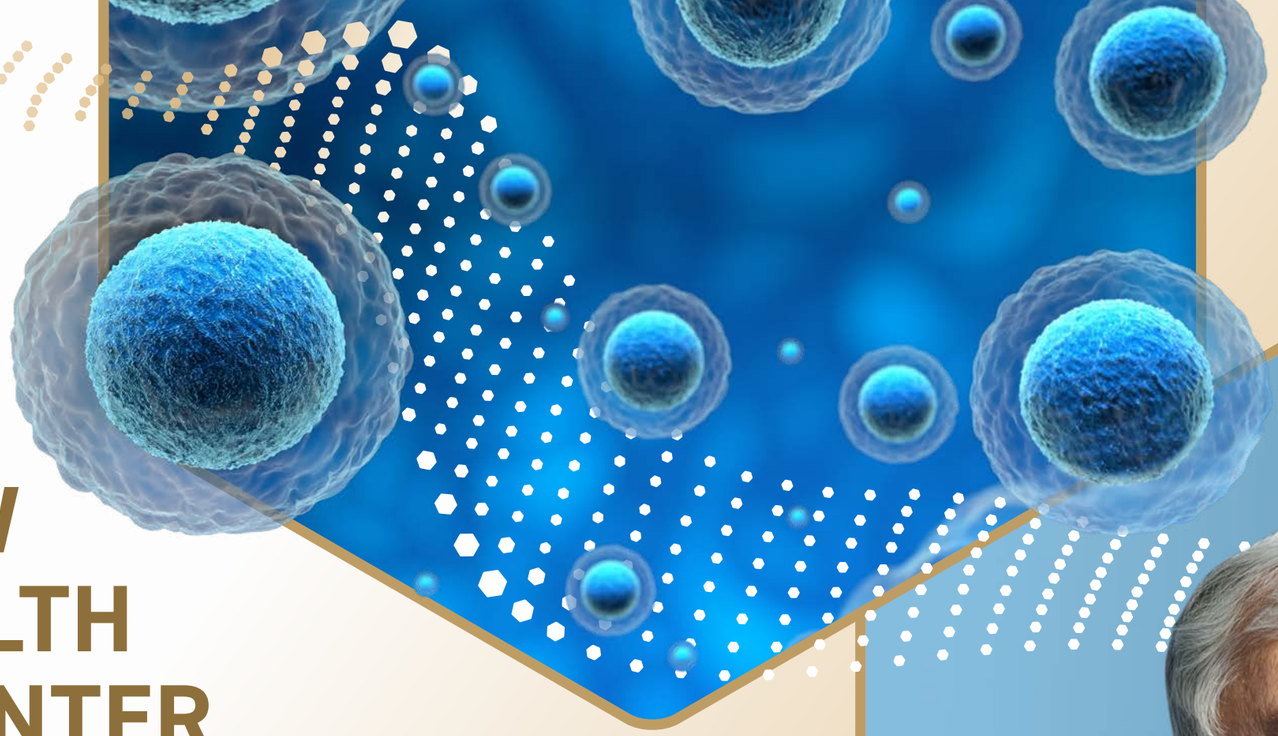
For Eloise, supporting the TI:GER program is a meaningful way to help students while honoring her husband's legacy, saying, "It's the best," to see her support help students deepen their appreciation for the kind of applied research her husband so valued. ///

*To learn more or make a gift to TI:GER, contact **Duante Stanton,** senior director of Development, Scheller College of Business, at **duante.stanton@scheller.gatech.edu.***

Celebrating Family, Enhancing Campus

Coming from a long line of Yellow Jackets, siblings Ron Nash, IE 1970, and Deborah Nash, IE 1978, have supported Georgia Tech in a variety of ways over the years, including contributions to the Campus Beautification Project. Ron and Deborah, who have both served on the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees, have jointly funded 16 commemorative benches on campus placed on The Hill. These benches honor their family members who have also attended Georgia Tech. The latest Nash Family Bench was dedicated in May to their great-niece Katherine Anne Tench, BA 2026, upon her graduation. The benches preserve the family's legacy at Tech while enhancing the campus for generations to come. ///

*To learn more about the commemorative bench program, contact **Sarah King,** director of Donor Relations and Events, at **sarah.king@dev.gatech.edu.***



ALUMNUS' COMMITMENT LAUNCHES NEW AI-DRIVEN HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER

On July 16, Georgia Tech announced the creation of the Parker H. Petit Center for AI-Driven Health Innovation, a new research center that will use artificial intelligence (AI) to help predict, treat, and prevent disease. This has been made possible by a transformational commitment from technology entrepreneur, philanthropist, and Georgia Tech alumnus Parker H. "Pete" Petit, ME 1962, M.S. EM 1964.

Since 1980, Petit has provided significant philanthropic support across campus, including the naming of the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience (IBB), one of Georgia Tech's 11 Interdisciplinary Research Institutes. IBB is a hub for transforming biological discovery into real-world health impact, bringing together engineers, scientists, and clinicians to accelerate innovations in diagnostics, therapeutics, medical devices, and biomanufacturing.

IBB's success led Petit to make this latest investment, which will build on Georgia Tech's broader commitment to medical innovation: applying engineering, computing, AI, biosciences, and systems thinking to health challenges that require more than any one field can solve. The Petit Center's work will strengthen the tools, partnerships, and research pathways needed to help more discoveries move from the lab toward real-world patient care. It will operate under the Institute for Data Engineering and Science (IDEaS) and bring together researchers from across Georgia Tech.

The Petit Center's first research initiative will focus on creating virtual models of human cells. The initiative will be led by Jeffrey Skolnick, Regents' Professor and Mary and Maisie Gibson Chair and GRA Eminent Scholar in Computational Systems Biology in the School of Biological Sciences. Researchers will use those virtual models to study how diseases progress and to identify treatments that may work best for individual patients.

"Medical innovation is one of the fastest-growing areas in Georgia Tech's research, and Pete Petit's commitment will help us further shape the future of medicine," said Ángel Cabrera, president of Georgia Tech. "This new research center will find new ways to harness the power of AI to accelerate critical medical discoveries and move them into clinical settings so patients can get the care they need. We're deeply grateful for Pete's support, and we're excited to get started."

Over time and with additional investments, the Petit Center's work will expand into areas such as cancer biomarker discovery, healthy aging, advanced cellular therapies, and AI-supported healthcare systems.

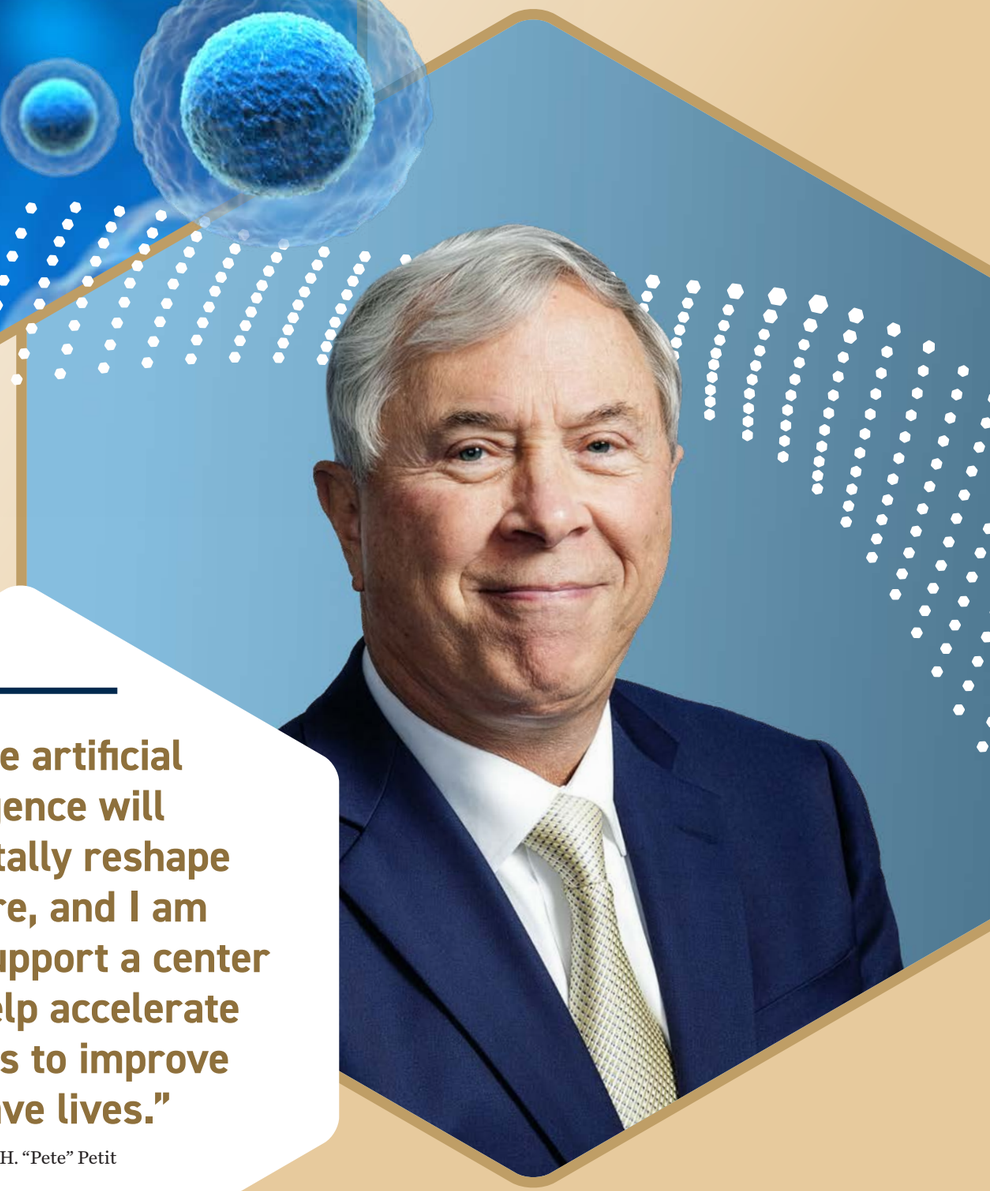
"Georgia Tech has the expertise to redefine what is possible in healthcare through AI," said Skolnick. "By combining advanced computational methods with biological and medical insights, we can create powerful new approaches to predicting disease, identifying treatments, and improving patient outcomes."

Petit's commitment will support advanced computing infrastructure, graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, seed research grants, and annual programs that will bring together leading AI and health researchers from around the world.

Petit hopes this investment will inspire others to support interdisciplinary research at the Institute.

"Georgia Tech has long demonstrated its ability to solve complex challenges," said Petit. "I believe artificial intelligence will fundamentally reshape healthcare, and I am excited to support a center that can help accelerate discoveries to improve and save lives." ///

*To support medical innovation and research at Georgia Tech, contact **Meg Hendryx,** associate vice president for Principal Gifts, at **meg.hendryx@dev.gatech.edu.***



"I believe artificial intelligence will fundamentally reshape healthcare, and I am excited to support a center that can help accelerate discoveries to improve and save lives."

— Parker H. "Pete" Petit

Philanthropy At Work

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Design Garden Named for Hahn Family

The Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering's (BME) 3,000-square-foot student design and innovation space was renamed the Hahn Family Design Garden in May following a gift from Joan Stanescu, Terrence Hahn, and their daughters: Eileen Hahn; Jocelyn Hahn, BME 2024; and Rene Hahn, ME 2024, M.S. ME 2026. The facility originally opened in 2021 through an earlier gift from the Hahn family, inspired by the daughters' belief in its potential to enhance and elevate the student experience.

The Hahn family has also established a BME Design & Innovation Challenge. The initiative is a dollar-for-dollar match for new gifts of $5,000 or more, up to $100,000, directed to the Design & Innovation Fund for support of the garden, the Capstone Design program, and additional design-focused educational and innovation priorities. ///

*To participate in the challenge or support state-of-the-art facilities for the next generation of engineers, contact **Dave Zaksheske**, assistant vice president for Development, College of Engineering, at **davez@coe.gatech.edu.***

COLLEGE OF LIFETIME LEARNING

Accelerate Growth by Investing in the Dean's Excellence Fund

The College of Lifetime Learning is building a new academic ecosystem focused on understanding how people learn and applying that knowledge to improve learning across a lifetime. This year, the College welcomed Seyedahmad "Ahmad" Rahimi as its first tenure-track faculty member, strengthening its academic and research foundation. His expertise in learning sciences, artificial intelligence, instructional design, and psychometrics will support the College's efforts to advance innovative, personalized approaches to learning.

The College is also launching its first credit-bearing credential this fall: the Minor in Learning. Developed in partnership with the School of Psychology, the program combines learning sciences, emerging technologies, and applied design to explore how people learn.

Together, these milestones reflect the College's growing momentum. Philanthropic support through the Dean's Excellence Fund helps accelerate that progress by providing flexible resources to recruit exceptional faculty, advance new academic programs, and invest in emerging opportunities that shape the future of lifetime learning. ///

*To support the College of Lifetime Learning or contribute to the Dean's Excellence Fund, contact **Ashley Coogan,** assistant vice president, Unit Development, at **ashley.coogan@dev.gatech.edu.***

LIBRARY

Foundation Gifts Support Textbooks, Space Exploration Exhibit

As a result of grants awarded by the Lewis H. Beck Educational Foundation and from the Price Gilbert, Jr. Charitable Fund, the Georgia Tech Library will continue to provide students with essential resources.

The Beck Foundation grant will support the Library's affordable education efforts by providing free textbooks to students, funding more than 300 titles from the Wiley Textbook Collection across psychology, the humanities, social sciences, and medicine.

Currently, each student who uses Library course reserves in lieu of textbook purchases saves approximately $170 per year — nearly a quarter of the average yearly textbook cost of $800. This number is expected to rise as more titles become available to students and faculty.

The grant from the Price Gilbert, Jr. Charitable Fund will help develop and install a gallery exhibition on space exploration and aerospace innovation, in addition to several public programs around the exhibit for students and the surrounding community. ///

*To learn more or support affordable education efforts and exhibitions like these, contact **Emily Wong,** senior director of Development, Student Experience, at **emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu.***

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

New Fund for Coastal Resilience and Conservation

A new research fund and partnership between the Bald Head Island Conservancy (BHIC) and Georgia Tech for Georgia's Tomorrow is advancing coastal resilience across the Southeast. Seeded by the generosity of Georgia Tech alumnus Dick Johnston, IM 1962, and Pat Johnston, the collaboration connects BHIC's Johnston Center for Coastal Sustainability with Georgia Tech's strengths in discovery science, engineering, and data analytics.

The new fund will support graduate student research in the College of Sciences and community-engaged projects focused on ecosystem health, salt marsh resilience, and conservation solutions. By pairing field-based expertise with innovative technologies, the effort will help coastal communities respond more effectively to environmental change — while also training the next generation of scientists.

The effort builds upon the Johnston family's previous endowed support of undergraduate scholarships. ///

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

COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

College Honors Former Dean

The College of Computing is establishing an honorary fund in recognition of Richard DeMillo, Ph.D. ICS 1972, former John P. Imlay Dean of the College of Computing, upon his upcoming retirement in December.

DeMillo spent more than two decades shaping the College of Computing — establishing Schools, recruiting faculty, and positioning Georgia Tech as a national leader in cybersecurity and privacy research. To honor that legacy, a group of alumni and longtime colleagues has come together to establish the Richard A. DeMillo Fund, a permanent source of support for faculty working in cybersecurity and privacy at the College.

The fund is designed to do what DeMillo did throughout his tenure: give outstanding researchers, especially those early in their careers, essential resources. The endowment will support recruitment, retention, and funding for world-class faculty, ensuring that the College maintains its standing in the most advanced fields of computing and cybersecurity. Friends, colleagues, and alumni are invited to come together to fund the endowment in DeMillo's honor to preserve his legacy and amplify his lasting impact on the College. ///

*To support the College of Computing's Richard A. DeMillo Endowment for Cybersecurity and Privacy, contact **Jason Zwang**, senior director of Development, College of Computing, at **jason.zwang@cc.gatech.edu**.*

IVAN ALLEN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Empowering Public Policy Students at Georgia Tech

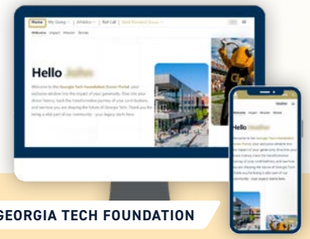
The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School of Public Policy is committed to preparing leaders who will shape policy for a better future. For many talented students, financial barriers stand in the way of fully realizing their potential.

Richard Barke, PHYS 1972, and his wife, Nancy, are committed to changing that. They have established a new scholarship endowment in their names to support students with low or limited income. By reducing financial hurdles, students can focus on academics and seize opportunities that enrich their education and career trajectory.

Richard has exemplified teaching excellence and an unwavering commitment to students throughout his career at Georgia Tech. In addition to chairing committees that led to the creation of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts and the Carter School, he has received numerous honors, including Georgia Tech's Outstanding Service Award, the Ivan Allen College Faculty Legacy Award, and the Georgia Tech Student Government Association Faculty of the Year Award.

Nancy shares this dedication to student success, having worked in financial aid at several universities, including Georgia Tech. The couple firmly believes that education transforms lives. Together, their legacy underscores a profound commitment to empowering students. ///

*To support the Richard and Nancy Barke Scholarship Endowment or other scholarships for liberal arts students, contact **Lauren Kennedy,** director of Development, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, at **lauren.kennedy@dev.gatech.edu.***



GEORGIA TECH FOUNDATION

Your Giving. Your Impact. All in One Place

The Georgia Tech Foundation Donor Portal gives you secure, around-the-clock access to your complete philanthropic story. Log in anytime to explore your full Giving History, Endowment Reports, Annual Gift Statements, Roll Call Summaries, Athletics Gift Summaries, and Profile Information — all protected by advanced data encryption.

At the center of your experience is a personalized dashboard designed for at-a-glance insight. Four interactive cards — Giving History, Endowments, Roll Call, and A-T Fund Priority Points — invite you to explore in greater depth: lifetime commitments, pledge balances, consecutive giving years, and athletic priority points, organized exactly where you need them.

Your generosity is building something remarkable at Georgia Tech. The portal puts the full picture in your hands — whenever, wherever it matters most. ///

Scan this QR code to view:

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELL-BEING

New SEWB Advisory Board to Advance Student Success Through Philanthropy

Georgia Tech will launch a new Student Engagement and Well-Being (SEWB) Advisory Board in October to help expand philanthropic support for initiatives that foster student well-being, belonging, leadership development, and success. The board will serve as ambassadors and advocates for investments that strengthen the student experience for current and future Yellow Jackets.

"Philanthropic support helps create transformative opportunities for students to build community, develop durable skills, strengthen their well-being, and thrive during their time at Georgia Tech," said Luoluo Hong, vice president for SEWB. "This advisory board will help connect passionate supporters with our mission and expand our impact for generations of students."

The inaugural board of 20 to 25 members will provide strategic guidance, strengthen engagement with alumni and donors, and help identify new opportunities to invest in student success. ///

*To learn more, contact **Emily Wong**, senior director of Development, Student Experience, at **emily.wong@dev.gatech.edu.***

RESEARCH

Summer Tour Highlights Research Success

President Cabrera's Summer Tour spotlighted how Georgia Tech research strengthens communities and industries across the state. From AI-enabled manufacturing training for veterans to critical minerals research, agricultural innovation, and industry and corporate partnerships advancing aerospace, defense, and life sciences, the tour highlighted the many ways Georgia Tech's innovative research benefits our state and the nation.

As Tech researchers continue to power progress across the state, donor support remains a critical catalyst to accelerating breakthroughs, expanding industry partnerships, and translating ideas into solutions that improve lives and strengthen our future. ///

*To learn how your investment can advance Georgia Tech's research and fuel innovation, contact **Meagan Burton-Krieger,** executive director of Campaign Operations and chief of staff, at **meagan.burton-krieger@dev.gatech.edu.***

ROLL CALL

Fueling Georgia Tech's Momentum Together

Since 1947, donations to Roll Call have provided unrestricted funding for current students and the future of Georgia Tech. The Institute is currently ranked the No. 1 Best Value Public College for students without demonstrated need and the No. 1 in Career Placement among public schools by The Princeton Review. This reputation is fueling rising demand, with applications increasing for 18 consecutive years and an acceptance rate of just 13% last year.

The strength of the Yellow Jacket community drives this success — 92% of alumni say they would recommend Tech to prospective students. Georgia Tech plans to confer 15,000 degrees annually by 2030, with more than 13,000 already achieved. Our alumni network also ranks among the top five public institutions nationwide.

Your gift to Roll Call helps continue this momentum. Your support will help expand access and ensure an exceptional Georgia Tech experience for every student. ///

Scan this QR code to make your gift to Roll Call:

ERNEST SCHELLER JR. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Bergmark Invests in Scheller's Sports and Entertainment Minor

Philanthropy is helping bring Georgia Tech's business of sports and entertainment minor to life in meaningful ways. Thanks to the generosity of Scheller College of Business alumnus and Advisory Board member Dick Bergmark, IMGT 1975, HON Ph.D. 2022, students are gaining hands-on experience with leading organizations, including the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Braves, Georgia Tech Athletics, and the Ferst Center for the Arts. Through consulting projects, hackathons, startup accelerators, and applied research, students are finding solutions to real business challenges at the intersection of sports, media, technology, entrepreneurship, and analytics.

Donor support is also expanding opportunities beyond the classroom by attracting industry experts, creating internships, and strengthening partnerships with organizations ranging from IBM to prominent sports and entertainment companies. These experiences help prepare students for leadership roles in one of the world's fastest-growing sectors.

Bergmark's investment is transforming an ambitious vision into reality while inspiring continued support for the program's future growth and success. ///

*To support interdisciplinary academic programs for the next generation of business leaders, contact **Duante Stanton,** senior director of Development, Scheller College of Business, at **dstanton30@gatech.edu.***

ATHLETICS

Transforming Bobby Dodd Stadium at Hyundai Field

Bobby Dodd Stadium at Hyundai Field will undergo its most extensive renovation in more than two decades following the conclusion of the 2026 season. The $70 million project, which will be completed ahead of the 2027 season and is the stadium's first major renovation since 2003, includes the addition of 12,500 chairback seats, replacing current bleacher seating in a significant portion of the stadium; new handrails and wide aisles in designated sections; and a new, state-of-the-art videoboard and sound system. The stadium's premium areas also will be renovated, including remodeled suites; construction of a new Founders Club on the west side of the stadium; and an overhaul of East Club seating and indoor spaces, including the addition of a new VIP Members Club.

The upcoming stadium renovation is part of *Full Steam Ahead,* a $500 million initiative designed to position Georgia Tech Athletics for sustained success by providing the resources needed to compete at the highest levels of NCAA Division I athletics. ///

*To support the stadium renovation, contact **Robby Poteat,** executive associate athletics director for Development, at **rpoteat@athletics.gatech.edu.***

Conceptual rendering

COLLEGE OF DESIGN

Charles R. Brown and Tech's Legacy of Urban Landscape-Shaping Career Education

Charles R. Brown, BC 1962, led some of Atlanta's most significant real estate developments, including Atlantic Station and Technology Park.

As a Tech undergraduate, he discovered a passion for commercial real estate and development, as well as for the Institute, where he learned the principles of architecture and construction. As an alumnus and advisory board member, he helped shape Tech's Master of Real Estate Development degree program. Brown died June 1 at the age of 87.

Brown shared the same academic lineage as some of the country's most influential architects, urban planners, and construction leaders, including Tech alumni John Portman, Ryan Gravel, and John Caddell.

Georgia Tech continues to be at the forefront of urban landscape-shaping careers with the recent launch of the Tony Kepano Joint Center for Real Estate. The center seeks to advance interdisciplinary learning, research, and industry engagement by building on the strengths of the Scheller College of Business and the College of Design's School of Building Construction across finance, construction, city planning, engineering, and emerging technologies. ///

*To 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.***

Thomas A. Fanning Student-Athlete Performance Center Opens

Alumni, student-athletes, coaches, and other members of the Georgia Tech community gathered to celebrate the opening of the Thomas A. Fanning Student-Athlete Performance Center on May 14, marking a major transformation in the student-athlete experience and honoring one of the Institute's most dedicated alumni leaders.

Located in the northeast corner of Bobby Dodd Stadium at Hyundai Field, the more than 100,000-square-foot facility brings together sports medicine, strength, conditioning, and nutrition resources under one roof. It also includes Tech's first sports science lab and expanded meeting and office space for football.

The facility bears the name of Thomas A. Fanning, IM 1979, M.S. IM 1980, HON Ph.D. 2013, whose decades of volunteer leadership and philanthropic support have helped advance Georgia Tech's mission. Fanning, a former president and CEO of Southern Company, has served on the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees, the Georgia Tech Advisory Board, the Alexander-Tharpe Fund Board of Directors, and the Scheller College of Business Advisory Board. He also serves as co-chair of *Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech*.

The program featured remarks from University System of Georgia Chancellor Sonny Perdue; Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera; Vice President and Director of Athletics Ryan Alpert; student-athletes Alejandra Cruz (tennis) and Henry Gibbs (swimming); and Fanning.

Cabrera described the facility as both a critical investment in Georgia Tech's student-athletes and a testament to the power of philanthropy and partnership. Cabrera said that he loves that the project is "a symbol of what happens when Georgia Tech comes together. I want to thank every single donor who contributed to this project."

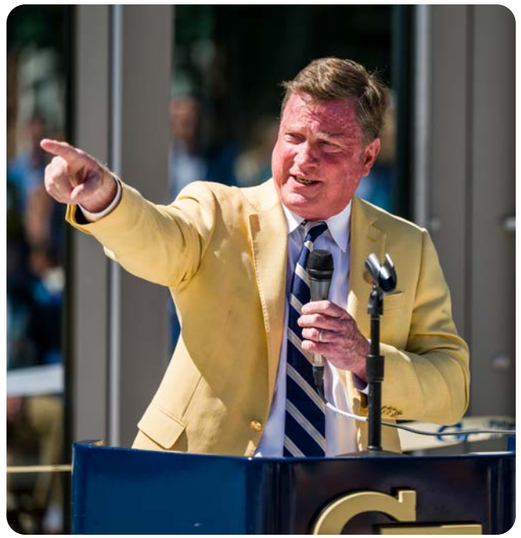
Alpert said the facility reflects Tech's commitment to helping student-athletes reach their full potential. "This building is about optimizing our athletes," he said. "It's going to help us take that next step into the future."

Gibbs, a third-year economics major and president of Georgia Tech's Student-Athlete Advisory Board, said the center will create opportunities for student-athletes to learn, grow, and build community.

In his remarks, Fanning reflected on the role Athletics has played in his lifelong connection to Tech. "Athletics is the front door to the institution," Fanning said. "This building is the front door to the front door."

Following the ceremony, guests toured the new facility, which will serve student-athletes across Georgia Tech's 17 varsity sports. ///

To make a gift or commitment supporting Georgia Tech Athletics, contact ***Robby Poteat,*** *executive associate athletics director for Development, at* ***rpoteat@athletics.gatech.edu.***



Challenge Accepted: Donors Invest in Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Students

At Georgia Tech, some of the most consequential work happens long before a discovery is published or a patent is filed. In the laboratories and classrooms where Ph.D. students help advance the frontiers of knowledge, these doctoral students teach undergraduates, conduct research alongside faculty, and advance the overall success of top research universities.

Donors who invest in graduate student support are helping shape the future of research. This idea was at the heart of a recent giving challenge that has led to significant support for graduate education in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE).

Ph.D. students receive a stipend to cover their living expenses. Over time, CEE's stipend offers have remained flat due to funding constraints, creating challenges related to cost of living increases. This has also made recruiting more competitive, as other top universities are able to offer students higher stipends.

To encourage giving in support of CEE's graduate students, Jenny and Michael Messner, CE 1976, HON Ph.D. 2023, established a dollar-for-dollar challenge, matching gifts and commitments up to $5 million. CEE alumni and friends responded to the challenge, with 50 donors collectively giving $10 million and creating 16 new endowments for research assistants.

"CEE continues to rank among the top departments in the nation, and we should all strive to keep it there," Messner said. "Ph.D. students are on the front line, doing critical research that solves problems for the world."

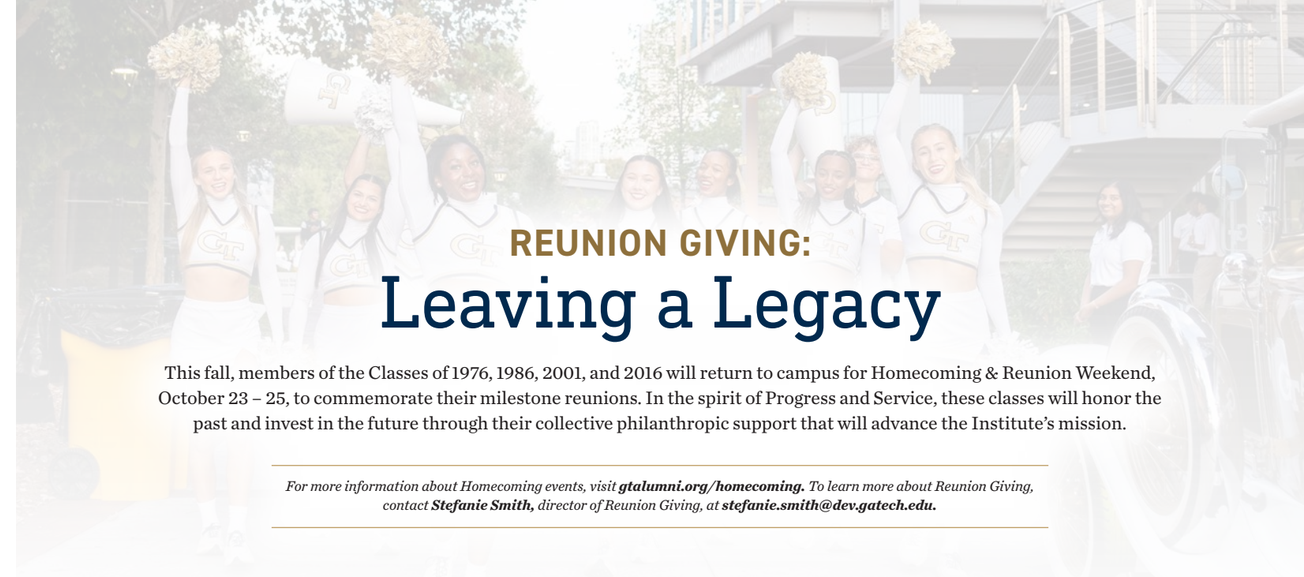
This new support is already enhancing CEE's graduate programs. Average annual compensation packages for civil engineering graduate research assistants increased from $29,500 to $40,000, strengthening CEE's ability to recruit top doctoral talent.

"This means we are able to recruit the best talent to work on important research projects," said Lauren Stewart, associate chair for Graduate Programs. "It also provides a wage that compensates our graduate students for the vital work they do."

Among the new endowments is one established in memory of Skylar Bernstein-Wombough, CE 2024. Diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer during her senior year, she finished her degree in August 2024 — graduating with high honors — before passing away a few months later. She had wanted to pursue a graduate degree and ultimately become a professor. To date, 36 donors have contributed $778,150 to the endowment bearing her name. This includes 15 who had never before given to Georgia Tech academics.

Giving challenges like this reflect a shared belief that investing in doctoral students is one of the most effective ways to advance Georgia Tech's research mission. Ph.D. students are not simply beneficiaries of that mission; they help drive it forward. Through their research, teaching, and innovation, their impact extends far beyond a single laboratory or classroom. ///

*To make a gift in support of graduate students at Georgia Tech, contact **Dave Zaksheske**, assistant vice president for Development, College of Engineering, at **davez@coe.gatech.edu,** or **Ashley Coogan,** assistant vice president, Unit Development, at **ashley.coogan@dev.gatech.edu.***



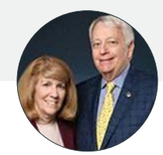
REUNION GIVING:
Leaving a Legacy

This fall, members of the Classes of 1976, 1986, 2001, and 2016 will return to campus for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, October 23 – 25, to commemorate their milestone reunions. 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.** To learn more about Reunion Giving, contact **Stefanie Smith,** director of Reunion Giving, at **stefanie.smith@dev.gatech.edu.***

50TH CLASS REUNION
Class of 1976

"I chose to accept the co-chair position with George to help our legacy reunion group give back to the White and Gold and to assist future Jackets in their pursuit of degrees from what we all feel is the best institute of higher learning on the planet."



Scott Alexander, IMGT 1976
Hardeeville, South Carolina
CLASS OF 1976 CO-CHAIR

"Taking a role on the reunion committee has provided the opportunity to invite former classmates back to campus to witness the world-class job being done to educate and prepare the next generation of Yellow Jackets."

George Maier, EE 1976
Marietta, Georgia
CLASS OF 1976 CO-CHAIR

40TH CLASS REUNION
Class of 1986

"It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Class of 1986 40th Reunion Committee chair. The opportunity to help classmates reconnect and give back to this vital institution is a blessing. Our committee has chosen to fund an endowment to support the operations of the Klemis Kitchen campus food pantry. Named in honor of Junior's Grill owner Tommy Klemis, the food pantry provides supplemental meal assistance to Tech students experiencing food insecurity. The pantry currently has no permanent funding source, which this endowment aims to address. I encourage all Class of 1986 alums to join the committee members in providing financial support to this cause. Go Jackets!"

Moe Trebuchon, IE 1986
Atlanta, Georgia
CLASS OF 1986 CHAIR

25TH CLASS REUNION
Class of 2001

"I cherish the memories made during my time at Georgia Tech. While geographically I have not stayed close to campus, chairing the 2001 reunion has brought me closer to the Georgia Tech community."

Louise Hedrick, MGT 2001
Dallas, Texas
CLASS OF 2001 CO-CHAIR

"It is an honor and a privilege to serve as co-chair of the 25th reunion committee. Georgia Tech is always close to my heart, even if I am at a physical distance, and milestone reunions are great opportunities to deepen engagement and reconnect with Tech."

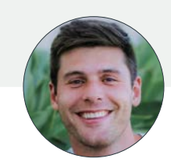
Jon Samon, ECON 2001
New York, New York
CLASS OF 2001 CO-CHAIR

10TH CLASS REUNION
Class of 2016

"I'm honored to serve as a co-chair for our 10-year reunion and excited about what we can accomplish together."

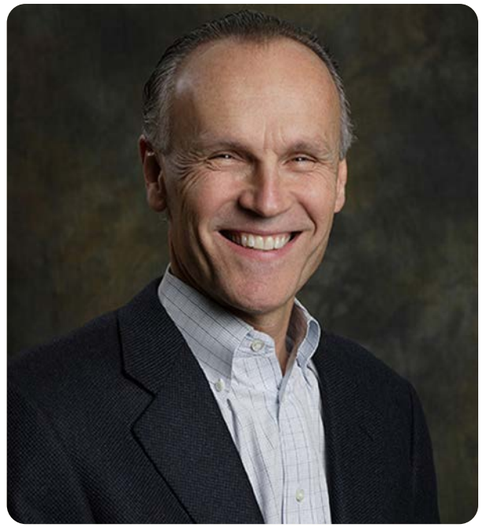
Henderson Johnson II, AE 2016, M.S. AE 2017, Ph.D. AE 2023
Lithonia, Georgia
CLASS OF 2016 CO-CHAIR

"I chose to chair my 10th reunion committee because I miss the Georgia Tech community. I no longer live in Atlanta, so Tech alums are hard to come by. I've never found another group of such motivated and intelligent people that push me to do greater things in life."



Matteo Valles, ME 2016
Knoxville, Tennessee
CLASS OF 2016 CO-CHAIR

Visionary Alumnus Steve Denning's Impact on Georgia Tech



Steven A. Denning, IM 1970, HON Ph.D., 2019, a visionary alumnus, philanthropist, and namesake of the Steven A. Denning Technology & Management (T&M) Program, passed away on Monday, April 27, leaving an enduring legacy at Georgia Tech and beyond.

Motivated by gratitude for the education that shaped his life, Denning made transformational philanthropic investments to ensure future Yellow Jackets would be equipped to lead in an increasingly complex, global economy.

"Steven's dedication to Georgia Tech was more than supporting a program; he built a community," said Anuj Mehrotra, dean of the Scheller College of Business and Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Chair. "His dedication to interdisciplinary learning and student success shaped not only careers, but lives, and his influence will endure across Georgia Tech for decades to come."

In 2007, the T&M Program, an innovative interdisciplinary initiative, housed in Scheller College, launched through Denning's endowed support. Designed to bridge the gap between technical expertise and business leadership, the program prepares students to work across disciplines, solve real-world problems, and lead diverse teams. His subsequent commitment in 2010, combined with matching funds, expanded the program's impact and secured its long-term sustainability.

Beyond the T&M Program, Denning took a special interest in supporting Tech's international initiatives. Bernard Kippelen, vice provost for International Initiatives and the Steven A. Denning Chair for Global Engagement, said, "Steven's philanthropy established a lasting foundation for Georgia Tech's global engagement, most notably through the endowed chair for Global Engagement held by our office, and the Denning Awards, which continue to elevate and incentivize international impact across the Institute." Kippelen added, "Through his vision and kindness, Steven leaves a profound and enduring legacy — one that will continue to shape and inspire Georgia Tech's international initiatives for generations to come." ///

*To make a gift in support of the Steven A. Denning Technology & Management Program, contact **Duante Stanton,** senior director of Development, Scheller College of Business, at **dstanton30@gatech.edu.** To make a gift in support of international initiatives, contact **Sara Araujo**, senior managing director of Development, Latin America and Europe, at **sara.araujo@gatech.edu.***

Historic Property Transfer Opens Door to Georgia Tech-Europe's Next Chapter

Since opening in Metz, France, in 1990, Georgia Tech-Europe (GT-Europe) has grown into a hub for education, research, and innovation, shaping a global generation of engineers and leaders. Now, a landmark transfer of buildings and land is opening the door to the instructional site's most transformative chapter yet — and an opportunity for donors to help write it.

Earlier this year, Metz Metropole, the intercommunal public cooperative focused on driving the region's economic development, transferred ownership of the property to GT-Europe for the sale price of 1 euro. François Grosdidier, mayor of the City of Metz and president of Metz Metropole, made the announcement alongside Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera and GT-Europe President Abdallah Ougazzaden. This transfer of property secures GT-Europe's continuing impact in the region.

With Georgia Tech's support, GT-Europe committed to expanding the instructional site, a key condition of the historic transfer. Construction is now underway, with the first wing of the expansion expected to open by April 2027. The project will double student capacity, from 700 to 1,400, and includes building naming and other opportunities for donors who want their generosity to shape GT-Europe for generations to come.

"Georgia Tech-Europe has grown into a model of international education and collaboration," said Ougazzaden. "Over the past 35 years, we have built lasting partnerships and created unique opportunities for students that connect Georgia Tech with Europe and beyond."

More than 13,350 Georgia Tech students have studied at the Metz instructional site over the years, including 812 enrolled in 2025. This reflects 7.5% year-over-year growth in recent years. Graduate enrollment is also up 32%.

"As we enter this new chapter, our focus remains on enriching the student experience and strengthening our role as a bridge between cultures, institutions, and industries," said Ougazzaden. ///

*To learn more or make a gift for Georgia Tech-Europe, contact **Christelle Cuenin,** GT-Europe alumni and corporate relations manager, at **christelle.cuenin@georgiatech-europe.edu.***

Honorary Degree for Jon Oscher

During his summer tour, Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera visited the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, to present a posthumous honorary Ph.D. to the family of visionary businessman and Tech alumnus Jon Oscher, IM 1954.

The founder of Prestige Cable TV, one of the first cable companies to expand into fiber and internet services, Oscher was a longtime supporter of his alma mater. He provided volunteer leadership and service to Georgia Tech in addition to quiet philanthropy directed across campus, forever enriching the Institute.

Cabrera presented the honorary degree to Oscher's daughter, Lorri McClain, and son-in-law, Forrest McClain. ///

Q&A With Dean of College of Engineering

Mitchell Walker

Mitchell L.R. Walker II assumed the role of dean of the College of Engineering and Southern Company Chair on June 15. Formerly the William R.T. Oakes Professor and Chair in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering (AE), Walker has been a Guggenheim School faculty member since 2005. Prior to his appointment as chair, he served as the College's associate dean for Academic Affairs. He played a pivotal role that led to Georgia Tech securing $88 million in state funding for a new Aerospace Engineering Building. He discusses the AE Building below, along with other priorities for the College.

Tell us about your background.
I grew up in Michigan and went to the University of Michigan for all three of my aerospace engineering degrees. After graduation, I was looking for a great institution where I could build a meaningful career and pursue research that excited me. Georgia Tech felt like the right fit from the beginning. It was highly ranked, with exceptional undergraduate and graduate students, a distinguished faculty, and a strong alignment with the research I wanted to do. I advanced from assistant to full professor and also had opportunities to do administrative work and academic leadership as the associate chair of the AE School's graduate program, associate dean of Academic Affairs, and chair of the School of Aerospace Engineering. The roles offered incredible experience working across the College and deepened my commitment to Georgia Tech.

What are some of your priorities for the College and for fulfilling Tech's mission?
We will continue to develop and strengthen the infrastructure and programs that make the Georgia Tech educational experience unique. Georgia Tech exposes students to professional development and mentors, engagement with industry, internship and co-op opportunities, undergraduate and graduate research, and entrepreneurial initiatives. I want to help the Institute deepen and strengthen the Georgia Tech experience and expand access to it.

Students are our top priority. They take what they learn at Georgia Tech, go out into the world, and do remarkable things. But that only happens because of the amazing faculty and staff. Taking care of the people who make Tech such a special place is incredibly important. That means providing the resources and support environment they need to thrive.

We also must lead in artificial intelligence. I want every engineering graduate to master AI and responsibly harness that knowledge to solve important problems.

What most excites you about this new role?
Aerospace is Georgia's No. 1 export, and it's an industry with tremendous momentum. As dean, I'm excited about helping Georgia Tech and our state remain at the forefront of what's next in aerospace technology.

How does the new Aerospace Engineering Building tie into your priorities for the College?
One reason companies like Lockheed Martin, Anduril, Delta Air Lines, Gulfstream, and Archer thrive in Atlanta and Georgia is because of the great population of technical workers. Another reason is the students we educate. We support and advance the aerospace industry, while also attracting companies to the region; they know they can get and retain the talent to make their businesses thrive.

The new Aerospace Engineering Building provides an opportunity for new investment. It's also an opportunity to think about what such a building or aerospace program needs to look like to lead and thrive for the next 50 years. The state has been a great partner, allocating an unprecedented half of the resources required to complete the building. That investment reflects Georgia's confidence in Tech as being at the leading edge of aerospace technology nationally and globally.

How does philanthropy help advance the College of Engineering?
We could not achieve our ambitions without the generosity of our donors. Philanthropy gives us the ability to invest in exceptional students and faculty and build the programs that keep Georgia Tech at the forefront of engineering and aerospace innovation.

What else would you like to share?
We are the flagship engineering college in this country. Georgia Tech has an extraordinary opportunity to build the nation's most influential engineering ecosystem. We're well positioned to shape the next era of technological leadership from Atlanta, a city that is becoming a global center for innovation, industry, and economic growth. ///

"Georgia Tech was instrumental in me having a successful career. If I can help others have the same experience by creating scholarships, then that's a great place for my money to go."

— Anthony "Tony" Getman, PSY 1987

Tony Getman puts his time and resources toward areas that are important to him and to society. He especially cares about supporting healthcare and education — two sectors that do essential work and have abundant opportunities for growth. For years, Getman has volunteered weekly at his local hospital. Drawing upon his enthusiasm for giving back, he has made a planned gift that will support these two interests at Georgia Tech.

Getman has made a bequest provision to create the Getman Family Scholarship Endowment for students with low or limited income and the Getman Family Chair's Discretionary Endowment in the School of Psychology.

For Getman, Georgia Tech is a family tradition; his father, Darryl, graduated from Tech 25 years before him. Now, through his philanthropy, Getman is preserving his family's legacy at the Institute through these endowments that will provide critical support.

He is particularly excited for the scholarships to support talented students who likely could not attend Georgia Tech, or perhaps any university, without financial assistance.

"There certainly are folks who won't have every opportunity to go to college because of a financial challenge," he said. "This is the simplest way to help those who are capable and will do well in school, and it will change their lives."

Getman's philanthropy is also inspired by his positive experience in the School of Psychology. He began a career in business after graduating from Georgia Tech and felt his psychology education prepared him to be successful. His philanthropic support not only reflects his deep appreciation for the School but helps it continue its leading work in understanding the human brain and behavior.

"The School is doing a lot, and they've got good leadership," said Getman. "I like to see what they're doing, and if I can support that in the future, then I'm delighted."

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

New Residence Hall Honors Bud and Val Peterson

Georgia Tech leaders, students, alumni, and friends gathered Aug. 13 to celebrate the opening of the Bud and Val Peterson Residence Hall, the first built on campus since 1969. Made possible thanks to the support of The University Financing Foundation, the facility is named in honor of President Emeritus G.P. "Bud" Peterson and former First Lady Val Peterson for their lasting contributions to the Institute.

Located on West Campus along Northside Drive, the 191,000-square-foot residence hall will welcome first-year students this fall. The building includes 862 beds, collaboration spaces, lounges, fitness area, and a 24/7 market.

"This is a remarkable place," said Bud Peterson. "Val and I are enormously honored to be recognized in this fashion."

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Georgia Tech President Ángel Cabrera reflected on the importance of residential life in shaping the student experience. "The transformation of our students happens in the residence halls," Cabrera said. "It happens in the friendships that you make, the study groups, the activities, and when you're learning to be independent."

University System of Georgia Chancellor Sonny Perdue agreed that residence halls play an important role in students' development beyond academics. Students "will get great content in the classrooms," he said, "but they're going to get a great education here in the dorm spaces."

The residence hall recognizes a decade of leadership by the Petersons. During Bud Peterson's tenure from 2009 to 2019, Tech expanded enrollment, strengthened partnerships across Atlanta and Georgia, and surpassed $1 billion in annual research awards for the first time. Val Peterson was a dedicated advocate for students and campus well-being.

Kasey Helton, associate vice president of Campus Services, said the hall reflects the values the Petersons have long championed. "We weren't trying to create 860 places to sleep," Helton said. "We were trying to create 860 opportunities to belong."

Student speaker Kayla Vallere, a fourth-year mechanical engineering major and Residence Hall Association leader, said that, for her, a dorm is "more than a place to live; it's a place I can truly call home."

---

*To learn more or support campus facilities, contact **Jim Hall,** vice president for Development, at **jim.hall@dev.gatech.edu.***