

Notes from the President

Celebrating Georgia Tech's 250th Commencement

12/16/2015

On Friday, Dec. 11, I had the pleasure of shaking the hands of 1,200 master's and Ph.D. recipients in McCamish Pavilion at the Georgia Institute of Technology's historic 250th Commencement. The next morning, 1,200 undergraduates received their degrees, and we celebrated again with proud parents, relatives, friends, and academicians who all supported the newly graduated Yellow Jackets.

Graduates at both sessions heard inspiring messages from our [speakers](#). U.S. Senator David Perdue addressed the undergraduates, and Dr. George Nemhauser, the 2015 recipient of the Georgia Tech Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award, spoke to the graduate degree candidates.

Georgia Tech was created 130 years ago in 1885 by an act of the Georgia legislature. Its first students enrolled three years later, and our first two graduates — Henry L. Smith of Conyers and George C. Crawford of Atlanta — received their diplomas on June 18, 1890. As part of our Georgia Tech Living History Program, a Facebook page about that first Commencement [has been posted](#). Our Georgia Tech news website has a compelling look back at [Commencement ceremonies through the years](#). More about the 250th Commencement, including a photo album and commemorative videos, is available [here](#).

Our newest degree holders are now connected not only to our earliest graduates but also to proud Yellow Jackets through several generations, including some 145,000 living Georgia Tech alumni. We take great satisfaction in their having earned a degree from one of the world's outstanding technological research universities. As they go about "Creating the Next," we can't wait to see the great things they will do to help shape history.

G. P. "Bud" Peterson
President, Georgia Tech