Notes from the President
Georgia Institute of Technology
G.P. “Bud” Peterson, President
‘Talks@Tech’ Highlights Opportunities for Tech Students to Learn from America’s Leaders in Many Fields
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We were fortunate recently to have Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella (pictured here, left) in town to participate in “Talks@Tech,” hosted in Clough Commons by Omicron Delta Kappa, Georgia Tech’s national leadership honor society. ODK provides a great service to the campus by inviting some of America’s foremost corporate and governmental leaders to speak to our students and, just as important, allowing our students to converse with those leaders.

Prior to his Talks@Tech appearance, Mr. Nadella took part in the Georgia Tech Faculty-Microsoft Roundtable on Innovation, also in Clough Commons. Afterward, he met with a small group of our students, just the sort of well-prepared young people that Microsoft likes to recruit. At the roundtable, the topic came up — as it frequently does in these types of events — how valuable it is for businesses to be able to tap into the innovation ecosystem at premier research universities such as Georgia Tech. Proximity to our faculty, researchers, and students has lured some of America’s top companies to Tech Square.

It was inspiring and enlightening to hear the leader of one of America’s iconic Silicon Valley companies give the inside scoop on how it is striving to empower everyone on the planet, discuss his firm’s evolving work culture, and offer advice to the 500-plus students in the Talks@Tech audience as they map out their future.

Since serving as the facilitator for Mr. Nardella’s chat, I have contemplated with gratitude how some of our nation’s most high-ranking leaders are drawn to Georgia Tech. Just in the past two years, we have been visited by President Barack Obama, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, and John Holdren, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology.

The Institute has also produced a number of future CEOs, many of whom, although not often in the public eye, generously return to share their time and expertise with current students. In addition, already on campus are two alumni who rose to the highest echelon of America’s military establishment: Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, the former Commander, Supreme Allied
Command, Europe, and Admiral Sandy Winnefeld, former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Both are now Distinguished Professors in Georgia Tech's Sam Nunn School of International Affairs.

Having access to such talent, both inside and outside Georgia Tech, is another reason why it's great to be a Yellow Jacket!

**G.P. “Bud” Peterson**

*Left: Students attend the "Talks@Tech" event with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and President G.P. "Bud" Peterson. Held in Clough Commons, the event was hosted by Omicron Delta Kappa, Georgia Tech's national leadership honor society.*