

## Notes from the President

Georgia Institute of Technology

G.P. "Bud" Peterson, President

Yellow Jackets' Loyalty, Generosity Second to None

10/25/17



Homecoming is among the liveliest times of the year on the Georgia Tech campus, and it's always great fun to connect with so many Yellow Jackets who have helped make the Institute into a world-class university. With an exciting 38-24 victory over Wake Forest under the lights at Bobby Dodd Stadium, it's hard to imagine how the weekend could have gone better.

No matter how many groups I address during Homecoming festivities — and this year it was about a dozen — I never tire of celebrating two things that set Georgia Tech apart: (1) the trademark innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of our students and alumni, and (2) the loyalty our alumni have for our Institute. They are among the tops in the nation for giving back.

Both those qualities undergirded a significant Homecoming 2017 event that flew a bit under the radar Saturday morning amid all the reunion events: **the naming celebration for The Roger A. and Helen B. Krone Engineered Biosystems Building**. The Krone EBB is a living example of what is possible through vision and collaboration. Following a tour, the Krones were so inspired that they made a life-changing decision to offer a naming gift. Originally dedicated in 2015, the building that now bears their names is a product of collaboration between the State of Georgia, Georgia Tech, the Georgia Tech Foundation, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and private philanthropy.

For the Krones, philanthropy and investing in higher education and the community are a way of life. In 2015, the couple made an estate gift for faculty support in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering. For 43 years, they have given to Roll Call. Roger, AE 1978, currently

serves on the Georgia Tech Foundation board and served as Georgia Tech Advisory Board chair.

Ongoing research in the Krone EBB targets 12 different types of diseases and at least 55 specific conditions affecting human health. Among these are work on eight different types of cancer, 10 varieties of immune and inflammatory disease, 11 different infectious agents, 10 types of neurological disease, and seven diseases correlated with specific genetic mutations.

At our ninth annual Government Leaders Day event prior to the football game, we met with local, state, and federal officials at Clough Commons. This is a great opportunity to catch them up on the great things that have happened in recent months at Georgia Tech and to thank them for their support of the Institute and higher education throughout our state. U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, Georgia House Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones, and University System of Georgia Chancellor Steve Wrigley were among the attendees.

At Saturday's reunion of the Old Gold Society — composed of Yellow Jackets from 50 years back (Class of 1967 and before) — I was pleased, but not surprised, to report that the classes of 1967, 1977, and 1992 presented the Institute with combined fundraising gifts of almost \$20 million. Year after year, our reunion classes demonstrate the incredible generosity of our alumni.

Our alumni who faithfully return each year have seen tremendous change at Georgia Tech. Collaborative efforts like those of our reunion classes have helped usher in consistent growth in our reputation, physical facilities, and the educational opportunities we offer. We are now a campus of more than 400 acres, with almost 30,000 students worldwide. Almost 19,000 professionals seek credentials through Georgia Tech Professional Education, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Generous donations and world-class facilities such as the Krone EBB are dramatic examples of the amazing public spiritedness of Georgia Tech alumni. We are reminded of that especially at Homecoming. Your support for your alma mater not only lifts up the Institute year-round but is also helping build a better world. We are deeply grateful for all you do.

***G.P. "Bud" Peterson***

***More photos from Homecoming 2017:***



*Shane Kimbrough, Tech graduate and recent commander of the International Space Station, shakes Georgia Tech first lady Val Peterson's hand prior to presenting a flag that was flown in space to Director of Athletics Todd Stansbury during halftime of the Oct. 21 Homecoming football game. From left: Stansbury, President G.P. "Bud" Peterson, Val Peterson, and Joe Irwin, president and CEO of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association.*



*Renee Copeland and Sam Medinger were named Mr. and Ms. Georgia Tech 2017.*



*The Krone family attends the naming celebration ceremony for the Roger A. and Helen B. Krone Engineered Biosystems Building. From left, son David Krone and wife, Susie, Roger A. and Helen B. Krone, son Michael Krone, and daughter Lauren Krone.*



*Students await the 2017 Homecoming parade.*



*Students celebrate the 38-24 victory over the Wake Forest Demon Deacons at Homecoming 2017.*



*President G.P. "Bud" Peterson (center) and First Lady Val Peterson speak with U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson during 2017 Government Leaders Day.*



*Chancellor Steve Wrigley stands with Georgia Tech parent, House Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones during 2017 Government Leaders Day.*



*Georgia Tech alumni legislators and guests at 2017 Government Leaders Day. Pictured left to right: State Rep. Chuck Efration, Mr. Trey Kelly, State Rep. Bert Reeves (MGT 2000), State Rep. Matt Dubnik (MGT 2003).*