

Dr. Peterson
Ken Byers Tennis Complex Groundbreaking
2-4 p.m. Friday, June 15, 2012

Thank you Wes. We've heard Dan, Coach Thorne, and Coach Shelton talk about the impact this beautiful new facility will have on athletics, and especially the men's and women's tennis programs at Tech.

This state-of-the-art complex is an investment in our students, and will be an asset in everything from recruitment through graduation.

It is also an investment in the future of Georgia Tech, and will be yet another visible reminder of the impact of philanthropy on our Institute. We are fortunate to have some of the most loyal alumni in the world who are transforming this campus and providing resources that we would not have otherwise.

I believe it is because Georgia Tech has a tradition of excellence that transcends generations. Georgia Tech graduates are prepared to be innovators and leaders.

Ken Byers is an example of that. While at Tech, he participated in our cooperative education program, which by the way turns 100 this year---the co-op program, not Ken! He co-oped with Southern Bell. He earned both a bachelor's and a master's in Electrical Engineering from Tech.

A successful entrepreneur, Ken founded Byers Engineering Company in 1971, and is president and sole shareowner of the 1,000-employee firm.

He has given back, in both time and other resources, to his alma mater consistently and generously over the years. Ken endowed the Byers Eminent Scholar Chair in Optical networking and three Byers Professorships at Tech. He serves as a trustee of the Georgia Tech Foundation.

He is a past chairman of the Georgia Tech Electrical Engineering Advisory Board, and he now serves on the Campaign Georgia Tech Steering Committee, helping to lead our most ambitious campaign in the Institute's history.

And now, pardon the pun, but "serving" will take on a dual meaning when construction of the Ken Byers Tennis Complex is complete.

Ken, thank you for the many ways you serve Georgia Tech, and thank you for this tremendous tennis facility that will impact students for years to come. Please join me in thanking and welcoming Ken to the podium.