

**Dr. Peterson**

**Benn Zinn Combustion Laboratory Dedication**

11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 2, 2012, 635 King Street

Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the contributions by Dr. Ben Zinn.

Georgia Tech enjoys the reputation of being a top-ten public research university in the nation. That reputation, in large part, can be attributed to the outstanding faculty, staff and students who have invested time with the Institute over the past 127 years.

Ben joined Georgia Tech in 1965 when it was essentially a regional university. The transition to a global research and teaching powerhouse came from people like Ben, who are committed to their field, as well as to other faculty and students. Ben was a trailblazer in establishing a world-renowned combustion and energy program at Georgia Tech, which is now the largest, and most influential program in the U.S., and arguably, the world.

Much of an individual's influence can be attributed to how effective he or she is in passing the torch along to others. Ben worked as a servant-leader for the growing program. He recruited outstanding faculty. He mentored young faculty members and students. Many students and young faculty mentored by Ben have taken important leadership positions in a range of fields, including astronauts, business leaders, and influential scholars.

Ben also worked to engage business, industry, and individuals in Tech's combustion and energy program, fostering partnerships and support. In part, construction of this facility was made possible because of Ben's development efforts. He won many big-scale, high-impact programs and elevated Tech's reputation to an unprecedented level in the combustion community worldwide. He helped Georgia Tech in its successful bid for the CNES building under a partial sponsorship of NIST.

Ben is a pioneer who left his mark on academia in his field. He is the first U.S. combustion faculty member incorporating basic science into technology development -- studying fundamental problems at practical device operating conditions. As a consequence, major domestic propulsion and energy companies established Centers of Excellence at Tech, including GE Aviation, GE Energy, Pratt & Whitney, and Siemens. The success of the Georgia Tech model has been emulated as a best practice that these major industrial partners have now applied to their relationships with other universities.

We are pleased to dedicate this facility today and to honor Ben Zinn for his contributions to Georgia Tech and to the field of combustion and energy.