Dr. Peterson  
Reunion Committee Kickoff Meeting (Class of 1963, 1973, 1988)  
8 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013, Wardlaw, Gordy Room

- Thank you for your leadership role in giving back to Tech in celebration of your milestone reunion. Georgia Tech has some of the most loyal alumni in the world, and we are honored to partner with you. Tech has more than 133,000 proud alumni throughout the world. You have made us the success that we are today.
- The Academic Ranking of World Universities (also known as the Shanghai Rankings) shows us as No. 8 in Engineering/Technology and Computer Sciences.
- We’re ranked 7th among top public universities in the nation, and our undergraduate and graduate engineering programs are ranked 4th. While Tech may not have been in the top 10 when you attended, your engagement and generosity have helped to get us there.
- We continue to get attention in the media, in our nation’s capitol, and in our community. For example, a week ago Sunday the New York Times ran almost a full-page photo of the Georgia Tech-designed robot Simon. It is designed as a humanoid robot to explore the ways humans and machines live and work alongside each other. Robots from other universities were mentioned, but Georgia Tech was front and center.
- On March 13 we have our fourth annual InVenture prize competition where students and teams of students compete for cash prizes for their inventions. 164 inventors registered. Georgia Public TV broadcasts the event, and I hope you can either join us in person or watch it. It really makes you proud to see what these students are designing.
- I hope you’ll get a chance to come to a basketball game on campus. The new McCamish Pavilion opened this fall, and there’s not a bad seat in the house. Last month we dedicated the Ken Byers Tennis Complex. It has 16 indoor courts, including 6 indoor courts—before we had just 3.
• Last summer we announced the naming of the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business, and are taking that program to new heights thanks to the generosity of Ernie Scheller and others following in his footsteps of philanthropy.

• Reunion giving is a vital component of Tech’s philanthropic picture.

• In October, we were presented very generous checks from this year’s 25th, 40th and 50th reunion classes at homecoming. The alumni of these three classes have set a new standard for others to emulate in the years to come. The class of 1962 broke every reunion record with their gift of over $28.5 million.

• Last year: support included Need-Based Scholarships, President’s Scholarships, International Work Abroad Scholarships, the Alumni Center, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment. Reunion classes took advantage of a 1:1 match by an Anonymous Donor who wanted to help needy students in supporting Need-Based Scholarships in their class name.

• Since Georgia Tech’s Reunion Giving Program began, reunion classes have committed over $350 million. We have been able do so many great and wonderful things here on the Tech campus because of dedicated Georgia Tech alumni who “gave something back to Tech” in honor of their milestone reunion. These include:
  o Student Support for endowed, need based, merit, and study abroad scholarships.
  o Program endowments: Library acquisitions, Public Service, and Graduate Teaching Fellows.
  o Support for Capital Projects including the Success Center, Brittain Dining Hall renovations, DM Smith Lecture Hall, and the Running Track at the Campus Recreation Center.
  o Campus Beautification including:
    ▪ Clough Commons;
    ▪ restoration of the Historic Hill including Tower Walk and Reunion Walk;
    ▪ Alumni Park (behind the Campus Recreation Center),
    ▪ George P. Burdell Plaza (behind the Love Building),
- Fifth Street Bridge Trellis, and
- Phase 1 of the Eco-Commons.

None of these valuable assets would have become a reality without people like you. We're in the business of helping students to realize their full potential, and we thank you for partnering with us in that very important investment in their future.

Thank you for your commitment to Georgia Tech. We're looking forward to great things, and celebrating your class contributions at homecoming weekend next fall.