

Dr. Peterson

Ken Byers Tennis Center Dedication

2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013, Ecker Courtyard of the Ken Byers Tennis Complex

- Thank you Paul. We are all thankful to Paul stepping up to serve as acting athletics director. He has continued the strong leadership of our Athletics Department, providing the kind of continuity we need at this time.
- Georgia Tech's intercollegiate sports program brings together the Tech community, and it also enhances the college experience for students. Athletes participate in our Total Person Program, which helps them develop professionally, socially and intellectually. And by the way, some of our best scholar athletes are in the tennis program.
- Last summer we joined together for the groundbreaking, and now we are here to celebrate the vision becoming a reality that will benefit Georgia Tech athletes, the student body in general, and the Georgia Tech community.
- The Georgia Tech campus is transforming. The newly-opened McCamish Pavilion nearby is making basketball games a totally new experience. We anticipate that the Ken Byers Tennis Complex will do for tennis what McCamish is doing for basketball-and perhaps even more. This state-of-the-art facility will be a resource to help us recruit top players worldwide.
- This complex will help to give greater visibility to our tennis program, and as the coaches just shared, will be a tremendous boost to both the men's and the women's programs.
- It is impressive: 16 courts with coatings the same as the U.S. Open, grandstands that hold more than 750 people, including visibility for track, and an enhanced audio system that I'm sure will allow me to keep up with the matches from the President's residence!
- This beautiful facility serves as yet another way to attract Tech alumni back to the campus to be actively involved with their alma mater.
- Georgia Tech would not be the outstanding institute it is today without our loyal and generous alumni. This facility is an example of that. We owe a debt of

gratitude to Tricia and Ken. Byers, as well as a number of others for their leadership giving that made this facility possible.

- The complex is an investment in the future of Tech, and will be a wonderful resource to enhance the student experience, from their freshman year through graduation, and we cannot thank you enough.
- And now it is my pleasure to introduce Ken to say a few words. He exemplifies the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Georgia Tech graduates. He is founder, owner, and president of Atlanta-based Byers Engineering Company, which has 1,000 employees. Ken has been involved with Georgia Tech since he received his Electrical Engineering bachelor's degree in 1966 and master's in 1968. He's given to Roll Call for 51 years, and is a life member of the Alexander-Tharpe Fund. He and Tricia have funded two tennis scholarship endowments that support the No. 1 men's and women's players each year.
- They established a faculty chair and three professorships in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- He has served Georgia Tech on the Georgia Tech Advisory Board, the College of Engineering Advisory Board, and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Advisory Board. He was co-chair of his 25th Reunion Committee and chair of his 40th Reunion Committee. He was named a College of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus in 1995. Ken and Tricia have four children, including a proud Georgia Tech graduate, and 13 grandchildren.
- Please join me in welcoming Ken to the podium.