

**Dr. Peterson**  
**Griffin/Sandersville Rotary**  
Noon, Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012

It is a privilege to be back with you. I was here in spring of 2011 addressing the graduating class from Brentwood School. I am honored to have the opportunity to share some of the exciting things that are happening at Georgia Tech.

We have more than 21,500 undergraduate and graduate students from 121 different countries and 56 states and U.S. territories. Sixty-six percent of undergraduates are Georgia residents. This fall we welcomed the largest, best-qualified and most diverse freshman class in Tech's history. The fall 2012 freshman class includes students from 65 countries. Their average SAT is 1395. The average GPA is 3.89, but over half of them had a 4.0 in high school. Many of these students have been involved in leadership activities before they came to campus, and with 450 student organizations, they'll have plenty of opportunities to continue to grow in their leadership experiences.

Forty six (46) students are from Sandersville. The high schools represented most often are Washington County High School, Baldwin High School, Brentwood School, Georgia Military College Prep and John Milledge Academy.

I understand that there are 175 Georgia Tech alumni in Sandersville. I'm thinking there might be a few here today. If you're a proud Georgia Tech alumnus, wave your hand. Thank you. You'll be happy to know you graduated from the seventh ranked public research university in the nation. It may not have had that ranking when you were on campus, but you can claim it now!

This is a year of celebrations at Tech. You Georgia Tech alumni will be particularly interested to know that this is the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George P. Burdell on the Tech campus. He has been attending Georgia Tech consecutively since 1927. He has been paged at airports, hotels, and on airplanes all over the world. He flew as a

navigator in a B-17 bomber with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in England during World War II. He was almost chosen as Time's man of the year in 2001, and in fact had received the most votes, before Time magazine editors removed his name. George P. Burdell is just one of many cherished Georgia Tech traditions.

This year we're celebrating 60 years of women enrolled full-time at Tech. Our freshman class includes 35 percent women. Our undergraduate population includes 33 percent women, but the interesting thing is that they hold 45 percent of the student leadership positions.

This year we're also celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cooperative education on campus. What started as an experiment with 12 students working for 15 cents an hour has now expanded to a program of 4,000 undergraduate and graduate Tech students. It is the largest voluntary co-op program in the nation. More than 50,000 students have participated in Tech's co-op program over the past century. It's a great way to earn money for college while gaining valuable work experience, and co-ops usually have a competitive advantage upon graduation.

We believe that a Georgia Tech education is one of the best investments a student can make. Last month SmartMoney ranked Georgia Tech No. 1 in the nation in return on investment. A survey of 2009 graduates revealed they had a median starting salary of \$59,000, or 67 percent of what they paid in tuition over four years. Keep in mind that virtually all in-state freshmen at Georgia Tech are on the HOPE. They're paying a fraction of tuition average used by SmartMoney (depending, of course, on how long they keep the HOPE!). Tech graduates from 15 years ago have a median salary of \$102,000. The University of Georgia ranked No. 4 in the same study, with starting salaries in 2009 of \$41,100. It is a tribute to the University System of Georgia that two of its universities are in the top five in the nation in ROI.

Georgia Tech and UGA partner in a number of areas, and you've got a great example right here in downtown Sandersville. In 2011 a historic preservation assessment entitled "Downtown Sandersville Commercial Buildings: Proposals for Preserving and Using the Second Floors" was created by students and faculty in Georgia Tech's College of Architecture in collaboration with University of Georgia's Archway Partnership to stimulate interest and help the community envision the upper floors of five different buildings in the commercial downtown district. The team presented some very creative ideas for properties on East and West Haynes streets and Gilmore Street. The proposal included an art studio, expansion of the chamber of commerce, a hotel and community meeting rooms.

Because of the generosity of Georgia Tech alumni and other supporters, we are able to provide numerous academic, athletic, and needs-based scholarships, including the G. Wayne Clough Georgia Tech Promise. We remain sensitive to costs for students, and continue to develop ways to help make a Georgia Tech education within reach of every qualified student.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you as taxpayers for your support of Georgia Tech, as well as other colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia. You are investing in not only the students' futures, but also our future in Georgia, and for the nation.

We are fortunate that our legislators have been steadfast in their support. We have had a dramatic decline in state support, as have other state agencies. Although state revenues have been in decline, our percent allocation has remained steady. We are directing that investment toward advancing business and industry and educating the nation's future problem solvers. They are our future.

Last month a poll revealed that a majority of likely voters doubt the U.S. will lead the world in science and technology in eight years. The poll was sponsored by the United for Medical Research and Research America, and was designed to highlight public support for federal research funding. Fifty-nine percent responded with the name of another country, such as India or China, or said they were not sure who would lead the world in science and technology in 2020.

At Georgia Tech, we're working to help ensure that the U.S. continues to lead through the way we educate students, through partnerships with K-12 to encourage more students to go into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM fields, through our partnerships with business and industry, and through an emphasis on innovation.

Georgia Tech is a major player in advanced manufacturing. The Georgia Tech Manufacturing Institute is targeting specific industry needs in manufacturing, by forming collaboratories — pilot plants or prototype shops between industry, government and academia.

Georgia Tech is partnering with the City of Atlanta, the State, and business and industry to create a culture of innovation. We are actively and aggressively working to commercialize the technologies developed at Tech, moving the discoveries made in our laboratories to the marketplace, and building the companies that will create jobs, drive our economy, and stimulate economic growth.

We're also committed to helping individuals in the community transform their intellectual property to drive innovation. The Institute is a leader in innovation, entrepreneurship, commercialization, and economic development, and we are continuing to initiate and foster programs designed to strengthen these efforts.

Technology Square has become a high-energy hub, bringing together needed resources, expertise, and opportunities for collaboration that creates an exciting environment for innovation to flourish. Georgia Tech continues to work closely with the Georgia Department of Economic Development headquartered in Tech Square to attract new business and industry. The Centergy Building is home to about 40 companies, and several other organizations are exploring having a presence there. You can almost feel the energy that is building.

In May Panasonic announced that it would locate its new automotive innovation center in Centergy One in Tech Square, creating an incubator for next generation automotive infotainment technologies. A driving factor was their interest in enhancing partnerships with Georgia Tech, including EI<sub>2</sub>. Earlier this month (Sept. 12) Penguin Computing announced they Penguin Computing will open a sales, support, and engineering office in CentergyOne.

Tech Square is home to Flashpoint, Tech's latest startup accelerator, and of course ATDC, the nation's first university based technology incubator, and widely regarded as one of the best.

This summer Georgia Tech was selected for a leadership role in the National Science Foundation's I-Corps program. Tech, along with Stanford and the University of Michigan, is a founding network node for I-Corps, which aims to develop scientific and engineering discoveries into useful technologies, products and processes.

Georgia Tech's economic impact extends throughout the state. Here are a couple of examples of impact in middle Georgia.

Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI<sub>2</sub>) has launched an initiative in central Georgia to help smaller manufacturers implement lean principles. So far, four

manufacturers, a hospital and a non-profit charitable organization are enrolled in the Group Lean Implementation Project, also known as GLIP. The following organizations are participating in GLIP: Advanced Metal Components in Swainsboro, Duramatic in Glennville, Easter Seals of Middle Georgia in Dublin, Hollingsworth & Vose in Hawkinsville, Meadows Regional Medical Center in Vidalia and SP Newsprint in Dublin.

Georgia Tech's *Procurement Assistance Center* (GTPAC), part of the Georgia Tech *Enterprise Innovation Institute*, provides no-cost assistance with government procurement to any company licensed to do business in Georgia. GTPAC conducted seminars in Albany, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Carrollton, Columbus, Gainesville, Rockmart, Savannah and Warner Robins. The center assists companies with all aspects of federal, state and local government procurement processes, including solicitation analysis, proposal preparation, pre- and post-award counseling, and quality and accounting systems. Procurement counselors also analyze whether companies have the potential for participating in the government procurement process.

Through the Central Georgia Consortium, designed to advance lean and manufacturing knowledge of its members through benchmarking, training, and speakers, twelve companies in Central Georgia have learned lean manufacturing techniques, including Alcoa in Eastman, Armstrong, Trane Macon, and KaMin in Macon, Cascade in Warner Robins, Duramatic in Glennville, Hollingsworth & Vose in Hawkinsville, Meadows Memorial Hospital and Trane in Vidalia, Nordson in Swainsboro, Parker Aerospace and SP Newsprint in Dublin.

At Georgia Tech, we're developing innovators and leaders. Students are an active part of research and discovery, and today over 70 percent of innovation disclosures at Tech name one or more students among the inventors.

We are continuing to offer programs to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, such as the Georgia Tech Integrated Program for Startups, TI:GER, an award winning program and partnership between Georgia Tech and Emory University School of Law; and the InVenture Prize, an annual competition that inspires undergraduate students to create inventions for cash prizes. Many of those innovations from the past three years have already been commercialized.

I want to close with just one example of student innovation. Last fall, in a competition hosted by the City of Atlanta and Emory University's Goizueta Business School, a team of Georgia Tech students earned first prize and a \$5,000 award for proposing a system for electric vehicle adoption in Atlanta. It was a proposal to drive demand for 50,000 electric cars on Atlanta roads during a two-year period.

The students represent both Solar Jackets, Georgia Tech's student group dedicated to the design, creation and expansion of solar technology, and the College of Management's Technology and Management Program.

One of the students, Corbin Klett, spoke at Tech's spring, 2012 commencement. In his reflection speech, Corbin referred to the Strauss-Howe generational theory, a study that identifies four recurring generational patterns in American history. He said that this is the "Hero" generation, with major contributions in revitalizing communities and advancing technology.

Georgia Tech students are developing devices to improve open-heart surgery. They are designing ways to get water to areas of the world hit by disasters. And they are partnering to develop solutions to some of society's grand challenges. I'm very proud to be a part of such a great institution. Thank you.