

Dr. Peterson

Class of 1964 50th Reunion

Friday, Oct. 31, 2014, Georgia Tech Hotel Ballroom

- Thank you Bill (George), Al (West), Geoff (Gill), and the reunion committee, which was one of the largest class reunion committees to assemble in recent history. A lot of class spirit here — your attendance at both the dinner and brunch celebration events was record-breaking. And thanks also to all of you who gave so generously to break the previous record of \$28.5 million of giving set by the Class of 1962 during its 50th reunion. This is absolutely tremendous. Your gift will go a very long way in numerous areas to help us maintain excellence that you've come to expect from your alma mater.
- 2 things that set Georgia Tech apart: the trademark innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of our students and alumni, and the loyalty our alumni have for our Institute. Georgia Tech alumni are among the top in the nation for giving back.
- Your class project set a \$375,000 goal in support of endowments for a need-based scholarship and the care of our beloved Ramblin' Wreck. The Class of 1964 Need-Based Scholarship will be a gift that will help Georgia Tech prepare innovators and leaders for generations. The Ramblin' Wreck Endowment will ensure that the Wreck will be maintained and cared for to be enjoyed by future generations of Yellow Jackets. Your class was instrumental in introducing the Ramblin' Wreck as a tradition more than 50 years ago. As a result, the Wreck has led the football team onto Grant Field for every home game since Sept. 30, 1961.
- Your generosity extends beyond these two class projects to support for individually named endowed chairs and professorships, facilities renovation and construction, endowed undergraduate scholarships and fellowships, and of course, the unrestricted annual Roll Call and the Alexander-Tharpe Fund.
- I understand several members of the class are also supporting the G. Wayne Clough Georgia Tech Promise Scholarship program, and I want to thank you.
- Recognize Dr. Clough (he and Anne will be in attendance and recognized earlier in the program) for launching this program while president. It is a critical initiative in

Campaign Georgia Tech, and I am pleased to share that we have exceeded our private fundraising goal of \$50M, raising more than \$57M to ensure that deserving Georgia residents whose family income is less than 150% of the Federal poverty level can earn a Georgia Tech degree.

- In the past five decades you have seen many things change, in your own lives, and at Georgia Tech. We're now a campus of more than 400 acres, with more than 23,000 students worldwide. Another 13,500 professionals seek educational credentials through Georgia Tech Professional Education.
- Outstanding freshman class of 2,800, from almost 26,000 applicants. The class is 39% women, an all-time high. By contrast, in 1964 Tech had 85 women, about 1 percent of the student body.

I thought you would enjoy a few facts from your time at Tech.

- Dean George C. Griffin retired after 18 years as Dean of Students
- Georgia Tech left Southeastern Conference (SEC) in 1964
- Swan Season in SEC: A 7-3 record in football

Popular Songs in 1964

- "*I Want To Hold Your Hand*" and "*She Loves You*" by Beatles
- "*I Get Around*" by the Beach Boys
- "*Hello, Dolly!*" by Louis Armstrong and the All-Stars

History/Popular Culture in 1964

- Cost of gas per gallon: 30 cents per gallon
- Average Yearly Income: \$6,080
- The Rolling Stones debuted in the U.S. on April 16, 1964.
- The Beatles appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show* (73 million audience).
- Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) became the world heavyweight boxing champion by beating Sonny Liston in Miami Beach, Florida.

- World Premiere of Walt Disney-released *Mary Poppins* (starred Julie Andrews)
- The 1964 Civil Rights Act signed by Lyndon Johnson on July 2, 1964
- On Oct. 14, 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Time of positive momentum:

- Library renewal project
- EBB, scheduled to open in June 2015
- Opening of Lafayette Institute
- Home Depot innovation center (Tech Square)
- Arts@Tech initiative launched

Campaign Georgia Tech is the largest in the Institute's history. Buildings have been renovated and constructed. Colleges and Schools have been named. 83 new endowed faculty chairs and professorships have been established. And hundreds of scholarships and fellowships have been funded. Thanks to more than 60,000 donors, we will likely meet our \$1.5B goal a year early. In spite of this, the vision and drive behind the Campaign continue. Many goals, and much work, are yet to be completed. We're looking forward to carrying the momentum throughout 2015 to finish well.

Close:

Your loyalty to Georgia Tech is timeless. We are indebted to people like you who believe in Tech and want to invest in our future, and more importantly in the future of generations of students to come. Alumni play a vital role in the life of the Institute, including leadership on advisory boards and committees, mentoring students, leading alumni networks and affinity groups around the country, serving as ambassadors for Georgia Tech worldwide and giving generously to ensure that Georgia Tech achieves its vision to define the technological research university of the 21st Century. Thank you, Class of 1964! You are the best.