

Dr. Peterson

Old Gold Society Reunion

Post-Homecoming Game Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014, Alumni House

- Thank you Bob (Stargel). I've been to the Ramblin' Wreck parade this morning, and the cake race. How many of you participated in either of those when you were here? The Old Gold Society is yet another of our cherished traditions. We are fortunate to have some of the most loyal alumni in the country, and you are the group that has been the most faithful to the Institute for the longest.
- You not only know Tech's history; you have helped to create it, as well as to build Georgia Tech into the Top 10 Institute in the nation that it is today.
- And of course let me add my welcome to your newest members as well, the Class of 1964. Last night at their celebration, they presented Georgia Tech with a very generous check of more than \$32 million. Their class goal had been \$20 million, but they went well beyond that and actually broke the existing record by a Georgia Tech class of \$28.5 million by the Class of 1962. I think that calls for a round of applause. Among other things, that will create the Class of 1964 Need-Based Scholarship and also the Class of 1964 Ramblin' Wreck Endowment. We continue to attract the best and the brightest, and thanks to the Class of 1964, we'll be able to take in future innovators and leaders who might not otherwise been able to afford to come to Georgia Tech. Their Ramblin' Wreck Endowment also ensures that our beloved campus icon will be maintained and cared for so that it can be enjoyed by future generations of Yellow Jackets.
- Students are inventing things to change the world even before they graduate.
- 60% of all Georgia Tech invention disclosures list at least one student.
- We have numerous resources to help students ranging from InVenture Prize competition to Capstone Design and Ideas to Serve Competition. Many are not only inventors; they're starting businesses before they graduate.
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- In the past 50 plus years you have seen many things change in your own lives and at Georgia Tech. Our Atlanta campus is now over 400 acres, and we have more than 23,000 students worldwide.
- We have an outstanding freshman class of 2,800, from 26,000 applicants. The average SAT of incoming freshmen is 1485. The class is 39% women, an all-time high. By contrast, in 1964 Tech had 85 women, about 1 percent of the student body.
- Average starting salaries of Tech graduates range from \$63,000 to \$65,000.
- Time of positive momentum:
 - Library renewal project
 - EBB, scheduled to open in June 2015
 - Home Depot innovation center
 - Arts@Tech initiative launched
 - Campaign Georgia Tech on pace to meet \$1.5 billion goal

At the Class of 1964 reunion last night I shared some things that were happening when they were on campus for their final year.

- 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 The 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).

- 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.

Many things change through the generations, but we all share an intense loyalty to Georgia Tech. Thank you for coming back today, and thank you for your lifelong affinity. You are gold.