

Dr. Peterson

College of Engineering/National Academy of Engineering Reception

3:30 p.m. Monday, March 9, 2015, Georgia Tech Hotel Ballroom

Welcome to this College of Engineering reception to honor our three new National Academy of Engineering members — Deepak Divan, Vigor Yang and Ajit Yoganathan. We're grateful for them and their service to Georgia Tech, and we appreciate the support that you, as their colleagues, demonstrate by being here today to celebrate with them.

With the addition of our three new members, Georgia Tech now has 25 active or retired NAE members. That places us among the NAE's top tier among American institutions of higher learning.

This is a prestigious list to be on. Election to National Academy of Engineering membership is one of the highest professional honors accorded an engineer. I think it's significant that your peers, the current NAE membership, elect new members. Those chosen have distinguished themselves in business and academic management, in technical positions, as university faculty, and as leaders in government and private engineering organizations.

Georgia Tech has one of the largest and best colleges of engineering in the country. Our faculty excels in teaching and research. As you've probably heard by now, President Obama will speak at McCamish Pavilion tomorrow night. After the White House reached out to us about the possibility of hosting his visit, it became clear to me that one of the reasons we were chosen is the outstanding reputation of our College of Engineering.

Georgia Tech grants more engineering degrees than any other university in the nation. Since 2007, we have awarded more engineering degrees to women than any other university. In addition, according to StudyPoint.com, "Among U.S. universities, it

confers the most engineering doctoral degrees to minority students and ranks second for the number of engineering bachelor's degrees awarded to minority graduates. Georgia Tech also awards more engineering doctoral degrees to African-Americans than any other college in the country.”

And now, if I could say just a bit about each of our honorees without stepping on the toes of our other speakers. Dr. Divan came to Georgia Tech in 2004. He's made significant contributions in the area of electrical energy, and has been very successful at commercializing some of the technology that has come out of his research. Dr. Divan is also president, chief technical officer, and co-founder of Varentec Inc., a company that builds power management and monitoring solutions for the electric grid.

Dr. Yang joined Georgia Tech in 2009 as the aerospace engineering school chair. He's a gifted teacher who has been the principal or co-principal investigator on more than 68 research projects dealing with fluid dynamics and combustion in aerospace propulsion and power systems. His innovations are used widely within industries and government labs.

Dr. Yoganathan has been with us since 1979. He is among the premier scholars in the field of biomedical engineering. He's done extremely important work to improve the biomechanics of prosthetic heart valves and foster the development of heart repair devices. In 2005 he was awarded the Theo Pilkington award by the American Society of Engineering Education for his contributions to biomedical engineering education.

Dr. Divan, Dr. Yang, and Dr. Yoganathan, please accept our sincere congratulations for your election to the NAE. We are proud of you. Let's give them a hand.