

## Notes from the President

Georgia Institute of Technology

G.P. "Bud" Peterson, President

Symposium, Music, and Fired-Up Georgia Tech Fans Highlight Day 2 in Ireland

09/02/16

**DAY 2: Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016**



In the past few years, Georgia Tech has had great success broadening our influence on a global scale. This year, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Georgia Tech-Lorraine in Metz, France. In addition, Georgia Tech has other global centers in China, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, and Singapore, and we are exploring the possibility of others. Today more than half of our students have a study- or work-abroad experience prior to graduation, and Georgia Tech faculty are engaged in research collaborations in more than 100 countries.

Those were among the messages we conveyed this morning at a joint symposium at Trinity College entitled "University and the Innovation Economy." The panel discussion with my counterparts Father William P. Leahy, president of Boston College, and Patrick Prendergast, Trinity College provost and president, was moderated by Ms. Fionnuala Sweeney, who lived in Atlanta for a number of years as a CNN anchor. The symposium focused on partnerships between universities and governments in economic development and innovation. We discussed issues around international global

experiences for students, partnerships with other universities, and how to provide opportunities for our students to create new businesses. It presented a wonderful opportunity for the three of us to compare and contrast our universities, our strengths, and areas where we could expand our collaboration. During the conversation it became apparent that Georgia Tech, because of its engineering and science focus, has a great deal in common with Trinity College, which has a similar focus. At Georgia Tech, we emphasize integrating liberal arts for societal impacts of technologies and globalization. The presence of Boston College, with its focus on the liberal

arts, served to remind us of the very important role our universities have to develop our student's abilities, to contribute to our society's social aspects, and to be good global citizens.

We then heard from faculty members from each of the three institutions. Dr. Michael Naughton of Boston College talked about some of the work underway at BC in the area of nanotechnology and nanoscale coaxial applications. He was followed by Dr. Bob Guldberg from Georgia Tech, who gave a fascinating talk on regenerative medicine research at Georgia Tech and some of the success stories in this area.

One surprise was how extensive our partnership is with researchers at Irish universities. The session concluded with a presentation by Trinity's Valeria Nicolosi on the results from her graphene research. During the presentation, Val leaned over to me and noted that while all of this research focuses on things that are very small, the possibilities for all of humanity are so very large!

Dr. Steve Cross, Georgia Tech's EVP for Research, then introduced and moderated a session that focused on presentations from three student teams, one from each of the three universities. The student teams presented their concepts and plans for their startup companies. We had seen the Georgia Tech presentation by FireHUD creators Zack Braun and Tyler Sisk (pictured above) before, as it won first place at this past year's InVenture Prize competition. The Boston College team also presented at the ACC InVenture Prize competition. Trinity College is ranked No. 1 in Europe for undergraduate business incubation, and its student team spoke about improving the startup process of student-inspired businesses in ways which are quite similar to our Startup Summer Program.

The symposium concluded with an industry panel discussion led by Ms. Hala Modellmog, CEO of the Metro Atlanta Chamber. The panelists included Mr. Charles Clough, founder and CEO of Clough Capital, and Neil Naughton, deputy chairman of Glen Dimplex Group. They discussed the importance of globalization and the need to hire good global citizens — students who have the "soft skills" — and the need to create lifelong learning opportunities for their new hires in order to help them retain their employees. They also discussed the need for policies that focus on development of infrastructure that supports urban centers, access to public transportation, and housing — three subjects that are common issues to Atlanta, Boston, and Dublin.

In the afternoon, our group attended a reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Kevin O'Malley at the Deerfield Residence, which has served as the Ambassador's Official Residence since 1927. It was previously the U.S. Embassy in Ireland. It is a very large 18th-century building, sitting on 62 acres of private grounds in the center of Phoenix Park in Dublin. It is directly across from Áras an Uachtaráin, the official residence of the president of Ireland.

From there we went to the Battle of the Bands, which was held on the grounds of Malahide Castle. We were entertained by local high school bands, and then the Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket Marching Band took the field at about 7:45 p.m. Its performance made us all proud and dazzled the crowd. While there we were able to take a quick tour of the castle, which has been owned by the same family, the Talbots, for more than 800 years! The castle's best-known rooms are the Oak Room and the Great Hall, which displays Talbot family history. There is one chair that is believed to be an original piece from when the castle first opened. This experience reminded me just how young our country is. We talk about a rich heritage and sometimes think that Georgia Tech is one of our country's older universities, but Trinity College was founded in 1592, 293 years earlier than Georgia Tech!

We then went to the Guinness Storehouse at St. James's Gate to a tailgate for 900 Tech fans. Held in the historic and original location of the Guinness Brewery, it was an incredible event with tremendous energy. There were local dancers, our Georgia Tech band, the cheer squad, some local food, and of course some very enthusiastic Tech fans. The event was supposed to end at 10 p.m., but at 10:10 it was still going strong.

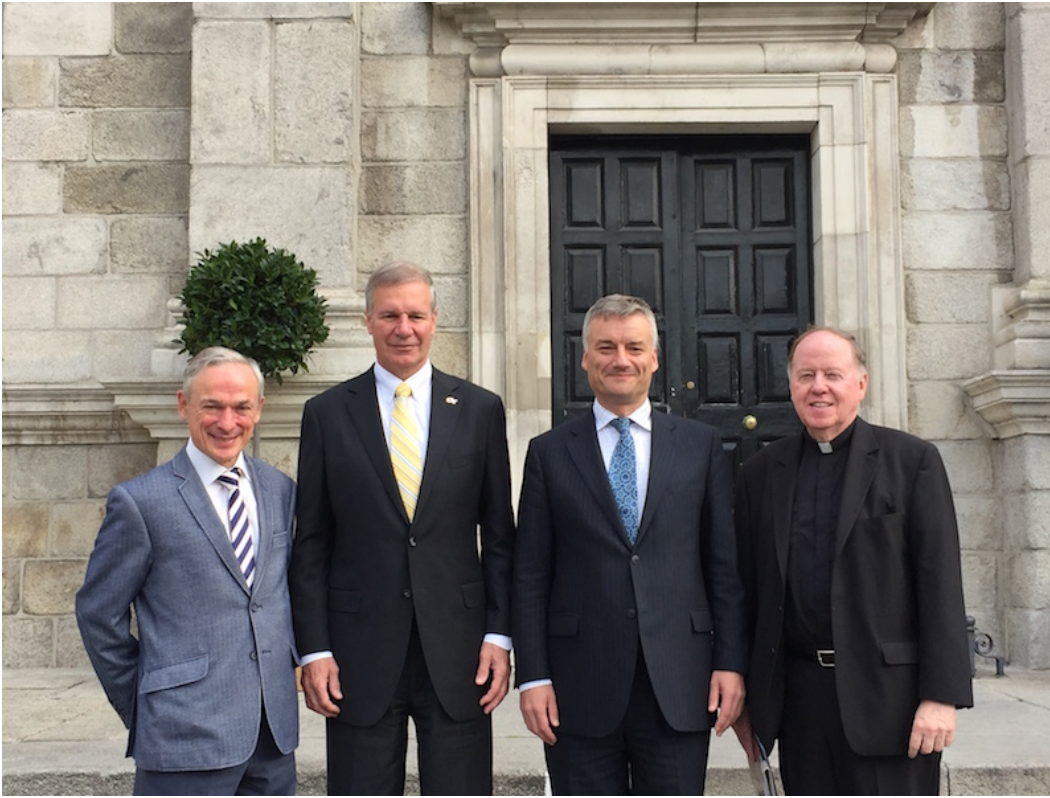
**G.P. "Bud" Peterson**

***Photos from Day 2:***

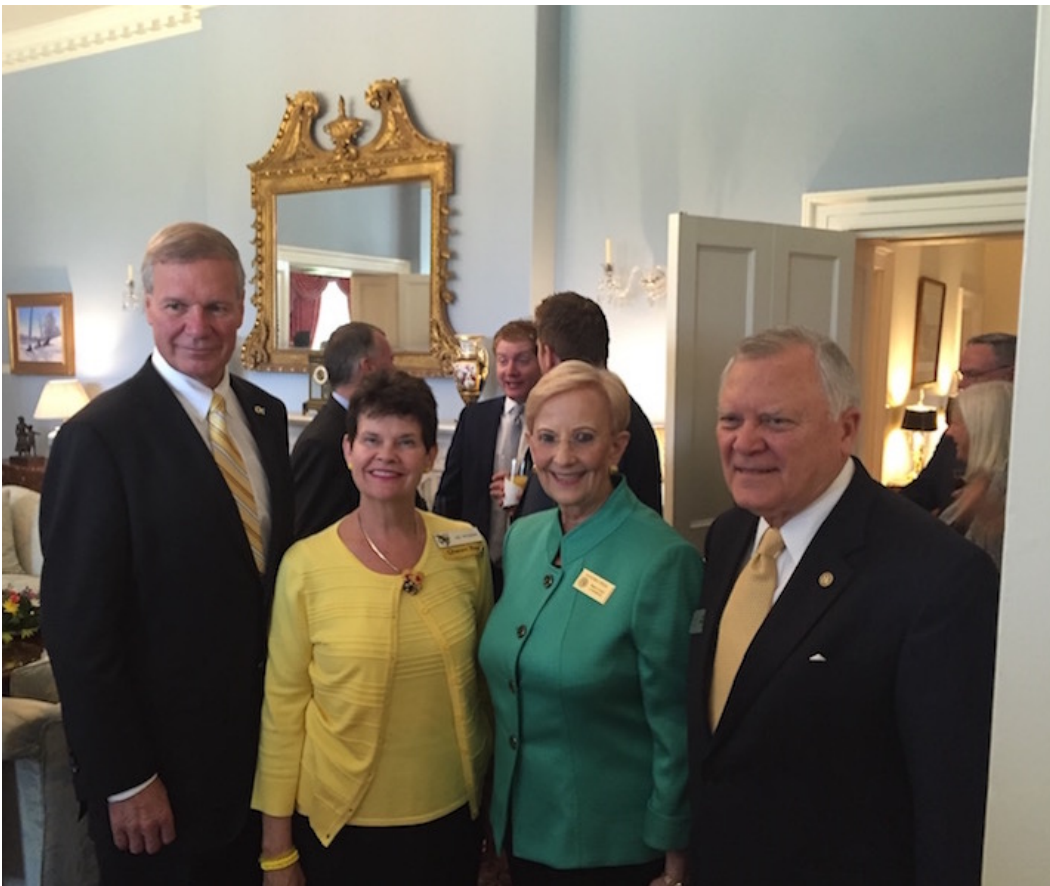


The Library of Trinity College Dublin (*Photo credit: First Lady Val Peterson*)





From left, Ireland's Minister of Education and Skills Richard Bruton, Georgia Tech President G. P. "Bud" Peterson, Trinity College President Patrick Prendergast, and Boston College President Father William P. Leahy. All participated in the joint symposium "University and the Innovation Economy" held at Trinity College. *(Photo credit: First Lady Val Peterson)*



With Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and Georgia's First Lady Sandra Deal at the reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.



Georgia Tech's First Lady Val Peterson with Kevin O'Malley, U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. Ambassador O'Malley hosted a reception at the Ambassador's residence.





From left, Ireland's Minister of Education and Skills Richard Bruton, Georgia Tech President G. P. "Bud" Peterson, Trinity College President Patrick Prendergast, and Boston College President Father William P. Leahy. All participated in the joint symposium "University and the Innovation Economy" held at Trinity College. *(Photo credit: First Lady Val Peterson)*



President G.P. "Bud" Peterson and First Lady Val Peterson visit Malahide Castle.