

**Dr Peterson**

**Loewy Library & Learning Complex Dedication Ceremony**

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 8-10 a.m., Montgomery Knight Building, Room 302

- Thank you Dr. Yang. We are so pleased to have all of you here. I would especially like to welcome our special friends Al Brockett, Hollis Harris, Bob Ormsby, Don Richardson, and John Young, Jr.
- It is my great pleasure to join you in honoring my good friend Bob Loewy today at this special dedication. Some of you may not know this, but we go a long way back. Three of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's former provosts are now at Georgia Tech: Bob Loewy, Jim Meindl, and me.
- Bob served Georgia Tech well as chair of the School of Aerospace Engineering for 15 years before returning to the faculty in 2008. Since I didn't arrive at Tech until a year later in 2009, I have chosen not to take it personally! In his 15 years at the helm he guided the Aerospace Engineering program, building on the past and contributing to new levels of national preeminence.
- This summer I was fortunate enough to have gone to see the launch of the final NASA space shuttle, STS-135. Georgia Tech graduate Dr. Sandy Magnus was a member of the four-person crew, or as they were referred to as "the final four." Georgia Tech graduate John Young commanded the first space shuttle mission. They are among 14 Georgia Tech shuttle astronauts to participate in the program, along with hundreds, if not thousands, of engineers, scientists and administrators.
- AE Faculty member Bobby Braun just returned to Tech after serving as NASA's first Chief Technologist in a decade as part of a two-year intergovernmental personnel agreement with NASA. While the Space Shuttle program has ended, our exploration has not. Dr. Braun has already won an AIAA award for his research focused on the advancing of the understanding of the challenge of Mars entry, and the development of systems concepts.
- That forward-looking thinking is just what we want to inspire in students, and our charge is to provide them with the resources to discover and grow.

- The Loewy Library and Learning Complex is not what you would envision about when you think about a library. It is not about books, but rather a place for interaction and innovation. It offers an inviting place where students access resources, tap into the wisdom of other students or alumni, along with professors, experiment, and explore new possibilities through simulations or white board sessions. It is a reflection of the new way we're looking at learning.
- Last month we dedicated the new Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons on campus, a beautiful 220,000 square foot facility. If you haven't done so, I hope you'll take the opportunity to visit it while you're on campus. It offers an environment for open, flexible and inviting collaborative learning. It is connected to the library, by design, for boundless resources in a common enterprise. There are more than 2,000 seats in common areas, along with classrooms and group study rooms, creating a transformative learning environment. My annual Institute Address was held in the building the first week of class and as part of that, we showed a brief video taken earlier that week. There were hundreds of students coming and going. My first thought was "Where did we put all of those students before?" I suppose it is the "build it and they will come" philosophy.
- At Georgia Tech we're attracting the best and the brightest. We have an obligation to provide them with resources for learning so that they are able to reach their full potential, not just for their own careers, but for our world. When I first came to Tech two and a half years ago, one of the first things I did was to engage the Georgia Tech community in the development of a 25-year strategic plan. People from the Georgia Tech community came together to create a very forward looking Strategic Plan and one that we believe, will truly differentiate Tech in the years to come. Last fall, using this Strategic Plan as a platform, we officially launched the public phase of our capital campaign, *Campaign Georgia Tech*. Today, we have a wonderful opportunity to help to bring our Strategic Plan to fruition, not only for the students who are at Tech today, but also for generations of students to come.

- Campaign Georgia Tech will not only help us to realize the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, but it will help us achieve a level of excellence that would otherwise not be possible.
  - It will allow us to - add endowed chairs and professorships to continue to attract and retain the very best faculty, with a goal of providing endowed professorships to one in every four tenure-track faculty;
  - It will allow us to - provide scholarships for our undergraduates and fellowships for our graduate students, so that we can attract the most promising scholars and ensure access to a Georgia Tech education for all qualifying students, regardless of their economic stature;
  - It will allow us to - construct new, and renovate existing, facilities that have heretofore not been possible; and,
  - Most importantly, it will allow us to, continue to build the culture of excellence for which Tech has become so well known.
- Throughout its history, Georgia Tech has benefited from the wisdom and foresight of its leaders, the hard work and enterprise of its faculty and students, the dedication of its staff, the success of its alumni, and the partnerships we have with other individuals and organizations, who believe in Tech and want to invest in our future, and more importantly in the future of generations of students to come.
- Thank you for your ongoing investment in our students.  
And now, Dr. Rafael Bras, Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs, will share a few words.