

**Dr. Peterson**

**Reception for Dean Maryam Alavi**

4:30 p.m. Monday, March 31, 2014, Georgia Tech Hotel Grand Ballroom

Thank you for joining us this afternoon as we welcome our new dean of the Scheller College of Business, Dr. Maryam Alavi. Joining her today is her husband, Dr. Henry Molouki.

Dr. Alavi is joining the Scheller College of Business at a time of great momentum, due in large part to the generosity and vision of Ernie and Roberta Scheller. The Schellers are here with us today to personally welcome Dr. Alavi and celebrate this special occasion. We welcome you back to campus, and thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellence at Georgia Tech. Not only is your gift transformational; through your engagement, you are continuing to inspire all of us at Georgia Tech.

We also extend a special Georgia Tech welcome to Steve Zelnak and Steve and Angel Deedy.

Dr. Alavi comes to us from Emory University, where she is serving as interim dean of Emory University's Goizueta Business School. She will join Georgia Tech July 1<sup>st</sup>. We have a longstanding and rich relationship with Emory, partnering in numerous areas. Taking their Business School dean is not one of them, and I'm hoping my colleague Jim Wagner and others at Emory will forgive us!

Dr. Alavi is uniquely qualified to lead the Scheller College of Business at Georgia Tech. She is an expert in information technology innovations and strategic applications, is a thought-leader in technology-mediated learning, and is committed to leadership development.

On behalf of Georgia Tech, I would like to thank Steve Salbu for the stellar job he has done in leading the college and serving as an ambassador for Georgia Tech over the

past almost eight years. Under his leadership, the faculty has grown from the low 50s to 79 tenured or tenure-track professors. The College has risen in rankings, with the fulltime MBA program now 23<sup>rd</sup> in Bloomberg Business Week, and the evening MBA in the top 20 in U.S. News & World Report. Steve, we're looking forward to great things as you resume your faculty role as the Cecil B. Day Chair in Business Ethics, and serve as director of the new Cecil B. Day Program in Business Ethics.

Much of a program's success depends on its faculty and staff. I thank all of you for your tireless efforts to educate students and conduct research. As you do so, you are creating career opportunities while strengthening our economy, along with expanding national and global visibility and impact for Georgia Tech. We look forward to partnering with Dr. Alavi as we continue to build upon strengths of the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business and its people.

And now Joe Evans will say a few words.