

Dr. Peterson

Class of 1989 25th Reunion

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014, Alumni House, Basil Garden

- On behalf of Georgia Tech, our most sincere thanks to the class of 1989. Please join me in a special thanks to Walt Ehmer, Michelle Jarrard, Paul Brown, Plez Joyner, and Allison and Mike Hickman. And a very special thanks to Paul Brown and Arby's for the Jamocha shakes, and Walt Ehmer and Waffle House for the hash brown bar. Contrary to rumors, I do like Waffle House food!
- Class of 1989, welcome home! amazing turnout — 225 alumni and guests, one of the largest turnouts ever for a Georgia Tech 25-year reunion.
- 2 things that set Georgia Tech apart: the trademark innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of our students and alumni, and the loyalty our alumni have for our Institute. Georgia Tech alumni are among the top in the nation for giving back.
- The Class of 1989 Class project endowments are gifts that will help Georgia Tech prepare innovators and leaders for generations. By raising \$134,240, your class has officially exceeded its goal of \$125,000 in support of the Class of 1989 Georgia Tech Promise Scholarship Endowment, Alumni/Student Mentoring Endowment and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment.
- Building entrepreneurial confidence in our students: 60% of all Georgia Tech invention disclosures list at least one student.
- InVenture Prize competition/Capstone Design/Ideas to Serve Competition.
- Example: Rachel Ford. 2 companies in Startup Summer, (Talk about FIXD)
- Tech Promise: > 600 Georgia students and their families have benefited.
- Your establishment of an Alumni/Student Mentoring Endowment is a wonderful example of how alumni can help students prosper in their Georgia Tech experience. The Mentor Jackets program has drawn alumni mentors from all over the U.S. and the world. It's such a worthy program, and I commend the Class of 1989 for recognizing that with your endowment.
- In addition, individuals have made gifts to support a number of individually named endowments, and the Annual Roll Cal and the Alexander-Tharpe Fund.

- In the 25 years you have seen many things change, in your own lives, and at Georgia Tech. We now have 23,000 students globally.
- Outstanding freshman class. The class is 39% women, an all-time high. By contrast, in 1989 Tech had 2,268 women, about 22% of the student body. Rick Clark and his team members from our Admissions office are here today.

Looking back to 1988-1989 at Tech:

- Bobby Dodd Stadium at Historic Grant Field named in honor of legendary coach Bobby Dodd just weeks before his death at age 79
- Drown-proofing no longer required at Georgia Tech
- Added School of History, Technology and Society, School of Literature, Communication and Culture, and a Division of Fine Arts

History & Popular Culture in 1989

- Cost of gas per gallon: 97 cents per gallon; Median Household Income \$27,000
- Berlin Wall came down on Nov. 9, 1989
- NASA successfully launched Galileo Spacecraft on Oct. 18, 1989, (orbited Jupiter)
- First release of Microsoft Office
- Nintendo began selling Game Boy
- Michael Jordan scored his 10,000th NBA point in his fifth season.

1989 Popular Songs

- “*Look Away*” by Chicago
- “*Straight Up*” by Paula Abdul
- “*Don’t Worry Be Happy*” by Bobby McFerrin

Time of positive momentum:

- Library renewal project; EBB; Tech Square; Arts@Tech;

- I want to thank you for your role in the success of Campaign Georgia Tech: the largest in the Institute's history. Buildings have been renovated and constructed. Colleges and Schools have been named. 83 new endowed faculty chairs and professorships have been established. And, hundreds of scholarships and fellowships have been funded. Thanks to more than 60,000 donors, we will likely meet our \$1.5B goal a year early.
- In spite of this, the vision and drive behind the Campaign continue. Many goals, and much work, are yet to be completed. We're looking forward to carrying the momentum throughout 2015 to finish well.

Close:

Your loyalty to Georgia Tech is timeless. We are indebted to people like you who believe in Tech and want to invest in our future, and more importantly in the future of generations of students to come. You are ambassadors for Georgia Tech as we strive toward our vision of defining the technological research university of the 21st century. Thank you, Class of 1989! You are the best.