

Dr. Peterson

Hickory Hill Event/Georgia Tech Reception at home of Ashley and Alan Dabbieri

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014, McLean, VA

Welcome to the beautiful home of Ashley and Alan Dabbieri. I'd like to thank Ashley and Alan for hosting us tonight. It's good to be with you in this lovely setting. I bring you greetings from Georgia Tech in Atlanta, where we recently started a new academic year. That's always an exciting time. I know we have some Georgia Tech alumni here. From your student days, you'll probably remember that rush of action, a surge of energy that is invigorating. That happens every year, but if you haven't had a chance to return to our Atlanta campus in a while, you might be surprised at how much has changed.

Last year, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Tech Square, an area that had been mostly vacant lots adjacent to our East Campus. It opened in 2003, and now it's become one of the region's great innovation hubs. Established companies and startups alike are attracted to the area for the expertise Georgia Tech can offer, while access to our students, faculty, and staff builds upon the creative energy on Tech's campus. In fall 2013 AT&T chose to place one of only four global foundry innovation centers in Tech Square. And just recently, Home Depot announced that it would join our already strong lineup of innovation centers in Tech Square.

We have a vision of extending the Tech Square vitality and entrepreneurial spirit around the entire campus. We want to proactively diversify our research portfolio by doubling our industry sponsorship over the next five years. We want to encourage "sponsors who live with us" and make it easier for faculty and students to co-innovate with sponsors because that will translate into additional sponsored support and shared-use facilities.

Innovation is embedded in everything we do, from engineering to business and liberal arts. It can be found in the way we teach with flipped classrooms, online learning,

increased collaboration, and service learning. Students are taught to be innovative in the way they think through classes and student competitions. They benefit from being able to address challenges from multiple vantage points, such as public policy, technology, sustainability, and business ethics. It seems to be working — more than 60 percent of all of Georgia Tech's invention disclosures list at least one student.

During the past two decades, the Georgia Institute of Technology has grown into one of the world's most globalized technological universities, with partnerships in more than 30 countries. We have a campus in France, and global centers in China, Singapore, Costa Rica, and Panama. This summer, we opened the Lafayette Institute in Metz, France, on the Georgia Tech-Lorraine campus. It is a new resource center for industry and academic research laboratories, dedicated to open innovation.

Our students study, work or do research in 67 countries. More than 46 percent of Georgia Tech students have an international experience by the time they graduate. Almost 5,000 of our students take one or more foreign languages, even though it's not required for most majors.

We're a more diverse campus than we've ever been. Georgia Tech is No. 1 in the nation for engineering degrees to all minority students. It also ranks No. 1 for engineering degrees to women, and for graduate engineering degrees to Hispanics. Georgia Tech also awards more engineering doctoral degrees to African-Americans than any other college in the country. And our current freshman class has 39 percent women, the highest in the Institute's history.

At Georgia Tech, we place high value on leadership, innovation, and collaboration. Our students come in contact with some of the world's top academic leaders. They learn from people who are influencing thinking in science, technology, and policy, who are designing global solutions and developing breakthroughs in many areas. Your

generosity is one of the big reasons we're able to provide those opportunities for them.
Thank you for helping make that happen.