Need-Based Scholarship Endowment Honors Petersons

$17M Makes Largest Single Scholarship Fund in Tech History

PATI FUTRELL
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The largest single scholarship endowment fund in Georgia Tech’s history has been established to honor retiring President G.P. “Bud” Peterson and first lady Valerie H. Peterson. Totaling $17 million, the G.P. “Bud” Peterson and Valerie H. Peterson Scholarship Endowment Fund was announced at the June meeting of the Georgia Tech Foundation. The Fund was established to help students with demonstrated financial need from across the nation.

The Georgia Tech Foundation directed a grant of $5 million to support the initiative, combined with initial gifts and commitments of $12 million provided by more than 100 Foundation current and emeritus trustees, along with members of the Georgia Tech Advisory Board and the Alumni Association executive committee. The scholarship fund has now been opened to receive gifts and commitments from the broader Georgia Tech community and other friends.

“The Petersons have championed a generation of hardworking, gifted students by driving initiatives that expand access to an affordable education for all students who earn admission to Georgia Tech,” said John F. Brock III, chair of the Georgia Tech Foundation. “They have a strong commitment to putting a Georgia Tech education within reach of qualified students with financial need. This endowment fund will help generations of students realize their aspirations and build a brighter future for themselves and our world.”

In January 2019, Peterson announced his intention to step down from his current position as soon as his successor was in place. In June, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia announced Angel Cabrera, now president of George

Annual School Supply Drive Underway

BETHANY SCHUSTER
HUMAN RESOURCES

Georgia Tech Human Resources has kicked off its seventh annual Buzzin’ Back to School Drive, and your help is needed. The annual school supply drive benefits Georgia Tech employees who may lack the financial resources to purchase school supplies for their children in grades K-12. Last year, more than 430 filled backpacks were distributed to 225 Georgia Tech families.

The deadline for employees to request a backpack is Wednesday, July 17. Backpack recipients will be notified on Friday, July 19, and backpacks will be distributed on Thursday, July 25.

For donors, the deadline to donate supplies is Friday, July 19 (suggested items at right). Backpacks themselves have already been donated, and no more are needed.

For those who prefer to shop online, Amazon74.

To request a backpack or for more information on donating supplies, visit hr.gatech.edu/buzzin-back-school.

New Provider for Employee Assistance Program

CHRISTINE LEMASTER
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services at Georgia Tech have changed. The University System of Georgia is partnering with KEPRO, a nationally recognized health care management company, to provide new EAP services effective July 1. Georgia Tech previously provided these services through Esyp.

KEPRO’s EAP services are available for all benefits-eligible employees of Georgia Tech and their families. Services include in-person counseling sessions, referrals to community resources, supervisory consultations, crises support, and work-life referrals.

KEPRO’s counseling services enable employees to access up to four in-person counseling sessions (per incident, per year) through a large network of professionals throughout the region, as well as phone support for crises and emergencies. Resources are also provided for a variety of work-life situations such as family caregiving, travel planning, wills, and legal and financial services.

Services are free, confidential, and accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you are currently receiving services

NEWS

Cabrera Set to Start in September

Georgia Tech’s next president, Angel Cabrera, will officially take the helm beginning Sept. 1. Take a look at Tech’s timeline of presidents past at: youtube.com/georgiatech

USG Verifying Dependent Eligibility

Employees may receive a notice through the OneUSG Connect – Benefits Dependent Verification Center requesting copies of documents validating any dependents currently enrolled. Beginning July 22, questions about this process can be directed to 1-844-5-USGBEN(874-236)

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EVENTS

ARTS AND CULTURE

Through July 12
The Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking hosts two exhibits, Postage Required and Memorable Marking. The museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. paper.gatech.edu

July 26
Pickell Hall hosts a free screening of Marvel’s Captain Marvel at 7 p.m. at the Stamps Recreation Fields. For more information, visit: xstudenthealthcenter.gatech.edu/activities

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Through July 24
Health Initiatives hosts Mindful Moments on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Juniper Room, Student Center. The events feature short guided mindfulness exercises, techniques, and stress management skills that can be incorporated into a daily routine. healthinitiatives.gatech.edu

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

July 15
Join the Georgia Tech Library for a live webcast event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11’s historic moon landing. This live webcast is brought to you by the American Museum of Natural History and the STAR Library Network’s NASA@My Library program. The webcast will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. in Classroom 2130, Crosland Tower. library.gatech.edu

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

July 8
The Tech Ends Suicides Together initiative hosts a QPR Training session from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 117, Smithgall Student Services (Flag) Building. Register at: c.gatech.edu/features/officespace

July 12
What are OSTAR and QTRC? Learn more about the two 501c3 organizations to understand Georgia Tech’s research administration. This session welcomes new hires as well as seasoned staff and will take place from 10 a.m. to noon in the Seminar Room, Research Administration Building. Register at: training.esp.gatech.edu

EVENTS continued on page 3

PHOTO: KITTY BURKHARTZ

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has selected two Tech faculty members to receive a Humboldt Research Award. Jean-Luc Bredas, Regents Professor and Emeritus in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Emmanouil M. (Manos) Tentzeris, Regents Professor in Flexible Electronics in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, are among the 100 global recipients honored this year. The awards recognize recipients whose work has had a significant impact on their discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements.

Peter Swire, Elizabeth and Thomas Holder Chair of Law and Ethics in the Scheller College of Business, was recently appointed Director of Policy for the Institute for Information Security and Privacy, a new position at the Institute. Mr. Swire will lead the Institute’s activities in building and leveraging partnerships, and will guide the development of the Institute’s defense and offensive research agenda.

Zhong Lin (Z.L.) Wang, Regents Professor and Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is the winner of the 2019 Albert Einstein World Award of Science. Mr. Wang was also recently inducted as a fellow in the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

RACHAEL POCKLINGTON

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

With a new school year on the horizon, the Institute would like to remind employees about Georgia Tech’s and the University System of Georgia’s (USG) Sexual Misconduct Policies as well as certain employees’ responsibilities as mandatory reporters. As a refresher, the Title IX Office offers educational sessions on the policies, reporting options and obligations, and campus resources for those impacted by sexual misconduct.

By definition, a “Responsible Employee” or mandatory reporter is required to promptly and fully report complaints of or information regarding sexual or gender-based misconduct to the Institute’s Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinator. Responsible Employees include any administrator, supervisor, faculty member, or other person (including student-employees in some cases) in a position of authority who is not a Confidential Employee or Privileged Employee, as defined by policy or law.

“We understand that members of our campus community may be unsure what to do, for themselves or others, if faced with a gender or sexual misconduct issue,” said Marcia Bull Stadeker, Title IX coordinator in the Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Legal Affairs. “To ensure a safe campus and provide clarity about available resources and reporting options, we provide education and refresher training to interested campus groups and departments.”

Among other things, training participants will learn what qualifies as sexual misconduct or gender discrimination, where to seek help, who is a mandatory reporter, what types of reports are or are not confidential, and available administrative remedies.

To request training regarding Georgia Tech’s and USG’s Sexual Misconduct Policies, contact Marcia Bull Stadeker at marcia.stadeker@gatech.edu. For more information on Title IX at Georgia Tech, visit titleix.gatech.edu.

Hearing Panelists Needed

The Title IX Office is also recruiting new employees to serve on student sexual misconduct hearing panels. Each hearing panel consists of three faculty and/or staff members and decides cases of sexual misconduct involving accused students. Panelists receive annual mandatory training and participate in about one or two hearings per year. A minimum two-year commitment is requested.

To attend an informational meeting on hearing panels, contact Marcia Bull Stadeker, Title IX coordinator, at marcia.stadeker@gatech.edu.
Jocelyn Thomas: Administrative Assistant, Beacon for Student-Athletes

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Jocelyn Thomas is not afraid of a challenge. As the assistant to the chair of the School of Literature, Media and Communication (LMC), she often helps students and faculty solve problems — big and small.

“It’s all about customer service. If I don’t know something, I can find out for you,” she said.

Part of her job is keeping the calendar for LMC Chair Richard Utz.

“He’s pretty self-sufficient,” Thomas said.

“So, the main thing I do is work with him on promotion and tenure for the department, and the hiring of approximately 16 Britain Fellows. I also coordinate the catering for school events.

Thomas has been at Tech 28 years. When her oldest daughter became a toddler, she decided it was time to return to the workforce.

“I came in as a temporary employee. I worked in the School of Psychology for two years with (the late) Professor Timothy Salthouse,” she said.

After that temp assignment ended, Thomas worked in what was then the College of Management, now the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business. She also worked in the College of Computing, in Institute Partnerships, and GT SMART before joining the staff of LMC where she has been for 15 years.

Thomas has seen the campus grow considerably in the past 28 years. From her office in the Skiles Building, she points at the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons and at the open expanse of Tech Green next to it, recalling when that space was occupied by the Hightower Textile Engineering Building and parking spaces.

“A lot of things have changed. Parking was $25 a year for a permit,” she said.

Thomas accepts that change is inevitable, and she actively seeks ways to stay current.

“I take a lot of classes here at Tech, like Fierce Conversations, to help me figure out how to work through difficult situations. It’s working. In 2017, she received Institute Diversity’s Diversity Champion Award, and in 2012 and 2019 she received the Ivan Allen College Distinguished Administrative Service Award.

She attributes her success, in part, to her personal motto.

“Just treat people the way you would want to be treated,” she said, adding that if she gets upset with someone, she’s quick to apologize.

“I’ll go to that person and say, I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have done that.’ So, we make amends and move on. That’s what you’re supposed to do. You can’t stay mad. We have to work together,” she said.

The most challenging part of Thomas’ job is meeting the deadlines for hiring.

(Jocelyn Thomas in her office in the Skiles Building. Thomas has been with Georgia Tech for most of her career. (Below) Her son, Jordan, helped design these shoes worn in the Miss America pageant in 2014.)

“If you don’t get the paperwork in on time, there will be a problem,” she said with a smile.

“Everything else is pretty even-keeled.”

Away from Work

Thomas and her husband Vincent recently celebrated their 33rd anniversary with a cruise to the Bahamas.

“It was a nice getaway. We danced, went to the beach, and had a good time,” she said.

For the past two years with (the late) Professor Timothy Salthouse,” she said.

Thomas was a sprinter in track and field, and her husband played basketball. When their three children demonstrated athletic abilities in several areas, they decided to put all three into track and field events to maximize the amount of shutting back and forth between sports venues. The plan worked; the children excelled in sports and in academics. Thomas and her husband then shepherded the children through the college recruitment process.

Their daughter Chelsea, 29, was a heptathlete at Auburn University and now works in manufacturing at General Mills. Jordan, their 25-year-old son, was a decathlete at Georgia Tech. A 2017 industrial design graduate, he co-designed the shoes Miss Georgia — who happened to be a Tech student — wore in the Miss America pageant in 2014. He now works for 2gigrow and designs the character tops for their juice line. And, their daughter Kelli, 23, was a thrower (hammer and weight) for the University of Kentucky as a CATS academic and support assistant.

Now Thomas and her husband use their experience to help young athletes navigate the recruitment process, always mindful of NCAA rules.

“Georgia Tech has provided me with the tools to be a successful administrator,” Thomas said.

“I can now take the tools learned into phase two of my life. I look forward to volunteering my time to help interested ones learn about the future and what it has to hold. I will also enjoy, along with my husband, being a part of young athletes’ journeys as they plan their future.”

Since 2017, Thomas and her husband have helped mentor eight student-athletes to graduation, including Bahamian Olympian Tadashi Pinder. They have four student-athletes graduating in 2010, including world record holder Devin Dixon. And, two more are on track to graduate in 2021.

“I find that there is no greater joy than helping others,” Thomas said.

ENDOWMENT, from page 1

Mason University, as Georgia Tech’s 12th president. Once Cabrera assumes Georgia Tech’s presidency on Sept. 1, Peterson plans to return to research and teaching at Georgia Tech.

Under Peterson’s leadership over the past decade, Georgia Tech exceeded the $1.5 billion goal for Campaign Georgia Tech by 20%; grew innovative collaborations and strategic partnerships; and expanded the campus infrastructure, sustainability, and beautification initiatives.

Also in the past decade, total research expenditures and other sponsored activities increased by 78% to $908 million. Enrollment increased by 69%. The number of women in the first-year class increased from 32 to 40%. Georgia Tech’s first-to-second-year retention is 97%, a historic high.

For more information about the G.P. “Bud” and Valerie H. Peterson scholarship fund, visit development.gatech.edu.

EAP, from page 1

through the previous EAP vendor, contact KEPRO at 844-243-4440 if you would like to continue EAP services. If the provider you are currently seeing is a part of the KEPRO provider network, you can contact KEPRO to secure authorization to continue seeing that provider. If your current provider is not affiliated with KEPRO, a KEPRO representative will reach out to the provider in an effort to continue your services. EAP services are an additional benefit of working at Georgia Tech. Registration is not required, as employees of Georgia Tech are automatically signed up for this service.

For more information, visit health-and-wellbeing.gatech.edu/eap.

July 15–18

The Center for Teaching and Learning hosts the 2019 Teaching with Technology Summer Institute on the theme of Deep Dive into Teaching with Canvas. The four-day institute will go beyond the Canvas basics to leverage the full potential of Canvas to drive learning. Learn more and register at: cft.gatech.edu

July 16

The LGBTQIA Resource Center hosts a Safe Space training session from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register at: lgbtqiap.gatech.edu

July 19

The Tech Ends Suicide Together initiative hosts a QPR Training session from noon to 2 p.m. in Room 131, Clough Commons. Register at: c.gatech.edu/qpr

July 19

The Literary hosts a workshop on Mendeley Reference, a bibliographic management tool that can help with the research process, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Classroom 2130, Crosland Tower. library.gatech.edu

July 23

The Literary hosts Paton Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. in Classroom 2130, Crosland Tower.

library.gatech.edu

MISCELLANEOUS

July 11–12

FASET New Student Orientation will take place in the Student Center, Ferst Center for the Arts, and surrounding areas. Other sessions will take place July 22–23, July 25–26, July 30–31, Aug. 11–12, and Aug. 13–14. More information is available at: transitionsprograms.gatech.edu

July 14

The Student Center Programs Council and Salsa Club will host a free summer salsa class from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. RSVP at: tinyurl.com/SummerSalsaClass

July 22–23

Final Instructional Class Days will take place for full summer session.

July 24

Last day of classes for late short summer session.

July 24–25

Reading period will take place for full summer session.

July 25 – Aug. 1

Final exams for full and late short summer sessions.

July 30

An additional reading period will take place for full summer session.

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
Volunteers Sought for Annual GradHiring Event

BETHANY SCHUSTER
HUMAN RESOURCES

More than 500 graduate students will start jobs at Georgia Tech this fall. To meet the demand, Human Resources will bring the hiring process directly to these new employees by hosting a two-day onboarding event, GradHiring, in the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons. At this annual event, students who have been offered employment will walk through their hiring process in masse, including the completion and submission of new hire documents. They will also have the opportunity to meet with representatives from Global HR, the U.S. Social Security Administration, and a select group of banks.

The onboarding of these students one week before classes would typically take an estimated 5,000 hours. By hosting GradHiring — and with the help of volunteers — the processing time is reduced to fewer than 100 hours.

Georgia Tech employees from all over campus volunteer in four-hour shifts to work side-by-side with Human Resources professionals. For some employees, especially those in administration or finance roles, this is one of the few opportunities they have for direct interaction with students.

GradHiring will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 14–15 on the third floor of Clough Commons. Students may choose to arrive at any time during either session.

To sign up for a volunteer shift, visit cgatech.edu/gradhiring. For questions, contact gradhiring@lists.gatech.edu.

In Memoriam
Shabbir Ahmed

SHELLEY WUNDER-SMITH
INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Shabbir Ahmed, the Anderson-Interface Chair and professor in Georgia Tech’s H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE), died Wednesday, June 19. Ahmed was a valued ISyE faculty member who made important contributions to optimization theory, methodology, and applications.

“Shabbir was a leader in both ISyE and the optimization community and will be remembered for the significant impact he made in his field,” said Edwin Romeijn, H. Milton and Carolyn J. Stewart School Chair and Professor. “He had a brilliant research and teaching career, but more importantly, he was a dear friend and a generous colleague. He was taken from us far too soon, and he will be missed.”

In particular, Ahmed led the way in integrating two challenging methodologies — stochastic and integer programming — that are essential for solving problems in energy distribution, supply chain, transportation, and finance. His most-cited paper, A Stochastic Programming Approach for Supply Chain Network Design under Certainty, has more than 960 citations on Google Scholar. This was the first paper that designed methodology for solving large-scale stochastic supply chain design problems with a huge number of scenarios by integrating the sample average approximation scheme with an accelerated Benders decomposition algorithm.

From the earliest days of his academic career, Ahmed won accolades for his groundbreaking ideas. He received the INFORMS Dantzig Dissertation Award in 2000 and a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation in 2002.

Ahmed joined the ISyE faculty in 2000. He received the IBM Faculty Award in both 2002 and 2005, the 2017 INFORMS Computers in Biology Award, and the 2018 Farkas Prize from the INFORMS Optimization Society. In 2014, he was appointed both as ISyE Stewart Faculty Fellow and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and an INFORMS Fellow.

“Shabbir’s expertise had both depth and breadth,” noted A. Russell Chandler III Chair Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE and a College of Engineering Dean’s Professor. He was a Senior Member of IEEE.”

“As Professor Ahmed’s Ph.D. student, I was very fortunate to have the unique opportunity and honor to work with him since beginning my graduate work in 2013,” Basciftci said. “I remember my excitement the day I was accepted to the ISyE Ph.D. program and Professor Ahmed contacted me for research opportunities in his group. He was a brilliant advisor, mentor, and role model. He was a preeminent leader in operations research, and he will be missed dearly.”

“His personal impact on me was profound, first as a professor and then later as a colleague, and he was instrumental in my coming back to ISyE,” said Leo and Louise Benatar Early Career Professor and Associate Professor Alejandro Torriolo, who completed his Ph.D. at ISyE and co-authored his first graduate paper with Ahmed. “Shabbir was incredibly generous with his time, and for such a star, he was so humble and so kind.”

Ahmed earned degrees from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He was devoted to his family and is survived by his wife, Rashid, and two daughters, Raevea and Uma.

ISyE has established a graduate fellowship in Ahmed’s honor. Those interested in contributing to the fellowship’s endowment can contact ISyE Director of Development Beste Basciftci.

R.E.A.L. ESTATE/ROOMMATES

For rent: Beautiful 4BR/3BA, 2,300 sq. ft., easy access Emory, CDC/Georgia Tech, Hardwood floors, open floor plan, many windows, 0.5 acres, two-fallen well. Photos available. $83,000 OBO. Contact wriggins116723b@bellsouth.net, 404-657-5020.

For rent: Tech faculty-owned 3BR/2BA townhouse on 10th Street in Atlantic Station. Available Aug. 1. Walkable to campus. Great roommate floor plan. $2,800 OBO. Contact Janak, jowal818@gmail.com.

For rent: Tech professor’s personal home since 2014, 3BR/2.5BA, 1-acre flat lot, 4-sided brick. Sarah Smith Elementary School. Quality finishes. Conveniently located near Georgia Tech, Chastain Park, Lenox Square and Perimeter Plaza and PATH 400. Contact enabkennabacaana, 404-931-9902. View listings at cgatech.edu/real/realclass.legt.

Tech graduate student seeking room to rent on weekdays to minimize commuting. Contact Nadeem, 404-291-3153.

MISCELLANEOUS

Couch for sale – light tan microfiber, 2-seat couch, excellent condition. $175 OBO. Pickup in Morningside. Contact Joy at joyful@baltic.org.

Tepal Kukuren Ruggedized 3-person, 4-person or solo tent, orange/white/narly, Brand new, $1,875. (Same tent currently selling for $1,975 at REI?) Can arrange delivery. Call or text 404-939-0395.

Seeking photos of the 1996 Olympic aquatic events for on-campus installment. Do you have film or slides from the aquatic center in 1996? We would love to see! Contact Edward, egamynt@gatech.edu.

Seeking donations of sewing machines, fabric, and notions. To benefit the Amari Women Center in Claxton. Tech staff from the Enterprise Innovation Institute work with the center to teach sewing skills that enable refugee women to earn a living wage. Contact tecbdiac.gatech.edu.

Seeking scrap unused papers for arts project. All sizes, colors, textures accepted. Old unused notebooks, expired company letterhead, construction paper, copy paper, paper. Put the old paper to use. Email Edward at gamity@baltic.org.

Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word or less ad to editor@coom.gatech.edu.