



ALUMNI AWARDS

INDUCTION CEREMONY

March 21, 2026



Georgia Tech
**College of
Engineering**

2026 INDUCTEES

DEAN'S IMPACT AWARD

Hex – Curtis Lary and Nicholas Mulka

COUNCIL OF OUTSTANDING YOUNG ENGINEERING ALUMNI

Omar Fergani
Danny Giglio
Laura Kitashima Giglio

Gretchen Goldman
Gennadiy Gurevich
Tahir Haque
Cassandra McIltrout

Meha Rungta
Nicholas Selby
Farah Khemani Zuberi

ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING ALUMNI

William Clyburn, Jr.
Danielle M. Donehew
Craig L. Duvall

Steven K. Hall
Eric F. Hayes
Keith Hearon
Guiomar Obregón

AJ Piplica
Angela Sherman
John B. Williams

ENGINEERING HALL OF FAME

Chaouki Abdallah
Jaime Gilinski Bacal
Christopher T. Jones

Tom Noonan
Christopher Pappas
James W. Satterfield
Gail Panarello Smith

Jocelyn Marie Stargel
Bob Stargel
Meade Sutterfield

DEAN'S APPRECIATION AWARD

Ann W. Dibble, William J. Wepfer, and Ward Winer*

**awarded posthumously*

the CEREMONY

WELCOME Doug Williams
Interim Dean

CO-HOST Jim Borders
ME 1983
President and CEO
Novare Group

STUDENT SPEAKER Karissa Dahn
ChBE
Dean's Scholar

INDUCTION Dean's Impact Award
Council of Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni
Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni
Engineering Hall of Fame
Dean's Appreciation Award

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
& CLOSING REMARKS** Doug Williams

the MENU

SALAD

Mixed Greens with Grilled Apples

*Mixed Greens and Chopped Romaine, Grilled Granny Smith Apples, Dried Cranberries,
Red Dragon Cheese, Candied Pecans, Light Honey Mustard Vinaigrette*

PRE-SELECTED ENTRÉE

Beef Short Rib and Pan Seared Redfish

*Boneless Braised Beef Short Rib and Pan Seared Redfish with a Carrot-Top Pesto,
Potato Parsnip Gratin, Roasted Heirloom Carrot Medley with Dried Cherries*

Wild Mushroom Bourguignon (Gluten Free, Vegan)

*Braised Wild Mushrooms in Red Wine with Carrots, Parsnips, Pearl Onions, Sweet Peas,
Fresh Thyme, Shallot Whipped Potatoes, Fried Shallots*

DESSERT

Cardamom Carrot Cake

*Carrot Cake, Cream Cheese Mousse, Toasted Vanilla Oat Sable, Mirror Glaze,
Brown Sugar Salted Caramel*

Exotic Coconut Cream Tartlet

*Coconut Curd, Rum Roasted Strawberries, Passion Fruit Cremeux,
Rum Infused Whipped Cream, White Chocolate Pearls*

DINNER WINES

Raeburn Chardonnay

Jezebel Pinot Noir

from THE INTERIM DEAN

Dear Honorees and Guests:

I'm honored to welcome you to this year's Alumni Awards ceremony. Tonight is undoubtedly one of the highlights of this semester, my first as interim dean. Nearly four decades after I arrived at Georgia Tech, the ideas and accomplishments of our engineering alumni continue to amaze and humble me.

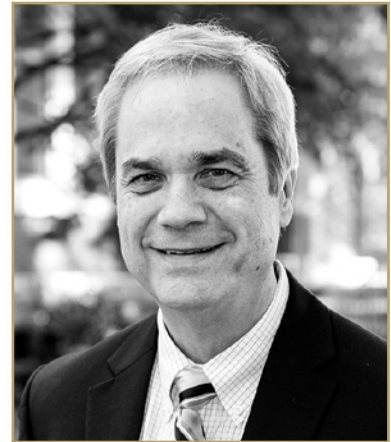
This evening, we are again reminded of their tremendous contributions to society. Through their stories and triumphs, we celebrate the many ways this year's honorees have shaped the past and are helping define our future.

Tonight, you'll hear about experiences that have taken them across the country and around the world. This group has done it all: They lead globally recognized companies and have started their own businesses. They managed the most forward-thinking stadium project in Major League Baseball, strengthened women's basketball, and landed spacecraft on the moon. They are husband-and-wife teams and former classmates (and sometimes both).

And this year, we're particularly honored to recognize the memory of John Durstine, whose \$100 million gift will forever transform our George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering.

Our honorees are the epitome of Georgia Tech, and I'm humbled to be standing among them. They are inspiring and remarkable. They serve as ambassadors for our students, who are preparing to follow in their lofty footsteps. And most of all, they are each a Helluva Engineer.

We're glad to have you with us for this special ceremony. Please enjoy the evening with friends, family, and the College of Engineering community.



DOUG WILLIAMS

Interim Dean

College of Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology

from THE PRESIDENT



ÁNGEL CABRERA

President

Georgia Institute of Technology

Dear Distinguished Alumni and Guests:

On behalf of Georgia Tech, we are honored to welcome you to the 2026 College of Engineering Alumni Awards ceremony. The College of Engineering is foundational to the Institute's history, and 64% of all living Georgia Tech alumni are engineering graduates.

Since 1994, the College has used this occasion to honor the accomplishments of its most distinguished alumni. United by their uncommon problem-solving gifts and insatiable drive to solve our most pressing challenges and create opportunity for others, tonight's honorees have used the skills and expertise they developed and honed at Georgia Tech in the service of making the world a better place.

Their work and influence are an inspiration to our younger Yellow Jackets, a testament to the value of a Georgia Tech education and our global reputation for excellence, and a picture of what we hope to achieve with every student who comes through our doors.

Georgia Tech's mission is to develop leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition, and there is no better proof of Georgia Tech's impact than the mark our alumni make on this world. I want to thank our honorees for their enduring contributions to their fields, to their communities, and to the world.

Thank you for all you do to support our work and mission, and I look forward to celebrating with you.

CO-HOST

Jim leads Novare Group, a real estate investment and development company based in Atlanta. He began his professional career as an attorney with Atlanta law firm King & Spalding. In 1992, he founded the predecessor of Novare Group. The company's first investments were in self-storage facilities and office buildings, and the success of those projects led to the development of apartments and condominiums, including adaptive reuse of The Biltmore and several other buildings in and around Atlanta.

Since then, Novare Group has developed over 20,000 residences across the U.S. in 66 communities, including 18 SkyHouse® branded communities, a rapid-build efficient high-rise concept that was a result of prior experience and observations in development and construction.

Under Jim's leadership, Novare Group has been recognized with two ULI Project of the Year awards and three Projects of Excellence.

Jim serves on the boards of directors of Brand Properties LLC, the Buckhead Coalition, Midtown Alliance, and Central Atlanta Progress. He is chairman of the Georgia Tech Foundation and an elder at Peachtree Presbyterian Church. He has been recognized with lifetime achievement awards from the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors, Georgia State University J. Mack Robinson School of Business, and the Urban Land Institute.

In addition to his Georgia Tech degree, Jim earned J.D. and MBA degrees from the University of Georgia in 1988. He is a member of the Georgia Tech Engineering Hall of Fame.



JIM BORDERS

ME 1983

President and CEO

Novare Group

student **SPEAKER**



KARISSA DAHN

ChBE

Dean's Scholar

As the first in her family to pursue a career in engineering, Karissa is passionate about encouraging young people to explore their options and blaze their own paths. Both in her hometown of Peachtree City, Georgia, and throughout the Atlanta area, Karissa finds joy in supporting children and their families while fostering curiosity in future generations.

Now in her second year of studying chemical engineering, Karissa aspires to a career that uses her education and skills to serve people and the world thoughtfully, setting a pattern for others to do the same. She is grateful to Georgia Tech for the opportunity to engage in meaningful research that helps ensure the world's well-being as humanity continues to advance. During her time at Georgia Tech, she has found communities that have shaped her, providing meaningful connections and opportunities that have encouraged her to grow relentlessly while making it easy to find joy and fun along the way. This is a tradition she values and is grateful to help carry forward.

Dean's IMPACT AWARD



Many College of Engineering alumni have devoted themselves to fostering a more equitable global community that also is ecologically, socio-culturally, and economically sustainable. The Dean's Impact Award recognizes the efforts of these alumni who are focused on developing globally relevant, locally sustainable innovations that meet societal challenges across the world. The College of Engineering is committed to a multicultural, multidisciplinary, sustainable, and international engagement by our students. This award recognizes those graduates who embrace engineering through this lens and have a vision to find solutions for the world's grand challenges.



CURTIS LARY

ME 2020

CEO

Hex



NICHOLAS MULKA

ME 2020, M.S. ME 2022

CTO

Hex

HEX

Across public safety, energy, rail, and critical infrastructure, organizations depend on aerial awareness to protect people and assets. Yet the tools meant to deliver that visibility are fragmented, difficult to deploy, and expensive to operate. Hex's mission is to change that.

Hex builds fully autonomous drone-in-a-box systems and software that make high-frequency aerial data accessible, reliable, and simple to use. Its networked platforms, including rugged battery-swapping stations and the Hex Air autonomous flight stack, allow drones to launch, land, recharge, and collect data without human intervention.

Companies such as Flock Safety, Chevron, CSX, and leading public-safety agencies use Hex technology for real-time situational awareness, inspections, emergency response support, and continuous remote monitoring. The systems are deployed across challenging settings from rail corridors and refineries to dense urban environments.

With hundreds of stations installed across the United States and abroad, Hex is creating the infrastructure needed for on-demand aerial data. Its platforms have supported tens of thousands of automated missions that reduce operational cost, increase response speed, and improve safety for the communities and teams that rely on them.

Council of **OUTSTANDING YOUNG ENGINEERING ALUMNI**



The Council of Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves through professional practice and service to the Institute, the engineering profession, or society at large. They are on the fast track and have made rapid advancement within their organizations. Already, they have been recognized for early achievements by others within their profession, field, or organization.

OMAR FERGANI

DANNY GIGLIO

LAURA KITASHIMA GIGLIO

GRETCHEN GOLDMAN

GENNADIY GUREVICH

TAHIR HAQUE

CASSANDRA MCILTROT

MEHA RUNGTA

NICHOLAS SELBY

FARAH KHEMANI ZUBERI



OMAR FERGANI

M.S. ME 2014

Founder and CEO

NeoForge

After graduate school at Georgia Tech and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology — earning respectively a master’s and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering — Omar moved into industry to turn advanced ideas into real products. At Schlumberger, Siemens, and MKS Instruments, he worked across research, product, and operations to bring new manufacturing software and methods into production.

Omar’s entrepreneurial streak led him to co-found NAVASTO, an AI/simulation company later acquired by Autodesk. He now leads NeoForge, described as the world’s first AI-defined manufacturing contract manufacturer, focused on supporting European space and defense with critical components.

His work has been recognized by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers — 30 Under 30 and Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer — honors that reflect both technical rigor and practical impact.

Omar is a committed mentor in the Georgia Tech Entrepreneur Network, working closely with recent graduates who have deep-tech ambitions.



DANNY GIGLIO

EE 2009, MBA 2017

Division Manager

Inglett & Stubbs

Since graduating from Tech, Danny has built a 16-year career at Inglett & Stubbs, one of the nation’s premier electrical construction firms. He led several of Georgia’s largest and most complex healthcare projects, including Piedmont Hospital’s Marcus Tower and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta’s Arthur M. Blank Hospital. Danny also managed the Atlanta Braves stadium project and multiple hyperscale data centers.

He now leads Inglett & Stubbs’ Modular Division, spearheading the company’s evolution toward advanced offsite construction and scalable manufacturing strategies. In his role, he’s helping position the organization at the forefront of the industry’s shift toward modularization and improved project delivery.

Danny competed on the Georgia Tech track team as a pole vaulter, served as president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and met his wife in Calculus II during their first semester on campus. Together they enjoyed fraternity and sorority events, spent a summer studying abroad at Georgia Tech-Europe, and completed senior design as teammates. Just as importantly, they have two sons with the initials “THWG.”



**LAURA
KITASHIMA GIGLIO**

EE 2010, M.S. ECE 2011

Sr. Principal Team Leader,
Supplier Relationship
Management

Chick-fil-A Inc.

Laura and her Chick-fil-A team partner across the organization to build aligned, scalable processes that deliver a consistent experience for suppliers and internal teams. As one of the first members of the Corporate Procurement team, Laura was tasked with establishing the Supplier Relationship Management function — work she continues to grow and lead today.

As a Georgia Tech student, Laura explored multiple areas of electrical engineering through co-op rotations, neuroengineering research, and participation as a Petit Research Scholar. Though she no longer practices engineering directly, her technical training continues to inform her leadership through analytical thinking, problem-solving, and a systems mindset.

Inspired by the many supportive alumni she encountered while co-founding the Student Alumni Association, Laura remains deeply engaged with Georgia Tech through mentoring, speaking on student panels, and supporting scholarship selection efforts. She met her husband in 8 a.m. freshman calculus and is raising two future Yellow Jackets: Tommy and Teddy (THWG!).



GRETCHEN GOLDMAN

**M.S. EnvE 2008,
Ph.D. EnvE 2011**

President and CEO

Union of Concerned Scientists

As CEO, Gretchen leads the Union of Concerned Scientists' science-based advocacy, working to create and implement innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future.

Gretchen previously served in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy as the assistant director for environmental science, engineering, policy, and justice, and at the U.S. Department of Transportation as the climate change research and technology director.

Gretchen has received many recognitions and honors, including the 2025 Bloomberg Green Ones to Watch list and the 2025 American University William C. Reilly Environmental Leadership Award. She also was the recipient of the 2024 U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary's Award from Secretary Pete Buttigieg for her work on decarbonization of the transportation sector. Gretchen received the 2022 Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Young Alumni Achievement Award and was named to the 2022 Georgia Tech Alumni Association 40 Under 40 List. She was among *Glamour's* Women of the Year in 2020.

In addition to her Georgia Tech degrees, Gretchen holds a B.S. in atmospheric science from Cornell University.



GENNADIY GUREVICH

IE 2013

Managing Partner
Dominion Capital

At Dominion Capital, Gennadiy directs a diverse investment platform spanning private credit, real estate, capital markets, and venture capital. A magna cum laude graduate in industrial engineering and an alumnus of the Scheller College Denning Technology & Management Program, he has built a career at the intersection of finance, technology, and entrepreneurship.

A pioneer in digital-asset lending, Gennadiy founded AltLending, one of the first platforms to issue loans collateralized by blockchain assets. Beyond his professional accomplishments, he helped launch Georgia Tech's Fundamentals of Personal Finance course and serves as a founding council member for CREATE-X and a board member for the Center for Finance and Technology.

Gennadiy is an active member of YPO and president of the condo association at 1 Hotel South Beach. He attributes his success to the values instilled in him at Georgia Tech and remains dedicated to supporting the next generation of Yellow Jackets. He lives in Miami with his wife, Olivia, a Georgia Tech alumna, and their dog, Taco.



TAHIR HAQUE

BME 2011

Director of Innovation
Becton Dickinson

Tahir is responsible for new product development at Becton Dickinson. Previously, he was the clinical product lead at Biofourmis, an AI-based startup focused on enabling clinical care at home. In addition to his role in industry, Tahir is a faculty member at Harvard Medical School and an attending physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he holds dual appointments in the Division of Medicine and the Division of Global Health Equity.

He is one of the pioneering physicians and thought leaders for hospital-at-home, an innovative care delivery model that focuses on providing hospital-level care for patients in the comfort of their home.

Tahir completed his residency training from the University of Miami in internal medicine with a focus on global health and disaster relief. He is an award-winning physician, patent holder, published researcher, and industry speaker.

Outside of work, Tahir serves on the admissions committee for Harvard Medical School, mentors undergraduate and medical students on careers in medicine, and is a board member for Dar-un-Noor School in Atlanta.



**CASSANDRA
MCILTROT**

BME 2022

Co-founder and COO
StrideLink Inc.

After forming StrideLink through CREATE-X during the summer of 2021, Cassandra has worked alongside her co-founders to improve patient outcomes by delivering clinical-grade gait monitoring capabilities at home. As COO, she is continuously learning from surgeons and patients to build technologies that detect issues sooner and restore patients' health faster. StrideLink is now an FDA-listed wearable device and is in early market release throughout the Southeast.

At Tech, Cassandra earned the President's Undergraduate Research Award for her work on predictive analytics in post-stroke rehabilitation, which led to a fellowship at Siemens Healthineers in Germany. She was engaged with entrepreneurship throughout her time on campus, including educating students on the design process as a teaching assistant. After graduating with her bachelor's degree in 2022, there was no question that it was the right time to take on the healthcare industry as an early career engineering founder.

Besides StrideLink (of course!), her proudest achievements are her 2,000-day Duolingo streak and her award-winning chili.



MEHA RUNGTA

**M.S. ChE 2011,
Ph.D. ChE 2012**

Global Technology
Portfolio Manager
ExxonMobil

Meha manages the technology portfolio for ExxonMobil's polypropylene and specialty polymers businesses, leading a global team of 80 scientists across five technology centers that develop and deploy new polymer products and applications. Meha has held various technical, commercial, and leadership roles over her 13 years at ExxonMobil, and is passionate about working at the interface of business and technology. She sponsors ExxonMobil's Baytown-area Asian Connection for Excellence and serves on the Industrial Advisory Board for Chemical Engineering at the University of Houston.

Meha grew up in Kolkata, India, and earned her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from National Institute of Technology, India. At Georgia Tech, Meha worked with ChBE Professor Bill Koros on membrane separations. She received the Society of Women Engineers patent award in 2023. She met her husband, Praveen (ChBE 2013), at Tech and they now live in Houston.

Outside of work, Meha is an active dancer and has performed at several shows, including during halftime at Houston Texans and Houston Rockets games.



NICHOLAS SELBY

ME 2016

Vice President
of Engineering
Renewvia

At Renewvia, Nick is responsible for the design, procurement, construction, productive use, and software infrastructure of solar mini-grids in rural Kenya and Nigeria. After Georgia Tech, he earned an M.S. in mechanical engineering and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science at MIT.

In addition to Renewvia, Nick's career has included working as a research engineer for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories.



FARAH KHEMANI ZUBERI

AE 2012

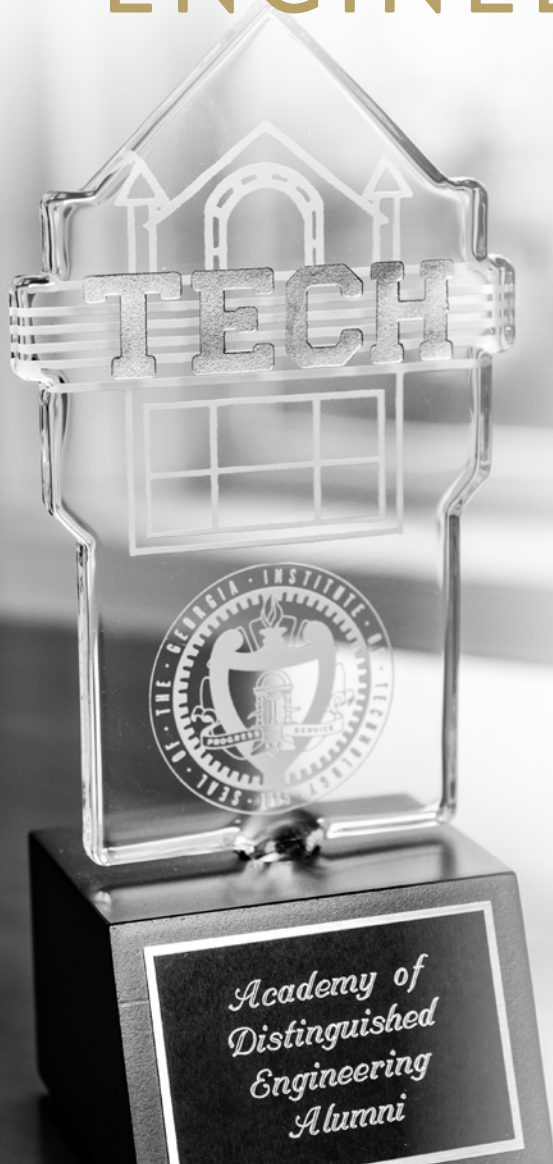
Director of Spacecraft
Mission Management
Firefly Aerospace

Farah leads mission execution and payload operations for the Blue Ghost lunar lander and Elytra spacecraft missions. With more than a decade of experience in the aerospace industry, she has built deep expertise in systems engineering, payload integration, and mission risk management.

Before Firefly, Farah held key roles at Northrop Grumman, contributing to the James Webb Space Telescope sunshield and submarine-launcher subsystems, and at Boeing, where she served as a satellite vehicle engineer on the GPS IIF constellation and multiple communication satellites. She is known for her technical leadership, collaborative problem-solving, and systems-level thinking, and is passionate about space exploration, advancing sustainable access to space, and inspiring the next generation of aerospace professionals.

Farah minored in French at Georgia Tech while earning her aerospace engineering degree.

Academy of DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING ALUMNI



The Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have provided distinguished contributions to the Institute, profession, field, or society at large. Candidates are highly placed executives and are actively involved in engineering, management, industry, academia, or government.

WILLIAM CLYBURN, JR.

DANIELLE M. DONEHEW

CRAIG L. DUVALL

STEVEN K. HALL

ERIC F. HAYES

KEITH HEARON

GUIOMAR OBREGÓN

AJ PIPLICA

ANGELA SHERMAN

JOHN B. WILLIAMS



WILLIAM CLYBURN, JR.

CerE 1989

CEO

Clyburn Consulting LLC

William is the founder of Clyburn Consulting LLC, providing federal government relations and business development strategies to Fortune 500 corporations, municipal governments, and nonprofit organizations.

He is passionate about the Zeroth Law of Thermodynamics and “the law of the land.” Equipped with his engineering and law degrees, he has successfully traversed both the engineering field and the legal profession.

William spent years as a Capitol Hill staffer in Washington, D.C., where he utilized engineering disciplines and legal principles to help develop public policy to address national transportation and infrastructure needs. He received a presidential nomination and was confirmed unanimously by the Senate to the U.S. Surface Transportation Board. As a federal commissioner and vice chairman, he oversaw the economic regulation of our nation’s freight railroad network.

William serves on the board of directors of Norfolk Southern Corporation and continues his passion for public service by serving on two nonprofit boards and MSE’s external advisory board. He is inspired by his wife, Dionne, and their two children, Christin and William III.



DANIELLE M. DONEHEW

IE 2001

Executive Director

**Women’s Basketball
Coaches Association**

Danielle is one of the most trusted and strategic leaders in the evolving business of women’s basketball. She leads the WBCA, the industry association for over 4,500 coaches. The WBCA acts as the “voice of the coach” for women’s basketball governing bodies, presents more than 700 annual awards to coaches and players, and is the premier professional development training vehicle for coaches.

Danielle has served in numerous other leadership roles, including assistant athletics director for basketball operations at the University of Tennessee under legendary head coach Pat Summitt. She was instrumental in founding the WNBA’s Atlanta Dream and was the associate commissioner for women’s basketball for both the Big East Conference and the American Athletic Conference.

Danielle is an alumna of Phi Mu sorority. She was named Ms. Georgia Tech and an ACC Legend. She received the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award, was a member of the 2025 Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame Class, and is in the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2026.

Danielle and her son enjoy Georgia Tech, sports, and travel.



CRAIG L. DUVALL

Ph.D. BME 2007

Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor
of Biomedical Engineering
Vanderbilt University

Craig serves as associate department chair for research initiatives and directs the Duvall Advanced Therapeutics Laboratory (shortened to ATL, a purposeful tribute to Atlanta). The lab includes approximately 25 students, postdocs, and staff. Craig innovates new polymeric biomaterials and focuses on molecular design of RNA therapeutics. As part of those efforts, he recently co-founded Eltia Therapeutics, a company focused on gene silencing in the central nervous system for treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

Craig attended Georgia Tech from 2001 to 2007 following undergraduate studies at the University of Kentucky. After postdoctoral training at the University of Washington, he joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 2010. His professional honors include the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. He's also a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the Biomedical Engineering Society.

Craig resides in Nashville with his wife (and Marietta native), Gina, and three children. They maintain strong ties to Atlanta through Georgia Tech, family, and rooting for the Braves.



STEVEN K. HALL

ChE 1988

Managing Partner
EHF Capital LLC

Steve followed in the footsteps of his father, Ken, and uncle, Max, to attend Georgia Tech. He was inspired by late-night tales of adventures with their fraternities and stories of “getting out” and couldn’t resist scratching the family itch.

After a short stint in the true engineering world, Steve earned an MBA from Emory University and started to build businesses in the financial world. His 13-year career with Goldman Sachs and Citigroup on Wall Street gave him the tools and confidence to launch his own private equity business, EHF Capital, in Charlotte in 2011.

Steve enjoys building small businesses and coaching founders to realize their dreams. They range from binding agents for polymers to advanced composites to protein water ... even professional ultimate frisbee!

Steve passionately follows Georgia Tech sports and enjoys riding the emotional rollercoaster each week with student-athletes.

He and his wife, Christy, have two children, Ian and Connor, and are excited to split their time between Charlotte and Vail. Go Jackets!



ERIC F. HAYES

EE 1994

Executive Vice President,
Operations

Arm

Eric's career includes more than 30 years of semiconductor experience commercializing deep-tech innovation and scaling global businesses. He has led organizations with P&Ls exceeding \$500 million and built high-performance teams across multiple countries. His career spans engineering, product management, general management, and executive leadership. Throughout these positions, he has created market-defining products, grown businesses, driven acquisitions, streamlined operations, and mentored future leaders.

After studying semiconductors at Georgia Tech, Eric spent over a decade at Broadcom, where he helped create the "White Box" switching business model that transformed the hyperscale data-center market — growing revenue from less than \$100 million to more than \$1 billion annually. As senior vice president and general manager at Inphi Corporation, he expanded the PAM4 DSP business to \$400 million and strengthened the roadmap through strategic acquisitions. He also held senior leadership roles at Cavium and Marvell, delivering significant operational efficiencies.

Eric later served as CEO of Fungible, where he refocused the company, established product-market fit, secured key customer wins, and ultimately led its acquisition by Microsoft.



KEITH HEARON

MSE 2009

Co-founder and CEO

Nuceptive Labs

Keith leveraged a Georgia Tech undergraduate invention in medical materials into a Ph.D. and eventual postdoctoral position in Moderna co-founder Robert Langer's lab at MIT.

In 2016, Keith co-founded aerospace 3D printing company Poly6 Technologies. As CEO, he led the company through its acquisition in 2019. In 2020, Keith co-founded and became CEO of rapid diagnostics company Virex Health, which was acquired two years later.

In 2023, Keith became board chair of AI lung cancer company Imidex, whose assets were acquired in 2025. Keith is currently co-founder and CEO of Nuceptive Labs (low-pain medical adhesives) and Keylicon Biosciences (low-dose, long-lasting cancer and vaccine therapeutics).

He was recently elected a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and has more than 70 patents pending or issued in biotechnology.

Keith lives in Augusta, Georgia, with his wife, Caitlin, and four sons: Michael (5), Gabriel (3), Jacob (1), and new baby (due April 2026). The Hearon family is working to establish a relationship between Georgia Tech and Keith's K-12 alma mater, Westminster Schools of Augusta.



GUIOMAR OBREGÓN
M.S. CE 1993, MBA 1994
CEO
Precision 2000 (P2K)

Guiomar leads P2K, a general contractor specializing in aviation and transportation infrastructure across the Southeast. For 27 years, the company has earned numerous awards, recognition that affirms the company's commitment to excellence. The firm was recently named one of the 20 Largest Women-Owned Firms by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*.

Guiomar is most proud of P2K's role in elevating women and Hispanics in engineering and construction. The company supports emerging engineers through its Georgia Tech Fellowship and Scholarship Program, internships, and the Georgia Hispanic Construction Association, which Guiomar co-founded in 2012. She was honored with *Atlanta Magazine's* 2025 Women Making a Mark award.

In addition to her Georgia Tech degrees, Guiomar holds a master's in finance from Georgia State University. She served as the first president of the Georgia Hispanic Construction Association and spent eight years on its board. She currently serves on the external advisory boards for the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the School of Building Construction. She lives in Sandy Springs with her husband, Carlos Sánchez, and their children, Cristina and Diego.



AJ PIPLICA
AE 2010, M.S. AE 2012
Co-founder and CEO
Hermeus

AJ is an aerospace entrepreneur and technologist, focused on leading the Hermeus team to build the world's fastest aircraft. He and his co-founders built Hermeus to meet urgent national security needs by bringing an iterative development approach to airplanes, using mature high-Mach technologies to build and field affordable high-speed aircraft.



ANGELA SHERMAN

ME 1986

President

S&S HVAC Equipment

Angela's dream was to become a sales engineer and the owner of a manufacturer's representative within the commercial HVAC industry.

Those dreams were solidified during sales engineering roles at Carrier Corporation, Honeywell, and Marley Cooling Towers, leading her to co-found S&S HVAC Equipment.

After receiving multiple awards and recognition from manufacturers, adding great people to the team, and representing manufacturers in the commercial HVAC industry, Angela achieved her goal. S&S HVAC is now a trusted commercial and industrial HVAC manufacturer's representative in the greater Houston market for hydronic equipment, parts, and service. The company is a manufacturer's representative for SPX Marley Cooling Towers and a trusted partner for more than 1,000 commercial and industrial clients.

Two things continue to drive her: making S&S HVAC Equipment better and helping others with similar dreams. Her Georgia Tech degree has given her the confidence to pursue those goals professionally and personally. Angela formed the Marley Women Cooling Club to mentor others in the industry. And, as a founding member and current chair of the Women of Woodruff, she continues to support women.



JOHN B. WILLIAMS

NRE 2002

Senior Vice President,
Technical Services and
External Affairs

Southern Nuclear
Operating Company

John is a visionary leader working to create the future of nuclear energy. Driven by the belief that goals should inspire, he championed Accident Tolerant Fuels — reshaping industry standards and boosting the resilience of nuclear technology. His leadership was instrumental in powering America's first newly built reactors in over three decades, making Plant Vogtle the nation's largest clean energy generator. These historic milestones earned the industry's most prestigious recognition, including the Platts Global Energy Award for Energy Transition, Power Plant of the Year, and five Nuclear Energy Institute Top Innovative Practice awards.

Since joining Southern Nuclear in 2005, John has influenced innovation across technical and strategic roles, steering safe, reliable operations for eight nuclear units and guiding external nuclear initiatives. His relentless challenge of what's possible and commitment to building tomorrow's workforce is evident in his service and mentorship throughout the industry, including advising the Woodruff School and the nuclear and radiological engineering program while chairing national efforts to advance new nuclear technologies.

John resides in Birmingham with his wife, Carol, and dogs, Blossom and Miles.

ENGINEERING HALL *of* FAME

Membership in the Engineering Hall of Fame is reserved for individuals holding an engineering degree or honorary degree from Georgia Tech. Those selected have made meritorious engineering or managerial contributions during their careers.

CHAOUKI ABDALLAH
JAIME GILINSKI BACAL
CHRISTOPHER T. JONES
TOM NOONAN
CHRISTOPHER PAPPAS

JAMES W. SATTERFIELD
GAIL PANARELLO SMITH
JOCELYN MARIE STARGEL
BOB STARGEL
MEADE SUTTERFIELD





CHAOUKI ABDALLAH
M.S. EE 1982, Ph.D. EE 1988
President
Lebanese American University

Chaouki began his studies at the Faculté d'ingénierie of Université Saint-Joseph before earning his B.E. from Youngstown State University in 1981. After earning his Georgia Tech degrees, he joined the University of New Mexico (UNM) as a faculty member in the electrical and computer engineering department. Chaouki later served as department chair, provost, and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, and ultimately UNM's 22nd president. He was named professor emeritus and provost emeritus in 2018.

That same year, Chaouki became executive vice president for Research at Georgia Tech, where he advanced large-scale research initiatives across the Institute.

He is recognized for excellence in teaching, research, and service. He received the Lawton-Ellis Award, the School of Engineering senior research excellence award, and the 2017 UNM Staff Hero Award. He has published eight books and more than 400 peer-reviewed papers.

As UNM provost, he led major gains in student success, increasing retention and graduation rates, expanding the Honors College, rebuilding tenure-track ranks, and launching key academic planning initiatives. He remains active in research and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a senior member of IEEE, and recipient of the IEEE Millennium Medal.



JAIME GILINSKI BACAL
IE 1978
CEO
Grupo Nutresa S.A.

Jaime is an experienced banker, corporate leader, real estate developer, and philanthropist, with extensive holdings primarily in the food industry, banking, and real estate in Latin America, the United States, and Europe. He leads Grupo Nutresa S.A. — the largest company in Colombia — a food conglomerate with 50,000 employees and 46 factories in 18 countries. Jaime also is chairman of the Board of Directors of Grupo Financiero GNB S.A., a banking conglomerate in four countries in Latin America. He serves as a director and the largest shareholder of Metro Bank in London and chairman and majority shareholder of London and Regional Panama, a real estate and logistics company in Panama.

Jaime started his career at Morgan Stanley & Company in investment banking, then moved on to planning and implementing business strategies for various companies in consumer products and snack food businesses in South America.

In addition to his Georgia Tech degree, Jaime earned an MBA from Harvard University.



CHRISTOPHER T. JONES

AE 1986

President, Technology Services
Sector (Retired)

Northrop Grumman Corporation

Christopher worked in the defense industry for 25 years and retired from the Northrop Grumman Corporation in 2020. He led a complex organization of over 13,000 employees with annual revenues of more than \$4 billion. He was responsible for supporting a diverse customer base, including NASA; the U.S. Postal Service; and the U.S. departments of Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, State, and Interior.

His expertise includes logistics and sustainment, supply chain management, and technology. In conjunction with his civilian career, Christopher served for 26 years in the U.S. Air Force, primarily as a communications, engineering, and maintenance officer. He has earned four engineering degrees and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Christopher serves on the Norfolk Southern Corporation Board of Directors, the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum Board, and the Board of Trustees for both the Georgia Tech Foundation and the University of Maryland Foundation.



TOM NOONAN

ME 1983

Chairman

TEN Holdings LLC

Tom is a founding partner of TechOperators LLC, an early stage venture capital firm based in Atlanta that invests in innovative technology and cybersecurity companies. He also serves as chairman of TEN Holdings, a diversified family office managing investments across technology, manufacturing, and private equity.

A recognized leader in the cybersecurity industry, Tom was the co-founder and longtime CEO of Internet Security Systems, which was acquired by IBM in 2006, where he went on to serve as general manager of the Internet Security Systems division. He also has started, built, led, and exited multiple technology companies, including Endgame Security, JouleX, Relayr, and Neokami.

President George W. Bush appointed Tom to co-chair the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, a White House homeland defense initiative to protect systems critical to the nation's infrastructure. He also served on the National Security Agency Advisory Board from 2001 to 2017.

Tom received the Joseph Mayo Petit Service Award from Georgia Tech in 2024 and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1999. In addition to his business ventures, he has served on numerous corporate and nonprofit boards, contributing his expertise in innovation, technology strategy, and leadership development.



**CHRISTOPHER
PAPPAS**

CE 1978

Principal

CDP Consulting LLC

Chris started his 47-year career in chemicals and plastics in 1978 with Dow Chemical. After 22 years at Dow, he went to Nova Chemicals, where he became CEO in 2009.

In 2010, he partnered with Bain Capital as the CEO on the carve-out of Styron from Dow Chemical into a free-standing company. After a successful IPO in 2014, he led the company to four times growth in equity value until 2018, when he announced his retirement.

For the last 22 years, Chris has served on the public boards of several NYSE-listed companies, including MEOH, NCX, and AYE. He's on the board of several private equity owned companies: ICP, IPS, Hexion, and KP. Chris is currently an active consultant and board member to private equity in industrial, construction, and chemicals companies.

He is the recipient of a variety of awards, including the Chemical Industry Medal awarded by SCI America. He was named the top CEO among mid-cap publicly traded chemical companies by *Institutional Investor* in 2018.

Chris and his wife, Susan (CE 1978), have three children and two grandchildren. They split time in Florida, Maine, Pennsylvania, and California. They are active in various philanthropic activities through their family foundation, including at Georgia Tech. Their focus is on education, local community medical needs, health and wellness, and women and children in need.



JAMES W. SATTERFIELD

TE 1969, M.S. TE 1972

President

CrisisRisk Strategies LLC

My dad said that with a Georgia Tech degree, you will always be able to get a job. He was right!

Tech shaped my approach to problem-solving and value creation. As a president, CEO, COO, and business owner across technology, communications, environmental, insurance, reinsurance, and crisis-management sectors, I've built my career around navigating and transforming crisis and loss of control into strategic value.

My PREDICT.PLAN.PERFORM.® framework focuses on DECISIONS, ACTIONS, and WORDS needed. I've contributed to national ASTM environmental standards to increase certainty and reduce risk. I wrote a book: *Disaster Ready People*.

My crisis leadership includes directing the response to the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings, managing national media engagement while strengthening future enrollment. I've handled hundreds of crises ranging from cannibalism to large-scale operational disruptions across businesses, schools, and government entities.

Today, insurers and reinsurers integrate our Crisis Advisory Services in their insurance policies and claims, empowering clients in the BEFORE, IMMEDIATE, DURING, AND AFTER crisis stages.

I am honored to support the School of Materials Science and Engineering and work with the Ivan Allen College and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School of Public Policy on developing new, practical programming focused on supporting state and local governments as they work to anticipate, manage, and recover from the crisis events impacting their communities.



GAIL PANARELLO SMITH

ChE 1978

Global Associate Director
(Retired)

Procter and Gamble

Gail joined the Procter and Gamble Company immediately after graduation and remained with the company for 40 years. During her career, she resided in three different countries and had multiple positions that led her to travel and work in over 20 countries.

Gail is known for developing and leading Procter and Gamble's first Global Customer Service and Logistics Leadership Council. She also led the company's Global Manufacturing Excellence Program, setting and assessing excellence standards for every Procter and Gamble manufacturing plant in the world. Gail also was responsible for the development and implementation of the company's Executive Training and Development Program. She finished her career by being honored with Procter and Gamble's Global Innovation Award after implementing a revolutionary method to digitally assess diaper quality.

In her retirement, Gail wanted to give back to Georgia Tech for giving her the skills to achieve career success. She currently serves on the ChBE Advisory Board and the Alexander-Tharpe Fund Board of Directors.

Gail and her husband, David, believe in the power of education excellence. They have established endowments to fund scholarships, faculty, and directorships at Georgia Tech as well as other universities and secondary schools.



JOCELYN MARIE STARGEL

IE 1982, M.S. IE 1986

Managing Partner (Retired)

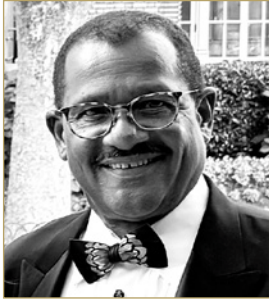
Stargel Consulting

Jocelyn's career reflects a lifelong commitment to innovation, leadership, and service. She began her professional journey at Lockheed in Marietta after earning her bachelor's degree. Driven by a passion for systems and optimization, she returned to Tech to complete her master's degree.

Jocelyn built a distinguished career with Southern Company, where she held key leadership roles across information technology, regulatory affairs, and business risk management. Her work spanned both strategic and operational domains, shaping organizational capabilities and strengthening enterprise resilience.

After decades of experience in the energy and aerospace sectors, Jocelyn retired to manage Stargel Consulting with her husband, Bob (EE 1983). Their firm focused on leveraging deep industry expertise to support clients through complex challenges and opportunities in the energy and consumer products sectors.

Jocelyn has remained a dedicated leader within the Georgia Tech community. She has served as chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association (2020), chair of the ISyE Advisory Board, and is the current chair of the College's External Advisory Board. She is a recipient of the Petit Distinguished Service Award and serves on the Georgia Tech Foundation board. Jocelyn and Bob live in Johns Creek, Georgia, where they raised their son and daughter, Sean and Chloe.



BOB STARGEL

EE 1983

Vice President of
Global Nonwovens (Retired)
Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Principal (Retired)
Stargel Consulting

Bob had a distinguished career with Kimberly-Clark Corporation. Focusing on the nonwovens industry, Bob led research and engineering, manufacturing, and global businesses with operating budgets/P&Ls up to \$1.5 billion and 1,100 employees. Bob's earlier career included positions in manufacturing and electrical engineering, maintenance management, and process engineering.

Bob is active in numerous industry, professional, and community organizations. He has served as the chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association and is currently on the boards of the Georgia Tech Research Corporation and the Georgia Tech Foundation. He has been recognized by the Georgia Tech Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni, was named Father of the Year by the American Diabetes Association, and was recognized by *SAVOY Magazine* as one of the Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America.

Bob resides in Johns Creek, Georgia, with his wife, Jocelyn (IE 1982, M.S. IE 1986).



MEADE SUTTERFIELD

EE 1972

CEO
SSPCS Corp

Meade has been an angel investor and mentor in 37 companies. He was a founder and president of PowerFone Inc., and Johnson Communications Corporation; both were part of the roll-up that created Nextel Communications. He also was CEO of AllianceWall, vice president and general manager of the Service & Industrial Division of Kimberly-Clark, and launched his career at Scientific-Atlanta in Europe and North America.

Meade came to Georgia Tech as a football player. After earning his Tech degree, he went to Harvard for his MBA. He has served as the chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association and the ECE Advisory Board. He currently serves on several boards, including the Georgia Tech Foundation, ECE, Flashpoint, and Georgia Tech-Europe. He is chair of the Sandy Springs Arts Foundation, which supports arts in the city's public schools.

In 2002, he and his spouse, Susan, were among the founders of the Central Eurasia Leadership Alliance, an annual leadership academy and network for mid-career leaders. They remain active in the Alliance, which now has 700 members.

He and Susan live in Sandy Springs. They have four married children and 10 grandchildren ranging from 4 to 21 years old.

Dean's APPRECIATION AWARD

The College of Engineering has many valued supporters who are regularly recognized and appreciated by the College. The Dean's Appreciation Award is a special honor for those individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of the College of Engineering. The award may go to engineering alumni or to honor individuals who have brought distinction to the College and Georgia Tech.



ANN W. DIBBLE

Director of Gift Planning
(Retired)

Georgia Institute of Technology

Ann is a native South Carolinian living the retirement dream. She winters in Charleston and summers overlooking a river in coastal Maine. She is a graduate of Hollins College with an M.A. from Boston University.

A product of the liberal arts, Ann did not follow a straight line in her career path. She grew from museum research in the 1970s to becoming a real estate broker in Charleston in the 1980s to her most fulfilling career: higher education fundraising. She came to Georgia Tech in 1997 as director of Gift Planning. She retired after 21 years, having met with hundreds of friends and loyal alumni, including John Durstine, whose generosity reflected their deep commitment to Tech's mission.



WILLIAM J. WEPFER

Professor Emeritus

George W. Woodruff
School of Mechanical
Engineering

Georgia Institute
of Technology

Bill served as the Eugene C. Gwaltney, Jr. School Chair and Professor in the Woodruff School between 2008 and 2018. His research covered the area of thermal systems, and he is a fellow of ASME, ABET, and ASHRAE.

Bill was a member of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET for 12 years and served as chair of the commission during the 2014-15 accreditation cycle. He was ABET president in 2021-2022. He also served on the ASME Board of Governors from 2016 to 2019.

Bill retired from Georgia Tech in 2018 after 38 years. He and his wife, Lynne, reside in Atlanta and Washington, D.C., spending time with their three grandchildren.



WARD WINER

Regents' Professor Emeritus

George W. Woodruff School of
Mechanical Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology

Ward was a Georgia Tech faculty member for more than 50 years. He served as the Eugene C. Gwaltney, Jr. School Chair of the Woodruff School from 1989 to 2008, the longest tenure in School history. His deep belief in the School's mission — and his tireless efforts to communicate that belief — helped cultivate a relationship that, with the support of others, led to the extraordinary and transformative \$100 million gift from John Durstine in 2025.

Ward's research spanned tribology, fluid mechanics, high-pressure rheology, lubrication, thermomechanics, and machinery diagnostics. After retirement in 2008, he returned as the interim chair of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering for a year, and he continued part-time at Tech until 2019.

Ward passed away in May 2025 and is deeply missed by his family and the Georgia Tech community.

Ward's son, Jim (ARCH 1982, M.ARCH 1986), will accept the Dean's Appreciation Award on behalf of the Winer family. Jim is the founder of the Atlanta-based firm Make3 Architecture Planning & Design and a past member of the College of Design Advisory Board.

Associate DEANS



MATTHIEU BLOCH

Associate Dean for
Academic Affairs



KIMBERLY KURTIS

Associate Dean for Faculty
Development and Scholarship



HANG LU

Associate Dean for
Research and Innovation



DAMON P. WILLIAMS

Associate Dean for
Outreach and Engagement

School CHAIRS



MITCHELL L. R. WALKER II

William R. T. Oakes
Professor and Chair,
Daniel Guggenheim School
of Aerospace Engineering



ALYSSA PANITCH

Wallace H. Coulter Chair,
Wallace H. Coulter Department
of Biomedical Engineering
at Georgia Tech and Emory



CHRISTOPHER JONES

John F. Brock III Chair,
School of Chemical and
Biomolecular Engineering



DONALD WEBSTER

Karen and John Huff Chair,
School of Civil and
Environmental Engineering



ARIJIT RAYCHOWDHURY

Steve W. Chaddick Chair,
School of Electrical and
Computer Engineering



PINAR KESKINOCAK

H. Milton and
Carolyn J. Stewart Chair,
H. Milton Stewart School of
Industrial and Systems Engineering



NATALIE STINGELIN

Chair,
School of Materials Science
and Engineering



CAROLYN SEEPERSAD

Eugene C. Gwaltney, Jr. Chair,
George W. Woodruff School
of Mechanical Engineering

History of the ALUMNI AWARDS

Each year, the College of Engineering recognizes select alumni who have contributed to the profession, advanced in their careers, and enhanced the lives of others both personally and professionally. These outstanding alumni are reviewed by committees within each of the College's eight schools and formally submitted for selection.

The College of Engineering Alumni Awards were created in 1994 under the leadership of John A. White during his tenure as dean. He passed the torch to Jean-Lou Chameau, former Georgia Tech provost and engineering dean, whose outstanding service to the College led him to receive the 2006 Dean's Appreciation Award from then-Dean Don P. Giddens, a Tech engineering alumnus. For the next six years, the program would fall under the guidance of Dean Gary S. May, who received his B.S. degree in electrical and computer engineering from Georgia Tech. In 2017, Steven W. McLaughlin was appointed dean and served until 2020, when he was named the Institute's provost. Dean Raheem Beyah, a native Atlantan who earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees from Georgia Tech, led the College from 2021 until 2025 when he became provost.

The Awards are now under the leadership of Interim Dean Doug Williams.

Special Thanks

Jim Borders

CO-HOST

Karissa Dahn

ChBE, Dean's Scholar

STUDENT SPEAKER

Siyona Raina

IE

VIOLINIST

Santiago Campero

AE, Dean's Scholar

Avery Hutchinson

ChBE, Dean's Scholar

Priscilla Pierre

CE, Dean's Scholar

Alvaro Saldarriaga

IE, Clark Scholar

Cecil Young

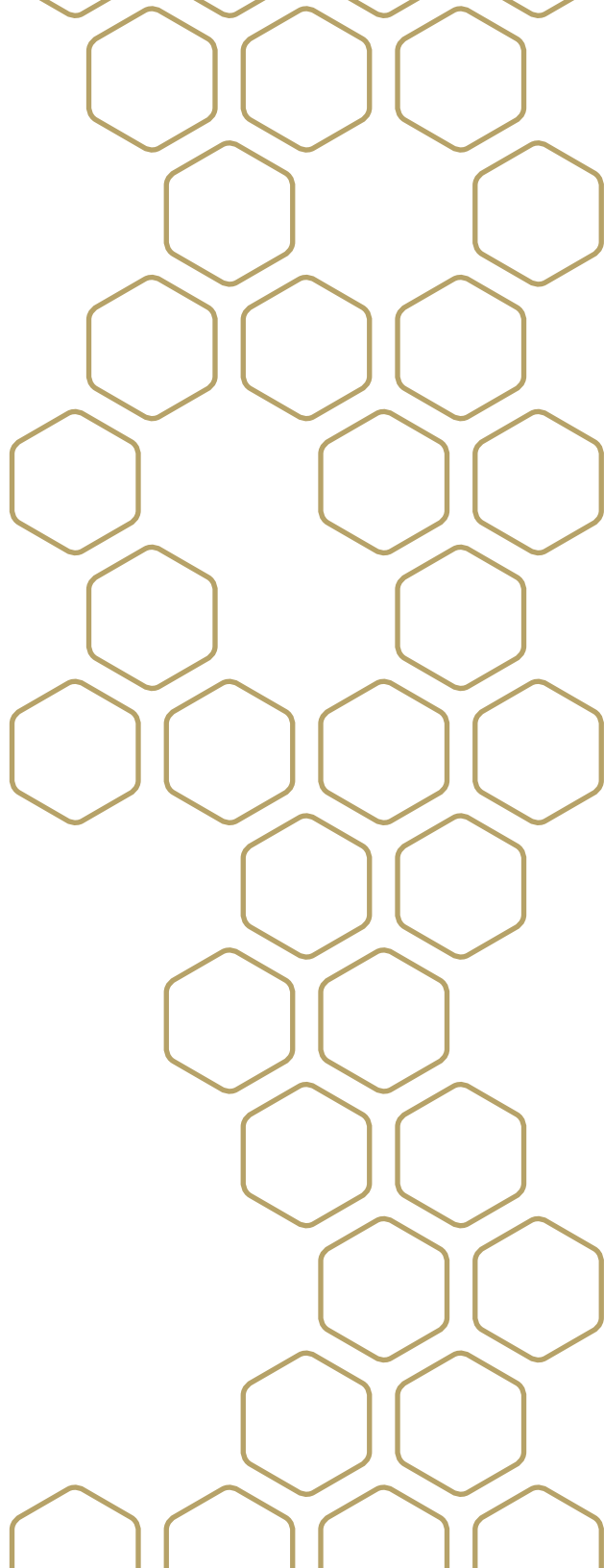
ME, Clark Scholar

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Buzz

Ramblin' Reck Club

College of Engineering Staff



Georgia Tech
**College of
Engineering**