



ALUMNI  
AWARDS  
INDUCTION  
CEREMONY

April 20, 2024



Georgia Tech  
College of  
Engineering

# 2024 INDUCTEES

## DEAN'S IMPACT AWARD

FIXD, John Gattuso and Frederick Grimm

## COUNCIL *of* OUTSTANDING YOUNG ENGINEERING ALUMNI

Rob Mannino  
Andrew Miller  
Shweta (Shay) Natarajan

Ashley Newton  
Nick Otto

David L. Safranski  
Isabella Thavi Sanders  
Clayton P. Tino

## ACADEMY *of* DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING ALUMNI

Rita M. Breen  
R. Scott Herren  
Lara O'Connor Hodgson

Erika M. Peterman  
Manu O. Platt  
Barry Edward Powell

Wassim A. Selman  
Joel Stenson  
Lingbo Zhu

## ENGINEERING HALL *of* FAME

Rodney C. Adkins  
Michael K. Anderson  
Ronald J. Beerman  
Marcus J. Dash

D. Fort Flowers, Jr.  
Andrea L. Laliberte  
Gary S. May

Robert Edward Sanders  
James Robert (Bob) Spencer  
Federico (Friedel) Stubbe  
Aleksander Szlam

## DEAN'S APPRECIATION AWARD

The A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation

# the CEREMONY

**WELCOME** Raheem A. Beyah  
*Dean and Southern Company Chair*

**CO-HOST** Tom Fanning  
*IM 1979, M.S. IM 1980, Hon. Ph.D. 2013  
Retired Chairman, President, and CEO  
Southern Company*

**STUDENT SPEAKER** Lorika Chery  
*IE 2025  
Clark 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** Raheem A. Beyah

# the MENU

## SALAD

### Manchego Salad

*Arugula topped with Golden Pear Slices, Sweet Dried Cherries,  
Toasted Almonds, Quince Vinaigrette, Manchego Cheese*

## PRE-SELECTED ENTRÉE

### Beef Short Rib and Roasted Black Cod

*Boneless Braised Short Rib Paired with Roasted Black Cod, Gremolata Beurre Blanc,  
Roasted Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Lightly Creamed Seasonal Kale*

### Fried Oyster Mushroom Chops (Vegan)

*Sweet Potato Puree, Broccolini,  
Cipollini Onions, Mushroom Reduction*

## DESSERT

### Oreo Mudslide Dome

*Vanilla Creme with Crushed Oreos on Devil's Food Cake, Bailey's Anglaise,  
Vanilla Whipped Cream, Chocolate Décor*

### Raspberry White Chocolate Cheesecake

*Raspberry and White Chocolate Swirled Cheesecake on Graham Crust,  
Raspberry Coulis, Vanilla Anglaise*

## DINNER WINES

Raeburn Chardonnay

Jezebel Pinot Noir

# from THE DEAN

Dear Honorees and Guests:

As a native Atlantan and a double Jacket (master's and Ph.D. in ECE), I couldn't be happier and more honored to celebrate tonight's honorees. Four years into my role as dean of the College, 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 have advanced human health, worked on spacecraft that launched us to the moon, foreseen the future technology in our smartphones, and more. And this year, we're particularly honored to recognize a foundation that has opened new pathways for the next generation of engineers.

Our honorees are the epitome of Georgia Tech, and I'm humbled to stand among them as members of our alumni community. 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.



**RAHEEM A. BEYAH**

Dean and Southern Company Chair  
College of Engineering  
Georgia Institute of Technology

# from THE PRESIDENT



**ÁNGEL CABRERA**

President  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Dear Distinguished Alumni and Guests:

Greetings and welcome to the Georgia Tech College of Engineering Alumni Awards, one of the College's most important celebrations. The College is foundational to the Institute's history and success. In fact, 60% of all Georgia Tech alumni are engineering graduates.

Since 1994, the College has used this occasion to honor the many accomplishments of the Institute's most distinguished engineering alumni. I extend my warmest and most sincere congratulations to all of tonight's honorees — who are an inspiration to our younger alumni and our current students. You are a lasting symbol of Georgia Tech's enduring reputation for excellence and innovation, and a living testament to our mission of developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition. Each of you has made a significant impact in your respective fields of expertise, and I am honored and tremendously proud to celebrate those accomplishments.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for your own communities and organizations. You are shining examples of everything that is special about being a Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket and the reason why the College continues to be recognized as one of the greatest in the world.

Enjoy tonight's ceremony and *Go Jackets!*

# CO-HOST

Tom is the recently retired chairman, president, and CEO of Southern Company which serves nine million customers nationwide.

Tom worked for Southern Company for more than four decades and held 15 different positions in eight different business units, including numerous officer positions in finance, strategy, international business development, and technology.

For nearly a decade, he served as co-chair of the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, the principal liaison between the federal government and the electric power sector to protect the electric grid from national security threats, including cyber and physical terrorism and natural disasters. Recognized as a leading authority in cybersecurity, he served both on the Cyberspace Solarium Commission and as chair of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Cybersecurity Advisory Committee, providing recommendations on the development and refinement of the nation's cybersecurity programs and policies.

Tom sits on the advisory board of the Scheller College of Business and the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Tech Foundation. He chairs the board of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. He also serves on the board of directors of Vulcan Materials Company. From 2012 to 2018, he served on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and is a past chairman.

Tom lives in Atlanta with his wife, Sarah, and has four children.



**TOM FANNING**

**IM 1979, M.S. IM 1980,  
Hon. Ph.D. 2013**

Retired Chairman, President, and CEO  
Southern Company

# student **SPEAKER**



**LORIKA CHERY**

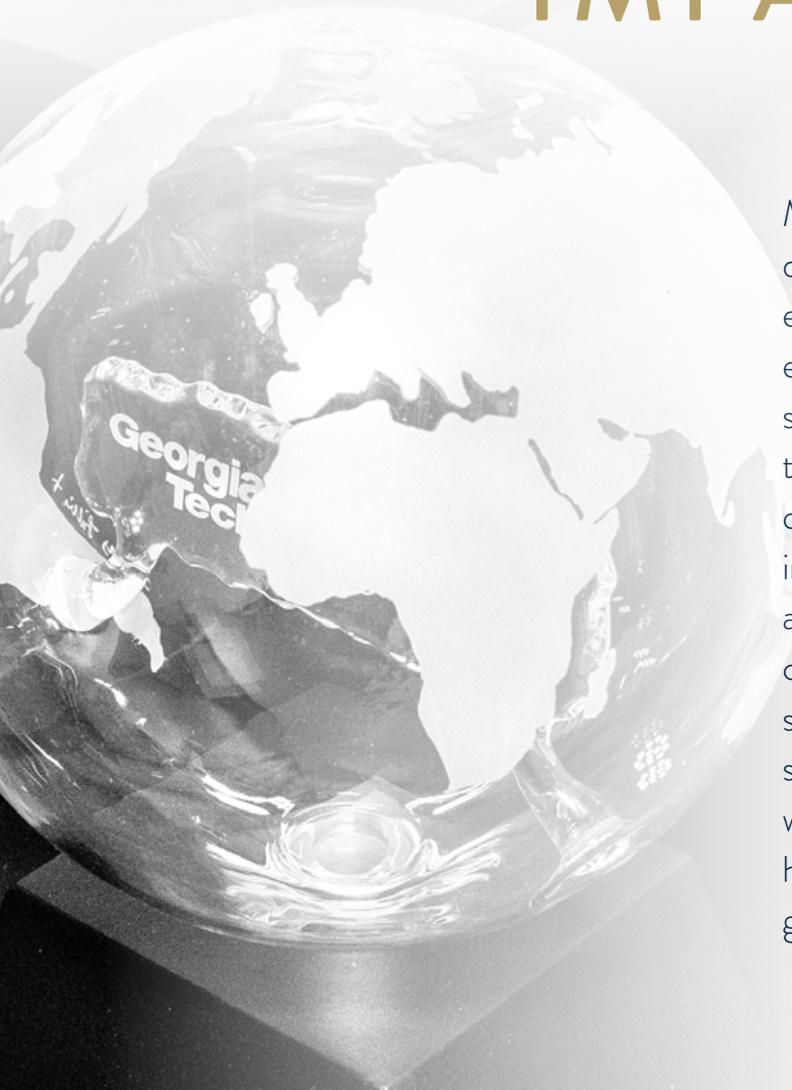
**IE 2025**

Clark Scholar

Lorika is a second-year A. James Clark Scholar from Port Saint Lucie, Florida, majoring in industrial and systems engineering and minoring in philosophy. Lorika aims to specialize in data science and analytics. Her goal is to innovate ways that data can be leveraged for the greater good of society, especially in an increasingly data-centered world.

Through her studies at Georgia Tech, Lorika aims to explore how data can be used to benefit various industries, sectors, and people. She's involved in the Yellow Jacket Space Program, the Black Industrial Engineers @ Tech organization, the DanceTech Performing Company, and the club gymnastics team. As a 2023 No Kid Hungry Youth Ambassador, she supported the nonprofit's mission to end childhood hunger by collaborating with community partners and ensuring compliance with meal distribution standards.

# 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.



**JOHN GATTUSO**

**ME 2015**

Chief Executive Officer,  
FIXD



**FREDERICK GRIMM**

**IE 2014**

Chief Operating Officer,  
FIXD

FIXD takes the stress and worry out of car trouble, breaking car problems down into simple and understandable terms so drivers don't get taken advantage of when they go to a repair shop. The FIXD Sensor plugs into the diagnostic port of any car manufactured since 1996 and communicates via Bluetooth to the FIXD smartphone app. With more than 3 million sensors sold, FIXD has given millions of drivers the tools and resources they need to have peace of mind and save money over the life of their car.



# *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.

**ROB MANNINO**

**ANDREW MILLER**

**SHWETA (SHAY) NATARAJAN**

**ASHLEY NEWTON**

**NICK OTTO**

**DAVID L. SAFRANSKI**

**ISABELLA THAVI SANDERS**

**CLAYTON P. TINO**



### **ROB MANNINO**

**BMED 2013**  
**Ph.D. BMED 2018**

Chief Technology Officer,  
Sanguina, Inc.

As someone with a chronic disease that requires lifelong, regular red blood cell transfusions, Rob has directly felt the impacts of improvements in medical technology. This experience instilled in him a desire to develop technology to improve people's lives, which led him to pursue a bachelor's and subsequent Ph.D. in biomedical engineering. While getting his Ph.D. in Wilbur Lam's laboratory, Rob developed an image analysis algorithm that can analyze a smartphone picture of an individual's fingernail and produce a hemoglobin level estimate.

After graduation, Rob used this technology to launch Sanguina, Inc., where he leads development and commercialization of AnemoCheck, a smartphone app incorporating his technology. AnemoCheck is publicly available in the major app stores and has been used 1.2 million times since its launch in December 2021.

Rob was named to the 2020 Forbes 30 under 30 Healthcare list. An Atlanta native, he lives in Reynoldstown with his wife, Nicole (MSE 2015), and two young children.



### **ANDREW MILLER**

**CE 2009**  
**M.S. CE 2010**  
**Ph.D. BIOE 2017**

Chief Operating Officer,  
restor3d, Inc.

After several years as a structural engineer, Andy returned to Georgia Tech in 2013 for a doctoral degree with an eye toward translational research and entrepreneurship in the medical device field. Following his graduation in 2017, he served as an adjunct professor at Duke University and co-founded the medical device startup restor3d, Inc., which set out to harness 3D printing to provide mass personalization and achieve improved outcomes in orthopedic procedures.

Andy served as the company's founding CEO, helping restor3d grow rapidly by meeting unmet needs in the orthopedic implant market. This was enabled through in-house expertise in design and manufacturing, as well as enhanced clinical outcomes from science-backed porous structures that improved osseointegration. As COO, Andy currently is focused on developing the internal processes and technology to broaden the company's offerings and equip more surgeons with an enhanced ability to repair and reconstruct the human body. After a recent acquisition, the company now employs more than 300 people and is a market leader in personalized orthopedic implants.



**SHWETA (SHAY)  
NATARAJAN**

**ME 2009  
M.S. ME 2012**

Partner – Strategy  
Mobility Impact Partners

Shay started her career as a business operations manager at Apple, where she was responsible for the technical and operational strategy of iPhone displays and accessories. She went on to hold senior roles at McKinsey & Company for five years, where she advised Fortune 500 companies on their growth strategy. After McKinsey, Shay was the head of enterprise strategic initiatives at Caterpillar, where she crafted the company's strategic growth plan.

As a current partner at Mobility Impact Partners (MIP), she leads the identification of MIP's investment strategy.

Shay is a member of the Woodruff School's Advisory Board and chair of the School's Young Alumni Council. She also sits on the board of CurrentFleet, a mobility startup focused on fleet electrification.



**ASHLEY NEWTON**

**CHBE 2009**

Tetrashield Innovation  
Program Manager,  
Eastman Chemical

Ashley relocated to southeast Texas following graduation to start her career with ExxonMobil. During the next 12 years, she worked at four petrochemical manufacturing sites, first as a support engineer and then in supervisory roles. She actively participated in the ExxonMobil campus recruiting efforts, returning to Georgia Tech twice a year to interview interns, co-ops, and full-time candidates. She spent her last year at ExxonMobil as a product manager.

The birth of Ashley's daughter and the Covid-19 pandemic hastened the need to relocate closer to family, so she reconnected with Eastman Chemical Company, where she had interned while at Tech. In her current role, Ashley leads a top corporate innovation program, Tetrashield coating resins, which includes managing the technology platform and global product launches.

In 2018, Ashley and her husband funded an endowment through the Georgia Tech Foundation to help out-of-state students study engineering. They currently live in Johnson City, Tennessee, with their two young children.



## **NICK OTTO**

**EE 2005**

General Manager –  
Strategic Partnerships,  
IBM

As the head of global strategic partnerships, Nick is responsible for leading the largest and most strategic relationships in the IBM ecosystem.

His previous IBM experience includes serving as a partner in IBM Consulting focused on data and artificial intelligence. He also was a leader in IBM's Corporate Strategy and Chief Analytics Office, driving the company's internal transformation with a priority focus on sales execution.

His 15 years of cross-industry experience allows Nick to support clients on their transformation journeys. His passion is grounded in partnering with customers to understand and align corporate strategy imperatives to technology transformations. His experience with IBM Consulting, as well as internal IBM Corporate Strategy, spans multiple functional areas, including product, ecosystem, finance, sales, talent, and operations.

In addition to his electrical engineering degree from Tech, Nick holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He and his wife, Vickie (AE 2005), live in Milton, Georgia. They have two children, Jackson and Ansley.



## **DAVID L. SAFRANSKI**

**MSE 2007**

**M.S. MSE 2008**

**Ph.D. MSE 2010**

Research Leader,  
Enovis

David began his career in 2010 as a materials scientist and entrepreneur at a local orthopedic device startup, MedShape, which focused on foot and ankle devices using smart materials to improve clinical outcomes. He served as the director of research, translating materials to 10 different product lines. MedShape was acquired by Enovis in 2021.

At Enovis, David is responsible for research strategy for new materials, intellectual property, and driving the marketing data necessary for product launches.

In 2013, he co-founded Vertera Spine to translate a new materials technology to the spine device market. He served as the director of research to lead the development, characterization, and manufacturing scale-up of the new materials platform, which led to FDA clearance and clinical use in 2015. Vertera was acquired by NuVasive in 2017, and the technology has now been expanded to five product lines.

David serves as an adjunct professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering, where he lectures on biomaterials, biomedical devices, and entrepreneurship. He also serves in the Industry Mentor-Mentee program and has mentored two dozen students, helping them advance their careers into academic and industry roles.



### **ISABELLA THAVI SANDERS**

**M.S. OR 2019**  
**M.S. GIST 2019**  
**MBA 2021**  
**Ph.D. IE 2021**

Assistant Professor,  
Dept. of Systems Engineering,  
United States Military Academy

Isabella began her faculty career in the Department of Systems Engineering at West Point. She currently is associate director of the Systems, Design & Analysis Center, leading all independent cadet research. Isabella's efforts have resulted in the largest research program in the department's history.

Her own research focuses on supply chain risk and resilience within food and defense supply chains. She works to minimize food waste and risk through deployment and route optimization in both local food supply chains and large-scale Department of Defense food networks. She was awarded a multiyear \$2 million grant by DARPA within the Resilient Supply and Demand Networks program to further this work.

In 2023, Isabella was named one of the Society of Women Engineers' 15 Women Engineers You Should Know. She also received the Department of the Army's Civilian Service Achievement Medal and the West Point Dean's Award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Excellence.

Many of Isabella's undergraduate researchers have gone on to earn national research awards and graduate fellowships, and several are currently in graduate programs at Georgia Tech. Prior to Georgia Tech, Isabella earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics from MIT.



### **CLAYTON P. TINO**

**AE 2007**  
**M.S. AE 2012**  
**Ph.D. AE 2013**

Chief Technology Officer,  
Beep, Inc.

After earning his Ph.D. from the Guggenheim School, Clayton joined Virtustream, a venture-backed cloud computing startup, where he led algorithm development for the company's global cloud management platform. After Virtustream was acquired by EMC for \$1.2 billion in 2015 — followed by Dell Technologies in 2016 — Clayton led Dell's managed cloud platform organization, which developed highly scaled public cloud infrastructure products in partnership with VMware and Microsoft.

Clayton left Dell Technologies in 2019 to join Beep, Inc., as the chief technology officer. Beep is a venture-backed autonomous mobility company focused on providing electric, shared, accessible, autonomous mobility services. Clayton is responsible for the product development, safety, and regulatory affairs organizations, providing strategic leadership and oversight for the development of Beep's autonomous mobility platform and services.

Clayton serves on the AE School's Advisory Council, has served as an AE School Mentor in Residence, and through Beep works as an industry partner of the AI Institute for Advances in Optimization. Clayton lives in Atlanta with his wife, Ariana, and daughter, Ximena.

# *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.

**RITA M. BREEN**

**R. SCOTT HERREN**

**LARA O'CONNOR HODGSON**

**ERIKA M. PETERMAN**

**MANU O. PLATT**

**BARRY EDWARD POWELL**

**WASSIM A. SELMAN**

**JOEL STENSON**

**LINGBO ZHU**



**RITA M. BREEN**

**PSY 1990**  
**M.S. IE 1992**

Executive Director,  
Georgia Power and  
Southern Company  
Charitable Foundations

Rita joined Georgia Power in 1998 as an operations consultant. She has held management positions of increasing responsibility in customer experience, customer care operations, and renewable energy. Her current responsibilities as executive director at Georgia Power and Southern Company Charitable Foundations focus on strategic philanthropy programs, impact investments, and foundation operations. The foundations annually invest more than \$40 million in communities across Georgia and the southeastern United States.

Rita previously worked with SEI and Accenture. She serves as board chair for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta and the vice chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association Board of Trustees. She is an advisory board member for the Stewart School, Enterprise Community Partners, and Greenlight Fund Atlanta. Rita is a graduate of the Regional Leadership Institute and Leadership Cobb.

Rita and her husband, John (also a double Jacket), live in Marietta and have two sons in college.



**R. SCOTT HERREN**

**IE 1984**

Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer,  
Cisco Systems

Scott joined Cisco in 2020 and leads the global finance team, procurement, and mergers and acquisitions/integration for the company. He is focused on accelerating Cisco's shift toward a business model of more recurring revenue, maximizing long-term shareholder value, and maintaining the high level of integrity and transparency for which the company is known.

Prior to Cisco, Scott served as CFO at Autodesk for six years. During that time, the company transformed from offering its products as a one-time sale to a subscription model, resulting in market value growth from \$12 billion to more than \$60 billion.

A native of Atlanta, Scott serves on the board of directors and chairs the audit committee for Rubrik. He's also on the board of the Technology Association of Georgia, vice chair of the Georgia Tech Advisory Board, and a former member of the College's Advisory Board. In addition to his Georgia Tech degree, he holds an MBA from Columbia University.



**LARA O'CONNOR  
HODGSON**

**AE 1993**

President and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
NowAccount Network  
Corporation d.b.a. Now Corp

Following graduation, Lara worked with the U.S. Department of Defense in Japan and as envoy to Lebanon during the 1996 Olympics. She earned her MBA from The Harvard Business School, then founded iXL's Consumer Products Practice and served as executive vice president of Dunk.Net with basketball Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal.

Lara co-founded Nourish, a line of patented children's bottled waters. Experiencing the pain of waiting to get invoices paid, she later created NowAccount. The company allows businesses to be paid immediately in a way that feels like accepting a credit card, but without loans or factoring.

Lara co-authored an award-winning book, *Level Up: Rise Above the Hidden Forces Holding Your Business Back*, with Stacey Abrams. She serves as an entrepreneur-in-residence at Harvard Business School, is a Georgia Tech Foundation trustee, and serves on the advisory boards of the Guggenheim School and Harvard's MS/MBA Program.

She was previously named Georgia Tech Athletics Total Person Alumna (Track & Field) and the Women in Engineering Alumna of the Year. *Worth Magazine* named Lara to the 2022 "Worthy 100" people with global impact.



**ERIKA M. PETERMAN**

**CHE 1997**

Senior Vice President, Global  
Intermediates & Derivatives  
Manufacturing and Oxyfuels,  
LyondellBasell

Erika started her career as a process engineer, working in olefins manufacturing at BASF Corporation. Over time, she moved into management and leadership positions in global marketing, strategy, and regional business management. Her experience spans a variety of industries, both commodity and specialty in nature.

Her international experience includes assignments in Germany and Switzerland. Prior to joining LyondellBasell (LYB) in May 2023, she was SVP of BASF's Chemical Intermediates Americas Business Unit. Erika currently leads two global organizations at LYB — the Oxyfuels Business Unit and the Intermediates & Derivatives Manufacturing team.

Erika is a non-executive member of the board of directors for Drax Group plc, a UK-headquartered biomass power generation company. Passionate about STEM fields and supporting education for underprivileged students, she and her husband, Doug, created an endowment to support Georgia Tech.

Erika earned an MBA from the University of Houston. She lives in Texas and serves on the College of Engineering External Advisory Board at both Georgia Tech and the University of Houston.



**MANU O. PLATT**

**Ph.D. BMED 2006**

Director, Center for Biomedical Engineering Technology Acceleration (BETA Center), National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

Manu is the inaugural director of the BETA Center in Washington, D.C. He began the role after 13 years as a faculty member in the joint biomedical engineering department at Georgia Tech and Emory University.

Manu was the first Black graduate of the Coulter BME Ph.D. program in 2006 and, after a postdoc at MIT, returned to Georgia Tech as the first Black assistant professor hired into the Department. He earned tenure and was promoted to full professor, also overseeing graduate student recruitment and serving as associate chair for the graduate program. His research spans HIV, cancer, and sickle cell disease, and he has graduated 10 Ph.D. students.

Integrated with research are his goals to change the look of the next generation of scientists and engineers. Manu cofounded and directed Project ENGAGES, a program paying African American high school students to be researchers in Georgia Tech labs. Established in 2013, ENGAGES continues today.

Manu has won numerous awards from Georgia Tech, the Biomedical Engineering Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and he was named to the Root 100.



**BARRY EDWARD POWELL**

**ME 1989**

**M.S. ME 1991**

North America Regional CEO, Electrical Products Business Unit, Siemens

In his role as regional CEO, Barry has transformed Siemens Electrical Products into the best-in-class provider of electrical infrastructure solutions for customers ranging from Microsoft to Tesla to Intel, as well as to iconic sites such as the Freedom Tower in New York City. He oversees a progressive \$4 billion organization that is leading the overall company in data analytics, digitalization, and supply chain optimization. He is the founder of the Siemens Manufacturing Council in the U.S. and led his business to winning the Werner von Siemens Award as best overall Siemens business in 2020 and 2023.

Barry is a recognized national leader in the electrical industry, currently serving as the treasurer and board of governors executive for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. He recently served as secretary and executive board member for the Electric Safety Foundation International.

Barry serves as the vice chair of the Woodruff School's Advisory Board and has been actively involved with the School via course sponsorship and collaboration on Covid-19 PPE production. He and his wife, Darlene (IE 1990, M.S. IE 1992), are active supporters of other Tech initiatives.



### **WASSIM A. SELMAN**

**CE 1981**

**M.S. CE 1982**

**Ph.D. CE 1986**

*Managing Director, Mobility,  
Arcadis*

Wassim is a senior executive with Arcadis, a global planning and engineering consulting firm, and has provided transportation consulting services for 30 years. He is passionate about culture and values and leveraging people's strengths to help them achieve their potential.

Wassim has led the planning, design, and construction management of large transportation projects in highway, rail, and aviation throughout the United States. His experience includes mobility advisory, transportation system planning and design, multimodal corridor studies, and mobility management. He has led Arcadis' U.S. transportation business for more than 10 years and is a member of the firm's global mobility executive team. He previously directed technical knowledge and innovation, federal programs, and smart infrastructure solutions at Arcadis.

Wassim is on the board of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association and past chairman of the Construction Industry Round Table. He served two terms on the CEE External Advisory Board.

He and his wife, Joelle, have been married for more than 27 years and, along with their daughters Nicole and Natalie, live in the Atlanta area.



### **JOEL STENSON**

**EE 1997**

*Senior Vice President,  
Operations Technology,  
UPS*

Joel began his career with UPS as an intern in 1994, working in the Buildings and Systems Engineering function. His team holds global responsibility for UPS' digital and physical technology solutions development and integration. They also own the design and development of UPS' material handling systems, as well as the software required to support the company's global operations technologies within its Transportation, Airline, Transborder, Final Mile, and Automotive business units.

Joel has participated in several UPS leadership development initiatives, including the company's first Senior Leadership Development Program, which exposed a group of top leaders to companies around the world in an 18-month immersive cohort. Additionally, he has matriculated through the McKinsey Black Executive Leadership Program and Goizueta Business School's Executive Perspectives Program at Emory University.

Joel currently serves on the ECE Advisory Board and on the boards of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering and the Mutual Alliance Restoring Community Hope Foundation.



## LINGBO ZHU

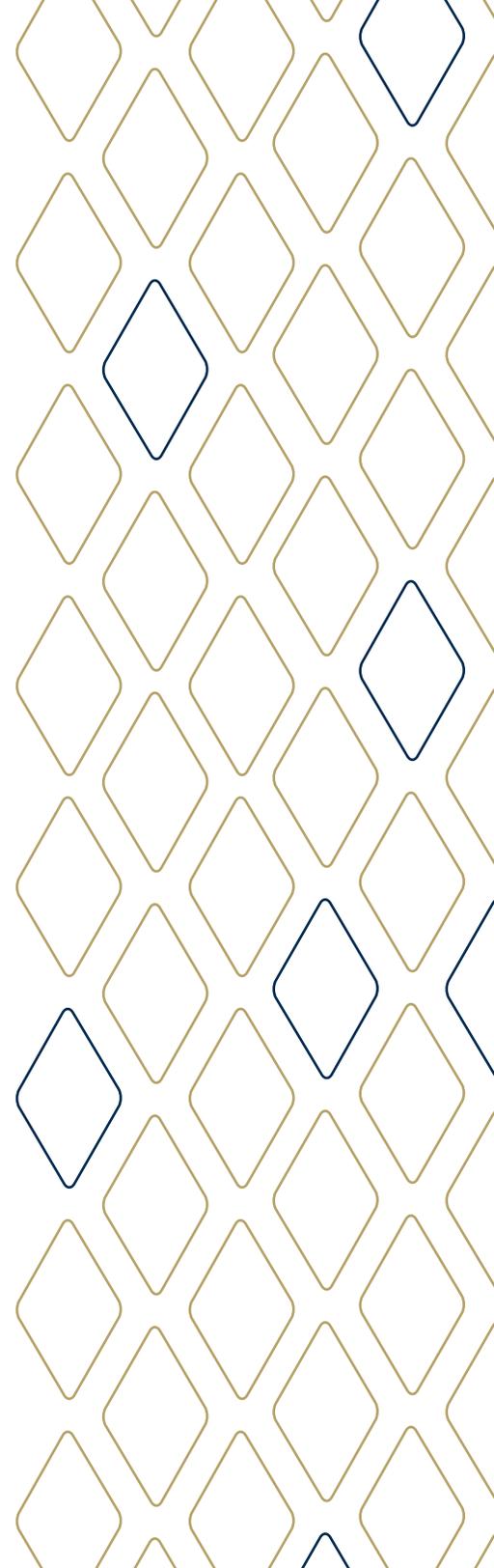
**Ph.D. CHE 2007**

Executive President,  
Oversea e-Car Business,  
Contemporary Amperex  
Technology Co. Limited (CATL)

After earning his Georgia Tech Ph.D., Lingbo joined Dow Chemical in Michigan, where he worked as a research specialist for new product development. Envisioning the future of electric mobility, Lingbo moved to China in 2012 to join CATL, then a startup for lithium-ion battery development and manufacturing for electric vehicles (EVs). Starting as a senior manager, he led the research and development team for the development of advanced EV batteries. CATL is now a Fortune 500 company and the world's largest EV battery producer.

Lingbo and his teams developed and commercialized various batteries with innovative materials, new designs and processes, and installed in more than 2 million EVs with internationally recognized brands. He has promoted various technologies, including long lifetime batteries, no thermal propagation technologies, and innovative silicon anodes.

Lingbo earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering from East China University of Science and Technology. He lives in Ningde, China, with his wife, Qiaowei Li.



# 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.

**RODNEY C. ADKINS**

**MICHAEL K. ANDERSON**

**RONALD J. BEERMAN**

**MARCUS J. DASH**

**D. FORT FLOWERS, JR.**

**ANDREA L. LALIBERTE**

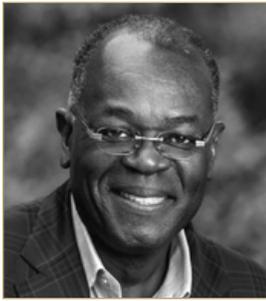
**GARY S. MAY**

**ROBERT EDWARD SANDERS**

**JAMES ROBERT (BOB) SPENCER**

**FEDERICO (FRIEDEL) STUBBE**

**ALEKSANDER SZLAM**



## **RODNEY C. ADKINS**

**EE 1981**  
**M.S. EE 1983**  
**Hon. Ph.D. 2013**

Chairman,  
Avnet, Inc.

Rod has served as chairman of Avnet, Inc., since 2018. Avnet is one of the world's largest distributors of electronic components and technology solutions.

Formerly, Rod was senior vice president of IBM from 2007 until 2014. In 33+ years with IBM, he held a number of operational and executive management roles spanning strategy, technology, systems, and supply chain.

Rod was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 2005. He serves on the board of directors for UPS, PayPal, Grainger, and Avnet. He is a member of the Executive Leadership Council and a trustee of Georgia Tech and Rollins College. He previously served on the boards of PPL Corporation, Pitney Bowes, PeopleClick Inc., the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation, and the Smithsonian National Board. His life story is archived in *The HistoryMakers Digital Archive*, a virtual who's who of the African American community.

In addition to his Georgia Tech degrees, Rod earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Rollins College.



## **MICHAEL K. ANDERSON**

**IE 1979**

Retired President and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. and  
Southern Company Foundation

Mike is retired senior vice president for Georgia Power Company and president and CEO of Georgia Power Foundation, Inc., and Southern Company Charitable Foundation. He also was a member of the Georgia Power Management Council. Previously, Mike served as vice president of corporate services at the company. Prior to joining Georgia Power, Mike worked at Texas Instruments in Dallas, where he was responsible for quality control and component testing of nuclear warhead guidance systems.

Mike serves on numerous boards, including the Georgia Tech Foundation, the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl, and the Atlanta Track Club. He is chairman of Saint Joseph's Healthcare System. His recognitions include the Atlanta Area Council of Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver and Whitney M. Young Awards, the Woodruff Arts Center Exceptional Service Award, and Tech's Dean Griffin Community Service Award. He is a member of the College's Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni.

An Atlanta native, Mike has an MBA from Emory University and is an alumnus of The Regional Leadership Institute, Leadership Georgia, and Leadership Atlanta. He and his wife, Andreane, have one son, Christopher, who's also a graduate of Georgia Tech.



**RONALD J. BEERMAN**

**IE 1973**

Chairman and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Profitmaster Displays, Inc.

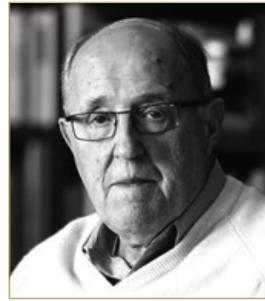
Early in his professional career, Ron was employed by Anheuser-Busch, The Coca-Cola Company, and Mead Corp. in a variety of engineering, marketing, and strategic planning positions.

In 1984, he founded Profitmaster Displays, Inc., and built the company into the leading supplier of merchandising and point-of-purchase display products for the beverage industry. Profitmaster Displays serves beverage companies and distributors throughout the U.S., and its customers include industry leaders such as The Coca-Cola Company, Keurig Dr Pepper, Pepsi Beverages Company, and Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated.

Ron also co-founded Marketing Impressions, Inc., a design and marketing firm supplying a line of products to home improvement retailers. The Home Depot and Lowe's are among its largest clients.

Ron and his wife, Carol, have endowed faculty support and several fellowships in the Stewart School and the Scheller College of Business. He currently serves on the Stewart School Advisory Board.

Ron is a native Atlantan. He earned his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1977 after graduating from Georgia Tech. He and Carol reside in Sandy Springs, Georgia, and Naples, Florida.



**MARCUS J. DASH**

**AE 1966**

**M.S. AE 1968**

Retired General Partner  
Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Marcus began his engineering career at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, from 1962 to 1972. He worked on the design of the Saturn family of rockets for the Apollo program and the initial systems engineering design of the Space Shuttle. In 1974, he graduated from Harvard Business School with an MBA and joined Goldman, Sachs & Co., where he became a general partner. Marcus concentrated on financing large-scale energy development projects and headed many of the firm's most important international project financing assignments.

After retirement in 1994, he joined the faculty of the Georgia Tech College of Management — now the Scheller College of Business — to teach a course in investment banking. He would go on to teach various financial courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Marcus served as inaugural chairman of the College of Engineering's Advisory Board. He has been a trustee of the Georgia Tech Foundation for 29 years and is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni and the Hill Society. He lives in Montana with his wife and has two sons.



**D. FORT FLOWERS, JR.**

**ME 1983**

Founder and  
Executive Chairman,  
Sentinel Trust Company

Sentinel Trust Company is a full-service wealth management firm that provides investment and family office services for 40 families and is responsible for more than \$6 billion of their assets. Fort has managed and served on the boards of firms in the energy, mining, engineering, manufacturing, and banking industries.

He has served on the boards (and in many cases chaired the investment committees) of The Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation, The Texas Presbyterian Foundation, St. John's School, and Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston. Fort is now serving his third term on the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees. He has also served on the visiting committees for mechanical engineering at MIT (where he received his master's) and the University of Texas.

Fort and his wife, Beth — an associate professor of psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine — split their time between Houston and their ranch outside of Brenham, Texas. They have five children who collectively have earned 11 college degrees (thus far), including their son, Daniel, who earned his MBA at Tech.



**ANDREA L. LALIBERTE**

**IE 1982**

**M.S. IE 1984**

Former Senior Vice President –  
Distribution & Consumer Service,  
Coach, Inc.

Andrea is an executive with success in logistics planning and execution to meet customer needs in the international retail environment. She has been recognized for implementing new facilities, processes, and initiatives to increase capacity, reduce costs, and improve service.

Andrea was the Edenfield Executive in Residence and professor of the practice in the Stewart School. Previously, she was senior vice president – Distribution and Consumer Service for Coach, Inc., a leading marketer on modern classic American accessories.

Andrea sits on the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees, the College's External Advisory Board, and the Alexander-Tharpe Fund Board. She is a past chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. Additionally, she was the recipient of the 2008 College of Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award and the 2020 Joseph Mayo Pettit Distinguished Service Award. She also serves on the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation Board of Directors and the University of Vermont Foundation Leadership Council.



**GARY S. MAY**

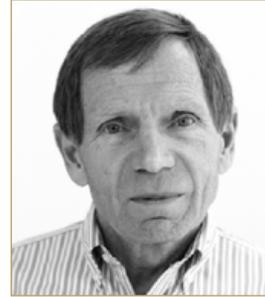
**EE 1985  
Hon. Ph.D. 2021**

Chancellor,  
University of California, Davis

Gary leads the most comprehensive campus in the University of California system, with four colleges and six professional schools. His vision as UC Davis' seventh chancellor is to lead the university to new heights in academic excellence, inclusion, public service, and upward mobility for students from all backgrounds.

A prominent voice in higher education and former dean of the College, Gary is a member of the Boyer 2040 Commission, which was created by the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities to design a blueprint for excellence and equity in undergraduate education at U.S. research universities.

He serves on the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Board of Directors, the Universities Research Association's Council of Presidents, the American Council on Education board, and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities board. He is a member of the Task Force on Higher Education and Opportunity, a member of the National Academy of Engineering's Committee on Racial Justice and Equity, a member of the Fulbright Scholar Advisory Board, and an advisor for the National Society of Black Engineers. He was selected as a Fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education in 2021.



**ROBERT EDWARD SANDERS**

**CERE 1974, M.S. MET 1976  
Ph.D. CHE 1978**

Visiting Professor,  
Chongqing University

Senior Technical Advisor,  
Novelis, Inc.

Rob is an industry consultant with more than 40 years of experience in the development of aluminum alloys and products. At Georgia Tech, he studied fracture behavior of high-strength aluminum alloys. From 1978 to 2011, he worked at the Alcoa Technical Center near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in research and development, technology transfer from research and development to manufacturing, and education and training. His experience includes aluminum can, foil, and aerospace and automotive extruded and rolled products. From 2005 to 2010, Rob was the technology director for Alcoa Asia-Pacific in Beijing.

Rob has been a visiting professor at Chongqing University in China since 2010, where he supervises graduate research students and teaches a general class in aluminum metallurgy. He has consulted for industrial clients in the packaging, transportation, and electronic markets in the U.S., Europe, Korea, and China.

Since 2012, Rob has been a senior technical advisor at the Novelis Global Technology R&T Center in Kennesaw. He has advised senior R&D management, mentored young scientists, and taught general and specialized training courses to support Novelis' global talent development objectives.

Rob lives near Chapin, South Carolina, with his wife, Jocelyn, and their three cats. While his running has moderated, he completed 45 marathons during his younger years.



**JAMES ROBERT (BOB)  
SPENCER**

**CHE 1959**

Retired Chief of Pathology,  
Sarasota Memorial Hospital

Retired Managing Partner,  
Sarapath Diagnostics  
(previously Sarasota Pathology)

After graduating from Georgia Tech, Bob worked for two years in the polymer research and development division of the Monsanto Corporation. He then earned a degree in medicine from the University of Florida, graduating first in his class. Over the next five years, he served in the United States Public Health Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. He also completed his medical residency in the Osler Medical Service at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and the Pathology Department of the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

He practiced for the next 42 years as the managing partner of an eight-person group, Sarasota Pathology (later Sarapath Diagnostics), and chief of pathology for Sarasota Memorial Health Care System. Sarasota Memorial honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award shortly before his retirement.

Bob still supports Tech and recommends it as an excellent base that prepares one to follow wherever life might lead. He also supports other universities and many community activities, especially those combating climate change.



**FEDERICO (FRIEDEL)  
STUBBE**

**CE 1970**

Chairman,  
PRISA Group

PRISA Group is a family-owned developer, builder, and operator of master-planned residential communities. The company also develops resort, hospitality, education, healthcare, gaming, and entertainment projects in Puerto Rico and Florida, employing more than 2,500 people. The firm has completed more than \$2 billion in development projects during the last decade. This includes 11 hotels, seven residential projects, a \$125 million community hospital, and Distrito T-Mobile, a \$250 million state-of-the-art urban entertainment district.

Friedel is past chairman of the Georgia Tech Advisory Board, former member of the College's Advisory Board, and current trustee emeritus of the Georgia Tech Foundation. He is a governor of the Urban Land Institute, past president of the Puerto Rico Home Builders Association, and board member of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Friedel attended the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School in 1991. He later founded the TESIS School, a 900-student independent school in Puerto Rico.

He and his wife, Carolina, have two children — Federico and Cecilia — and six grandchildren. They all live in Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico.



## ALEKSANDER SZLAM

EE 1974

M.S. EE 1980

Founder and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Melita International, Inc.  
(Virtual Co.)

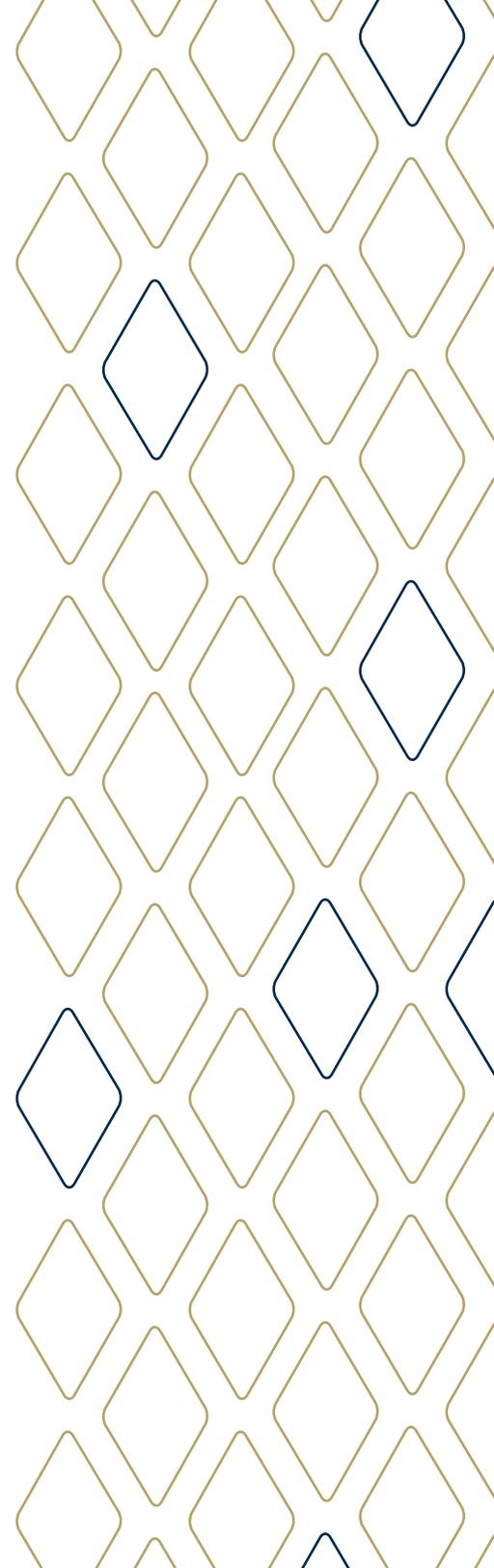
Alek founded Melita International, Inc., in 1979. He and his wife, Halina, evolved it into a NASDAQ debt-free global leader. The company's innovative solutions laid the foundation for the call center industry with installations in 45 countries. Initial innovations included Sprintel (notifying parents that a child is absent at school), CallerID, FoneFrame for customer care services, and others. The technologies forever changed ways people and businesses interact, laying the groundwork for today's modern telephony and smartphones.

Alek was the driving force in establishing industry standards that included answer detection, predictive dialing, and intelligent call routing. His name is associated with more than 100 U.S. and international patents upon which call centers and mobile messaging are built today.

His honors include induction into the Call Center Hall of Fame, *Inc. Magazine's* "Entrepreneur of the Year," "Pioneer in the Industry" by *Call Centers Magazine*, and a lifetime achievement award by TMC and *Customer Interaction Solutions* publications. Additionally, Melita ascended Atlanta's "Fast Tech 50" list of fastest growing, profitable companies.

Alek and Halina are ardent supporters of ECE scholarship programs, fellowship endowments, and The Hive Makerspace. He remains active with the School's advisory board, lecturing, Mentor Jackets, and capstone design programs.

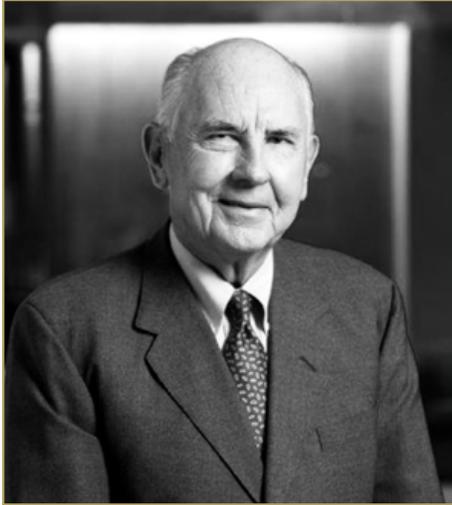
Alek and Halina live in Alpharetta, Georgia, and have two children and four grandchildren.



# 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.



## **THE A. JAMES & ALICE B. CLARK FOUNDATION**

The A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation invests in three strategic philanthropic areas: educating future engineering leaders, improving the lives of veterans and their families, and providing members of the Washington, D.C., community the best opportunity to thrive.

As part of the Foundation's commitment to building the pipeline of future engineers, it established the A. James Clark Scholars Program (CSP) at 11 of the nation's top engineering institutions, including Georgia Tech. The program supports students with financial need who exhibit academic and leadership potential.

Mr. Clark's philanthropy at Georgia Tech began with the Samuel P. Bratton Scholarship, in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, in honor of his father-in-law. Then, in 2018, the Clark Foundation partnered with College of Engineering leaders to bring the CSP to campus. The curriculum combines engineering, leadership, and community service. Georgia Tech's Clark Scholars are exposed to cutting-edge research programs and introduced to thought leaders in business and entrepreneurship. This signature academic program enables Clark Scholars to embody the skills required of engineers in a global marketplace.

# 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  
Inclusive Excellence



**DOUGLAS WILLIAMS**

Senior Associate Dean

# 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



**H. EDWIN ROMEIJN**

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



**DEVESH RANJAN**

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. The Awards are now under the leadership of Dean Raheem A. Beyah, a native Atlantan who earned his Georgia Tech master's and Ph.D. degrees in electrical and computer engineering.

## Special Thanks

Tom Fanning

**CO-HOST**

Lorika Chery

*ISyE, Clark Scholar*

**STUDENT SPEAKER**

Eileen Liu

*CmpE, Clark Scholar*

**PIANIST**

Parker Sams

*ME, Dean's Scholar*

Sebastián Negrón

*ECE, Dean's Scholar*

Tyra Grant

*BME, Clark Scholar*

Isabella McClain-Lopez

*BME, Clark Scholar*

**STUDENT VOLUNTEERS**

Buzz

Georgia Tech Alumni Association –  
Ramblin' Wreck

Georgia Tech Alumni Band

College of Engineering Staff

# “*Ramblin’ Wreck*”

I’m a Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech, and a hell of an engineer  
A helluva, helluva, helluva, helluva, hell of an engineer.  
Like all the jolly good fellows, I drink my whiskey clear.  
I’m a Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech, and a hell of an engineer.

Oh! If I had a daughter, sir, I’d dress her in white and gold,  
And put her on the campus to cheer the brave and bold.  
But if I had a son, sir, I’ll tell you what he’d do —  
He would yell “To Hell with Georgia” like his daddy used to do.

Oh! I wish I had a barrel of rum and sugar three thousand pounds,  
A college bell to put it in and a clapper to stir it ’round.  
I’d drink to all good fellows who come from far and near.  
I’m a ramblin’, gamblin’, hell of an engineer.



Georgia Tech  
**College of  
Engineering**

