

Messners Launch \$5 Million CEE Faculty Endowment Challenge

Jenny K. and Michael G. Messner, CE 1976, have launched a challenge grant to support the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE). Through their family foundation, the Messners have established a challenge fund within the Georgia Tech Foundation; this fund will provide **dollar-for-dollar matching gifts** up to \$5 million.



Jenny K. and Michael G. Messner, CE 1976

The Messner Faculty Endowment Challenge will fund endowed faculty chairs and professorships within the School. To date, only six endowed faculty chairs and professorships are available to the School’s 48 tenured and tenure-track faculty — only 12.5 percent of the faculty have access to the career-building, program-enhancing benefits that come with endowed chairs/ professorships. In comparison, 25 to 50 percent of faculty in the nation’s other top-five CEE programs — Georgia Tech’s competition for top-tier faculty — hold endowed chairs or professorships. “The overarching goal is to provide up to \$10 million in additional permanent endowment for support of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering,” said Michael Messner. When the challenge has been fully met, funds will be used to establish up to 10 new chairs and professorships — more than doubling the current six. This infusion of support “will enable the School to be even

more successful in retaining and recruiting exceptional faculty at mid- and senior-career levels,” said Messner. Donors who wish to participate in the challenge must make a qualifying gift or multi-year commitment, generally payable over a five-year period. Gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Messner Challenge Fund and deposited into each participating donor’s named endowment fund, held and managed by the Georgia Tech Foundation. Only new gifts and commitments made on or after October 10, 2018, and designated for endowed faculty chairs and professorships within the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering will qualify for the Messner Faculty Endowment Challenge. The challenge will run from October 10, 2018, through June 30, 2019 — or until the challenge funds are fully subscribed, if earlier. Participating donors will hold commemorative naming rights for chairs and professorships. ///



MESSNER CEE CHALLENGE 1.0

Q&A

Q. What are the specific goals for the challenge?
A. The overall goal of the challenges is to provide up to \$10 million in additional permanent endowment dedicated for support of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, in very short order, to enable the School to act quickly and decisively in attracting and retaining faculty at mid- and senior-career levels. In so doing, the goal is to establish new chairs and professorships — more than doubling the current six. The School’s primary objectives are to raise a combination of up to ten (10) additional faculty chairs and professorships through Challenge 1.0.

Q. How does the challenge work?
A. Donors who wish to help meet the challenge must make a qualifying gift or multi-year commitment, payable generally over a five-year period. Gifts from all challenge grant participants will be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the Challenge Fund and deposited into each participating donor’s named endowment fund, held and managed by the Georgia Tech Foundation. Under certain circumstances, advance funding may be available through the Georgia Tech Foundation, enabling the School to initiate the search process years earlier than would typically be the case.

Q. What do you mean by qualifying gifts and commitments? When does the first challenge start? End?
A. Only new gifts and commitments, made on or after October 10, 2018, and designated for endowed faculty chairs and professorships within the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering will qualify for the Messner Faculty Endowment Challenge. Previous donors cannot cancel and re-book current commitments. This first challenge will run from October 10, 2018, through June 30, 2019— a little more than eight months — or until such time as the challenge funds are fully subscribed, if earlier. The terms of any subsequent challenge(s) will be determined and announced thereafter.

Q. Who gets the recognition?
A. The Messners are conveying all commemorative naming rights — including the challenge grant monies — to the participating donor(s), who may name their respective endowments in their own name(s) or in honor

or memory of others. However, the challenge funds do not accrue to the participating donor’s personal giving for donor recognition purposes (e.g., The Hill Society).

Q. Can donors make additional gifts and commitments to existing faculty endowment funds to take advantage of the matching funds?
A. Under certain circumstances, yes. Please inquire.

Q. What is the minimum level of Messner Faculty Endowment Challenge participation?
A. The minimum level of challenge participation for establishing new endowments is \$500,000 (to fund a \$1,000,000 professorship, when fully funded by the participating donor and challenge match) to be paid in full within five (5) years of the date of commitment and no later than June 30, 2024.

Commemorative Named Gift Level	Messner Faculty Endowment Challenge New Gift + Matching Gift = TOTAL
Faculty Chair (From \$2M)	\$1M + \$1M = \$2M
Professorship (From \$1M)	\$0.5M + \$0.5M = \$1M

Q. Do my corporate matching gifts qualify as well?
A. Yes. Nearly 1,000 corporations match the gifts of their employees and, in some cases, retirees. The entire amount of the donor’s commitment, including matching gifts, qualifies for the challenge and may be credited to meet the requisite level required for challenge participation.

Q. What if I choose to participate through my family foundation and donor-advised funds?
A. Gifts and commitments from family foundations, donor-advised funds and other organizations, and directly from corporations, are also welcome.

Q. Will an estate provision or trust qualify?
A. Typically not. Only in a handful of cases may a trust qualify. Unrealized bequests do not.

Q. Where do I direct any questions? Or make a qualifying commitment?
A. Contact any development officer, or Director of Development for the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering **Ashley Coogan** at **ashley.coogan@ce.gatech.edu** or **404.385.1604**.



To inquire about making a gift in support of graduate fellowships, contact any development officer or Associate Vice President for Development **Philip D. Spessard** at **phil.spessard@dev.gatech.edu** or **404.385.1418**.

To inquire about making a gift in support of intercollegiate athletics, contact any athletic development officer or Associate Vice President for Athletic Development **James S. Hall** at **jhall@athletics.gatech.edu** or **404.894.8219**.

ALUMNUS PAYS IT FORWARD

His experience as both a student-athlete and an out-of-state student prompted Bergmark to make a generous commitment to students in both the MBA program in the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business and to Tech's swimming and diving programs. Specifically, Bergmark and his wife, Toni, have established the Toni M. and Richard L. Bergmark Fellowship Endowment Fund to support out-of-state students entering the MBA program. An additional commitment establishes the Toni M. and Richard L. Bergmark Athletic Scholarship Endowment Fund for undergraduate student-athletes in the swimming and diving programs.

"One of the attributes of Tech is the breadth of its out-of-state and international student body," Bergmark explained. Encountering students from other parts of the country — and other countries — helps encourage "fresh perspectives on ideas, background, and knowledge-sharing. I hope the recipients of these gifts will share their own unique perspectives," he added.

Bergmark said he was moved to support graduate fellowships after hearing Provost Rafael Bras speak on Initiative 2020 priorities. "He became very passionate about the need for graduate student fellowships, and that served as the catalyst for me to respond to Dean Maryam Alavi's focus on the Scheller MBA program," said Bergmark. As Georgia Tech continues to rise in national rankings, funding for graduate fellowships becomes more prized. The number and size of graduate fellowships available directly affects a university's ability to recruit — and retain — the best students, who typically have their pick of graduate schools. Initiative 2020, with its emphasis on funding graduate fellowships, "will go a long way toward providing our Scheller programs with needed investment," said Bergmark.

A swimming and diving scholarship for talented

Tech undergraduates was the Bergmarks' latest gift in support of athletics. "I was determined to return the favor of the scholarship that Coach (Herb) McAuley had provided me," he said. "What began as one scholarship from my wife and me several years ago has now led to further support for the swimming and diving teams."

A longtime Texas resident who has "never lived in Georgia except for my four years at Tech," Bergmark is committed to helping the Institute attract top-quality students. He also hopes that students who benefit from his family's generous gifts may choose to give back one day as well. Scholarships and fellowships alike can be "life-impacting [for] the recipient," he said. "Should those recipients want to give back to Tech at a later date to 'repay' what they were given, then the gift from my wife and me will have been an even greater success," said Bergmark.

He and his wife also hope other alumni — including young, recent graduates — will be moved to give, regardless of income. "For young alumni in particular, I would say start early, and don't be afraid to start small. But do add to it every year as one does with any savings/retirement fund," said Bergmark. "Consider an endowment as a savings account for the benefit of a future student." ///



According to Richard Bergmark, IMGT 1975, his ability to swim brought him to Georgia Tech. **"I was fortunate to have a swimming scholarship; without it, I could not have afforded the cost of being an out-of-state student,"** said Bergmark.

Richard L. Bergmark, IMGT 1975, (center), with a group of Bergmark Family Dean's Scholarship recipients on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.



\$1M COMMITMENT SUPPORTS BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIPS AND CHANDLER STADIUM RENOVATIONS.

An anonymous donor has made a generous \$1 million commitment to support Georgia Tech baseball. The gift will be directed equally to both an endowed baseball scholarship and to the second phase of the Russ Chandler Stadium Renovation Challenge via a dollar-for-dollar challenge. The renovation will help ensure that student-athletes have state-of-the-art facilities in which to play. Great facilities — both academic and athletic — help Tech remain competitive in recruiting top students. With this gift, plus previous commitments, the Institute is within \$2 million of the \$9 million overall goal for the stadium renovation.

*To inquire about making a gift to support the baseball stadium renovation or athletics as a whole, contact any athletic development officer or **James S. Hall** at jhall@athletics.gatech.edu or **404.894.8219**.*

'MAGICAL' MAKERSPACE

↳ GETS EXTENSIVE REDESIGN AND A NEW NAME

↳ The Flowers Invention Studio is where DIY meets engineering/design coursework. Staffed by student volunteers from various majors, the advanced makerspace enables other students, faculty, and staff to learn how to design and build the projects of their dreams — or a clock. Projects can be intricate or simple; the point is to learn by doing.

Thanks to a generous commitment from Beth and Fort Flowers, ME 1983, the makerspace has received a significant redesign makeover and the family's name.

"This is a magical place," said Amit Jariwala, director of Design and Innovation for the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. "This is where the concept of makerspaces in higher education started almost 10 years ago." With the Flowers' generosity, the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering was able "to work with some of the best architects and contractors to create a space that is functional, aesthetic, modern, and welcoming to everyone on campus," said Jariwala. Students, in particular, will be able to take the theoretical principles they learn in

class and apply them in a real-world, practical setting.

Beth and Fort Flowers had several reasons for supporting the makerspace.

"Number one, [recently retired Woodruff School Chair] Bill Wepfer asked, and based on his leadership and innovation as a faculty member and chair, when Bill makes an ask then we know it will be important and cutting edge," said Fort Flowers. "Second, we have a family tradition in terms of engineering education: there are 22 engineering degrees in four generations of the Flowers family, and 16 of those are in mechanical engineering. We have always had a focus in our family philanthropy on design engineering," said Flowers. Lastly, they want "to establish mechanical

engineering facilities that are worthy of the first-rate group of students at Tech."

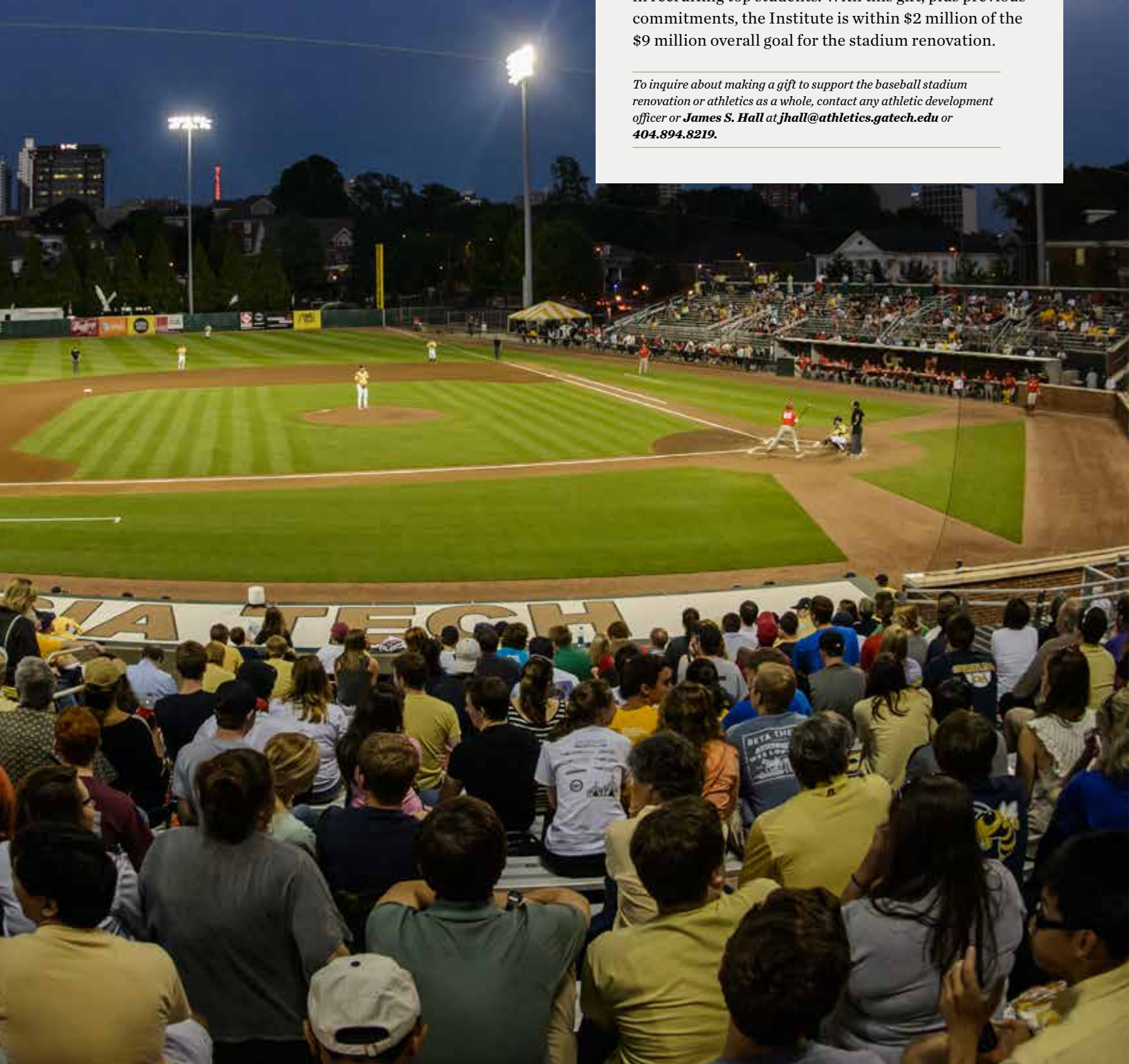
The Flowers Invention Studio includes two dedicated work areas: a metal shop and The Hub — a large room boasting a fleet of 3D printers, laser cutters, electronics/robotics equipment, and sewing stations. Each area includes state-of-the-art equipment and the prerequisite safety gear. Trained student Prototyping Instructors (PIs) are on hand to teach people how to properly and safely use all the equipment.

According to Flowers, the opportunity to fund the invention studio was a perfect fit. "We have a family philanthropic focus on design engineering because we believe that design engineers make a difference," he said. ///

*To inquire about making a gift in support of the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, contact Director of Development **Tom Lawley** at tom.lawley@me.gatech.edu or **404.385.8345**.*



Beth and Fort Flowers, ME 1983, at the ribbon-cutting for the Flowers Invention Studio.



Reunion Giving: *Celebrating the Many*

When alumni come together to support the Institute, their gifts are magnified. This year, proud Tech graduates from 1968, 1978, and 1993 celebrated their milestone reunions by giving generously to provide new facilities, support scholarships and graduate fellowships, fund athletics, and to contribute much-needed Institute support. Whether supporting their schools or a particular scholarship, the construction of a building or funding an academic program, alumni gave generously and gladly.

From first-time donors to seasoned philanthropists, every gift matters and each one is greatly appreciated.

50TH CLASS REUNION Class of 1968 \$17,510,051



“For me, philanthropy had always been a personal action and a privilege. However, participating with my 50th Reunion Class made philanthropy a team effort and not just something personal. The interaction with fellow alumni — whether by emails, phone calls, or in-person meetings — led to special stories, memories, and renewed friendships. The sense of pride we have in our class and its history made reunion giving even more special to many of us.”



CHAIR
Niles Bolton
ARCH 1968

40TH CLASS REUNION Class of 1978 \$27,707,292



“The reunion weekend turned out to be a fantastic time to reconnect with former classmates, celebrate the progress Tech has made in the past 40 years, and recognize the record financial contribution our class has made to the Institute. Tech contributed to the career success of the class of 1978, and it has been important for us to pay it forward and make Tech even better for future graduates. Helping Tech maintain its leadership position as a research university is satisfying and helps us all connect with the growth of the Institute.”



CHAIR
Roger A. Krone
AE 1978

25TH CLASS REUNION Class of 1993 \$2,700,000



“It was wonderful to be back on campus during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend and to be reminded of the amazing difference Tech makes in the world. It is a privilege to be able to give back to the Institute in a collective way. We look forward to the progress Tech will make in the next quarter century, and we are grateful to be a part of that.”



CHAIR
Karl Dasher
AE 1993