

# HELPING THE HELPERS



## *Donor Establishes Scholarship for Children of Military and First Responders*



**Karl F. Dasher**, IE 1993, is CEO, North America, and co-head of Fixed Income at Schroders Inc. “The highest calling in life,” he says, “is to create virtuous cycles that extend beyond us and our years. Partnering with Georgia Tech in an area that is a passion for you — and of need to society — is a great way to do that.”

Karl Dasher, IE 1993, is no stranger to first responders. When he was in a serious car accident back in the late 1980s, they came to his aid.

He is also no stranger to scholarships. After the accident ended his dream of playing college football, he changed his academic course and won a full tuition scholarship to Georgia Tech, courtesy of alumnus Lawton M. (Mac) Nease, IMGT 1965, who had set it up for students from Effingham County, just north of Savannah.

What’s more, Nease kept the scholarship open for Dasher for two years while he recovered from his injuries and worked to turn around his family’s struggling business.

“I made a commitment then and there — to myself and to him — that I would reinvest some of my future good fortune to help create a positive path for others via Georgia Tech,” Dasher recalls.

Dasher has kept that commitment, starting in 2005, when he led the endowment of an athletic scholarship in honor of his high school football coach. Since then, he and his wife, Erin, have supported a number of causes, and they feel particularly passionate about expanding opportunities for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education.

Although Dasher went on to earn an Ivy League graduate degree, he credits his own STEM education at Tech for giving him the foundation to succeed. “I think Georgia Tech is a transformational institution,” he says. “It drives you down a path of study that is assured to equip you with a set of skills and a degree that is valued by society — it’s one of the great upward mobility stories in America today.”

The Dashers’ most recent gift was inspired by a family trip to Normandy and Omaha Beach, Dasher says. “You can’t walk through the bunkers, bomb craters, and cemetery and leave without a profound sense that everything we have today in terms of freedom and prosperity is because of those who put their lives on the line to defend us and our governing principles,” he says. “That extends, as well, to those who protect us and our loved ones on a daily basis in the communities in which we live.”

Called the **America’s Heroes Scholarship**, the Dashers’ scholarship will be awarded to qualifying Georgia Tech students who self-identify as children of U.S. military active duty personnel and veterans, or children of first responders including, but not limited to, fire, police, and emergency medical personnel.

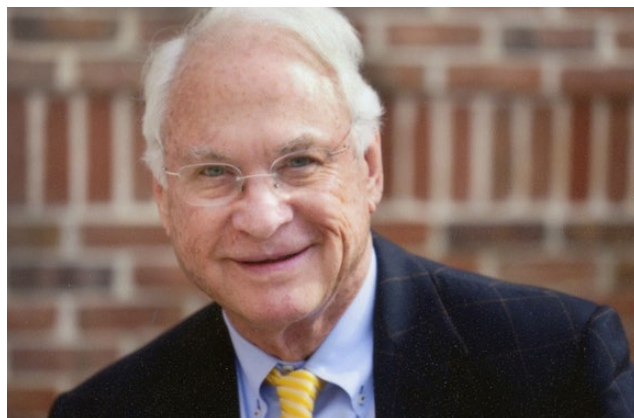
“Helping military and first responder families through financial assistance is one small way of giving back to those who give their time and put their lives at risk to support our country and our world,” Dasher says. “We hope it will make them feel a little more appreciated for the sacrifices they make for us.” ///

# HONORARY ALUMNI HONORED

## *Gift adds to enduring legacies of two Tech champions*

An anonymous donor has made a \$2 million gift to Georgia Tech in the names of two individuals whose service to the Institute goes back for decades and whose legacy — already destined to extend far into the future — will now be even broader.

The donor, described as “characteristically quiet in his philanthropy and selfless in recognition,” is a Georgia Tech graduate. He is long known to Georgia Tech, and long known to the people he wishes to honor — honorary alumna Penelope W. “Penny” Stamps and W. Jack Thompson, senior associate athletics director.



### **THE PENELOPE W. “PENNY” STAMPS PRESIDENT’S DISCRETIONARY ENDOWMENT FUND**

This \$1 million fund was established in honor of Penny Stamps in celebration of the Stamps family’s longtime friendship with the donor’s family, and in recognition of her many years of philanthropic leadership and service in advancing the mission of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Stamps, together with her husband of more than four decades, E. Roe Stamps IV, IE 1967, MS IE 1972, HON

Ph.D. 2014, served as honorary chair of the Campaign Steering Committee during the public phase (2010-15) of Campaign Georgia Tech, inspiring others to step forward with their own transformative gifts. Just scratching the surface of the Stamps’ philanthropic reach at Tech and elsewhere, the couple also established the Stamps Leadership Scholar Awards at Georgia Tech and dozens of other leading universities, and the Stamps name graces buildings across campus — the Stamps Student Center Commons, Stamps Field at

the Campus Recreation Center, and Stamps Student Health Services.

The unrestricted income from this endowment will be available for use at the full discretion of Georgia Tech’s president in perpetuity. Given Penny Stamps’ passion for supporting the overall well-being of students, President G.P. “Bud” Peterson plans to dedicate these funds toward student wellness for the foreseeable future.



### **THE W. JACK THOMPSON EDGE CENTER RENOVATION FUND**

The anonymous donor designated this \$1 million gift as a tribute to Jack Thompson in acknowledgment of the remarkable impact he has made on Georgia Tech athletics through an outstanding career and extraordinary service that has spanned five decades.

Thompson joined Georgia Tech in 1968, initially serving as director of football recruiting. He moved up through Athletics — from assistant to the head football coach, to assistant Athletics director, to an associate position, then a senior associate position. He also developed and served as executive producer of a syndicated television show that featured Tech’s head football coach, head basketball coach, and Athletics director, and he co-hosted *Sideline Sports*, which ran on Atlanta’s Channel 11 for 19 years. Both shows were among the most highly syndicated coaches’ shows in America at the time.

Under Thompson’s leadership, Georgia Tech Athletics has been among the leaders in per capita fundraising, with cumulative gifts and pledges totaling more than \$200 million in the past 10 years. His name has come to be synonymous with the Alexander-Tharpe Fund, and in 2004, he was named an honorary alumnus of Georgia Tech by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, the highest award conferred on a non-alumnus.

Thompson has asked that the funds from the donor be directed toward renovations to the Edge Center, which sits at the corner of Bobby Dodd Way and Techwood Drive and houses Georgia Tech’s Athletics program, including administrative offices, an academic center, locker rooms, a dining hall, a training room, and more.

A permanent space will be named in Thompson’s honor in the Edge Center or its replacement facility, which will stand as an enduring testament to the impact he has had on Georgia Tech athletics, and as an inspiration to future generations of student-athletes, coaches, and staff. ///

# Continuing

## THE Conversation

*Donors invest in the power of art to expand knowledge and inspire courage*

Rosa Parks never set foot on the Georgia Tech campus, but the impact of her decades-long battle for equality and justice cannot be confined to a single geographical location or historical era. Like with all great heroes, her life and work are transcendent.

Now, Rodney C. Adkins, EE 1981, MS EE 1983, HON Ph.D. 2013, and Michelle L. Adkins, IMGT 1983, are hoping that a statue of the civil rights icon — to be unveiled in Harrison Square on April 5 — will inspire current and future generations of Tech students to learn more about Parks and discover their own courage. The couple have provided full philanthropic support for the piece, and they are enthusiastic about its potential impact on campus.

“She wasn’t tired, and she wasn’t old,” Michelle said, referring to Parks’ refusal in 1955 to relinquish her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama — an action for which she was arrested. “She was tired of giving in. That lesson in itself is good for our young generation: It’s important to stand up for what you believe in. I think that’s something Tech students and the Atlanta community — all people in general — can take a lesson from.”

“This project felt right,” Rod added. “It felt like it integrated all of the things we stand for. We are really proud that it’s going to be on the campus of Georgia Tech.”

The bronze statue, titled *Continuing the Conversation*, was designed and created by Atlanta sculptor Martin Dawe. It depicts Parks at age 42 — the year her courageous act launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott and a movement that would reshape the nation — and at age 92, the year she died. They sit across from each other, with an empty seat between them, inviting passersby to participate.

This rendering shows how *Continuing the Conversation* will be situated on Harrison Square. Madison Cario, director of Georgia Tech’s Office of the Arts, believes the sculpture will inspire the entire campus community. “It illuminates history,” she said, “and welcomes us to become a part of it.”



**Rod Adkins**, who worked for IBM for 33 years and is now president of CRAM Group, has served on the Georgia Tech Advisory Board and the Electrical Engineering Advisory Board, and currently serves on the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees. **Michelle Adkins** currently serves on the Alumni Association Board of Trustees.

Dawe came up with the concept a few years ago, and he shared it with Madison Cario, director of Tech’s Office of the Arts, and Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs and the K. Harrison Brown Family Chair. The piece, they agreed, would be a perfect fit for Georgia Tech.

“It is important to keep this history alive, because that conversation that Rosa Parks carried, with herself and with the people of the United States, needs to continue,” Bras said. “I think we are obliged to remind and educate our students of that history and challenge them to do the same.”

Dawe, the owner of Cherryllion Sculpture Studios in Midtown Atlanta, designed the Rosa Parks statue as an interactive educational piece. A website and an audio file are being planned to provide visitors with additional biographical and historical information.

“The name of the piece is *Continuing the Conversation*, so that’s the effect it should be having,” Dawe said. It is also meaningful to him that the statue will live at Georgia Tech. Though a graduate of Georgia State University, Dawe apprenticed with Tech professor and sculptor Julian Harris, ARCH 1928, for eight years. “My heart is at Tech, because that’s where my career started,” he said. “I wouldn’t have a career if I hadn’t gotten that job.”

For Michelle and Rod Adkins, that connection is even more heartfelt. They attribute their many professional achievements in part to their Tech education and have devoted more than three decades of vital philanthropic support and service to their alma mater, most significantly by endowing President’s Scholarships and Dean’s Scholarships within the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

“This was an opportunity for us to continue our support for Georgia Tech,” Rod explained. To him, the sculpture is a statement “that we are proud African-Americans and we are proud to be associated with Georgia Tech.”

And what does he imagine a young Rosa Parks saying to an older Rosa Parks, or vice versa? “I think the conversation would center around reflecting on our past — but also anticipating and embracing, with excitement, how we’re going to shape the future.” ///

To learn more about Arts@Tech, contact **Madison Cario** at [madison.cario@arts.gatech.edu](mailto:madison.cario@arts.gatech.edu) or 404.894.2787.



# JOHN PORTMAN

## REMEMBERED

**R**enowned alumnus John Portman, ARCH 1950, HON Ph.D. 2012, died on Dec. 29, 2017, at age 93. One of a relative few architects and developers to achieve “household name” status in his lifetime, Portman followed a distinct and uncharted path in his profession, and his influence has significantly impacted cities around the world, especially his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. His success has also been a credit to his alma mater, Georgia Tech, and in 2012, he received

an Honorary Ph.D. from the Institute, one of only 35 people so honored in the Institute’s history.

Portman’s enterprising, entrepreneurial inclinations can be traced to his childhood, when he sold chewing gum outside what is now the Rialto Theatre downtown.

In high school, he asked his teacher if he could learn architectural drafting instead of mechanical drafting. While he was at Georgia Tech, a photo story in the *Atlanta Constitution* described him as the leader of a student project to “do over” an old house.

Since founding his firm in 1953, Portman has been a pioneer in his field, introducing the very concept

of architect as developer. For more than 60 years, The Portman Companies have developed and/or designed more than 50 million square feet of space around the world.

Portman’s mission as an architect was to “design innovative, engaging, and memorable spaces that serve the people that use them and benefit the community,” and no city benefited more from his vision than Atlanta, whose downtown he revolutionized, most notably with the 14-block Peachtree Center complex.

In 2009, Atlanta’s High Museum of Art presented the exhibition “John Portman: Art & Architecture,” which featured not only photos, plans, and models of his architectural projects, but also furniture, sculptures, and paintings he created. Portman’s architectural awards include the 1976 Elsie de Wolf Award from the American Society of Interior Designers, New York Chapter; the 1978 AIA Medal from the American Institute of Architects; the 1981 Silver Medal Award from the Atlanta Chapter of AIA; and the 1984 Urban Land Institute’s Award of Excellence for Embarcadero Center.

To enrich and expand the graduate design studios in Georgia Tech’s School of Architecture, Portman funded both the Portman Visiting Critic program and the Portman Prize Studio Competition, initiatives created to foster design excellence and student creativity, with monetary prizes and a coveted summer internship at John Portman & Associates for the winner. Portman was a member of Georgia Tech’s Hill Society in recognition of his generous philanthropy to his alma mater.

Both professionally and philanthropically, Portman has made an enduring impact on Georgia Tech — and the Institute on him. When the endowed Dean’s Chair in the College of Design (formerly Architecture) was named in his honor, he said, “Georgia Tech is a jewel in Atlanta’s crown, and the College of Architecture played a pivotal role in shaping my life. I am honored to partner with the institution that means so much to me, while it aims to ensure generations of aspiring architects have a world-class educational foundation on which to build their dreams, contribute to the field, and improve the lives of people everywhere.” ///



John Portman designed a sculpture for Georgia Tech as part of the Institute’s Arts@Tech initiative. Named *Koan*, for a puzzle Buddhists use during meditation to help them unravel great truths, the sculpture consists of three forms that merge and support one another as they rise 40 feet into the air, representing the magic that happens when knowledge, research, and creativity intertwine. The sculpture will be mounted on a granite base and placed in the northeast corner of Tech Green, just steps from Clough Commons, Van Leer, and the College of Design. The sculpture will create a landmark that can easily be seen from great distances as well as by students, faculty, and guests walking from building to building and class to class.

Additional philanthropy is sought to complete the fabrication and installation of the sculpture, which will stand as both an inspiration to the Tech community and a tribute to Portman’s life and work.



To inquire about making a gift to support the John Portman sculpture, contact any development officer, or Vice President for Development **Barrett H. Carson** at [barrett.carson@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:barrett.carson@dev.gatech.edu) or **404.894.1868**.



**“We know our commitment will help  
provide the Institute with resources  
for continued growth and success.”**

— Niles, ARCH 1968, and Kathy Bolton

When Niles Bolton, ARCH 1968, was ready for college, he applied to one school only — Georgia Tech. His father was an alumnus, as was his older brother, and he was determined to follow their lead. To his dismay, he was waitlisted, and when he and his father inquired as to why, the registrar said, “I’m not sure you can cut it here.”

The gauntlet thrown, Bolton not only “cut it,” he went on after graduation to found an award-winning architecture firm, Niles Bolton Associates Inc. He started his company in 1975 — after first serving in Vietnam with the Army Corps of Engineers and putting in a few years at architecture firms — with only \$500 in business on the books. His firm was well established by the time it was chosen to design housing for the 1996 Olympic Village — now Georgia Tech’s North Avenue Residence Hall — which he cites as one of his proudest professional achievements.

On the family front, Bolton has been married to his wife, Kathy, for 46 years and has two grown children — one of them also a Georgia Tech alumnus — and one grandchild. For fun, he enjoys bird hunting, fishing, and traveling.

Over the years, Georgia Tech has been like an extended family to Bolton. More relatives — including his younger brother — have graduated from the Institute, and many of his fraternity brothers are his friends to this day. He has made transformative gifts to the College of Design and Athletics, and his firm has been actively involved in Tech’s Co-op Program, offering mentorship and experience to generations of architecture students. He has served on the boards of the Alumni Association, the Alexander-Tharpe Fund, and the Georgia Tech Foundation, and is a member of Georgia Tech’s prestigious Hill Society.

Bolton’s most recent philanthropic support has come through a commitment to make the Georgia Tech Foundation a beneficiary of his retirement account.

All his gifts and service to Tech, he says, have given back. “I feel like we have always received a return on our investment. Every opportunity of meeting alumni, hiring recent graduates, presenting in the classroom, and participating on a committee or board has always been a continuing education about looking into the future.”



Founders' Council is the honorary society recognizing donors who have made estate or life-income gifts of \$25,000 or more for the support of Georgia Tech. For more information, please contact:  
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