

Ivan Allen Initiative to advance humanitarian work, research

Prize for Social Courage, Institute for Advanced Studies are key elements

The legacy of the late Ivan Allen Jr., COMM 1933, former mayor of Atlanta and namesake of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, is well known to those who lived in the city and the region during the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s.

Allen was largely responsible for building Atlanta's reputation as an international city through strong support for the business community, development of vibrant arts programs, and the recruitment of professional sports teams. For all this to be possible, though, Allen first had to address the issue of racial segregation and the increasing tensions resulting from it.

In the summer of 1963, President John F. Kennedy called upon Allen to testify before Congress in favor of civil rights legislation to allow equal access to public accommodations for African Americans, still a highly controversial idea in the South. Nearly all those whose counsel Allen sought strongly advised against testifying, warning the mayor that doing so would be politically damaging.

Despite the conventional wisdom being offered to him, Allen felt it was vitally important to support the civil rights legislation, not only to establish Atlanta as the "city too busy to hate," but more importantly because



Ivan Allen Jr.

Allen genuinely believed that doing so was a moral imperative. Ultimately, Allen was the only southern elected official who testified in favor of the legislation, a stunning act of social courage in 1963 that led to threats of bodily harm and being ostracized for

decades by many of his peers and life-long friends.

In recognition of Allen's legacy of social courage and humanitarian concern, Georgia Tech and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts have established the Ivan Allen Jr. Initiative, which will encompass two defining elements: the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage and the Ivan Allen Jr. Institute for Advanced Studies.

Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage

Beginning in 2011, the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage will replace the existing Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Progress and Service, which has been awarded since 2001 to prominent individuals for a lifetime of achievement and with strong connections to Atlanta or Georgia.

The new Allen Prize will be international in scope and will recognize individuals who, by standing up for a clear moral principle in the social arena, have positively affected public discourse at the risk of their own careers, livelihoods, and even their lives. The Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage will be accompanied by a \$100,000 award to

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McKenney supports environmental initiatives, athletics, and scholarships

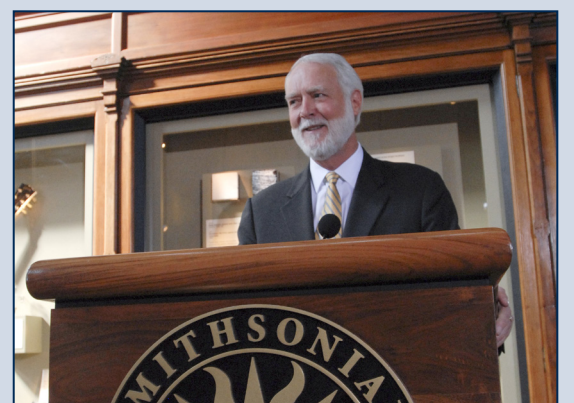
David M. McKenney, PHYS 1960, IE 1964, is passionate about supporting Georgia Tech, but he's also passionate about the environment. The chairman of McKenney's Inc., a mechanical contracting and engineering firm, has a long history of corporate leadership in advancing environmentally responsible industrial practices.

"Our entire nation has to come to grips with the very serious threats to our natural resources, unhealthy dependence on foreign oil, and the stress that we and the rest of the world are putting on the environment," said McKenney, who also holds an MBA from Georgia State University. "Large percentages of raw materials, energy, and environmental damage are either directly or indirectly related to the buildings that have been built over the years. Our industry—heating, air

conditioning, and plumbing in commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings—is ideally positioned to address energy and water conservation through modern technology, proper design, and quality installation and maintenance. Our company has taken a leadership role in this effort, and I hope to see Georgia Tech become more engaged in helping develop advanced technology in this field."

(To learn more about the environmentally focused efforts of McKenney's company—including plans to install rooftop photovoltaic solar cells manufactured by Suniva, a company that originated from the work of Georgia Tech Professor Ajeet Rohatgi—visit www.mckenneys.com.)

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Former President G. Wayne Clough returned to campus on April 5 for the groundbreaking of the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, an event where he was also named the second president emeritus in Georgia Tech history.

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be funded by the income from a \$2 million commitment made in 2008 by the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation.

“What we envision for the recipients of the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage goes far beyond being honored with the award at the annual Founders Day celebration,” said Ivan Allen College Interim Dean Kenneth J. Knoespel, who joined the College’s faculty in 1983 and also serves as McEver Professor of Engineering and Liberal Arts. “We anticipate having the recipient share a wealth of personal and professional experience with students and faculty during an extended stay on campus. The recipient’s presence will be reinforced through workshops, conferences, and other activities.”

It is also expected that the award recipient will interact with the greater Atlanta community, thereby extending the celebration of Mayor Allen’s principles to the city he so ably served. The Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage will stand as the preeminent prize offered by Georgia Tech and will draw attention to the very mission of the Institute in Georgia, the nation, and the world.

“My father was always the kind of man who was guided by his conscience above any other consideration,” said H. Inman Allen, son of Ivan Allen Jr. and chairman of Ivan Allen Company. “I know there are many more Ivan Allens around the globe standing up for what they believe is right regardless of the risk, and I want this award to

help bring the continuity of their examples to light.”

Ivan Allen Jr. Institute for Advanced Studies

In addition to the Allen Prize for Social Courage, the Ivan Allen Jr. Initiative will also encompass ongoing efforts to secure funding to establish the Ivan Allen Jr. Institute for Advanced Studies. Knoespel said the new institute is being planned as a campus-wide entity that will seek involvement from faculty and students in all six of Georgia Tech’s colleges. As a university-wide initiative, the Allen Institute’s leadership would report to the offices of the president and the provost.

“We envision the Allen Institute as the home for chaired professorships that would be shared between multiple colleges at Georgia Tech,” said Knoespel. “The work undertaken through the Allen Institute would directly support the priorities established in the twenty-five-year Strategic Plan for Georgia Tech that is currently being drafted. Initially, likely areas of study would include public policy, leadership, city planning, and governance, but the possibilities are extensive.”

“Georgia Tech is already known for its exceptionally collaborative and interdisciplinary programs,” said President G. P. “Bud” Peterson. “Researchers work across disciplines to solve issues related to biomedicine, global water and sanitation, and assistive technologies. But Mayor Allen’s values are leading us to broaden that collaboration. We intend to provide our students with the means by which they can make decisions

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—President G. P. “Bud” Peterson

based on the kinds of moral and ethical principles that led Ivan Allen to risk being ostracized by his peers in order to defend what was right. We want our graduates to be easily identified not only as preeminent in their respective fields, but also as leaders with values, principles, and compassion.”

Knoespel said that efforts are under way to secure an eight-figure gift or commitment from a lead donor to establish the Allen Institute, and a portion of that funding could come in the form of a challenge grant.

To inquire about making a gift in support of the Ivan Allen Jr. Initiative, contact Assistant Vice President for Development Marta H. Garcia at 404.894.5505 or marta.garcia@dev.gatech.edu.

Bill Todd receives Ivan Allen Prize for Progress and Service

As the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts welcomes a new dean in the coming year, the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Progress and Service—awarded since 2001—will also transition into the new Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage (see related story on page 1).

At the College’s annual Founders Day celebration on March 15, William J. “Bill” Todd, IM 1971, the tenth and final recipient of the existing prize, not only reflected on the inspiring life and example of Ivan Allen Jr., but also presaged that Ivan Allen’s model of leadership will play a pivotal role in lifting Georgia Tech to new levels of prominence.

A member of the Strategic Vision Steering Committee convened by President Peterson last summer, Todd is charged with helping to foster “big ideas” that will propel Georgia Tech to global preeminence by 2035, the 150th anniversary of the Institute’s founding.

“Consider these achievements by four of our alumni,” said Todd during his Founders Day speech accepting the prize. “Mike Duke is the CEO of the largest retail operation in the world [Wal-Mart]. [Former President] Wayne Clough heads the largest and most renowned museum system in the world [The Smithsonian]. Dick Truly was the first astronaut to head up NASA. And Ivan Allen Jr. set Atlanta on its course to become one of the world’s great cities, both commercially and as a beacon for civil and human rights. Today they are the exception, but by 2035



William J. “Bill” Todd has been a tireless supporter of Tech since graduating nearly forty years ago.

men and women like them can become the rule.”

Todd said he foresees a time in the next ten years when every student who passes through Georgia Tech will be exposed to leadership development in a thoughtful way based on a sound academic underpinning.

“Today there are dozens of excellent

leadership programs on campus,” said Todd. “Many of these are the entrepreneurial results of students themselves in their organizations: Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, the robust Greek system, the College of Management, the Servant Leadership Institute, Student Government, the Student Foundation, the Total Person Program in athletics, and many others. What I see in the future is a strategic effort to knit all of these fine programs together in a rich mosaic, complemented by a first-class academic program in the art and science of leadership. And the inspirational leadership of Ivan Allen Jr. is an ideal foundation for such an ambitious undertaking.”

A member of the Campaign Georgia Tech Steering Committee, Todd has devoted thirty-eight years to healthcare and technology management in Atlanta and currently leads the Georgia Cancer Coalition in efforts to make the state a national leader in cancer care and reduce cancer deaths among Georgians.

“Bill Todd is an extraordinary humanitarian and community leader,” said Ivan Allen College Interim Dean Kenneth J. Knoespel. “His accomplishments and steadfast commitment embody Mayor Allen’s advocacy and compassion. It is our privilege to recognize his contributions to our community, state, and the world.”