Dr. Peterson

Introduction of Brock Tribute Video: Council on Competitiveness Dinner Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013

This evening it is my privilege to introduce a tribute video to two friends and outstanding business and community leaders, John and Mary Rockett Brock.

John is a proud Georgia Tech Chemical Engineering graduate, and we at Georgia Tech recently adopted Mary as well, presenting her with an Honorary Alumni Award.

The Brocks came to Atlanta about eight years ago after living in Brussels, Belgium and London. In that time, they made a significant and lasting impact in the Atlanta community and beyond. We at Georgia Tech are fortunate to have them as co-chairs of Campaign Georgia Tech. In that role, they have traveled tirelessly to lead Campaign events in more than 30 cities in the U.S. and abroad.

Mary is an active community leader who has a passion for helping girls and young women succeed and become leaders. She maximizes her platform as co-owner of the WNBA Atlanta Dream to inspire young women to achieve their best.

Mary serves on multiple boards locally, including the Board of Trustees for Spelman College and Usher's New Look Foundation. She is also on the Board of Advisors for Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute, Emory's Board of Visitors and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

John is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Coca-Cola Enterprises in Atlanta, Georgia. He joined Coca-Cola Enterprises as CEO in April 2006, and in April 2008 was named Chairman of the company.

Under John's leadership, Coca-Cola Enterprises sold its North American operations to The Coca-Cola Company and acquired bottling operations in Norway and Sweden in October 2010, forming the world's third-largest independent Coca-Cola bottler. Coca-Cola Enterprises is the leading Western European marketer, distributor, and producer of bottle and can liquid nonalcoholic refreshment.

Mary and John have numerous philanthropic endeavors, and again, we at Georgia Tech have benefitted from their tireless support in numerous ways. They share a particular interest in cancer research, and have funded chairs in biomedical engineering at Emory University and Georgia Tech. They also support scholarships in Tech's Department of Chemical Engineering.

The Brocks have been active supporters of Georgia Tech Athletics, funding the major leadership gift for the "John and Mary Brock Football Facility."

Mary serves on the Board of Directors for Horizons National, a program for at-risk children that targets the summer learning gap, based in Norwalk, CT, with 34 affiliates in 16 states. She also serves on the Board of the Manhattan Choral Ensemble in New York City, and she and John are devoted supporters of Americanes, an organization that provides disaster relief and humanitarian aid, based in Stamford, CT.

The Brocks, who grew up together on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, were married 44 years ago while John was a student at Georgia Tech. They have three adult children - Rebecca, John IV and Major - and four grandchildren - John V, Everett Mary, Leighton Annise and Lily Anise.

I think you'll find that this video captures a bit of their energy and their commitment to the community, and gives a quick look at some of the many areas where they are making a difference.