Good morning and welcome. We are here today because we share an interest in advancing opportunities and insuring rights for women. The upcoming Beijing Conference will play a vital role in that global change process and I am very pleased that Georgia Tech will be a part of this historic conference and event.

I'd like to thank Drs. Anne Balsamo and Donna Llewellyn and the student members of their delegation for volunteering to attend the conference and present the multimedia exhibit, "Educating Women in Science and Engineering." A key to attaining true equality will be education; I have no doubt their presentation will be a highpoint of the conference.

Engineering and science have made progress in the representation of women, but they lag behind other professions. Emblematic of the progress, while few women were here at Georgia Tech when I was a student here in the 1960's, today our freshman class is almost 30% women and over 10% of our faculty are women. Yet, these figures are hardly reason for self-congratulation since in the U.S. today, in fields like medicine, law, and pharmacy women make up 50% or more of the student enrollment at most universities. The professions of engineering and science need to recognize that they are behind the curve, and that they now not only have to address fundamental issues about fairness and willingness to change, but they also face increased competition for women's talents. If engineering and science are to remain viable, they must be prepared to make the necessary
commitment to the goal of equal representation of women in their ranks. This will require work to educate women as to the opportunities in science and engineering, and efforts to make these professions hospitable and open to all. Drs. Balsamo and Llewellyn are sending a message from Georgia Tech that we will play a major role in this undertaking. They can make this statement knowing that the Office of the President of Georgia Tech is fully committed to this effort.

Additional efforts will be needed on our campus, and nationally and internationally. With events such as the Beijing Conference and a continued emphasis on scientific and technological education for women — I am optimistic progress will come quickly, especially with the support and initiative of women and men committed to improving the status quo.

It is now my pleasure to introduce Mrs. Patsy Robertson, the senior adviser of media and public affairs for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Before, during, and after the conference it will be her responsibility to communicate to the media and the worldwide global community the goals, objectives, and results of the Beijing conference.

Before joining the U.N. and assuming media leadership of the Beijing conference, she was the media adviser, chief media spokesperson, and director of information for the Commonwealth Secretariat, responsible for the Secretariat's worldwide media relations, as well as
all publications, special events and radio and television programs produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

While employed by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mrs. Robertson worked in more than 40 Commonwealth member countries and is the winner of the Astor Award for Outstanding Contribution to Commonwealth Understanding. She has worked to end apartheid in South Africa, educate international populations about AIDS, and lobbied to change international legislation regarding money laundering, drug trafficking, and extradition arrangements.

Please join me in welcoming Patsy Robertson.