Good morning and welcome to Georgia Tech’s ecumenical service. Today, we celebrate equality and brotherhood and the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This morning’s keynote speaker is a man especially well qualified to speak about equality, brotherhood, and Dr. King’s legacy. A tireless advocate for civil rights, a top aide to Dr. King, and former executive vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Honorable Andrew Young is well known as one of the architects and leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Today, Andrew Young is also recognized as a dedicated public servant of more than 40 years. He is one of America’s great statesmen, having served as United States Ambassador to the United Nations under President Jimmy Carter. In addition, Mr. Young was elected to three terms in the United States Congress and spent two terms as the mayor of Atlanta. During his mayoral administration, more than a half a million jobs were created and the metropolitan region attracted more than $70 billion dollars in private investments and construction.

Following his term as mayor, Young entered the private sector and worked as chairman of Law International Inc, a subsidiary of Law Companies Group, Inc, one of the most respected engineering and environmental consulting companies in the world. In February 1993, he was appointed vice chairman of Law Companies Group.

His international reputation in business and politics was
instrumental in bringing the 1996 Olympic Games to Atlanta, and Mr. Young has been called by many the “spiritual leader of the Games.” As part of his Olympic commitment, he served as co-chairman of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games during the Games and the period leading up to the Games.

Recently, President Clinton appointed Andrew Young chairman of the new Southern Africa Enterprise Development Fund. This $100 million fund will help establish small and medium size businesses throughout Southern Africa.

During his career, Andy Young has received many awards for his humanitarianism and political acumen, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom; France’s Legion d’Honneur; and more than 45 honorary degrees from American universities.

As a nationally and internationally respected businessman and civil and political leader, Andrew Young is a much sought-after board member. Companies benefitting from his guidance include Delta Air Lines; Howard University; and the Host Marriott Corporation as well as the Georgia Tech Advisory Board.

This morning, Georgia Tech is once again privileged to benefit from the wisdom and experience of Andrew Young. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please welcome the Honorable Andrew Young... (Lead applause)