Good evening. I’d also like to welcome you to Atlanta on behalf of Georgia Tech — and take this opportunity to tell you a little about my institution. First, since the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, Dr. Steven Portch, follows me, and since he signs my paychecks, I am obligated to tell you that we are one of 34 institutions in the system of public higher education institutions in Georgia. Fortunately for me, I only have to talk about one of the 34. After I finish, Dr. Portch will cover the other 33. Seriously, Georgia Tech does collaborate in many ways with our sister institutions through our transfer programs, joint teaching and research activities and outreach activities. Dr. Portch’s leadership is important in facilitating our collaborative efforts.

In Atlanta alone there are eighteen public and private senior colleges, a tremendous educational trust that helps this city stand out. We coordinate our activities with all of these schools—as the only engineering school in the state—and we work to provide transfer opportunities for students who begin their studies at other campuses. We also are fortunate to be able to work with the framework provided by the Georgia Research Alliance, an innovative state-funded organization that helps promote joint research between Emory, UGA, Ga State, MCGa, Clark Atlanta, and Georgia Tech. Credit for GRA goes to Governor Zell Miller, a governor who supports higher education in words and deeds.

I understand that you’ve already experienced an Olympic tour of the Georgia Tech campus. Ordinarily you expect a college campus to be a quiet and contemplative place, but you have seen first hand that ours is anything but. Even in ordinary times Georgia Tech is an active campus, but today with the Olympics just around the corner, we are just completing one of the largest construction programs ever undertaken on a university campus.

Even though the Olympics aren’t here yet, I think I now know what the sports announcer meant when he spoke about: “the thrill of victory”—seeing the wonderful changes wrought on our campus and preparing for the opportunity to host the world is a thrill indeed.

I’ve also learned a little something about “the agony of preparation.”

For example, my wife and I live on the campus. In the little more than a year that we’ve been here, we’ve gotten used to the serenades we receive during the weekend from the campus fraternities. This year, a new symphony of sound has been added to complement the fraternity’s nightly concerto; the mornings
now bring the sounds of jackhammers, back hoes, and pavers.

Sleep aside, the thrills far outweigh the agonies. We have renovated or constructed anew 2,300,000 sq ft of space in less than three years. Georgia Tech has gained seven new residence halls—which means 2,700 more beds.

After the Olympics, Tech will be able to provide on-campus housing for 65% percent of the student body—compared less than 35% before —virtually doubling our on-campus housing. We have also gained the Aquatic Center you viewed earlier, re-created our basketball stadium, Alexander Memorial Coliseum and are in the process of adding the world’s highest speed computing and communications network.

The Olympics are an event of a lifetime—here at Georgia Tech, we’re hoping our time in the spotlight will highlight our attributes to the world—giving us more visibility and allowing us to show the world who and what we are.

That of course brings us to the question: who is Georgia Tech and what would we like you to remember about us?

These are questions, as you can imagine, I am more than happy to answer.

First and foremost, Georgia Tech is an institute of higher education, providing high-quality technological education to some 13,000 students. Although many think of us as an engineering school, within Georgia Tech, we have four colleges in addition to our very fine College of Engineering, including -- the College of Architecture, the College of Computing, the Ivan Allen College of Management, Policy, and International Affairs, and the College of Sciences. Today, a student can obtain a first-rate degree at Georgia Tech in public policy, international affairs, and history, as it relates to technology.

The education our students obtain is recognized by our corporate partners and industrial friends as having a real world orientation. Evidence of this is found in our co-op program, the country’s largest voluntary co-op program with 3,500 student participants. We also are sixth in the nation in the amount of our research funding that is with private industry.

In the national rankings game, we are pleased to find that Georgia Tech as a institution is cited by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top fifty universities in the nation, only one of fifteen public universities to be so cited. Many of our individual programs are ranked well within the top twenty of their
professions, including three of our five colleges, including the College of Computing, the College of Engineering and the College of Architecture.

We are very proud of those rankings—and the education we provide our students. However, there is more to Georgia Tech than its educational component.

We are one of the 88 universities classed by the Carnegie Foundation as a Class I research university, a category based on having a substantive graduate and research effort. With over $200 million in research expenditures, second in size to only Duke, with its large medical school, in the Southeast.

An example of our research includes the work currently going on within our Electronics Packaging Research Center. The Center has been designated by the National Science Foundation as the national center to work with U.S. industry to help regain its dominance in electronics packaging by developing smaller, less expensive microelectronic technologies. Another research thrust is our leading edge work on telemedicine in conjunction with the Medical College of Georgia which is allowing doctors to conduct visits with patients without the patients even having to leave home. Then there is 1995 Nobel Prize winner Paul Crutzen who works part-time during the year with our faculty on issues related to global warming and ozone depletion. Finally, let me point out that our award winning combustion engineers and industrial designers were chosen to design and build the Olympic torches you will soon see 10,000 runners carry across the nation.

Along with research, Georgia Tech also offers technological consulting to industry.

Inside Georgia Tech, an entire division has been created to encourage economic development in Georgia. Through our innovative Economic Development Institute and its 18 industrial extension offices, we see to it that Georgia’s businesses have access to the information that increases their competitiveness and delivers jobs to our citizens.

Working with the University of Georgia’s small business outreach program and with many of the other elements of the University System of Georgia, we can provide support for almost any type of business need.

A small unit of EDI, Tech’s Advanced Technology Development Center—or ATDC as those of us who must have an acronym for everything labeled it—was founded in 1980 to stimulate the technology base here in Georgia. In 1994 alone, ATDC’s 58 graduate companies posted revenues exceeding $200 million.
Let me close with the really important stuff - SPORTS. Georgia Tech competes at the highest intercollegiate level, Division 1 A. In Georgia we share this distinction with our friendly rivals up the road, the University of Georgia. More than 350,000 spectators come to our campus each year to view Tech sports. Between Georgia and ourselves we provide high quality sports programs that delight, and sometimes frustrate, those who are lucky to reside in Atlanta and Georgia.

As you consider the possibilities of locating a business in Georgia, I hope I have been able to show you how Georgia Tech, in collaboration with the other higher education units in the state provide a rich array of possibilities for education, research and outreach. And, if you like what you hear now, after the Olympics, it will only get better.