

What: Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance Dedication

When: Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Notes: You are the 15th speaker on the program. There are 16

speakers in

Good evening. It is a pleasure to participate in the dedication of the Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance.

The great prize fighter Sugar Ray Leonard once spoke to a group of students at Harvard. Describing his fighting skills, Sugar Ray said, “We’ve all been blessed with certain talents. Mine just happens to be beatin’ people up.”

As Sugar Ray said, we are all born with a certain amount of talent or skill. Through practice and conditioning, we are able to hone those talents and skills.

The Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance will help us take that philosophy a step further. Through the use of science and technology, combined with conditioning and training, our scholar-athletes will be able to enhance their athletic performance.

I can think of no more appropriate home for this Center than Georgia Tech, Georgia’s only technological institute.

Likewise there is no one more appropriate for the Center to honor than Dr. Homer Rice. Since Homer arrived at Georgia Tech in 1980, he has led Tech to a national championship in football, an NCAA Final Four appearance in men’s basketball, an NWIT championship in women’s basketball, an appearance in the College World Series, a second-place finish in the Men’s NCAA Golf Championship, and 14 conference championships.

His players also score well in the classroom; in 1995, his athletes recorded an 87 percent graduation rate—a rate substantially higher than our athletic rivals.

Homer is a man well-known for his integrity, his drive for success, and his concern for the total person. In fact, his innovative and unique Total Person program has been emulated by the NCAA as well as universities throughout the United States. Throughout his career, he has achieved numerous national awards including the Corbett Award. In addition, the Division I-A Athletics Director Award bears his name.

Homer, it is my pleasure to present you with this paperweight, in honor of all of your achievements and hard work throughout your career here—especially with regard to the development of this center. Like you, this Center is devoted to sports excellence and the total person. Like you, this Center represents the best of Georgia Tech.

(As he walks up to receive it, continue:)

I know you said you would rather we waited until after you were dead to name a building after you, but since we already have everything built and named, I hope you'll change your mind.

Thank you.