

What: Dedication of Health Center
When: April 10
Order: Blaise Morrissey will speak first, then Rosalyn Meyers, then you
Length: 1-3 minutes

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to participate in the dedication of the newly renovated Student Health Center. The Center is a facility that has come a long way from its beginnings as basically a holding cell for those with contagious diseases to its current state-of-the-art condition.

Back in the 1950s, when I was a student, the Health Center was a place I was careful to avoid. When sick, I convinced myself that chicken noodle soup was a healthier alternative than needles and doctors. After all, back then, students didn't call it the Student Health Center; it was the Infirmary.

With that kind of label, is it any wonder we were scared?

Although we've definitely seen changes within our Student Health Center, one aspect of Georgia Tech life has remained the same: commitment to excellence. Whether it be in providing a college education or serving as an auxiliary service, commitment to excellence underlies everything we do here at Georgia Tech. Concrete proof of that philosophy can be found within this renovated Student Health Center.

Today's Student Health Clinic is technologically innovative—wired for telecommunications technology and computer networked to the rest of the campus—as befitting a student health center at the Georgia Institute of **Technology** (put emphasis on Technology).

In fact, the Student Health Center has been judged magnificent enough to serve as the polyclinic for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer.

However, as impressive as our Olympic connection may be, it's not even close to being the most significant fact about our renovated Student Health Center.

The most important fact about the new Center is the fact that it has been redesigned to better serve the health needs of Georgia Tech's students.

For our students, better health care translates into more services, fewer lines, and greater privacy. Now, our students can spend less time in line and less time waiting for a physician—and have more time for the reason they are here in the first place—obtaining a college education.

Because providing that college education is our reason for being—anything we can do to improve their time here is significant. The renovation of the Student Health Center is a vital part of a campus-wide renovation effort.

As most of you know, late last year, we released the first version of our strategic plan—our blueprint for future success. This strategic plan is a long-range plan—but today, we have moved one step closer to accomplishing our goal. In fact, the renovation of the Student Health Center strengthens Georgia Tech in two areas cited in the strategic plan: Improving the Infrastructure and Improving Student Life. So with today's dedication we not only have the satisfaction of knowing we have improved our services,

we must also remember that this renovation is helping us to become one of the preeminent research universities of the 21st century.

In closing, on behalf of Georgia Tech, I would like to thank Beckman Instruments for their product-in-kind contribution of lab equipment. Have no doubt, your gift will be put to good use. I would also like to thank all of you who work in the Student Health Center. Your patience, forbearance, and input during the renovation process is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.