

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND SIXTH  
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

May 6, 2000, 9:00 A.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 8:00 a.m. in the Hyder Room, second level of the Coliseum).

Processional	Ga Tech Brass Ensemble Bucky Johnson & Ron Mendola
Master of Ceremonies	Dr. G. Wayne Clough President
Reflection	Mr. Carlton O. Parker Director, YMCA
National Anthem	Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble
Commencement Address	Mr. Alfred Berkeley President, The NASDAQ Stock Market
Introduction of Academic Deans	Dr. Michael Thomas Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Presentation of Undergraduate  
Degree Candidates

College of Computing

Associate Dean Richard LeBlanc

Ivan Allen College

Dean Sue Rosser

College of Architecture

Associate Dean Tom Debo

DuPree College of Management

Dean Terry Blum

College of Sciences

Associate Dean Anderson Smith

College of Engineering

Dean Jean-Lou Chameau

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Commission Recognitions  
Ceremony

Major Charles Hemphill

Induction into  
Alumni Association

Mr. N. Allen Robertson,  
Class of 1969  
Alumni Association President, Georgia Tech Alumni  
Association

Presentation of the  
Young Alumni Award

Mr. Robertson

Alma Mater

Georgia Tech Chorale, directed by  
Dr. William Caldwell

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and audience

May 6, 2000 - Ceremony Script – Undergraduate Ceremony

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Mr. Carlton Parker, director of the YMCA, and remain standing for our national anthem.

(Carlton Parker)                      Reflection

(Brass Ensemble)                      National Anthem

(Dr. Clough)

Please be seated. Once again, good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Georgia Tech's two-hundred sixth commencement exercises.

This is not only the first commencement of the new century, it is also the largest in Georgia Tech history, because our conversion to semesters eliminated the March commencement. So today we are presenting a record 1,537 diplomas. Among them is the largest group of women to graduate in Institute history.

To uphold our tradition of presenting diplomas, we are holding two ceremonies – the undergraduate ceremony this morning and the graduate ceremony this afternoon. If you would like to hear Dr. Joseph Bordogna of the National Science Foundation, we welcome you to attend the graduate ceremony as well.

As someone who has “gotten out” but never gotten over my love of Georgia Tech, it always gives me great pleasure to preside over commencement and to welcome another class of Georgia Tech alumni. Today, you join the thousands of Georgia Tech alumni like myself who have gone before you. Like those who have gone before, you carry with you vivid memories of this Institute and its traditions.

And you shared in some special times, like the 1996 Olympics, the fun of having our football team go to three bowl games in a row and watching Joe Hamilton scramble for yet another touchdown, the joy and sadness of end of the wonderful Bobby Cremins era, the pride of watching Matt Kuchar, who graduates today, win all those golf tournaments, and the creation of TEAM Buzz – our all-Institute volunteer day.

In your years at Georgia Tech, you've learned and experienced much. Today, as you prepare to leave this campus and move on to the next stage of your life, it's worth taking a moment to consider the value of your education. So I asked one student what he had learned at Georgia Tech, and he said he had learned that psychology really is mostly biology, that biology really is mostly chemistry, that chemistry really is mostly physics, and that physics really is mostly math.

Of course, each of you, and especially your parents, expect that the degree you receive today will lead to a rewarding career and a secure financial future. And that is an important part of the picture. But it is only one part.

Father Guido is famous for saying that he could save you four years in college, because for only half of your college tuition, he would teach you the 5 percent of what you remember after you leave the university. Father Guido is right in a way since these days, the shelf-life of technological information is so short that it becomes obsolete before you even have a chance to forget it.

So what will remain of your Georgia Tech education after you've sold your textbooks back to the bookstore, lost your lecture notes and forgotten the minutiae you memorized just long enough to pass the exam?

First, we hope and believe that you have been learning with heart as well as by heart. Almost 2,000 years ago, Plutarch pointed out that “the mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.” Much has changed in the course of two millennia, but these words are as pertinent today as they were in ancient Greece. And we hope and believe that your time here at Georgia Tech has stimulated your intellectual curiosity.

We hope and believe you have learned to rise to a challenge... to be creative in solving problems... to adapt to change, and even to anticipate and provoke it. These abilities will stand you in good stead your whole life long.

Most importantly, we hope and believe that here at Georgia Tech you have learned that the goal is not merely to “have more,” but also to “be more.”

Today, as we celebrate the successful conclusion of one chapter of your lifelong education, it is important to acknowledge that you have not done it alone. With you every step of the way – at least in spirit – were your parents and for some of you, your spouses, who made all the difference in your success. The faculty and staff of Georgia Tech and our graduates would like to thank you for your support. Would our parents and spouses please stand so that we may recognize you.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Additional support for our graduates came from the Georgia Tech faculty. Now there may have been times when you got a paper or a test back with lots of red ink on it, and you had temporary doubts, but your graduation today is a sign that was just a form of constructive criticism. So now is the time for all of our graduates to say thanks for all the help they received over time from the faculty and I would like to ask the entire faculty present today to rise and be recognized.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Of course, those who deserve the most recognition on this momentous day are the graduates, who entered this room as students and who will leave as Georgia Tech alumni. Would all of you please stand so that we may recognize you and your achievement?

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Many of you graduates are leaving Georgia Tech for technology jobs, and are looking forward to acquiring tech stocks. Some of you even have visions of a successful IPO dancing like sugarplums in your heads. Stock markets have always had a knack for defying both logic and conventional wisdom, and none moreso than the Nasdaq, where technology stocks are writing a new chapter in stock market history. Not only are the pundits at something of a loss to explain the stock valuations we are seeing on the Nasdaq, but over the course of less than a year, the Nasdaq has soared, doubling in value in five months, then plummeted, losing more than a third of its value in a matter of weeks.

Things are made even livelier by the fact that technology companies are changing both the market and its investors at the same time. The Internet and CNBC have brought Wall Street into our living rooms, and amateur armchair investing has taken on the character of a sporting event. Internet investors want to do more than just beat the market. Like the woman in the Ameritrade ad, they want to “throttle its scrawny little body to the ground and make it beg for mercy.”

In the middle of all the tumult is Alfred R. Berkeley, III, who will mark his fourth anniversary as president of the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. next Tuesday. After receiving a bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia and an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, he began his career as a research analyst at Alex. Brown & Sons. He spent the next two decades rising through the ranks at Alex. Brown to become a managing director and senior banker in the Corporate Finance Department. His primary expertise was large computer software and e-commerce companies. During a leave of absence from Alex. Brown, he chaired a number of subsidiaries for Safeguard Scientifics,

including Rabbit Software and Micro Decision Ware.

Some people might characterize Al's job as president of Nasdaq as playing chicken with Alan Greenspan. Others might compare it to running a rodeo or a roller coaster. But no one can argue that he is in a most interesting position at a most interesting time.

It has been my pleasure to work with Al on the National Council of Competitiveness, where we are members of the Executive Board together. He has a passion for education and for creating opportunity for all Americans. And he is an all round delightful guy.

So, here to give you some final words of advice, is the man who probably knows more about the volatile world of high tech companies and stocks than anyone anywhere – Al Berkeley.

*(MR. BERKELEY'S REMARKS)*

Thank you, Al. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak today, I would like to present you with this special gift.

*(PRESENT GIFT)*

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of degrees. Dr. Michael Thomas, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, will introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

(Dr. Thomas) Associate Dean Richard LeBlanc will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.

(Dr. LeBlanc) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Computing please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. LeBlanc) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Thomas) Dean Sue Rosser will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the Ivan Allen College.

(Dr. Rosser) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the Ivan Allen College please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Rosser) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Thomas) Associate Dean Tom Debo will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Architecture.

(Dr. Debo) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Architecture please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Debo) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Thomas) Dean Terry Blum will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the DuPree College of Management.

- (Dr. Blum) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the DuPree College of Management please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Blum) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.
- (Dr. Thomas) Associate Dean Anderson Smith will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.
- (Dr. Smith) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Sciences please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Smith) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.
- (Dr. Thomas) Dean Jean-Lou Chameau will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.
- (Dr. Chameau) Candidates for the bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing.  
*(Pause)*
- (Dr. Chameau) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the bachelor's degree and the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for those respective degrees.
- (Dr. Clough) Upon the recommendation of the faculty of the Georgia Institute of

Technology and by authority of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I confer upon each of you the bachelor's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities hereunto appertaining.

(Dr. Clough) Please be seated. We will now award the degrees. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

*(College of Computing candidates will come forward, then IAC, Architecture, Management, College of Sciences and College of Engineering. Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands. Announcer will pause between colleges to allow the Dean time to come forward.)*

(Dr. Clough) Now, please join me in congratulating these fine new graduates of Georgia Tech.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

(Dr. Clough) Now I would like to introduce Major Charles Hemphill who will recognize those graduates who are commissioned to serve in the U.S. Armed forces.

(Maj. Hemphill) Commission graduates

(Dr. Clough)  
Near the close of the 1800s, a young man sent a sheaf of poems to the foremost American writer of the day to be critiqued. Ralph Waldo Emerson read the manuscript, which was entitled "Leaves of Grass" and was destined to become one of America's best-loved volumes of poetry. And he wrote back to the young Walt Whitman: "I greet you at the beginning of a great career."

And as I look out over this sea of newly minted young Georgia Tech alumni, I echo his words. I greet you at the beginning of a great career.

As of this moment, you are no longer merely students. You are the technological leaders of tomorrow... and the role models for future generations.

And to start you off on that path, I am pleased to introduce Allen Robertson, class of 1969 and president of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, who will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech alumni.

(Mr. Robertson)                      Induction of graduates into the Alumni Association...

(Mr. Robertson)                      Presentation of the Young Alumni Award

(Dr. Clough)

We invite all of you to join us immediately after this ceremony for a special reception in honor of today's graduates and their families and friends. The festivities will be held at the Tennis Center just across Fowler Street from here.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Georgia Tech Music Department for their participation in our program this morning. Thanks also to Dr. Bill Johnson and Dr. Frank Phillip for the calling of graduates' names. And many thanks go to all my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, the Georgia Tech Chorale will lead us in the alma mater, followed immediately by the faculty recessional. The graduates and audience are requested to remain standing for the faculty recessional. Then I invite all of you to join in the singing of the Ramblin' Wreck, which will accompany the student recessional.

Thank you for your attendance this morning.

*(At the end of the alma mater, the mace bearer will be the first one off the stage. Dr. Clough will immediately follow then the remainder of the President's Party, Deans, and Faculty.)*