It is great to be here with all of you and have this opportunity to thank you in person for your generous support of the Campaign for Georgia Tech. There is really no adequate way to express our appreciation to each one of you for your loyalty to Georgia Tech, your confidence in us, and your willingness to give back.

Remember these numbers: 712, 54, 233, 100, 46,000

- 712 million dollars
- 54 endowed chairs for outstanding faculty
- 233 new endowed funds for scholarships and fellowships
- 100% of our goal achieved in every category
- 46,000 donors

This event has been billed as a celebration of the end of the campaign, but what we are really celebrating is a new beginning. Your generosity has made it possible for Georgia Tech to step across the threshold into a whole new era of excellence.

The incredible impact that this campaign will have on Georgia Tech have been emerging around us throughout the campaign:

- Students were a primary focus of the campaign, and the caliber of our students has been increasing significantly. Applications for next year are up nearly 30 percent from the start of the campaign in 1995, despite strengthening the process and requiring an essay.
- The average SAT score of incoming freshmen is up more than 30 points: 1297 when the campaign began, now 1329.
- Retention was stuck in the mid-80s when campaign began, this year first-year retention rose to 90 percent.
- Another focal point of the campaign was faculty. When the campaign began, 13 faculty were members of the prestigious National Academies of Science and Engineering. Today we have 24.
- National Science Foundation created the CAREER Award at the same time the campaign began. We received 7 the first year, 10 last year, 12 so far this year and the year is not yet over. We even edged out MIT in our total number – 58 to 56! Can we stay there?
A superb faculty helped increase sponsored research from $212 million in 1995 to $276 million last year. Its practical value reflected in being voted first in the nation in transfer of new innovations and technology to market.

The third focus of campaign was leading-edge facilities for education, research, and reaching out to the community. The campaign provided funds for 11 new academic buildings – an 18 percent increase in square footage, which is significant for a campus our size.

Some of you directed your campaign contributions to the A-T Fund. This year we celebrated our fourth consecutive bowl appearance and first NCAA tournament since 1996. Basketball coach Paul Hewitt was named ACC coach of year.

Spring sports are now in full swing: Baseball, golf, men’s tennis, men’s swimming, and women’s track are all ranked in top 25.

Cumulative impact: National ranking of 8th among public universities – our highest ever. Even some of our newest programs find their way into U.S. News rankings: bioengineering #6; public policy information #4. That is a tribute to those of you who have faithfully supported Roll Call through the years, as well as a recognition of special gifts.

All of these things contribute to Georgia Tech’s image as a university on the fast-track. All of them represent progress toward our goal of defining the technological university of the 21st century… creating and embodying the model that others will want to emulate.

That is a lofty goal, and it will take a lot of focused, hard work to achieve it. But it is a goal that is worthy of us. You are the ones who will enable us to achieve that goal. Your gifts give us the extra resources, beyond state appropriations and tuition, that will allow us to seize our opportunities and rise above the level of a good, solid school to become the standard by which others measure themselves. You are our partners in shaping the young lives that come to us to be educated, in shaping the technology that will improve the quality of life for people everywhere, and in shaping an innovative campus that enables us to excel.

The campaign provided a $10 million endowment for the President’s Scholar program, and I personally appreciate those gifts. More students are applying to Georgia Tech, but our ability to actually enroll the most outstanding ones depends on the depth and breadth of the undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships we can offer them. The caliber of our prospective students has increased to the point where literally thousands of them are eligible to be considered for President’s Scholarships. But our resources have been so slim that
we could only offer about 75 scholarships a year, and we were losing high-quality students to other universities that had the resources to offer more scholarship assistance.

The opportunity to use leading-edge technology is also important to students at a place like Georgia Tech, and I cannot tell you how exciting it is to our undergraduate students in Industrial and Systems Engineering to have the new computing lab that was provided by California alumni.

The second focus of the campaign was faculty, because it is impossible to have a world-class university without world-renowned faculty. The campaign endowed 54 new faculty chairs – more than twice as many chairs as had been created in all of Tech's prior history. And California alumni contributed to that important effort.

Just as important as endowed chairs to the quality of our academic programs are endowed funds for schools and colleges. Your contributions to these funds are invested, and the interest income provides an ongoing source of flexible funding that enables the schools and colleges to address unanticipated needs, to provide enrichment activities, and to take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

If you aspire to excellence in technological education and research, you need state-of-the-art facilities, and the third focus of the campaign was to provide the quality facilities our students and faculty need and deserve. The result is 11 stunning new facilities, including a major new research complex at the heart of campus whose unique design was featured in the international science journal *Nature*. The Bioscience and Bioengineering Building is already alive with students and faculty, and construction is underway on the Ford Motor Company Environmental Science and Technology Building. Two more buildings will complete this complex – the new home of the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Molecular Science and Engineering Building. The new Advanced Computing Building, which will be named for its major donor, Chris Klaus, will be built just across the street.

Just to the east of these new buildings, Georgia Tech is preparing to leap across the I-75/85 Interstate and build Technology Square, a $150-million complex on the south side of Fifth Street between the freeway and the Biltmore Hotel. “Global techno-preneurship,” is a newly emerging buzzword that means technology-based business entrepreneurship that has a global focus. Technology Square will be the heart of global techno-preneurship at Georgia Tech – a striking
center focused on global learning, technology, and entrepreneurship, located in the middle of Midtown’s emerging high-tech corridor and serving businesses around the globe.

These facilities represent a very exciting facet of the campaign, and raising funds for them will be an ongoing effort, because even though we met our campaign goals, we have not yet fully funded several facilities that began under the auspices of the campaign.

The course of the Campaign for Georgia Tech covered five reunion cycles, and many of you designated your campaign contributions for class reunion projects, helping to make them enormously successful. In fact, reunion projects accounted for almost $70 million of the campaign.

Some of you are helping with the renovation of Brittain Dining Hall, with those gorgeous stained glass windows. Others of you supported Yellow Jacket Park, which will be built between the Campanile and Student Center and the new Undergraduate Learning Center that will go up behind the library. And we are already enjoying Tower Walk and Reunion Walk. These reunion projects landscaped the area around the Tech Tower, Carnegie Building and Success Center, closing this area to vehicles and providing beautiful brick walkways.

Georgia Tech has always been a place of innovation, and thanks to all of you and our other campaign donors, our campus is evolving into a dynamic environmental for discovery. We are striving to improve undergraduate education by invigorating our classrooms with the energy of a world-class research enterprise and by offering undergraduate students an opportunity for first-hand involvement in our dynamic research labs. We are offering our faculty expanded opportunities to be entrepreneurial, and carry their research discoveries forward into commercialization as products and services that benefit the people who need them. And we are taking our place in a new global environment, helping our students learn to value international diversity with a campus in France and a platform for new programs in Singapore.

We are going to celebrate all of these exciting new undertakings and facilities that are resulting from your investment in us with an all-day, mini-university on campus on April 20th, and we invite all of you to join us if you can.

Now that this campaign is over, we are not going to go back to North Avenue and forget about you until the next campaign. We will continue to keep in touch.
We will continue to seek your advice. Some of you have already answered that call by serving with your local club or on advisory boards for schools and colleges. We are grateful for the active participation of all of you, and we will continue to ask for it. We will also continue to share with you the many ways that your gifts are shaping futures through innovation at this Institute we all love so well.

Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” I hope that your participation in the Campaign for Georgia Tech was meaningful to you, and I want you to know that your gifts are already enriching the life of Georgia Tech in wonderful ways.

The Campaign for Georgia Tech was only the second campaign in our history, and it was our very first coast-to-coast campaign. Thanks to you it was successful beyond our wildest hopes and dreams when we began it. To give you a sense of just how extraordinary it has been and how much it means, we have prepared a very special video which I would like to show at this time. We just found out that it has won a Telly Award, which means it was among the top 15 percent of more than 11,000 entries in this prestigious national competition.