I am pleased to be here in South Florida and have an 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 began to emerge around us even before the campaign ended:
- Students were a primary focus of the campaign, and the caliber of our students has been increasing significantly. The number of applications for next year is up 8 percent over last year, giving us a cumulative increase of more than 30 percent over the past three years.
- After being stuck in the mid-80s for many years, our first-year retention rate rose to 90 percent.
- Another focal point of the campaign was faculty. Our outstanding young faculty have won 12 NSF CAREER awards this year – tying our best year, 1997 – and the year is not yet over. We have even edged ahead of MIT! Can we stay there?
- Third focus of campaign was leading-edge facilities for education, research, and reaching out to the community. This commitment reflected in Georgia Tech’s being voted first in the nation in transfer of new innovations and technology to market.
Some of you directed your campaign contributions to the A-T Fund. This year we celebrated our fourth consecutive bowl appearance, and our return to the NCAA tournament. Basketball coach Paul Hewitt was named ACC coach of the 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 – highest ever. 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 that is 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 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.

A lot 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. And Florida responded to that call. Florida sends us more students than any other state outside of Georgia – over 800 of them – and they are so bright. Last fall the freshmen from Florida had an average SAT of 1355. You provided special scholarship funding to keep the student pipeline flowing from Florida.

In addition, Florida alumni contributed $1.4 million to help endow the President’s Scholar program, and I want to express my personal appreciation for those gifts. The caliber of students applying to Georgia Tech has increased to the point where literally thousands of them are eligible to be named President’s Scholars. 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 second focus of the campaign was on 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. Several of them came from Florida.

Some of you contributed to the Demetrius Paris Endowed Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering in memory of Dr. Paris. South Florida also gave us the Young Professorship now held by Jorge Vanegas, who is nationally recognized for his research in innovative construction materials and was recently honored as Educator of the Year by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. He represents the kind of outstanding young faculty we want to attract and hold.

Many of you are familiar with the Coulter Corporation in Miami, which was started by Tech alumnus Wallace Coulter, whose discoveries in medical technology have become health care standards. The Coulter Foundation provided a significant endowment for the new Department of Biomedical Engineering, which is a joint initiative between Emory University and Georgia Tech. And we recently announced the naming of the department for Mr. Coulter.

A portion of the Coulter gift will go toward a new building for the Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, and that represents the third focus of the campaign – to provide the quality facilities our students and faculty need and deserve.

The biomedical engineering building will be part of a stunning new interdisciplinary 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. The remaining building will be for molecular science and engineering. 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 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.

South Florida made a very special contribution to our facility needs by providing the lead gift for a childcare center. We want to make Georgia Tech more family-friendly for young faculty, staff and graduate students, and the childcare center will help us do that.

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.

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 the 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 who have already answered that call by serving with your local club or in the South Florida region, or serving on advisory boards for schools and colleges. We are grateful for your participation, and we will continue to ask for it. We will also continue to share with you the many ways we continue to use your gifts to shape 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 Georgia Tech has ever undertaken, and thanks to you it was successful beyond our wildest hopes and dreams when we began it. To give you a special 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.

(Video)

As you can see, Georgia Tech’s future is very bright. Thanks to you, we are hopeful that our vision to define the technological university of the 21st Century will become a reality.