

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
Dedication of Renovated Brittain Dining Hall, October 19, 2001

- Pleased to welcome you to this dedication ceremony for the renovated Brittain Dining Hall.
- Brittain Dining Hall opened in 1928 and was named for Tech President Marion Brittain, who oversaw its construction. It was a collaborative effort: What was then the Architecture Department designed the building based on a European church and supervised the construction. The Ceramics Department made the floor tiles. Mechanical Engineering made the wrought iron for the light fixtures. The Textile Department made the wall tapestries and curtains.
- It was envisioned as a focal point for student life and a gathering place for the students who live in the surrounding dorms. And for a while that vision was reality.
- However, as time went by, new dorms were built on the west end of campus, and by the 1970s, the importance of Brittain Dining Hall as a hub and focal point of campus life had diminished.
- Then Atlanta was named the host city of the 1996 Olympics, and in preparation to serve as the Olympic Village, existing housing here on the east end of campus was renovated and new housing built. So Brittain began to take on new importance.
- We also created the Freshman Experience, in which groups of freshmen live, study and eat together. The program began with fewer than 100 students, and expanded exponentially until today 95 percent of the incoming freshmen participate. Seven dorms around Brittain are earmarked for students participating in the Freshman Experience.
- So, once again Brittain Dining Hall is a hub of student activity, open 93 hours a week and serving 15,000 meals a week.
- The renewed focus on Brittain Dining Hall from the Freshman Experience and the new Olympic housing made us realize how much work needed to be done restore this historic building, which is actually one of the most significant buildings on campus and is officially recognized as a historic structure. Water seepage was causing significant problems. More seating was needed. A new floor and new furniture were called for.
- Today we want to recognize the importance of this renovation project and thank the many people who contributed to that renovation process.

- To get us started, I'd like to introduce John Williams, a senior majoring in nuclear engineering, who will tell us what this newly renovated facility means to the students who gather here.

(WILLIAMS SPEAKS)

- Thank you, John.
- Special thanks and recognition for those who contributed to this important renovation project:
  - Rosalind Meyers and Mike Black and their staffs in Auxiliary Services.
  - Members of the Beard family: Dick Beard of the class of 1967; his wife Lea Beard; Selma Beard whose husband Richard A. Beard Jr. was a member of the class of 1937; and Allison Beard who graduated in 1996. Special luncheon yesterday dedicating the Beard Family Dining Room.
  - Class of 1974, whose 25<sup>th</sup> reunion committee was chaired by Alex Roush and Wayne Parker.
  - Class of 1971, whose 25<sup>th</sup> reunion committee was chaired by Bill Todd (as you can see, this renovation was some time in the making).
  - Finally, the class of 1951 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by raising the funds to renovate the dining halls.
- Ask **Jack Scalley**, who served as Reunion Fund Co-Chair for the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee, to say a few words on behalf of the class.

(SCALLEY SPEAKS)

- There are various plaques around this awesome building providing a permanent tribute to those who have supported its renovation. At this time, I would like to invite the members of the Class of 1951 to join me in unveiling a plaque recognizing their contribution.

(UNVEILING)

- Thank you for coming. Enjoy the rest of your day.