I’m pleased to be here in New York and have a chance to thank all of you in person for your outstanding support for the Campaign for Georgia Tech. As we moved through the campaign, we realized that we really needed to provide some special recognition for the major donors who have given seven and even eight-figure gifts. So we created the Hill Society to recognize those who give a million dollars or more to Georgia Tech during their life.

We have three members of the Hill Society here with us today, and we are going to begin this campaign celebration by presenting them with framed citations expressing our appreciation for the significant contributions they have made to Georgia Tech.

Gary Jones got out of Tech in 1971 with a degree in management, and he and Libby have generously endowed a chair in the College of Management. They have also provided significant support to the College of Management placement program and have an Alexander-Tharpe Life Membership.

This is really an exciting time for the College of Management under the leadership of Terry Blum. The College is developing new programs in e-commerce and entrepreneurship, and will move to new quarters in Technology Square across the street from the renovated Biltmore. And I’ll say a little more about that after lunch. Gary and Libby, please come forward and accept this citation with our thanks.

Bruce McEver is an IE graduate, class of 1966. He has also given endowed a chair during the campaign, and we appreciate his creativity in directing that gift. Who would expect Georgia Tech to have an endowed chair for a visiting writer? Bruce has made us the envy of a lot of liberal arts colleges, and we welcome this addition to our efforts to produce well-rounded engineers who appreciate the liberal arts.

The McEver Chair is presently held by Thomas Lux who is our poet in residence. Besides being a published poet, he also loves that great American past-time baseball, and he is spending some time this spring with the team. We are looking forward to the poetry that will result from that experience. Bruce, please come forward and accept this citation with our thanks.

The third Hill Society citation recognizes Al and Loralee West who have just been incredible in their support of our efforts to enhance undergraduate education at Georgia Tech. Our students come to us with a lot of experience and exposure to technology, and since they are at a technological university, they expect to use it in their education. We also want to be a leader in reshaping undergraduate education for the
21st century and developing exciting and productive ways to use it as an educational tool.

Al, who is an AE graduate, class of ’64, and Loralee have been extraordinarily generous not only with their gifts, but also with their time and their counsel in helping us achieve that goal. The result of their generosity will be the Undergraduate Learning Center, which will not only be state-of-the-art in its educational technology, but will redefine undergraduate education for the 21st century. Al, please come forward and accept this citation with our thanks.