

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND NINTH  
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

May 5, 2001, 3:00 P.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 2:00 p.m. in the Hyder Room, second level of the Coliseum).

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Processional                       | Ga Tech Brass Ensemble<br>Bucky Johnson & Ron Mendola |
| Master of Ceremonies               | Dr. G. Wayne Clough<br>President                      |
| Reflection                         | Mr. Carlton O. Parker<br>Director, YMCA               |
| National Anthem                    | Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble                           |
| Commencement<br>Address            | Dr. Frederick S. Humphries,<br>president, Florida A&M |
| Presentation of<br>Honorary Degree | Dr. Clough  |

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| Presentation of<br>Master's Degree<br>Candidates              | Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for<br>Research and Dean of Graduate<br>Studies           |
| Conferring of Degrees   | Dr. Clough   |
| Presentation of<br>Doctoral Degree Candidates                 | Dr. Liotta   |
| Conferring of Degrees   | Dr. Clough   |
| Induction into<br>Alumni Association                          | Mr. Dave McKenney,<br>Class of 1960 and 1964<br>President, Georgia Tech Alumni Association |
| Presentation of the<br>2000 Outstanding<br>Young Alumna Award | Mr. McKenney   |
| Alma Mater  | Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble,<br>Graduates and Audience                                     |
| Faculty Recessional   | Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble  |
| "Ramblin' Wreck"  | Graduates and audience   |

May 5, 2001 - Ceremony Script

(Dr. Clough)

Good afternoon 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 afternoon. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Georgia Tech's two-hundred ninth commencement exercises.

Today we are celebrating the largest commencement in Georgia Tech history, with the individual presentation of 1,580 diplomas. Fortunately, you will not have to sit through all of them. We have already awarded more than 1,000 bachelor's degrees at the undergraduate ceremonies this morning, and we have now come to the ceremony awarding graduate degrees.

This ceremony takes me back to when I completed my own PhD at U-Cal Berkeley. The difference between then and now is greater than simply the years that have elapsed, because when I finished in 1969 more things than just academics were happening on Berkeley's campus. To file my dissertation I had to design a travel route around the demonstrations and figure out how to avoid pockets of tear gas.

Nevertheless, I look back on my years in graduate school as some of the most intellectually stimulating and satisfying experiences of my life. Lots of great colleagues, wonderful faculty, and all of us involved in creative research.

Today you are probably feeling a great sense of relief from the stress of theses, dissertations, and comprehensive and oral exams. But for the rest of your life you will look back and value the experience of these years. And you will discover that graduate school will continue to shape your life in ways that you do not yet anticipate.

I can tell you from personal experience that the level of freedom to develop your mind and pursue your interests during graduate study is rare. The pure intensity of investigating a tough problem for days and weeks at a time and finding a solution, is intoxicating. And, if you are like me, the friends you made during this time will be life-long.

In addition to the research and scholarship of graduate school, we also hope that as you leave Georgia Tech, you carry with you vivid memories of this Institute and its traditions. Memories of the Ramblin' Wreck Parade or being caught up in the roar of the basketball crowd here in the Thriller Dome.

We hope you will always remember that "the Hill" has nothing to do with our nation's Capitol, and that the Rose Bowl Field is not in California, but in Georgia. And that you have learned to appreciate a Varsity chili dog and Junior's specialty, a great hamburger and an order of fries.

We hope and believe that this day does not mark the end of your education, but is merely a milestone in a lifelong quest to open and enlarge your mind and to contribute to our understanding and knowledge of the world in which we live.

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." As you leave Georgia Tech, I encourage you to continue to use your intellect and ability in the service of society. That is what will give meaning to your life.

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 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. I know that when you got papers or tests back you did not always feel loved by the faculty, but today they are here to testify that you earned their respect. So now is the time for all of our graduates to say thanks for all the help they received 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)*

And now it gives me pleasure to introduce our distinguished graduation speaker, who is a fellow university president and colleague. Florida A&M University and Georgia Tech have a lot in common. We opened our doors about the same time in the late 1880s as public institutions with a technological focus. And in the years since then we have both grown in size and in national stature.

Just like Georgia Tech, Florida A&M has increased the GPAs and standardized test scores of incoming students, and created innovative scholarships to attract top-quality young people. But Florida A&M routinely beats us to the punch in recruiting National

Achievement Scholars, and has run neck and neck with Harvard University over the past decade for first place in the nation. Florida A&M won that race in 1992, 1995, and 1997, and came in tied with Harvard in a dead heat for the current school year.

FAMU also leads the nation in graduating African-Americans, and has an innovative, nationally recognized program that directs its undergraduate students toward graduate studies. As a result of these and other achievements, Florida A&M was selected as the TIME Magazine-Princeton Review “College of the Year” in the fall of 1997. We are fortunate and pleased that a goodly number of the bright folks graduating from FAMU are coming to graduate school at Georgia Tech.

The chief engineer of these initiatives and the increasing national pre-eminence that Florida A&M has gained over the past decade is its president, Dr. Frederick S. Humphries. He is a Florida native and alumnus of Florida A&M, graduating magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. He earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. Before coming to FAMU 16 years ago, he served as president of Tennessee State University for 11 years.

Dr. Humphries has served on the White House Science and Technology Advisory Committee, the NAFEO Science and Technology Advisory Committee, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, and the Special Committee for Minority Representation in Graduate and Professional Education of the National Academy of Science.

He has also been a champion for the South, serving on the Commission on the Future of the South, and numerous other regional, civic, educational, and corporate boards and organizations. He has been a friend to Georgia Tech, encouraging his talented students to undertake graduate students here on our campus.

Bringing a university to the level of prominence that Florida A&M has achieved is a lot of hard work, and after 16 years as president, Dr. Humphries is looking forward to beginning a year-long sabbatical on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We are extremely pleased to be able to lure him to our campus before he takes that well-deserved break, and I am honored to present him to you at this time. President Humphries...

**(SPEAKER'S REMARKS)**

Thank you, Dr. Humphries. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak today and in recognition of your contributions to the South and the nation, I would like to present you with this special gift.

**(PRESENT GIFT)**

Before we begin the process of awarding degrees, we are going to take a few minutes to recognize a very special guest and bestow upon him an honorary degree, which is an uncommon thing at Georgia Tech. But no one is more deserving of this rare mark of distinction than person we honor today.

Jack Kilby is an electrical engineer and an inventor who holds more than 60 patents. One of those 60-plus inventions was so phenomenal that it earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics, the National Medal of Science, and induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, where he takes his place alongside Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and the Wright Brothers.

Jack Kilby joined the staff of Texas Instruments in July of 1958 to work on the Micro-Module Program sponsored by the Army Signal Corps. The Signal Corps was hoping that someone could figure out how to make the components of electrical circuits similar in size and shape with the wiring built in, so that they could be snapped together, eliminating the slow, expensive, and messy business of hand-soldering thousands of wires to thousands of

components.

Jack Kilby was only on the job at Texas Instruments for a few weeks when he came up with the idea of making all the circuit components out of the same material and interconnecting them on the same germanium chip, thus eliminating the need for wiring altogether. Two months later, he had a working model, half the size of a paper clip, of the world's first microchip. In the process, he single-handedly began a whole new era in electronics that continues today. And I should note that he later invented products built on the microchip, such as the first hand-held calculator.

When he invented the microchip, Jack Kilby never imagined the wide-ranging ways in which it would be used. Today, we cannot imagine life without it. Not only has the microchip remained the predominant unit of electric circuitry for more than 40 years – which is an incredibly long time for a single technology these days – but it is the basis of a one-trillion-dollar world-wide electronics industry.

It is my privilege to ask Jack St. Clair Kilby to come forward and receive an honorary doctor of philosophy degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology, authorized by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to modern life around the world.

*(PRESENT HONORARY DIPLOMA)*

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of your degrees. Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies will present the candidates for the master's degree.

(Dr. Liotta)

Will the candidates for the master and Master of Science degrees please rise?

(Dr. Liotta) Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting to you for the master's and master of science degrees those candidates who have completed all requirements for those 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 master's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

(Dr. Clough) We shall now present the diplomas. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

*(Dr. Liotta presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands)*

(Dr. Clough) Please join me in congratulating these master's graduates.  
*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Dr. Liotta will also present the candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree.

(Dr. Liotta) Will the candidates for the doctoral degrees please rise.

(Dr. Liotta) Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting to you for the doctoral degrees those candidates who have completed all requirements for those 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 degree of doctor of philosophy with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

Congratulations on your earning of Georgia Tech's highest academic degree. Will you please come forward and receive your diplomas.

*(Dr. Liotta presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands, and advisors step on stage to hood their students.)*

(Dr. Clough) Please join me in congratulating these doctoral graduates.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

(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 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 graduate students. You are the scholars and technological leaders of tomorrow... the role models for future generations of aspiring scientists and engineers.

I would like to offer my personal congratulations on your accomplishment in attaining a degree from one of the top institutions of higher education in the nation. It was true for me and it will be even more true for you that your degree from Georgia Tech will open doors for you.

You have helped Tech achieve the highest national rankings of its storied history. So you can see that you are leaving our campus with a degree that means something special. Still, the pace of change today means that education has become a “K to Gray” activity. Anyone who does not continue to learn will be left behind, so I encourage you to never stop learning.

You are primed to be the technological leaders of tomorrow. Nurture your talents, balance your career with your family and service to your community, and you will become one of those Tech graduates we read about and brag about as great success stories. I wish you all the best in the future!

To start you off on that path, I am pleased to introduce one of those great success stories. Dave McKenney, class of 1960 and 1964, is chairman and CEO of McKenney’s Inc. – one of Atlanta’s premier engineering firms. He is also president of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, a personal friend of mine, and a great friend of Georgia Tech. Dave will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech alumni and present the 2000 Outstanding Young Alumna Award.

(Mr. McKenney)                      Induction of graduates into the Alumni Association and presentation of award...

(Dr. Clough)

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. Lemarchand for calling the

graduates' names. And many thanks to all my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, the Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble will lead us in the alma mater, followed immediately by the faculty recessional. The graduates and the 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 afternoon.

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