Thank you, Dean Rosser, and thank you Robert. I suspect it would come as a shock to many liberal arts universities to learn that Georgia Tech has an endowed chair for a poet in residence.

I am pleased to welcome all of you to this special evening celebrating the 10\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the Ivan Allen College. It is also the 90\textsuperscript{th} birthday of Ivan Allen, Jr. – Georgia Tech alumnus, namesake of the college, and one of Atlanta’s leading statesmen and shining lights. And as we celebrate the 10\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the Ivan Allen College, we also remember the gifts and service of Ivan Allen, and remind ourselves of the example of public service he set for us to follow.

Establishing a college focused on the liberal arts and humanities at a university that is dominated by science and technology is not an easy task. Over the past decade, the college has been learning several balancing acts.

When you are part of a technological university, people tend to see you as a sort of Rodney Dangerfield, and it is a challenge get the same level of respect that is accorded to your peers at liberal arts universities. So the Ivan Allen College has been working hard on establishing credibility in the broader circles of its disciplines.

At the same time, however, its affiliation with an institute of technology means the Ivan Allen College is uniquely positioned to take the lead in the interdisciplinary space between technology and the liberal arts. As technology becomes more pervasive in all aspects of life, that position is becoming more pivotal. So the college has learned to balance the task of establishing traditional disciplinary respect with the task of exploring the technological aspects of the humanities.

The second juggling act the Ivan Allen College has learned over the past decade is to balance the broader responsibility of providing the bulk of the core curriculum to underclassmen, with the need to fully develop its own majors and areas of expertise. The goal here is that no science or engineering student will leave Georgia Tech without a sense of the human and public policy ramifications of technology, and no Ivan Allen College major will leave Georgia Tech without a basic understanding of what engineering means.

So the tasks set before the Ivan Allen College at its birth were not easy, but the college has done well and its future is even more promising. There is much to celebrate on this 10\textsuperscript{th} anniversary. And the fact that we have such renowned scholars as Henry Louis
“Skip” Gates, Shirley Malcolm, and Jim Duderstadt here to join in the celebration is evidence of the credibility the college has achieved in its short life.

We hope you all enjoy this special evening of celebration, and we look forward to even more remarkable achievements from the Ivan Allen College during the next 10 years.

AFTER DINNER: PRESENT IVAN ALLEN PRIZE

Once we established the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize, the next task was to choose its first recipient – a person who represents the leadership, values, and qualities of mind and spirit that characterized Ivan Allen, and whose actions and accomplishments provide models of progress and service. It was an easy choice.

Seventeen days after Zell Miller was born in the tiny town of Young Harris, where the southern Appalachian Mountains reach down into Georgia, his father died. His mother never remarried, raising her family single-handedly through the Depression. She instilled a strong sense of integrity, perseverance, resourcefulness, independent thinking, and community service in Zell Miller, and the Marine Corps finished the job.

The experience and discipline of those early years kept Zell Miller focused on what he calls “kitchen table issues” through four decades of public service – common sense issues that touch the daily lives of millions of citizens and are the topic of discussion around the kitchen table.

His HOPE Scholarship Program gives Georgia students who have a “B” average free tuition at public colleges or an equivalent scholarship at in-state private colleges. It was called “the most far-reaching scholarship program in the nation.” by the Los Angeles Times.

He made Georgia the first state in the nation to offer free pre-kindergarten to all parents who want to enroll their children, and this program won an award for innovation from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

He put computers in Georgia’s classrooms, satellite dishes in the schoolyards, and CD-ROM towers in the media centers. He provided schools with funds for network wiring and retrofitting, and made sure every school and public library in the state had Internet access.

He made the state a partner in the Georgia Research Alliance, providing $200 million during his administration as Governor to create endowed chairs, purchase sophisticated research equipment, and build facilities like the GCATT building. And he was an active participant in recruiting renowned scholars to hold those endowed chairs.
He was also admired for his fiscal discipline and his ability to use the state budget as a policy tool by focusing funding on his top priorities. He increased salaries for public school teachers and university faculty by six percent a year for four consecutive years, while simultaneously pruning state government of duplication and dead wood, and returning the savings to Georgia taxpayers in the form of several tax cuts.

He has taken that same mentality of fiscal responsibility to Washington and discovered that the folks up there find it rather alarming.

In addition to teaching at four Georgia universities, he has served as mayor of his hometown, state senator, lieutenant governor, governor and presently United States senator. He has written five books, and I suspect he had a few more in mind when he was called away from the University of Georgia to serve the remainder of Paul Coverdell’s Senate term.

Unfortunately, the Senate is continuing unanticipated deliberations this evening, and Zell Miller is still in Washington when he’d hoped to be here. However, he has sent a videotape of the remarks he planned to make to us, so please direct your attention to the screen at this time.