

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWELFTH  
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

May 4, 2002, 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>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. John H. Marburger III<br>Director, Office of Science and Technology<br>Executive Office of the President of the United States |

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|---|---|
| Presentation of<br>Master's Degree<br>Candidates              | Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for<br>Research and Dean of Graduate 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. Albert Thornton Jr.,<br>Class of 1968<br>President, Georgia Tech Alumni Association |
| Presentation of the<br>2000 Outstanding<br>Young Alumna Award | Mr. Thornton  |
| Alma Mater  | Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble,<br>Graduates and Audience                                  |
| Faculty Recessional   | Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble   |
| "Ramblin' Wreck"  | Graduates and audience  |

May 4, 2002 - Ceremony Script (GRADUATE CEREMONY)

(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 twelfth commencement exercises.

Today we are celebrating the largest commencement in Georgia Tech history, with the individual presentation of 1,847 diplomas. Fortunately for you, we have already awarded some 1,200 bachelor's degrees at the undergraduate ceremonies this morning. This afternoon we are focused on awarding the graduate degrees, and we are especially pleased to include among this group the very first graduates of our Executive Master's Degree Program in International Logistics.

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.

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)*

One of the highlights of the past year for me was being appointed by President George W. Bush to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. That has given me an opportunity to get to know and work with the President's science advisor, and it is an honor to have Dr. John Marburger, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, on our campus today. He also spoke at our undergraduate ceremony this morning, and even after enduring the presentation of 1,200 degrees, he was still willing to stay and share his insights with us this afternoon.

The Chinese character for the word "crisis" is a combination of two other symbols. One means danger; the other means opportunity. Some of John Marburger's friends and colleagues have questioned his career decisions because he has accepted challenges they consider dangerous. But he takes them on with enthusiasm because he is able to see the opportunity.

His present job as science advisor to the President calls for him to keep one foot firmly planted in the objectivity of science while he sticks the other foot into the middle of the political debate swirling around issues like global warming, stem cell research, environmental sustainability, ballistic missile defense, and most recently counteracting terrorism. His confirmation by the U.S. Senate came just weeks after the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. But dealing with controversy and negotiating the divide between science and politics are not new for Dr. Marburger. And he is widely praised for his rare combination of scientific expertise with management and people skills.

John Marburger graduated from Princeton University with a bachelor's degree in physics, then earned a Ph.D. in applied physics from Stanford University. He had a stellar academic career at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where he was professor of

physics and electrical engineering, chaired the physics department, then became dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Science. His research focused on nonlinear optics, and he co-founded USC's center for laser studies.

In 1980, he became president of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and got his first taste of the clash between science and high-level politics as head of the Universities Research Association during the political debate surrounding the Superconducting Super Collider.

After 14 years at Stony Brook, he became director of Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island in 1997. And that was no picnic, either. Brookhaven had just admitted that radioactive tritium from the lab had been leaking into Long Island's ground water for years, and the community was angry. So the Department of Energy fired the management team that had been running the lab, and hired John Marburger to fix things.

Dr. Marburger created a permanent advisory council to provide input from the community, accelerated the clean-up schedule, and supervised the dismantling of the lab's nuclear reactor. In short, he restored Long Island's trust in Brookhaven National Lab and earned the respect of the environmental advocates.

At the same time he was shutting down its nuclear reactor, he was refocusing Brookhaven's efforts. They recently used a giant particle accelerator called a Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider to produce the densest matter ever created in a lab, which represents a step toward understanding the Big Bang theory of the creation of the universe.

Dr. Marburger has now assumed yet another intense, high-risk position where the decisions are as much about politics as they are about science. But he has both the scientific expertise and the leadership skills to seize this opportunity and shape the future of science and technology policy to the benefit of this nation and the world. We are

looking forward to his leadership in the White House, and I am proud to introduce him to you at this time.

*(DR. MARBURGER'S REMARKS)*

Thank you, Dr. Marburger. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak twice and enduring the rigors of Georgia Tech's commencement day, I would like to present you with this special gift.

*(PRESENT GIFT)*

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's 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 doctora 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 induct our graduates into this special group, I would like to present Albert Thornton Jr., class of 1968. He is executive vice president of Waffle House, Inc., and this year's president of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. Bert will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech and present the 2000 Outstanding Young Alumna Award.

(Mr. Thornton)                      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.)*