

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWELFTH  
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

May 4, 2002, 9:00 A.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 8:00 a.m. in the Hyder Room, second level of the Coliseum).

Processional	Ga Tech Brass Ensemble Ron Mendola
Master of Ceremonies	Dr. G. Wayne Clough President
Reflection	Mr. Carlton O. Parker Director, YMCA
National Anthem	Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble
Commencement Address	Dr. John H. Marburger III Director, Office of Science and Technology Executive Office of the President of the United States
Introduction of Academic Deans	Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

Presentation of Undergraduate  
Degree Candidates

College of Computing

Dean Peter A. Freeman

Ivan Allen College

Dean Sue Rosser

College of Architecture

Associate Dean Sabir Khan

DuPree College of Management

Associate Dean Nate Bennett

College of Sciences

Associate Dean E. Kent Barefield

College of Engineering

Interim Dean J. Narl Davidson

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Commission Recognition  
Ceremony

Col. James Stevens,  
Air Force, ROTC

Induction into  
Alumni Association

Mr. Albert Thornton Jr.,  
Class of 1968  
President, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Presentation of the  
Joseph Mayo Petite  
Alumni Distinguished  
Service Award

Mr. Thornton

Alma Mater

Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble with  
Chamber Chorale

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and Audience

May 4, 2002 - Ceremony Script

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, 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 morning. 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 recognition of 1,847 graduates. Fortunately, you will not have to sit through the whole thing. We will confer about 1,200 undergraduate degrees this morning, but hold a separate ceremony at 3:00 p.m. to award about 650 graduate degrees.

Like thousands of graduates who have gone before, you carry with you vivid memories of this Institute and its traditions – the Tech Tower, the Rambling Wreck, climbing the Hill, a football game on a sunlight Saturday afternoon at Bobby Dodd Stadium, pulling all nighters to prepare for exams, and being gently wakened by the sweet sound of the Whistle.

These traditions go back a long way, but we also share pride in more recent ones, like Team Buzz Day where 2000 students, faculty and staff participated in our all-Institute volunteer day to help the less fortunate and beautify our city...and watching as our bright and talented students received national recognition through the awarding of scholarships with storied names like Rhodes, Truman, British Marshall, and Fulbright. Or seeing a

former president and a sitting president come to our campus to share their views with us on pressing national issues. These new traditions reflect a Georgia Tech that is on the rise with growing influence, but also values a caring attitude for the society which it serves.

The year will also be remembered for the largest terrorist attack in history on American soil on September 11<sup>th</sup>. On the national day of mourning, 10,000 of us gathered to state our support for those who so bravely faced dangers to help others and to share our grief for those who lost their lives. For Georgia Tech, it was a sobering reminder of our ongoing responsibility and commitment to create the technology and educate the leaders needed to address the problems we face. And we hope and believe that Georgia Tech has given you the education and skills you will need to provide the technological leadership the world will need in the days ahead.

We hope and believe that you have been learning with heart as well as by heart. Almost 2,000 years ago, Plutarch pointed out that “the mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.” Much has changed in the course of two millennia, but these words are as pertinent today as they were in ancient Greece.

Georgia Tech is full of men and women who have an intense intellectual curiosity about new frontiers of knowledge. We hope and believe that some of that curiosity has rubbed off on you, and that you will continue to feed the fire of learning throughout your life, never allowing it to fade away to a bed of spent ashes.

We hope and believe you have learned to rise to a challenge... to be creative in solving problems... to adapt to change, and even to anticipate and provoke it. These abilities will stand you in good stead your whole life long.

Most importantly, we hope and believe that here at Georgia Tech you have learned that the goal is not merely to “have more,” but also to “be more.” Lily Tomlin once said that even

if you win the rat race, you'll still be a rat. And we hope and believe that you set forth from this day, prepared not only to live in the world, but also to help make it a better place.

Today, as we celebrate the successful conclusion of a 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 for some of you, 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 our outstanding Georgia Tech faculty. I know that when you got your 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 to all the help they received from the faculty and I would like to ask the 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 a few minutes ago 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 having the opportunity to serve on President Bush's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. That has given me a chance to get to know and work with the President's science advisor, and it is an honor to welcome Dr. John Marburger, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, to campus as our commencement speaker today.

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 thought him crazy because he has accepted challenges they consider fraught with danger. 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 today, I would like to present you with a gift for the occasion.

*(PRESENT GIFT)*

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of degrees. Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

(Dr. Chameau) Dean Peter Freeman will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.

(Dr. Freeman) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Computing please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Freeman) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Chameua) Dean Sue Rosser will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the Ivan Allen College.

(Dr. Rosser) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the Ivan Allen College please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Rosser) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Chameau) Associate Dean Sabir Kahn will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Architecture.

(Dr. Khan) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Architecture please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Khan) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Chameau) Associate Dean Nate Bennett will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the DuPree College of Management.

(Dr. Bennett) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the DuPree College of Management please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Bennett) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Chameau) Associate Dean E. Kent Barefield will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.

(Dr. Barefield) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Sciences please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Barefield) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Chameau) Interim Dean J. Narl Davidson will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

(Dr. Davidson) Candidates for the bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing.

*(Pause)*

(Dr. Davidson) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the bachelor's degree and the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for those respective 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 bachelor's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities hereunto appertaining.

(Dr. Clough) Please be seated. We will now award the degrees. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

*(College of Computing candidates will come forward, then IAC, Architecture, Management, College of Sciences and College of Engineering)*

*(Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands. Announcer will pause between colleges to allow the Dean time to come forward)*

(Dr. Clough) Now, please join me in congratulating these fine new graduates of Georgia Tech.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

(Dr. Clough) Now, I would like to introduce Colonel James Stevens who will

recognize those graduates who are commissioned to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

(Colonel Stevens)                      Commission graduates

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 young 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 students. You are the technological leaders of tomorrow... and the role models for future generations.

Georgia Tech has more than 80,000 living alumni around the world, including some who are here today, and I would like to ask all Georgia Tech alumni to stand at this time and be recognized.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

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 Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

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

(Dr. Clough)

We invite all of you to join us immediately after this ceremony for a special reception in honor of today's graduates and their families and friends. The reception will be held in the Tennis Center, directly across Fowler Street.

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. Johnson and Dr. Kikuchi 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 and Chamber Chorale 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 singing the Ramblin' Wreck, which will accompany the student recessional.

Thank you for your attendance this morning.

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