• Pleased to join with students, faculty, and staff of Georgia Tech in celebrating the conclusion of a journey of several years.

• During design process of Technology Square 4 years ago, decided to move Georgia Tech Bookstore into spacious new quarters over there where it could become the leading technology bookstore of Atlanta and the South. Raised the question of how to use freed-up space adjacent to Student Center.

• Wanted to give that question careful consideration because Tech woefully short of space for student activities and organizations. So created Student Center Expansion Task Force: 6 students, 2 faculty, 4 staff.

• The task force not charged with floor plans or designs or funding, but to develop vision for the facility based on the needs of the campus community.

• Task force held town hall meeting, convened focus groups, solicited ideas from student organizations and campus departments, studied the existing uses and foot traffic in the building, and looked at student-focused space on more than 30 other college campuses.

• Their research revealed Tech students gather for a variety of reasons – to participate in student organizations, to socialize, to study, to eat, to entertain or be entertained, and just to relax. Concluded that what campus needed, in essence, is a “family room” – centralized, 24-hour gathering place that fosters social interaction, learning, and involvement.

• Once the vision had been developed, were able to identify resources (over $6 million) to make it happen – internal GT funds plus generous gift from Roe and Penny Stamps. The Stamps are traveling and could not be here today, so we will have another party with them later in the fall to thank them for their generosity.

• Today, start a new academic year by welcoming campus community to Georgia Tech’s new “family room.” It is yours to use and enjoy!

NOTE: In the Stamps Student Commons:
- 3,000+ sq ft of lounge space
- 6 conference/special events rooms
- Midtown Stage
- Food: Einstein’s Brothers Bagels, Pandini’s, Jackets
- Student organizations: SGA, Student Organization Resource Center, WREK radio
- Retail/services: Burdell’s, BuzzCard Center, Copy Center, College Optical, Hair Cuttery, STA Travel