• 2 weeks ago: celebrated 50\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the enrollment of Georgia Tech’s first women in the fall of 1952.

• Overshadowed by the drama of that moment was another very important historic milestone: the enrollment in fall of ’52 of 10 students in the brand new City Planning Program. Glad to join with you this evening in paying tribute to the history and development of a program that is unique in Georgia and a leader for the nation.

• Tech has had an architecture program since 1908 – now approaching centennial mark.
  o 1926: become the first architecture program in the South admitted to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.
  o 1939: won international recognition as the recipient of the University Medal by the Society of French Architects.

• As a result, Harold Bush-Brown, then dean of Architecture, able to rally some high-caliber help in 1950 to design a city planning program:
  o John Baus, director of city planning at Harvard
  o Frederick J. Adams, director of city planning at MIT
  o Howard Menhinick, director of regional studies, Tennessee Valley Authority
  o $251,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation

• Achievements quickly followed:
  o 1959: first female student at Tech to receive a graduate city planning degree.
  o 1962: nation’s first degree in transportation planning – joint degree with civil engineering.
  o 1968: urban design degree, joint with architecture
  o 1970: graduated first African American student.

• Today: the only accredited planning program in Georgia; one of 68 accredited programs in the United States.
o Has produced leaders in the practice of city planning and numerous Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

o Faculty, students, alumni not afraid to engage actively with the community in tackling difficult topics: affordable housing, environmental protection, social justice, poverty, rural development, brownfields redevelopment.

• Outstanding faculty:
  o On-campus leaders in administrative and faculty committees and appointments.
  o Active in civic organizations; pro bono planning contributions in affordable housing, environmental protection, community design, planning negotiations.

• Outstanding students:
  o Awards from professional planning organizations for individual and group projects.
  o Contribute to the campus as leaders in student government and student programs.

• The result: recognition and support from
  o Brookings Institution
  o National Science Foundation
  o National Academy of Sciences
  o Fannie Mae Foundation
  o The Hewlett Foundation
  o Annie B. Casey Foundation

• Celebrations like this are like dancing the tango: take a look back, then a step forward. As City and Regional Planning Program steps forward into future:
  o Tech’s growing reputation and excellence provide context for program to continue to excel.
  o Opportunities to use Atlanta as living laboratory to develop the sustainable, livable city of the 21st century.
  o Opportunities for community relationships, public-private partnerships as Tech becomes more engaged with its surrounding community.
  o Center for Quality Regional Growth at Technology Square.
  o Continue to tackle difficult problems with innovative solutions.