I’m pleased to be here with you today and have this opportunity to bring you up to date on what is happening at Georgia Tech. I think the last time I spoke to you, we were all planning for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and Georgia Tech was preparing to host athletes and coaches from your countries.

Those were exciting times that made a significant contribution to Georgia Tech’s life as an institution. Of course, serving as the Olympic Village resulted in expanded and upgraded housing and athletic facilities on our campus. But it also provided an impetus for Georgia Tech to move more fully into the international arena, and I will come back to that in a few minutes.

Nearly a decade has gone by since we helped to host the Olympics, and Georgia Tech has changed in many ways during this time:

- Enrollment grew by 30% to nearly 17,000.
- Research doubled to more than $400 million.
- Campus square footage doubled from 6 million sq ft to 12 million sq ft.

Georgia Tech grew in quality as well as quantity:

- As enrollment grew, diversity increased; GT became a leader in graduating minority and female engineers.
- As research volume grew, GT became a leader in emerging new interdisciplinary fields like biotechnology and nanotechnology, and opened doors of opportunity to our undergraduates to participate in our dynamic research enterprise.
- As campus square footage grew, we reshaped campus to be more environmentally sustainable and create a distinct sense of place.

As a result, Georgia Tech is now consistently ranked as one of the nation’s top ten public universities. We have one of the smartest student bodies of any public university in the nation, and we are home to 15 national centers of excellence.

As we look to the future, our vision is to define the technological university of the 21st century – to become the model that others want to emulate… to be the place to which others look to find out what the next new thing will be. And as an important part of that goal, we are deliberately working to become one of the world’s truly international universities.

In his recent book, *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, Thomas Friedman condenses the history of globalization to three stages. The first stage began in 1492 when Christopher Columbus sailed west from Europe to get to India, and it ended in about 1800. During this stage, Friedman says the world shrank from a size large to a size medium as countries set out to create colonies and appropriate natural resources from around the world for their own use.
During the second stage, which lasted from 1800 to 2000, the world shrank from a size medium to a size small. The driving force in this stage was not countries, but companies looking for new markets and cheap labor.

In the third stage, which is now underway, it is small groups and individuals who are empowered to act on a global stage – and not just individual from North America or Europe, as has been the case with countries in stage one and companies in stage two, but individuals from many nations all around the world. The Internet has connected individuals with the world, and anyone with intelligence and Internet access can be a player in the global economy, no matter where they live.

The economy of the 21st century is not only global, but it is also based on innovation. We are going to see new ideas, discoveries, and technologies emerging all around the globe, and the winners will be those who collaborate – across company lines and national borders – to quickly translate those discoveries and technologies into usable products and services. Already the countries that have tried to preserve their systems, jobs, culture or traditions by keeping the rest of the world out have stagnated. Those that have opened themselves up to the rest of the world and embrace the global economy are prospering.

We believe the same is true for universities – those who sit ensconced in their ivory towers will stagnate, while those who reach out and become engaged with the world in developing and exchanging ideas will prosper.

So, at Georgia Tech we are reaching out and working very deliberately to become one of the world’s few truly international universities:

- Students on our Atlanta campus from 120 other nations.
- 4 campuses on 3 continents; students in Europe and on the Pacific Rim earn GT degrees without ever setting foot in the United States.
- Discussions for platforms in Bangalore, Shanghai.
- Research partnerships with other universities:
  - Imperial College, UK
  - The Grand Ecoles of France
  - HUST in China: photonics
  - 4 Israel universities: nanotech consortium

We are also enriching the experience of our American students here in Atlanta, helping them become citizens of the world:

- Study Abroad
  - A third of our undergraduates participate.
  - Summer, semester, or year abroad.
  - 42 programs in about two dozen countries, from Argentina to Turkey, from Denmark to Japan.
  - Created a new model: spend a year in Germany with intensive language study, semester at Technical University of Munich, and semester internship at Siemens. Will expand it to other countries.
Study abroad programs at our own campuses in France and Singapore allow engineering students to stay on track in a demanding curriculum; allow faculty to teach and do research abroad without disrupting their careers.

- Special certificates and degrees:
  - Bachelor’s degrees with international orientation: global economics and modern language, international affairs and modern language
  - Master’s degrees with international orientation: MS in International Logistics; Global Executive MBA (offered with partner management programs in France and Brazil; students are based at all 3 schools and rotate among the schools for 2-week residencies).

- Our outstanding students win prestigious scholarships to pursue graduate study abroad. Within past 4 years:
  - 2 Rhodes Scholars
  - 4 Marshall Scholars
  - 3 Gates Cambridge Scholars
  - 2 Fulbright Scholars
  - 2 Churchill Scholars
  - 1 Marshall-Sherfield Fellowship (Only 2 awarded per year in the U.S.)

- Distance learning:
  - Real-time classes among GT campuses.
  - Online master’s degrees, including 4 students at GE’s Welch Center in Bangalore and 3 at GE’s facility in Florence, Italy.

Georgia Tech is also home to 2 international centers:
- European Union in Center Ivan Allen College; one of 15 in United States to promote understanding and collaboration between US and EU.
- CIFAL North America – one of 12 training centers in the world under the auspices of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Sponsoring conferences at Global Learning and Conference Center in May (just held), June, September, October.

These are some of the many programs that are enabling Georgia Tech to emerge as one of the world’s truly international universities and to give our students, whatever their citizenship, the skills they need to provide innovative solutions in an open interconnected, innovative world.

There are smart people everywhere around the world. And as more nations become active players in the global economy, new ideas and new discoveries will emerge from all around the world. At Georgia Tech, we want to be in conversation with smart people and innovators, wherever they may be, and collaborate with them to make our world a better place.