Pleased to join with Alumni Association in welcoming you to Gold & White Honors 2005.

Used to give these awards out at the end of commencement – after literally hours of awarding degrees when Alumni Association was the only thing standing between the graduates and their celebrations. Never got much attention.

Three years ago created Gold & White Honors to give them the importance and attention they deserve. Pleased to join with you in the third annual Gold & White Honors festivities and extend congrats to award winners.

GT has most supportive group of alumni of any public university in the nation; you rank up there in the top 25 overall and #1 among publics.

Obvious that our alumni are movers and shakers; equally obvious that they have a deep commitment to service and giving back.

Peter Drucker: “Leadership is not magnetic personality – that can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not ‘making friends and influencing people’ – that is flattery. Leadership is the lifting a person’s vision to higher sights, the raising of a person’s performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.”

That is what we are trying to do when we say we are developing our students into leaders – lifting their vision to a higher level, raising their performance to a higher standard, and building their personality beyond its normal limits.

You, our alumni, are an indication of Georgia Tech’s success at that task. A great university produces great leaders. And those great leaders, in turn, help to make the university even greater as they serve their communities and give back.

Tonight we celebrate the great leaders GT has produced and honor some of the most extraordinary of them with:

- Outstanding Young Alumnus Award
- Dean Griffin Community Service Award
- Honorary Alumnus Award
- Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni Distinguished Service Award

Look forward in extending my congratulations to the winners of these awards and to expressing my personal thanks for their outstanding contributions to the Institute and the community.