

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWENTY FIFTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE
ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

August 4, 2006, 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 Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

Master of Ceremonies Dr. G. Wayne Clough
President

Reflection Rev. Megan J. Jones
Lutheran Center at Georgia Tech

National Anthem Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

Commencement Address Dr. Bryan G. Norton
Professor of Philosophy

Presentation of Master's Degree Candidates Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau
Provost and Vice President,
Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees Dr. Clough

Introduction of
Academic Deans

Dr. Anderson Smith
Vice Provost, Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs

Presentation of Undergraduate
Degree Candidates

College of Computing
Assistant Dean Maureen Biggers

Ivan Allen College
Dean Sue V. Rosser

College of Architecture
Dean Thomas D. Galloway

College of Management
Associate Dean Eugene Comiskey

College of Sciences
Associate Dean E. Kent Barefield

College of Engineering
Associate Dean Jane Ammons

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Induction into
Alumni Association

Ms. Janice Wittschiebe, Class of 1978, 1980
Chair, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and Audience

August 4, 2006 - Ceremony Script (Bachelor/Master's)

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Rev. Megan Jones, from the Lutheran Center at Georgia Tech, and remain standing for our national anthem.

(Rev. Megan Jones)

Reflection

(Commencement 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 twenty fifth commencement exercises.

As the number of our graduates has grown, we have been experimenting with ways to make our commencement exercises more manageable and more meaningful to our graduates and their families and friends. In this morning's ceremony, we will award bachelor's and master's degrees. The doctoral degrees, which involve a hooding procedure, will be conferred in a second ceremony this evening. And if you enjoy the ceremony and pageantry of commencement, I invite you to join us at 7 o'clock in the Ferst Center for the Arts.

Even though we have split graduation into two ceremonies, we still will confer about 660 degrees this morning, so please get comfortable, because it will take a little while. But there is nothing quite like it, and it is one of my favorite activities as president.

All of these talented young people have received a technology-oriented education that is increasingly valuable and rare among the thousands of graduates from our nation's

universities. Each of them will be a key resource in helping our nation remain great for the future.

As you know from news reports, our nation is at risk of falling behind in the global economic competition, because too few of our young people are pursuing a scientific or technological education. But each of the graduates before us today has chosen the less traveled path – one that called for them to work hard, to learn about the latest developments in fields like engineering, science, and management, and to compete with some of the best and brightest our nation has to offer. I know you join me in my special pride in being here among them on this day.

The world around us is changing rapidly, and these young graduates have been educated in what is required to address the challenges and solve the problems of the 21st century. This assessment is based not only on their talents and academic achievements, the quality of our faculty, and the rigor of our academic programs, but also the track record of the Tech graduates who preceded them.

Just look around at the billion-dollar companies whose CEOs are Georgia Tech alumni – Wal-Mart International, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Invesco, Gulfstream Aerospace, Dollar General, GE Commercial Finance, Shaw Industries, SEI Investments, and Earthlink. Beyond the business world we see alumni who have won Nobel prizes, like Kerry Mullis; alumni who have served in the U.S. Senate, like Sam Nunn; alumni who have walked on the moon, like John Young; and alumni who are even well known entertainers, like John Salley, Jeff Foxworthy, and Phil Gordon – who is not only a successful business man but also holds a world poker title and is seen on TV advising others on when to hold ‘em and when to fold ‘em.

You, today’s graduates, are the recipients of that same education. You are the inheritors of those same traditions – including the ability to think clearly on just a few hours of sleep a

night, an abiding appreciation for chili dogs from the Varsity, cheering on the Yellow Jacket athletic teams, pulling all-nighters during “dead week,” and being gently awakened by the sweet sound of the Whistle, or a little jack-hammering on the latest construction project.

As we celebrate the completion of this phase of your life today, we hope and believe that the knowledge and skills you carry with you from our campus will continue to shape and influence your lives in ways you cannot yet even imagine. And we look forward to seeing you step to the fore to provide the technological and ethical leadership our nation and world will need in the days ahead.

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.” As Lily Tomlin once noted, 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)

I especially want to thank and acknowledge our Provost Jean-Lou Chameau, whose outstanding leadership over the past decade has been an integral part of elevating Georgia Tech to new heights and moving us into the top ten public universities in the nation. Dr. Chameau has been named the next president of Caltech, and while we hate to see him leave, we are grateful for everything he has done for us, we are proud of his new appointment, and we look forward to the opportunity to develop closer ties with another outstanding technological institution. Please join me in recognizing and thanking Dr. Chameau for his excellent service to Georgia Tech.

(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)

The highest honor that Georgia Tech can bestow upon any member of its faculty is the Distinguished Professor Award, which is presented each spring to a professor whose teaching, research, and mentoring of students have been especially outstanding. It is a Georgia Tech tradition that the faculty member who has been chosen as Distinguished Professor has the honor of delivering the summer commencement address. This year, the recipient of that high honor is Dr. Bryan Norton.

Dr. Norton is an internationally renowned and respected expert in his field, and that is not surprising for a top-tier Georgia Tech faculty member. What IS something of a surprise is that he is a philosopher, which is not exactly what you might expect to find at a technological university. But Bryan Norton received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Michigan in 1970, and prior to coming to Georgia Tech in 1988, he was professor of philosophy at New College of Florida – an honors college where you can major in philosophy and would expect to find philosophers on the faculty.

So, what brought a philosopher to Georgia Tech and enabled him to become internationally renowned? Unlike most philosophers who work alone, writing books that few people outside of their field will read, Bryan Norton collaborates with colleagues from other disciplines. In the process he attracts competitive grants from organizations like the National Science Foundation and changes perceptions and practices across the nation and around the world.

Dr. Norton is a leading scholar in applying philosophy to an area of special focus for Georgia Tech – environmental sustainability. Most faculty and students who work in sustainability focus on scientific aspects like developing chemical processes for industry that are more benign, or creating environmentally sustainable technology like solar cells or hydrogen fuel cells.

Dr. Norton explores how to communicate sustainability and make it a practical part of how we as a society interact with the environment. He started out as a philosopher of language, especially the language of science and logic. Then his career moved toward environmental policy and the philosophy of biology. Today, he combines these two areas of expertise, applying the analytical tools of the philosophy of language to the concept of sustainable development.

His work also bridges a critical social divide. If you think back over the history of the environmental movement, you will recall that it began as a pitched battle, with environmental preservation pitted against economic development. However, in recent years it has been morphing toward an acknowledgement that we as humans are part of the natural eco-system of the planet, and achieving environmental sustainability in the way we operate our societies and economies will contribute to the quality of our lives, rather than detract from it.

This shift toward a more pragmatic approach that embeds the philosophical and ethical aspects of environmentalism into a practical and adaptive management processes is the work of Dr. Norton. He is co-founder of a growing movement in environmental ethics and philosophy called Environmental Pragmatism. His newest book, which just came out last fall, is entitled *Sustainability: A Philosophy of Adaptive Ecosystem Management*, and it focuses on developing a new, practical, interdisciplinary approach and vocabulary for sustainability that integrates science and social values. It is the latest in a string of 10 books he has either written or edited over the past 30 years. And that does not include the 28 book chapters he has written. Or the 46 refereed journal papers and research reports. Or his 170 other published papers.

His own career has been full of the kind of practical communication and engagement he advocates. For example, he was the principal investigator for a National Science Foundation grant that funded a workshop he put on together with Dr. Terry Maple of Georgia Tech's School of Psychology and Zoo Atlanta. The workshop brought together two warring factions – conservationists from zoos and animal welfare advocates – to develop consensus on how to treat wild animals in zoos and captive breeding programs.

The workshop produced a set of guidelines that were subsequently adopted by the American Zoological Association and became the basis for one of Dr. Norton's books – *Ethics on the Ark: Zoos, Animal Welfare, and Wildlife Conservation*. This book, in turn,

became the template for a series of workshops and additional books sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution aimed at improving animal conservation programs and the treatment of animals in captivity.

It is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I introduce Dr. Bryan Norton to address our graduates with a few parting words of wisdom before they leave Georgia Tech.

(DR. NORTON'S REMARKS)

Thank you, Dr. Norton. And thank you especially for agreeing to do double duty by speaking both commencement ceremonies. We look forward to hearing from you again this evening.

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

(Dr. Chameau) Will the candidates for the master and Master of Science degrees Please rise? *(pause)*

(Dr. Chameau) Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting to you for the master's and master's of science degrees those candidates who have completed all requirements for those 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 master's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

(Dr. Clough) We shall now present the diplomas. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

(Dr. Chameau presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands)

(Dr. Clough) Please join me in congratulating these master's graduates.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

(Dr. Clough)

At this time, Dr. Anderson Smith, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs, will introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

(Dr. Smith) Assistant Dean Maureen Biggers will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.

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

(Dr. Biggers) 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. Smith) 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. Smith) Dean Thomas Galloway will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Architecture.

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

(Dr. Galloway) 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. Smith) Associate Dean Eugene Comiskey will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Management.

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

(Dr. Comiskey) 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. Smith) Associate Dean 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 or the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Smith) Associate Dean Jane Ammons will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

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

(Pause)

(Dr. Ammons) 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)

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 Bill Moore 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 for calling the graduates' names. And many thanks to all of my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, the Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble 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.)