REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Ground-breaking, Marcus Family Nanotechnology Research Building
August 7, 2006

Thank you, Jim. Jim Meindl just received the 2006 Medal of Honor from the Institute of
Electrical and Electronics Engineers, more familiarly known as IEEE, for his pioneering research
at the leading edge of micro-electronics. It was the most recent in a long string of awards and
honors he has received in the course of his career. He is also recognized nationwide for his
educational leadership in micro-electronics and nanotechnology, and that is what enabled
Georgia Tech to be designated as the education node among the dozen universities that make up
the National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network.

We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Meindl on the faculty at Georgia Tech, and I cannot
imagine a better qualified person to be the director of Georgia Tech’s Nanotechnology Research
Center, which will be housed in the building we celebrate today.

This ground-breaking ceremony for the Nanotechnology Building marks an exciting moment in
the life of Georgia Tech. We have been working hard to position Georgia Tech and the state of
Georgia as a national and even international leader in the emerging field of nanotechnology, and
this new facility will be the lynchpin of that effort.

It will be the largest cleanroom facility in the South and one of the largest in the nation. It is also
the nation’s first cleanroom research facility that is deliberately designed for the application of
nanotechnology to the field of biomedicine. This facility will establish Georgia as the
nanotechnology hub of the South and put us on the national and maybe even the world map as a
leader in this exciting, emerging field that will touch virtually every aspect of our lives and will
change everything it touches.

When Jack Kilby invented the world’s first microchip back in 1958, he triggered the
development of a vast generation of new electronic products based on microchips and
semiconductors that swept through the economy like a wave. Today we cannot imagine life
without microchips. That wave passed Georgia by, focusing on other centers like Silicon Valley
in California, Boston, Seattle, and Austin, Texas, who were prepared to ride the wave. And we
had to work very hard to catch up.

Today the world is on the cusp of a similar but even larger economic wave, driven by
nanotechnology, that will sweep through our economy. And this time, we are not going to miss
the wave; we are going to help make it. We are going to use this Nanotechnology Building to
strengthen our position as a leader and center of nanotechnology research.

Nanotechnology has the potential to revolutionize the production of virtually every human-made
object and usher in a dramatic new age of technology. The potential applications are amazing.
They include:

- building materials that are lighter than steel, but ten times stronger;
• digital storage devices the size of a sugar cube that can hold the entire Library of Congress;
• flexible digital displays – visualize a TV screen that can be rolled up like a window shade;
• fibers for use by industry and in space that are stronger, last longer, and shrink less; and
• tiny nano-particles that are injected into the human body to diagnose and treat diseases like cancer.

The federal government is presently investing a billion dollars a year in nanotechnology research through some 2,500 research awards, and the pace of economic development will accelerate as nanotechnology discoveries and inventions from universities and national labs around the nation are commercialized. The Nanotechnology Building will give Georgia Tech and the state of Georgia the ability to attract a significant share of that funding, positioning us to contribute to and benefit from the break-through discoveries and inventions that result.

Nanoscience and nanotechnology span many fields, including chemistry and biochemistry, physics, biology and life sciences, computing, electrical and computer engineering, the science and engineering of new materials, mechanical engineering, and biomedicine. Georgia Tech has major, nationally ranked research and education programs in all of these disciplines, and they will all come together to rub shoulders and collaborate in the Nanotechnology Building.

If you take in the view from the top of this parking deck, you can see that this interdisciplinary nature of nanoscience and nanotechnology is reflected in the location of the Nanotechnology Building, which is at the heart of the many disciplines it will serve. It is directly across the street from the Biotechnology Complex, which includes the Petit Biotechnology Building, the Whitaker Building which houses our Coulter School of Biomedical Engineering, the Ford Environmental Science and Technology Building, and the Molecular Science and Technology Building. It is close to the new Klaus Advanced Computing Building, the Microelectronics Research Center, and the Howey Physics Building.

This new facility has been a top priority for Georgia Tech for a number of years, and the support that has enabled us to reach this groundbreaking ceremony is as interdisciplinary as the nature of the work that will be done here. Many who contributed their support are here today, and I want to recognize and thank the University System, represented today by Chancellor Davis, for endorsing and supporting this facility, and Governor Perdue and the General Assembly for stepping up to the plate with a portion of the construction cost.

I also want to recognize and thank the donors whose private gifts made up the difference. Those who could be present today include:

• Bernie Marcus, whose Marcus Foundation provided the lead gift and who will share a few thoughts with us later in the program;
• The Woodruff Foundation, represented by Russ Hardin; and
• The Harris Corporation, which is represented here today by Al Lindsay, and Scott Porter, who are Georgia Tech alumni, and Cindy Kane.
We believe you have made a wise investment, because we anticipate that this new facility will enable Georgia Tech to double the size of our nanotechnology research enterprise. It will enhance our national and international leadership in nanotechnology, enabling us to attract outstanding faculty, to educate the next generation of experts in nanotechnology, and to conduct research that produces the next generation of technological break-throughs – all of which will increase our ability to help drive high-end economic development for Georgia.

So what we are really celebrating today is not so much the construction of a new building as the construction of a high-tech economic future for Georgia, and we are pleased to have all of you here to join with us.

Erroll B. Davis, Jr. celebrated his six-month anniversary as chancellor of the University System of Georgia yesterday. He came to Georgia from Wisconsin, where he served as chairman of the board for Alliant Energy Corporation. That position represented the culmination of a long career in the business world of energy and corporate finance.

From 1987 until 1994, he served on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, and he is also former chairman of the Carnegie Mellon University Board of Trustees, of which he is a lifetime member.

Chancellor Davis visited our campus for the first time in early May as part of his tour of the 35 institutions in the University System, and we are delighted to welcome him back today. It is my pleasure to introduce Chancellor Erroll Davis to speak on behalf of the University System of Georgia.

(CHANCELLOR SPEAKS)

Thank you, Chancellor Davis.

One of our most important and most outspoken supporters for the Nanotechnology Building has been Governor Sonny Perdue, who announced this facility and his commitment to it in a keynote speech on Technology Day back in October of 2003, during his first year as governor. Because this is a unique building that requires very specialized construction, it has taken some time to actually get it underway, but here we are, and we are very pleased and excited to have Governor Perdue present to celebrate with us.

As most of you know, he is a graduate of that other university over in Athens, but I can tell you that he gets grief from his fellow alumni for saying such positive things about Georgia Tech. That's because Georgia Tech and the Governor’s Office share the common goal of making Georgia better by building a better educated workforce, and creating and attracting high-end industries and jobs to our state.

Governor Perdue is a veterinarian with a fascination for science. He is also a business owner with a strong grasp of what is required for economic success. And he served in the Georgia Senate for more than a decade before becoming Governor, so he understands the political
process. All three of those things came together in his support for this facility and the appropriation of state funding for part of its cost.

Sonny Perdue has always placed a high priority on education, and we at Georgia Tech are grateful for the support he has given us for so many initiatives, including the Nanotechnology Building. Governor we are honored to have you here with us to share a few thoughts on this special occasion…

(PERDUE SPEAKS)

Bernie Marcus was our commencement speaker last May, and it is a great privilege to welcome him again on behalf of Georgia Tech. Bernie’s life story reads like a Horatio Alger novel. He was born during the Great Depression to Russian immigrant parents who had come to the United States without knowing a single word of English. But his parents gave him an incredible work ethic and sense of determination, and growing up in the housing tenements of Newark, New Jersey gave him a remarkable ability to live by his wits and overcome the odds.

Bernie parlayed those gifts and talents into an incredible career that culminated in his co-founding and building the world’s largest home improvement retailer, The Home Depot. He retired as chairman of the board of Home Depot four years ago, and now devotes his considerable talents to giving back to his community.

His unique ability to think big and then make it happen is reflected in the Georgia Aquarium, which is right down the street from our campus. It is the largest in the world, with 125,000 creatures representing 500 species.

But there is something about Bernie Marcus that not many people know, and that is that he holds a degree in pharmacy from Rutgers University and started out his career as a pharmacist. And if you concluded that the potential to create new construction materials that are lighter and stronger than steel is what caught Bernie’s interest about nanotechnology, you would be wrong. Because it was actually the application of nanotechnology to biomedicine.

The Marcus Foundation is the leading private donor to this facility, and I am pleased to announce today that in honor of this special gift, we will petition the Board of Regents to officially name this facility the Marcus Nanotechnology Building.

At time I would like to introduce Bernie Marcus…

(MARCUS SPEAKS)

Thank you Bernie. And in honor of the announcement of the official naming of the Marcus Nanotechnology Building, I would like to present you with this framed architect’s rendering of the building.