

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

Saturday December 15, 2007, 2:00 P.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 1:00 p.m. in the Hyder Room, second level of the Coliseum).

Processional Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

Master of Ceremonies Dr. G. Wayne Clough
President

Reflection Roger Lam
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

National Anthem Ryan Ceciliani

Commencement Mr. Norman Augustine, Retired
Address Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin

Introduction of Dr. Anderson Smith
Academic Dean Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Presentation of Undergraduate
Degree Candidates

College of Engineering
Dean Don Giddens

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Induction into
Alumni Association

Mr. C. Meade Sutterfield, Class of 1972
Chair, Georgia Tech Alumni

Alma Mater

Ryan Ceciliani

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and Audience

Saturday, December 15, 2007, 2:00 p.m. (COE ceremony)

(Dr. Clough)

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Roger Lam from the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Georgia Tech. Please remain standing for our national anthem.

(Mr. Lam)

Reflection

(Ryan Ceciliani)

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 ninth commencement exercises. When all is said and done in these commencement exercises, we will have awarded 1,600 degrees. Fortunately for you, this process is divided into three stages, so you will not have to sit through the whole thing. We awarded the graduate degrees in a ceremony last evening, and the bachelor's degrees in architecture, computing, management, sciences, and the liberal arts this morning. In this ceremony, we conclude the process with the awarding of 520 bachelor's degrees in engineering.

All of these talented young people graduating today 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 choosing to study fields like engineering and science. But each of the graduates before us today has chosen the less

traveled path, one that called for them to work hard, learn about the latest developments in fields like science, public policy, architecture, and management. In the process, they have learned to compete with some of the best and brightest our nation has to offer. I know you join me in the special pride I feel in being 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, but also on the quality of our faculty and the strength of our academic programs. Georgia Tech is known for its academic rigor, and is regularly ranked among the nation's top 10 public universities. Our library recently won the 2007 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, and we were honored with the prestigious Paul Simon Award in recognition of our growing international focus.

But we are known for more than our outstanding academic accomplishments. This year our women's tennis team recently won both the indoor and the NCAA national tennis championships and our crew team won two gold medals at the Dad Vail competition.

Our students also demonstrated their ability to make a difference in the world today. Hurricane Katrina may be a fading memory for some, but hundreds of Georgia Tech students continue to offer assistance in the hardest-hit areas of New Orleans and the Mississippi Coast. And the Southeastern Interfraternity Council recognized Georgia Tech's Greek system with eight awards – far more than any other university – with three of them for community service.

I also have great confidence in the future of these young graduates because of what they have done and the track record of the Tech alumni who preceded them. Just look around at the billion-dollar companies whose CEOs are Georgia Tech alumni – Wal-Mart International, Gulfstream Aerospace, GE Commercial Finance, Shaw Industries, SEI

Investments, and Coca-Cola Enterprises.

Beyond the business world we see alumni who have won Nobel prizes, like Kerry Mullis; who have served in the U.S. Senate, like Sam Nunn; who have walked on the moon, like John Young; and 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 and be recognized.

(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)

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)

It is my great pleasure to welcome Norman R. Augustine to Georgia Tech and to this ceremony as our commencement speaker. I had the privilege to come to know Norm through work with the National Academy of Engineering and other public policy organizations. He is truly one of the most distinguished engineers in our country. He is also the only individual I know personally who has actually stood on both the North and the South Poles of the Earth.

Norm grew up in Colorado. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in aeronautical engineering from Princeton, graduating magna cum laude. Then he began a productive career that included work in both the private and the public sectors. He started out as a research engineer for Douglas Aircraft Company in California, and later worked as a vice president at LTV Missiles and Space Company.

His government career began when he served as assistant director of defense research and engineering in the office of the Secretary of Defense. Later, he was Assistant Secretary, then Under Secretary, then Acting Secretary of the Army.

Then he went back into the private sector, joining Martin Marietta Corporation as vice president of technical operations. He later became CEO and chairman of Martin Marietta, then was named president of Lockheed Martin Corporation when it was formed in 1995. After he retired as chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin in 1997, he taught for two years at Princeton.

In addition to being an outstanding role model, Norm Augustine has served the profession of engineering in many ways. He led the influential panel that produced the Academy's highly acclaimed report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," which mapped out the steps policy makers should take to build a competitive American economy for the 21st century. That was just one of the many significant panels he has chaired. Others include the NASA Advisory Council, the NASA/White House Committee on the U.S. Space Program, the Defense Science Board, the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomacy, and many more.

His community service is also exemplary, and includes serving as chairman and principal officer of the American Red Cross and president of the Boy Scouts of America. He has served on many corporate boards, ranging from ConocoPhillips, Black & Decker, and Proctor & Gamble, to the Board of Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg.

All of these many involvements have given Norm the opportunity to travel widely. In addition to visiting both poles, he has about 100 countries on the list of places he's been.

Norm Augustine is the author of four books, including *Augustine's Laws*, which was published the same year he retired and is a witty commentary on business management. Among his many awards are the National Medal of Technology, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Distinguished Public Service Award, and five Distinguished Service Medals – the highest civilian award given by the Department of Defense.

It is my great honor to present Norman Augustine to deliver this afternoon's commencement address.

(NORM AUGUSTINE'S ADDRESS)

Thank you, Norm. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak today, I would like to present you with a gift for the occasion.

(PRESENT GIFT)

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of degrees. Dr. Anderson Smith, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, will introduce the academic dean who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

(Dr. Smith) Dean Don Giddens will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

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

(Dr. Giddens) 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. 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 Engineering candidates will come forward: Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands.)

(Dr. Clough) Now, please join me in congratulating these fine new graduates of Georgia Tech.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

(Dr. Clough)

You now are in possession of the proof that you have successfully completed the learning opportunity presented to you at Georgia Tech. As you enter the next stage of your life, it is useful to think about how learning continues from here. The famous basketball coach and New York wise-guy Al McGuire said, "I think everyone should go to college and get a degree and then spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cab driver. Then they would really be educated." While few of you will earn advanced degrees in bartending or cab-driving, his advice is sound. Learn from life and by listening carefully to others.

Another perspective comes from the famous behavioral scientist, B. F. Skinner, who remarked “Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.” If we have done our job while you were here, you will continue to do well when your present store of knowledge becomes obsolete, because we have educated you for life and lifelong learning.

Of course it is a bit depressing for me to think that you will forget a lot of what you have learned during your time on campus. Father Guido Sarducci, a learned man of the cloth from ‘Saturday Night Live,” pointed out that most people only remember 5 percent of what they have learned in college. He then offered to teach students the 5 percent they would remember for half of the cost of college tuition.

Now I do believe that you will remember more than 5 percent of what you learned here at Tech. But as your career options change and you take on new, higher responsibilities, I hope you will come back to Tech and take advantage of our outstanding life-long professional education programs.

Leaving today with your degree means that you have become a Georgia Tech alum. You join more than 120,000 living alumni around the world, including some who are here today, and I would like to ask all Georgia Tech alumni to stand at this time and be recognized.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

To induct our graduates into this special group, I would like to present Mr. C. Meade Sutterfield, class of 1972. He is president and CEO of SSPCS Corporation, a holding company that he co-founded after he sold his first company to Nextel Communications. As this year’s chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, Mr. Sutterfield will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech alumni.

(Mr. Sutterfield) Induction of graduates into the
Alumni Association.

(Dr. Clough)

I would like to express my appreciation to the Georgia Tech Music Department for their participation in our program this afternoon. Thanks also to Dr. Judith Norback for calling the graduates' names. And many thanks to all of my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, Ryan Ceciliani 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 afternoon.

(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.)