

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

Saturday December 15, 2007, 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. Chris Hannum Episcopal Campus Ministry
National Anthem	Alex Enger
Commencement Address	The Honorable Casey Cagle Lieutenant Governor, State of Georgia
Introduction of Academic Deans	Dr. Anderson Smith Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Presentation of Undergraduate Degree Candidates	<u>College of Computing</u> Assistant Dean of Students Michael McCracken

Ivan Allen College

Dean Sue V. Rosser

College of Architecture

Interim Dean Douglas Allen

College of Management

Associate Dean Goutam Challagalla

College of Sciences

Associate Dean Evans Harrell

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Induction into
Alumni Association

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

Alma Mater

Alex Enger

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and Audience

Saturday, December 15, 2007, 9:00 am (COA, COC, IAC, COM, COS ceremony)

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Rev. Chris Hannum from the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Georgia Tech. Please remain standing for our national anthem.

(Rev. Chris Hannum)

Reflection

(Alex Enger)

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 have already awarded the graduate degrees in a ceremony last evening. In this ceremony this morning, we are celebrating the awarding of 338 bachelor's degrees to graduates from the Colleges of Architecture, Computing, Management, and Sciences, and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. And if you really like graduations, you are welcome to come back at 3 o'clock this afternoon when we award the undergraduate 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 related to technology. 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)

I am pleased to welcome Georgia Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle to our campus and this ceremony as our commencement speaker this morning.

Casey Cagle was born in Gainesville, Georgia, to a family who had lived there for seven generations. He graduated from Johnson High School in Gainesville and attended Gainesville College and Georgia Southern University.

Like many of you, Casey Cagle had aspirations and an entrepreneurial spirit. And he didn't waste any time getting started. He bought his first business at the age of 20 – a retail clothing store that he later expanded to several locations. Then he turned his hand to banking, founding Southern Heritage Bank in 1999. He served as the bank's chairman until it merged with Gainesville Bank & Trust in 2004, at which point he became a member of the board of directors of Gainesville Bank & Trust.

He entered politics in 1994, when he ran for the Georgia State Senate at the age of 28 and upset the incumbent to become the youngest member of the Senate. During his 12 years in the Senate, he rose up through the ranks to serve as chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the influential Appropriations Committee, which deals with the state budget. We at Georgia Tech got to know him as a member of the Higher Education Committee, and we are grateful for the support he has given us through the years.

When the Office of Lieutenant Governor became vacant in 2006, Casey Cagle decided to run. He didn't have much name recognition outside his own district, so he was considered something of a long shot. But as you have probably guessed by now, he is willing to work hard and take some calculated risks. He was elected Lieutenant Governor on November 7, 2006, and that same year *Georgia Trend* magazine added him to its list of Georgia's 100 most influential leaders.

During the past year, Lieutenant Governor Cagle has focused his efforts on several key challenges facing the state of Georgia – education, health care, transportation, and water. These are issues that are important to Georgia Tech as well, not only because we benefit from improvements to education, but also because we have expertise and talent to bring to the table to help.

So, in many respects, we see Lieutenant Governor Cagle as a partner in the effort to improve the state of Georgia. We are grateful for his support. We look forward to working

with him in the future. And we are pleased to welcome him this morning to deliver our commencement address.

(CASEY CAGLE'S ADDRESS)

Thank you, Lt. Governor Cagle. 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 deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

(Dr. Smith) Assistant Dean of Students Michael McCracken will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.

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

(Dr. McCracken) 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) Interim Dean Douglas Allen will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Architecture.

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

(Dr. Allen) 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 Goutam Challagalla will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Management.

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

(Dr. Challagalla) 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 Evans Harrell will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.

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

(Dr. Harrell) 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 Computing candidates will come forward, then IAC, Architecture, Management, and College of Sciences. Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands. Announcer will pause between colleges to allow the Dean time to come forward)

(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. e 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)

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 and Dr. Foster for calling the graduates' names. And many thanks to all of my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, Alex Enger 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.)