

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Molecular Science and Engineering Building Dedication
Thursday, April 19, 2007, 2:00 p.m.

I am delighted to join with all of you in celebrating the dedication of the Molecular Science and Engineering Building. It is almost exactly two years since we gathered here to celebrate the ground-breaking, and I want to echo Gary Schuster's words of appreciation to all those who worked so hard and efficiently to complete this beautiful building in such a timely manner.

The Molecular Science and Engineering Building is the fourth and final building of the Biotechnology Complex. And as I sat here listening to the other speakers, I thought way back to the days when I was a master's degree student, working on research for what was then the State Highway Department in an old building in this part of campus. At that time, what was here on the site of this new building was a big pile of junk that had been cast aside by the people who worked on maintaining Georgia Tech's physical plant.

When I came back as president, I wanted Georgia Tech to be known as an outstanding university and a leader, but there was very little about the way our campus looked that communicated the message that here is a place where important, ground-breaking work was being done. There were very few places on our campus where you could take out-of-town visitors to impress them. So, one of the major endeavors of my presidency has been to reshape this campus into a place of beauty and significance, and more than \$1 billion worth of construction has been done on the Tech campus since 1995.

In October of 1999, when we cut the ribbon on the Petit Biotechnology Building as the first building in this complex, I felt that it was the most beautiful building on campus. At that time I had been president of Georgia Tech for about five years, and I keenly felt the lack of what university campus designer Richard Dober calls "place marking" – which he defines as the physical attributes and visual uniqueness that give a campus its distinct sense of place. The Petit Building was the first step in defining that sense of place for Georgia Tech as a research university.

Next came the Whitaker Building and the Ford Environmental Science and Technology Building, and now the Molecular Science and Engineering Building – each one dynamic, striking, and magnificent in its own right. The Klaus Advanced Computing Building across the street in one direction and the Marcus Nanotechnology Building across the street in the nother direction, now provide additional substance and beauty to this part of campus.

These buildings are not only impressive and beautiful to look at from the outside on the ground, but when you go inside and up to their top stories, they offer incredible views out over the trees of the skyline of Atlanta. These days this part of campus actually looks like what it is – the heart of Georgia Tech's dynamic and impressive research enterprise.

Beyond its appearance, the Biotechnology Complex, together with the Klaus and Marcus Buildings, forms a wonderful resource to help Georgia Tech achieve our goal of defining the technological research university of the 21st century. We know that the hot spots of new discovery and new technology are increasingly in the spaces between the disciplines. And this complex is designed to promote interdisciplinary collaboration by gathering faculty and students from various disciplines in “research neighborhoods” around broad topics and problems.

As you heard from Gary Schuster and Jean-Luc Bredas, the Molecular Science and Engineering Building has a critical role to play. We know that nanotechnology is going to permeate every aspect of our lives. We are already seeing the most rudimentary expressions of it on the market, and what is still to come ranges from the next generation of computers to the next generation of solar cells to the next generation of cancer detection and treatment... From tiny nano-machines and nano-generators to electronic devices that manipulate the flow of photons in light. My first grandchild was just born last fall, and I marvel at the many potential ways in which her life could be changed for the better by the discoveries that take place in the building.

Together with the Marcus Nanotechnology Building, this new facility will enable Georgia Tech faculty and students to make the discoveries and create the technologies that will bring nanotechnology to its full expression as a tool to solve a wide range of problems and improve the quality of life for all of us.

This beautiful Molecular Science and Engineering Building was constructed entirely with private funding, and I want to extend our profound gratitude to the donors who have helped us. They include:

- Pat Nettles
- Selma Nettles
- Cherry Emerson
- Allen Ecker
- Betsy Verner of the Campbell Foundation
- Scientific Atlanta

And Glen Robinson, who is here on the platform. If anyone can lay claim to the title of “father of high-tech industry in Georgia,” it is Glen. He was co-founder and the first president of Scientific-Atlanta, the state’s first high-tech company, which has become a world leader in antenna instrumentation and in broadband and satellite communication.

When he retired from Scientific-Atlanta, he founded another new company to develop and manufacture leading-edge heat-pump technology. That company became the world’s leading supplier of sophisticated cooling equipment for telecommunication systems. After he retired a second time, he started a third new company, which was incubated at Georgia Tech and rapidly grew into the world’s largest manufacturer of laser products for law enforcement.

Given this imaginative career, it should come as no surprise that Glen is also one of Georgia’s most prominent and prolific inventors, with 35 patents. So you can see why he is profoundly interested in what will go on in this building and why he was willing to invest in it.

Glen holds a bachelor's and master's degree in physics from Georgia Tech and was working on his PhD before he turned his talents and attention to being president of Scientific-Atlanta. He is a member of the American Physical Society and IEEE, and has served Georgia Tech in leadership positions with GTRI, the Georgia Tech Foundation, and the Advisory Board for the College of Sciences. In addition to a generous gift for the Molecular Science and Engineering Building, he has endowed chairs for eminent faculty scholars in nonlinear science in the School of Physics and in electro-optics at GTRI.

It is my pleasure to present Glen Robinson to say a few words on behalf of the donors to this building.