Thank you Eran. To all of you, and especially the 100 Presidents Scholarship finalists and your families, thank you for joining us this weekend. You are among the top one percent of this year’s applicants to Georgia Tech. Congratulations on your achievements that have brought you where you are today. You have the aptitude and discipline, along with the drive and confidence to accomplish your goals.

You’re ready for Georgia Tech.

Our goals include helping students learn to think critically, to solve problems, to work in teams, and to develop innovative solutions for some of the world’s most pressing problems.

I’m sure you found from your tours that we have outstanding resources for learning, and professors who are nationally and internationally known for their expertise.

The excitement, and the real impact come from being able to pass along that knowledge, but even as important, vision, to the next generation. Students at Georgia Tech are an active part of research and discovery, and in fact, over 70 percent of invention disclosures name one or more students among the inventors.

While you would expect a focus on innovation in the nation’s largest and one of the best engineering programs, innovation is very much a part of our outstanding programs in computing, architecture, liberal arts, sciences, and business. It is also emphasized in extracurricular activities like industry-sponsored student competitions.

Next Wednesday night, March 13 Georgia Public Broadcasting will air live the finalist competition for InVenture Prize, a competition that creates incentives for undergraduate student innovation in a fun, high profile event. This year 164 inventors
participated. The show will feature the finalists who present a brief overview of their inventions and answer questions from a panel of judges.

One of this year’s finalists developed AnemoCheck, a point-of-care, patient-operated diagnostic test for anemia. Another developed a line of fully automated robotic dog toys, and another, a toaster that perfectly toasts your bread by color.

The first place winner receives a $20,000 cash prize, sponsored by Google, and second receives $10,000, along with a free U.S. patent filing by Georgia Tech’s Office of Technology Licensing, valued at $20,000. Winners are automatically accepted into the Summer 2013 class of Flashpoint, Georgia Tech’s startup accelerator program. We’re committed to helping students, faculty and staff, and individuals in the community transform their intellectual property to drive innovation.

I mentioned Google. A movie production company was on campus last summer filming the movie “The Internship.” Clough Commons had a space ship, a replica of the Google Headquarters slide, and bright Google bikes outside. Google sleep pods could be found in Klaus Computing. I mentioned that to let you know it’s not work, all the time at Georgia Tech!

In thinking about talking with you tonight, I thought I would share some of the things I said last August to our incoming freshmen. Here’s what I said:

- You will be challenged both academically and intellectually.
- Many of you will change majors – at least once
- 2% will be decide to become double majors
- 35% of you will choose to take a - foreign language, even though it is not required.
- Your average starting salary will be close to $65,000 a year – more if female
- From our graduating senior exit surveys we found that 72% will pursue some sort of graduate education in your lifetime
- 21% will go on to graduate programs directly from their BS
• 16% will pursue PhD’s
• And 21% will go to medical or law school.
• You will be challenged both academically and intellectually.
• Not all of your learning opportunities will occur in the classroom.
• You may be among
  o the 35% who work as interns or participate in our Co-op program celebrated it’s 100th year anniversary this fall
  o or the 40% who will participate in our undergraduate research program
  o or perhaps you’ll been among the 40% of our undergraduate students to participate in some sort of meaningful international experience – like study abroad or an international internship, or participation in the international plan.

• You’ll make friends from all over the world — many that will last a lifetime.
• You will do things you never could have imagined or thought possible.

It would be great if we could award a President’s Scholarship to each one of you. You all deserve it. Whether or not you are selected this particular scholarship, know that wonderful opportunities await you at Georgia Tech.

I wish you the best, and hope to see you back here next fall. Thank you.