

What: Faculty/Staff Honors Luncheon
When: Thursday, May 23
Notes: You will be the next-to-the-last speaker and it is your responsibility to introduce the most prestigious award of the year, the Distinguished Professor Award.

Good afternoon. It is my pleasure today to present Georgia Tech's most prestigious faculty award, the Distinguished Professor Award. This award is given each year to a nationally and internationally recognized faculty member who has exhibited sustained scholarship, leadership, outstanding achievement, and excellence in teaching, research, and service in addition to making major contributions to the educational careers and personal development of students at Georgia Tech.

This year's recipient, Dr. Ajeet Rohatgi, exemplifies those ideals of excellence and as Georgia Tech moves toward a new era, it is faculty like Ajeet who will lead the way.

Dr. Rohatgi came to Georgia Tech and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 1985 from Westinghouse. His research excellence and success in the classroom contributed to a steady rise from his beginning position as associate professor to his current position as a Regents' Professor.

Through those years he has made invaluable contributions to Georgia Tech. Since joining the faculty, Dr. Rohatgi has developed a \$14 million program in photovoltaics which has produced a dozen doctoral dissertations; supported nine post-doctoral fellows; developed a curriculum related to solar cell theory and fabrication; and has attracted worldwide attention to the Institute. The Photovoltaic Research Center he directs is one of two such centers designated as a University Center of

Excellence in Photovoltaic Research and Education by the Department of Energy.

In addition, in recognition of his contributions he was awarded the Sigma Xi Outstanding Research Award in 1994.

As you would expect from a researcher and teacher of his calibre, his colleagues were prolific in their praise when asked to support his nomination for the Distinguished Professor Award.

Here are several excerpts from those recommendations:

“While chronologically young, Dr. Rohatgi fits—by every definition of the word—the title of “Distinguished.”

“I believe you could choose few candidates who fit the criteria for the Distinguished Professor Award—excellence in fundamental and practical device research, impact on industrial application of technology, the translation of new knowledge through students to practice, and service to the university community itself—better than does Ajeet Rohatgi.

“Dr. Rohatgi is one of the outstanding scientists in the photovoltaics community.”

“Ajeet has established the premier academic photovoltaic lab in this country.”

And from his first doctoral student came these words:

“He is patient and friendly with his students to a fault—always willing to spend time I know he didn’t have. I know that

whatever my accomplishments in the future are, they are to a large extent the result of the training I received under Professor Rohatgi's guidance."

To conclude, I would like to thank you, Ajeet, for all your hard work on behalf of the Institute. You have brought considerable renown to this Institute through your intelligence, talent, innovation, and expertise in the classroom.

Therefore, it is my great pleasure to honor you today—and present to you the 1996 Distinguished Professor Award.

(Lead applause)