

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWENTIETH
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

December 11, 2004, 3:00 P.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 2:00 p.m. in the Hyder Room, second level of the Coliseum).

Processional	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble Dr. Frank Clark
Master of Ceremonies	Dr. G. Wayne Clough President
Reflection	Rev. Steve Fazenbaker United Methodist Campus Minister
National Anthem	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
Commencement Address	Dr. Walter Eugene Massey President, Morehouse College

Presentation of Doctoral Degree Candidates	Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Clough
Presentation of Master's Degree Candidates	Dr. Liotta
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Clough
Induction into Alumni Association	Mr. Carey Brown, Class of 1969 President, Georgia Tech Alumni Association
Alma Mater	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble, Graduates and Audience
Faculty Recessional	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
"Ramblin' Wreck"	Graduates and audience

December 11, 2004 - Ceremony Script (GRADUATE CEREMONY)

(Dr. Clough)

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Rev. Steve Fazenbaker, United Methodist Campus Minister, and remain standing for our national anthem.

(Rev. Steve Fazenbaker)

Reflection

(Commencement Ensemble)

National Anthem

(Dr. Clough)

Please be seated. Once again, good afternoon. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Georgia Tech's two-hundred twentieth commencement exercises. We have already awarded more than 750 undergraduate degrees in a ceremony held here this morning, and we have now gathered to recognize and honor almost 600 doctoral and master's degree recipients.

This ceremony takes me back to when I completed my own PhD at U-Cal Berkeley. The difference between then and now is greater than simply the years that have elapsed, because when I finished in 1969 more things than just academics were happening on Berkeley's campus. To file my dissertation I had to design a travel route around the demonstrations and figure out how to avoid pockets of tear gas.

Nevertheless, I look back on my years in graduate school as some of the most intellectually stimulating and satisfying experiences of my life. Lots of great colleagues, wonderful faculty, and all of us involved in creative research.

Today you are probably feeling a great sense of relief from the stress of theses, dissertations, and comprehensive and oral exams. But for the rest of your life you will look back and value the experience of these years. And you will discover that graduate school will continue to shape your life in ways that you do not yet anticipate.

I can tell you from personal experience that the level of freedom to develop your mind and pursue your interests during graduate study is rare. The pure intensity of investigating a tough problem for days and weeks at a time and finding a solution, is intoxicating. And, if you are like me, the friends you made during this time will be life-long.

Today, as we celebrate the successful conclusion of one 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 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 so that we may recognize you.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

Additional support for our graduates came from the Georgia Tech faculty. I know

that when you got papers or 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 for all the help they received from the faculty and I would like to ask the entire 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 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 a personal pleasure for me to welcome Dr. Walter Massey to our campus this afternoon. Dr. Massey is a colleague of mine in several respects. He is president of Morehouse College, and I was pleased to appear with him and three other Atlanta college and university presidents on the cover of this month's *Georgia Trend* magazine.

Morehouse College is Georgia Tech's partner in a number of endeavors. We share students in a dual degree program that offers students a degree in science from Morehouse and a degree in engineering from Georgia Tech. We also welcome many Morehouse students to Georgia Tech for graduate studies.

Our two institutions collaborate in initiatives like the Center for Environmental

Predictions and Decisions, and the Center for Urban and Regional Ecology. And we have welcomed Morehouse faculty and students as participants in the research endeavors of the Georgia Tech-Emory Center for the Engineering of Living Tissues.

Dr. Massey and I also serve together on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. He has more experience at this task than I – he was on the Council during the first Bush administration in 1988-1992, and is now serving again. In addition, he is a present member and past chair of the advisory board to the U.S. Secretary of Energy.

Dr. Massey is a physicist who received his doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. His research specialty involves the study of quantum liquids and solids. Prior to coming to Morehouse as president, he was provost and senior vice president of the University of California system. In that position he was responsible for academic and research planning and policy, and for the system's budget. He also had programmatic oversight of the three national laboratories that the University of California system manages on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Having oversight of three national labs was a natural progression for Dr. Massey, because he had previously served as director of the Argonne National Lab and director of the National Science Foundation. His academic career has also included service as vice president for research at the University of Chicago, and he has been on the faculties of Brown University and the University of Illinois.

He has served on the Gates Millennium Scholars Advisory Council and the National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the Twenty-first Century. He is also active on several corporate and foundation boards, including the Mellon Foundation, Motorola Inc., the Bank of America, McDonald's Corporation and BP p.l.c.

I am pleased and proud to introduce Dr. Walter Massey to provide parting words of wisdom to our graduates before they leave Georgia Tech.

(DR. MASSEY'S REMARKS)

Thank you, Dr. Massey. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak to our students today, I would like to present you with this special gift.

(PRESENT GIFT)

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of your degrees. Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, will present the candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree.

(Dr. Liotta) Will the candidates for the doctoral degrees please rise.

(Dr. Liotta) Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting to you for the doctoral degrees those candidates who have

completed all requirements for those degrees.

(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 degree of doctor of philosophy with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

Congratulations on your earning of Georgia Tech's highest academic degree. Will you please come forward and receive your diplomas.

(Dr. Liotta presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands, and advisors step on stage to hood their students.)

(Dr. Clough)

Please join me in congratulating these doctoral graduates.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

(Dr. Clough)

Dr. Liotta will also present the candidates for the master's of science degree.

(Dr. Liotta)

Will the candidates for the master and Master of Science degrees please rise?

(Dr. Liotta)

Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting to you for the

master's and master's of science degrees those candidates who have completed all requirements for those degrees.

(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 master's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

(Dr. Clough) We shall now present the diplomas. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

(Dr. Liotta presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands)

(Dr. Clough) Please join me in congratulating these master's graduates.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

(Dr. Clough)

Near the close of the 1800s, a young man sent a sheaf of poems to the foremost American writer of the day to be critiqued. Ralph Waldo Emerson read the manuscript, which was entitled "Leaves of Grass" and was destined to become one of America's best-loved volumes of poetry. And he wrote back to the young Walt Whitman: "I greet you at the beginning of a great career."

And as I look out over this sea of newly minted Georgia Tech alumni, I echo his

words. I greet you at the beginning of a great career. As of this moment, you are no longer merely graduate students. You are the scholars and technological leaders of tomorrow... the role models for future generations of aspiring scientists and engineers.

I would like to offer my personal congratulations on your accomplishment in attaining a degree from one of the top institutions of higher education in the nation. It was true for me and it will be even more true for you that your degree from Georgia Tech will open doors for you.

You have helped Tech achieve the highest national rankings of its storied history. So you can see that you are leaving our campus with a degree that means something special. Still, the pace of change today means that education has become a “K to Gray” activity. Anyone who does not continue to learn will be left behind, so I encourage you to never stop learning.

You are primed to be the technological leaders of tomorrow. Nurture your talents, balance your career with your family and service to your community, and you will become one of those Tech graduates we read about and brag about as great success stories. I wish you all the best in the future!

At this time I would like to present Carey Brown, who graduated in 1969 with a degree in industrial engineering. He is now a partner in The Benefit Company, which specializes in executive and employee benefit planning. He is also president of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, and will now induct our new

graduates into this special group.

(Mr. Brown) 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 morning. Thanks also to Dr. Marianne Mason for calling the graduates' names. And many thanks to all my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, the Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble 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 the singing of 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 follow immediately, then the remainder of the President's Party, Deans, and Faculty.)