

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Dedication, Ford Motor Co ES&T Building, May 16, 2003

I am pleased to welcome all of you to this dedication ceremony celebrating a very exciting day for Georgia Tech – a day in which we pause to reflect on the significance of the new Ford Motor Company Environmental Science and Technology Building to our mission of technological leadership in a changing world, and to thank those who made it possible.

Two of the most significant entities that provided financial support for this building are represented by two very special guests: Chancellor Thomas Meredith of the University System of Georgia and Edsel Ford II of the Ford Motor Company. We are very honored to have them with us, and we will hear from them shortly. This building was also made possible through the generosity of a foundation that wished to remain anonymous, but which provided an important challenge grant, and through major individual gifts from Tom and Virginia Gossage for whom the atrium is named, and Mr. Charles Jones.

I would also like to recognize Mike Cassidy, president of the Georgia Research Alliance, and Annie Hunt Burriss, who is representing Governor Sonny Perdue.

The architect for this building was HOK and the contractor was Archer Western, and I invite the delegations from these two companies to stand and be recognized.

Finally, I would like to recognize the members of the Georgia Tech Foundation and the Georgia Tech Advisory Board for their advice and counsel. Would the members of these boards please stand.

The Ford Motor Company Environmental Science and Technology Building is significant not only because it is the largest academic building in Georgia Tech history, but also because it will enable us to expand our efforts and collaborations to address one of the most critical issues facing the world in which we live.

Population growth and industrial development have put our natural environment at risk. Our air is polluted, and an increasing level of greenhouse gases is causing climate changes. Clean fresh water is growing scarce. Deforestation is accelerating the loss of species, and valued marine fisheries are disappearing. We are seeing the emergence and re-emergence of serious diseases.

We have a growing sense that we are tempting fate, and we have entered the 21st century with a perilous question looming before us: Can we meet the needs of the people living on the planet Earth today without jeopardizing the well-being of future generations?

According to the National Research Council's Board on Sustainable Development, the next two generations are the critical timeframe in which the stresses between a growing world population and an increasingly fragile natural environment will become acute. In its recent study, "Our Common Journey: A Transition Toward Sustainability," the Board wrote, "It is over this time period that serious progress in a transition toward sustainability will need to take place if interactions between the Earth's human population and life support systems are not to significantly damage both."

The timely construction of Ford Motor Company Environmental Science and Technology Building will enable Georgia Tech to make a larger and more meaningful contribution to generating the innovation that is needed to help sustain the Earth's life support systems and at the same time improve the quality of life for the planet's growing population.

Momentum for a comprehensive approach to sustainability at Georgia Tech began in 1990, and over the past decade we have deliberately worked to incorporate sustainability as an integral part of our educational curriculum, our research, our economic development outreach programs, and the operation of our campus. That emphasis is reflected in the structure of the Ford Motor Company Environmental Sciences and Technology Building. This facility is designed so that run-off rainwater can be captured, and it features a "green" HVAC system whose chemicals are environmentally benign.

Even more importantly, our emphasis on environmental sustainability is reflected in what will happen inside this building. The pathway to sustainability involves an array of intertwined issues and problems. Integrated, interdisciplinary approaches are required to discover scientific knowledge and translate it into technologies that will be supported and encouraged by political bodies and embraced for use by the world at large.

So the Ford Motor Company Environmental Science and Technology Building gathers faculty and students from five different schools in the College of Sciences and the College of Engineering. They include:

- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Chemical Engineering

Chemistry and Biochemistry
Biology
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Faculty and students from these schools already collaborate on research projects that range from creating environmentally benign solvents to developing coatings that do not require solvents at all... from the geo-chemistry of groundwater to the chemical signaling that goes on in marine ecosystems. Georgia Tech is the home of one of the largest university-based air quality research programs in the United States, and major research on alternative sources of clean energy is underway here.

The Ford Motor Company Environmental Science and Technology Building not only provides expanded, state-of-the-art research space for endeavors like these, but it also places faculty and students from these five schools in close proximity to encourage an even greater level of interaction and collaboration with each other. This concept of research neighborhoods is at the heart of the Life Sciences and Technology Complex of which the Ford Motor Company Building is a part. Today's most critical new research fields – environmental science and technology, biotechnology and bioinformatics, and nano-science and technology – are emerging in the spaces between the traditional academic disciplines, and this four-building complex is designed to gather Georgia Tech faculty and students in interdisciplinary research neighborhoods that are organized around topics rather than by traditional academic disciplines.

Many research universities give lip service to the concept of interdisciplinary research. At Georgia Tech, we are interdisciplinary from the ground up, designing facilities that bring faculty and students together across the disciplines to tackle questions and problems that require their collective expertise.

But our task is not complete if the scientific knowledge and sustainable technology that are discovered and developed here are not translated into products that can be put to use here and around the world. So the Ford Motor Company Building also includes a wet-lab business incubator, administered by Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center, which is both the nation's oldest university-based business incubator and one of the best. Incorporating an ATDC incubator into this facility provides a conduit for the innovations that are developed here to move out into the commercial market, where they can contribute to the creation of a more sustainable society.

As you can see, this is a unique facility, designed to help Georgia Tech maximize its opportunity to be a leader in creating the sustainable technology that is essential to building a prosperous future for all of the Earth's inhabitants.

The largest benefactor in supporting the construction of the Ford Motor Company Building was the state of Georgia – specifically the Board of Regents for the University System, who recommended this facility, and the Georgia General Assembly, which provided funding in the state budget. The state is represented here today by Dr. Thomas Meredith, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia.

Dr. Meredith has been an educator of one sort or another for about 40 years. He has been a high school teacher and principal, a professor, a university administrator, and a university president. In 1997, he became Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, and then in January of 2002 Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, whose 34 member institutions include Georgia Tech.

When he came to Georgia, he thought the job would be easy. Our state legislature had an established pattern of providing strong financial support to higher education, then adjourning for the year before St. Patrick's Day. But as soon as he arrived, the legislature cut the budget and stayed around for legislative session in state history. However, Dr. Meredith quickly demonstrated that he was equal to the challenge. He has already proved himself to be a strong and articulate advocate for the University System of Georgia.

He has also demonstrated an acute understanding of the role of universities and university-based research in driving economic development and a keen interest in Georgia Tech. We have had the opportunity to welcome him to our campus on several occasions and we are extremely pleased to have him here with us today. Chancellor...

(CHANCELLOR SPEAKS)

Thank you, Chancellor Meredith, those insightful words, for your presence here today, and for your ongoing support of Georgia Tech.

Many colleges offer a few electives in environmental sustainability; some even offer a minor or a major. At Georgia Tech, we do that and more. We are unique in that our goal is to imbue our entire curriculum with a perspective of environmental sustainability, so that all of our students learn to see their disciplines through a prism of sustainability and to factor environmental impacts into their decisions.

So the Ford Motor Company Environmental Sciences and Technology Building will be an important resource as we educate our students and involve them in our research endeavors. And we have asked senior Tiffany Stark to speak on behalf of the students this afternoon.

Tiffany is from Marietta, and she came to Georgia Tech to pursue her keen interest in math and science. She is a Dean's List student and has received honors in Chemical Engineering, and she will graduate later this year with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. She enjoys tutoring younger students and hopes to teach at the high school level after graduation. She is also an athlete, who has been on the Georgia Tech crew team and enjoys coaching and refereeing youth basketball, and she is active in Campus Crusade for Christ.

At this time I am pleased to present Tiffany Stark to speak on behalf of the student body.

(TIFFANY SPEAKS)

Thank you, Tiffany, for speaking so eloquently on behalf of your fellow students.

Georgia Tech has a long tradition of close relationships with private industry that dates back to our inception in the 1880s. And today we rank third in the nation in the volume of research we conduct in collaboration with private industry. The Ford Motor Company has been an important industry partner for nearly half a century. Ford has not only sponsored research and supported research facilities at Georgia Tech, but has also focused on educating engineers to work productively and successfully, and on helping us to achieve greater levels of diversity.

Ford is also an important part of our traditions at Georgia Tech. As most of you know, the official Ramblin' Wreck of Georgia Tech, which is on display, is a Model A Ford, and it stands as a symbol of the technological heritage of both of our institutions and our historic commitment to creating innovative technology.

Today we look to a future when a new generation of environmentally sustainable technologies will permeate our lives. We are privileged to have two alternative fuel vehicles and a Model U concept car on display as symbols of that future, and I hope you will take time to look at them.

These vehicles also represent the environmental sustainability research that Georgia Tech is presently conducting in collaboration with the Ford Motor Company. Together

we are working on business models for sustainable manufacturing, on tools and metrics to measure waste and pollution in the manufacturing process, and on sustainable automotive technology such as transmissions that run cooler and do not require as much fluid.

Today we are proud and honored to welcome Edsel Ford II to our campus. His career at the Ford Motor Company spans more than 25 years, and he represents the fourth generation of Fords to help lead the company that his great grandfather, Henry Ford, founded 100 years ago this year. Edsel Ford II was elected to the Board of Directors of the Ford Motor Company in 1988 and became a company vice president in 1993. He has also served as president of Ford Motor Credit Company, and is actively involved as a consultant for corporate dealer relations.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Babson College and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's Program for Management Development. He is a member of the board for the Detroit Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, chairs the National Advisory Board for the Salvation Army, and is known for his many charitable involvements.

Please welcome Edsel Ford II ...

(EDEL FORD SPEAKS)

Thank you, Mr. Ford for your inspiring comments and for honoring us with your presence this afternoon.

At this time I would like to ask the platform guests to join me in cutting the ribbon on the Ford Motor Company Environmental Science and Technology Building. The rest of you are invited to come along and observe this brief ceremony, or, if you prefer, to proceed directly to the Gossage Atrium for refreshments, followed by tours of the building.