

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWENTIETH

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

December 11, 2004, 9:00 A.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 8:00 a.m. in the Hyder Room, second level of the Coliseum).

Processional	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
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Dr. Frank Clark

Master of Ceremonies	Dr. G. Wayne Clough
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President

Reflection	Rev. Megan J. Jones
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Lutheran Center at Georgia Tech

National Anthem	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
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Commencement	Mr. John Salley
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Address

Introduction of
Academic Deans

Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau
Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

Presentation of Undergraduate
Degree Candidates

College of Computing
Associate Dean Merrick Furst

Ivan Allen College
Associate Dean Richard Barke

College of Architecture
Dean Thomas D. Galloway

College of Management
Dean Terry Blum

College of Sciences
Associate Dean E. Kent Barefield

College of Engineering
Dean Don P. Giddens

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
Faculty Recessional	Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble
"Ramblin' Wreck"	Graduates and Audience

December 11, 2004 - Ceremony Script (UNDERGRADUATE)

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Rev. Megan Jones, from the Lutheran Center at Georgia Tech, and remain standing for our national anthem.

(Rev. Megan Jones)

Reflection

(Commencement Ensemble)

National Anthem

(Dr. Clough)

Please be seated. Once again, good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Georgia Tech's two-hundred twentieth commencement exercises. Our commencement exercises today are divided into two ceremonies. This morning we will confer about 750 bachelor's degrees. Then in a separate ceremony at 3:00 this afternoon almost 600 graduate degrees will be awarded.

The 750 talented young people who will receive degrees this morning have a technology-oriented education that is increasingly valuable and rare among the thousands of graduates from our nation's universities, and they will be a key resource in helping our nation remain great for the future.

Only a few short years ago each of today's graduates arrived on this campus, but in this tiny span of human history the world became a different and more

dangerous place. During the course of the past four to five years, this nation has seen the bursting of the dot-com bubble, the downfall of corporations caused by the unethical behavior of their leaders, the terrorist attack on the World Trade Towers, and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

For Georgia Tech, those experiences are a sobering reminder of how fast major change can come to our lives, and of our ongoing responsibility and commitment to create the technology and policies that help address the problems and take on the challenges of a rapidly changing world. And we believe a Georgia Tech education has prepared our graduates for this task – based not only on their own achievements, the quality of our faculty, and the rigor of our academic programs, but also based on the track record of those Tech men and women who preceded us.

Just look around at the billion-dollar companies whose CEOs are Georgia Tech alumni – Sears, AT&T, Wal-Mart USA, Invesco, Gulfstream Aerospace, Dollar General, GE Commercial Finance, Newell Rubbermaid, Shaw Industries, Milliken & Company, Earthlink – and I saved the best for last... our alumnus John Brock has the CEO dream job of many a Georgia Tech graduate – he lives in Brussels and heads up Interbrew, the world's largest brewer of fine beer with more than 200 brands.

You, today's graduates, are the recipients of that same education; you are the inheritors of those same traditions. And it will not be long before the world will be looking to you to provide the leadership for which your education has

prepared you.

What are some of those traditions that you will carry with you as you leave our campus? Well, for starters, the ability to think clearly on just a few hours of sleep a night. Then there's also an abiding appreciation for chili dogs from the Varsity or a burger basket from Juniors, and a great sense of relief that no one is likely to ask you again about constrained optimization or vector analysis. Like thousands of graduates who have gone before, you will carry with you vivid memories of the Tech Tower, singing the "Ramblin' Wreck" at football games in Bobby Dodd Stadium, pulling all-nighters during "dead week," and being gently awakened by the sweet sound of the Whistle or a little jack-hammering on the latest construction project.

These traditions go back a long way, but we also have a few newer ones, like being home to the first basketball team from the state of Georgia ever to play in the national championship game. You were part of Team Buzz Day, when 2,000 Georgia Tech students, faculty, and staff volunteer to help the less fortunate and beautify our city. And your talents are reflected in the increasing number of Tech students receiving major scholarships with storied names like Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, and Fulbright.

These new traditions reflect a Georgia Tech that demonstrates it can be done – that it is possible both to offer a rigorous academic experience and to play with integrity in Division I-A sports. They reflect a Georgia Tech with growing influence that also values a caring attitude for the society it serves.

As we celebrate the completion of this phase of your life today, we hope and believe that the knowledge and skills you carry with you from this campus will continue to shape and influence your lives in ways you cannot even imagine. And we look forward to seeing you step to the fore to provide the technological and ethical leadership our nation and world will need in the days ahead.

Georgia Tech is full of men and women who have an intense intellectual curiosity about new frontiers of knowledge. We hope and believe that some of that curiosity has rubbed off on you, and that you will continue to feed the fire of learning throughout your life, never allowing it to fade away to a bed of spent ashes. We hope and believe you have learned to rise to a challenge... to be creative in solving problems... to adapt to change, and even to anticipate and provoke it. These abilities will stand you in good stead your whole life long.

Most importantly, we hope and believe that here at Georgia Tech you have learned that the goal is not merely to “have more,” but also to “be more.” Lily Tomlin once said that even if you win the rat race, you’ll still be a rat. And we hope and believe that you set forth from this day, prepared not only to live in the world, but also to help make it a better place.

Today, as we celebrate the successful conclusion of a 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 for some of you, 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 our outstanding Georgia Tech faculty. I know that when you got your 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 to all the help they received from the faculty and I would like to ask the 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 a few minutes ago 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)

A few moments ago I mentioned that last year's basketball team earned the incredible opportunity to play in the NCAA National Championship Game, and this year we again have high hopes for our team, which is ranked fourth in the nation. These teams are the inheritors of another wonderful Georgia Tech tradition of outstanding achievement on the basketball court, and that tradition is represented here today in our commencement speaker, John Salley. John is a 12-year NBA veteran who is the only player in NBA history to win four national championships with three different teams. The first two were with the Detroit

Pistons in 1989 and 1990. The third was in 1996, when he was playing with Michael Jordan for the Chicago Bulls. Then in 1999, Los Angeles Coach Phil Jackson invited him to provide experience and leadership for the Lakers team that subsequently won the 2000 championship.

John Salley got his start right here on the floor of Alexander Memorial Colliseum, and his Georgia Tech jersey, bearing No. 22, now hangs right here in this room. He played basketball at Georgia Tech from 1982 to 1986, and he was named to the All-ACC teams in '85 and '86. He was a senior when the Detroit Pistons chose him as a first-round pick in the NBA draft, and that was an opportunity he simply could not turn down. But over the next two years, he returned to Georgia Tech to study during the off-season, and he completed his bachelor's degree in industrial management in 1988.

Following his retirement from the NBA in 2000, John launched a career in television and film. He starred in "Bad Boys I" and "Bad Boys II" and served as a studio commentator for NBC's pre-game NBA show. If you tune in to the Fox Sports Net, you can now see him co-hosting the sports talk show "The Best Damn Sports Show Period," which has won critical acclaim and an Emmy nomination. He is also a celebrity judge on the TBS reality show "He's A Lady" and a host on Nick at Nite's reality show "Family Face Off."

In addition to his television career, John Salley applied the management skills he learned at Georgia Tech to the creation of a production company called Black Folk Entertainment. You can also hear his impact on the recording industry, as he

promotes up-and-coming musicians and musical groups. He is responsible for discovering R&B vocalist Tony Rich, who won a Grammy Award in 1996.

Even though he has a full plate of media and entertainment activities, John Salley still finds time to give back to his community. In 1997 he started the John Salley Raindrop Foundation to reach out to young people in low-income neighborhoods. The Foundation funds programs in art, literature, music, science, and – of course – sports. John is also involved with the Pediatric AIDS Foundation and the Cedars-Sinai Sports Spectacular, which benefits the Medical Genetics Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

It is an honor and a pleasure to welcome John Salley back to his alma mater to share his thoughts and advice with our graduates as they prepare to embark on their own careers.

(MR. SALLEY'S REMARKS)

Thank you, John. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak today, I would like to present you with a gift for the occasion.

(PRESENT GIFT)

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of degrees. Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

- (Dr. Chameau) Associate Dean Merrick Furst will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.
- (Dr. Furst) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Computing please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Furst) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.
- (Dr. Chameau) Associate Dean Richard Barke will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the Ivan Allen College.
- (Dr. Barke) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the Ivan Allen College please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Barke) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.
- (Dr. Chameau) Dean Thomas Galloway will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Architecture.

- (Dr. Galloway) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Architecture please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Galloway) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.
- (Dr. Chameau) Dean Terry Blum will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Management.
- (Dr. Blum) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Management please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Blum) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.
- (Dr. Chameau) Associate Dean Kent Barefield will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.
- (Dr. Barefield) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Sciences please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

- (Dr. Barefield) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.
- (Dr. Chameau) Dean Don Giddens will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.
- (Dr. Giddens) Candidates for the bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Giddens) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the bachelor's degree and the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for those respective 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 bachelor's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities hereunto appertaining.
- (Dr. Clough) Please be seated. We will now award the degrees. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

(College of Computing candidates will come forward, then IAC, Architecture, Management, College of Sciences and College of Engineering. Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands. Announcer will pause between colleges to allow the Dean time to come forward)

(Dr. Clough) Now, please join me in congratulating these fine new graduates of Georgia Tech.

(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 young 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 students. You are the technological leaders of tomorrow... and the role models for future generations.

Georgia Tech has more than 100,000 living alumni around the world, including some who are here today, and I would like to ask all Georgia Tech alumni to stand at this time and be recognized.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

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)

We invite all of you to join us immediately after this ceremony for a special reception in honor of today's graduates and their families and friends. The reception will be held in the Tennis Center, directly across Fowler Street.

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. Johnson and Dr. Goldberg 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 singing the Ramblin' Wreck, which will accompany the student recessional.

Thank you for your attendance this morning.

(At the end of the alma mater, the mace bearer will be the first one off the stage. Dr. Clough will immediately follow then the remainder of the President's Party, Deans, and Faculty.)