

What: President's Scholars Brunch
Time: 5 minutes

Good morning and welcome to Georgia Tech. Students and parents, I hope you are enjoying your time here as you preview the life of a Georgia Tech student.

Students, you are here because you are in the process of qualifying for Georgia Tech's highest premier-based scholarship, the President's Scholarship. You are here because you represent the best of the students wanting to enroll at Georgia Tech next fall.

Recently, Hollywood honored its best during the Academy Awards. Although a weekend at Georgia Tech and a black-tie event televised worldwide may not seem similar, they are. Both occasions honor the best of the best.

Although you won't receive a gold statuette for your efforts, you will receive something we consider just as valuable: a scholarship to Georgia Tech.

They say that after receiving an Oscar, an actress or actor's star potential rises dramatically. The same can be said of a student who attends Georgia Tech. Each year more than 600 recruiters come to us—anxious to hire Tech graduates. Likewise, graduate schools heavily recruit on the Tech campus.

You may not be aware of this, but when I talk about the high quality of a Georgia Tech education, I speak from experience. I earned both my bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and carried such fond memories of the place that 30 years later here I am serving as Tech's tenth president.

As an engineer by trade, I love statistics, so I'll run some by you this morning. Tech is ranked as the school with the third best engineering program and the 8th best architecture programs in the nation. Overall, we are ranked among the top 10 public institutions in the country. In fall of 1996, the entering freshman class had the highest number of National Merit Scholars of any public school in the U.S. We also have the nation's largest voluntary co-op program.

Our former students have included Gil Amelio, the current president and chief executive officer of Apple Computer; top airline executives such as Lewis Jordan, president and chief operating officer of ValuJet and Ron Allen,

chairman, president, and CEO of Delta Air Lines; and political leaders such as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and current U.S. Senator Sam Nunn. Our graduates also include astronauts, a Nobel Prize winner, the inventor of WD-40, and the designer of the Mazda Miata.

As you can see, attending Georgia Tech helps prepare you for a successful future. Part of the reason for this success is that we expect a lot from our students. Each year our students rise to the challenge—but none so successfully as our President's Scholars. Our President's Scholars exemplify leadership, scholarship, and community activism.

Examples of accomplishments by Georgia Tech President's Scholars include:

- All three of Georgia Tech's Truman Scholars have been President's Scholars;**
- Three of the last four student body presidents have been President's Scholars, including the only Georgia Tech student body president to serve back-to-back terms; and**
- President's Scholars have helped to establish the Student Honor Code, the Mock Trial, and the Women's Student Union.**

In the 15 years Georgia Tech President's Scholars have existed at Georgia Tech, 498 President's Scholars have graduated—going on to schools like Harvard, Emory, or Stanford or going into the workforce at companies like Coca-Cola, IBM, and Procter & Gamble.

Next year, you might become of our academic elite. I look forward to that day as well as to the day, next year, when I can brag of your accomplishments at President's Scholars Weekend.

Thank you.

