

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWENTY SIXTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE
ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Saturday December 16, 2006, 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
Master of Ceremonies	Dr. G. Wayne Clough President
Reflection	Rev. Megan J. Jones Lutheran Center at Georgia Tech
National Anthem	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
Commencement Address	Mr. Alfred P. West Jr. Founder, Chairman, and CEO, SEI Investments
Presentation of Honorary Degree	Dr. Clough
Introduction of Academic Dean	Dr. Anderson Smith Vice Provost, Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs

Presentation of Undergraduate
Degree Candidates

College of Engineering

Associate Dean Raymond P. Vito

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Induction into
Alumni Association

Ms. Janice Wittschiebe, Class of 1978, 1980
Chair, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and Audience

Saturday, December 16, 2005, 3:00 p.m. (COE ceremony)

(Dr. Clough)

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

(Rev. Jones)

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 twenty sixth commencement exercises. As the number of our graduates has grown, we have been experimenting with ways to make our commencement exercises more manageable and more meaningful to our graduates and their families and friends. This year we divided our commencement exercises into three ceremonies. Last evening we conferred more than 600 doctoral and master's degrees. This morning, we awarded more than 360 bachelor's degrees to candidates from the Colleges of Architecture, Computing, Management, and Sciences, and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. We have now come to the third ceremony in which we will award bachelor's degrees to almost 500 candidates from the College of Engineering. So, settle in and get comfortable, because there is nothing quite like the pageantry and ceremony of commencement. It is one of my favorite activities as president.

All of these talented young people have received a technology-oriented education that is increasingly valuable and rare among the thousands of graduates from our nation's universities. Each of them will be a key resource in helping our nation remain great for the future.

As you know from news reports, our nation is at risk of falling behind in the global economic competition, because too few of our young people are pursuing a scientific or technological education. But each of the graduates before us today has chosen the less traveled path – one that called for them to work hard, to learn about the latest developments in engineering, and to compete with some of the best and brightest our nation has to offer. I know you join me in my special pride in being here among them on this day.

The world around us is changing rapidly, and these young graduates have been educated in what is required to address the challenges and solve the problems of the 21st century. This assessment is based not only on their talents and academic achievements, the quality of our faculty, and the rigor of our academic programs, but also the track record of the Tech graduates who preceded them.

Just look around at the billion-dollar companies whose CEOs are Georgia Tech alumni – Wal-Mart International, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Invesco, Gulfstream Aerospace, Dollar General, GE Commercial Finance, Shaw Industries, Earthlink, and SEI Investments. We will hear from two of them in the course of this ceremony. Beyond the business world we see alumni who have won Nobel prizes, like Kerry Mullis; alumni who have served in the U.S. Senate, like Sam Nunn; alumni who have walked on the moon, like John Young; and even alumni who are well-known entertainers, like John Salley, Jeff Foxworthy, and Phil Gordon – who is not only a successful business man but also holds a world poker title and is seen on TV advising others on when to hold ‘em and when to fold ‘em.

You, today’s graduates, are the recipients of that same education. You are the inheritors of those same traditions – including the ability to think clearly on just a few hours of sleep a night, an abiding appreciation for chili dogs from the Varsity, cheering on the Yellow Jacket athletic teams, 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.

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 our campus will continue to shape and influence your lives in ways you cannot yet 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.

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.” As Lily Tomlin once noted, 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)

One of those Georgia Tech alumni I mentioned a moment ago who are CEOs of billion-dollar companies is Alfred P. West, Jr., chairman and CEO of SEI Investments. Al and I were undergraduates at Georgia Tech at the same time, back when the Earth was still cooling. His boyhood goal was to become the pilot of a fighter jet, so he majored in aerospace engineering and joined the Air Force ROTC. Unfortunately, long hours of study took their toll on his eyesight, and by his senior year it was no longer keen enough for him to qualify as a fighter pilot.

So he went to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania instead, and it was a decision that changed his life. As an MBA student, he became familiar with a computer game that simulated companies and predicted outcomes.

The computer game gave Al and a friend an idea for a business, so they started SEI, which stood for Simulated Environments, Inc. SEI's first product was a computer simulation to train bank loan officers. The company grew, developed additional computer tools for the banking industry, and by the time it went public in 1981, it had garnered 34 percent of the trust market. During the 1980s, SEI acquired several other companies and diversified into asset management and pension consulting.

By 1990 Al decided to re-invent the company and he embarked on a quest to make SEI more effective, innovative, and responsive, and to recapture the sense of community it had had when it was younger and smaller. He began by founding the SEI Center for Advanced Studies in Management at the Wharton School, of which he is chairman of the board today. The Center draws on the intellect of academia and the experience of corporate CEOs to envision the company of the future.

Along the way he changed more than business processes, outlawing executive parking spaces, dropping the suit-and-tie dress code, abolishing secretarial jobs, eliminating office walls and cubicles, and shredding the organizational chart. The full break with tradition came in 1996, when the company moved to a cluster of colorful farm-like buildings nestled into the countryside near a pond in rural Pennsylvania. The new buildings have no offices, employees are organized in teams, and the furniture is on wheels, so it can be rearranged as teams are reconfigured.

In the middle of it, at a desk in a large bay area where almost everyone can see almost everyone else, sits Al West, answering his own phone, responding to his own e-mail, sending his own memos, and making his own travel arrangements. Just like everyone else.

His decision to turn the company on its head has made it more successful than ever. Today SEI has revenues of more than \$1 billion and a market capitalization of more than \$5 billion. It manages more than \$160 billion itself, administers another \$360 billion, and processes trillions of dollars worth of financial transactions each year.

In 2002, the American Banker magazine called Al “the most successful financial services chief executive over the last ten years.” And Barron’s ranked him fifth behind Warren Buffett as the best CEO value in the country.

Even as he is lifting SEI to new heights, Al somehow finds time to be a tireless advocate for Georgia Tech. He is a member of the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees, and chairs the committee that is working on Tech's next campaign. He has also chaired the Georgia Tech Advisory Board, and he served on the National Campaign Steering Committee for the Campaign for Georgia Tech, which lasted from 1995 to 2000.

Among the long list of his leadership positions in higher education and business are membership on the Board of Overseers for the Wharton School and chairman of the board of the Washington-based American Business Conference. He is the recipient of an equally long list of awards and honors that recognize both his success as a CEO and his many service involvements.

It is my great privilege to introduce Al West to provide our graduates with some parting words of advice.

(AL WEST'S REMARKS)

Thank you, Al, for those inspiring and enlightening remarks. As a token of our appreciation for taking on the challenge of speaking at two commencement ceremonies, I would like to present you with this gift.

(PRESENT GIFT)

We are going to begin the presentation of degrees with a very special degree for a very special person. Cecil J. Silas, known as "Pete" to his friends and colleagues, is a retired member of that group of billion-dollar CEOs who are Georgia Tech alumni.

By the time he concluded his 41-year career, he had been chairman and CEO of Phillips Petroleum for a decade and was recognized by *BusinessWeek* as one of "The Corporate Elite" and by *Forbes* as one of "Corporate America's Most Powerful People." He is a

recipient of the American Petroleum Institute Gold Medal Award and was awarded the Royal Norwegian St. Olav's order in the degree of Commander – one of the highest honors awarded by the Norwegian government – for his contributions to the development of Norway's energy and allied industries.

Pete's broader service to the business community has been equally significant. He chaired the boards of the American Petroleum Institute and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and served on the boards of Halliburton, the Reader's Digest Association, and the global satellite system COMSAT. He is presently a member of The Council on Foreign Relations and The Business Council.

He has been an active community volunteer and leader. He is a past chairman and present board member of the National Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and has chaired the board of National Junior Achievement. He now serves on the boards of the Frank Phillips Foundation, the Wallace Foundation, and the Phi Delta Theta Foundation. He has been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in recognition of his public contributions to the home state of Phillips Petroleum.

Pete Silas has also provided considerable leadership to his alma mater. He chaired the National Campaign Steering Committee for the five-year Campaign for Georgia Tech, which began with a \$300 million goal and ended raising more than \$700 million. He served as a trustee of the Georgia Tech Foundation for 18 years and continues as trustee emeritus. He served on the Georgia Tech Advisory Board for six years, including a one-year term as chairman. In recognition of his efforts, Georgia Tech presented him with the Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni Distinguished Services Award, the Georgia Tech Alumni Exceptional Achievement Award

A chemical engineering major at Georgia Tech, Pete was a recognized leader on the basketball court and subsequently played on the U.S. basketball team that won the 1955

Pan American games. He has received Georgia Tech's Scholar-Athlete Total Person Award, and been inducted into both the Georgia Tech Athletic Hall of Fame and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

It is my privilege to present Pete Silas with an honorary doctoral degree, which reads as follows: "The president and faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology to all to whom these presents may come: Greeting. Whereas Cecil J. Silas has been recognized for his outstanding contributions in the energy field and for his lifetime commitment to community service, now, therefore, we under the authority vested in us, do hereby confer the degree of honorary doctor of philosophy with all the rights privileges and honors thereunto appertaining. In witness thereof the signatures of the Chancellor of the University System, the President and the Registrar of the Georgia Institute of Technology are hereto subscribed, and the seal of the Institute is affixed."

I invite Pete Silas to come forward to accept this honorary degree and say a few words.

(PRESENT HONORARY DEGREE)

(SILAS SPEAKS)

Thank you, Pete, for those kind words and for all you have done for Georgia Tech. We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of your degrees. Dr. Anderson Smith, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs, will introduce the academic dean who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

(Dr. Smith)

Associate Dean Raymond Vito will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

(Dr. Vito) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Vito) 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. 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.

(Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands.)

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

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

Dr. Clough:

You now are in possession of the proof that you have successfully completed the learning opportunity presented to you at Georgia Tech and now enter into the next stage of life. As you leave this university and the formal educational environment, it is useful to think about how learning goes on from here. The famous basketball coach and New York wiseguy Al McGuire said, "I think everyone should go to college and get a degree and then spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cab driver. Then they would

really be educated.” While few of you will earn advanced degrees in bartending or cabdriving, his advice is sound. Learn from life and by listening carefully to others.

Another perspective comes from the famous behavioral scientist, B. F. Skinner, who remarked “Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.” If we have done our job while you were here, you will do well when your present store of knowledge becomes obsolete, because we have educated you for life and lifelong learning.

Of course it is a bit depressing to think that you will forget a lot of what you have learned during your time on campus. Father Guido Sarducci, a learned man of the cloth from Saturday Night Live, pointed out that most people only remember 5 percent of what they have learned in college. He then offered a new approach to college. He would teach you the 5 percent you would remember for half of the tuition you would have to pay to go to college.

Now I do believe that you will remember more than 5 percent of what you learned here at Tech. But unlike Father Guido and his approach, I hope you will come back to Tech and benefit from our life long learning programs to help you as your career options change and you take on new responsibilities.

Leaving today with your degree means that you have become a Georgia Tech alum. You join more than 120,000 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)

To induct our graduates into this special group, I would like to present Ms. Janice Wittschiebe, class of 1978 and 1980. She is a partner in the firm of Richard & Wittschiebe Architects of Atlanta and this year’s chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. Janice

will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech.

(Ms. Wittschiebe) 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 afternoon. Thanks also to Dr. Howard Choy for calling the graduates' names. And many thanks to all of 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 afternoon.

(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.)