

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Dr. John P. Crecine Memorial Service, May 20, 2008

I'd like to welcome all of you to this memorial service to remember and honor Dr. John Patrick Crecine as a person and as president of the Georgia Institute of Technology from 1987 until 1994. We would especially like to welcome Dr. Crecine's son John and daughter Kate to campus and to extend our condolences to each of you.

Dr. Crecine earned his doctorate in industrial management from Carnegie Mellon. His career included service on the faculty of the University of Michigan, where he was the founding director of the Institute of Public Policy Studies, and Carnegie Mellon, where he was dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, then vice president for academic affairs. He also worked at the Rand Corporation, and later in life was instrumental in a number of start-up companies in information technology and e-commerce.

John Patrick Crecine came to Georgia Tech as its ninth president in the fall of 1987 and served in that capacity until 1994. And today we especially recall and honor his contributions to Atlanta and Georgia Tech during those years. There are a number of things that could be said about his service to Georgia Tech, but we have chosen to focus on four areas in which decisions made during his tenure took on longer-term significance. Dr. Crecine seemed to have been gifted with a high degree of foresight, because in each of these cases, his decisions planted seeds that blossomed and came to fruition in the years following his presidency. As his successor, I have been in the fortunate position of being able to leverage his decisions to set the Institute on a course that subsequently enabled transformations to occur.

One of these four decisions of consequence was to involve Georgia Tech in Atlanta's bid for the 1996 Olympic Games. There are other speakers in this memorial service who are more qualified to recount his personal involvement in this endeavor, and I will leave that topic to them. What I wish to address is the longer-term impact on Georgia Tech of his involvement and the subsequent naming of our campus as the Olympic Village.

Of course, the immediate legacy of the Olympics for Georgia Tech was to renovate existing dorms and give us a new residential complex at the western end of our campus. We were also the recipient of the Olympic natatorium. Not only were these significant improvements in their own right, but they also set the stage for us to do much more in subsequent years.

Today, our campus includes both the Olympic housing on West Campus and the Olympic housing south of North Avenue along the interstate, which we recently acquired from Georgia State. As a result, we are now able to house 70 percent of our undergraduates on campus – which is a rarity for a public university in the middle of a large city.

But it takes more than residence halls to create a genuinely residential campus where students are nurtured outside the classroom and lab. And the Olympic natatorium became a resource in our efforts to develop the infrastructure we needed to offer a quality residential experience to our

students. I'm told that Dr. Crecine was hoping for an enclosed natatorium, but the Olympic Committee did not have the funding for it at the time. We have subsequently achieved that goal by building a beautiful new Campus Recreation Center around the Olympic swimming and diving pools, and they are now home to our men's and women's swimming and diving teams, as well as providing year-round recreational opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff. This state-of-the-art facility has won numerous awards and is widely regarded as one of the best campus rec centers in the nation.

The naming of the Georgia Tech campus as the Olympic Village also triggered the demolition of the Techwood Homes housing project, which was an eyesore and detriment to campus safety on our southern flank. Techwood Homes was replaced with a beautiful, new mixed-income neighborhood, and Georgia Tech reached out to this new neighborhood, becoming a partner with Centennial Place Olympic School, and working with the city to place a police precinct in the neighborhood, with which our campus police collaborate.

This initial involvement with a neighborhood that was adjacent to our campus planted a seed, and through the past 14 years, that seed has blossomed into the development of broader relationships with the areas around Georgia Tech. Technology Square has now bridged the divide between Georgia Tech and the Midtown neighborhood that was caused by the construction of the interstate. We are also expanding our campus toward the southwest, even as downtown moves toward us through the placement of Centennial Olympic Park, the Georgia Aquarium, and the World of Coke. We have collaborated with our neighbors in Home Park to build a child care center, and also work with our neighbors in the English Avenue area.

As you can see, the decision originally made by Dr. Crecine to involve Georgia Tech in the Olympics, has had a snowball effect in the years since his tenure, pointing us toward a larger transformation into a safer, more vibrant residential campus that does a better job of nurturing its students and connecting to its neighbors.

A second important area in which a decision by Dr. Crecine started the ball rolling and led to the opening of future doors of opportunity was the establishment of a Georgia Tech presence in Metz, France. This program began as an exchange of master's degree students in engineering during Dr. Crecine's tenure, and it has really blossomed in subsequent years. Today, we have a physical campus in Metz, where more than 300 students studied during the recently concluded academic year. And we now have a Georgia Tech Alumni Association in Europe.

Georgia Tech Lorraine has become a well-rounded education, research, and economic development institution. We are in the process of developing a full-fledged year-round undergraduate degree program, and broadening into other fields beyond engineering. On the research side, we have multiple partnerships with other European universities, with the French National Center for Scientific Research, and with European industries. Several new companies have emerged from the research labs of GT Lorraine.

Georgia Tech Lorraine has been cited as a model by both the American Society for Engineering Education and the French government, and it has served as a springboard for Georgia Tech's more recent focus on becoming a truly global university. It is the platform from which we have

launched initiatives with other European countries, from Germany and Switzerland to Norway. And it has served as the fore-runner and prototype for our current international initiatives in Singapore, Ireland, and Shanghai.

So, once again, a decision made by Dr. Crecine showed great foresight and provided the first step of a subsequent journey that is now positioning Georgia Tech as a leader in the global economy.

There are two other important areas in which decisions by Dr. Crecine laid the groundwork that we have been able to leverage to position Georgia Tech as a leader in subsequent years. They include the reorganization of Georgia Tech's academic units and a commitment to diversity. And at this time I would like to introduce Dr. Charlie Liotta to speak about them.

Dr. Liotta has been on the Georgia Tech faculty in chemistry and biochemistry for more than 40 years and knew Dr. Crecine well. From 1998 until 2007, he served as vice provost for research and dean of graduate studies, which made him an important player in our efforts to move forward in the directions toward which Dr. Crecine pointed us. Charlie...

(CHARLIE LIOTTA SPEAKS)

Thank you, Charlie. Another way in which Dr. Crecine left his mark was to reach out and engage with the business and political leaders of Atlanta and Georgia to a greater degree than most of his predecessors. That was an example that I have appreciated, followed, and worked to expand. So, we would be remiss if our commemoration of his life did not include tributes from some of the community and business leaders with whom he worked.

At this time I am pleased to introduce R. K. Sehgal, who was chairman and CEO of the Law Companies Group during Dr. Crecine's presidency. He subsequently became chief executive and vice-chair of H.J. Russell & Company, then commissioner of the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. R.K...

(R. K. SEHGAL SPEAKS)

John Portman is an alumnus of the Georgia Tech College of Architecture who started his own architectural firm here in Atlanta soon after graduating. John Portman & Associates has played a significant role in shaping the skyline of Atlanta through decades since then, and during the past 30 years has emerged as a leading international architectural firm, with several offices abroad and a growing list of significant international structures to its credit. John...

(JOHN PORTMAN SPEAKS)

Thank you, John. Another community leader who was a friend and collaborator of Dr. Crecine was former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young. He was mayor of Atlanta when Dr. Crecine came to Georgia Tech, and then served as co-chair of the 1996 Olympic Games. Ambassador Young...

(ANDREW YOUNG SPEAKS)

Thank you, Ambassador Young. Finally, we come full circle back to Georgia Tech and another faculty member who was a personal friend of Dr. Crecine's during his tenure at Georgia Tech. George Nemhauser holds the A. Russell Chandler Chair in Industrial and Systems Engineering and I'm pleased to invite him to speak at this time.

(GEORGE NEMHAUSER SPEAKS)

Thank you, George. At this time I would like to invite Dr. Crecine's daughter, Kate Crecine Schoenke, to speak on behalf of the family.

(KATE SCHOENKE SPEAKS)

Thank you, Kate. As you heard today, Dr. John Patrick Crecine played an integral role in the storied history of Georgia Tech. His tenure had a significant impact, not just on Georgia Tech from 1987 to 1994, but also in planting seeds that helped to shape the Institute's future growth and in working with the broader community and the business leaders of his time.

In recognition of Dr. Crecine's noteworthy contributions to Georgia Tech, I am pleased to announce that we will honor his service and commemorate his legacy by recommending to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia that one of the principal Olympic residence halls on the west side of campus be named in his honor. We believe that this will be a fitting and lasting tribute to his memory and to the contributions he made to the life and progress of this Institute as its ninth president.

I thank you all for joining us today to celebrate the life of John Patrick Crecine and honor his contributions to Georgia Tech and to Atlanta and Georgia.