

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**TWO HUNDREDTH AND FIFTH
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE**

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

December 18, 1999, 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	Ga Tech Brass Ensemble Bucky Johnson & Ron Mendola
Master of Ceremonies	Dr. G. Wayne Clough, President
Reflection	Mr. Carlton O. Parker, Director, YMCA
National Anthem	Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble
Commencement Address	Ms. Deborah N. Willingham Vice President, Business Enterprise Division Marketing, Microsoft Corporation
Introduction of Academic Deans	Michael Thomas, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Presentation of Undergraduate
Degree Candidates**

College of Computing

Associate Dean Richard LeBlanc

Ivan Allen College

Dean Sue Rosser

College of Architecture

Dean Thomas Galloway

DuPree College of Management

Dean Terry Blum

College of Sciences

Dean Gary Schuster

College of Engineering

Associate Dean Narl Davidson

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

**Presentation of
Master's Degree
Candidates**

**Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for
Research and Dean of Graduate
Studies**

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

**Presentation of
Doctoral Degree Candidates**

Dr. Liotta

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

**Induction into
Alumni Association**

**Mr. N. Allen Robertson,
Class of 1969
Alumni Association President, Georgia Tech
Alumni Association**

**Presentation of the
Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni
Distinguished Service Award**

Mr. Robertson

Alma Mater

**Georgia Tech Chorale, directed by
Dr. William Caldwell**

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and audience

December 18, 1999 - Ceremony Script

(Dr. Clough) **Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Mr. Carlton Parker, director of the YMCA, and remain standing for our national anthem.**

(Carlton Parker) **Reflection**

(Brass 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 fifth commencement exercises and the last commencement of the nineteen-hundreds.

As someone who has "gotten out" but never gotten over my love of Georgia Tech, it always gives me great pleasure to preside over commencement and to welcome another class of Georgia Tech alumni.

Today, you join the thousands of Georgia Tech alumni who have gone before you. Like those who have gone before, you carry with you vivid memories of this Institute and its traditions. Memories of pulling all-nighters studying for exams, enjoying the Ramblin' Wreck Parade, and cheering the Jackets on cool, crisp fall nights in Bobby Dodd Stadium.

Like those who graduated before you, you will always know that "the Hill" has nothing to do with our nation's Capitol, and that the Rose Bowl Field is not in California, but in Georgia. And, finally, like the rest of Georgia Tech's alumni, you have learned not only engineering and economics, not only calculus and computing,

but you have also learned to appreciate the special delight of a Varsity chili dog and Junior's specialty, a great hamburger and an order of fries.

In your years at Georgia Tech, you've learned and experienced much. Today, as you prepare to leave this campus and move on to the next stage of your life, it's worth taking a moment to consider the value of your education.

Of course, each of you, and especially your parents, expect that the degree you receive today will lead to a rewarding career and a secure financial future. And that is an important part of the picture. But it is only one part.

We hope and believe that you have been learning with heart as well as by heart. Almost 2,000 years ago, Plutarch pointed out that "the mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." Much has changed in the course of two millennia, but these words are as pertinent today as they were in ancient Greece.

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 are 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." Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." These words express what is needed to live a meaningful life.

Today, as we celebrate the successful conclusion of one 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 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 the Georgia Tech faculty. Now there may have been times when you got a paper or a test back with lots of red ink on it, and you had temporary doubts, but your graduation today is a sign that was just a form of constructive criticism. So now is the time for all of our graduates to say thanks to all the help they received over time from the faculty and I would like to ask the entire 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 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)

It is now my great pleasure to introduce our commencement speaker. Deborah Nash Willingham is one of us, a graduate of Georgia Tech. She came to Tech as a freshman in 1974 – the same year we awarded our very first computer science degree – and only one was awarded that year.

Deborah's degree was in industrial and systems engineering. But she went straight into the computer industry with a job at IBM and never looked back. Today she is a veteran of more than 22 years of experience in the computer industry, and her name routinely appears on *Fortune* magazine's annual list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in American Business.

She comes from a multi-generational Georgia Tech family. Her father, Harold, and her brothers, Ron and Michael, are all Tech alumni. She now has a nephew and a niece in the student body, and we are looking forward to the day when her sons are old enough to come to Tech.

During Deborah's career with IBM, she demonstrated a talent for both the technical side and management side of the computing business. In 1993, she joined Microsoft as vice president for product support services. In this capacity, she directed Microsoft's efforts to broaden its spectrum of support choices, expand its electronic information and services and build a comprehensive mission-critical support infrastructure.

In 1996, she became vice president of the Enterprise Customer Unit, and took on responsibility for sales, consulting and support of Microsoft products and services for large organizations and educational institutions.

Earlier this year, she assumed her present position of vice president for Business and Enterprise Marketing. She is now responsible for marketing Microsoft's products to information technology people in businesses of all sizes, and she has primary responsibility for marketing Windows 2000.

She keeps a hand on the pulse of her alma mater by serving on the Georgia Tech Advisory Board and the Industrial and Systems Engineering Alumni Advisory Board. And she participates on boards at the University of Washington and the University of Arizona as well, while working to increase the number of women who become engineers.

I am pleased to welcome Deborah Nash Willingham back to Georgia Tech as our commencement speaker.

(DEBORAH WILLINGHAM'S REMARKS)

Deborah, as a token of our appreciation for speaking today and for the service you give to Georgia Tech, I would like to present you with this special gift.

(PRESENT GIFT)

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

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| (Dr. Thomas) | Associate Dean Richard LeBlanc will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing. |
| (Dr. LeBlanc) | Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Computing please rise and remain standing. <i>(Pause)</i> |
| (Dr. LeBlanc) | 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. Thomas) | Dean Sue Rosser will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the Ivan Allen College. |
| (Dr. Rosser) | Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the Ivan Allen College please rise and remain standing. <i>(Pause)</i> |

- (Dr. Rosser)** 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. Thomas)** 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. Thomas)** Dean Terry Blum will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the DuPree College of Management.
- (Dr. Blum)** Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the DuPree 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. Thomas)** Dean Gary Schuster will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.

- (Dr. Schuster)** **Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Sciences please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)***
- (Dr. Schuster)** **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. Thomas)** **Associate Dean Narl Davidson will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.**
- (Dr. Davidson)** **Candidates for the bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)***
- (Dr. Davidson)** **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) At this time the candidates for the master's degree will be presented by Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Charles Liotta.

(Dr. Liotta) Will the candidates for the master and Master of Science degrees please rise? *(Pause)*

(Dr. Liotta) Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting to you for the master's and master's of science degrees those candidates who have completed all requirements for those 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 master's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

(Dr. Clough) We shall now present the diplomas. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

(Dr. Thomas presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands, hooding table volunteers will hood all Master's candidates)

(Dr. Clough) Please join me in congratulating these master's graduates.
(LEAD APPLAUSE)

Dr. Liotta will also present the candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree.

(Dr. Liotta) Will the candidates for the doctoral degrees please rise. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Liotta) Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting to you for the doctoral degrees those candidates who have completed all requirements for those 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 degree of doctor of philosophy with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

Congratulations on your earning of Georgia Tech's highest academic degree. Will you please come forward and receive your diplomas.

(Dr. Liotta present diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands, and major professors step on stage to hood their students)

(Dr. Clough) Please join me in congratulating these doctoral graduates.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

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.

And to start you off on that path, I am pleased to introduce Allen Robertson, class of 1969 and president of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. Allen will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech alumni and introduce this year’s winner of the Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

(Mr. Robertson) Induction of graduates into the Alumni Association...

**(Mr. Robertson) Presentation of the Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni Distinguished
Service Award**

(Dr. Clough)

In closing, I invite all of you to join us immediately following this ceremony for a special reception honoring today’s graduates, their families and friends in The Student Center Ballroom, located just a few minutes away.

Before we begin the processional, 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. Bill Johnson for the calling of graduates' names. And many thanks go to all my associates for arranging this important event.

Also, at this time we need to acknowledge two very special people. You may think of this as the end of a millennium, but for Georgia Tech it the end of an era. Registrar Frank Roper and Associate Registrar Annette Satterfield are both retiring, and this is their last commencement to preside over the certification of degrees and the preparation and distribution of diplomas. Counting those we just distributed, Frank Roper's signature has appeared on 78,000 Georgia Tech diplomas.

Frank became the registrar in 1968, and in those days registration was done with IBM punch cards. As Frank can personally attest, it took over 300,000 punch cards to register a student body of 8,250.

Annette Satterfield was not here quite as long as Frank Roper, but the changes she helped to make were also profound. She wrote the book on the maintenance, security and integrity of electronic student records.

Frank and Annette, thank you for your many years of service to Georgia Tech and her students, and we wish both of you all the best as you enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

The faculty recessional will immediately follow the alma mater. The audience is requested to remain standing for the recessional. Then I invite all of you to join in the singing of the "Ramblin' Wreck," which will accompany the student recessional.

Thank you for your attendance this morning. And now our alma mater sung by the Georgia Tech Chorale, directed by Dr. William Caldwell!

(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.)