GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWENTY SIXTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Friday, December 15, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 6:00 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. Steve Fazenbaker Wesley Foundation at Georgia Tech
National Anthem	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
Commencement Address	Dr. Catherine Bréchignac President, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
Presentation of Doctoral Degree Candidates	Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Clough

Presentation of Master's Degree Candidates	Dr. Liotta
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, Graduates and Audience
Faculty Recessional	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
"Ramblin' Wreck"	Graduates and audience

December 15, 2006 – 7:00 p.m. (GRADUATE CEREMONY)

(Dr. Clough)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Rev. Steve Fazenbaker, director and campus minister of the Wesley Foundation at Georgia Tech. Please remain standing for our national anthem.

(Rev. Steve Fazenbaker) Reflection

(Commencement Ensemble) National Anthem

(Dr. Clough)

Please be seated. Once again, good evening. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Georgia Tech's two-hundred twenty sixth commencement exercises.

This evening we are celebrating the achievements of our graduate students who will be awarded Ph.D. and master's degrees. Then tomorrow, we will award the bachelor's degrees in two ceremonies. So if you are still around campus and enjoy if you enjoy the ceremony and pageantry of commencement as I do, I invite you to come back at 9:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.

This ceremony takes me back to when I completed my own PhD at U-Cal Berkeley. The difference between then and now is greater than simply the years that have elapsed, because when I finished in 1969 more things than just academics were happening on Berkeley's campus. To file my dissertation I had to design a travel route around the demonstrations and figure out how to avoid pockets of tear gas.

Nevertheless, I look back on my years in graduate school as some of the most intellectually stimulating and satisfying experiences of my life. Lots of great colleagues, wonderful faculty, and all of us involved in creative research.

Today you are probably feeling a great sense of relief from the stress of theses, dissertations, and comprehensive and oral exams. But for the rest of your life you will look back and value the experience of these years. And you will discover that graduate school will continue to shape your life in ways that you do not yet anticipate.

I can tell you from personal experience that the level of freedom to develop your mind and pursue your interests during graduate study is rare. The pure intensity of investigating a tough problem for days and weeks at a time and finding a solution, is intoxicating. And, if you are like me, the friends you made during this time will be life-long.

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. I know that when you got papers or 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 for all the help they received 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)

We are truly honored to have as our speaker this evening one of Europe's most renowned scientists. Dr. Catherine Bréchignac is the president of the CNRS – the French National Scientific Research Center. With 26,000 employees working in nearly 800 laboratories, it is the largest and most influential scientific organization in Europe.

Dr. Bréchignac is widely known in international scientific circles as one of the world's leading experts in atomic physics, working at the interface of nuclear and molecular physics. She was born in Paris and educated in France, receiving her Ph.D. in physics from Orsay University in 1977. She began working at CNRS as a research associate while she was still in graduate school, and after she received her Ph.D. was promoted to researcher. She became a senior researcher in 1985.

During her early years at CNRS she became a pioneer at the frontier of the new field of nanophysics, studying nano-clusters ranging in size from a few atoms to several thousand atoms. As her work became more significant in scientific circles, her career at CNRS advanced. She became scientific director of the Department of Physics and Mathematics in 1995, then director general of the CNRS in 1997.

During the early 1990s, Dr. Bréchignac began collaborating with Uzi Landman, another widely respected pioneer in nanoscience who holds the Callaway Endowed Chair of Physics at here at Georgia Tech and directs our Center for Computational Materials Science. By 2001, her extensive collaboration with Uzi Landman's group on fission processes of charged metal clusters led to an appointment as adjunct Georgia Tech professor of physics, and then distinguished visiting scholar. Her affiliation with Georgia

Tech has in turn facilitated our partnership with CNRS, which began in 1998 with the opening of a Georgia Tech Lorraine-CNRS Telecom lab on our campus in Metz, France.

Then, earlier this year, two exciting developments opened new horizons for both for Dr. Bréchignac and Georgia Tech. Last winter, Dr. Bréchignac became the first woman appointed as president of CNRS by the French government. And in the spring, a joint international research unit between Georgia Tech and CNRS was launched at a signing ceremony at the CNRS headquarters in Paris. Its research will focus on optics-based communication, innovative materials related to optics, electronics, and mechanical engineering, with an emphasis on nanotechnology and intelligent materials. The ultimate goal is industrial applications for aeronautics, automotives, biomedical engineering, and energy.

Dr. Bréchignac is a member of the French Academy of Science and the French Academy of Technology. Her honors include the French Academy of Science Prize, the CNRS Silver Medal, the Holweck Prize and Medal, and an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Berlin. She has written more than 150 scientific papers and written or edited six books. She also serves on the editorial committees of several primary scientific journals in physics.

It is a great honor to welcome Dr. Catherine Bréchignac to Georgia Tech's Atlanta campus and to this commencement ceremony. I am pleased and proud to introduce her at this time to deliver our commencement address.

(DR. BRÉCHIGNAC'S REMARKS)

Thank you, Dr. Bréchignac, for your inspiring comments. It is an honor to have you with us. At this time, it is my privilege to present you with an honorary doctoral degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology, authorized by the Board of Regents of the University

System of Georgia, in recognition of your extraordinary contributions to scientific research and in appreciation for the many opportunities your collaboration has brought to Georgia Tech.

This honorary degree reads, "The president and faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology to all to whom these presents may come – Greeting. Whereas Catherine Bréchignac has been recognized for her scholarship in the area of nanophysics and for international leadership in the scientific community, 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 Registrar of the Georgia Institute of Technology are hereto subscribed and the seal of the Institute is affixed."

(*PRESENT DEGREE*)

We have now reached the moment you all have been waiting for – the conferring of your own degrees. Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies will present the candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree.

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

(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 presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands, and advisors step on stage to hood their students.)

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

(Dr. Clough) Dr. Liotta will now present the candidates for the master's of science degree.

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

(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. Liotta presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands)

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

(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 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 graduate students. You are the scholars and technological leaders of tomorrow… the role models for future generations of aspiring scientists and engineers.

I would like to offer my personal congratulations on your accomplishment in attaining a degree from one of the top institutions of higher education in the nation. It was true for me and it will be even more true for you that your degree from Georgia Tech will open doors for you.

The cumulative effect of your accomplishments has been to help Tech achieve the highest national rankings of its storied history. So you can see that you are leaving our campus with a degree that means something special. Still, the pace of change today means that education has become a "K to Gray" activity. Anyone who does not continue to learn will be left behind, so I encourage you to never stop learning.

You are primed to be the technological leaders of tomorrow. Nurture your talents, balance your career with your family and service to your community, and you will become one of those Tech graduates we read about and brag about as great success stories. I wish you all the best in the future!

To induct our graduates into that special group of Georgia Tech alumni, 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 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 evening. Thanks also to Dr. Stuart 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 the singing of the Ramblin' Wreck, which will accompany the student recessional.

Thank you for your attendance this evening.

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