

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND NINTH
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

May 5, 2001, 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	Mr. Jacques Nasser President and CEO, Ford Motor Co.
Presentation of Honorary Degree	Dr. Clough

Introduction of
Academic Deans

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

Presentation of Undergraduate
Degree Candidates

College of Computing

Dean Peter A. Freeman

Ivan Allen College

Associate Dean Richard Barke

College of Architecture

Dean Thomas D. Galloway

DuPree College of Management

Dean Terry Blum

College of Sciences

Dean Gary B. Schuster

College of Engineering

Dean Jean-Lou Chameau

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Commission Recognition
Ceremony

Captain Barry Einsidler,
Navy ROTC

Induction into
Alumni Association

Mr. Dave McKenney,
Class of 1960 and 1964
President, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Presentation of the
Joseph Mayo Petite
Alumni Distinguished
Service Award

Mr. McKenney

Alma Mater

Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble with
Chamber Chorale

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and Audience

May 5, 2001 - 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 ninth commencement exercises. Today we are celebrating the largest commencement in Georgia Tech history, with the individual presentation of 1,580 diplomas. Fortunately, you will not have to sit through all of them. We will present the undergraduate degrees this morning, and the ceremony for graduate degrees will be held at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon.

Like thousands of graduates who have gone before, you carry with you vivid memories of this Institute and its traditions. And you can look back on some special times during your time here – stirring victories on the gridiron, which took us to our fourth bowl game in a row. Getting back into the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1996. And this spring having our baseball, golf, women's track, and men's tennis and swimming teams all ranked in the top 25 at the same time.

But the year included more highlights than sports, such as having over 2000 students, faculty and staff participate on TEAM Buzz in our all-Institute Volunteer Day...sharing each day with remarkably talented students who are serious about making a mark in this world... and proudly watching as Georgia Tech was named as one of the top ten public

universities in the land, a recognition earned as a result of the efforts of our entire campus community.

As we pause to take a look backward, it is also worth considering the value of your education here. I'm not talking about cost – your parents, who are relieved that their bank account survived your college career, can calculate the cost of your degree in two minutes or less. What I want you to consider is its value.

Some people define a university as a place where knowledge accumulates – the freshmen come in with a little and the seniors take none away, so knowledge accumulates. Fortunately for us, this is the Georgia INSTITUTE of Technology. We do not have the word “university” anywhere in our name, and we all know Georgia Tech students leave with more knowledge than they come in with.

However, in the years ahead, you will look back to May 5, 2001, as the very day you began the process of forgetting what you learned in college. The famous American philosopher, Father Guido, once said on *Saturday Night Live* that he could save you a bundle, because for only half the cost of your college tuition, he would teach you that 5 percent of a college education that people remember after they graduate.

I am sure that, being a Georgia Tech graduate, you will remember more than 5 percent of what you learned here. But for graduates of a technological university, Father Guido's words have a double meaning. These days, the shelf-life of technological information is so short that it becomes obsolete before you even have a chance to forget it.

But what exactly will remain of your Georgia Tech education after you've sold your textbooks back to the bookstore, lost your lecture notes, and forgotten the anatomical parts of the frog you dissected in that required biology class?

First, 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.

Georgia Tech is full of men and women who have an intense intellectual curiosity about new frontiers of knowledge. We hope and believe that some of that curiosity has rubbed off on you, and that you will continue to feed the fire of learning throughout your life, never allowing it to fade away to a bed of spent ashes.

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. A survey of more than 170 of Georgia’s technology CEOs indicated that what they value most in their employees is critical thinking skills. 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.” Lily Tomlin once said that 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.

In that spirit, I would like to ask all students who have participated in community service or volunteer work while pursuing their degree to please stand and be recognized.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

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)

The Ramblin' Wreck is a Model A Ford, and in addition to carrying the weight of many valued Georgia Tech traditions on its four wheels, it has also come to symbolize a growing partnership between Tech and Ford Motor Company. Tech supplies the company with engineers trained in the same computerized manufacturing systems the company uses, and the company in turn has funded scholarships, programs, and research. We are very excited about the latest iteration of our partnership – the Ford Motor Company Environmental Science and Technology Building, which is under construction less than a stone's throw from here.

This morning we are very honored to have as our commencement speaker one of the world's most powerful and best-known CEOs, who embodies virtually everything we have been telling you for the past four years about the evolving global economy.

On January 1, 1999, Jacques Nasser became president and chief executive officer of Ford Motor Company, and also a member of its Board of Directors. That was just his latest promotion in a 30-year career at Ford during which he has held leadership positions in ten countries in Europe, Australia, North America, Central America, South America, and Africa.

He also embodies the concepts of environmental sustainability that you have learned about during your education at Georgia Tech. Ford Motor Company has undertaken significant initiatives in sustainable manufacturing, including the redevelopment of its Rouge Center in Dearborn into a model manufacturing facility that will demonstrate sustainability in its design, its operation, and the products it manufactures.

In the case of Jacques Nasser, the title CEO could also stand for chief education officer, because he believes that a central part of his job is to teach his 15,000 employees where the company as a whole is going, why it is going there, and how it will get there. His goal is that all Ford Motor Company employees will understand the importance of being responsive to a rapidly changing consumer-driven market, and that all of them will experience the excitement and success that will result if they think and act from the larger perspective of company-wide goals.

Mr. Nasser was born in Lebanon and grew up in Australia where he is a citizen. He is a graduate of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. And just in case you are wondering, he speaks Arabic, Spanish, and Portuguese as well as English.

It is my privilege to present to you the president and CEO of Ford Motor Company, Jacques Nasser...

(MR. JACQUES NASSER'S REMARKS)

Thank you, Mr. Nasser. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak today and for all you and Ford Motor Company have done for Georgia Tech, I would like to present you with this special gift.

(PRESENT GIFT)

I am also privileged to bestow upon Jacques Nasser an honorary doctor of philosophy degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology as authorized by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. An honorary doctorate from Georgia Tech is a rare thing. You can count the number that have been presented in our history on the fingers of one hand. But I am pleased to present this one to Mr. Nasser in recognition of his exceptional leadership in global industry and his commitment to innovative sustainable technology.

(PRESENT HONORARY DIPLOMA)

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of degrees. Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies will introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

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

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

(Dr. Barke) 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. Liotta) 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. Liotta) 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. Liotta) 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. Liotta) Dean Jean-Lou Chameua will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

(Dr. Chameau) Candidates for the bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing.
(Pause)

(Dr. Chameau) 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.)

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

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

(Dr. Clough) Now, I would like to introduce Captain Barry Einsidler who will recognize those graduates who are commissioned to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

(Capt. Einsidler) Commission graduates

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 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.

Georgia Tech has more than 80,000 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 Dave McKenney, class of 1960 and 1964. He is chairman and CEO of McKenney's Inc. – one of Atlanta's premier engineering firms. He is also president of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, a personal friend of mine, and a great friend of Georgia Tech. Dave will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech alumni and present the Joseph Mayo Pettit Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

(Mr. McKenney) Induction of graduates into the Alumni Association and presentation of award...

(Dr. Clough)

We invite all of you to join us immediately after this ceremony for a special reception in honor of today's graduates and their families and friends. The reception will be held in the Tennis Center immediately across the street.

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. Johnson and Dr. Galloway for calling the graduates' names. And many thanks to all my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, the Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble and Chamber Chorale 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 morning.

(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.)