

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWENTY SEVENTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE GEORGIA DOME

May 5, 2007, 9:00 A.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 8:00 a.m. in the Blue/Green Room and Meeting Room 1 &2)

Processional	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
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Master of Ceremonies	Dr. G. Wayne Clough President
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Reflection	Rev. Anthony Motley Lindsay Street Baptist Church
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National Anthem	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
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Commencement Address	Mr. Jeffrey Immelt Chairman and CEO, General Electric
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**Presentation of
Master's Degree
Candidates**

**Dr. Sue Ann Bidstrup Allen
Executive Assistant to the
President**

**Conferring of
Degrees**

Dr. Clough

**Introduction of
Academic Deans**

**Dr. Anderson Smith
Vice Provost, Undergraduate
Studies and Academic Affairs**

**Presentation of Undergraduate
Degree Candidates**

**College of Computing
Dean Richard A. DeMillo**

**Ivan Allen College
Dean Sue V. Rosser**

**College of Architecture
Interim Dean Douglas C. Allen**

**College of Management
Dean Steven R. Salbu**

College of Sciences

Associate Dean Evans M. Harrell II

College of Engineering

Dean Don P. Giddens

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Induction into

Ms. Janice Wittschiebe

Alumni Association

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

May 5, 2007 - Ceremony Script (SATURDAY MORNING)

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Rev. Anthony Motley, from the Lindsay Street Baptist Church, followed by our national anthem.

(Rev. Anthony Motley)

Reflection

(Commencement Ensemble)

National Anthem

(Dr. Clough)

Please remain standing for a moment of remembrance for the faculty and students at Virginia Tech whose opportunity to celebrate at a commencement ceremony like this one was tragically snuffed out. Earlier in my career, I served as Chair of the Civil Engineering Department, then Dean of Engineering at Virginia Tech,

and I returned to Blacksburg last Friday to speak at a memorial service for the engineering faculty and students who were killed. That horrific event has had an incredible impact on the Virginia Tech campus, and it is important for Georgia Tech to show our support as that campus community gathers itself together and prepares to move forward again. Please join me in a moment of silence.

(PAUSE)

Please be seated. Once again, good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Georgia Tech's two-hundred twenty-seventh commencement exercises. This weekend we are celebrating the largest commencement in Georgia Tech history, with the individual recognition of about 2,200 graduates. We have already awarded the PhD degrees on Thursday evening, and this morning we will confer more than 2,000 master's and bachelor's degrees. So settle in and get comfortable, because this is

going to take a little while. But 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 choosing to study fields like engineering and science. But each of the graduates before us today has chosen the less traveled path, one that called for them to work hard, learn about the latest developments in fields like engineering, science, public policy, and management, and compete with some of the best and brightest our

nation has to offer. Their value was demonstrated by the corporate recruiters who came to campus to conduct close to 10,000 job interviews. I know you join me in the special pride I feel in being 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, but also on the quality of our faculty and the strength of our academic programs. Georgia Tech is known for its academic rigor, and is regularly ranked among the nation's top 10 public universities. Our library recently won the 2007 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, and we were honored with the Paul Simon Award in recognition of our growing international focus.

Not to be outdone, our women's tennis team recently broke Stanford's 89-match winning streak to win its first-ever national indoor tennis championship.

Our students have also demonstrated their ability to make a difference in the world today. Hurricane Katrina may be a fading memory for some, but hundreds of Georgia Tech students continue to offer assistance in the hardest-hit areas of New Orleans. Over Christmas break, more than 50 members of the Georgia Tech African American Student Union donned protective gear and tackled flood-damaged houses. Then during spring break, more than 500 Georgia Tech students responded to an invitation from the Christian Campus Fellowship to build a playground.

When the Southeastern Interfraternity Council recognized Georgia Tech's Greek system with eight awards – far more than any other university – three of

them were for community service and community relations. And Tech students have also lent a hand abroad, traveling to Angola to work on water problems, and designing a solar latrine for Bolivia that can be built from local materials.

I also have great confidence in the future of these young graduates because of the track record of the Tech alumni who preceded them. Just look around at the billion-dollar companies whose CEOs are Georgia Tech alumni – Wal-Mart International, Invesco, Gulfstream Aerospace, Dollar General, GE Commercial Finance, Shaw Industries, SEI Investments, and Coca-Cola Enterprises.

Beyond the business world we see alumni who have won Nobel prizes, like Kerry Mullis; who have served in the U.S. Senate, like Sam Nunn; who have walked on the moon, like John Young; and who are even 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 for 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)

GT and GE have been long-time partners. Georgia Tech has done millions of dollars in research for GE, and GE has contributed millions of dollars to Georgia Tech. At any given time, GE has 18 to 20 Tech students in co-op assignments, and many of them go to work for the company. We have about 400 alumni working for GE, and about 125 more who have retired. We also provide master's degree programs for GE employees at home and abroad.

So we were really delighted when GE CEO Jeff Immelt agreed to be our commencement speaker this morning.

The Chinese character for the word “crisis” is a combination of two symbols. One means danger; the other means opportunity. Jeff Immelt has weathered many a crisis, and he is an old hand at fending off danger while seizing opportunity. He is CEO of one of the largest corporations in the world, with revenues of \$163 billion. It is also one of the oldest corporations in the world – he is ninth in a line of succession that began with Thomas Edison, who founded GE in the late 1800s.

So his present challenge is make this giant corporation of 320,000 employees nimble and innovative enough to thrive in a global economy that moves at warp speed. GE is the also most widely owned company on the planet, which means that millions of people are betting

hundreds of billions of dollars on Jeff Immelt's success in meeting this challenge.

Jeff Immelt's dad worked for GE Aircraft Engines for 38 years. So it was only natural for him to follow in his father's footsteps and join GE in 1982, after he earned his bachelor's degree in math from Dartmouth and his MBA from Harvard. His career got off to a great start in the glitzy world of corporate marketing. Then at the end of the 1980s, he hit the first crisis. He was sent to the appliance service division of GE to direct 7,000 repairmen in fixing a problem with the compressors in 3 million refrigerators.

But he rose to the challenge, and in 1991, he was rewarded by being named vice president of GE Worldwide Marketing and Product Management. During the 1990s he held a succession of vice presidential positions at GE, each one more important

than the preceding one, and all of them laying the groundwork for the position he holds today.

He was named president and chairman-elect of GE in 2000, and he officially became chairman of the board and CEO in 2001. He was immediately faced with an enormous crisis. Not only did he have to fill the very large shoes of retiring CEO Jack Welch, who had become a business icon, but he also took the helm of GE just four days before the 9-11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon. Two GE employees were killed in those attacks, the company's aircraft engine operations slowed drastically, and GE's insurance business took a \$600 million hit. The glamour and invincibility of the Jack Welch era was over in a flash, and GE stock plummeted by 20 percent.

But once again Jeff Immelt rose to the challenge, and since then he has been successfully retooling GE for the

21st century. In 2006 and again in 2007, GE ranked number one on Fortune's list of the most admired companies.

Jeff Immelt is now focused on orchestrating all of GE's initiatives to enable the company to grow organically at a rate that is two or three times faster than the GDP for the world. It is an ambitious goal that has never been achieved by a company as large as GE.

Within the context of that growth plan, GE is aiming for greater environmental sustainability. Earlier this year, Jeff Immelt was one of 10 CEOs of major corporations who formed a climate alliance with four environmental groups. They are urging Congress to adopt mandatory curbs on carbon emissions. In addition to reducing GE's greenhouse gas emissions, Jeff Immelt plans to double both its R&D investments in clean technologies

and its revenue from products that use renewable energy.

When you are the CEO of a big company, you have to think big, which can be dangerous, but it also creates opportunities. And Jeff Immelt is the first to point out that if you seize those opportunities, you will be on the front row of history, inventing the future.

It is my honor to present GE CEO Jeff Immelt to deliver this morning's commencement address.

(MR. IMMELT'S REMARKS)

Thank you, Mr. Immelt. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak today, I would like to present you with a gift for the occasion.

(PRESENT GIFT)

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of your degrees. Dr. Sue Ann Bidstrup Allen, Executive Assistant to the President, will present the candidates for the Master's degree.

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

(Dr. Allen) 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.**

***(Walk over to diploma table: Dr. Allen presents diplomas, Dr.
Clough shakes hands)***

(Dr. Clough, return to podium)

(Dr. Clough)

**Please join me in congratulating these
master's graduates.**

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

(Dr. Clough)

At this time, Dr. Anderson Smith, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs, will introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

(Dr. Smith)

Dean Richard DeMillo will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.

(Dr. DeMillo)

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

(Dr. DeMillo)

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. Smith)

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. (*Pause*)

(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. Smith)

Interim Dean Douglas Allen will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Architecture.

(Dr. Allen)

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

(Dr. Allen)

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. Smith)

Dean Steven Salbu will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Management.

(Dr. Salbu)

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

(Dr. Salbu)

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. Smith)

Associate Dean Evans Harrell will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.

(Dr. Harrell)

Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of

Sciences please rise and remain standing. (*Pause*)

(Dr. Harrell)

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. Smith)

Dean Don Giddens will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

(Dr. Giddens)

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

(Dr. Giddens)

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 these 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)

(Walk to the table: Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands. Announcer will pause between colleges to allow the Dean time to come forward)

(Dr. Clough, return to podium)

(Dr. Clough)

Now, please join me in congratulating these fine new graduates of Georgia Tech.

(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 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 100,000 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 Janice Wittschiebe, class of 1978 and 1980. She is a partner in the firm of Richard & Wittschiebe Architects of Atlanta, and she chairs the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. Janice will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech alumni.

(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 morning. Thanks also to Dr. Johnson and

Dr. Cotille-Foley 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 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.)

PLEASE NOTE: You will recess faculty off stage first and then students will recess from their seats.