

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Dedication of the Lamar Allen Sustainable Education Building, 8/29/00

I am pleased to welcome all of you to this ceremony officially dedicating the Sustainable Education Building to the memory of O. Lamar Allen.

I knew Lamar Allen, and I can still remember the day when he came to see me with his vision for a sustainable education building that would not only showcase sustainable technology, but would itself be made of state-of-the-art sustainable building materials. This building is the expression of that vision. Its structure literally includes some 50 gifts-in-kind from building suppliers, construction companies, and others.

It took a great deal of effort to procure gifts of sustainable building materials that would fit together like a jigsaw puzzle to yield a building. And Lamar was working hard to help us procure the resources for this building when tragedy struck, and he and his teenage son Ashton lost their lives in the crash of TWA flight 800.

But Lamar had helped get the building off to a good start, and it materialized pretty much as he had envisioned it. Today the Lamar Allen Sustainable Education Buildings is a “living laboratory” for the education, research and application of sustainable technologies. It also helps foster interaction between industry and academia to provide a better education for students.

It houses a multimedia theater for distance learning activities; an electronic resource center for students and professionals; display space for exhibits of sustainable technologies in use; and research labs, computer centers and offices for the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Like many of Tech’s new facilities, the building also contains a business incubator for the transfer of emerging technologies from the lab to the marketplace.

The civil and environmental engineering units housed in this facility include the Construction Program, which focuses on sustainable materials; the Transportation Program, which looks at the environmental aspects of transport systems; and portions of the Geotechnical Program, which studies hazardous materials.

Global industrialization and new technologies of the 20th century have helped to stretch the capacities of our finite natural system to precarious levels. But engineering and its technological derivatives can also help to remedy the problem. The well-being of future generations depends on a new breed of engineer who will develop and use the sustainable technology and the benign

manufacturing processes that will simultaneously support a healthy economy and a healthy environment.

The Lamar Allen Sustainable Education Building is a visible reminder that sustainability must be an integral part of Georgia Tech's education, research, and economic development programs, as well as the operation of the campus itself. Our goal is to do more than graduate environmental engineers. Every student and every faculty and staff member needs to understand basic sustainability issues and be aware of how their personal and professional activities can help to promote a sustainable society. This building is an important resource to help us with that task.

So today we pay tribute to Lamar Allen, and express our gratitude for his vision and for his efforts which started us toward the realization of that vision in the O. Lamar Allen Sustainable Education Building.