

**STATEMENT BY DR. G. WAYNE CLOUGH
PRESIDENT, GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Heisman...Alexander...Dodd...Ross...and now Rice. Those are some of indeed select company which Homer Rice now joins. Like those other greats before him, this man has left an indellible mark on Georgia Tech.

You needn't look far to see Homer's legacy.

- The stadium upon which we're standing--Bobby Dodd Stadium at Historic Grant Field--was completely renovated in 1992 with new press boxes, new concourses underneath the stands, private boxes, and this President's box where we are gathered. The field was also resurfaced with natural turf in 1995 at a cost of \$1 million.
- The Alexander Memorial Coliseum has been completely renovated during Dr. Rice's tenure. The "ThrillerDome" today is one of the best places to watch college basketball in the nation.
- Across the street from the Coliseum is beautiful Russ Chandler stadium, opened in 1985.
- Next door to the baseball diamond is the Georgia C. Griffin track, home to such Olympic gold medalists as Derrick Adkins and Derek Mills. It opened in 1986 and was brought to world standards in 1995.
- Next to the track is the beautiful Bill Moore Tennis Center, opened in 1988.

The list goes on...the Edge Intercollegiate Athletics Center, the Hearn Academic Center, the Wardlaw Center in the south end zone of the football stadium, and of course the Homer Rice Center for Sports Performance, adjacent to the Athletic Association facilities. All are visible and lasting reminders of a man who has contributed so much to this university.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is an impressive 16-year legacy.

Homer's coaches have had pretty fair success during his tenure as well. A national championship in football; the Final Four and five Sweet 16 appearances in men's basketball; the NIT Championship in women's basketball; 14 ACC championships; three Olympic medalists in track; 17 ACC Coaches of the Year...and the list goes on.

But Dr. Rice means far more to Georgia Tech than magnificent buildings or winning records. In an age when people are becoming increasingly concerned about the direction of college and professional sports, Homer Rice and the Georgia Tech Athletic Program continue to reap some of our finest rewards off the playing field--in the successful lives of the student athletes who have come through our programs. The vast majority of the young men and women who compete in intercollegiate sports at Georgia Tech, leave here not only as better athletes, but as better people. Much of that success can be directly attributed to Dr. Rice's Total Person Concept--a program which has been copied by athletic departments nationwide. In sports, as in academics, our ultimate measure of success is how well we prepare young men and women to live and lead in an uncertain world.

Homer Rice has led by example. During his watch, Georgia Tech athletic programs have served as a model for others

nationally. I personally know this since we frequently receive requests from other schools who want to see "how we do it." Some reasons for this:

- We are one of the very few Division I collegiate athletic program which has never been on probation in any sport.

- We are one of four universities in total compliance with Title IX.

- We are the only technological university with a Division I inter-collegiate sports program. While MIT and CalTech compare favorably with us in the classroom, they literally are not in the same league with Georgia Tech athletically.

Coach Heisman has the trophy. Coach Alexander endures in the name of our basketball coliseum. Coach Dodd has a football stadium named in his honor. It is fitting, then, that a building which molds young athletes for the future--whether in sports or other pursuits--bears the name of Homer Rice.

He is leaving us with an outstanding legacy. A legacy of facilities; a legacy of competitive success; a legacy of integrity; and a legacy of wonderful student-athletes. Homer, on behalf of all of us at Georgia Tech, 'Thank You.'

While it is never possible to truly replace a Homer Rice, we will do everything possible to select a new athletic director capable of carrying on Homer's wonderful traditions, while molding a future model of success. I have appointed a search committee to review the field of candidates. The Committee

will meet next week to begin discussions of process and potential candidates.

I will rely on the recommendations of this committee, the Athletic Board, the wise counsel of ACC Commissioner Gene Corrigan, and the experienced voice of Homer Rice to make my ultimate decision. I hope that when we introduce the next Athletic Director, I will be as happy as one of my predecessors--Dr. Joseph Pettit was--when he first introduced Homer to Atlanta and Georgia Tech back in 1980.

Thank you. We'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.