

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

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen and welcome to a very special day in Georgia Tech's athletic history. Three weeks ago, I stood before many of you and announced the retirement of Dr. Homer Rice, who served this institution so well as our Athletic Director for seventeen years. Today, I am very pleased to introduce to you Dr. Rice's successor, Mr. David Braine. Dave will be only the sixth athletic director in Georgia Tech's history.

Dave Braine has an outstanding record in collegiate athletics beginning with time spent as a collegiate football player, followed by stints as a football coach, an assistant athletic director and then 13 years experience as an accomplished athletic director. For the past nine and a half years, David has been the AD at Virginia Tech where I came to know him during my tenure as Dean of Engineering there. Before I met him, David had carved out a positive reputation on campus for his efforts on behalf of improving the academic success of the students and dramatically increasing student graduation rates. By the time I left Virginia Tech in 1993, David was well on his way to rebuilding the entire athletic infrastructure there and earning respect across campus and across the country.

David has deep roots in the ACC, beginning with his days as a student at the University of North Carolina where he earned both his Bachelors and Masters degrees. While at UNC, David also played football for the Tarheels, lettering three times and participating on the 1963 Gator Bowl team.

Like Homer Rice before him, David started his professional career as a high school coach, serving as baseball and football coach in Bradenton, Florida. His first collegiate stop as a football coach was at Virginia Military Academy, followed by jobs at Richmond and then Georgia Tech in the mid 1970s. Dave is still remembered fondly by the players who were here then. Only last week I was in Savannah and met Jimmy Coleman, son of Regent Tom Coleman.

Jimmy, who played for David when he was at Tech, told me of his admiration for David's rapport with the players and his knowledge of football.

After leaving Georgia Tech, David entered the ranks of athletic administrators, first working as an assistant athletic director with our present ACC Commissioner, Gene Corrigan, while Gene was the AD at the University of Virginia. After a stop over as an assistant AD at Fresno, David was selected as the AD at Marshall University. In 1988, he became the AD at Virginia Tech, inheriting a program that was in difficulty with poor graduation rates, serious financial problems, and no conference affiliation for its football program.

Dave presided over an athletic resurgence at Virginia Tech. He led Tech into the Big East Conference in football and the Atlantic 10 for other sports. In the 1996-97 academic year, Virginia Tech won 10 conference championships in the 21 intercollegiate sports in which the University participated. In the last three years, the football team has been to three straight bowl games, including the Gator, Sugar, and Orange Bowls. The men's basketball team won the NIT in 1995 and made a NCAA tournament appearance in 1996. The women's team made back-to-back NCAA appearances in 1994 and 1995. David added three women's sports--soccer, lacrosse, and softball--and brought Virginia Tech into full compliance with Title IX.

He brought the total number of intercollegiate sports to 21 at Virginia Tech, five more than the 16 we have here at Georgia Tech. Even while expanding the sports base, he built the financial base from a deficit operation to one that has a healthy balance. Perhaps most importantly to a school with a curriculum like Georgia Tech, David's program has a current graduation rate for student-athletes of 70 percent; 12 percent above the national average for Division I schools. More than one-quarter of all Virginia Tech student-athletes have achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or better since Dave Braine became athletic director.

Others who have worked with Dave Braine over the years, have been impressed with his performance and were instrumental in helping me make the decision to hire him.

Homer Rice, who is in Bermuda today and can't be with us, has known Dave for many years and expresses strong support for his accomplishments and this appointment. Homer, who more than anyone appreciates the special nature of our programs, believes that David represents a great fit with Georgia Tech.

Gene Corrigan, the ACC Commissioner, is most pleased that David is joining the ranks of Atlantic Coast Conference AD's. Gene notes that David is known and respected by all of the AD's in the Conference. According to Gene--and here I quote him--"I congratulate Georgia Tech and David Braine. It's hard to imagine a better fit. He brings a world of experience and a reputation for good common sense and integrity to the important job of replacing Homer. The years he spent with us at Virginia and earlier at Tech certainly give him a good feel for the ACC."

I would like to thank and congratulate the Search Committee for its fine efforts. The Committee included Faculty members George Nemhauser, who chaired the Committee, Dr. Patricia McDougall, and Dr. Mark Smith; Student Member Mr. David Skinner; and Alumni Joe Anderson, Kim King, and George Mathews.

Georgia Tech prides itself on its storied academic and athletic traditions. If it is to continue to successfully compete at the top levels of Division IA intercollegiate competition, it needs a sound financial base, great facilities and the best people. Homer Rice has left Tech with a good financial base we can build on, top notch facilities, and excellent people. In David Braine, we have the leader we need to carry us into the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to present to you Georgia Tech's new athletic director, and also introduce his wife, Carole. Dave.