

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Groundbreaking, Bobby Dodd Stadium
November 23, 2001

I'm pleased to welcome all of you to this ground-breaking ceremony for the \$70 million expansion and refurbishing of historic Bobby Dodd Stadium at Grant Field.

College football arrived in the South in 1891, and one year later Georgia Tech formed its first football team, coached by a professor of mathematics. Those early teams played on the same site where Bobby Dodd Stadium and Grant Field stand today, but it was much more rudimentary in those days. The land was graded and the field created using convict labor from the local jail, and the students built wooden bleachers for the spectators.

In 1913 a prominent Atlanta businessman and member of the Georgia Tech board of trustees named John W. Grant donated \$15,000 toward a cement grandstand. The field was named for his deceased son, and it has remained Grant Field to this day.

As the years went by, the rough little field that was originally on the outskirts of town was engulfed by the growing urban hub of the South. Now surrounded by skyscrapers, it is one of the nation's most unique settings for college football. It is also the most venerable - the oldest on-campus stadium in NCAA Division 1-A athletics.

Georgia Tech is also unique in that we are the nation's only major technological university to play in Division 1-A athletics. Other institutions like MIT or Rensselaer Polytech simply do not do athletics on this scale.

But Georgia Tech is consistently ranked among the nation's top ten public universities, and we aspire to define the technological university of the 21st century. We know that an intercollegiate athletic program that is done well will make a positive contribution to our efforts and our image as an institution.

Televised athletic events provide the only opportunity that most Americans have to catch a glimpse of our campus and form an impression of our institution. So it is important to have a facility that not only serves the needs of our team and our fans, but also showcases Georgia Tech in a positive light.

Today, with the groundbreaking for an expanded, refurbished facility, we are celebrating yet another chapter in the long history of Bobby Dodd Stadium at Grant Field. Our goal is to preserve its unique historic character of this facility, but at the same time expand and renew it to serve our future aspirations as an institution.

At this time I am pleased to introduce our Athletic Director Dave Braine who will tell you more about football at Georgia Tech and the specifics of this project.