

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Introduction of Johnnetta Cole, March 23, 2000

I'm pleased to welcome all of you to Georgia Tech. We are delighted to have this opportunity to help the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Atlanta "put the pieces together."

Our keynote speaker this evening is one of Atlanta's most dynamic Big Sisters. She is also one of Atlanta's most dynamic speakers, and I know that I can't possibly do justice to her in the one minute I've been given to introduce her.

I know Johnnetta Cole from when she was president of Spelman College, and she did an outstanding job and lifted that college to a new level of excellence. Under her leadership, Spelman became the first historically Black college to earn a number one ranking in *U.S. News and World Report*.

But I can tell you from my own experience that college presidents have to spend a lot of time sitting in budget meetings, and trying to get people to donate money, and trying to get laws passed that help education, and hiring athletic coaches. And after a while, that can start to get tiresome and make you want to get back to teaching and learning. So after a decade as president of Spelman College, Dr. Cole became the Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women's Studies and African American Studies at Emory University.

She still goes to a lot of meetings for important community organizations and companies that she serves as a member of the board – like the Carter Center, United Way of Metro Atlanta, Gallaudet University, the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Council of Negro Women, Merck & Co., and the Coca-Cola Company. She was even appointed by President Clinton to his 11-member commission to celebrate Women in American History.

But these meetings sound more interesting to me than some of the meetings a college president has to go to, and Dr. Cole also gets to teach and study and do research. Most important of all, she has time to volunteer as a Big Sister.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored and proud to present to you Dr. Johnnetta Cole.