

President's Dinner Remarks

Jan, on behalf of Georgia Tech, it is an honor to accept this, the first edition of the Technique that certifiably has come from outer space. Not to take anything away from this special edition, but it was preceded by some editions of the Technique where one could only conclude that the editor's views came from a galaxy "long ago and far away."

Seriously, I am grateful for this wonderful surprise, and will add it to my collection of favorite Techniques, including the historic Olympic version. The Technique is a great part of our heritage and your contribution adds to our growing lore about it. I would also like to note that I am proud of Jan, and the other eight of her fellow Tech alums who are, or have been, members of our nation's astronaut corps. We are proud of you and all your fellow astronauts!

This evening is also special for another reason. On this 51st anniversary of Roll Call, it is a pleasure to honor those of you who are making such vital contributions to the present and future success of Georgia Tech.

I would like to say that all that has changed at Georgia Tech in those 51 years--our ascent in national rankings, the growing number of world-recognized faculty, even the improvements to the physical campus itself--have been the result of its visionary, intellectual, and, of course, good looking...presidents.

But I cannot.

Instead, the credit goes to those who truly make the Institute great- its faculty, students and most of all, its alumni. Those who believe in the Institute...those that looked to the left and looked to the right and indeed, got out!...those who ran in the Freshman Cake Race, survived drownproofing, lived through dozens of 2 to 5 labs, lived to say they looked back fondly on calculus and profs like Boot Camp Bailey, and rode, marched, or cheered in the Ramblin' Wreck Parade, ...those who know that "the Hill" has nothing to do with our nation's capital, and that Rose Bowl Field is not in California, but on our campus....those who continue to spend cool Fall nights in Georgia cheering on their favorite football team....who continue to insist that the Varsity is a culinary experience second to none... and finally, those who have... "Gotten out," but never gotten over their love of Georgia Tech.

Those individuals...you...deserve our thanks and our appreciation.

Because of you, Georgia Tech's Capital Campaign is more than a year ahead of schedule and has raised almost \$280 million.

Because of you, the achievements of our students are enhanced through the scholarships you support and the endowments you provide.

Because of you, Georgia Tech is able to sustain a \$600 million budget--with only \$140 million of that coming from the state.

Because of you, today's students will be tomorrow's leaders...

And, finally, because of you, Georgia Tech will continue to provide the nation's best technological education well into the next millennium...

Thank you for all you do!

Now, before I turn the program over for the fun and games part of the evening, I have one piece of unfinished Tech business. Some 40 years ago a young Tech student from South Georgia dutifully took all his courses and worked at Georgia

Power as a co-op student. He completed all of his requirements for the co-op degree but one – he was not provided with a final report form and this was not filed. A few months ago Ma Tech rectified this error and he was provided with the form. Like all good Tech students, he filled out his form, and tonight, we can all share in a special moment while I award Michael Tennebaum, IE class of '58, and now resident of Malibu Beach, California, his official co-op degree. Michael will you please stand and your degree will be delivered. Now Michael can go out and get the real job he always wanted and give up all that crazy investment and venture capital stuff! Michael congratulations!

Now lets welcome the band!

Band begins playing Ramblin' Wreck and Buzz enters. You are joined on stage by Alumni dignitaries.

After song ends, close the evening:

Thanks again for coming and enjoy the rest of your evening!