

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWENTY FOURTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE  
GEORGIA DOME

May 6, 2006, 9:00 A.M.

Processional	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble Dr. Frank Clark
Master of Ceremonies \ Reflection	Dr. G. Wayne Clough President Rev. Meghan Jones
National Anthem	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
Commencement Address	Mr. Bernard Marcus The Marcus Foundation
Presentation of Doctoral Degree Candidates	Dr. Anderson Smith, Vice Provost, Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Clough
Presentation of Master's Degree Candidates	Dr. Smith
Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Clough

Introduction of  
Academic Deans

Dr. Smith

Presentation of Undergraduate  
Degree Candidates

College of Computing

Associate Dean Merrick I. Furst

Ivan Allen College

Dean Sue V. Rosser

College of Architecture

Dean Thomas D. Galloway

DuPree College of Management

Dean Terry Blum

College of Sciences

Associate Dean Evans M. Harrell II

College of Engineering

Associate Dean Jane Ammons

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Commission Recognition  
Ceremony

Col. Terrance McCarthy  
Airforce, ROTC

Induction into  
Alumni Association

Mr. J. William Goodhew III, class of 1961  
Chairman, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble and Chorale

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and audience recess

May 6, 2006 - Ceremony Script

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please rise for the reflection by Rev. Meghan Jones from the Lutheran Center at Georgia Tech, and remain standing for our national anthem.

(Rev. Jones)

Reflection

(Commencement Ensemble)

National Anthem

(Dr. Clough)

Please be seated. Once again, good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Georgia Tech's two-hundred and twenty-fourth commencement exercises. This morning we are celebrating with 2,168 students and their families who have survived the rigors of a Georgia Tech education. One hundred thirty-two of you will receive PhDs, then 598 master's degrees will be awarded, followed by 1,438 bachelor's degrees. So please get comfortable, because this is going to take a little while. But there is nothing quite like it, and it is one of my favorite activities as president.

All of these talented young people have received a technology-oriented education that is increasingly valuable and rare among the thousands of graduates from our nation's universities. Each of them will be a key resource in helping our nation remain great for the future.

As you know from news reports, our nation is at risk of falling behind in the global economic competition, because too few of our young people are choosing to study fields like engineering and science. But each of the graduates before us today has chosen the less traveled path, one that called for them to work hard, learn about the latest developments in

fields like engineering, science, and management, and compete with some of the best and brightest our nation has to offer. I know you join me in my special pride in being among them on this day.

The world around us is changing rapidly, and these young graduates have been educated in what is required to address the challenges and solve the problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This assessment is based not only on their talents and academic achievements, the quality of our faculty, and the rigor of our academic programs, but also the track record of the Tech graduates who preceded them.

Just look around at the billion-dollar companies whose CEOs are Georgia Tech alumni – Wal-Mart International, Invesco, Gulfstream Aerospace, Dollar General, GE Commercial Finance, Shaw Industries, SEI Investments, and Earthlink. Beyond the business world we see alumni who have won Nobel prizes, like Kerry Mullis; who have served in the U.S. Senate, like Sam Nunn; who have walked on the moon, like John Young; and who are even well known entertainers, like John Salley, Jeff Foxworthy, and Phil Gordon – who is not only a successful business man but also holds a world poker title and is seen on TV advising others on when to hold ‘em and when to fold ‘em.

You, today’s graduates, are the recipients of that same education. You are the inheritors of those same traditions – including the ability to think clearly on just a few hours of sleep a night, an abiding appreciation for chili dogs from the Varsity, cheering on the Yellow Jacket athletic teams, pulling all-nighters during “dead week,” and being gently awakened by the sweet sound of the Whistle or a little jack-hammering on the latest construction project.

As we celebrate the completion of this phase of your life today, we hope and believe that the knowledge and skills you carry with you from our campus will continue to shape and influence your lives in ways you cannot yet even imagine. And we look forward to seeing

you step to the fore to provide the technological and ethical leadership our nation and world will need in the days ahead.

We hope and believe you have learned to rise to a challenge... to be creative in solving problems... to adapt to change, and even to anticipate and provoke it. These abilities will stand you in good stead your whole life long.

Most importantly, we hope and believe that here at Georgia Tech you have learned that the goal is not merely to “have more,” but also to “be more.” As Lily Tomlin once noted, even if you win the rat race, you’ll still be a rat. And we hope and believe that you set forth from this day, prepared not only to live in the world, but also to help make it a better place.

Today, as we celebrate the successful conclusion of one chapter of your lifelong education, it is important to acknowledge that you have not done it alone. With you every step of the way – at least in spirit – were your parents and for some of you, your spouses, who made all the difference in your success. The faculty and staff of Georgia Tech and our graduates would like to thank parents and spouses for your support. Would you please stand so that we may recognize you.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Additional support for our graduates came from our outstanding Georgia Tech faculty. I know that when you got your tests back you did not always feel loved by the faculty, but today they are here to testify that you earned their respect. So now is the time for all of our graduates to say thanks to all the help they received over time from the faculty and I would like to ask the faculty present today to rise and be recognized.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Of course, those who deserve the most recognition on this momentous day are the graduates, who entered this room a few minutes ago as students and who will leave as

Georgia Tech alumni. Would all of you please stand so that we may recognize you and your achievement?

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

The life story of our commencement speaker this morning sounds like a Horatio Alger novel. Today, we know the ending to this story is one of great accomplishment, but the journey deserves telling for us on this day, for we all can learn from it. Bernie Marcus was born during the Great Depression to Russian immigrant parents who had come to the United States without knowing a word of English. He grew up in the housing tenements of Newark, New Jersey, where he learned early on from the school of hard knocks about living by his wits.

That was just the first indication of Bernie Marcus's remarkable ability to persevere, overcome the odds, and turn what some would consider an impossible situation into a personal success. He earned a degree in pharmacy from Rutgers University and soon was half-owner of a pharmacy in Millburn, New Jersey. He used this retail experience as a spring board to land the cosmetics concession at a store called Two Guys, which was a forerunner of today's discount superstores. To get that concession, he promised unheard-of sales, and then delivered on his promise. He was soon put in charge of additional product areas and eventually was supervisor for \$1 billion worth of business. Unfortunately, when the owner of the Two Guys chain died, the company was sold to outsiders, and Bernie Marcus found himself out of a job. He was 38 years old and had to start over.

By working both hard and smart, he became the vice president of the Daylin Corporation. Daylin was the parent company of a home improvement retail chain called Handy Dan, of which Bernie became president and chairman of the board. It was there that he met Arthur Blank, and the result of the positive chemistry between them was outstanding business performance.

In fact their performance was so exceptional that it far outshone the rest of the Daylin Corporation, straining relations with the parent CEO to the point where both Bernie Marcus and Arthur Blank were fired. So Bernie had to start over again, but he saw opportunity where many might have seen only adversity. During his years at Handy Dan, he had developed an idea for a new kind of home improvement store. He envisioned a huge warehouse filled with reasonably-priced products that were sold to customers with the help of trained sales associates. And, you guessed it, an orange motif. He and Arthur Blank set out to make that vision a reality.

On June 22, 1979, the first Home Depot store opened here in Atlanta, and the rest, as they say, is history. The Home Depot revolutionized the business, and today it is the world's largest home improvement retailer – an international company with more than 2,000 stores and more than 345,000 employees.

In 2002, Bernie Marcus retired as chairman of the Home Depot board and became director emeritus. He now focuses his considerable talents on giving back to his community. Among the many beneficiaries of his leadership and philanthropy are The Shepherd Spinal Center, The City of Hope, The Marcus Jewish Community Center, the Centers for Disease Control, and Business Executives for National Security. He and his wife Billi also founded the Marcus Institute to serve the needs of thousands of children and adolescents with brain disorders.

But his most significant gift to the community is one that reflects Bernie Marcus's unique ability to think big and then make it happen. It also reflects his life long love both of learning and of our planet's oceans and the creatures in them. We know a lot about it because it is right down the street, between the Georgia Dome and the Tech campus.

The \$290 million Georgia Aquarium is the largest aquarium in the world and houses 125,000 animals representing 500 different species – including the inimitable Ralph and



Norton, two huge whalesharks, who as teenagers are still growing. What adds to our pride in this accomplishment is the fact that walking every step of the way with Bernie was Tech alum Jeff Swanagan, who is the executive director of the Georgia Aquarium – Jeff Swanagan, please stand. While Jeff is proud of working with Bernie, he is even prouder of his son, Brian, who is graduating today.

Typical of a Bernie Marcus project, the Georgia Aquarium had to stop selling season passes before it even opened because more than 290,000 had been purchased. It welcomed its one millionth visitor on March 1<sup>st</sup>, less than 100 days after it opened. I hope many of you have had a chance to visit the Georgia Aquarium. It is simply spectacular and has brought positive attention to Atlanta from around the world. And, as Bernie predicted, it is more than an attraction, because its design offers outstanding educational programs for thousands of students and an opportunity for Tech biology faculty to conduct research. It also enhances the economy of Atlanta and Georgia, as it brings scores of visitors to Atlanta and causes many of those who come for other reasons to stay an extra day.

And now it is my great pleasure to welcome one of America's most outstanding business leaders and one of Georgia's most generous philanthropists to provide parting words of wisdom for our graduates as they prepare to leave Georgia Tech. Bernie Marcus...

*(MR. MARCUS'S REMARKS)*

Thank you, Bernie. To show our appreciation to you for spending the morning with our graduates and sharing your insights with them, I would like to present you with this special gift.

*(PRESENT GIFT)*

We now come to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of degrees. At this time Dr. Anderson Smith, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic

Affairs will present the candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

(Dr. Smith) Will the candidates for the doctoral degrees please rise.

(Dr. Smith) Dr. Clough, I have the honor of presenting to you for the doctoral degrees those candidates who have completed all requirements for those degrees.

(Dr. Clough) Upon the recommendation of the faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology and by authority of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I confer upon each of you the degree of Doctor of Philosophy with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

Congratulations on your earning Georgia Tech's highest academic degree. Will you please come forward and receive your diplomas.

*(Dr. Smith presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands, and advisors step on stage to hood their students.)*

(Dr. Clough) Please join me in congratulating these doctoral graduates.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Dr. Clough) At this time Dr. Smith will present the candidates for the master's degree.

(Dr. Smith) Will the candidates for the master and Master of Science degrees please rise?

(Dr. Smith) Dr. Clough, I have the honor of presenting to you for the master's and Master of Science degrees those candidates who have completed all requirements for those degrees.

(Dr. Clough) Upon the recommendation of the faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology and by authority of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I confer upon each of you the master's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

(Dr. Clough) We shall now present the diplomas. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

*( Dr. Smith presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands)*

(Dr. Clough) Please join me in congratulating these master's graduates.  
*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

(Dr. Clough) Dr. Smith will now introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor's degree.

(Dr. Smith) Associate Dean Merrick Furst will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.

(Dr. Furst) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Computing please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Furst) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the

requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Smith) Dean Sue Rosser will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the Ivan Allen College.

(Dr. Rosser) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the Ivan Allen College please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Rosser) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Smith) Dean Thomas Galloway will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Architecture.

(Dr. Galloway) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Architecture please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Galloway) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Smith) Dean Terry Blum will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the DuPree College of Management.

(Dr. Blum) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the DuPree College of Management please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Blum) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Smith) Associate Dean Evans Harrell will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.

(Dr. Harrell) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Sciences please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Harrell) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Smith) Associate Dean Jane Ammons will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

(Dr. Ammons) Candidates for the bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*

(Dr. Ammons) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the bachelor's degree and the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for those respective degrees.

(Dr. Clough) Upon the recommendation of the faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology and by authority of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I confer upon each of you the bachelor's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities

hereunto appertaining.

(Dr. Clough) Please be seated. We will now award the degrees. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

*(College of Computing candidates will come forward, then IAC, Architecture, Management, College of Sciences, and College of Engineering. Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands. Announcer will pause between colleges to allow the Dean time to come forward.)*

(Dr. Clough) Now, please join me in congratulating these fine new graduates of Georgia Tech.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

(Dr. Clough) Now, I would like to introduce Colonel Terrance McCarthy, from the Air Force ROTC, who will recognize those graduates who are commissioned to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

(COL McCarthy) Commission graduates

(Dr. Clough)

Near the close of the 1800s, an aspiring young writer sent a sheaf of poems to the foremost American author of the day to be critiqued. Ralph Waldo Emerson read the manuscript, which was entitled “Leaves of Grass” and was destined to become one of America’s best-loved volumes of poetry. And he wrote back to the young Walt Whitman: “I greet you at the beginning of a great career.”

As I look out over this sea of newly minted young Georgia Tech alumni, I echo his words. I greet you at the beginning of a great career. As of this moment, you are no longer merely students. You are the technological leaders of tomorrow... and the role models for future

generations.

Georgia Tech has more than 120,000 living alumni around the world, including some who are here today, and I would like to ask all Georgia Tech alumni to stand at this time and be recognized.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

To induct our graduates into this special group, I would like to present Mr. William Goodhew, class of 1961 and chairman of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. Bill is the former CEO of Peachtree Software and is currently a vice president at Intelligent Systems. And he says that he got the most important jobs he has held in his career through Georgia Tech alumni. Bill will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech alumni.

(Mr. Goodhew)                      Induction of graduates into the Alumni Association.

(Dr. Clough)

I would like to express my appreciation to the Georgia Tech Music Department for their participation in our program this morning. Thanks also to Dr. Johnson, Dr. Cothran, and Dr. Choy for calling the graduates' names. And many thanks to all my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, the Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble will lead us in the alma mater, followed immediately by the faculty recessional. The graduates and the audience are requested to rise for the alma mater and remain standing for the faculty recessional. Then I invite all of you to join in the singing of the Ramblin' Wreck, which will accompany the student recessional.

Thank you for your attendance this morning.

*(At the end of the alma mater, the mace bearer will be the first one off the stage. Dr. Clough will immediately follow then the remainder of the President's Party, Deans, and Faculty.)*