

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND FIFTEENTH  
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

May 3, 2003, 9:00 A.M.

(Faculty and President's Party will assemble at 8:00 a.m. in the Hyder Room, second level of the Coliseum).

Processional	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble Dr. Frank Clark
Master of Ceremonies	Dr. G. Wayne Clough President
Reflection	Mrs. Denise Shepard-Moss Episcopal Chaplain for College Ministries
National Anthem	Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble
Commencement Address	The Honorable Elizabeth Dole United States Senate
Introduction of Academic Deans	Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

Presentation of Undergraduate  
Degree Candidates

College of Computing

Assistant Dean Maureen Biggers

Ivan Allen College

Dean Sue Rosser

College of Architecture

Dean Thomas D. Galloway

DuPree College of Management

Associate Dean Lee Caldwell

College of Sciences

Dean Gary B. Schuster

College of Engineering

Dean Don P. Giddens

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Commission Recognition  
Ceremony

Col. James Stevens,  
Air Force, ROTC

Induction into  
Alumni Association

Mr. Robert Hall  
Class of 1964,  
President, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Brass Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and Audience

May 3, 2003 - Ceremony Script (UNDERGRADUATE)

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Denise Shepard-Moss, Episcopal Chaplain for College Ministries, and remain standing for our national anthem.

(Mrs. Denise Shepard-Moss)                      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 fifteenth commencement exercises. Today we are celebrating the largest commencement in Georgia Tech history, with the individual recognition of more than 2,000 graduates. Fortunately, you will not have to sit through the whole thing. We will confer almost 1,350 undergraduate degrees this morning, then hold a separate ceremony at 3:00 p.m. to award about 700 graduate degrees. Now, if any of you really enjoy graduations you are more than welcome to join us in the afternoon. Our speaker will be Dr. Julie Gerberding, the Director of the Center for Disease Control.

Graduations are wonderful occasions, and offer us a chance to reflect on things that are lasting. Like thousands of graduates who have gone before, each of you will carry with you vivid memories of this Institute and its traditions. The Tech Tower, the Rambling Wreck, climbing the Hill, football games on sunlit Saturday afternoons at Bobby Dodd Stadium, pulling all-nighters to prepare for exams, and being gently wakened by the sweet sound of the Whistle.

These traditions go back a long way, but we also share pride in more recent ones, like Team Buzz Day when 2,000 students, faculty and staff volunteer to help the less fortunate and beautify our city...and watching as our bright and talented students received national scholarships with storied names like Rhodes, Truman, British Marshall, Churchill, and Fulbright. These new traditions reflect a Georgia Tech that is on the rise. One that will continue to increase the value of your degree over time. And as our influence and our opportunities for leadership increase, so does the value that we should place on a caring attitude for the society which we serve.

During your time at Georgia Tech, we experienced the largest terrorist attack on American soil and were dismayed by the widespread economic damage that resulted from unethical behavior by corporate leaders. For Georgia Tech, those experiences are a sobering reminder of our ongoing responsibility and commitment to create the technology and educate the leaders needed to address the problems we face. They are also a reminder of the importance of character and of integrity in the ways we use our talents and resources.

As you celebrate the completion of this phase of your life today, we hope and believe that Georgia Tech has given you the education and skills you will need to provide the technological and ethical leadership our nation and the world will need in the days ahead.

Georgia Tech is full of men and women with an intense intellectual curiosity about new frontiers of knowledge. We hope and believe that some of that curiosity has rubbed off on you, and that you will continue to feed the fire of learning throughout your life. 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. The critical thinking skills we hope and believe you have gained here at Tech are a valuable resource that will stand you in good stead your whole life long.

Most importantly, we hope and believe that you have learned that the goal is not merely to “have more,” but also to “be more.” Lily Tomlin once said that 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 and papers back you did not always feel loved by the faculty, but they are here today 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 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. We are proud of all of you, and especially those who have shown an extra measure of courage to reach this day.

Among your number is William Palmer, who was closing in on graduation in 1999, but was involved in an auto accident that left him in a coma. After four weeks, his parents were told he had a 5% chance of surviving. A week later William woke up and through hard work and long rehabilitation returned to school. Later when back at school, he had

another tragic setback to his health that again took him to death's door. But William, like all Tech graduates, does not give up easily, and he overcame the long odds against him to come back yet again to earn his Tech diploma. It is going to be my honor to award William, and all of the graduates in attendance, their hard earned degrees today, and I would like to offer all here in attendance the opportunity to recognize them as a group with a round of applause.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Over the course of the past year we have been celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first women to enroll at Georgia Tech. And one of the most enlightening aspects of our celebration has been to see the many ways in which the same women who overcame barriers here at Georgia Tech have continued to set new precedents after they graduated. So this morning it is very appropriate that our commencement speaker is a woman who has not only been a trail blazer, but has done it through a life based on commitment to public service and the betterment of society.

Among the “firsts” on her resume are the first woman to hold a cabinet level post in the federal government – in fact she has held two – and the first woman to serve as president of the American Red Cross since the organization's founder, Clara Barton, held the position in 1881. As a result, her name has been appearing regularly for more than a decade on lists of the world's most admired women assembled by pollsters and magazines.

Elizabeth Hanford Dole was born in North Carolina and majored in political science at Duke University, where she was Phi Beta Kappa. After graduating with distinction, she studied at Oxford University, then headed for Harvard. There she first earned a master's degree in education and government, then enrolled in Harvard Law School.

In law school, she found herself in the same position as early women students at Georgia Tech – she was one of 24 women in a class of 550. She later recalled a male student asking

her why she was taking up space in the class when so many men wanted to attend who would actually use their degree. However, few of her male classmates subsequently parlayed their degrees into a career of public service as noteworthy as hers.

After receiving her law degree in 1965, Elizabeth Dole began a public service career that has spanned the administrations of five Presidents. She started in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the administration of President Lyndon Johnson, then moved to the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, serving as deputy assistant director under Richard Nixon for four years. In 1973, President Nixon appointed her to the Federal Trade Commission, where she served for five years.

In 1983, she became the first woman in American history to serve in a cabinet post when Ronald Regan appointed her Secretary of Transportation. She used this opportunity to become an outspoken leader for increased transportation safety. Her accomplishments include air bags and that brake light in the back window of your car. She also spearheaded the campaign to standardize the drinking age nationwide at 21.

Her second cabinet post came when the first President Bush appointed her Secretary of Labor, enabling her to provide a fresh perspective on the nation's workforce through the eyes of a woman. She hired women and minorities to fill more than half of her own senior staff and initiated the "Glass Ceiling Study" to call attention to the barriers facing women and minorities. Her goal was to issue a wake-up call to businesses, alerting them that, as she put it, "the next 'fair-haired boy' of their organization just might be a woman." She also advocated increased attention to workforce skills for youth and helped to resolve a coal strike that lasted almost a year.

When Elizabeth Dole became president of the American Red Cross in 1991, this most famous of all humanitarian agencies was troubled by reports that tainted blood was infecting recipients with AIDS and hepatitis. So she initiated a \$287 million revamp of the



blood supply system, standardizing testing and consolidating 53 blood-testing labs into eight regional testing centers. It was a task she later compared to “changing the tires while the car is running.”

In 2002, Elizabeth Dole began a new phase of her career as one of the nation’s leading public servants. She was elected to the United States Senate from her home state of North Carolina, and is now one of just 14 women among 100 Senators. As a member of the Armed Services, Banking, Agriculture, and Aging committees, she is focused on growing the economy and creating jobs, strengthening national security, improving education, and making quality healthcare more affordable and accessible.

It is my great pleasure to welcome our commencement speaker, the Honorable Elizabeth Dole, Senator from North Carolina.

**(SENATOR DOLE’S REMARKS)**

Thank you, Senator Dole, for your inspiring comments and for honoring us with your presence today. At this time, it is my privilege to present you with an honorary doctoral degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology, authorized by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, in recognition of your extraordinary and precedent-setting contributions to public service in the United States. I would ask our Provost, Dr. Chameau, to assist with the hooding ceremony.

***(PRESENT HONORARY DEGREE)***

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of degrees. Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor’s degree.

- (Dr. Chameau) Assistant Dean Maureen Biggers will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.
- (Dr. Biggers) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Computing please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Biggers) 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. Chameua) 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. Chameau) 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. Chameau) Associate Dean Lee Caldwell will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the DuPree College of Management.
- (Dr. Caldwell) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the DuPree College of Management please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Caldwell) 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. Chameau) Dean Gary Schuster will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.
- (Dr. Schuster) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Sciences please rise and remain standing. *(Pause)*
- (Dr. Schuster) 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. Chameau) Dean Don Giddens will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.
- (Dr. Giddens) Candidates for the bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing.  
*(Pause)*
- (Dr. Giddens) 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.)*

(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 James Stevens who will recognize those graduates who are commissioned to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

(Colonel Stevens) Commission graduates

Dr. Clough:

Near the close of the 1800s, a young man sent a sheaf of poems to the foremost American writer 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.”

And 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.

I am confident each of you will make us proud of your accomplishments and we look forward to learning of them. As you leave us behind, we will continue to work to improve this remarkable institution on your behalf and that of those who will follow in your footsteps in days to come.

As we come to the close of this ceremony, you are about to join the ranks of more than 100,000 living Georgia Tech alumni around the world, including some who are here today. This group will be part of your life long network, so I would like to give you an opportunity to meet some of them by asking all Georgia Tech alumni in the audience to stand at this time and be recognized.

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

Among the alumni who are here is Robert L. Hall who retired a few years ago from a career of more than 30 years with IBM. He is now a senior consultant at Executive Strategies, Inc., and recruits mid- and senior-level managers for a variety of industries. He is also the president of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association and will induct our new graduates into this special group.

(Mr. Hall)

Induction of graduates into the Alumni Association.

(Dr. Clough)

We invite all of you to join us immediately after this ceremony for a special reception in honor of today's graduates and their families and friends. The reception will be held in the Tennis Center, directly across Fowler Street.

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 and Dr. Foster 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 remain standing for the faculty recessional. Then I invite all of you to join in singing 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.)*