

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TWO HUNDREDTH AND SEVENTEENTH  
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM

DECEMBER 13, 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 Rev. Mary Armstrong-Reiner Campus Minister, Lutheran  
Campus Ministry

National Anthem Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

Commencement Capt. John W. Young,  
Address Associate Director, Technical  
NASA Johnson Space Center

Presentation of Dr. Clough  
Honorary Degree

Presentation of  
Doctoral Degree Candidates

Dr. Robert McMath, Vice Provost  
for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Presentation of  
Master's Degree  
Candidates

Dr. McMath

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Introduction of  
Academic Deans

Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Presentation of Undergraduate  
Degree Candidates

College of Computing

Dean Richard DeMillo

Ivan Allen College

Associate Dean Richard Barke

College of Architecture

Dean Thomas D. Galloway

DuPree College of Management

Dean Terry Blum

College of Sciences

Associate Dean Anderson Smith

College of Engineering

Associate Dean J. Narl Davidson

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Clough

Induction into  
Alumni Association

Mr. L. Thomas Gay, Class of 1966  
President, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble and Chorale

Faculty Recessional

Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"

Graduates and audience recess

December 13, 2003 - Ceremony Script

(Dr. Clough)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Rev. Mary Armstrong-Reiner, Campus Minister of the Lutheran Campus Ministry, and remain standing for our national anthem.

(Rev. Armstrong-Reiner)

Reflection

(Commencement Ensemble)

National Anthem

(Dr. Clough)

Please be seated. Once again, good morning. Welcome to Alexander Memorial Coliseum, normally home to the exciting Yellow Jacket men's and women's basketball teams, but today the site of Georgia Tech's two-hundred and seventeenth commencement exercise, featuring the largest fall graduating class in our history. That is notable for many reasons, but it also means we all need to get comfortable. Our practice is to honor each and every one of our wonderful graduates and you are going to have plenty of time to enjoy this ceremony! However, we do plan to complete things in time for the tip off of men's basketball game this afternoon at 12:30 in case any of you are going to rush on downtown to cheer the Jackets to another victory.

This morning we are celebrating with 1,450 students and their families the completion of that value-added process known as a Georgia Tech education. One hundred twenty will receive PhDs, 500 the master's degree, and 830 bachelor's degrees.

What this means is that 1,450 talented people with an education that is increasingly valuable and rare among the thousands of graduates from our nation's universities, are going forth to help our nation remain great. At this time of year television broadcasters

bless us with innumerable opportunities to view that old classic, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” in which an angel shows a businessman played by Jimmy Stewart how badly the world would have fared without his efforts.

This oft-old tale gives us another way to appreciate what is happening today. Think what our city, state, and nation might be like if this class did not exist. How much would not be built in the coming years? What businesses would not be created, or what inventions would not improve the lives of countless people? What kind of civic contributions would not be made? The things not done would diminish our economy, our communities, and our lives. Truly, an education from Georgia Tech uniquely allows you and us to make a difference, and we all will be the better for it.

But as you prepare to leave our campus, there are many things that you graduates will carry with you from Georgia Tech – the ability to think clearly on just a few hours of sleep a night, for example, as well as an abiding appreciation for chili dogs from the Varsity and a great sense of relief that no one is likely to ask you again about constrained optimization or vector analysis. Like thousands of graduates who have gone before, you will carry with you vivid memories of this Institute and its traditions – the Tech Tower, singing the “Ramblin’ Wreck” at football games in Bobby Dodd Stadium, pulling all nighters during “dead week” to study for exams, and being gently awakened by the sweet sound of the Whistle or a little jack-hammering on the latest construction project.

These traditions go back a long way, but we also have a few newer ones, like Team Buzz Day where 2000 students, faculty and staff participated in our all-Institute volunteer day 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, and Fulbright. These new traditions reflect a Georgia Tech that is on the rise, which will increase the value of your degree over time. And as our influence and our opportunities for leadership increase, so does the value that we place on a caring attitude

for the society which we serve.

During your years at Georgia Tech, we experienced the largest terrorist attack on American soil and were dismayed by the unethical behavior of corporate leaders. And we are still trying to counter the impact of these events in our life as a nation. For Georgia Tech, those experiences were a sobering reminder of our ongoing responsibility and commitment to create the technology and educate the leaders needed to address the problems we face.

At the same time, however, the Georgia Tech community also has been uplifted by stories of incredible courage and spirit like that of Kathryn Smith, who graduates today with highest honors despite going through seven organ transplants during the six years she has been enrolled here at Tech.

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 this 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.

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. In addition to a knowledge of your discipline, 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.

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 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)*

It is a great honor and pleasure to welcome one of Georgia Tech's most auspicious and distinguished alumni to campus to deliver this morning's commencement address. Captain John Young launched his career as one of the nation's leading astronauts at the age of six when he began building model airplanes. After graduating from Georgia Tech in 1952 with highest honors in aerospace engineering, he joined the Navy. The Korean War was

underway, so he spent his first year on the west coast destroyer USS Laws before heading to flight school.

After he set a number world flying records, he was chosen as a member of our nation's second group of nine astronauts. And he was the first of this group to be selected for a mission. His first space flight was in 1965 with Gus Grissom aboard Gemini 3 – the very first manned Gemini mission. He made history on that flight – not only as the first person to operate a computer in space, but also as the first person to smuggle a corned beef sandwich onto a space flight.

John Young's first Apollo mission came in 1969, when he served as Command Module pilot on Apollo 10, which conducted the dress rehearsal for the first moon landing. Later he had command of Apollo 17, which landed on the moon, and he and Charlie Duke became the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> persons to walk on the surface of the moon. The two of them drove around for 16 miles in a Lunar Rover, collecting over 200 pounds of lunar rock to bring back to earth. While he was on the moon, John Young learned that NASA was going to go ahead with plans for the Space Shuttle, and in 1981 he became the first commander to take the Shuttle into space and return it safely to earth – the first winged re-entry vehicle to land on a runway.

His sixth space flight – more than any other astronaut before him – was in 1983, when he served as commander of the first Spacelab mission. On this flight, a six-man crew worked around the clock in 12-hour shifts for ten days to complete 94 flight test objectives and perform more than 70 experiments in a wide range of scientific disciplines. Fortunately, he had been well prepared for the demands of such a challenging schedule by attending Georgia Tech. They brought back to earth more scientific and technical data than all previous Apollo and Skylab missions combined. They also brought back the Spacelab itself, so that the Space Shuttle Columbia weighed over 110 tons when John Young skillfully landed it at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In the years since then, John has served NASA in a number of capacities. Today he is Associate Director, Technical for NASA's Johnson Space Center, where he is responsible for technical, operational, and safety oversight of all programs and activities. He is also still considered an active astronaut and remains eligible to command future Shuttle crews.

I am pleased and proud to introduce Captain John Young to provide parting words of wisdom to our graduates before they leave Georgia Tech.

*(JOHN YOUNG'S REMARKS)*

Thank you, John Young, 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 space exploration and of the honor you have brought to your alma mater.

*(PRESENT HONORARY DEGREE)*

We also want to show our appreciation to you for spending the morning with our graduates and sharing your insights with them, by presenting 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. Robert McMath, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs will present the candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree.

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

(Dr. McMath) 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 of Georgia Tech's highest academic degree. Will you please come forward and receive your diplomas.

*(Dr. McMath presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands, and major professors step on stage to hood their students.)*

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

*(LEAD APPLAUSE)*

(Dr. Cough) Dr. McMath will present the candidates for the master's degree.

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

(Dr. McMath) 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. Liotta presents diplomas, Dr. Clough shakes hands)*

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

(Dr. Clough) Now, 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) Dean Richard DeMillo will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.

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

(Dr. DeMillo) 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 Richard Barke will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the Ivan Allen College.

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

(Dr. Barke) 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) 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. Chameau) Associate Dean Anderson Smith will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.

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

(Dr. Smith) 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 J. Narl Davidson will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

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

(Dr. Davidson) 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)

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 100,000 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)*

Among the alumni who are here is Thomas Gay. He graduated with IM degree in 1966,

