Ward O. Winer
Eugene C. Gwaltney, Jr. School Chair and Regents’ Professor

Celebrating almost four decades of dedicated service to Georgia Tech and the Woodruff School (1969 – 2007)

3:30 p.m. Food and good conversation
Please sign the guest books
Pick up a copy of mega tech

4:20 p.m. Introductions

4:25 p.m. Dr. Wayne Clough, President

4:30 p.m. Dr. Don Giddens, Dean of Engineering

4:45 p.m. Woodruff School Faculty and Staff Tribute

5:00 p.m. Woodruff School Faculty and Staff Presentations

5:10 p.m. Dr. Ward Winer, Woodruff School Chair

5:20 p.m. Introduction of family and guests

SEARCH BEGINS FOR A NEW DIRECTOR
A search is underway for a new director of the School of Mechanical Engineering, the seventh in the institution’s one hundred year history. In the interim, Regents’ Professor Ward O. Winer has assumed leadership as acting director following the departure of Dr. John A. Brighton. Dr. Brighton assumes the role of dean of the College of Engineering at Pennsylvania State University. ‘The School of Mechanical Engineering is in good hands during this period,’ said Dean William M. Sangster, dean of engineering, in announcing Winer’s appointment. ‘We are fortunate to have someone in this position with Professor Winer’s qualifications, energy, and interest in continuing the School’s forward movement.’

The Search Committee, which Sangster also appointed, includes Professor Gene Colwell, chairman; Professors William Black, Wayne Rook, David McDowell, and Allan Pierce, mechanical engineering; Professor Said Abdel-Khalik, nuclear engineering-health physics; Robert Hill, ME Alumni Professional Advisory Board; Sharon Jadrnak, graduate student; and Valerie Harrill, undergraduate student.

An April 1 deadline for applications and nominations for the position was announced in national engineering and educational journals. The Committee will screen the current list of more than one hundred names and select six to eight candidates for campus interviews. ‘The process usually takes about a year from the appointment of a committee to the time when a new director actually takes office,’ said Professor Colwell, who also chaired the School’s 1981-82 search. ‘We expect to have our recommendations ready for Dean Sangster by fall, but it’s hard to predict the exact timing.’

[This article is reprinted from the Spring 1988 issue of mega tech]
For this special issue of me, people were asked to respond to the following question: Please describe something noteworthy that Ward has done during his 38-year career at Georgia Tech. Responses were received from current staff and faculty, retired faculty, other School Chairs.

TOSHI AKAWA (Ph.D. student of WOW, 1992):
My life as a student and working at a law firm in Atlanta is always with Georgia Tech and Dr. Winer, since 1989 when I came to Atlanta. The experiments for my Ph.D. were not conducted at Georgia Tech, but at Texas A&M. One day, I showed Dr. Fletcher’s paper to Dr. Winer, and he immediately made arrangements so that I could make a two-week trip to Texas A&M. It was very efficient and the trip was fun. It was all thanks to Dr. Winer.

PAUL ALLEN (BME 1987), General Manager, Sparton Industries:
What I think was noteworthy about Ward Winer was how a man in his position made time for me and really listened to the things that I felt were important to me as an alum, as a recruiter, and as a corporate partner. I know he had numerous demands on his time and attention and yet I never felt that when I interacted with him. I believe that he represented the school well and am thankful to have had the pleasure of working with him.

SCOTT BAIR (Ph.D. student of WOW, 1990), Principal Research Engineer:
When I first employed here in the tribology group at Tech, Ward was involved in many aspects of tribology. The field of elastohydrodynamic lubrication (EHL) was just beginning to make progress in understanding the mechanisms of film formation and friction (traction) in full-film high pressure contacts. As much as thirty years ago, Ward insisted that the field of elastohydrodynamics would only advance further through experimental investigations of the unique behavior of liquids at very high pressures under well controlled conditions outside of the lubricated contacts. He coined the term, primary measurements, to describe these experiments. Within the last few years, the first significant progress has been made toward discovering the connections between material properties and contact behavior through the primary measurements which Ward proposed. Yet another significant contribution to tribology has been the Wear Control Handbook, edited by Ward and Marshall Peterson and published by ASME.

TOM BARROW (BME 1948), Member of the Woodruff School Advisory Board:
A group of people in the HVAC industry wanted to contribute to developing interest and educational opportunities in our industry for ME students. Ward suggested we endow a chair and gave it his support. He allowed Caroline Wood, the development person for the ME Department, to work on the project. It took several years, but Georgia Tech now has and running the John McKenney-Warren Shiver Distinguished Chair in Mechanical Building Systems. This means that many young people at Tech will be better trained for the HVAC industry. Thank you, Ward.

YVES BERTHELOT, Professor and President of Georgia Tech Lorraine:
Ward has made a real difference by launching ME’s involvement at Georgia Tech Lorraine in 1997 and giving it full support over the years. This program has had a profound impact on the lives and education of hundreds of students and many faculty members who have greatly benefited from it. He has consistently supported the mission of Georgia Tech Lorraine, often with funds allocated to support some students. Ward, you have been great to Georgia Tech Lorraine. When you come to Metz for a visit, I’ll treat you to a good bottle of red wine!

WAYNE BOOK, HUSCO/Ramirez Chair of Fluid Power and Motion Control:
One of the most significant changes in Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech in the time I have been on the faculty has been the establishment of endowed chairs, enabling the faculty holding those chairs to pursue topics that may not be immediately viable for extramural funding. The first of these chairs evolved from the George Woodruff gift. Ward Winer has been instrumental in obtaining the additional chairs that have been instituted during his term as School Chair.

One opportunity evolved from the willingness of Mr. Ramirez to make a major donation to Georgia Tech, his alma mater. But he was a graduate of Aerospace Engineering, and the nature of his gift was to support the field of fluid power where his financial success was based. Fluid power had been largely ignored by academia in the United States and the industry faced significant challenges when it came to recruiting qualified engineers and creative engineering students. It is a delicate dance between a potential donor like Gus Ramirez with a strong sense of where his money can be most useful, and the academic leader who might accept that money and commit it to support faculty who would be committed to that area. Accepting money in a terminally stagnant field might not only be embarrassing, but could commit the School to an obsolete mission. Ward and the Development Office managed the opportunity patient and skillfully, with an outcome that is fruitful today for all involved. With Dr. Winer’s encouragement the endowment was committed to fluid power and motion control, not to fluid power alone.

I call this the tale of two chairs. The McKenney-Shriver Distinguished Chair in Building Mechanical Systems is another case where patience and negotiation produced a versatile definition for a position that meets both the donor’s need for addressing an issue and the university’s need to be forward looking in its research directions. Ward seems to do this effortlessly, but I think it must be a well hidden effort. Or perhaps it is just one of his natural talents. In either case, ME’s the winner with Winer.
A school of technology was established in Atlanta in 1885. In October 1888 the Georgia School of Technology opened its doors and admitted its first engineering class. 125 mechanical engineering students enrolled in Tech's first degree program. As part of their education these early students worked at trades such as forging, wood working, machining, and mechanical drawing. The products of these shop exercises were sold to the public to produce income for the School.

The first Head (starting in 1889) and Professor of Mechanical Engineering was John Taylor Corr, a graduate of Cornell University and a charter member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He held this position for 59 years until his retirement in 1923. For eighty years the mechanical engineering curriculum has been a mechanical engineering program that emphasized design, mathematics, and problem solving. Prominent here was a senior thesis, which was an experimental laboratory project emphasized in the curriculum. This curriculum was given to higher mathematics, theoretical science, and original research. The experimental project requirement survives today as the capstone experimental course.

The notion that an engineer was a technical master first and a business man second permeated the curriculum of Georgia Tech at the turn of the century. Nevertheless, the School specified that teams of five students would design a working prototype and functionally test for businesses in Atlanta and experiments using campus facilities. Practical projects at local businesses became a significant part of the educational process at Georgia Tech, especially after the Cooperative Program officially began in 1912. This continues to be the largest optional program of its kind in the country. About forty percent of all mechanical engineering undergraduate students at Georgia Tech are involved in the program. In addition, there is a Graduate Co-op Program, an International Co-op Program, an Undergraduate Professional Internship Program, and a number of study-abroad programs for students to gain international experience.

Tech graduated its first two students, with bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering, in 1890. The first MSME was awarded in 1902, and a doctoral program was added in 1946. The first MS degrees were awarded in 1925, and the first Ph.D.'s were granted in 1930. Georgia Tech was the renamed the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1948. Women were admitted in 1952, and the campus was voluntarily integrated in 1952. In 1949, the Department of Mechanical Engineering officially became the School of Mechanical Engineering with its own director and administrative staff. In 1985 the School was named in honor of distinguished Atlanta business and civic leader, the late George W. Woodruff (class of 1897).

Today, the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering is the oldest and second largest of the ten divisions in the College of Engineering at Georgia Tech. Our enrollment includes 275 undergraduate students and 700 graduate students. Currently, we have programs in mechanical engineering, nuclear and radiological engineering, medical physics, paper science and engineering, and bioengineering. We offer nine degrees: two in undergraduate studies (BSME and BSNER) and seven in graduate studies (MS, MSEE, MSME, MSEMS, MSBE, MSBE, and the Ph.D.).

Currently, sample courses of instruction in mechanical engineering include: engineering graphics, mechanics, computing techniques, creative decisions and design, systems dynamics and control, dynamics of rigid bodies, and mechanical design. Our students work in teams of five, often including engineers, engineering materials, thermodynamics, and mechanics, mechanics of materials, experimental methods, heat transfer, machine design, systems lab, energy systems, manufacturing processes, experimental engineering, and capstone design.

Research and teaching in the Woodruff School is directed by a distinguished group of 50 faculty, 26 full-time research engineers and scientists, and five academic professionals. Also, many of our graduate students are employed as research assistants and are an integral part of this technical community. Faculty work in all the traditional and cutting-edge areas of mechanical engineering—mechanics and design, automotive and mechanics, bioengineering, computer-aided engineering and design, fluid mechanics, heat transfer, combustion, and energy systems, manufacturing, mechanical materials, MEMS, and robotics. Faculty projects are supported in the Nuclear and Radiological Engineering/Medical Physics Division in research, fusion, and medical physics. In 2005-2006, Woodruff School research teams conducted work on more than 474 grants and contracts from government and industry.

Since 2000, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers recognized the Woodruff School as a Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site. 25 landmarks, sites, and collections, are the only educational institution with this honor, which was granted for the basic that mechanical engineering education at Georgia Tech had on the South and the nation. Graduates from Georgia Tech have always had a hand in helping to shape the study and advancement of society in the South. This is true today as it was 10 years ago when Georgia Tech began to take students and educate engineers to help the Southern states and the Civil War. Today's rigorous engineering curriculum allows our students to have an lasting impact on the global society.

JON COLTON, Professor

I have always been taken by Ward's interest in the professional success and recognition of others. In 1985, I came from MIT to Georgia Tech as a new assistant professor in Mechanical Engineering. Soon after arriving, Ward approached me and stated, without any preface as he is wont to do, that my thesis advisor, Nam Suh, and a good friend, Ernie Rabinowicz, both professors at MIT, were not fellows at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He continued that this was a shame and that I should do something about it. So I did, with help and guidance from Ward. The nominating process went quite smoothly. The candidates had no knowledge, so as to surprise them, and involved obtaining their CV's and a number of nominations, all the time trying to maintain secrecy in a field - the academy - where nothing is secret. We were successful as both nominations were approved and both new fellows were surprised and thrilled. One later thanked me, saying that "a little bird" told him that I was involved. I don't know who the "little bird" was, but I have my suspicions.

GENE T. COLWELL, Professor Emeritus

I had the good fortune to meet with Ward when he interviewed for the Mechanical Engineering Department Chair position at Tech. I hired him, but I have my suspicions… .

RICK COWAN (MSEE & PhD, student of WOW, 2000)

Research Engineer

In 1994, Professor Winer responded to a Department of Defense call for proposals to engage in basic and applied research in technologies that would minimize the impact and occurrence of critical failures in mechanical systems. Areas to be addressed included non-destructive inspection techniques, micro-sensor design, signal processing and data fusion methodology, material failure characterization, and useful life prediction. As a result of his vision, the $9.3M proposal was one of the first funded under what has become known as the MURI program, a five-year Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative designed to enhance the capabilities of universities in performing research that is critical to national defense. In his role as Principal Investigator, Professor Winer directed the research and funding of nearly 50 investigators from three universities, leading to the submission of over 80 refereed publications, 150 presentations, three filed patents, and over 15 graduate students in an aspect of Integrated Predictive Diagnostics.

STEVE DANYLUK, Morris M. Bryan, Jr. Chair in Mechanical Engineering for Advanced Manufacturing Systems

It’s hard to resist not making a smart-alecky comment to the question of whether the contribution Ward made to Georgia Tech in his 18-year career. The answer of course is that he hired me. I arrived in January of 1993 and, looking back on the past fourteen years, I feel I have succeeded in creating an exciting and stimulating environment for my colleagues and students. It is difficult to believe that the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering has existed for over 100 years. It has been a great pleasure to be associated with this institution and to continue to build on the past accomplishments of my predecessor, Ward, for many years to come.

NAIL DAVISON, Professor Emeritus and Retired Director of Engineering for Administration

It’s not easy to decide on one thing that has distinguished Ward’s career at Tech; he has done so many things well. From my perspective, Ward has been a model school chair; he has hired great faculty and chosen his staff well; his operation is as well organized as any on campus; he has developed and made great use of the school’s physical facilities; and he has given his attention to all of the school’s functions—education, research, service both internal and external, and development. The one area of Ward’s operation that particularly fascinates me is the use of his foundation funds. Since the Woodruff endowment gives ME the largest share of CoE’s foundation funds, lots of folks joke about ME’s wealth. But large assets mean great responsibility, and Ward has certainly shown himself to be a responsible steward of those funds. He has applied them to great effect in every area of his operation. I would bet that every employee and student of ME has benefited from some program Ward has promoted using ME’s foundation funds. And the Woodruff School as a Mechanical Engineering Heritage Site. Of the 225 research and funding of nearly 30 investigators from three universities, leaving a significant legacy of over 80 refereed publications, 150 presentations, three filed patents, and over 15 graduate students in an aspect of Integrated Predictive Diagnostics.
NORMA FRANK, Academic Advisor

1. Tremendous growth of the faculty and staff.
2. Extraordinary increase in the number of graduate students.
3. Consistent top-ten rankings of the graduate and undergraduate programs in U.S. News & World Report.
4. Introduction of the Woodruff School Distinguished Lecture, the Gegenheimer Lecture on Innovation, the Distinctedumus Award, the Jack Zeigler Outstanding Educator Program, and the Frank K. Webb Program in Professional Communication.
5. Expansion of academic programs available to students such as Georgia Tech Lorraine, GT Savannah and the MS degrees in distance learning.
6. Continued growth in numbers and quality in the undergraduate mechanical engineering and the nuclear and radiological engineering programs.
7. Outstanding support from the Institute and from alumni and friends, resulting in the growth of endowments to the School.
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9. Extraordinary increases in the size and quality of every program in the School.
10. Extraordinary growth in distance learning programs.
A BRIEF WOWSTORY

JOHN GRAHAM, Machine Shop Manager

Dr. Winer spoke of and acted to support the manufacturing and technical areas here in the school, both with regard to research and the teaching of Mechanical Engineering curriculum and maintaining support of funded research. These areas included a large commitment of funding support both to the Lab and the Machine Shop. I feel his commitment has led directly to a higher qualified Mechanical Engineering graduate. It has also allowed for a higher level of support of funded research, which in turn allows for greater funding of graduate students.

IZHAK GREEN, Professor

Ward was first and foremost one of the forefathers of modern tribology. His work on thermal phenomena in tribology, as well as rheology of thin lubricating films is seminal, even by today's standards. His achievements have a global impact.

Ward Winer built a "service organization" within Mechanical Engineering that was based on the highest degree of professionalism and commitment to supporting those ME faculty and students on the front line of education, research, and service. He has also helped to identify the right individuals, creating positions for them to maximize their potential, providing them with the proper resources, and creating an expectation of excellence that has inspired their third generation of ME faculty and ME managers to visit ME with the goal of understanding their structure and finding ways to bring it into SAE. We accomplished that goal to a high degree. Nevertheless, under Ward's leadership, ME did not stand still in this regard and, in my opinion, maintained its status as the finest 'service organization' in Georgia Tech.

YOGENDRA JOSHI, Associate Chair for Graduate Studies and of Mechanical Engineering

In 2003 Ward helped establish an International Graduate Research Assistantship (IGRA) program to enable a limited number of financial aid offers to outstanding international students in the PhD program. The IGRA program provides a two-year matching contribution toward a research assistantship to an outstanding international applicant. No more than one awardee can work at any given time with one faculty member. Despite a difficult budgetary climate, Ward saw value in initiating this program, initially created with Dr. Bill Black as the first recipient.

In 2005 Ward was named to the Eugene C. Gwaltney, Jr. Chair in Manufacturing. The outstanding mid-career scientist in his or her lifetime would be considered a great honor. He clearly was such a scientist.

For the first time, a 'WOW' day was celebrated at Georgia Tech.

Dr. Winer approved the first-ever fall event for all Woodruff School students.

The Woodruff School Oustanding Classified Staff Award was endowed with a full-time program coordinator.

The Woodruff School Distinguished Alumnus Award was established.

The ME and NRE curricula undergo a complete change for the second semester.

The ME and NRE program became an autonomous unit in the Woodruff School.

The ME and NRE curricula undergo a complete change for the second semester.

The campus in Metz, France opened. The Georgia Tech Lorraine Foundation was formally created with Dr. Bill Black as the first recipient.

The Love Family marked the 50th anniversary of J. Enskine's graduation by creating a $5 million endowment for the Woodruff School.

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Not only did I admire his skills, but also his rather warped sense of humor. I particularly was impressed by his imitation of an Indian accent which, when used on the phone, made me believe that we had a student from India whom I had not met! With this background and for better or worse, we formed a research team.

Ward was a person of great humility. He humbly modestly his achievements and he became in today's vernacular, a "person of interest." Not only did I admire his skills, but also his rather warped sense of humor. I particularly was impressed by his imitation of an Indian accent which, when used on the phone, made me believe that we had a student from India whom I had not met! With this background and for better or worse, we formed a research team.

Knowing Ward to be a person of great humility. I almost hesitate to write about Ward because he is so modest about his accomplishments. What is it that sets him apart? First, his analytical skills. In the end, the 80-page analysis in his thesis expanded my own research on three-dimensional boundary layer flows by using three-dimensional curvilinear coordinate systems. It was tough reading! But most important, the last part of his thesis was a masterpiece of experimental design. His test equipment was original and verified theoretical results to perfection. I could say more, but I would summarize it by simply saying that Ward was the best graduate student in my entire career at Georgia Tech.

Over the years, Ward and I have never lost touch. Our most recent exchange concerned his desire to play a bagpipe! In the future he would like to be known as MacWiner. But for now, Ward's career is going in a different direction and I shall end by saying, as I have to every student on the day of graduation, "Gouldspeed and good luck!" I only wish that I were there to shake your hand.
We now have activities in nine different buildings on campus. Four of the buildings contain the vast majority of the space and all are new since 1992, thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Over the past few years, enrollment in both our mechanical engineering and nuclear and radiological engineering programs has more than doubled as students recognize that we are now the largest mechanical engineering, and probably the largest nuclear engineering program in the country, and the largest undergraduate program at Georgia Tech. The student quality of students that we attract has never been better.

I have been asked what I consider my greatest success as chair of the Woodruff School. Without hesitation, I would say it is the fact that we have been able to hire excellent faculty and staff. It is those people who attract outstanding students, which results in outstanding alumni, which in turn makes the reputation of the school.

The position of chair in the Woodruff School has changed a great deal since I started in 1988. At that time, the secretary handled all the mail, opening and dealing with most of it before it ever got to me. Today, very little mail comes in as hardcopy. Virtually all of it comes in as email, and it is enough to overwhelm a person trying to keep up with it. Another very big change over the past twenty years is the level of scrutiny and self-evaluation that takes place in the academic world. The reappointment, promotion and tenure process is much more structured and rigorous. We now have periodic peer review in which tenured faculty are evaluated every five years. The quality and evaluation of teaching has increased significantly over the past two decades, and I am pleased to say, based on student evaluations, that teaching is very good. Another thing that has changed over the years is my ability to accomplish a number of things. I think, for the first ten years, but then it began to taper off because of the chair workload. I graduated my last Ph.D. student about two years ago. The job of chairing a school of this size makes it difficult to maintain a personal research program and do a good job of caring for the school.

Although we have accomplished a lot, I am disappointed that there are a number of ideas that I have not been able to implement. We have not been able to establish a faculty development endowment of $1,000,000 to support study leaves for faculty. We have a start on the way to do this. We are also thinking of perhaps having an endowed Chair Program that would allow for a faculty development endowment to maintain the personnel and activities that I envision for this program. We were fortunate enough to secure two, one million dollar charitable remainder trusts from two very supportive alumni for this program, but it will be several years before the money becomes available.

I am very optimistic about the future of the Woodruff School. We are on a roll. We have outstanding faculty, staff, and students and are in a very important area of technology for the future. Many of the important technology issues facing society will be solved by control engineers, mechanical engineers and nuclear engineers. I am confident that our faculty will keep their focus on good classroom teaching, graduate student mentoring, and pursuing cutting edge frontier research.

In closing, let me say that I am very pleased to have played a role in the growth of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech. I have enjoyed my time on the faculty and particularly my time as chair of the school. It has been an honor to serve in this role. I look forward to the growth and the contributions that the Woodruff School in the future.

Thanks for your support. Cheers!

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Thanks for your support. Cheers!
Among many of his accomplishments, it is worth noting that Dr. Ward Winer was instrumental in maintaining the Georgia Tech nuclear engineering program despite the difficult times of the 1980s and early 1990s. He was also instrumental in the recruitment of the new medical physics program. The MP program is very successful and continues to grow. The NRE program is now one of the largest in the country. We owe many thanks to Dr. Winer for the excellent job he has done in supporting all of the initiatives that have led to the success of these two programs. I enjoyed working with Dr. Winer since I joined Georgia Tech in 1992. I particularly enjoyed our close collaboration on the reorganization and resurgence of the NRE program since 2002. He has been an excellent friend and colleague. I wish him best wishes on his retirement.

ROBERT M. NEREM, Parker H. Petit Distinguished Chair for Engineering in Medicine

In 1987 I joined Georgia Tech as an untutored full professor, having been appointed to the Parker H. Petit endowed chair in the School of Mechanical Engineering. I had known Ward Winer from ASME activities prior to my arrival at Georgia Tech, and I knew that he was an international leader in the field of tribology. It thus was not surprised when Ward was elected in 1988 to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). At the time the announcement was made of those elected in 1988, I was in Geneva, Switzerland at a World Health Organization meeting. I learned of the election when in the middle of the night I was awakened by the phone ringing in my hotel room. It was Ward telling me that I had been elected to the NAE. When I asked how he knew, he said that we both had been elected. After congratulating each other, I went on to say that maybe my election to NAE would help me get tenure. Ward countered with ‘Well I wouldn’t place too much significance on this.’ Nevertheless, it was an honor to be elected, and Ward and I were inducted together in October 1988. In spite of an honor whose significance was down played by Ward, I did get tenure the following year, I am sure with Ward’s support. Since then I have had 20 exciting years at Georgia Tech, however, I personally would not “place too much significance” on Ward’s retirement. It is Mary, his wife, his better half, and an individual who herself has done much for the Woodruff School, that should be in our thoughts. We no longer have to put up with Ward, and now she will

RICHARD F. SALANT, Georgia Power Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering

When I joined the Woodruff School at Georgia Tech in September 1987, I thought I was going to be part of the Fluid Mechanics Group. However, Dean Sangster told me that he decided I was now a tribologist, but that is another story. The positive side of this decision was that I would now be in the group led by the world famous tribologist, Ward Winer. I had never met Ward, but I knew of him by reputation as one of the leaders of the field, who had made important contributions in every sub-area from elastohydrodynamic lubrication to theology to wear. I really looked forward to working with this legend. So you can imagine my surprise when, six months later he took on the job of Acting Director of the Woodruff School and the following year, Director. I could not understand how a reputable and accomplished faculty member could descend down to the level of a mere administrator.

In the years since, I have learned that Ward became somewhat of a legend himself as an administrator, although he has done that job well. He has been a decision maker, an inspirer, an enabler, an adviser, and an ambassador of the Woodruff School to many different worlds. I personally especially value his role as adviser. He could always be totally trusted to tell you the unvarnished truth. He never had a hidden agenda. And, he always came up with a good solution to a seemingly unsolvable problem, whether it involved negotiating through the Byzantine network of Tech’s bureaucracy or dealing with a difficult student or sponsor related problem. So, while the world of tribology may have lost the full time attention of an outstanding researcher, the faculty, students, staff, and administrators of Georgia Tech gained an irreplaceable leader.
JEFF STREATOR, Associate Professor

Ray Vito, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies

Ward has had a long and successful career and it is not possible to acknowledge all of his contributions and for which he has been the architect behind moving mechanical engineering up in the national rankings. A huge part of our success is Ward’s excellent judgment in hiring and promoting the best faculty and in expanding our research portfolio into new and exciting areas. I think this accomplishment will be a big part of his legacy.

ROGER WEBB, Retired Chair, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

It has been a pleasure and an honor to know and work with Ward over the course of his career at Georgia Tech. He has had a long and especially distinguished career, and has made major and significant contributions in research, in education, and in program development and management. It is in the latter category where I am most familiar and where some of his more significant and enduring contributions have occurred. I would simply call attention to the number ‘four,’ which is where the Georgia Tech College of Engineering is lodged in the ranking hierarchy of graduate engineering programs. During the course of Ward’s tenure as School Chair, that number has steadily decreased from double digits to four, and that fact is directly attributable to the outstanding job that he has done in moving mechanical engineering up in the national rankings. Ward has steadfastly dedicated himself to developing and sustaining a mechanical engineering program of highest quality and standards. He has been a strong voice in promoting similar standards across the College. He has been a tireless, highly visible and highly effective advocate for Georgia Tech in the greater community of engineering education. A direct result is the number four, in which Ward should take pride of significant accomplishment.

BILLY WEPER, Professor and Associate Provost for Continuing and Professional Education

Two things immediately come to mind. First was Ward’s effectiveness in supporting Woodruff School during the RPT process. His votes, letters, and comments always carried considerable weight. Ward’s successful advocacy of Woodruff School initiatives was amazing, and there will never be another Woodruff School chair who will have as much impact as Ward, as measured through the quality growth of faculty, students, and programs. He has been a key part of the success story of Woodruff School in the last 25 years. However, contrary to this observation, Tech in general, and ME in particular, have gone up, universities are certainly bureaucracies, and if I recall my sociology, by definition, that means not everyone is treated the same in specific individuals. However, I know of no case – not even close – where the good work of any faculty, whether in the form of students or in the form of research, has not been recognized by the university. We have been fortunate in having a Chair who has been effective in advocating for the faculty and students and who has been very successful and highly effective in the administration of the school.

JOHN TICHY (Ph.D. student in WOW, at UM, 1970) Professor, REMERIS, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn

When I was a freshman at Georgia Tech, the Woodruff School was led by John Brighton, and in the interim, Neal Davidson. It was during those years that the gto motorsports team was bedazzled by the sight of Paul Allen to represent Georgia Tech at the Formula SAE competition. The gto motorsports team was about three years old when Ward Winer was chosen to lead the school. After struggling unsuccessfully to find an advisor to attend the 1990 competition, Dr. Winer volunteered to act as the advisor for the team at the competition in Michigan. Dr. Winer saw the need for real support and assistance rather than just the permission to go to exist. That year the team took 2nd place in the Detroit competition overall. Since then, Dr. Winer has been an advocate of forming new student competition groups, the Woodruff School faculty, and the establishment of the Student Competition Center.

ARNIE & CONNIE STANCELL, Professor Emeritus, School of Chemical Engineering

When we first met Ward we wondered where he saw his career. He saw it in students. As we got to know him we realized that in a WOW, an accomplished professor who has been honored for his technical accomplishments as highlighted by election to the National Academy of Engineering, the fund raising efforts of all the student competition groups, and the establishment of the Student Competition Center.

DAVE SABRIN, (Ph.D. student of WOW at UM, 1969) Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies

I am in a unique position of having known Ward for 42 years. He was my PhD mechanical engineering advisor at Michigan and has been my colleague at Georgia Tech and my mentor and friend. I was on the faculty at Georgia Tech from 1969-1977 and from 2003 to the present. I have seen a major change in the School during the time that I was there is absolutely amazing and I give him much of the credit. Ward has had a number of accomplishments and is well known within and outside of Georgia Tech. He has achieved the respect of his colleagues and associates by complete dedication to the task at hand and by his ability to work with his students and subordinates, but he demands the same from himself. He has strived continuously for excellence in his teaching, his research, and his leadership positions. Ward has dedicated most of his professional career to Georgia Tech. We will try to carry on the work that he has done, but he will be sorely missed.

YUKI SHIMAZAKI, (Ph.D. student of WOW, 1985)

Ward led me to complete my Ph.D. program which I never thought I would