

Remarks by President Michael F. Adams
Redcoat Band Practice Complex Dedication
November 5, 2009

Good evening. I want to welcome all of you here this evening. I'm a little bit embarrassed to be turned this way, talking to this crowd, because the real stars of the show are right here behind me. We're here today to dedicate this field for the Redcoat Band, and it couldn't have been a more beautiful day. With Homecoming weekend, it's the perfect time to do this.

I don't have to tell all of you that the Redcoats are one of the most highly visible representatives of the University of Georgia. And I believe even as the Red & Black is now running a series of stories on UGA traditions, the Redcoats are one of the greatest traditions that we enjoy.

This is the latest in a series of student-centered facilities that we've been able to dedicate in recent months. It began with the development of the residential and dining complexes on East Campus, where there's now another new residence hall under construction. In the spring, we dedicated the new intramural and club sports complex on South Milledge. In August we dedicated the Greek Park on River Road and cut a ribbon on renovations at the Ramsey Center. The start of this semester, we dedicated the expansions of the Tate Center and the University Health Center. All of these things are designed to enhance the outside-the-classroom experience for students at the university.

While what happens in the classroom and in the laboratories is of paramount importance at a great university, I believe that the other experiences that happen with students outside the classroom is what they're likely to remember the most through their lifetimes.

We have a number of special guests here today who have come to share this special occasion with us. I want to introduce them and ask them to stand as a group and remain standing until all have been introduced. Arnett Mace, the senior vice president for academic affairs. Tim Burgess, the senior vice president for finance and administration. Tom Landrum, the senior vice president for external affairs. Tom Jackson, the Voice of the Redcoats and the vice president for public affairs. Dean Laura Jolly, the dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Dean Dan Nadenicek, the dean of the College of Environment and Design. Our local State Representative Doug McKillip is here with his wife, Mary. And we're always glad, because they're part of the family and always will be, to have former School of Music Director Don Lowe here with us. Join me in welcoming all these special people. (applause)

There are two other people that I want to introduce to you today because they are among the Redcoats' greatest fans. First, I want Rodney Bennett to stand. Dr. Bennett is the vice president for student affairs. And let me tell you, there are no more contentious issues on a university campus than space – and who gets it. And the person who worked through long hours and all the details and who deserves more credit for making this happen than any other administrator, and who is a great advocate for the students, is Dr. Bennett. And secondly, I'm going to do something I don't normally do – I'm going to introduce my favorite former majorette, my wife Mary Adams, whom I met forty years ago and who is the greatest fan of this band. She said to

me before we got here, “If you don’t brag on them properly tonight, don’t come home.” But Mary Adams is here, and Rodney Bennett, join me in welcoming both of them. (applause)

We have three speakers on today’s program, and I want to introduce them and ask them to take the podium in this order. First, Dr. Dale Monson. Dale was appointed the director of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music in January of this year. He has brought to UGA a great energy and, I think, a quality that all new hires really bring, and that is to see the place through a fresh set of eyes. Dale was the director of the school of music at Brigham Young when we hired him – one of the most prestigious music schools in the country. He holds a bachelor’s degree in clarinet performance, a master’s in music theory and orchestral conducting from BYU, and a doctorate in historical musicology from Columbia. He has served on the faculties of the University of Michigan, Penn State, and BYU. He’s widely published in the field of 18th Century Italian opera, and is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. I want us first to hear in just a moment from Dr. Monson.

He’s going to be followed, as he properly should, by two of the real stars of the show – two members of the Redcoat Band. The first is Katie Rogers. Katie is a senior from Gainesville majoring in music education. She is president of the UGA chapter of the collegiate music educators national conference, co-historian and music chair of Kappa Kappa Psi, a national honorary band service fraternity. She plans to teach music in elementary school after she graduates.

And finally, Christina Swoope is a senior from Alpharetta. She majors in microbiology and pre-pharmacy, and I know many of you who are such great musicians in this band are not music majors like she, and yet you spend countless hours like she in helping entertain us and honing your craft throughout the year. She is events chair for the Student Alumni Council, secretary of the Russell Hall Community Council, a member of the national residence hall honorary among many other activities. We’re used to seeing Christina at halftime on the football field as she is drum major in the Redcoat Band, but Saturday we’re going to see her in a different role, because she’ll be representing the Redcoats in the Homecoming Court. (applause) After graduation, she plans to enroll in pharmacy school or pursue a master’s in public health, with an eye toward a career in health law.

In that order, Dr. Monson, followed by Katie and Christina. Join me in welcoming Dr. Dale Monson.