

Remarks by Dr. Dale E. Monson
Dedication of the Redcoat Marching Band Complex
November 5, 2009

I would like to thank the many individuals, offices, and organizations from around the university who made this field and this event possible. From the Hugh Hodgson School of Music we are indebted to Dr. Donald Lowe, the former Director of the School, and to Dr. Bill Davis, retired Associate Director, for their vision and leadership. From the Redcoat Band, I am grateful for the direction provided by Dr. Michael Robinson, Dr. John Lynch, and all the others who work them in support for this legendary band. It was the direction and help provided by President Adams, Vice-Presidents Rodney Bennett, Tim Burgess, Tom Landrum, and Provost Arnett Mace, and others, that helped us to succeed in such a wonderful way. I am grateful to the grounds crew for making everything so beautiful and yet so functional. And most of all, of course, I wish to thank all the present and past members of the Redcoat Band who have helped in so many ways, inspiring and building this process through to its conclusion. I want to thank those on the Alumni Board in particular—Laura Stanley, John Colegrove, Lee and Linda Butts, William Owens, and many others—for their dedication and hard work. I salute all the present students now on the field.

This field is the culmination of a tradition. What we enjoy today is what happens when you set in motion, in such a distinctive way, the values, achievements, strengths, and qualities of the university's brightest and most talented. This field was built on the same principles and in the same way, in the same process, as the Redcoat Band prospers each Fall—it is the product of individual achievement, made possible by the teamwork and cooperation of all. Just as the strong individual musicianship and discipline of each member of the band joins in a unified performance, the spectacular visual and aural drama of the Redcoats on the field, so it was the work of many determined and visionary individuals, working together, that provided this legacy—this field—for the band. The Redcoats are in many ways an icon of both the richness of individual achievement and of dedicated cooperation that are among the core values of the University of Georgia and its students.

This field will help insure that the Redcoat tradition presses forward into a bright future. The band now has a home—a place to build, to rehearse, to improve, and to gather. But the field is also more than that. It is also a symbol of the university's recognition of the value and place that the Redcoat Band has at the University of Georgia—a place of honor.

Redcoats! Congratulations on your achievements, your tradition, and the promise you hold for your future. Our hearts are with you.