Thank you to the Bryan School and UNCG faculty, students, alumni, and graduates for including me in the Bryan School’s BETA GAMA SIGMA chapter. The ideals of Beta Gama Sigma of excellence in academic achievement and exemplary integrity are ideals to which we should all strive; I hope that in some way my career has done so. I would especially like to thank Dean McRae Banks, Mary Ellen Boelhower, my golf and thought partner, Stu Allen, plus retired faculty member, Don Jud. Also a special thanks to Jim Weeks and my friend Linda Brady who has been my friend much longer than she has been Chancellor of UNCG.

It is truly special to be honored by the Bryan School as I have been practicing on a daily basis for 42 years the ideas learned while at UNCG. For those of you quickly doing your math I was a student pre-Bryan School being named the Bryan School. In fact, Mary Ellen says I was MA in Economics student #2 although I thought there were a few more students before me, but I have learned never to argue with Mary Ellen.

When you have 40+ years of experience there are some academic truths that prove themselves on a continuing basis. The one that has stuck for me is the relationship between monetary velocity, the monetary base, M1 and GDP; remembering that relationship has stood the test of time in both my career and personal economic decision making over many years. I am sure you will find the ideas of your own that stick with you.

Although the academic knowledge gained continue to pay dividends every day I want to talk briefly about two non-academic thoughts:

FIRST – When given responsibility discharge that responsibility with integrity and to the best of your ability. In Andrew Ross Sorkin’s book “TOO BIG TO FAIL” a prominent economist that I admire, Henry Kaufman, was quoted as saying at a Lehman Brothers, Board of Directors Meeting “WHERE WERE THE REGULATORS”. I had to reread because the real question should have been “WHERE WERE THE DIRECTORS”.
In a brief excerpt from the Comptroller of the Currency’s “THE DIRECTORS BOOK” it is stated:

In difficult economic times or when management is ineffective, an active, involved board can help a bank survive. During these times, the board must evaluate the bank’s problems, take appropriate corrective actions, and, when necessary, keep the bank operating until the board ensures that management is again effective and the bank’s problems have been resolved.

Although the Comptroller of the Currency is not a regulator of an investment bank the responsibilities are the same. Only recently beginning with the failure of ENRON have firms both public and private, both large and small, begun to realize that being a director is an important responsibility and that the discharge of those responsibilities is both serious and has consequences, not an honor for being old and rich.

So please as you accept responsibilities whether they are for student organizations, your neighborhood community association, or a public firm, take those responsibilities seriously and I hope no one here today will ever be quoted as saying “WHERE WERE THE REGULATORS” as it relates to your responsibilities.

SECOND – Things are not always what they seem; therefore be skeptical of the obvious. I have always said this but it was proved beyond doubt in 1982 during the merger of Ferguson Enterprises and Wolseley of the UK. (Extemporaneous re conversation with Jeremy Lancaster Chairman Wolseley PLC about 2-3 min).

Thanks to my wife, Celia Jolley, also a UNCG graduate and a member of your Board of Visitors. She has endured me for 38 years. UNCG runs deep in both our families as two of Celia’s aunts and my sister-in-law are both graduates when it was WC.

Thanks again and it will always be special for me to be associated with you.