

Aerospace Dedication

Welcome

Madame du Boisrouvray, friends, colleagues...

We are gathered here this afternoon...

to acknowledge and express our gratitude to
the family of Francois-Xavier Bagnoud
and the FXB Association

their extraordinary gift which will set the
Department of Aerospace Engineering
on a course of leadership for the 21st Century.

We are also here to honor the memory of Francios Bagnoud
a graduate of the University, a talented and
dedicated pilot, a friend to all who knew and
admired him.

The gift which led to this ground-breaking today

will benefit not just this University and this generation of students...
but future generations of young people who will come to us
from across the world...

To learn and extend our human reach through flight to
worlds beyond our own.

Flight has always been a symbol of

man's highest and most bold aspirations

It stands for freedom

from our physical limitations
and from boundaries of earth and space..

Flying is for dreamers and adventurers,

for those who glory in life and all its possibilities and challenges.

As a young scientist, I was part of this adventure of space.

In fact my first real job was to work on developing nuclear rocket engines
to propel manned flights out to Mars and beyond.

So breaking ground for this building

has a special significance for me personally...

...as does this opportunity to honor the memory of Francios, since
he graduated in the first class during my tenure as Dean of Engineering.

It also represents a giant step

forward for the University as it prepares for the challegnes of a new century.

Just think of it.

The students we are educating today will
live most of their lives in the 21st century.

It is a time we can only dimly percieve.

During the past few years, I have been trying to look ahead and understand what the University must do to prepare for this new era.

Frankly, the pace and scope of change is so great that I think it defies our abilities to conceive of what is in store.

But one thing I think I can predict with certainty.

The students and faculty of our Aerospace program

will help shape the new century--through teaching and learning--through research--through alumni astronauts who will lead a new Age of Discovery

And I think they will help to shape it

in another and perhaps more profound way.

Through helping to open distant space to man,

they may help to rekindle the daring and venturesomeness that we humans need for our souls as much as our bodies crave food and water.

These future students will help to fire our imagination and curiosity and our love of challenge and adventure.

The University is fortunate in its friends, its alumni, its benefactors.

It has been a force for good in many people's lives

and they have repaid that debt in many times over.

Indeed, our friends have helped to shape this University in every important way.

As a public institution we are grateful

and proud of our foundation of support from the people.

Our roots are deep in our State

and they support our strength, our scope and vitality.

But private support allows us to soar,

to reach beyond ourselves.

To act on vision, creativity and imagination.

The gift of the Francios Xavier Bagnoud Association

will mark a turning point for our aerospace program--

it is especially sensitive gift because

it is comprehensive providing not just for a magnificent building but also for fellowships for gifted students.

This building and this program is a living memorial

to Francois Xavier Bagnoud and to his love of flight and of life.

It is now my pleasure to introduce

Bob Fuhrman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of the Lockheed Corporation