

## 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 challenges 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 perceive.

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 Francois 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