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WELCOMING REMARKS

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Good evening. Welcome to Georgetown University, the School of Languages and Linguistics, and to the 32nd Annual Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics.

In previous years, when I chaired the Round Table, I was free at liberty to say just how great a program had been put together. This year, however, since the Round Table is the work of Deborah Tannen and her able assistant, Susan Dodge, I may say, with all modesty, that the program is impressive in

its looking over the program this year I was amazed to note that the pre-conference sessions present as wide and interesting a range of topics as the conference itself. This is a tribute to Dr. Tannen's energy and enthusiasm, as well as a mark of the widespread interest that the Georgetown University Round Table program generates. I was particularly pleased to note today's pre-conference session on oral proficiency testing (1) because it marks the continuation of our joint efforts with the inter-university round table and further cooperation between government and university, and (2) because oral proficiency testing is a field of language activity which is of common interest to professionals in the fields of foreign language, EFL, ESL, and bilingual education.

The topic of the Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics 1981--Discourse Analysis--is a very exciting one, and appropriate to a coming of age in linguistics. Now that the tide has turned, it is safe for me to say in public that, when I was introduced to linguistics, it was billed as the key to the ultimate understanding of literature and discourse. I am, therefore, very pleased to welcome you to a conference that will indeed further understanding in this area.