

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding

At The University of Georgia

Awarded in 1999 to

**President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter
and The Carter Center**



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Overleaf: President and Mrs. Carter accepting the Delta Prize from Michael F. Adams, President of the University of Georgia, and Maurice Worth, Chief Operating Officer of Delta Air Lines.

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding, endowed by the Delta Air Lines Foundation and administered by the University of Georgia, is awarded on an annual basis to individuals or groups who by their own initiative have provided opportunities for greater understanding among cultures and nations. The Delta Prize honors a variety of contributions to peace and cooperation, such as grassroots projects that diminish hostilities in a particular region of the world, international programs that facilitate communication or commerce among different peoples, and the leadership of individuals in the solution of global problems.

Contents

Foreword

Michael F. Adams, President of The University of Georgia

5

Preface

Gary K. Bertsch and Betty Jean Craige, Co-Founders and
Co-Directors of the Delta Prize for Global Understanding at
The University of Georgia

6

“On Behalf of Delta Air Lines”

Maurice Worth, Chief Operating Officer of Delta Air Lines

8

“Honoring the Carters and The Carter Center”

Kent C. Nelson, Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
of United Parcel Service (UPS)

Member of the Board of Trustees of The Carter Center

9

“Peace and Global Understanding” (Acceptance Speech)

President Jimmy Carter

13

The Delta Prize Selection Board

18

The Delta Prize Student Selection Committee

19

Foreword

On behalf of the University of Georgia, I am pleased to introduce this inaugural record of proceedings from the Delta Prize for Global Understanding Award Ceremony on April 27, 1999. We were particularly delighted that President and Mrs. Carter would honor us not only by their presence at the awards ceremony but also with their remarks, which were so fitting in this time of international and domestic turmoil. If there has ever been a time when we needed a focus on world peace, I believe it is now.

The Delta Prize for Global Understanding is a special opportunity for the University of Georgia, because it recognizes and represents in many ways the best of what great public universities must have today to be successful. First, you must have bright students and stellar faculty, and as was clear from those gathered in Atlanta for the ceremony, I think the University of Georgia has both in abundance. Second, public institutions must have a sense of presence and commitment to those areas that they serve. Indeed, we have no greater purpose today than to help elevate the state of Georgia academically and economically as we serve our students and the greater community.

Most important, great public institutions must build relationships outside the academy, and two exemplary Georgia institutions were on hand to celebrate this year's award with us. The University of Georgia is certainly honored to partner with our colleagues at Delta Air Lines in honoring the vision of global understanding. There has been no better corporate relationship than the one that we share. We provide them traveling professors and students every day, and, reciprocally, they have provided resources and encouragement in board members, guest lecturers, and many other entities that have been very, very prominent at the University of Georgia. In addition, we were pleased to honor Dr. John Hardman and all those who have worked with The Carter Center over the years to bring it such prominence and effectiveness.

Our hope is that over the years the Delta Prize will become an increasingly important symbol for the world community. I do not know any better way for the committee to have begun in this spirit than with the selection of President and Mrs. Carter.

Michael F. Adams

President of The University of Georgia

Preface

In the 1940s a wildlife ecologist named Aldo Leopold published an essay titled "The Land Ethic," in which he argued that all ethics rest upon the premise that "the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts." Instincts prompt the individual to compete for a place in the community, but ethics prompt the individual also to cooperate with other community members. Leopold viewed the history of Western ethics as a continuous expansion of our ethical community: from our family to our tribe to our nation. Eventually, he said, our ethical community would include the land, and we would treat the land, on which we depend for our survival, with respect.

Leopold's principle that interdependence makes cooperation necessary is applicable to our new global society. Transnational systems of transportation, communication, commerce, and finance are connecting us all with one another. Our ethical community is no longer our tribe, or even our nation; it is the world. We have become a global community of interdependent parts, and the well-being of any one of the parts requires cooperation with the others.

The advantages of cooperation over military competition have become obvious to many. Individuals from cultures ethnically distinct and geographically remote from each other are joining together to work for the improvement of our planetary environment, the alleviation of suffering from famine and disease, and the advancement of human rights and democratic principles. Individuals are working unofficially, in non-governmental organizations all over the world, to help bring about greater social justice, more peaceful interaction, and increased intercultural understanding.

However, although globalization brings the necessity for cooperation, it also brings conflict, as people with religious, ethnic, economic, territorial, and political differences fight to preserve long-standing traditions and values. Intercultural understanding in our expanded ethical community is a challenge to achieve.

In 1995, when the two of us were talking about ways the University of Georgia could promote intercultural understanding, Gary suggested that the Center for International Trade and Security and the Center for Humanities and Arts develop an international award to recognize successful efforts to make a more harmonious global society. With the support of President Charles B. Knapp, we proposed to Michael Young, director of the Delta Air Lines Foundation, that the University of Georgia and Delta Air Lines collaborate in the creation of a "Delta Prize for Global Understanding." Mr. Young liked the idea and persuaded Delta Air Lines to endow the prize, which the Center for International Trade and Security and the Center for Humanities and Arts would jointly administer.

The Delta Prize is unique among international awards in its involvement of students in the selection process. A student selection committee, composed of University of Georgia Foundation Fellows and two additional international students, under the guidance

of Kathleen Harris, associate director of the Foundation Fellows Program, solicited nominations from organizations around the world, investigated the background and accomplishments of each nominee, and prepared a short list of eight candidates, with dossiers, for the Delta Prize Selection Board. On August 28, 1998, at a meeting in Delta's Corporate Headquarters in Atlanta, the Selection Board chose as the recipients of the inaugural Delta Prize President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter and The Carter Center.

The Delta Prize was thus established to call attention to individuals or groups who by their own initiative have provided opportunities for greater understanding among cultures and nations. In the late 1970s, few individuals comprehended the ethical implications of globalization. But President Carter was one of those few. With his inspired concept of "human rights," which encountered much resistance at the time, President Carter showed us our responsibility to be good citizens of a global ethical community. He was by far a man before his time. In the years since his presidency, by founding The Carter Center and by working tirelessly on behalf of a healthier and more peaceful, just, and prosperous global ethical community, he and Mrs. Carter have exemplified the ideals the Delta Prize for Global Understanding was designed to honor. By improving intercultural understanding in many regions of the world where conflict once ruled, President and Mrs. Carter and The Carter Center have demonstrated that understanding makes cooperation possible and that cooperation makes peace.

On April 27, 1999, at a banquet at the Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, in Atlanta, Georgia, President and Mrs. Carter accepted the first Delta Prize for Global Understanding. In his speech, President Carter spoke of the United States's compelling need to "wage peace." We are pleased to include the speech and related information in this inaugural volume of the Delta Prize for Global Understanding series.

Gary K. Bertsch

Director of The University of Georgia Center for
International Trade and Security
Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Delta Prize Program

Betty Jean Craig

Director of The University of Georgia Center for
Humanities and Arts
Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Delta Prize Program

On Behalf of Delta Air Lines

It is very timely that we are inaugurating the Delta Prize for Global Understanding this year. Hostilities in the Balkans, in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world point to the painful and destructive alternative to international understanding.

Suffering people and shattered nations are a huge price to pay, no matter how great the feud or how deep the misunderstanding. As a global airline, Delta is committed to bringing people together, so that they can conduct business, share ideas, and get to know new people in new places. Each one of those actions is a starting point for understanding. One person, one experience at a time. That commitment was the genesis for this award.

We were thrilled when the University of Georgia brought the idea to us, and we are proud to be associated with a great university, to begin a tradition that recognizes the champions of understanding in a world of conflict.

I can't imagine more appropriate recipients for this inaugural prize than President and Mrs. Carter and The Carter Center. In fact, in retrospect, it almost seems as if the award were created with them in mind. Throughout his life, President Carter has worked to resolve conflict, stop suffering, and raise the level of human conditions by championing peace, health, and democracy everywhere in the world. He calls it "waging peace." The critical point, however, is not just his ennobling vision. That vision is made more eloquent because it is guided and focused by a deep faith, faith that brings true courage and immense energy to his life and to his work. He and Mrs. Carter are people with clear principles leading principled lives.

Whether monitoring an election in Nigeria or building Habitat for Humanity houses in Atlanta, the Carters are visible, active leaders. They let you know their deepest beliefs through the clear examples of their lives and their work. If that were not enough to earn them recognition and honor, they are also true children of Georgia who do their work on the international stage from their homes in Plains and in Atlanta.

Today a great Georgia university and an international Georgia company honor two great Georgians and a center that advances their life's work. That is a powerful combination and a very appropriate beginning for the Delta Prize.

Maurice Worth

Chief Operating Officer of Delta Air Lines

Honoring the Carters and The Carter Center

It is indeed an honor to be here today to honor two of the great American peacemakers of our time. I have had the good fortune to work closely with President Carter and Mrs. Carter over the years. I have always admired their unyielding commitment, inspired leadership, and strong character.

When you're in the presence of great people, influential people, it's easy and almost natural to think about their legacy. What will they best be remembered for? And how will that legacy impact us in the future? It is my belief that the lasting legacy of the Carters and The Carter Center will be one of bringing the world closer together through peace and harmony. It will also be a legacy of bringing the world closer together through freedom, democracy, and economic opportunity.

The Carter legacy will be about the negotiations led by President Carter which have helped reduce ethnic tension in Africa and lessened the impact of economic isolation in North Korea and Haiti. It will be about the conflict resolution programs that have brought together peacemakers from around the world to solve disputes in places like Rwanda, Liberia, and Bosnia. It will be about the democracy programs and the work of The Carter Center with freedom-of-the-press initiatives in emerging democracies. It will be about promoting peace and preventing disease in Sudan, the largest country in Africa. Disease prevention initiatives from The Carter Center have all but eradicated guinea worm disease in more than 2,500 villages and treated more than 100,000 people with medicine to prevent blindness. It will also be about human rights programs, such as Mrs. Carter's work with mental health issues here in the United States and her defense of mentally imbalanced individuals on death row. Agricultural programs begun by The Carter Center in Sudan have helped turn a once crop-deprived nation into a net exporter of agricultural goods.

What is most important about President and Mrs. Carter is that their imprint on history transcends words, philosophies, and policies. It is true, actions do speak louder than words, and Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter's actions stand in striking contrast to a world too often mired in the shallow and sensational sound bite.

In 1962, another former American president, Harry Truman, was interviewed by Merle Miller. Many of his words were later published in the best-selling book *Plain Speaking*. At one point the author remarked to President Truman that he always seemed to know what was the right thing to do. Harry Truman replied: "I don't think knowing what's the right thing to do ever gives anybody too much trouble. It's *doing* the right thing that seems to give a lot of people trouble."

The inaugural Delta Prize for Global Understanding at the University of Georgia is honoring two Americans who have demonstrated the most effective kind of moral leadership: leadership based

on *doing* what is right. Their legacy will be recognized not just in this city, this state, and this nation, but around the world. No one of my generation has applied his or her influence more effectively to promote global understanding than Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter. I don't know of any city that has been more enriched and enlightened by the globalization that has taken place over the past two decades than Atlanta.

I was privileged to serve as chairman of United Parcel Service when we made the decision to move our corporate headquarters here in 1991. We now refer to it as our *world* headquarters, which is a good indication of how our company views the future of our business. And because UPS operates in many different places, I have witnessed firsthand the strong link between economic health and social stability. Where there are jobs with dignity and decent wages, there is hope and harmony. Where they are absent, there is despair and danger. The same is true of nations and cultures.

In my view, the true foundation for global understanding is stable economic growth. Since ancient times commerce has brought diverse groups of people together. The ships of the Phoenician traders carried not just goods but ideas, culture, and technology. In Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa we can all see that great formula for progress at work today.

Less than three hundred years ago, the popular election of political leaders who are accountable to the public at large was a radical experiment. So, too, was the principle that an individual's success or failure in life should be determined by his or her own effort and enterprise, not by the heavy hand of government. Those concepts of democracy and free enterprise have now spread throughout the world.

Much has been made of this year because it's the end of one millennium and the dawn of the next one. It would be comforting to believe that some cosmic event will transform the world into a place where conflicts between nations and peoples no longer occur. We know it won't be that simple.

In his book *Talking Peace*, which he wrote for young people, President Carter explained that peacemaking is much more difficult than making war, and that is why we can never relax in our efforts to ease the pain and suffering caused by conflict. Fortunately, the work of peacemaking isn't just on the shoulders of diplomats and political leaders. People in business, the arts, sports, technology, and other fields are helping to build bridges of understanding and common interest.

In my own profession, it is clear that the growth of international commerce over the past two decades has contributed to political stability in many regions of the world. Today, we operate in over two hundred countries in the world, and I can count on just one hand the countries that are presently too dangerous for us to do business in.

Of course, that's not to say there aren't serious threats to the global balance of peace. But one of the most important aspects of economic globalization is the movement of knowledge and power around the world. Some folks call this corporate diplomacy. I like

to think of it as the natural order of economic development. Peace breeds business, which breeds long-term stability and economic development.

The implications are profound. The last wave of global growth—which really started after World War II—involved about 600 million people in Europe, the U.S., and Japan. But today's global surge will involve 2 or 3 billion people in Europe, the U.S., Japan, China, India, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. That's more than five times as many people. Whether you're a businessperson or a statesman, you can't help but be inspired by the potential for widespread peace and opportunity.

Every time a UPS plane takes off somewhere in the world, it carries packages and documents containing a wealth of human achievement: life-saving pharmaceuticals, microprocessors with more computing power than was available to put Neal Armstrong on the moon in 1969, parts for the space shuttle, and other technologies and products that are moving society forward, as well as 12 million other packages every day that contain the lifeblood of commerce.

At the same time, however, some people fear that we are growing too dependent on distant sources for the items of our everyday lives. Others worry that cultures many centuries old will vanish, washed away by rootless slang and fashion. These are real issues that should and do concern many of us. But in a world still brimming with weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, they pose far less risk than the isolation and poverty of the past. The plain fact is that entwined economies are the best barrier to war.

There are more than 6 billion people alive on the planet today. It is sometimes hard to imagine how the efforts of one person can make a difference. But today, as we honor President and Mrs. Carter for their work on behalf of global understanding, we are reminded that personal leadership remains a powerful force for good. Today is a good day for each of us to strengthen our own commitment to leading the world toward a better and brighter future, a future of peace and economic opportunity.

Kent C. Nelson

Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
of United Parcel Service

Member of the Board of Trustees of The Carter Center



*President Carter meets with the Dalai Lama at The Carter Center, 1998.
(Peggy Cozart)*

Peace and Global Understanding

(Acceptance Speech)

I am very grateful for this award, which I think is very significant, not only because it is from Delta and The University of Georgia, two institutions that I admire with all my heart, but also because peace and global understanding are two subjects that are not adequately addressed. When we came home from the White House in 1981, involuntarily retired, at a fairly young age, we didn't know what we were going to do with ourselves. But we were looking then with bated breath to see whether the peace treaties that we had negotiated between Egypt and Israel would survive. They just passed the twentieth anniversary, and not a word of them has ever been violated on either side.

We thought that at The Carter Center we might devote the rest of our lives to promoting peace on earth. We didn't have any idea then that as we tried to enhance peace and human rights we would be teaching 600,000 small farmers in Africa how to grow more corn, wheat, sorghum, millet, and rice. And we had no idea that we would be treating 5.5 million people so that they would not go blind with river blindness. Or that we would be reducing by 98 percent the number of people, once 3.2 million, suffering from the terrible disease of the guinea worm. (Over half of the remaining cases are in southern Sudan, which is in the midst of a war.) Or that Rosalynn would become the world leader in trying to remove the stigma of mental illness and help people around the world take advantage of the remarkable scientific breakthroughs that have been forthcoming in the last ten years. As we have discovered, even the most severe mental illnesses can be successfully treated, and people with mental illness can lead productive lives. I never dreamed that this would be part of The Carter Center's work.

Tonight I want to share a few thoughts related to the subject of the award: peace and global understanding. The Carter Center was founded with four basic principles in mind from which we have never deviated.

The first is that we do not duplicate what other people do. If the United Nations, or the World Bank, or the United States government is involved in a subject successfully, then we don't get involved. We fill vacuums, we go where other people don't want to go, and we address issues that have not been successfully resolved by other people.

The second principle is that we are totally nonpartisan in nature. We bring prominent Republicans and others from throughout this hemisphere and from throughout the world to work side by side with us. We don't undertake a project just for its academic interest, although that is a very important aspect of universities and think tanks—to take a complicated subject, to analyze it, and to issue a book or pamphlet about what ought to be done. Unless it has a direct-action component, The Carter Center does not take a project on.

The third principle is that we reach out to others. Once we prove



President and Mrs. Carter admire a gift presented by North Korean President Kim Il Sung during their visit to North Korea in June 1994. (The Carter Center)

that a problem can be solved on a small scale, we marshal others to join us in what we hope is much more likely to be effective on a global scale. We work very closely with American corporations—with Dupont; with Merck; with Smith, Klein, Beecham; with Pfizer Company; with Bayer, the aspirin company; and with others—to eradicate diseases.

We also work with all the human rights organizations that you know about, side by side in a conglomerate, not just to deal with problems that have already taken place, in a narrowly defined way, but to prevent human rights abuses and to address them in a large-scale way. We work side by side with Amnesty International, with the Lawyers Committee on Human Rights, the Physicians for Human Rights, America Watch, Africa Watch, Helsinki Watch, Mideast Watch, and so forth, so that together we can resolve human rights issues.

The one thing that has impressed me most, that I have learned since we left the White House, is that the single greatest cause of human rights violations is war. Even wars initiated by our own country. We at The Carter Center analyze every conflict on earth every day. There are about 110 conflicts on our list, about 70 of which erupt into violence each year. Last year there were 71. About 30 of those are what we call major wars. A major war, by our definition, is one in which a thousand soldiers or more have been killed on the battlefield. But in a modern war, about nine times as many civilians perish as do people in uniform.

If you watched television tonight or last night, you heard the words “collateral damage” in regard to Kosovo and Serbia. That’s a euphemism for innocent civilians being killed by bombs, by stray bullets, by missiles, or sometimes by deliberate deprivation of food, shelter, and medical facilities. Collateral damage! We tend to overlook that phrase, and we forget quite often that it is very difficult to wage peace. It is slow and tedious, and frustrating, often unsuccessful, and rarely at all publicized. It is very easy to wage war.

Another very sobering fact is that war is very successful and very popular, particularly if one’s own military forces are not in danger and the only casualties are among other people. This makes war disturb-

ingly popular, and we are immune, even the greatest superpower on earth, to a commitment to try to resolve conflicts in a peaceful way.

The purpose of The Carter Center is to avoid conflict. There are always incompatibilities among people. A few years ago I wrote a book called *Talking Peace*. It was requested as a textbook for high school and college students. It would be very appropriate now since we witnessed recently a horrible tragedy in a high school near Denver. I've done a lot of work on that book, and the substance of it is that conflict between two nations has the same causes as conflicts within a nation, or conflict among students, between husband and wife, or between parents and child.

There is a belief on both sides that "I am right," and that "he or she is wrong." There is an incompatibility between those with a strong difficulty to communicate in a mutually respectful way. Quite often, particularly in the case of war, we tend to derogate our enemies, because we know them to be wrong. We tend to treat them as subhuman. You remember the time in the Second World War when we referred to "Japs," "Huns," or "Wops" and not Japanese or Germans or Italians. In war we tend to derogate our adversaries so that it's not very troubling to us if they are killed—even those who are innocent and not in uniform.

One of the most difficult things that The Carter Center has to face is the necessity to negotiate with unsavory people. I'll give two or three examples. One of our earliest assignments was after the conclusion of the so-called Contra War. The United States was financing a war against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, and we were encouraged by the United States government during President Bush's term to go to Nicaragua to help conduct an honest election, so that the conflict would be resolved not by warfare but by free votes by people who chose their own leaders.

The Sandinistas were confident they would win. But they lost. And we were there. And during that evening the voting returns stopped, because they weren't favorable to the ruling party, the Sandinistas. We knew through a technique we had developed that they had lost by about 12 percent. So Rosalynn and I went to meet the Sandinista leaders. Nine of them were lined up behind a big



Mrs. Carter visits Abriendo Puertas, an Annie E. Casey Mental Health Initiative for Urban Children, Miami, Florida, 1999. (Susan Horgan)

table. I told them I knew how it felt to lose and there could still be a good life afterward. And finally, I convinced Daniel Ortega to get in the little station wagon and ride over to see the victorious candidate, and he and she embraced. There was a peaceful transition, and he observed the result of the election.

Later, in 1994, we were faced with the opportunity—I'd say responsibility—to try to prevent war in the Korean Peninsula. I was in a submarine in the Korean War, and the one man I despised above all at that time was the communist dictator, Kim Il Sung, in North Korea, who had precipitated the war. More than fifty thousand Americans were killed and the war was a stalemate in the end. The 38th parallel divided North and South Korea. In 1994 the United States was considering an embargo against North Korea, because we suspected that they were developing a nuclear capacity. I have some background in nuclear physics, and the Chinese and other leaders told me that if we did condemn North Korea as an outlaw and their revered leader Kim Il Sung as a criminal, they would go to war. So Rosalynn and I went to Seoul in South Korea, across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), to Pyongyang, and we negotiated successfully with this man I had despised. He agreed to abandon his nuclear effort and we came back home, across the DMZ. We were the first people to make that round-trip in forty-three years.

Later that same summer, the United States was poised with thirty thousand troops to invade Haiti, because a democratically elected president, Aristide, had been deposed by General Cedras, and Cedras was looked upon as an outlaw. We had known him earlier as a very efficient and honorable leader. I asked Sam Nunn and Colin Powell to come with me to go there. At the last minute we negotiated with this unsavory outlaw, with honor, and he agreed to step down from power and let Aristide come back. When we reached the agreement, sixty-one American planes were already in the air with paratroops ready to invade Haiti. But peace came, and war was prevented.

Later that same year, we went to Bosnia, and we worked back and forth between the Muslim leaders in Sarajevo and the Serbian leaders in the mountain area, including Karadžić, who is now a war



The Carter Center is working to eradicate guinea worm disease (Dracunculiasis), caused by a parasite found in 16 African countries, India, and Yemen. (Billy Howard)



President and Mrs. Carter observing elections in Indonesia, 1999.
(Yuriah Tanzil)

criminal. And we concluded a successful agreement. I met with Milošević, who wasn't very interested in maintaining connection with Serbs in Bosnia. But it became obvious to us that he had a total commitment to Kosovo's remaining part of Serbia. Some news reporters have said that this is the way that Jews feel about Jerusalem. I think it's unlikely that the Serbs will give up Kosovo, even in the face of bombing.

I think America is the greatest nation in the world. I've been lucky enough to be its elected leader. And my hope is that these words tonight, *peace and global understanding*, can be more widely and more prevalently absorbed as an integral part of the consciousness of every American citizen. I would like to see our unchallenged leadership in the world be exemplified by total commitment to peace and the resolution of the most difficult disputes by peaceful means. Most of the time it is possible. I would like to see our nation be the recognized champion of human rights, democracy, freedom, environmental quality, and the alleviation of human suffering. I don't think that is too great a goal. It's not impossible.

I think this award is a notable development. The generosity of Delta, the care that the University of Georgia has given it and will give it in the future, I think might well be a profoundly important and significant factor in the shaping of American opinion and policy in the future.

Peace, human rights, democracy, freedom, environmental quality, and the alleviation of human suffering. Those are the things that make us proud.

President Jimmy Carter

Recipient, with Rosalynn Carter and The Carter Center,
of the 1999 Delta Prize for Global Understanding

The Delta Prize Selection Board

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For information, please contact The Delta Prize for Global Understanding at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602. See also <http://www.uga.edu/news/deltaprize/>

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Laquesha Sanders

**Associate Director, Foundation Fellows Program*

Front cover: The Delta Prize Sculpture. The Delta Prize sculpture was designed by Barbara Mann and Gary Noffke. The sculpture consists of a sterling silver medallion, approximately 2¼ inches in diameter and 1⁄8 inch thick, held in place by a titanium pin on a bronze triangular base. The medallion portrays the earth with the abstracted continents in low relief. In raised lettering surrounding the earth are, on one side, the words "THE DELTA PRIZE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING," and, on the other side, the words "THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA." The medallion rotates in place on the stand. The name of the recipient of the Delta Prize is inscribed on the bronze base.

