

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Georgia Tech Advisory Board, October 29, 1999

When we celebrated homecoming a few weeks ago, I delivered Georgia Tech's last State of the Institute address of the twentieth century. I took a little time in that talk to look back over the wonderful accomplishments and recognitions of our students, faculty and staff during the past year, and I want to share them with you today. We also have provided you with a brochure that documents these achievements. I think, like me, you will see why there are so many reasons to be proud of this institution, but what is truly exciting is that we have only begun.

The accomplishments of the past year are milestones in Georgia Tech's quest to seize the moment and step across the threshold into a new era of unprecedented leadership.

With 2,300 students, this year's freshmen class is bigger and more diverse than ever. With an average SAT of 1305, it is smarter than ever. It even includes 11 pairs of twins and a set of triplets – Sean, Erin and Matthew Moseley, who are pictured here. At the other end of the undergraduate pipeline, senior Chris Young became Tech's fourth Truman Scholar in five years, a singular recognition that derives from a competition between the nation's best and brightest.

This year we took a dramatic step in broadening our service to the state when we enrolled the first students in the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program, or GTREP for short. Locally based Georgia Tech faculty and distance learning technology enable us to offer engineering degrees in coordination with Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and Savannah State and Armstrong Atlantic State Universities in Savannah. The response has been much stronger than we expected, and over 100 students are now enrolled in classes this semester.

Our faculty continue to blaze a trail of excellence. Eight of our young faculty received CAREER Awards from the National Science Foundation, bringing Georgia Tech's total to 36 awards, third highest in the nation. We also increased our memberships in the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Science.

Two new deans, Terry Blum and Sue Rosser, enabled us to enter the new academic year at full strength, with outstanding leadership for all six of our academic colleges.

Our athletic teams continue to win, both on the playing courts and fields, and in the classroom. The football team beat the Bulldogs, won the Gator Bowl and is looking even better this season. The golf, baseball and track teams all compiled outstanding rankings. In the classroom, a third of our student athletes made the dean's list, and several are Presidential Scholars.

Our research labs kept Georgia Tech on the leading edge. Innovations that attracted attention this year include a "user-friendly" biomaterial that can be made into cartilage, blood vessels or heart valves; smart T-shirts with fiberoptic threads and sensors to monitor vital signs and pinpoint injuries; and microneedles that take the "ouch!" out of shots.

Sponsored research reached an all-time high of \$271 million, marking the fifth consecutive record-setting year. Georgia Tech is now ranked fourth in the nation in industry-sponsored activity, up from sixth last year.

As more undergraduates come under the Student Computer Initiative, over 200 courses have been redesigned to incorporate web-based activities. This year we offered our first Internet degree, an M.S. in mechanical engineering, and two more are under development.

Construction created space for emerging programs and increasing enrollments. Technology and science are coming together in the Biosciences and Bioengineering Building, which was dedicated earlier this month.

Georgia Tech is one of the first universities to imbue our curriculum with a sensitivity toward environmental issues, and the Sustainable Education Building helps to make that happen. Yet another major building, the second phase of the Manufacturing Related Disciplines Complex will open early next year.

The Capital Campaign is expanding scholarship aid for students and has endowed more faculty chairs in the past four years than were created in all of Georgia Tech's prior history. This year the goal was increased from \$400 million to \$500 million, and we are on track to meet that new higher goal by the end of the year 2000.

Our arrival at the threshold of a new era was reflected in our national rankings and by special recognitions. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Georgia Tech 10th among all public universities and put the College of Engineering third behind only MIT and Stanford University. *Black Issues in Higher Education* recognized our leadership in awarding engineering degrees to minorities by including Dean Jean-Lou Chameau on the cover.

Georgia Tech as an institution was elevated into very special company this past year by receiving the nation's top award for support of undergraduate teaching, the 1999 Theodore M. Hesburgh Award. It honors the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning and the Tech alumni who have endowed the Center's teaching fellows programs. We were only the third research university in the history of the award to be so honored.

These milestones of the past year cap a century in which Georgia Tech has run well. And we can look back with pride on all we have achieved. But in the rarified air of the top ten public universities in the United States, competition takes on a whole new meaning, and I'm going to get into that a little more later when we discuss the revision of Georgia Tech's Strategic Plan and ask for your advice on it.