REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
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• As individuals, “community” gives us personal sense of belonging – important, needed and good, but community achieves even more than that. It weaves the fabric of our campus and of society; it is the glue that holds campus and society together.

• At GT, “community” happens at many different levels – from small, informal student groups on campus to structured outreach efforts by the Institute into Atlanta and around the state. Want to look briefly at campus community, then at how we reach out and develop relationships with the community around us.

• Campus community begins with programs designed to create “learning communities” and “comprehensive learning environment;” help new students feel connected and find their places in the GT community:
  - Freshman Experience: small, dorm-based groups with faculty “friends.”
  - Experiment with freshmen learning communities fall semester: groups of 25 students took 3 classes together; encouraged to form study groups. Debriefing students now.
  - Want to do better at helping students connect with GT during application process, feel part of GT before they arrive on campus: 3 staff members posed as students with various profiles and went through entire applications process; focus groups of students and parents.
  - Want to do better at integrating related segments of the curriculum; increasing faculty/student interaction; retaining and graduating the students who come here.

• Promote diverse menu of opportunities for students to pursue outside interests, become well-rounded, get involved with each other, and build community on campus: Drama Tech; bands, chorale; Cyber Café; SAC facilities and activities; student center activities; Outdoor Recreation Georgia Tech; Greeks.

• Long-term administrative planning has an eye on promoting campus community: Master Plan is tool to engineer space and landscaping to encourage community.

• Many opportunities for students to reach out and make a difference in the community outside campus:
  - TEAM Buzz, Circle K, MOVE, Greek organizations offer students opportunities to paint houses and stock shelves of Food Bank, tutor school kids. Important to continue.
  - Co-op program not only helps students earn money and get practical job experience, but also can build community:
    1. Centennial Place Elementary School co-op student in computing does tech support, helps teachers/students use computers. Hope to expand to Inman Middle School, Grady High School – cultivate skills and abilities that will enable students to attend GT.
    2. Family Consultation Services (FCS): management co-op students work with this inner-city Atlanta non-profit program designed to offer poor people opportunities to get their lives together, learn job skills, and become self sufficient.
3. Gainesville Johnson & Johnson plant: small group of co-op students virtually running the plant, helping small plant get established, contribute to its local economy.

- On an institutional level, GT involved with community at many levels:
  - GWC involvements with Metro Atlanta Chamber and Industries of the Mind; create an “urban Silicon Valley” in Midtown.
  - Work with Midtown Leadership et.al. to improve neighborhoods around campus; partner in replacing Techwood Homes public housing project with Centennial Place neighborhood and getting police precinct there. Goals: improve campus safety and give GT faculty and staff an opportunity to live close to campus in a quality neighborhood – expand faculty/staff campus involvement and contribute to sustainability with fewer long commutes.

- Have Office of University Partnerships to seek out appropriate opportunities for GT to reach out into the community in ways that match our talents and expertise. Creating community outreach website.

- Atlanta Outreach Consortium: coordinate GT outreach efforts with Georgia State, Emory, and possibly Clark Atlanta.

- GT students have unique abilities to bring to community service:
  - Many non-profit service organizations do not have staff technical expertise, cannot afford to hire IT expert; would benefit greatly from help to set up and keep up computer systems, databases. (eg. Centennial Place Elementary School); Capital Campaign goal: fund public service endowment for co-op program that would pay for several co-op positions at non-profit community organizations.
  - Senior project for group of CS students: set up website for Probate Courts of Ga; 55 forms which can be completed and filed on-line. Made Ga first state with on-line filings (other states: download forms and submit hard copy). Prior to website, attorneys could purchase CD with the forms, but every time one of the forms changed, which was frequently, had to buy a whole new CD.

- Probate Court project also an example of GT’s institutional involvements with broader community. GTRI has been providing technical expertise to the Georgia Courts Automation Commission since 1996 as it works to automate Ga’s courts. GTRI was link that brought College of Computing together with Commission to make this project possible.

- GT one of 34 institutions in the University System of Georgia, another type of community to which we contribute: Dean Schuster won a University System Award with program offering faculty from the system’s two- and four-year teaching institutions opportunity to spend semester/year at GT. Faculty member – benefit from immersion in large research university environment, able to engage in research. GT – advantage of visiting professor whose teaching skills finely honed and developed.

- Other examples of GT reaching out to the broader state community:
- **GTREP**: How do we make GT students who are located in Savannah and Statesboro feel part of the GT community?
- **CEISMC** (Center for Education Integrating Science, Math and Computing): supports elementary/secondary schools around the state. Has website with supplemental material for GPTV’s school programs; summer fellowships for high school math/science teachers (GIFT); summer camp on campus for middle school students with math/science potential; matches GT students with K-12 teachers to enhance classroom activities; helps GT students get courses at Ga State for teacher certification.
- **EDI**: network of 19 local offices around the state that helps local communities and individual businesses to grow and develop—helps communities with planning and preparing for economic development; helps businesses organize production facilities, evaluate and implement new technology, train workforce, achieve energy efficiency, become ISO certified, etc. Works in partnership with UGA and Georgia Departments of Industry, Trade & Tourism and Community Affairs at the local level. (Co-op students work in EDI outreach offices.)
- **GTRI**: provides Georgia businesses and organizations with practical, problem-solving research and technical assistance (Probate Courts project an example).
- **ATDC**: helps new high-tech businesses, landing parties get started; 3 Atlanta locations, Warner Robins, soon Savannah.