

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Dedication of the Structural Engineering & Material Research Lab, June 2, 1999

- This neighborhood may not look like much yet, but this is just the first of three buildings that will initially make up the Georgia Tech North Avenue Research Park. The other two are the food processing lab, which was funded by the General Assembly this year, and the combustion lab. Once they are built, this area will be landscaped like a campus.
- We are also right next to the site of COPA's Northyards Business Park, which is in the preliminary phase of construction. So big changes are in store, and over the course of the next few years, this site will begin to look completely different.
- Atlanta was only 30 years old when General William Tecumseh Sherman handed us our first experience with urban renewal. And we have been building and rebuilding ever since. This is a city that is permanently under construction.
- Metro Atlanta and the state of Georgia have ranked among the fastest growing cities and states in the nation during the 1990s. Georgia Tech's faculty and research programs have often served the city and the state of Georgia as midwives and handmaidens, helping to define needs and solve problems.
- The Structural Engineering and Materials Lab is Georgia Tech's newest contribution to "engineering the new South."
 - It offers construction companies the opportunity to test new construction materials and techniques.
 - It offers the city and the state the opportunity to test new ideas and designs for highways, bridges and railroads.
 - It offers architects opportunities to test building plans against forces like earthquakes or high winds.
 - It offers manufacturers of construction materials the opportunity to test new composites from concrete, wood or metal.
- We believe that a town that is perennially in the process of building and rebuilding needs the resources that the Structural Engineering and Material Research Lab has to offer. We are pleased and proud to dedicate it today, and we look forward to working in partnership with the construction industry to put Atlanta and Georgia on the forefront, not only in the amount of construction we do, but also in the quality and the technology of that construction.