

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
**Southern Company GT Alumni Club Luncheon, January 25, 2000**

- Goal: Keep traditions our alumni cherish, while moving out on the leading edge of the next century and achieving even higher levels of excellence.
- GT a technological university in world increasingly driven by technology – unique opportunity to expand our reach and our sphere of influence and become one of the world’s top research universities.
- **Student** enrollment tops 14,000; beginning to slow growth, hold line at 15,000.
  - increase: 1) freshmen – 2,300, SAT over 1300, smartest and most diverse class; 2) PhD students (solidify ID as research university).
  - GTREP: partnership with other system universities to allow us to offer GT engineering degrees in other parts of the state – expand and strengthen our educational services to the state of Ga while retaining control over campus population. Question: How to make them feel like GT students then alumni?
  - Increasing use of technology in education process: require computers for students; nearly 300 courses web-enhanced. Began 1<sup>st</sup> MS – mechanical engineering – designed specially for Internet; will bring master’s in CE and EE on-line within 2 years.
- **Faculty** continues to excel:
  - 8 CAREER Awards in 1999, 3<sup>rd</sup> in nation and GT much smaller than schools ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Already have first CAREER award for 2000.
  - 2 faculty (Giddens, Carter) chosen for NAE; NAS member chose to come to GT (Dickerson).
  - 2 new deans (Blum, Rosser) – now full contingent of deans, all colleges can focus on moving forward; higher profile for women in leadership – demonstrates commitment to diversity.
- **Rankings** show our progress toward greater excellence:
  - Among top 10 public universities.
  - College of Engineering 3<sup>rd</sup> behind MIT, Stanford, #1 among public CoE’s.
  - Computing - #13; Architecture - #15; Management - #33.
  - National leader in graduating female and minority engineers.
- **Capital Campaign** roaring toward record-breaking conclusion in Dec; raised goal twice to \$500 million, then to \$600 million. Campaign has endowed 36 chairs – 14 more than in all prior Tech history. Still time to contribute if you haven’t yet done so.
- **Athletics** rising to unusual challenge of simultaneously being Carnegie I research institution and Division I athletic institution. Balance experiences like Gator Bowl loss against fact that 1/3 of student athletes on dean’s list, several President’s Scholars. Goal: provide quality athletic experience that creates excitement and pride and allows gifted athletes to excel, but

at same time graduate athletes from a rigorous curriculum that prepares them to succeed in other arenas of life.

- **Sponsored research** reached all-time high of \$280 million last year; five consecutive record-setting years. Research improves quality of life: e.g. user-friendly synthetic material to implant in human body; micro-needles; smart T-shirt.
- **New buildings** change look of campus:
  - Bioengineering and Bioscience Building dedicated Oct. – gives GT infrastructure to continue its development as major player in “age of biology.”
  - Sustainable Education Building – demonstrates GT’s goal to be sustainable not only throughout curriculum, but also in operation of our campus.
  - Structures Engineering and Materials Lab – inaugurates North Avenue Research Area.
  - Decommissioning of Neely Nuclear Reactor underway.
  - Within next month or so, Environmental Science and Technology Bldg underway. Largest academic building on GT campus.
  - Hoping in not too distant future to build: Advanced Computing Technology Center; Continuing Education and Executive Education Center; Undergraduate Learning Center; expansion to SAC, including enclosing Aquatic Center; Molecular/Materials Science and Engineering Building.
  - Surge of new buildings will give us window of opportunity to renovate historic core of campus, return to original function as pedestrian plaza.
- New buildings demonstrate something very important and exciting at GT: interdisciplinary mindset. Most universities pay lip-service to concept of interdisciplinary; GT one of few schools that has successfully translated concept into operations; reflected in new buildings. We will be interdisciplinary from ground up.
  - BEM complex – new concept both in design and construction of building, but also in bringing disciplines together in practical, everyday functioning. Other universities visiting to see how it’s done.
  - As BEM demonstrates, liveliest research areas are in the gaps between traditional disciplines. GT tradition of being nimble, flexible and practical in the way we operate, gives us competitive edge on older, wealthier institutions who tend to be stodgier and more rigid in disciplinary structure. BEM buildings reflect fact that GT is a major player in exciting research fields for 21<sup>st</sup> century: biotech, nanotech, environment. New advanced computing tech center across the street.
  - Bioengineering and Biosciences Bldg also icon of unique partnership between GT and Emory University – research partners as well as joint academic department, a rarity. Most major players in this field are universities who have both engineering college and medical school; GT and Emory are complementary in this respect, partnership enables us to be very competitive in this arena.
- Another exciting role for GT: engine for high-tech economic growth in new economy.
  - Yamacraw Mission.
  - Create urban version of “Silicon Valley” in Midtown; Metro Chamber IOM.

- Help improve neighborhoods around campus – improve campus safety, encourage faculty to live close to campus.
- Resource for research and education: DuPree Center for Entrepreneurship; GT Information Security Center; ixL E-Commerce Center; Center for New Media Education and Research.
- Expanding global reach in world economy:
  - Metz campus going strong; opened Logistics Institute-Asia; Architecture will celebrate 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Paris this June; expanding study-abroad opportunities for students.
  - On campus: population of international students in past 20 years grown from 250 to 1500; European Union Center; Sam Nunn School of International Affairs; Center for International Strategy, Technology and Policy (w/ Columbia University).
- Expertise now well enough established that GT can begin to exert influence in policy arena:
  - Place faculty in key positions: Oliver McGee at US DOT; Catherine Ross at GRTA
  - Hosted conference for White House Office of Technology Policy last Oct; will host Council on Competitiveness E-Commerce Logistics conference next month.
- GT had humble beginnings and a history of scraping for funds and making do. Hard work and determination, ability to solve problems in creative ways and respond quickly and gracefully to change, have enabled GT to sustain a momentum few other universities. Now moving in rarified circles of top universities in nation and in world. New level of intensity and competition. Have to work hard just to maintain position, let alone gain ground.
- What has enabled GT to compete with and even surpass universities that are larger and wealthier, is people. Our students, our faculty and staff, our alumni have made us what we are today. Our success is as much yours as it is ours.
- Understand that complacency is death; complexity is slow death. Want to be focused and strategic, not only in reacting to change, but also in leading change – engineering the future. Our goal is for GT to advance from its current place among the top tier of world-class universities to become one of those few institutions that are the role models for the top tier.