

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
Valedictorian Event, Governor's Mansion, June 23, 2001

- You are Georgia's brightest and best high school graduates; tremendous potential; leaders of tomorrow. Congratulations on outstanding high school career; thank parents for their nurture and support along the way.
- HOPE Scholarships keeping more of Georgia's brightest and best in the state; quality of the state's higher education climate has risen to meet that challenge. Emory and Georgia Tech among the top 50 national universities in the United States. Georgia Tech among top 10 public universities in nation. Widen list to the top 100 national universities and UGA comes onto the list; extend to the top 200 universities, Georgia State University on the list.
- The University System's growing quality is made possible by more stringent requirements for admission, which in turn resulted in stronger college prep curriculum in high schools. Result: System's SAT scores rose during the past decade and have surpassed the national average; commensurate decrease in remedial courses.
- The quality of students at Georgia Tech is increasing. The average SAT last fall's freshmen – 1330, up more than 100 points over the past decade. Many people assume that dramatic jump means the percentage of students coming from inside the state decreased. Actually, it has increased. Two-thirds of Georgia Tech undergraduates come from Georgia. The vast majority were HOPE scholars coming in, more than half of them hold on to HOPE as they move through our very demanding curriculum.
- Georgia Tech is a Carnegie I research university – last year \$304.5 million in sponsored research was ed by outside sources.
- At many universities, a large research enterprise means undergraduate education slighted. Not true at Georgia Tech – classes are taught by professors; even eminent scholars who hold endowed chairs very deliberately engaged with undergraduate students. Tech is a community of scholars... we combine quality teaching with opportunity for participation in dynamic energy of world-class research enterprise. Goal: 50 percent of undergraduate students engage in research.
- Another goal for undergraduates: 50 percent participate in international activity during their undergraduate years. Georgia Tech presence in France: satellite campus in Metz, architecture program in Paris. Tech has an expanding partnership with National University of Singapore and a growing variety of study abroad programs.
- As the economy becomes more global and world becomes more technology-oriented, Georgia Tech is in unique position:
  - Our educational experience is infused with technology – required computers; web-enhanced curriculum. We produce not only scientists and engineers, but also business leaders, public policy leaders, international affairs experts, architects, future lawyers who

are technology-savvy and understand ramifications and management of technology in their fields.

- Georgia Tech offers a wide range of opportunities for students to learn about the workplace and gain job-related experience through co-op program.
  - We realize that our students will increasingly be called upon to be leaders and decision-makers in a broader context, so we prepare students for leadership. We produce well-rounded students – we have 2 endowed chairs in poetry/writing, a strong foreign language program, a strong music program, and several endowed programs designed to strengthen students’ writing and oral communication skills.
- Georgia Tech is Georgia’s only public institution with an engineering program; we feel a responsibility to entire state. May touch some of you who go to other institutions through:
- Regents Engineering Transfer Program
  - Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program
- We want our students to succeed – we are strengthening, integrating programs to improve teaching and learning and provide academic services to students. We are encouraged by support of the Board of Regents in form of a commitment to provide a new undergraduate building that will take today’s state-of-the-art undergraduate learning center and carry it several steps forward into the learning environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Georgia Tech was created in 1885 with an economic development mission – to help Georgia move from an agrarian age into the industrial age. Today we have a similar mission – to help the state move from industrial to technology-based economy:
- Educating a skilled workforce (newly minted bachelor-degree students in high demand; starting salaries as high as \$50,000).
  - Conducting research and then helping to translate the results into new products and services (faculty, students are very entrepreneurial).
  - Serving Georgia businesses through our Economic Development Institute, continuing education programs.
  - Partnering with others in government, higher education, industry in these endeavors.
- It’s a very exciting time to be at Georgia Tech. I look forward to seeing many of you on our campus. Even if you are going elsewhere, it is exciting time to be in college. Congratulations to all of you; and I look forward to great things from you.