

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Georgia Tech Hill Society Dinner, October 24, 2003

Thank you, Gary (Jones). It is an honor and a pleasure to welcome all of you to Georgia Tech and the sparkling new Georgia Tech Hotel. We have been celebrating the grand opening of Technology Square for the past two days, and this celebration reminded us of the importance of the Hill Society members who have given us so much. So we brought you together again simply to tell you how much we appreciate everything you do for Georgia Tech and to thank you.

Over the past ten years, the many loyal and dedicated alumni and friends of Georgia Tech have provided the Institute with gifts totaling just over one billion dollars. The sheer number of donors is in the tens of thousands. But the bulk of that total – 700 million dollars – 70 percent of it – can be traced directly to the 190 members of the Hill Society. You are the strong foundation of philanthropy at Georgia Tech. You have given us the extra resources that have made possible our ascent into the ranks of the nation's top universities.

Over the past decade, the members of this group have pledged and given more than \$100 million to support students and endow scholarships. And that is a critical need. As a public university, Georgia Tech simply does not have the depth of resources for student financial assistance that many of our competing institutions have. It makes the task of competing for the best students more challenging. We have compensated for it to some extent with low tuition rates, especially for in-state students. But as our state appropriations shrink, the Board of Regents is increasing tuition to compensate. And we are more appreciative than ever of the commitment you have shown to providing scholarships and financial aid for our students.

Over the past decade, this group has pledged and given more than \$110 million for the endowment of faculty chairs. This support has been key in enabling us to attract world-class scholars to Georgia Tech and providing them with the resources to continue their ground-breaking work. There are several fields in which the chairs you have endowed have enabled us to attract a critical mass of international experts – industrial and systems engineering is a good example.

If you have one endowed chair, you look for the ten best people in the world and try to get one of them. If you have three or four endowed chairs, you can get several people from that list of the ten best. And once you have several, you become a magnet for outstanding young faculty and graduate students. So that a cluster of endowed chairs, which we now have in several schools, thanks to your generosity, enables us to elevate the quality and reputation of our programs, and enhance our leadership position across the nation and around the world.

Another \$120 million has come from the Hill Society to support academic programs, combined with almost \$37 million for lab equipment and instrumentation over the past 10 years. And that is another critical factor in attracting outstanding faculty. This year we were able to attract not one, not two, but four of the world's top experts in photonics from the University of Arizona. They brought a National Science Foundation Center of Excellence in Photonics – our first NSF center in the sciences. And we are now in a tie with that other institute of technology up north for

the most NSF centers of excellence in the nation. None of those four professors has an endowed chair. But thanks to your generosity, we were able to offer them resources in the way of funding and equipment for their research that were enough to make them pack up and move across the country.

Over the past ten years, the Hill Society has pledged and given more than \$140 million for the construction and renovation of campus facilities. And just during the past year, the impact of those gifts has become strikingly clear as we opened more than \$500 million of new and renovated facilities. This fall, one sixth of our square footage is either new or newly renovated compared to last fall.

We are surrounded here by Technology Square, a complex of seven facilities that stretches the Georgia Tech campus across the interstate into the heart of Midtown and Atlanta's emerging high-tech business corridor. Fifty years ago, we would have been holding this dinner at the Biltmore Hotel, which was THE place for gala Georgia Tech events. Ten years ago, the Biltmore was boarded up and surrounded by other abandoned buildings and vacant lots. Today, we have rehabilitated an eyesore, and this part of Midtown is once again characterized by beautiful architecture. The wide, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks lined with shops and restaurants welcome our students and the neighborhood workers and residents.

But Technology Square does much more than contribute to the revitalization of Midtown and provide our campus with some of the college-town amenities we've been missing. By gathering our business, entrepreneurial, and economic development resources in the midst of Atlanta's high-tech business community, Technology Square brings our faculty, staff, and students more fully into the city's economic pulse, so that we can be full participants in driving the development of a signature high-tech corridor.

Technology Square is also Georgia Tech's connection to the world. As we enjoyed cocktails in the courtyard, you may have noticed the video-wall in the Global Learning Center next to the hotel. That wall is only the tip of the iceberg. The telecommunications technology in the Global Learning Center connects Georgia Tech to the far corners of the world by satellite, Internet, and live video-conference.

Technology Square is only one of numerous new facilities that are now in use by our faculty and students. Straight across the Fifth Street Bridge is the emerging research heart of our campus – the new Life Sciences Complex, where we have just opened two new buildings. The Ford Environmental Science and Technology Building is the largest academic building on the Georgia Tech campus. And the Whitaker Biomedical Engineering Building is our second new biotechnology facility within five years – the first being the Petit Biotechnology Building right next door.

Across the street from the Life Sciences Complex and in a direct line of sight down Fifth Street from Technology Square will be the new Klaus Advanced Computing Building, which is about to go into construction. This building will join with the College of Computing, the Microelectronics Research Center, and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering to form an IT and telecommunications complex.

And adjacent to these two complexes, we are going to build a Nanotechnology Research Center with advanced clean rooms and unique research capabilities that will among the most advanced in the nation. An anonymous donor has pledged \$36 million for this facility, and we have used this contribution to leverage a commitment from the Governor for matching state funds.

If you continue westward through campus, you will come to our new Campus Recreation Center – a stunning improvement on the old SAC where many of you played intramural sports. The CRC encloses the Olympic Aquatic Center, and suspends a huge gymnasium, aerobics and weight training facility, and indoor track above it. This is only the first phase of the Rec Center. The second is under construction and will expand our campus recreation offerings even more.

Next door to the Rec Center is our new campus health center – the Whitehead Building, which houses the Stamps Student Health Services. Again, this is a state-of-the-art facility that enables us to offer medical care, wellness services, and even dental care – a rare thing at a university.

In the historic heart of campus, we have restored the J.S. Coon Building. The external architecture of the building looks the same, but inside is a high-tech home for the School of Psychology. This is just an example of what we hope to do throughout the Cherry Street corridor, preserving the historic beauty of the oldest part of our campus.

In the library, we created the West Commons, a merger of the traditional reference desk and tomorrow's technology. Here students work on high-speed, networked computers with special software programs. They are connected to a printing center offering sophisticated presentation capabilities. The center is open 24 hours a day, and staff assists with both reference and technology questions. The usage of the library has increased by a remarkable 56 percent since the West Commons opened.

Added together, all of these new and renovated facilities are an expression of a deliberate effort to reshape the campus of Georgia Tech. When we convened this group for the first time two and a-half years ago in March of 2001, I talked about Georgia Tech's vision to define the technological university of the 21st century. Today you can see the campus of the technological university of the 21st century taking form around you.

These new and renovated facilities are tools for our outstanding students and exceptional faculty to use as they strive for higher levels of excellence and the discovery of new knowledge that will change the world. They also speak to our intent to take our place among the great educational institutions of the world.

When you arrive on our campus we want you to feel the value we place on institutional traditions when you see restored historical buildings. At the same time you should sense our commitment to innovation in the way our new buildings and laboratories look and the way we bring them together into academic neighborhoods. You should see open spaces that appeal to our aesthetic side, and classrooms that enhance a dynamic learning environment.

In other words, these new facilities help us to shape a campus whose collective visual appearance gives it a strong sense of place... a place where exciting and important things are happening that

will change the world for the better. Our ultimate goal is that people will look at our campus and conclude that we are the technological university of the 21st century without anyone having to tell them that.

All of you have had such a significant and critical part in building this campus and in support our outstanding students and faculty in their endeavors. It is truly your philanthropy that lifts us up from the ranks of the ordinary and enables us to strive for greatness, and I want you to know that we are deeply grateful for your faith in us and for your ongoing support.