NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Gainesville Rotary Club, November 29, 2004

- Georgia Tech connections to Gainesville
  - Charles Smithgall Jr., class of 1933
    - Endowed a chair in Behavioral and Animal Conservation to honor daughter Elizabeth Smithgall Watts. Held by Terry Maple, GT professor who resurrected Zoo Atlanta and is now back at Tech full-time to establish a center for animal conservation.
    - Charles A. Smithgall Student Services Bldg, named for his father.
  - Gainesville EDI office, one of Tech’s oldest regional offices.
  - Students:
    - Usually about 100 students on campus from Hall County – 90 undergraduates and 10 graduate students.
    - Gainesville College: this fall have over 40 students enrolled at GT who transferred in from GC, about half of them through the Regents Engineering Transfer Program.

- These students are an important resource for Georgia:
  - Technology more pervasive in every facet of life
  - Used well, technology can help solve many thorny problems, from environmental sustainability to economic prosperity.
  - Ergo, growing need for leaders who not only understand technology, but also can use it well in the larger social, political, legal, and economic landscape.

- 21st century global economy:
  - China, India, Russia emerging as competitors.
  - Investing in technological education.
  - Competing with U.S. for technological jobs.

- Innovation is key to our future economic prosperity:
  - Not only being first to discover new knowledge and invent new technology, but also first to put it to work in creative and innovative ways that make life better.
  - “The world leaders in innovation and creativity will also be world leaders in everything else.” (Harold McAlindon, author and business consultant)
  - NII: develop action agenda to help nation build an economy based on innovation.

- Georgia Tech: defining technological university of 21st century – innovation in technological education and innovation in technology to serve Georgia and the United States.
  - Ranked among nation’s top 10 public universities.
  - Improving undergraduate experience with research opportunities; expanded study abroad programs – demand for languages is up 65% in past 3 years because of study abroad growth.
- Lead nation in graduating engineers; but fastest growing college over past decade is Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts.
- Improving retention, graduation rates.
- Research expertise in leading interdisciplinary fields:
  - Nanotechnology
  - Biotechnology
  - Photonics
- New facilities parallel growth in interdisciplinary research:
  - Petit Biotechnology Bldg
  - Ford Environmental Science & Technology Bldg.
  - Klaus Advanced Computing Bldg.
  - Molecular Science & Engineering Bldg.

- Challenge – declining state funds:
  - State funding now back to level of fall 1999, but Tech has 2,800 more students. Program cuts + unfunded enrollment = shortfall of over 27%.
  - State funds 34% of budget 10 yrs ago; now only 25%.
  - Bulk of state funds focused on instruction, but cover only 51% of educating GT undergraduates. Tuition covers another 30%, but Tech has to come up with the remaining 20%.
  - State pays only 57% of academic faculty salaries; 17% of research faculty salaries.
  - State paid for only 17% of the construction GT has done during the past decade.
  - Research budget of $425 million – less than $25 million in state funds.
  - Other funds from research grants and contracts, auxiliary services, and designated gifts are restricted in their use and cannot help us offset the state shortfall.

- Importance of higher education to state’s economic future and prosperity.
  - Cannot maintain standard of living by competing at low end of economic spectrum. Must build an economy based on innovation – lead the way at the high end of the economic spectrum with sophisticated new products and services.
  - But that requires investment in educating a talented workforce and in conducting leading edge research.
  - U.S. used to being in economic driver’s seat, but can no longer take that for granted.
  - As others around the world make that investment, U.S. beginning to see our economic edge dwindle.
  - Cannot fault other nations for wanting to improve their standard of living; will open new markets for U.S.
  - No time to be complacent; time to be strategic about leveraging resources and making investments that contribute to our economic edge.
  - Higher education an important part of that picture; we neglect it to our peril.