NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Campus Rec Center 1,000,000th Visit Celebration, April 11, 2006

• Became president of GT in 1994, just before the bulldozers and back-hoes showed up to dig the holes for the Olympic natatorium – one of a number of new facilities the 1996 Games brought to our campus.

• Original Olympic Natatorium a wonderful facility that swimmers loved, but it was an open-air facility with only a roof
  o Could only be used in warm weather – collegiate swimming season in winter
  o Could not hold meets like the NCAA championships which were just here a few weeks ago in late March
  o As years went by, exposure to weather began to take its toll – wear and tear.

• Under guidance of Campus Master Plan, turned what was once an open-air natatorium into one of the most impressive recreation centers on any campus in the nation.

• Unique features of this building:
  o World’s largest suspended floor above the swimming pool and diving well – essentially an indoor suspension bridge.
  o Less visible: Roof covered with world’s largest grid-connected roof-top system of solar cells. Generates power for campus; provides energy research opportunity.

• National attention, awards:
  o Building Design & Construction Magazine: Gold Award
  o Construction Management Association of America: 2005 Overall Best Project and Best Public Project less than $50 million
  o Design-Build Institute of America: National Award of Excellence

• But best part of all: wonderful opportunities for recreation and sports activities for our students, faculty, staff, and Atlanta area alumni.
  o 300,000 sq ft = 3 times larger than old Student Athletic Center; has much more to offer
  o Outstanding response:
    ▪ Average well over 50,000 visits per month
    ▪ Set record in Feb 2006 – shortest month of year – with 75,000 visits

• Started counting visits on the first day of fall term in August 2004, when the full facility opened. Count recently passed the 1 million mark. Here today to celebrate that milestone.
  o To provide suspense: CRC invited 5 people who visited right around the time of the 1 millionth click of the turnstile. These students know that one of them made the 1 millionth visit, but do not know which one.
  o Announce winner