NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
CETL “Celebrating Teaching Day” Luncheon, March 2, 2005

• Look forward to this luncheon each year for 2 reasons:
  o Opportunity to personally thank and commend young faculty (developing skills),
    Hesburgh Fellows (refreshing techniques; learning new education technology), and
    STEP Fellows (graduate students “test-driving” teaching by assisting local HS science
    and math teachers)
  o Express appreciation to CETL

• By the time we get our Ph.D. degree, we have had some 90 different teachers, spent thousands
  of hours in classroom. Ought to be experts, but embark on own teaching careers feeling like we
  know very little about it.
  o Unsure how to get our students to prepare for class or even show up.
  o Unsure how to make class invigorating, discussion stimulating.
  o Some days want to throw up our hands and conclude that students these days just not as
    well prepared or high quality.

• But excellent teachers along the way influenced our thinking, changed our lives. If we think
  about it, we can define some of their traits:
  o Did not teach subjects; taught students; created partnership with students, shared in the
    responsibilities of learning.
  o Doing this requires some critical reflection, also some creativity and courage, taking
    some risks to become partners with your students in learning.
  o CETL programs are here to help you do that.

• GT’s core mission is still to educate “a hell of an engineer,” business manager, architect,
  scientist, policy expert, etc. Part of defining the technological research university of 21st
  century – combine excellent educational experience with dynamic energy of research
  enterprise. (Hesburgh Award)

• Tempting to think bright students can muddle through on their own with the textbook, but good
  teaching provides important ballast:
  o Guidance about range of knowledge and what is important within that range.
  o Integrate new knowledge with what already know.
  o Opportunity to test knowledge in creative and practical problem solving.
  o Chance to learn teamwork, communication, leadership skills.

• Teaching is also a learning experience for us as faculty. Poet Robert Frost: “I teach in order to
  learn.”
  o Continually reacquaints you with subject matter of your discipline.
  o Makes you reexamine, reorganize the fundamentals on which you organize your own
    work in order to articulate them clearly for others.
  o Calls for you to examine how your discipline can serve society and what you students
    need to know to do that.
• Psychologist, educator and renowned professor John Dewey: Education is “a continuous process of reconstruction of experience.”
  o Learning is lifelong; all of you are proof of it.
  o GT goal: an optimal learning environment for everyone – students, faculty and staff.
  o Thank CETL and all of you as fellows for the important contribution you make to helping us achieve that goal.