NOTES BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
President’s Scholar finalists and parents, March 31, 2006

- Thank you Saira (Amir) (Pres Scholar, senior)
- Pleased to welcome this outstanding group of finalists for President’s Scholarships and your parents.
  - Exciting to be in the midst of planning for the next stage of your life.
  - Many of you facing a difficult choice among some of the nation’s best universities.
  - Pleased that Georgia Tech is on your list; hope your experience this weekend helps you decide in our favor.

- Georgia Tech is unique among the nation’s leading research universities in several regards; want to emphasize two of them to you and your parents:

- First, attention to the undergraduate experience:
  - Other research universities: Focus on research and graduate education at the expense of undergrad students.
  - GT: deliberate attention to the undergrad educational experience:
    - Undergraduate research: Draw undergrads into dynamic energy of research enterprise; 40% participate
    - Study Abroad: 33% undergrads participate
    - Special certificate programs: international plan, research, leadership, nanotechnology
    - Exciting, unique interdisciplinary degrees: digital media, foreign languages + global economics, foreign languages + international affairs; combine liberal arts with skills that make them pertinent, marketable in today’s technology-oriented global economy
    - Strong, well-developed music program
    - Academic advising
    - All classes taught by professors; student assistants help with labs, small group work, paperwork, tutoring

- Second, President’s Scholarship Program itself is unique:
  - Provides same kind of financial package, priority registration and housing and other perks of elite scholarship programs at other universities
  - But also includes 2 aspects not usually found at other universities. First, sense of community:
    - Invitation to become President’s Scholar is invitation to join a family that includes many of the brightest, interesting, involved students on our campus.
    - Incoming President’s Scholars bond at a retreat, and retain community connection, interaction with each other throughout undergraduate career.
  - Second, chose you not only for your intellect, but also for your leadership potential:
    - We expect President’s Scholars to be engaged, to develop their leadership skills, to be involved in community service on campus and off. Is important complement to their intellect.
Alumni of the PSP: become leaders in graduate school, profession, giving back to community.

- Realize that students of your high caliber have many options; virtually any university in the nation would be delighted to have you enroll.
  - But Georgia Tech offers additional aspects of ongoing deliberate attention to enriching educational experience for all undergrads and a scholarship program bonds you into a community with your fellow President’s and develops your leadership skills.
  - Hope you agree that those represent important aspects of your education experience and look forward to seeing you in August.