NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
AASU Leadership Conference reception, April 11, 2008

• Congratulations:
  o African American Students Union’s 40th anniversary
  o AASU Leadership Conference celebrating 5th anniversary

• Was a GT student when the campus was integrated. Have gone from 3 black students on that occasion to more than 1,200 today.
  o Proud that GT became national leader in graduating minorities during my presidency. Resulted from the efforts of many.
  o AASU played very important role. Glad to have this opportunity to thank you.

• This is a time of incredible opportunity for minorities who have a technological education:
  o Science and technology workforce is largely comprised of white males. In today’s global economy, companies are hungry for diversity in their technological talent.
  o As technology becomes ever more predominant in all aspects of life, society is looking for leaders who understand how it works and how to use it constructively.
  o We need the representation and participation of black young people in the positions of leadership that are increasingly opening for those with a technological education.

• You are tomorrow’s leaders
  o Need to prepare for incredible opportunities that lie ahead.
  o Important to develop your leadership skills.

• Challenging time for a technological university:
  o Technical information doubles every 2 years; its shelf life is growing ever shorter.
  o We are educating students for jobs and technologies that do not yet exist.
  o Their task will be to solve problems that we do not yet even recognize as problems.

• GT alumni tell us the true value of their education is skills and traits rather than information:
  o Discipline, organization, perseverance.
  o Ability to think creatively about open-ended questions, solve open-ended problems.
  o Citizens of the world, at home with diversity.
  o Prepared for leadership – not leadership that seeks personal power, wealth, or fame, but servant leadership that tackles worthy causes that are bigger than themselves and makes a difference.

• Events like this one and people like all of you reassure me that the future of Georgia Tech is in good hands as I prepare to move on to the next chapter in my own life.