NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Leadership Georgia Tech, Nov. 2, 2007

• Always a pleasure to spend a little time with leaders from GT alumni clubs.
  o GT has most supportive alumni of any public university in U.S.
  o Grateful for your leadership in fostering that tremendous level of support.

• Jane Stoner asked me to do brief recap of SOI presented to alumni at homecoming 2 weeks ago – useful contextual framework for many exciting things happening at GT

• Title: Vanishing Boundaries
  o Physical boundaries: edge of our campus, state of Georgia, United States
  o Conceptual boundaries: GT often boxed into a set space by people’s perceptions of words like engineering and technology – Webster definitions focus on “objects” and “practical purposes.”
  o As we matured – questioned these boundaries with more confidence. With technology permeating all aspects of life, GT has broader stake in shaping society.
  o SOI examined 4 areas in which GT is either stepping across boundaries or taking advantage of the opportunities provided by vanishing boundaries.

• Vanishing educational boundaries
  o GT educational experience moves beyond the traditional classroom setting through research, study abroad, leadership experiences that give students “value-added” skills like critical thinking, problem solving, comfort level with diversity that they need to be competitive in a global economy.
  o Diverse student body – economically, racially, ethnically, culturally
    ▪ GT Promise
    ▪ GT graduates 10% of nation’s African American PhDs in engineering
  o Improved real-time video-conferencing capacity makes boundaries vanish – takes the “distance” out of distance learning.
  o In library East and West Commons, boundary between reference desk and technology support has vanished – Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.
  o Result: surprising companies seek out our graduates.

• Vanishing disciplinary boundaries
  o GT can lead in hot spots of innovation between disciplines – nanomedicine, digital media, micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS)
  o Major challenges facing the planet – energy, climate change – call for coordination and collaboration of wide range of disciplines. GT beginning to come into its own through Strategic Energy Institute:
    ▪ Carbon capture and sequestration
    ▪ Alternative clean, renewable energy sources
    ▪ Policy expertise
  o Health care another new area of opportunity for GT
• Vanishing national boundaries
  o GT striving to become truly global university:
    ▪ At GT, usual study abroad programs extended to science and engineering, expanded to provide deeper engagement in solving problems for needy nations.
    ▪ Strategic international education and research platforms are engaged with home campus.
    ▪ Economic development activities to mutual benefit of international locations and Georgia.
    ▪ Engaged with highest levels of government. Recent visitors to GT campus:
      • French minister of trade and president of French equivalent of NSF
      • Presidents of Ireland and Liberia
      • North Korean delegation

• Vanishing campus boundaries
  o Rather than “town and gown” division, GT reaching out to develop run-down, abandoned areas around our campus, connect with our neighbors.
  o Students volunteer for community service

• Jean-Lou Chameau: “Georgia Tech has no boundaries.”