

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.
 - GT has most supportive alumni of any public university in U.S.
 - 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
 - Physical boundaries: edge of our campus, state of Georgia, United States
 - 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.”
 - As we matured – questioned these boundaries with more confidence. With technology permeating all aspects of life, GT has broader stake in shaping society.
 - 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
 - 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.
 - Diverse student body – economically, racially, ethnically, culturally
 - GT Promise
 - GT graduates 10% of nation’s African American PhDs in engineering
 - Improved real-time video-conferencing capacity makes boundaries vanish – takes the “distance” out of distance learning.
 - In library East and West Commons, boundary between reference desk and technology support has vanished – Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.
 - Result: surprising companies seek out our graduates.
- Vanishing disciplinary boundaries
 - GT can lead in hot spots of innovation between disciplines – nanomedicine, digital media, micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS)
 - 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
 - Health care another new area of opportunity for GT

- Vanishing national boundaries
 - 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
 - Rather than “town and gown” division, GT reaching out to develop run-down, abandoned areas around our campus, connect with our neighbors.
 - Students volunteer for community service
- Jean-Lou Chameau: “Georgia Tech has no boundaries.”