With one full year of operation complete, the G. Wayne Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons (Clough Commons) is now the academic crossroads for Georgia Tech. The Clough Commons provides academic tutoring and technology support, group and individual study spaces, thought-provoking discussions, state-of-the-art science labs, communications support, and engaging multidisciplinary events all in a vibrant and sustainable 24/7 space.

Since its opening in August 2011, undergraduate students have claimed the Clough Commons as their own, taking up residence in every inch of the 220,000 sq. ft. building. The Clough Commons is located at the center of campus, and in student conversations about their experiences in the building, it is apparent that students are aware of Clough Commons’ centrality to their educational experience as undergraduates at Georgia Tech.

Students have the opportunity to experience the Clough Commons in a variety of unique ways. Through classrooms, study rooms, rehearsal rooms, tutoring sessions, technology and communication support – and even Starbucks – the Clough Commons puts its imprint on students even as they adapt it to their needs.

While the management of the Clough Commons is the responsibility of the Georgia Tech Library administration and employees, the overall success and countless personal victories won here are a result of the collaborative efforts of the Clough Partners, specifically: the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), the Communication Center, Office of Academic Success, Office of Information Technology, and Office of Undergraduate Studies as well as the Library and its Core Academic Help Desk.

This annual report addresses the findings of each partner that resides in the Clough Commons, as well as student testimonials and experiences.
36,016 HOURS USED OF 252,839 HOURS AVAILABLE

UTILIZATION OF GROUP STUDY ROOMS

33,447 INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

68.26%

10 am through 11:30 pm   Fall 2011 and Spring 2012

828 COURSES MET FOR 33,447 INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

44,351 HOURS OF TUTORING

44,351 HOURS OF TUTORING

2,271,631 GATE COUNT

CLOUGH ENTRY COUNT BY HOUR

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY

2AM 4AM 6AM 8AM 10AM 12PM 2PM 4PM 6PM 8PM 10PM

= 50 ENTRIES = 500 ENTRIES = 1,000 ENTRIES average of weekday hours

10.17.2011 - 12.16.2011

2011 State of the Institute Address
Dedication of G. Wayne Clough
Uneergraduate Learning Commons
Capstone Mechanical Engineering Senior Design Expo
Clough Art Crawl
REACH Scholarship Announcement Honors Program Poster Expo
Atlanta Olympics Exhibit
Grand opening of the Communication Center USGBC Reception and Tour
Andy Smith Retirement

83 SPECIAL EVENTS
DEVELOPING SELF-REGULATED LEARNERS
THE CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Through its programs, services, and resources, the Center for Academic Success continues to assist students in achieving their academic goals and developing into successful, self-regulated learners. The Center resurrected the EXCEL Cohort, a program for first and second year students who are not meeting their own academic expectations. In addition to meeting weekly in Clough, ten additional Academic Success workshops were offered over the course of the semester.

During spring 2012, 2065 students made a total of 10843 visits to the Center for tutoring, study hours, and academic coaching, logging in over 16500 contact hours. Peer-Led Undergraduate Study (PLUS) served 1444 students for over 8700 total contact hours.

Not only are students seeking out tutors, they are becoming tutors at an impressive rate. A new record high for the Center was set when 189 students submitted applications for fall 2012’s tutoring positions. Twenty-eight, new, 1-to-1 and Learning Assistant Program tutors and PLUS leaders were trained in the spring section of CETL 2001: the Fundamentals of Peer Tutoring course.

In collaboration with the School of Mathematics and the Freshman Experience Program, the Center will offer Tech PiEP, the Pre-Calculus Enrichment Program. This non-credit, residential program reviews fundamental pre-calculus and calculus concepts, as well introducing incoming first-year students to strategies critical for academic success. Tech PiEP ran from August 1st to August 10th, concluding just in time for the Center’s transition to a busy fall 2012 semester.

WOVEN (WRITTEN, ORAL, VERBAL, ELECTRONIC, NON-VERBAL) COMMUNICATION SUPPORT
THE COMMUNICATION CENTER

Developing the ability to communicate effectively in all forms (written, oral, visual, electronically, and non-verbally) is vital to the student experience and has lifelong value. Before the Communication Center opened in the Clough Commons, Georgia Tech students had limited access to support for their academic writing and communication needs.

After launching in August 2011, the Communication Center became an inviting space for students to address their concerns about communication-related projects. The Center increased connections with faculty by facilitating collaboration and discussion with instructors on digital pedagogy, assessment, and multi-modality.

Through a partnership with course instructors, the Center provides communication assistance directly related to assignments and projects.

The Center provides specialized support for graduate students entering the Georgia Tech Research & Innovation Conference (GTRIC) competition. Ten of the GTRIC award winners received tutoring at the Center.

 Positioned in a highly visible location next to the technology-rich presentation rehearsal rooms, the Communication Center reached an impressive number of students in a diverse range of majors representing all six colleges.

From August 2011 – August 2012, the Center engaged a total of 2700 students through workshops, class visits, tours and special events. The Center’s programs, resources and spaces are continuously reconfigured and improved in response to student, faculty and staff feedback.
The Office of Undergraduate Studies transformed its Clough Commons suite into a vibrant student programming space named The Clough Lounge. The Clough Lounge is home to scholarly events such as Open Forum, “This I Believe,” and the coffee talk series for women in science, technology, engineering and math. Students recognize the Clough Lounge as much more than a study space. It is a space for intellectual conversation and sharing of ideas across disciplines.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies provides resources for advising, fellowships, undergraduate research opportunities, as well as programs to help nurture a sense of community among undergraduates at Georgia Tech.

Pre-Health Advising
Stationed in the Clough Lounge, the Office of Pre-Health Advising offers opportunities and resources for pre-health students to prepare them for professional schools and graduate programs in the health sciences. During the spring, 447 students attended pre-health advising workshops, 220 scheduled appointments, and roughly 150 students dropped in for more information.

Fellowships
Students can also receive help identifying and applying for nationally competitive awards in the Clough Lounge. During the spring, 119 students scheduled appointments for fellowships advising. Undergraduate Studies hosted the following information sessions: Fulbright, Aerospace Engineering, NSF Graduate Fellowship, College of Management, Honors Program, Truman, TED Med Conference, and Health Corps.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) offers students the opportunity to participate in research at Georgia Tech through the President’s Undergraduate Research Awards (PURA). UROP competitively funds individual requests made by student/faculty teams to support undergraduate student involvement in faculty research. During the spring, students made 35 appointments and walk-in visits to inquire about research opportunities.

The Clough Lounge and the Office of Undergraduate Studies continues to evolve and adapt to the academic and intellectual needs of Georgia Tech students.

Clough Commons houses all of the introductory science laboratory courses at Georgia Tech (Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Physics), allowing students to learn the commonalities of the processes of science across the disciplines in state-of-the-art facilities. Notably, the science labs in the Clough Commons are part of the sustainability effort for the building. These efforts include the use of green cleaning materials, vent hoods to recapture heat, and experimental “chiller beams” in two of the Physics labs to cool these high-heat spaces in a more sustainable manner. In the first three semesters since the opening of the Clough Commons (fall 2011, spring and summer 2012), the science labs have had a total enrollment of 11,719 students. Science has also come alive in other parts of the building, from active learning in the SCALE-UP classrooms to a pop-up celebration of national DNA day in the Clough atrium.
In a 24/7 technology-rich environment, students rely on the availability of easily accessible technology support services. The Technology Support Center (TSC) provides a wide-variety of walk-up services designed to assist students at the time and point of need. These services include: virus diagnosis and protection, hardware/software support, wireless troubleshooting, assistance with email or account problems, and a demonstration area for students to test the latest personal computing technologies.

Throughout the spring and summer semesters, the TSC staff conducted a series of How-To Clinics as an informative series of hands-on training sessions covering important topics students should know about technology at Georgia Tech. Eight Clinics were offered between April 10, 2012 – June 28th, 2012:

1. 12 Things Every Student Should Know About Technology @ GeorgiaTech.
4. Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow.
5. Archiving your Georgia Tech E-mail.
6. To V or not to V. Virtual Solutions

“As a person that knows next to nothing about using the internet and my own computer, this center helped me out tremendously, very nice people”

Student quote after computer service

Georgia Tech is committed to developing new approaches to teaching, instruction and pedagogy. The visible manifestation of this commitment is the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), which offers professional development for graduate students, teaching enrichment activities for faculty, educational research on teaching and learning pedagogy, and other alumni and grant agency-funded initiatives.

In December, CETL hosted a lecture and film screening by Dr. Jorge Chan, a Georgia Tech alumnus and creator of the popular “PHD” comic strip series. Students, faculty and members of the GT community filled both of the 300 seat auditoria for the event.

In fall 2011, CETL connected with a total of 723 faculty through the Brown Bag Lunch Series (a monthly faculty development series), new faculty orientations, and a celebrating teaching day event. “Cheating in the Classroom,” “Pass the Book Club: A Discussion on How Learning Works,” and “Just in Time T-Square” are a few of the events attended by Georgia Tech faculty for inspiration and information about new approaches to classroom instruction.

CETL’s move to the Clough Commons facilitates engagement with students and faculty in close proximity to where teaching and learning occurs. The SCALE-UP classrooms located on various floors in the Clough Commons provide tools to foster a greater degree of pedagogical flexibility. Each SCALE-UP room is outfitted with moveable whiteboards that reveal digital screens which allow students to connect their laptops, as well as furniture to facilitate group interaction and greater peer engagement.

Supporting Student Technology Needs 24/7

OIT Technology Support Center

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Student quote after computer service
Based on a focus group study conducted by Dr. Caroline Noyes, Office of Assessment, students find the Clough Commons to be a desirable place to learn, study, and collaborate.

While the Clough Commons is much more than aesthetics and technology, these features are very popular aspects of the building for students.

Students appreciate how the different commons spaces are easily adaptable to their individual study needs, the comfort and flexibility of the furniture throughout the building, as well as the easy-to-use technology in rehearsal and study rooms. .

**Flexible Furniture**
The furnishings inside the Clough Commons are a favorite among the students. They find the chairs comfortable, and appreciate that in the classrooms both the chairs and the desks/tables are mounted on wheels and can be moved. Such flexibility in furniture encourages and facilitates discussion and small-group work.

“We did really like the rolling desks that allowed us to have a good circle and actually encouraged talk between everybody.”

In the AT&T Auditoria (rooms 144 and 152), being able to roll around on the chairs makes students feel “less constricted” and allows for conversations between rows. The wide rows in the auditoria allow students to move within rows without disturbing others. Additionally the students noted that no matter where you sit it is easy to see the speaker.

**Classroom Technology and Whiteboards**
According to focus group findings, the three SCALE-UP rooms, whiteboards, and projectors are the most heavily used forms of classroom technology among students and faculty.

“I thought it was really cool because we split into four different groups because there are four different TVs in there...and it's just a cool way to do group projects.”

Whiteboards are used by both the instructors and the students, and provide space for multiple students to simultaneously make lists, write down answers, and work on in-class exercises. One student made particular note of the advantage of being able to write on the whiteboards...
At its core, the Clough Commons is an academic building devoted to student learning. Since opening in August 2011, the building has created a vibrant, 24-hour academic and cultural complex at the heart of campus.

For the first time at Georgia Tech, first and second year students have a single location to study individually or in groups, practice presentations, attend classes and labs, obtain tutoring services, and get technology support.

With technologically-advanced and flexible classrooms, faculty have an opportunity to experiment with different pedagogical methodologies and strategies. Being physically connected to the Library provides an additional level of student support and accessibility to research services and technology that are necessary in a 24-hour study environment.

Students love the atmosphere of the Clough Commons, including the openness and day-lit spaces, the physical flexibility of its furnishings, and its centrality within campus. This is a building that invites them to stay after and between classes by providing lots of different spaces in which to settle. This is a building that, as one student says, fosters community:

“I feel like there are many different diverse places in the Clough Commons, so if you actually spent your whole semester and never left there but always studied some place, you wouldn’t feel like [you] were in the same building the whole time which is really nice. Yesterday...I [was at] the “This I Believe” series... in the Clough Lounge and I walked out and there was the Mechanical Engineering expo, and then I went upstairs to visit some of my friends—were presenting at the Honors Symposium—so when all of those three things are happening at the same time...it just made me realize, wow, this is such a great building... like multiuse...at the same time...it’s kind of like a community center of Tech.”