

GREETINGS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
Engineering Awards Dinner, October 17, 2003

I'd like to echo Mary Ellen's words of welcome and extend my personal congratulations to this year's inductees into the Engineering Hall of Fame, the Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni, and the Council of Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni.

These are exciting times at Georgia Tech. Over the course of the past year, we opened more new and newly renovated facilities than at any other time in our history. And I hope that while you are here, you have a little time to look around campus at the Life Sciences and Technology Complex, Technology Square, and the new recreation and health complex over where the old SAC used to be.

We are working hard to shape a campus that not only provides us with the tools we need to define the technological university of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but also expresses our intent to take our place among the great universities of the world. When people are on our campus, we want them to sense that they are at one of the nation's top ten public universities without our having to tell them.

We always take rankings with a grain of salt, because a little tinkering with the formula by which they are determined can move you up or down when you haven't actually changed a thing. But they are a general indicator of how Georgia Tech is perceived and of the direction in which we are moving. And our trend lines are definitely up. The Institute's position among the nation's top ten public universities is now well established, and this year the undergraduate programs of the College of Engineering joined the graduate programs among the top five in the nation.

Georgia Tech's national reputation is not only a reflection of the outstanding students, faculty, and staff we attract and the rigorous curriculum we offer; it is also the result of our outstanding alumni who have gone on to remarkable careers and accomplishments. We stand tall in the nation and increasingly around the world because we are standing on your shoulders. You are the face of Georgia Tech in so many ways and in so many places across the nation and around the world. And your accomplishments are living proof of the quality and value of a Georgia Tech education.

As you solve the problems and shoulder the responsibilities and become the leaders of the engineering profession, it reflects well on Georgia Tech and opens doors of opportunity for us. So I always look forward to this opportunity to express my thanks to you for being such wonderful ambassadors for Georgia Tech and making my job as president easier.

We live in a time that calls for innovative leaders who can create effective technology and manage it constructively to shape the future. And we believe that Georgia Tech's strengths and abilities give us a unique opportunity to answer that call with the science, technology, management strategies, public policies and graduates that open the doors to a prosperous, just and sustainable future.

Your careers and accomplishments provide us with role models of engineering leadership as we pursue those goals. We are proud to claim you as alumni, and I am humbled to have a place among you as a member of the Hall of Fame. We are grateful for the examples and support you provide, and we are pleased to honor you on this special evening. Congratulations to each one of you.