

NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH

Opening celebration, Ovarian Cancer Institute, September 8, 2004

- Pleased to welcome John McDonald as chair of the School of Biology and to welcome the Ovarian Cancer Institute to our campus.
- Convinced that Georgia Tech needs a strong sciences program if we are to achieve the level of excellence to which we aspire.
 - Have been working deliberately to strengthen the sciences and to create opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration that enable the sciences to leverage the excellence of our engineering program.
 - That effort is clearly visible in the growing excellence of the School of Biology and its collaboration in the School of Biomedical Engineering.
- Georgia as a state has not been a cancer center. Do not have a single one of the 37 U.S. comprehensive cancer centers as designated by the National Cancer Institute.
- Nor has anyone associated Georgia Tech with curing cancer in the past.
 - No medical school.
 - Not too long ago that we considered renovation of part of Coon Bldg as sufficient to hold our biotechnology endeavors.
- Biology Professor Al Merrill pioneered cancer research at Georgia Tech. Others began to get interested and involved, especially as Emory-Georgia Tech biotech partnership grew and strengthened.
- Al Merrill now chairs new Georgia Tech Cancer Research Council to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary research and education at Georgia Tech and coordinate collaboration with other initiatives like:
 - Georgia Cancer Initiative, which provides a statewide focus and funding for cancer research, treatment, and education.
 - Emory University Winshape Cancer Center
- Today, celebrate the addition of another piece of the picture at Tech – the Ovarian Cancer Institute.
 - Ovarian cancer a “stealth” disease
 - If diagnosed early (Stage I), 85% cure rate.
 - But is virtually symptom-free and very difficult to detect until it has spread, at which point treatment is harsh and cures infrequent.
 - Institute dedicated to development of early and widely available diagnostic test and more effective, less invasive treatments.
 - Represents broad spectrum of collaboration:
 - Researchers from all 6 universities in GRA
 - Represent disciplines from biology and chemistry to medicine, genetics, nutrition, bioinformatics, and statistics.
 - Partners with Southeastern Gynecologic Oncology Group, which provides continual stream of high-quality, documented tissue samples complete with medical histories.
- Proud to welcome Ovarian Cancer Institute to GT:

- Good fit with our biomedical engineering program, ranked 2nd in nation by *US News* and our growing volume of NIH research, which has more than doubled in just past two years.
- Good fit with our culture of interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships.
- Good fit with our goals of creating opportunity for the state of Georgia and enhancing the quality of life for people everywhere.