

NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
CETL “Celebrating Teaching Day” Luncheon, March 2, 2005

- Look forward to this luncheon each year:
  - Opportunity to personally thank and commend STEP Fellows (test-driving” teaching), young faculty (developing skills), Hesburgh Fellows (refreshing techniques; learning new education technology)
  - Express my appreciation to CETL
- By the time we get our Ph.D. degree, we have had 90 different teachers, spent thousands of hours in classroom. Nevertheless embark on own teaching careers feeling like we know very little about it.
- But excellent teachers along the way have influenced our thinking, changed our lives:
  - Did not teach subjects; taught students; created partnership with students, shared in the responsibilities of learning.
  - Requires some critical reflection, also some creativity and courage to do.
- GT’s core mission is still to educate “a hell of an engineer,” business manager, architect, scientist, policy expert, etc. Part of defining the technological research university of 21<sup>st</sup> century is combining excellent educational experience with dynamic energy of research enterprise. (Hesburgh Award)
- Tempting to think bright students can muddle through on their own with the textbook, but good teaching provides important ballast:
  - Guidance about range of knowledge and what is more or less important within that range
  - Integrate new knowledge with what already know
  - Opportunity to test knowledge in creative and practical problem solving
  - Chance to learn teamwork, communication, leadership skills.
- Psychologist, educator and renowned professor John Dewey: Education is “a continuous process of reconstruction of experience.”
  - Learning is lifelong; all of you are proof of it.
  - GT goal: an optimal learning environment for everyone – students, faculty and staff.