

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
**Georgia Tech Charitable Campaign Kick-Off Breakfast**  
September 27, 2001

Last year I had the honor of being the statewide chairman for the Charitable Campaign. It was extremely gratifying and made me very proud to have the Georgia Tech community standing with me, showing its support with a record level of giving. Tech contributed more than \$307,000 to the State Charitable Campaign last year and won both the Governor's Cup for the largest per employee contribution and the Governor's Award for the largest increase among the 34 units in the University System. Many of you were involved with that effort, and it was a proud moment for the entire Georgia Tech community.

The challenge after a record-breaking year is to do it again. But Georgia still needs us. The tragic events of September 11 were an important reminder of just how vulnerable every single one of us is. No one knows which one of us, which one of our families, will be next to face a crisis in which we will need the help of our neighbors and fellow citizens through one of the many service organizations that are supported by our contributions. The Charitable Campaign is our chance to make sure that help will be there for ourselves, our families, our friends, and our neighbors in times of need.

The tragic events of September 11 also demonstrated the importance of a strong sense of community, where people are united in spirit and stand shoulder to shoulder, ready to work together and help each other.

On the surface, terrorism might lead us to think that the worst thing we could do to our fellow citizens is to hate them. But in *The Devil's Disciple*, George Bernard Shaw wrote that the essence of inhumanity is not hatred, but rather indifference. The cruelest thing we can do to our neighbors and fellow citizens is not to care, to be indifferent to their needs, to wave them aside as somebody else's responsibility.

The Charitable Campaign offers us an opportunity to demonstrate our caring, to reach out a helping hand to the injured and ill, to serve children and families, to support literacy programs, and to provide disaster assistance, food, clothing, and housing.

Most of us think of ourselves as "givers" to the Charitable Campaign. But I think you would be surprised to discover how many members of the Georgia Tech community have also been "receivers." They are usually well-respected, well-established members of our community – not the sort of people you would think of as needing social

services. But they tell stories of how the Visiting Nurses Association helped them care for a family member who was critically ill, or how community service organizations put them in touch with the special resources they needed in a time of family crisis.

My new executive assistant, April Brown, will chair this year's campaign, and she has my full support. Please give her your enthusiastic assistance and encourage the faculty and staff in your units to give generously. Our collective efforts in the Charitable Campaign give meaning to our own lives, touch the lives of our friends and neighbors, and go a long way toward making our own campus community and the state of Georgia a better place.