

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Georgia Tech Presidents' Dinner, May 20, 2005

I am proud to join Carey Brown and A.J. Land in welcoming all of you to this year's Presidents' Dinner, which is our way of expressing our appreciation to everyone who has made a significant contribution to Roll Call.

There are many things that separate Georgia Tech from the typical public university, but one of the most significant is our outstanding alumni. You continue to support us with such strong enthusiasm long after you have "gotten out." If you look at the other nine public universities that are up there with us in the nation's top ten, not a single one can match the level of support we get from our alumni. You are the number one group of alumni in the United States, and it is your enthusiastic support that makes Georgia Tech such an exciting place to be.

Two weeks ago, we held our first-ever off-campus commencement ceremony at the Georgia Dome. It was a difficult decision, but we had outgrown the Coliseum, which is the largest indoor gathering space we have on campus. But even as the location changed, we celebrated in traditional Georgia Tech fashion with students walking individually across the stage. And we had much to celebrate, because we have just concluded another outstanding year that was filled with high points. I'd like to share a few of them with you, because they illustrate so well the important difference that your gifts make at Georgia Tech.

Of course, one of the ways that you, our alumni, stay connected to Georgia Tech is through athletics. We were proud when the football team ended the season by winning the Champs Bowl 54-14, and anticipation is already building for next fall, with the team's receiving a No. 25 pre-season ranking from Athlon Sports. The basketball team also had an exciting season. Not only did they make it into the NCAA Tournament, but all five seniors on the team graduated.

But I am here to tell you that if you are looking only at football and basketball, you are missing out on a lot of spectacular sports events and achievements at Georgia Tech. The spring sports have just been phenomenal this year. Our women's softball team, ranked No. 16 in the nation, won the ACC Championship for the first time ever, and is now competing in the Regional NCAA Tournament, which just began today.

The golf team, which is ranked in the nation's top five, is competing in the NCAA Regional Tournament, which is also going on this weekend. The baseball team is also ranked in the top five, and Chaunte Howard continues to set new records in the high jump on behalf of the track team. She competed in the 2004 Olympics, is a three-time NCAA champ, and just set a new Georgia Tech record last Saturday.

Even our club teams are proving their merit against the best in the nation. Last weekend the men's lightweight four crew team capped an undefeated season by placing first in the championship Dad Vail Regatta – beating many other teams with scholarships and paid coaches. And this is the second year in a row they've won the title. Earlier in the year, our sky-diving club

won the national championship, beating the perennial favorite Air Force. And both our men's and women's lacrosse clubs are playing in post-season tournaments.

Our student athletes can perform in the classroom as well. The NCAA has just implemented a new way to evaluate the academic performance of college athletic programs, and Georgia Tech stood out as one of the nation's best.

But athletics is not the only area where Georgia Tech shines. We continue to be ranked among the nation's top ten public universities, and engineering continues to be ranked among the top five programs in the nation. We are also making good progress in other fields, with the College of Management leaping up into the 30s from the 40s this spring in the *U.S. News* rankings. Unfortunately, no new rankings were done for the sciences, but we are working very hard and making good progress in lifting our science programs up to a new level of excellence. That was demonstrated when three faculty in the College of Sciences were selected as Sloan Fellows in March. Each one will receive \$45,000 over the course of the next two years.

Our students continue to achieve high levels of excellence. After a 50-year dearth in Rhodes Scholars, we now have our second one in three years. Jeremy Farris wowed the scholarship committee, and by the time his interview concluded, it was a foregone conclusion that he would be a winner. Then last month Anthony Hylick was named a Gates Scholar and will head for Cambridge University next year for his Ph.D., and John Parish was awarded a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship to continue his undergraduate studies here at Tech.

Our junior faculty continue to win CAREER Awards from the National Science Foundation, and our cumulative total has now passed the 100 mark. The vast majority of these awards are in engineering and the sciences, but this spring Georgia Tech experienced the rare achievement of having a faculty member in the School of Public Policy win a CAREER Award. We believe that it is important for engineers to understand public policy and for public policy experts to understand technology. And it is wonderful to have our progress in that direction acknowledged with an NSF CAREER Award.

Our new buildings are also award winners. The Campus Rec Center has won the 2005 Innovative Architecture and Design Award from *Recreation Management Magazine* and has been named the 2005 Outstanding Sports Facility by the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association. Technology Square has won so many awards that I have lost track of them, but last fall the Urban Land Institute capped the list by presenting us with the most prestigious land-use award in the nation. This award goes beyond architecture and design to recognize factors like contribution to the community, innovation, environmental sustainability, public-private partnership, and financial success. If you have spent any time at Technology Square, you know it excels at all of these. The financial success component of the award recognizes the fact that the Georgia Tech Hotel turned a profit in its very first year of operation, which is a significant achievement in that industry.

A more recent financial success is the fund-raising drive to pay for the College of Management Building. Our goal was to raise \$45 million by last December 31 to pay off that building, and we actually raised \$49 million, which gives us a little extra for the finishing touches.

At the same time we were completing the fund-raising for the Management Building, which many said could not be done, we were also completing the \$50 million drive to pay for the renovation and expansion of Bobby Dodd Stadium at Grant Field. Finishing the funding for these two major facilities ranks among the highlights of what is shaping up to be a very strong fund-raising year. The fiscal year will not end for another six weeks, but at this point it looks like this year will be the second-best fund-raising year in Tech history – surpassed only by the final year of the last capital campaign.

Each one of you has played a key role in making that possible. Even as we have seen our state funding dwindle, you have stepped up to the plate and provided the resources that have enabled us to sustain our forward momentum. Your gifts, combined with that good old Georgia Tech “can do” spirit and persistence in face of tough challenges, have enabled us to continue to make progress and prepare for the future.

We are especially grateful to you for giving so generously to Roll Call. Roll Call helps us fill in the gaps between the designated gifts and gives us the flexibility we need to explore new directions, take advantage of unexpected opportunities, and test new ideas for improving our curriculum and our programs. Your gifts allow us to seize our opportunities and rise above the level of a good, solid school to become the standard by which others measure themselves.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Georgia Tech, I want to express my heart-felt thanks to you for joining with us as partners in our endeavors. Your love for Georgia Tech, expressed in your Roll Call contributions, enables us to rise to the challenges of our times and step forward to provide new levels of technological leadership in a changing world.