

NOTES FOR PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Board of Regents: Hesburgh Award, May 12, 1999

I'm glad to be here and share with you the tremendous pride that Georgia Tech feels as the 1999 recipient of the Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching. I accepted the award on February 15 in Washington, DC, at a luncheon for 1,200 university educators that featured Senator Elizabeth Dole. Georgia Tech was the ninth winner of this award.

- Excellence in teaching is usually considered purview of liberal arts institutions and colleges of education. It is unusual for a technological research university to pay attention to excellence in undergraduate teaching, let alone win the top national award for it. It is proof Georgia Tech has not lost sight of our original mission of undergraduate education, and we deliberately strive for excellence in that as well as in our other tasks.
- This award specifically recognizes the Teaching Fellows programs of CETL – Georgia Tech's Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and learning. CETL has three levels of programs: young faculty, senior faculty and teaching assistants. We are concerned that our students' experience with TA's be top quality. Many of our TA's go on to become professors and need to know how to engage their students. We are also proud that senior faculty continue to renew and refresh their techniques. Georgia Tech is a true community of learners where everyone at all levels is learning.
- Special feature of Teaching Fellows programs: They are made possible by our alumni, who have created endowments to fund them. The endowment fund for young faculty program, for example, is now valued at \$750,000. Alumni have vivid memories of how Georgia Tech professors changed their own lives, and they support same opportunity for students today.
- Teaching enhancement programs also give us tools for ongoing updating and improving the undergraduate curriculum. To be effective, a curriculum has to be continually evolving, and coming up with fresh, inventive teaching requires you to look critically at the curriculum. Our teaching enhancement programs have helped us integrate technology into freshman and sophomore curriculum as you have encouraged, and as you saw when you visited campus several months ago. Our Teaching Fellows are developing innovative models for using technology, and we n make extensive and creative use of computers in calculus, chemistry, physics, and English.