

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
**Parents' Weekend, September 28, 2001**

- Pleased to welcome you back to campus. You were here 6 weeks ago to bring your students. May have left with some trepidation at that time and been looking forward to seeing how they are doing.
- Your children are extremely bright and talented. We believe they have a great future; proud to help them prepare for that future; thank you for entrusting them to us.
- Georgia Tech a very rigorous place, and some of your sons and daughters may be telling you that the past 6 weeks were pretty rough. I know what they are experiencing. \When I came to Georgia Tech as a freshman, I struggled at first until I got some help to improve my study skills.
- We want your children to succeed here at Georgia Tech, and we have a lot of programs and support services ready to help them do that. The important thing is for them not to be afraid to ask – dorm counselors, academic advisors, dean of students, counseling office – all they have to do is ask.
- Want to mention one program in particular, because it is going to kick in in about two weeks. On Monday, October 15, when your sons and daughters are home for mid-semester break, encourage them to log onto the Georgia Tech website and check their grade records, which are posted by the registrar's office. At that time, all students taking courses at the 1,000 and 2,000 level – which is virtually all of our freshmen and most of our sophomores – will get a preliminary report on how they are doing. These are not letter grades, but merely indicators of whether a student is making satisfactory progress in the course, or whether he or she is in academic trouble.
- The point of this mid-semester progress report is more than simply indicating to students how they are doing, although it does that. This mid-term report is the trigger to begin the process of fixing the problems that have emerged. Every student whose academic performance is unsatisfactory in any course will have an e-mail waiting for them when they get back to campus after mid-semester break, reminding them that they are required to meet one-on-one with their academic advisor.
- At that meeting, their advisor will help them sort out what the problem is, and get the process of solving it underway, whether that means to meet with the professor who teaches the class, or to get tutoring, or to get counseling or medical help for a

personal problem that is affecting their academic performance. Whatever the problem, our goal is to intervene early on, so that they can bring their grades up by the end of the semester.

- This is just one of the ways that we try to help students stay on track and prevent them from falling through the cracks. Georgia Tech is a research university, and we are very proud of the magnitude of our research endeavor. But we also give a tremendous amount of attention and energy to undergraduate education. Unlike many other research universities, we do not see research and undergraduate education as separate undertakings that compete with each other. Rather, we believe they are two parts of a whole. And our goal is to give our students the best of both worlds – the attention to undergraduate education of a liberal arts college and the chance to participate in the dynamic energy of university-based research.
- Again, we are pleased to have you on campus this weekend. This year is off to a great start for the Georgia Tech community, and we are very pleased to have your sons and daughters here, contributing to our life on campus and participating with us in this community of learners.