

NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Presentation of Wallace Coulter's Honorary PhD Degree to Sue Van
August 1, 2006

- Thank you, Sue, for donating so much of Wallace's jade from his travels to the Far East, which meant so much to him. (Trust me, very few faculty lounges are this beautiful!)
 - Wallace was a world traveler who understood how the world fit together – a great fit with Georgia Tech's growing global outreach, especially as Tech expands in Asia and China, where he procured his jade collection.
 - Pleased to be here today to present Sue with an Honorary PhD Degree for Wallace Coulter.
 - Wallace was a paradigm for the kind of graduates GT strives to produce:
 - Grounded in the sciences
 - Knack for practical problem solving
 - Entrepreneurial
 - Strong work ethic
 - Deep human component to his work:
 - Cared for humanity in general; spent his entire life working tirelessly in the service of humankind. All of us know the story of the Coulter Principle and the Coulter Counter, which revolutionized medical diagnostics.
 - Also cared deeply for the individuals that he knew, put needs of others ahead of his own:

Sue Van has told me many stories about Wallace. One of my favorites reflects his loyalty to his employees. Once, during a rough year at the company, Sue, who was the CFO at the time, finally convinced Wallace to lay off some staff. It had never been done before. Sue came up with 200 names. Wallace insisted on reviewing them one by one, asking questions such as "How many children? Any in college? Any major health problems in the family? Is the employee the sole provider for the family?" and so on.

Wallace finally agreed to lay off 50 of the 200 people on the list. However, two weeks later, Sue saw one of the people she had fired in the parking lot, then another one in the cafeteria. She asked the HR office what was going on, and was told that Wallace had rehired every one of the 50 people at a higher salary and told them to hide from Sue!
- Wallace was such a special person that he merits the high honor of the very first posthumous degree the University System of Georgia has ever awarded.
- Proud to present Wallace H. Coulter with an honorary posthumous doctor of philosophy degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology as authorized by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia:

Whereas

Wallace Henry Coulter

has been recognized for a lifetime of transformational contributions to healthcare innovation, including the “Coulter Principle,” which revolutionized laboratory medicine and improved the quality of life worldwide by making an automated and standardized complete blood count widely available, now therefore, We, under the authority vested in us, do hereby confer the degree of

Honorary Doctor of Philosophy

- Sue, please come forward to accept the diploma on behalf of Wallace.