What: Golden Key Quarterly Meeting

Good evening. It is a pleasure to meet with the members of Golden Key. Tonight, I'd like to speak to you about the future of education, specifically Georgia Tech and its utilization of educational technology. And at the end of my talk, I'd like to hear from you. If you agree with our direction, what you think of educational technology, what you hate about educational technology...

Baseball great Dizzy Dean once said: "Predictions are hard—especially about the future."

He had a point, but I think the fact that education will change as a result of new technologies is a given.

How it will change, perhaps is more questionable.

Regardless of how it changes, however, I am certain of one thing. That Georgia Tech should be at the forefront of the changes. Students like you come to us to gain a technological foundation—for us to miss the boat would mean we were not living up to our unique mission.

And, in some ways we're already leading the way. The tutorial sessions that are conducted via campus cable are one example. Our on-line registration services, satellite literacy program, and long-distance master's programs still others.

The business world has embraced the idea of a technological future. However, as much as is heard about children teaching their parents about computers and technology—there are still

many students out there who have not benefitted in any way, shape, or form from educational technology. Reed Hundt,chairman of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission commented on this. "There are thousands of buildings in this country with millions of people in them who have no telephones, no cable television, and no reasonable prospect of broadband services. These are called schools."

When you consider where America's businesses are heading, that's a frightening concept.

In his book, *The Road Ahead*, Bill Gates devotes a chapter to educational technology. That chapter is titled "Education: The Best Investment." I'm not exactly sure if that's high praise or low praise—coming from the man who dropped out of Harvard to found Microsoft.

In the book, Bill has a pretty incredible quote about Georgia Tech. He says: "Great educators—like those at Georgia Tech—have always known that learning is not something you do only in classrooms, or under the supervision of teachers."

Actually there are a couple of words in there that he didn't say, but I think the phrase does have relevance to Georgia Tech. Unlike many schools, we are willing to take risks, willing to discard the traditional method of teaching—in order to provide a better experience for our students.

For example, I consider my co-op experience one of the most valuable learning experiences I had at Tech. Although the co-op plan doesn't always involve educational technology, it is a learning experience that takes place completely outside of the

classroom. In the School of Textile and Fiber Engineering, we've taken the co-op experience one step further. All students in that major must now spend one quarter working in industry. They are paid employees—and they also get school credit for their employment.

So you could say our co-op program has paved the way for a future focused less on traditional methods of teaching.

So how will it change?

The first answer is obvious. Further emphasis on computers. Fifty years ago, computer labs were unheard of on college campuses. Fifty years from now, residence hall computers could conceivably replace the lecture hall.

Because of the Summer Olympic Games, Georgia Tech has an impressive legacy of state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure on campus. FutureNet is being wired into all of the residence halls—both new and old—so students from their rooms will have computing technologies with voice and video capabilities. In addition, our residence halls are cable-ready. As I mentioned earlier that benefit is already widely used on campus through the tutorial programs. In the future, it will get even better.

Consider this scenario, a freshman is working on a Calculus problem. He's having trouble, so he tunes in to campus cable. Through computing technologies, he can e-mail his problem to the tutor. The tutor can then put the problem on screen and work through it. Others on campus tuning in will benefit as well.

When the technology is first available, it will be optional. However, as I'm sure you've heard we are considering requiring all students to have a computer on campus. This is not an arbitrary decision made by the administration to tax the wallet of Tech's students. Instead, it's a way to enhance your learning experience. To make the learning experience more interactive—and move it to the next level.

As Bill Gates says in his book, "The highway will alter the focus of education from the institution to the individual. The ultimate goal will be changed from getting a diploma to enjoying lifelong learning."

Now, I'm not saying that when that happens that computers will replace professors. Quite the contrary, professors will be freed to work with students on a more personal level. They will be able to do so via computer as well as in smaller group settings. Learning will replace teaching.

In addition, I see a tighter interaction between Housing and Academic Affairs as one of the keys to this successful future. In the past, residence halls were just a place to sleep and hang out. In the future, they will be much more. One concrete step we are taking to cement this partnership is a new campus position. We are currently looking for a vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs. This position will oversee the future integration of academics and living—and help deliver programs that enhance a student's collegiate experience at Georgia Tech.

We are rapidly moving toward this future. As I'm sure you've heard, we recently kicked off a $400 million campaign for

Georgia Tech. As such, we're continuing to build the infrastructure to support our dreams of a better future—by raising the funds to so. Of the $400 million we're looking for, $25,000 million has been allocated for high-tech classrooms, educational technology, and the completion of FutureNet.

The theme of the campaign is "Threshold for a New Era." Basically, that theme is a fancy way of saying that the world is changing, that Georgia Tech is aware of those changes, and we want to be—and will be—at the forefront of that change.

If I may, I'd like to open this discussion up now and hear from you. What do you think about Tech's future direction? What do you want? Where do you see educational technology going?

Thank you.