

NOTES FOR GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Georgia Tech Black Alumni, April 7, 2008

- Pleased to have this special opportunity to thank the GTBAO (Georgia Tech Black Alumni Organization). Especially want to recognize and thank:
 - President Nicolette Gordon
 - Campaign chairs Sonya Rush, Miya Smith
- Exciting and moving for me to hear Audrey Plummer and Sean Sanders (GTBAO Scholars) speak.
 - They represent the bright young minority students we are working to bring to Georgia Tech.
 - They are tomorrow's leaders, and I know they will go on to make Tech proud, just as thousands of students have before them.
- Challenging time for a technological university:
 - Technical information doubles every 2 years; its shelf life is growing ever shorter
 - We are educating students for jobs and technologies that do not yet exist
 - Their task will be to solve problems that we do not yet even recognize as problems
- Sean and Audrey's comments mirror those I hear from many students and alumni – that true value of their GT education is traits and skills rather than information:
 - Discipline and perseverance
 - Ability to think creatively about open-ended questions, solve open-ended problems.
 - Citizens of the world, at home with diversity.
 - Is prepared for leadership – not leadership that seeks personal power, wealth, or fame, but leadership that tackles a worthy cause that is bigger than themselves and makes a difference. This is the goal of the GTBAO Endowed Scholarship Initiative.
- I was a GT student when the campus was integrated. Have gone from 3 black students on that occasion to more than 1,200 today.
- GT created FOCUS and OMED. Founding member of organizations like SECME and EMERGE. Proud that Georgia Tech became a national leader in graduating minorities during my presidency. But more still needs to be done.
- This is a time of incredible opportunity for minorities who have a technological education:
 - Science and technology workforce is largely comprised of white males. In today's global economy, companies are hungry for diversity in their technological talent.
 - As technology becomes ever more predominant in all aspects of life, society is looking for leaders who understand how it works and how to use it constructively.
 - We need the representation and participation of black young people in the positions of leadership that are increasingly opening for those with a technological education.

- Importance of opening doors of technological education to bright young people is what inspired me to create Georgia Tech Promise:
 - Gives Georgia students from families with income of less than \$30,000 a chance to attend Georgia Tech and graduate debt-free.
 - Can't use state funds or income from tuition for this purpose; have to raise private funds. Working on raising a \$50 million endowment.
 - Awarded first GT Promise scholarships this fall – about 200 of them. Recipients are largely minority.
 - Doing very well – more than half have GPA of 3.0 or better. Ten have perfect 4.0 GPA

- But GT Promise represents only a small piece of the student financial aid we need. Wonderful that GTBAO has launched Endowed Scholarship Initiative to help more black young people pursue the technological education that will enable them to become leaders.
 - GT in the quiet phase of a \$1 billion campaign, and scholarships and need-based financial assistance for our students are a major campaign priority.
 - GT's black alumni understand better than anyone both the challenges that face minority students as they strive to get a college education and the doors of opportunity that a GT education will open for them.
 - Can already see that understanding expressed in the GTBAO Endowed Scholarship Initiative – both in the hard work of Sonya and Miya, together with Nicolette and in the early response from Black alumni.

- Personally appreciate your hard work and enthusiasm. You are organized, analytical, and strategic, as good Georgia Tech alumni should be. Have every confidence that the GTBAO Endowed Scholarship Initiative will be a great success.

- Events like this one and people like all of you reassure me that the future of Georgia Tech is in good hands as I prepare to move on to the next chapter in my own life.