

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Sophomore Summit, April 4, 2008

- Welcome you to the Sophomore Summit on behalf of Georgia Tech. It is an honor for you to be selected to participate.
- Our nation needs capable leaders who understand technology, and GT is in a unique position to supply them. Our students are so bright and have such tremendous potential. It is our desire to give you both a rigorous technological education and opportunities to realize your leadership potential.
- Each of you is already emerging as a student leader. Applying to be part of Sophomore Summit is an indication of your willingness to continue to develop your leadership skills and to make a positive contribution to Georgia Tech while you are here.
- Even though you represent the top 40 or so leaders from the sophomore class, that doesn't mean you work together or even know each other. Each of you has demonstrated your leadership abilities in your own sphere – the *Technique*, Drama Tech, athletics, the Greek system and many other places around campus. Now it is time to bring you together and forge the leadership core of the sophomore class. As you become upperclassmen, you will become the leaders for the Georgia Tech campus as well as your class.
- For the next 24 hours you are going to get to know each other:
 - Be in situations where you have to trust each other.
 - Have time to think introspectively about yourself.
 - Share your experiences and ideas with each other and brainstorm together.
 - Might sound a little like personal therapy, and you are likely to come back to campus feeling like some of that has happened.
- But the real goals are something more:
 - Enable you to develop a bond with each other as leaders of sophomore class and develop a vision for your class that you can carry back to your own niches in campus life.
 - Give you a broader understanding of Georgia Tech that puts your specific roles on campus into a larger context, preparing you for campus-wide leadership.
 - Cultivate your leadership skills
- When I was a student at GT, no leadership training experiences like this. I learned about leadership in College of Hard Knocks, but also from the examples of others:
 - Cincinnatus: Consul (top political job) of Rome in 460. When his term was over, went home to his farm. 3 years later, Roman army was trapped by enemies in the Alban Hills; horseman escaped to Rome with the news. Senate sent to Cincinnatus for help. He was plowing his fields for planting; knew that if his crops were not planted his family might starve. Dropped the plow in the field and went. Raised an army, which he led personally. Surprised the enemy and conquered them while avoiding unnecessary bloodshed. Upon

victory, could have declared himself emperor or king, but resigned his position and returned to his farm – 16 days after he had been called away.

- Scipio Africanus – Roman general who had the courage to take on Hannibal when no one else was willing, and was not content just to chase him out of Italy, but followed him to Africa to finish the job (hence his name). Hannibal had the larger army plus some 80 war elephants. Scipio used creative, unconventional, untraditional strategies to win. Like Cincinnatus, turned down offer of power and returned to life as private citizen.
 - Closer home, George Washington – another farmer who was asked to fight a war with a poorly trained and organized army at great risk to his life. After overcoming great odds to win, then serving two terms as president, returned to farming. David Ramsay’s biography: “To be elevated to supreme power was less in his esteem than to be a good man.”
 - Marie Curie – intellectually curious, overcame bias against women in science, only person to ever win two Nobel Prizes in different disciplines – physics and chemistry. “You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individual. To that end, each of us must work for our own improvement and, at the same time, share a general responsibility for all humanity.”
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. – from my own student days at GT. Responded to hatred in non-violent ways; had a deep understanding of what the equality of all people meant and its importance to the survival of American democracy; never sought financial gain.
 - My parents – worked hard, sacrificed, set high example for their children and others. “Paid it forward” by working to make my life better than theirs had been.
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- What they all had in common: Not in it for personal power, wealth, or fame; were passionate about serving a worthy cause that was bigger than themselves. Winston Churchill, who overcame serious handicaps and multiple defeats, and never gave up – “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”
 - Purpose of Sophomore Summit – nurture your leadership skills, and develop your passion for a common, shared vision for your class and for the Georgia Tech community.
 - You will return to campus tomorrow evening, enlarged by the experience of these 24 hours, and with a new enthusiasm, a broader perspective and a sharper vision for your leadership responsibilities in our campus life together. Will enable you to serve your class better, and in the process you will also serve Georgia Tech better and yourself better.