

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Friends of Petit Institute Dinner, January 20, 2001

- Pleased to be here and have a chance to say a personal thank-you to friends of Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience.
- Purpose of Petit Institute is to integrate engineering, the sciences, and information technology in order to conduct biomedical research and education. Covers a wide range, from designing effective new medications to improving medical technology, from developing “body-friendly” synthetic implants to engineering living tissues and even genes.
- Exciting new interdisciplinary field of biotechnology is on the fast track at Georgia Tech; has developed and come to prominence incredibly quickly, with major new developments coming at a rapid pace:
 - The merging of medicine and engineering made GT and Emory natural partners; were working together informally when the Whitaker Foundation provided a Development Award less than decade ago in 1993.
 - 1995: Result was the creation of the Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience.
 - 1996: Pete Petit endowed IBB; it was named for him.
 - 1997: creation of Joint GT-Emory Biomedical Engineering Department; one of the rare if not the only joint academic department between a public and a private university.
 - 1998: \$12.5 million NSF Award creates Georgia Tech/Emory Center for Engineering of Living Tissues, first of its kind in the nation.
 - 1999: Petit Institute moves into beautiful new building, which garnered international attention in *Nature* Magazine last summer for its innovative approach to fostering interdisciplinary research.
- With the arrival of the new century, decided one major development each year wasn't fast enough, so had several in the past year:
 - Whitaker Foundation: \$16 million grant for the Department of Biomedical Engineering, allowing it to double in size.
 - Then Coulter Foundation: \$25 million gift – the largest non-bequest gift in Georgia Tech history – to name the Department the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering. The bulk of this gift – endowments for distinguished faculty chairs, graduate fellowships, translational research, and keep lab equipment up to date. Gift will also support construction and equipping of main lab in department's new building.
 - EmTech Bio formed.

- Institute joined with European Union Center in Sam Nunn School of International Affairs to host international conference on present state and future shape of biotechnology policy in Europe and the United States.
- It's been a thrilling ride, with more to come in the next few years:
 - New building for Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering; expand the academic program down into the undergrad level.
 - Partnership with Centers for Disease Control will bring new national/international aspect to Petit Institute. Georgia Tech has signed memorandum of agreement with CDC; seed grant fund will get the ball rolling by supporting joint GT-CDC research projects.
 - NSF site visit this coming May to begin looking at funding past the initial five-year framework.
- Friends of Petit Institute make a special contribution to the exciting opportunities being developed here. Especially want to thank you for your support of the Undergraduate Research Scholars program for rising juniors and seniors.
 - New class of 11 scholars – 10 from GT and 1 from Agnes Scott College – just began on Jan 4. Here with us tonight.
 - Will receive academic credit and be paid a stipend to work on research projects in Institute labs under careful eye of grad student mentors, who are also here tonight.
 - Working 10-12 hours a week during this semester, full-time during next summer, and 10-12 hours a week during next fall semester.
 - Important personal priority for me to make sure Georgia Tech's undergraduates get their full share of the dynamic energy of our world-class research enterprise, and I thank you for helping us achieve that goal through your support of these outstanding young undergrads.
- Petit Institute has moved Georgia Tech quickly to the forefront of a very vibrant interdisciplinary field, which is wonderful for Tech as an institution. But much more importantly, the Petit Institute enables GT to make a significant contribution to improving healthcare and making life better for people everywhere.
- As friends of Petit Institute, you are a vital part of this effort. We are grateful to have your help and support, and pleased to show our appreciation to you here tonight.