

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH
Georgia Tech Alumni Association Phoenix Dinner, September 17, 1999

Anne and I are pleased to host this special evening as an expression of our appreciation to the Phoenix Club. There are many things that separate Georgia Tech from the typical public university, but one of the most significant is our outstanding alumni and the strong contribution you make year after year.

You have realized the promise and potential that lay within you as students here at Georgia Tech. You are our ambassadors and our best advertisement of what attending Georgia Tech can do for a person.

In addition to recognizing the value of your own student days, you have also been perceptive in recognizing the promise in each new generation of students that has come along behind you, and you have been generous in supporting them. Tonight we honor and thank you for giving back to Georgia Tech.

If you read *U.S. News & World Report*, you know that Georgia Tech is ranked among the top 50 universities in the United States and among the top 10 public universities. Our College of Engineering is ranked third in the nation for its graduate programs. And you may wonder what is left for us to do.

The answer is plenty. Our class size is the largest among the top 50 universities, and we need more high-quality faculty. Our buildings are old and inadequate for the growth we are experiencing. We lag behind the rest of the ACC in the number of intercollegiate teams we field. When you look at individual measures like this, it is amazing that we are able to get and hold the rankings we have.

But the magic ingredient is our outstanding students, faculty and alumni. Georgia Tech is known for our ability to solve real-world problems in novel and creative ways, to adjust quickly and gracefully to rapidly changing circumstances, and to use knowledge and technology to improve lives. And you have been the key to giving us that reputation.

Our challenge today is the same as it was when you were here: to imagine the skills and the knowledge our students will need to become leaders in the world into which they graduate, and prepare them for that role.

Your faithful and steadfast participation in Roll Call helps us rise to that challenge even as the world around us grows more complex and changes more quickly. And we are glad to have a chance tonight to say thank you.