



G. WAYNE CLOUGH UNDERGRADUATE LEARNING COMMONS MID-YEAR REPORT

More than 10 years ago, the Georgia Institute of Technology embarked on a mission to enrich the undergraduate student experience by building an infrastructure which would serve as a model for America's leading universities. Opening in August 2011, the G. Wayne Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons is the Institute's visible commitment to undergraduate students. The academic support units in Clough Commons foster cross-disciplinary learning experiences, support academic success, promote classroom technology integration, and advance teaching pedagogy.

Named in honor of former Georgia Tech President G. Wayne Clough, the 220,000 square foot, sustainably-built and operated facility is located at the heart of campus and is connected to the Price Gilbert Memorial Library on two levels. The Library also assumed management responsibilities for the Commons which include facilities management, security, shipping and receiving, events management, tours, and information support. The Clough Commons, designed to centralize core support services of undergraduate learning and technology assistance, will improve the academic success of students in Georgia Tech's highly rigorous academic environment.

Since opening in August 2011, the CORE Help Desk, the Center for Academic Success, the Communication Center, the OIT Technology Support Center, the Office of Undergraduate Studies, and the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning have reported an impressive first semester of operation. This mid-term report includes data gathered from August 20 to December 31, 2011. During this period there were approximately 1 million visits to the Clough Commons.

A variety of events, including a large-scale dedication ceremony and reception in the Atrium were held in the Clough Commons during the fall semester. Other events include the Georgia Tech Advisory Board meeting and reception, a Parent's Weekend Reception, a Legislative Day event, a University System of Georgia Symposium, a lecture with Architect Oliver Grau, and the School of Mechanical Engineering Capstone Senior Design Expo.

This report provides details regarding activities, usage and trends observed in the Clough Commons during the fall 2011 semester.

FALL 2011

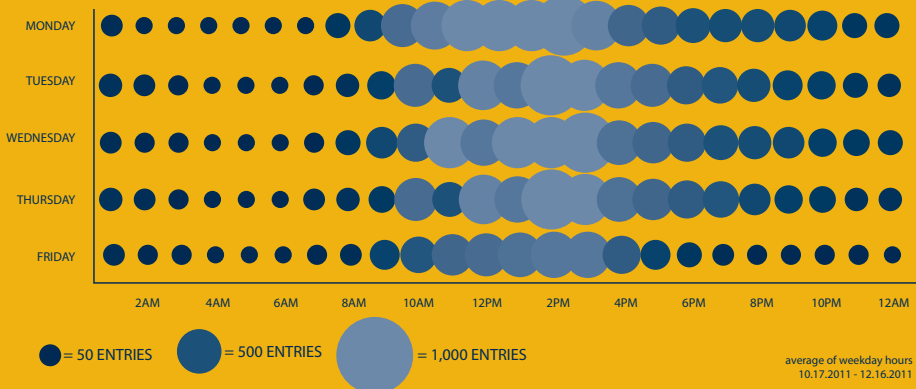
THE NUMBERS

1,020,000
GATE COUNT

19,151
HOURS
TUTORING

14,614
INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS
403 COURSES MET FOR 14,614 INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

CLOUGH ENTRY COUNT BY HOUR



17,576 HOURS USED OF 25,029 HOURS AVAILABLE
UTILIZATION OF
GROUP STUDY ROOMS
10 am through 11:30 pm
70.22%

CORE Help Desk

The CORE Help Desk serves as a centralized service point for assisting students in the use and navigation of the Clough Commons facility, and also provides “walk-up” general academic advising and library research services.

In fall 2011, CORE desk staff handled over 4,000 transactions and provided numerous impromptu and scheduled tours for students, faculty, staff, visitors and alumni. Staffing the desk is a collaborative effort between the Library and the Office of Information Technology (OIT).

Clough Commons study rooms experienced heavy usage during the fall semester. Students using the GEvents reservation system made a total of 10,258 group study



room bookings. Notably, during peak hours between 10:00 a.m.-midnight, the “instant reservation” group study rooms in Clough Commons were booked 70% of the time.

Undergraduate Studies:

A Positive Shift for the Academic Culture at Tech

The Office of Undergraduate Studies enhances the intellectual community of Georgia Tech by facilitating faculty-student interactions and supporting scholarly opportunities for undergraduates outside the classroom. By hosting engaging programming and events, such as NPR's "This I Believe," weekly topical conversations between students, staff and faculty called Open Forums, and the ThinkBig living-learning communities, Undergraduate Studies aims to foster a culture of intellectual growth and scholarly community among Georgia Tech undergraduates. In addition, the high visibility of the Undergraduate Studies office has resulted in an increased number of students seeking information about Rhodes, Fulbright and other prestigious fellowships. More students have expressed interest in connecting with faculty to do undergraduate research, and there was an increase in visits for pre-health and



pre-teaching advising.

Another notable and exciting evolution in undergraduate culture is the level of scholarly activity occurring in Clough Commons on Friday evenings. Starbucks cafe extended Friday hours to midnight mid-semester resulting in many more students taking advantage of study space and refreshments in the Clough Commons.

Communication Center:

Promoting Excellence in WOVEN Communication

Developing the ability to communicate effectively in all forms (written, oral, visual, electronically, and non-verbally) is vital to the student experience and has life-long value. In fall 2011, the Communication Center tutored a total of 315 students and held approximately 580 tutoring sessions.

The Communication Center opened in the Clough Commons as a creative space where students can obtain help with oral and written communication projects. Positioned in a highly visible location next to the technology-rich presentation rehearsal rooms, the Communication Center reached an impressive number of



students in a diverse range of majors representing all six colleges.

Center for Academic Success

In alignment with the Institute's strategic goal "to enrich the student experience," the Center for Academic Success was established in July 2011.

For the first time, many tutoring services for core freshman and sophomore classes are now offered in a single location within the Clough Commons. Student response to tutoring services was robust with a total of 11,570 visits and 19,151 hours of tutoring. PLUS (Peer-Led Undergraduate Study) served 1,340 unique students for over 6,000 total contact hours.

Of the 85 GT 1000 Freshman Seminars held in the fall semester, 49 were taught in the Clough Commons. The Center also organized a plenary lecture with Ambassador Andrew Young which was attended by over 600 students, staff and faculty. This lecture supported the 2011 Freshman Reading Initiative, *I Have a Dream: Writing and Speeches that Changed the World* (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.).



In addition, the Center for Academic Success held 14 workshops on the following topics: time management, learning styles and study strategies, test preparation and test-taking skills, and the countdown to finals.

Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning: Supporting Advances in Teaching Pedagogy

Georgia Tech is committed to developing new approaches to teaching instruction and pedagogy. The visible manifestation of this commitment is the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), which offers professional development for graduate students, teaching enrichment activities for faculty, educational research on teaching and learning pedagogy, and other alumni and grant agency-funded initiatives.

The move to the Clough Commons facilitates CETL's engagement with students and faculty in close proximity to where teaching and learning occurs. In December, CETL hosted a Georgia Tech alumnus Dr. Jorge Cham, founder of the PhD Comics strip, for a lecture and movie screening in Clough that filled both of the 300-seat auditoria.

In fall 2011, CETL connected with a total of 723 faculty through the brown bag lunch series - a monthly faculty development seminar series, new faculty orientations,



and a celebrating teaching day event. "Cheating in the Classroom," "Pass the Book Club: A Discussion on How Learning Works," and "Just in Time T-Square" are a few of the events attended by Georgia Tech faculty for inspiration and information about new approaches to classroom instruction.

OIT Technology Support Center

In a 24/7 technology-rich environment, students rely on the availability of easily accessible technology support services. The Technology Support Center (TSC) provides a wide-variety of walk-up services designed to assist students at the time and point of need. These services include: virus diagnosis and protection, hardware/software support, wireless troubleshooting, assistance with email or account problems, and a demo area for students to test the latest personal computing technologies.

The OIT TSC vacated its secluded location on the Library's ground floor and moved to a highly visible location in Clough Commons. Since relocating, OIT reports a very active semester for the TSC with 2,126 students seeking walk-in support from August to November 2011.



The Clough Commons could not have been built without support from the state of Georgia, Institute leaders, generous donors and faithful alumni, for which we are extremely thankful.

Georgia Tech has created a vibrant, 24-hour academic and cultural complex at the heart of campus -- a deserving gift for students and the entire campus community.

