**Georgia Institute of Technology/Herman Miller, Inc.**

**Project Title: Library East Commons/Clough Commons Space Utilization Study:**

**A Day in the Life of a Student—Dscout**

**Investigators:** Caroline R. Noyes, PhD., Ameet Doshi, Susan Whitmer (Herman Miller, Inc)

**Protocol and Consent Title:** Library East Commons/Clough Commons Space Utilization Study:

A Day in the Life of a Student--DScout

**Research Consent Form**

You are invited to be a volunteer in a research study.

**Purpose:**

The Clough Learning Commons is designed to be a state-of-the-art high-impact learning center with a variety of different classroom configurations enabling experimentation with different teaching strategies, and common areas and rooms designed to encourage students to engage in individual and group work . The Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons (CULC) Space Utilization Study aims to understand better the impact of the building on student learning and student engagement. Specifically, this research study attempts to answer the flowing questions:

1. How students are spending their time, how they navigate the space, how long they are in the Clough Commons, what is the reason they came there to Clough Commons, and how often do they come into Clough Commons.
2. How students are using tools, and what kinds of tools they are bringing into the building.
3. To understand what kinds of settings students are forming (working in groups or independently focused, i.e. together alone; or working as individuals).

**Procedures**

If you decide to participate in this research study, you will:

* Download a software application to your iphone or Android smart phone,
* During the three designated weeks of the study, take a minimum of ten pictures per day (5 days each week) using this app **ONLY** while you are in the Clough Commons,
* You will also provide three brief points of information for each of the pictures: a title that best describes what you are doing, the category of people you are interacting with (e.g., peers, faculty, family, or support services), and how many people are engaged in the activity (just you, 2-3, 4-6 or 7+).

The research study will take place for a total of 15 days, spread out over three weeks during fall semester 2012.

**Risks/Discomforts**

The risks involved with participation in this study are no greater than are those involved in daily activities such as attending meetings or operating a smart phone.

**In Case of Injury/Harm**

If you are injured as a result of being in this study, please contact Ameet Doshi, at telephone (404) 894-4598 or Dr. Caroline Noyes, at telephone (404) 894-0510. Neither the Principal Investigator(s) nor Georgia Institute of Technology has made provision for payment of costs associated with any injury resulting from participation in this study.

**Costs**

If you participate in this study, there are no costs to you other than approximately 20 minutes of your time for each day you are participate in the study.

**Benefits**

You are not likely to benefit in any direct way from participating in this study, but we anticipate that all those involved in the Georgia Tech teaching and learning community will benefit from learning about how students are using the Clough Commons and how this space might be modified in order to enhance the student learning experience. The research is designed to uncover opportunities for continuous improvement relate to how the environment of the Clough Commons and Library West Commons serves student engagement and interaction. The findings from this research study will also be leveraged to inform the planning of future projects.

**Compensation**

The validity of the study is dependent on a minimum of 5 days (one week) of data collection. "Full participation" includes submitting at least 10 photographs and answering brief questions about those photographs for each day that week (Monday - Friday). At the end of each week of the study Herman Miller, Inc. will provide participants who have fully participated that week with a Visa gift card. The gift cards will be distributed on the following schedule: after week 1: $15 Visa gift card; after week 2: $15 Visa gift card. At the conclusion of the third week: $20 Visa gift card. If you do not complete all three weeks of the study, you will be compensated a prorated amount. For example, if you complete the first week, you will receive a $15 Visa gift card. If you do not complete the second week you will receive no additional compensation and will be considered to have withdrawn from the study.

**Confidentiality**

Data about you that is collected will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. To protect your privacy, your records will be kept under a code number rather than by name. Any identifying information such as your email address will be deleted and a unique identifier will be assigned to your pictures. All faces and other identifying information in the photographs you submit will be either blurred out or cropped out. The photographs will be accessible to only the research team, and the photographs will be destroyed after data analysis is complete.

To make sure that this research is being carried out in the proper way, the Georgia Institute of Technology IRB will review study records. The Office of Human Research Protections may also look at study records.

**Participant Rights**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. You have the right to change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason, and without penalty. Any new information that may make you change your mind about participating in this study will be provided to you. You retain a copy of this consent form to keep.

**Questions about the Study or Your Rights as a Research Participant**

If you have any questions about the study, you may contact either Ameet Doshi of Georgia Tech, at (404) 894-4598 or Dr. Caroline Noyes of Georgia Tech at (404) 894-0510. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact Ms. Melanie Clark, Georgia Institute of Technology, at (404) 894-6942.

By submitting photographs and answering the survey questions, you indicate your consent to be in the research study.