



The General Assembly

The General Assembly has passed the halfway point in the 2008 session and the pace of legislation is quickening throughout the Capitol. All bills must receive the approval of either the House or the Senate by Legislative Day 30 so the level of urgency is increasing. Legislators will be in recess today and will return tomorrow for Day 23.

Last week, the Senate approved its version of HB 989, the FY 2008 amended budget. With different versions approved by the House and Senate, the bill now goes to a conference committee for negotiation. Georgia Tech's amended budget item (\$4.4 million to adjust the debt service payment on the transfer of the Olympic dorms from

Georgia State University to Georgia Tech) was included in both the House and Senate versions. Once an identical version of the amended budget is approved and sent to the governor, the House will begin consideration of the FY 2009 general budget.

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Georgia Tech Officials Visit State Capitol

On Wednesday, February 13, Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough was invited by Chairman Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville) to speak about Georgia Tech's budget priorities to the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. Anu Parvatiyar, the president of Georgia Tech's Undergraduate Student Government Association, was in attendance as well. President Clough urged the subcommittee's favorable consideration of Georgia

Tech's requests for capital outlay funding for the Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC) and the renovation of the Hinman Building. Gov. Perdue included \$6.4 million in his general budget to renovate the Hinman Building for use by the College of Architecture and Georgia Tech officials are asking the House and Senate to include \$10.2 million to begin site work on the ILRC. He also made comments on the progress of the Marcus Nanotechnology Building

and the importance of the formula funds and Major Repair and Rehabilitation funding for the entire University System. Another member of Georgia Tech's senior administrative team visited the Capitol last week to explain funds in the amended budget for the Olympic dorm transaction between Georgia Tech and Georgia State University. Robert K. Thompson, executive vice president for Administra-

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President Clough announced this week that Bob Thompson, Georgia Tech's executive vice president for Administration and Finance, will retire April 1, 2008. Bob retires after 13 years at Georgia Tech and 40 years in higher education administration. Steve Swant, currently the vice president for Administration and Finance, will assume Mr. Thompson's position.

GT Officials Visit State Capitol cont.

tion and Finance, met with Senator John Wiles (R-Kennesaw) who chairs the Higher Education Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The governor, the House of Representatives and the Senate have included \$4.4 million in the amended budget to adjust the debt service payback for the dorms. Mr. Thompson was very helpful in ex-

plaining the implications of the complicated financial transaction.

Experts from the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) have been called on in the past few weeks as well to discuss technology issues at several House Science and Technology Committee meetings, which are chaired by Rep. Amos Amerson (R-Dahlonega). Dr. Jud Ready testified before the

committee on February 14 about his research in emerging solar and wind energy technologies and Dr. Lora Weiss came before the committee a week later to discuss her research into the potential of computer virtual worlds in solving real world problems such as disaster relief and emergency management.

Legislation Watched by University System

University System of Georgia and Georgia Tech officials are watching several pieces of legislation that could have an impact on higher education in Georgia. One of our session priorities is passage of HB 1183, the bill that contains the "carry forward" provision. If approved, it will allow a small percentage of tuition and other non-state funds to be carried

forward from one fiscal year to the next. The bill passed out of the House Higher Education Committee on Wednesday and is now awaiting consideration in the House Rules Committee.

House Bill 972 passed the House on Friday and will be sent to the Senate for consideration. This bill would increase the flexibility for investments by

charitable foundations such as the Georgia Tech Foundation.

House Bill 815 concerns the definitions of persons who may be eligible to opt between the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia and the Regents Retirement Plan. It would also change provisions governing the employer's contribution to

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Georgia Tech Student Recognized as Outstanding Scholar

Lauren C. Miller was commended in Senate Resolution 941 as a University System of Georgia Outstanding Scholar. Lauren is a fourth-year Management and Educa-

tional Studies major and is scheduled to graduate this spring. She is a President's Scholar and serves as president of the ANAK Society. She has served in the Student

Government Association, the Minority Recruitment Team, the Georgia Tech Gold Rush Dance Team, and is currently a student member of the Georgia Tech Advisory Board.

Legislation cont.

the Regents Retirement Plan. This bill was passed in the House on Friday and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

House Bill 1095 would create the Georgia Innovation Center and establish a Georgia Venture Capital Fund to make investments related to scientific innovations. Dr. Stephen Fleming, chief commercialization officer from Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute, testified before the House Higher

Education Appropriations Subcommittee last Thursday. Dr. Fleming shared many of Georgia Tech's commercialization success stories and offered suggestions for improvements to the bill. Georgia Tech and University System officials will work with the bill's sponsor to clarify some of the bill's provisions.

House Bill 1156 was briefly discussed last week in the House Higher Education Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Hembree (R-Winston).

This legislation, sponsored by Rep. Bob Smith, would replace the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia with the Board of Higher Education of the Higher Education System of Georgia and the position of chancellor with a chief education officer. Due to a lack of adequate time to consider the measure, Rep. Hembree allowed a brief description from Rep. Smith then held the bill over to the next meeting.

The Government Relations Office hosted a lunch on Friday for Senate President Pro Tempore Eric Johnson (R-Savannah), Senate Majority Leader Tommie Williams (R-Lyons), and Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill (R-Reidsville) and staff.

Intern Profiles

Will Raybon is a third year Management major, concentrating in Marketing and Operations Management. He is from Rome, Georgia and is currently working in the House Minority Office for Representative DuBose Por-

ter (D-Dublin), the Minority Leader. On campus he is a member of Kappa Alpha Order fraternity and is the chair of the Government Relations Committee of the Student Lobby Board for the Student Government Association.

Will proudly says, "I am a lifelong Georgia Tech fan and am blessed to have been able to accomplish my dream of getting into Georgia Tech."



Georgia, George Ray is a third year student studying management and public policy at Tech. On campus, George is a member of the Student Government Association and serves on the President's Council Governing Board, in addition to team-

leading two past sections of Georgia Tech's freshman seminar course. George is currently working as legislative intern to the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives and plans to attend law school after graduation.

Hailing from Fitzgerald,

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