



Committee Meetings Commence

The General Assembly convenes today after a day off honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and a week of budget hearings before the Joint Appropriations Committee. Now the subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will begin their own hearings to

delve more deeply in the budget's line items. First they will tackle the FY 2008 amended budget, and then move on to the general budget.

The committees beginning their work this week include:

- House Higher Education Appropriations Sub Committee
- House Higher Education Committee
- Senate Higher Education Appropriations Sub Committee

ILRC Priority

The Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC) is vitally important to Georgia Tech's students and Institute officials are working with legislative leaders seeking a solution that will allow the project to remain on schedule. Gov. Sonny Perdue's capital outlay recommendations did not include Georgia Tech's \$50 million request for the ILRC, which could stall plans if funding is not added to the budget by the Legislature.

Georgia Tech officials have amended their request to \$10.2 million for

FY 2009. This funding would support the cost of design, engineering, project site clearance, and primary utility relocation work so the original project start date of FY 2009 can be maintained.

Georgia Tech has already expended or committed internal funds for this project totaling \$1.7 million, which includes planning and programming studies and design support. The \$10.2 million requested this year would allow the completion of the ILRC design and engineering (\$4.4 million) and site

clearance and project site preparation (\$5.8 million). These efforts will permit the awarding of major contracts immediately in FY 2010 pending state approval of construction funding.

Please contact House leaders and members with whom you have a relationship and ask them to support Georgia Tech's request for \$10.2 million. Contact information for House leaders can be obtained on the Georgia General Assembly website: www.legis.state.ga.us/.

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Chancellor Davis Testifies Before Joint Appropriations Committee

University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll Davis appeared before the Joint Appropriations Committee last Wednesday to highlight USG projects and line items in Gov. Perdue's

budget recommendation and to answer questions. His remarks were scheduled to last one hour, but questions kept him there for almost two hours. Two areas received the majority of the inquiries. Questions

focused on the USG plans to alleviate the state's doctor shortage. Questions were also raised about in-state students being "bumped" from admission by out-of-state students or children of illegal immigrants.

Georgia Tech has 10 interns at the State Capitol this session, seven who will receive class credit through the Legislative Intern Program and three who gained the internship independently. Ten is the highest number of any state college or university. We will highlight each of these outstanding students throughout the course of the session.

Amended 2008 Budget Passes House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

The House Higher Education Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee met this morning to hear testimony from University System officials about budget priorities. Chan-

cellor Erroll Davis presented on behalf of the University System. The committee passed the Amended 2008 Budget. Georgia Tech's priority item in the amended budget is an adjustment

on the debt service pay-back amount for the North Avenue Apartments that were formerly Georgia State's dormitories.

President Clough Meets with House Leaders

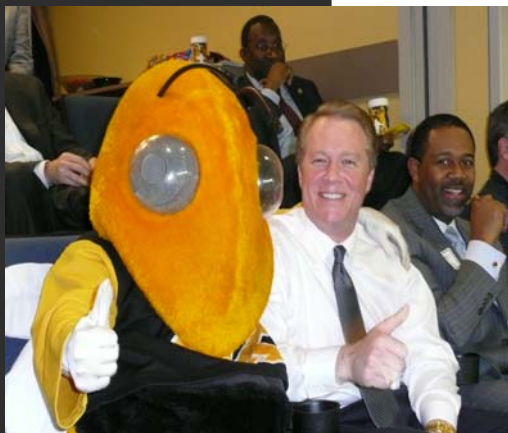
Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough met with House leaders last week to discuss Georgia Tech's \$10.2 million ILRC request and ask for their support. Those attending were Speaker Pro-Tem Mark

Burkhalter (R-Alpharetta), Higher Education Chairman Bill Hembree (R-Winston), Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Chairman Jeff Lewis (R-White), Georgia Tech alumnus and Budget and

Fiscal Oversight Chairman Richard Royal (R-Camilla), and Appropriations Vice Chairman (and Chair of the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee) Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville).

Legislators Take in ACC Basketball

The Government Relations staff hosted several legislative leaders at the Georgia Tech vs. North Carolina basketball game. There was a great turnout – despite a cold and snowy night – to see the nail-biting ACC matchup. House Speaker Glenn Richardson, Senate Rules Chairman Don Balfour, Georgia Tech alums Senator Chip Rogers and Rep. Hardie Davis, pictured at left, along with Sen. Ed Tarver and House Higher Education Chairman Bill Hembree, pictured with BUZZ, enjoyed the game.



Regent Kenneth Bernard Visits Campus

Regent Kenneth Bernard, 13th District, visited campus last week. Regent Bernard was hosted by Interim Dean Doug Allen, College of Architecture, and toured the Solar Decathlon House, which has

recently returned to campus after appearing on the Mall in Washington, D.C. College of Management Dean Steve Salbu provided a tour of the Ferris Goldsmith Trading Floor in the College of Management. The visit

concluded with lunch hosted by President Wayne Clough and Georgia Tech officials, Senior Executive Vice President Bob Thompson, Provost Gary Schuster and Director of Government Relations Dene Sheheane.