



Legislative Session Reaches Crossover Day

The halls of the State Capitol are bustling with legislators, lobbyists, and visitors as Crossover Day quickly approaches. Tuesday is Legislative Day 30, the day when all bills must be approved by either the House or Senate to remain alive for the session. Although officially in recess today, General Assembly members are very busy working to get their bills out of committee for floor votes. Also, budget conferences continue discussions on

the FY 2008 amended budget.

The House is awaiting the final compromise on the amended budget before advancing the FY 2009 general budget. Both chambers have been working on the general budget behind the scenes and will be ready to move quickly once the amended budget is approved. Georgia Tech officials are hopeful that funding for both the Hinman Building renovation

and site development for the Innovative Learning Resource Center will be included in the FY 2009 budget.

The current plan for session adjournment is that Day 38 will fall on March 27 and *sine die* adjournment will happen the following week. This plan is subject to change based on the budget and other issues that come along in the next few weeks.

Legislation Update

As we reach the pivotal point in the session of Crossover Day, this is the status of the bills that are of primary interest to the University System and Georgia Tech.

The carry forward measure, HB 1183, has passed the House and is awaiting consideration in the Senate Higher Education Committee. This bill would allow University System institutions to carry forward certain monies, including a

small percentage of tuition revenues, from one fiscal year to the next.

Another bill that has passed the House and awaits action on the Senate side is HB 815, the legislation that will change provisions of the University System's Optional Retirement Plan (ORP). The ORP was established in 1990 to help in recruiting faculty, researchers, and administrators to Georgia's public colleges and universities.

Currently, the Teacher's Retirement System sets the employer contribution rate for the ORP. This measure would give the Board of Regents responsibility for setting this rate. It would also allow new faculty and principal administrators hired on or after July 1, 2008, the option to invest their contribution, as well as the employer contribution, in a 401(a) plan. The bill has been assigned to

Continued page 2

Inside this issue:

Legislation	2
Legislators	2
Visit Campus	
GT Visits	2
Capitol	
Legislators	3
Visit Campus	continued
GT visits	4
Capitol	continued
Klaus	4
Shining Star	
Intern	4
Profile	

Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough and Government Relations Director Dene Sheheane had the opportunity to meet with Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill (R-Reidsville), Higher Education Chairman Seth Harp (R-Midland) and Finance Chairman Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock) to discuss Georgia Tech budget items.

Legislation cont.

the Senate Retirement Committee.

HR 1245 has been tabled by the House Higher Education Committee. It called for replacing the Board of Regents with a Board of Higher Education, giving the legislature responsibility for the majority of the Board appointments.

The Georgia Innovation Center Act, HB 1095, was reported favorably from the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee last week. It is awaiting action by the full Appropriations Committee. Georgia Tech and University System officials have voiced con-

cerns about certain provisions in the bill. They will continue to work with the bill's sponsors to propose language that is beneficial to all parties.

We will continue to keep you updated on these and any other bills that have a direct impact on higher education in Georgia.

Legislators Visit Georgia Tech Campus

The Government Relations Office hosted several legislators on campus during the last few weeks, which is a great opportunity to educate them about Georgia Tech and what makes this campus and its people unique to the University System and the state.

Members of the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee

and the Senate Finance Committee took a brief field trip to the Georgia Tech College of Management last week for lunch and to tour the Ferris-Goldsmith Trading Floor. Legislators, including Banking Chairman Bill Hamrick (R-Carrollton), Finance Chairman Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock), Higher Education Chairman Seth Harp (R-

Midland), and Majority Leader Tommie Williams (R-Lyons), and their staffs enjoyed a barbecue lunch after they were welcomed by Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough. The group toured the Trading Floor, where students can experience the financial trading floor environment and learn about financial analysis and

continued page 3

Georgia Tech at the State Capitol

As well as bringing legislators and government officials to our campus, it is important that Georgia Tech has a presence at the Gold Dome. Georgia Tech hosted the weekly Chairmen's Luncheon and was recognized by House Majority Leader

(and Georgia Tech Advisory Board member) Jerry Keen (R-St. Simons) for "all the great things" going on at the Institute. Speaker Glenn Richardson (R-Hiram) and Speaker Pro Tem Mark Burkhalter (R-Alpharetta) echoed Rep.

Keen's comments and praised Georgia Tech's contributions to the state.

On February 28, the House Science and Technology Committee welcomed Dr. William J. (Bill) Koros to discuss his

continued page 4

Legislators visit Tech Campus cont.

electronic trading. Members were interested in seeing how students use the Trading Floor to prepare them for the job market and how it helps to position them for a career.

Rep. Bill Hembree (R-Winston), chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, was invited to participate in the Foundations of Public Policy class taught by Dr. Richard Barke. Dr. Barke assigned his students to review the legislation that was awaiting consideration in the Higher Education Committee and be prepared to ask Rep. Hembree questions about the process and specific legislation.

Two days later, Rep. Hembree returned to campus to be a spectator at a Georgia

Tech women's tennis match against Clemson University. Tennis team Captain Kristi Miller is serving as an intern



Senator Ronnie Chance and childhood friend Mike Linch visit the GT Athletic Association

tee and is a member of the Higher Education Committee. He joined Government Relations Director Dene She

tee and is a member of the Higher Education Committee. He joined Government Relations Director Dene Sheh e a n e for lunch at the "training table," a cafeteria in the Edg e Athletic Building where he was able to meet Athletic

in Rep. Hembree's office during the legislative session. Also on campus for a brief visit was Sen. Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone), who serves as chairman of the Senate Government Oversight Commit-

Director Dan Radakovich and Head Football Coach Paul Johnson.

Senators Ronnie Chance and Chip Rogers accompanied by newly elected Rep. Matt Ramsey and Tech fan attended the Georgia Tech vs. Clemson basketball game last Thursday where they saw Georgia Tech upset the 24th ranked Tigers.

The Georgia Tech Foundation trustees welcomed University System Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. to address Foundation members at their meeting last week.

Chris Klaus Honored as "Shining Star"



From left, Chairman Bob Smith, Chris Klaus, Speaker Glenn Richardson (photo by Liz Erikson)

Rep. Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville) stepped into the well of the House last Wednesday to honor Chris Klaus as one of Georgia's "Shining Stars." Chris is a former Georgia Tech student who founded Inter-

net Security Systems while a student and most recently founded Kaneva, Inc., a social networking and media sharing environment. He was honored for his philanthropy and service to Georgia. He is a member of the Georgia Film, Video, and Music Advisory Committee, the Savannah College of Art and Design Board of Visitors as well as serving on the Georgia Tech College of Computing Advisory Board and the Georgia Tech Advi-

sory Board, which advises President Clough on issues pertaining to the Institute.

In his remarks, Rep. Smith said, "Mr. Klaus is truly a visionary "Shining Star" and leader and is an inspiration to those with an entrepreneurial spirit in Georgia. We are proud that a man of his creativity, energy and accomplishment represent the excellence being achieved at the Georgia Institute of Technology."

Georgia Tech at State Capitol cont.

research. An eminent scholar from Emory University and the University of Georgia were also highlighted at the meeting. Dr. Koros is the Roberto C. Goizueta Chair and GRA Eminent Scholar in Membranes



Dr. William Koros

with Tech's School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. He also is the recent recipient of the Alan S. Michaels Award for Innovation.



Intern Profiles



Lauren Wildschut

Lauren Wildschut is a third year International Affairs and Modern Languages major, concentrating on French. She spent her childhood living in Switzerland and went to middle and high school in Marietta. She is active on campus serving as scholarship chair of her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, vice president of Tutoring for MOVE, and is also a part of

the Women's Recruitment Board and the Georgia Tech Ambassadors. Upon graduation in May 2009, Lauren plans to join Teach for America and teach in a local elementary school. She currently is assigned to the office of Sen. Ed Harbison (D-Columbus), chairman of the Interstate Cooperation Committee.

Travis Horsley is currently a dual major in International Affairs and Modern Languages. He serves as a Peer Leader (Resident Assistant) in Armstrong Dormitory, is a member of the Student Government Association's Student Lobby Board, the



Travis Horsley

will soon be an International

Affairs Representative for SGA. He received an associates degree from Middle Georgia College's GAMES (Georgia Academy of Mathematics, Engineering, and Science) and was the past SGA president at MGC. He intends to run for the same office at Georgia Tech. Travis currently works in the Senate Budget Office.

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