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capitol buzz

news from the front line

T **Dr. James Meindl**, founding director of Georgia Tech's Nanotechnology Research Center (NRC), and **Dr. Greg Book**, assistant director, were invited to speak to members of the House Science and Technology Committee by its chair, Rep. Amos Amerson (R-Dahlonega). They updated the committee on the progress of the NRC, its research activities, and the vision for its future.

T **Marisa K. Acree**, a Georgia Tech College of Management student, received a Senate commendation (SR 358) last week as one of the University System of Georgia Outstanding Scholars. She and representatives from throughout the System were honored as part of Academic Recognition Day of 2009.

hill happenings

upcoming capitol events

T Chemistry and Biochemistry Professor, Regents Professor, and National Medal of Science winner **Mostafa El-Sayed** will be honored on the floor of the House of Representatives this week as a Shining Star in the University System. Dr. El-Sayed was awarded the nation's highest science honor last year at the White House.

T Georgia Tech has invited every freshman legislator to attend the basketball game versus the University of Miami this Wednesday. During halftime, **Sen. Ronnie Chance** (R-Tyrone) and **Rep. Roger Williams** (R-Dalton) will be awarded Legislator of the Year honors by the Georgia Athletic Trainers Association.

FY09 Amended Budget Clears House

The FY 2009 amended budget bill was approved by the state House last Thursday, the 24th legislative day of the session.

House leaders moved forward on the amended budget after learning details of President Barack Obama's stimulus package and its effect on Georgia. The Senate is expected to work swiftly this week in considering the amended budget so negotiations on a final version can commence.

Although the House followed most of Gov. Sonny Perdue's recommendations for the University System amended budget, it added \$130,000 for the Georgia Tech Research Institute's (GTRI) agricultural workplace safety program. The efforts led by GTRI Director Steve Cross and the Georgia Poultry Federation were instrumental in getting these funds restored in the House version.

Subcommittees of the House

Appropriations Committee will conduct hearings this week on the FY 2010 general budget. Rep. Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville) has called a Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee meeting for today at 1:30 PM where Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. is scheduled to speak about the general budget and its impact on University System institutions. **T**

Regents Name Tech's 11th President

Last Wednesday, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia unanimously selected G.P. "Bud" Peterson as Georgia Tech's 11th president. Dr. Peterson will begin his tenure on April 1, 2009.

Dr. Peterson and his wife, Val, were in Atlanta to receive the news of his selection. He met later that day on campus with regents, members of the presidential search committee, the president's cabinet, deans and students. A reception was held in the Student Center Ballroom where the entire campus community was invited to welcome the Petersons.

During this celebration, Dr. Peterson recalled his first meeting with Regent Willis Potts, IE '69,

chair of the presidential search committee, at the Dallas, TX airport. He said that Regent Potts' enthusiasm and love for Georgia Tech convinced him that he needed to look more closely at submitting his name as a candidate.

For the past year, Dr. Peterson has served as co-chair of the Council on Government Affairs for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGU) and he currently serves as a member of the National Science Board. His insight and experiences with both state and national governments will be a great asset to Georgia Tech. **T**



G.P. "Bud" Peterson and his wife, Val, during last week's campus visit.

ROB FELT/COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

See more photos from Wednesday's visit on p. 2.

Tech Student Works for Passage of HB 391

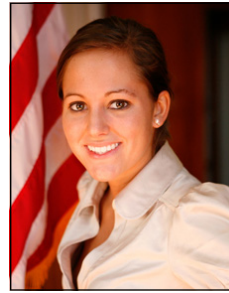
Chelsea McEnroe, a Management student and legislative intern working with House Higher Education Chairman Bill Hembree (R-Winston), has been given the opportunity to draft and present legislation on behalf of Rep. Hembree.

The bill, House Bill 391, would remove the state sales tax on the sale of college textbooks. Her research shows that the sales tax exemption could save

students about \$60 a year.

A hearing on the bill is expected to be scheduled in the House Ways and Means Committee, where all tax legislation originates, in the next few weeks.

Rep. Hembree has been a great mentor to several Georgia Tech interns, including Chelsea. We will continue to update you on the bill's progress. **T**



Chelsea McEnroe

getting buzzy

calls to action

T Call and visit your state senator to urge for their support of the FY09 Amended Budget as passed by the House.

T Write, call, and visit your legislators to remind them of the importance of the \$43 million in construction funds for the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons in the FY2010 Budget.

HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION UPDATE

The pace of legislation at the Capitol is increasing as the legislature approaches Crossover Day (Legislative Day 30), the last day legislation can be approved by one chamber and sent to the other. The following is legislation that could have an impact on higher education institutions like Georgia Tech.

- T Senate Bill 194** passed the Senate Finance Committee last week and now resides in the Senate Rules Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Don Balfour (R-Snellville). This bill will allow state agencies such as the University System to enter into multiyear contracts with private energy services companies and allow the future energy savings to finance the cost of the building's energy retrofits. In other words, it allows the projected energy savings to be used to finance the retrofitting.
- T** The work of Georgia Tech cancer researchers could potentially benefit from approval of **Senate Bill 201**. This legislation would remove the restrictions that are currently placed on voluntary tax return contributions for research of ovarian, breast and prostate cancer. By removing references to those particular cancers from state law, the funds collected could be used to fund research of other cancers. For instance, Georgia Tech scientists and engineers have partnered with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta on cancer research and these funds could be used to support this work. This legislation is expected to be heard on Tuesday in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.
- T House Bill 157**, the legislation sponsored by House Appropriations Chairman Ben Harbin (R-Evans) to change the "triggers" that would affect the HOPE book allowance, has been reported favorably from the Senate Higher Education Committee and is now in the Senate Rules Committee awaiting action.
- T** Rep. Bob Smith's **House Resolution 166** was favorably reported out of the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee last week. This resolution calls for the creation of a joint House and Senate study committee that would investigate how to make Georgia the top destination for entrepreneurs in the fields of science, innovation, technology and energy (SITE).

LEGISLATORS TO CONTACT

Rep. Glenn Richardson	404.656.5020	404.656.5644 (fax)
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Sen. Don Balfour	404.656.0095	404.656.6581 (fax)
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Thanks to the many of you who have informed us of your contact with state leaders. We love to hear how our GTLN members are making an impact around the state.

PHOTOS: Tech's 11th President



G.P. "Bud" Peterson and his wife, Val, meet with faculty, staff, and students during last week's campus visit.

ROB FELT/COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Network News is a bi-weekly publication of the Georgia Tech Office of Government Relations distributed to the GT Alumni Legislative Network on the first business day of every other week during the Georgia legislative session. Email george.ray@dev.gatech.edu to subscribe.



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