

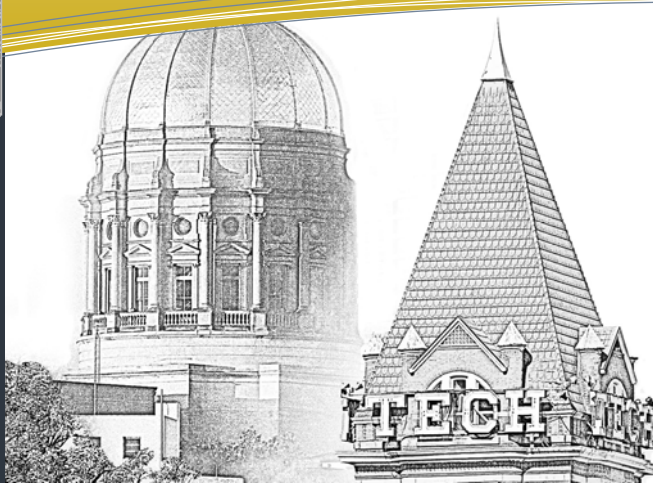


capitol buzz

news from the front line

Rep. Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville) will speak today at the finals of Georgia Tech's InVenture competition, an invention contest for undergraduate students. The goal of the InVenture competition is to encourage creativity and to help students learn about innovation and how to succeed with their ideas. Eight finalists selected from 62 original entrants will make presentations today to a distinguished group of Georgia Tech alumni. Rep. Smith, who serves as chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, is a leading advocate in the state legislature for research, innovation and entrepreneurship. He will give a brief talk as part of today's activities.

Georgia Tech men's basketball player Alade Aminu will visit the Capitol today to inform lawmakers about the non-profit organization he has created, while a student, to benefit underprivileged youth. He is scheduled to meet with Georgia Tech alumni such as Rep. Hardie Davis (D-Gracewood) and Sen. Johnny Grant (R-Milledgeville).



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Only Three Days Remaining in 2009 Session

The 2009 session of the Georgia General Assembly is coming down to the wire with only three legislative days remaining. Today marks Day 38.

The expected schedule for this final week includes legislators recessing on Tuesday and Thursday and adjourning sine die on Friday, April 3. This will allow final committee meetings to occur on Tuesday and Thursday as sponsors work to have their bills placed on floor calendars for a vote.

HB 119, the Fiscal Year 2010 general budget, will be passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee today and is scheduled for a Senate floor vote Wednesday. House and Senate budget conferees are likely to meet Wednesday night and through the day on Thursday to negotiate a final version.

Two weeks ago the House passed its version of the FY2010 budget. Some positive additions to

the House version include the restoration of \$5 million for the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) seed capital fund, \$1.5 million for the Food Processing/Research Initiative of the Traditional Industries Program, and \$10 million in bonds for University System-wide science and technology equipment and improvements. The House also kept intact Governor Sonny Perdue's recommendation of \$43 million in bonds for the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons.

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. expressed his concern about reductions that were also included in the House version. There was an additional overall reduction of \$15.3 million to the University System, which is over and above the 12 percent in cuts that have already



House Speaker Glenn Richardson and House Rules Chairman Earl Ehrhart discuss the rules calendar during the last days. GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

been implemented. There was also a \$1 million reduction in the formula funding from \$109 million to \$108 million and a \$10 million reduction in bonds for Major Repair and Rehabilitation funding from \$70 million to \$60 million. ■

President Peterson to be Welcomed at the Capitol



The House and Senate will graciously take a few minutes from their full schedule on Wednesday, April 1, to recognize Georgia Tech's 11th president, G.P. "Bud" Peterson. April 1 is President Peterson's first official day on the job,

and he will begin it by meeting and thanking legislative leaders for their support.

He is scheduled to briefly visit and speak on the floors of the House and Senate as lawmakers begin Legislative Day 39. ■

G.P. "Bud" Peterson ROB FELT/COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Tech CIO Visits Capitol

John Mullin, Georgia Tech's Appropriations Subcommittee on Chief Information Officer, met with Higher Education and a key proponent of science and technology research. He also met with Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill (R-Reidsville) to explain how Georgia Tech and other institutions can use these funds and their existing technology infrastructure to help the state. **T**



John Mullin
JENNIFER TYNER/COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

getting buzzy

calls to action

Thank you, GTLN members, for urging House leaders to retain the full \$43 million for the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons.

T Write and call House and Senate budget conferees to ask them to support the University System and Georgia Tech.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

- T House Bill 700** has been assigned to the Senate Finance Committee, where it is awaiting action. This legislation shifts building project management and construction oversight from the Board of Regents to the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC). It is sponsored by Rep. Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville) and Rep. Bill Hembree (R-Winston). University System officials have indicated their opposition to this legislation because of the effectiveness and efficiency of the current system.
- T Senate Bill 169**, the legislation that would place restrictions on stem cell research, has been assigned to the House Science and Technology Committee, chaired by Rep. Amos Amerson (R-Dahlonega). Biomedical researchers have concerns about the impact of this bill and are carefully watching its movement through the legislature.
- T Senate Bill 194** was reported favorably from the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee last week. If approved and signed by the governor, it will allow state agencies, including University System institutions, to enter into multiyear contracts with private energy services companies and use the projected energy savings to finance the cost of a building's energy retrofitting. Sen. Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone) is the bill's sponsor. It is co-sponsored by Georgia Tech alumnus and Senate Majority Leader Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock).
- T Senate Bill 201** is expected on the House floor for a vote this week after it was favorably reported last week from the House Health and Human Services Committee. This bill would remove restrictions that currently require voluntary state tax return contributions to be used only in the research of ovarian, breast, and prostate cancer. Approval of this legislation would allow those funds to be used for research of any form of cancer, including brain cancer that is being studied by Georgia Tech's biomedical researchers. It is sponsored by Senate Rules Chairman Don Balfour (R-Snellville).

HOUSE & SENATE BUDGET CONFEREES

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Sen. Chip Rogers	404.463.1378	404.657.9887 (fax)
Sen. Jack Hill	404.656.5038	404.657.7094 (fax)

Save the Date: 2009 Fall Briefing



Before the gavel falls on this session, Government Relations is already preparing for the issues that will appear next year, scheduling the 2009 GTLN Fall Briefing for November 7, 2009. This year's briefing will coincide with the GT vs. Wake Forest football game, and all GTLN members are encouraged to attend. More information will be distributed to the network in the fall. **T**

Interim President Gary Schuster and House Majority Leader Jerry Keen talk during the 2008 Briefing. GEORGE RAY/GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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