



## capitol buzz

news from the front line

Georgia Tech hosted the House Chairmen's Luncheon on January 26, where all committee chairs meet once a week. It is a great opportunity to visit with the leadership and thank them for their support.

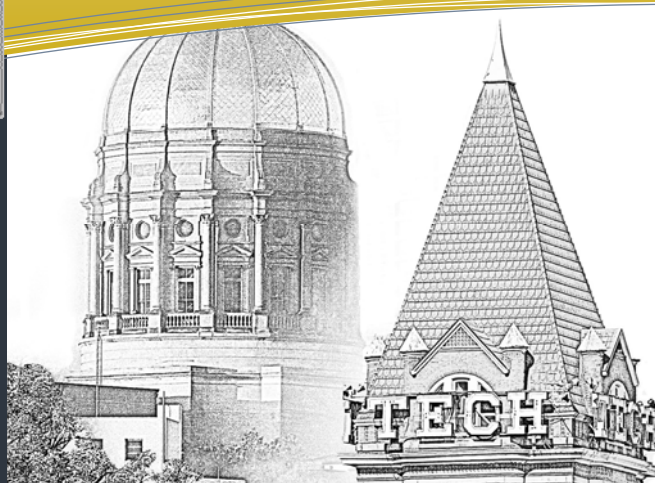
The House finalized committee assignments:

### Higher Ed Committee

- Bill Hembree (R-Winston) - Chair
- David Knight (R-Griffin) - Vice Chair
- Clay Cox (R-Lilburn) - Secretary
- Stephen Allison (R-Blairsville)
- Amos Amerson (R-Dahlonega)
- Kathy Ashe (D-Atlanta)
- Amy Carter (D-Valdosta)
- Katie Dempsey (R-Rome)
- Carol Fullerton (D-Albany)
- Pat Gardner (D-Atlanta)
- Michael Harden (R-Eastanollee)
- Mark Hatfield (R-Waycross)
- Ralph Long (D-Atlanta)
- Quincy Murphy (D-Augusta)
- Chuck Sims (R-Ambrose)
- Calvin Smyre (D-Columbus)
- Len Walker (R-Loganville)

### Higher Ed Appropriations Subcommittee

- Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville) - Chair
- Mike Cheokas (D-Americus) - Secretary
- Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs)
- Rich Golick (R-Smyrna)
- Bill Hembree (R-Winston)
- Sheila Jones (D-Smyrna)
- Bob Lane (R-Statesboro)
- Bobby Parham (D-Milledgeville)
- John Yates (R-Griffin)
- Chuck Sims (R-Ambrose) - Ex Officio
- Larry O'Neal (R-Bonaire) - Ex Officio
- Richard Smith (R-Columbus) - Ex Officio
- Penny Houston (R-Nashville) - Ex Officio



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## Chancellor Presents Budget Request to Legislators

University System Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. had the opportunity over the last two weeks to formally speak before the Joint Committee on Appropriations and the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee about the University System budget for FY 2009 and FY 2010.

During both visits he asked lawmakers to think of the University System as "an investment, not a cost" and as "a solution, not a problem." He underscored that the main challenge facing the University System is how to maintain quality with diminished resources and additional students.

During his presentation before the joint committee, Chancellor Davis conveyed his gratitude for Governor Sonny Perdue's recommendations of incremental formula

funding in the amount of \$109 million, capital bond funding of \$325.2 million, which includes \$70 million in Major Repair and Rehabilitation funding, and \$43 million for construction of the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons. However, he expressed concerns about the 10.5 percent cut to the System's base budget, which totals \$243 million. From that amount, more than \$197 million affects the teaching mission of the state's colleges and universities. He used the proposed \$1 million reduction to the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program (GTREP) as an example of a reduction that could impact the state's future by not supplying needed engineers to South Georgia.

Legislators questioned Chancellor Davis about many topics but

were particularly interested in the potential of University System mandatory employee furloughs. The Chancellor stated that he is "philosophically opposed to furloughs" because he believes they postpone problems rather than solve them.

These presentations by the Chancellor and other agency heads indicate that the budget process is moving forward. The subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committees are considering the FY 2009 amended budget now and will send reports to the full committee after the hearings have concluded. Once the amended budget is sent to the Senate for action, then the House will begin work on the FY 2010 general budget. ■

## Tech Student Shines at Subcommittee Meeting

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville) recently invited representatives from Georgia Tech, Georgia State University and the University of Georgia to speak to his subcommittee about entrepreneurship.

Dr. Marie Thursby, management professor and founder of the

Technological Innovation: Generating Economic Results (TI:GER®) program and one of her students, Mr. Walter Voit, spoke to the committee about the benefits of this unique program. TI:GER® pairs a Ph.D. student with MBA and law students (from Emory University) to take an idea from the lab to the marketplace.

Voit is working toward a doctorate in Materials Science and Engineering and has developed a polymer that can be used for custom-fitting ear devices. He enthusiastically told the subcommittee about his team's work to commercialize this product and what a positive experience he has had with the TI:GER® program. Legis-

see "Tech Student Shines" on p. 2

## Paul Johnson, Jonathan Dwyer Commended at Capitol



(L-R) GT AD Dan Radakovich with Governor's Office Chief Operating Officer Jim Lientz (IM '65) and Coach Paul Johnson and Jonathan Dwyer.



(L-R) DOAS Commissioner Brad Douglas (IM '86) with Jonathan Dwyer, Coach Paul Johnson, and Gene Kirschbaum of DOAS.

Georgia Tech Head Football Coach Paul Johnson and sophomore running back Jonathan Dwyer can add General Assembly commendations to their already impressive list of recognitions for the 2008 football season. Last Wednesday, both the House and Senate rose in standing ovations for the coach and player.

SR 32 recognized Coach Johnson for being named ACC Coach of the Year and SR 33 recognized Jonathan Dwyer for his selection as ACC Player of the Year.

Senate Majority Leader Chip Rogers, MGT 1991, spoke to the resolutions and wel-

comed them to the Senate chamber. He spoke of the excitement and honor they had brought to Georgia Tech and hailed Jonathan Dwyer as a true representative of what scholar-athletes are all about.

In the House, Majority Leader Jerry Keen spoke to House Resolutions 117 and 118 and the season's highlights including wins over Miami, Florida State University and the University of Georgia (to the playful moans of some of the Bulldog faithful).

Coach Johnson and Jonathan briefly spoke in both chambers where they said that they see a bright future at Georgia Tech

where they hope to win an ACC Championship and a national championship.

Another recognizable face at the Capitol last week was former Georgia Tech basketball player Matt Causey. Matt has begun a career at Merrill Lynch in Atlanta. He stayed at the Capitol for several hours with Tech officials speaking to legislators and thanking them for their support of his alma mater.

These three men are great representatives of the Institute. **T**

## GTRI, Tech Standouts Recognized at Capitol

The Georgia Tech Research Institute was commended in the Senate last week (SR 51) in celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

GTRI was created by the General Assembly in 1934 as the State Engineering Experiment Station. Today, GTRI performs more than \$185 million annually in research and development with more than 1,300 employees.

The resolution commended GTRI employees for their dedication and the significant contributions made to Georgia through its 75 years of existence. The resolution was sponsored by Georgia Tech alumni Sens. Chip Rogers and Johnny Grant.

Rep. Hardie Davis, also a GT alum, will sponsor a similar resolution in the House.

Resolutions mirroring those adopted in the House of Representatives two weeks ago were also adopted in the Senate last week commending Professor Mostafa El-Sayed, tennis champion Amanda McDowell, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tech Band. **T**

## Tech Student Shines, continued from p. 1

lators expressed their appreciation and awe at his presentation and product.

Chairman Smith has a keen interest in entrepreneurship and has introduced two House resolutions pertaining to the topic. HR 165 calls for "four-year colleges and universities of the University System of Georgia to help make Georgia the # 1 DESTINATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS in the

United States of America by developing, and expanding education for the support of science, innovation, technology, energy, and new Georgia entrepreneurs."

He is also sponsoring HR 166 which would establish the Joint House and Senate SITE (Science, Innovation, Technology and Energy) TO GROW GEORGIA, Alternative

Financing, and Entrepreneurship Study Committee. This study committee would be charged with studying the state laws, conditions, needs and issues concerning entrepreneurship and make recommendations to enable Georgia to become the premier destination for entrepreneurs. **T**

# New Legislative Network Chair Begins Term



GTLN Chairman Jason Byars

"Now that this year's legislative session is underway, I want to thank you again for the support you provide Georgia Tech through the Legislative Network. As mentioned at the Fall Briefing in November, our challenge is great in the current economic and budget climate. Working in our favor is a highly focused list of priorities that allow us to communicate Tech's needs to legislators very clearly. Dene and Betsy (providing their customarily superb guidance) will be in touch asking us to contact our legislators on Tech's behalf as the House and Senate address the FY2010 budget. Until then, know that your interest is greatly appreciated and the work you do this session will leave an indelible mark on our beloved Institute." *GTLN Chairman Jason Byars*

The Georgia Tech Legislative Network welcomes its new chairman, Jason Byars, ME 1996.

Jason's two-year term as chairman coincides with the biennial General Assembly session. As chairman of the Network, he aides the Government Relations staff in setting the Network's agenda and determining its advocacy opportunities.

Jason and his wife, Shauna, ARCH 1996, recently welcomed

their first child, Jacob Henry, born on January 20, 2009. Jason is a native of Barnesville, GA and currently resides in Atlanta. He is the Business Development Director for the Southeast/Central Region at Veolia Energy, NA, where he leads a team responsible for identifying and developing long-term, integrated energy services contracts for North American clients.

Prior to joining Veolia, Jason served as Program Manager for

Combined Heat & Power at GE Energy.

In 2002, Jason served as Business Manager for the successful United States Senate campaign of then-Congressman Saxby Chambliss, where he was a leader in the effort to build a statewide organization of more than 1,500 campaign volunteers. **T**

## HIGHLIGHT: Georgia Tech Legislators



Senator Johnny Grant

Georgia Tech is proud to have three alumni serving in the state House and Senate this session.

Last week, we profiled Senate Majority Leader Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock), MGT 1991. Joining him in the Senate is Johnny Grant (R-Milledgeville), IE 1972, who represents the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District in central Georgia.

Sen. Grant was first elected to the Senate in 2004. He is chairman of the State Institutions and Property Committee, vice chair of the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee and is a member of the Health and Human Services, Governmental Oversight, Public Safety and Appropriations committees.



Representative Hardie Davis

Rep. Hardie Davis (D-Gracewood), EE 1992, is beginning his second term in the House of Representatives where he was elected by his caucus to serve as Assistant Whip. He serves on the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee, the Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, the Natural Resources and Environment Committee, and the Science and Technology Committee. After graduating from Georgia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering, he worked as an engineer in Augusta until he and his wife founded Abundant Life Worship Center in 2000, where he serves as senior pastor. **T**

## getting buzzy

*calls to action*

*In this regular section you will find specific ways that you as a legislative network member can get involved in active advocacy for GT during the next two weeks.*

**T** Write Governor Perdue to thank him for his support of Georgia Tech's legislative priorities in his budget recommendations.

*Governor Sonny Perdue  
203 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334*

**T** Continue to write, call, and visit your legislators to share Georgia Tech's legislative priorities and GT's ongoing impact on you and the state.

*For more information on how you can get involved in supporting Georgia Tech, please contact Betsy Jackson.*

*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](mailto:george.ray@dev.gatech.edu) to subscribe.*



**Georgia Institute  
of Technology**

*for more information:*  
Dene Sheheane, Director  
Betsy Jackson, Assistant Director  
**Georgia Tech Office of Government Relations**  
177 North Avenue, Suite 231  
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0392  
[betsy.jackson@gatech.edu](mailto:betsy.jackson@gatech.edu)  
404.894.1238