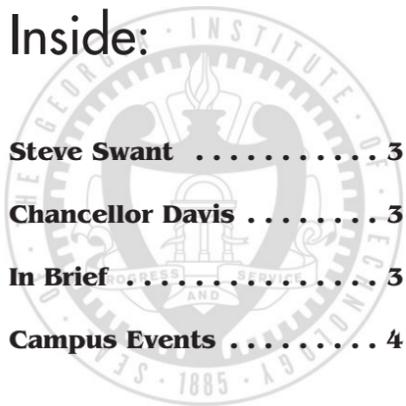


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THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

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THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

University System fares well in state legislative session

Lynn Durham
Office of the President

The 2006 session of the Georgia General Assembly was very positive for higher education. Governor Sonny Perdue and members of the Legislature made education a priority in the budget and worked with officials to pass legislation that is beneficial to all University System of Georgia institutions.

Lawmakers were able to be more generous and flexible this year as state revenues continue to rise. After several years of cutbacks, the Fiscal Year 2006 Amended Budget and the Fiscal Year 2007 General Budget funded new programs and projects, as well as other items that have been postponed for years.

Andrew Harris, Georgia Tech's director of Government Relations, said, "Governor Perdue and the General Assembly made some significant investments in higher education this year that will pay big dividends in the future of our state."

Georgia Tech officials are particularly pleased that the Legislature approved \$38 million in bonds to construct the Nanotechnology Research Center Building and \$4.9 million in bonds to renovate the Old Civil Engineering Building. Both of these projects topped the Institute's legislative priority list. The NRCB will keep Georgia Tech and the state of Georgia at the forefront of nanotechnology research, which Governor Perdue has championed. The Old Civil Engineering Building in the historic core of campus has needed renovation for many years. Once the renovation is complete, Ivan Allen College faculty and staff will move to the building.

In the FY2007 general budget, legislators also appropriated \$5 million to expand the Advanced Technology Development Center's Seed Capital Fund to incubate companies in the bioscience industry, \$5 million for nanotechnology infrastructure and \$141,000 to establish a worker safety technology program for the poultry industry at the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

Legislature continued, page 2

Study offers recommendations for strengthening higher education's economic impact in Georgia

Matt Nagel
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

An economic impact study sponsored by ten of Georgia's top companies finds that greater flexibility in the state's higher education system would increase the economic impact and competitiveness of Georgia Tech and the state's other public research universities.

The study, released during a press conference held last week in the Global Learning and Conference Center, shows Georgia Tech provides an annual impact of \$3.9 billion within the state of Georgia and supports, directly or indirectly, more than 44,000 jobs. Based on the annual funding the state provides Georgia Tech, the return on investment through economic impact is almost \$15 for every state dollar. In addition, Georgia Tech graduates more engineers than any other university in the nation and generates hundreds of invention discoveries annually, both of which provide fuel for the economy of the future.

The study also looks to the dramatic changes occurring in the economic landscape and makes several recommendations to keep Georgia Tech and the state's other public research universities competitive. The recommendations call for continued support for innovation based on initiatives to compete with the growing investment being made in other states and nations. Further, recommendations are made to improve flexibility in decision-making and operations and enhance control of



President Wayne Clough, BellSouth CEO Duane Ackerman and Southern Company CEO David Ratcliffe present the findings of a study commissioned to determine how Georgia Tech and the state's other research universities can maintain their competitiveness in an emerging global marketplace.

revenues within a new system for accountability.

"This study shows the dramatic impact Georgia Tech has on the state's economy and highlights the growing importance innovation will have in the economy of the future," said President Wayne Clough. "It also sends a message that if we are to be successful, the way we do business needs to allow for greater flexibility, agility and responsiveness. The present policies under which Georgia Tech and its sister public research universities operate should be reassessed, working with the University System of Georgia and the state to bring them into alignment with the demands of the 21st century."

The report reviews actions taken by several other states to maneuver their research universities successfully to compete in the global race for innovation and technology transfer.

Report recommendations

- Increased investment in strategically designated areas to allow the state to compete in high-end growth sectors
- Increased operational flexibility in areas such as personnel policies, procurement and construction
- Enhanced ability to manage revenues such as setting tuition
- Managerial responsibility and accountability with a public "scorecard" on activities delegated to the university

Michigan, Virginia, Colorado, Florida and Texas are allowing their institutions more flexibility to meet the challenges they face in today's global economy.

Study continued, page 2

Office of International Education widens its scope

David Terraso
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

It's no secret that Tech's international presence is growing. From the new International Plan, which promises to give students an in-depth global education within their major to the ever-expanding number of international students, study abroad programs, educational partnerships and possibly new campuses, Tech is

leading the pack when it comes to providing a global education.

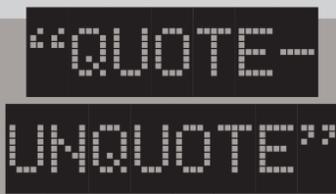
Coordinating all of this is the Office of International Education (OIE), which has broadened its role in the last three years from an office which simply advises international students and study abroad students to one that's actively working with faculty to develop new programs as well as increasing the social and educational offerings for international and domestic students.

Formerly the director of OIE, Howard Rollins was promoted to associate vice provost for International Programs in January to reflect the expanded responsibilities his office has undertaken.

Providing extra services

A large part of the success of Tech's internationalization efforts is based on developing partnerships among

OIE continued, page 2



"As far as Oklahoma, it's all rumor and speculation. They've not contacted me. I'm very happy at Georgia Tech."

—Men's basketball Paul Hewitt, dismissing rumors that he may leave Tech in favor of a position at the University of Oklahoma.
(Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

Study, cont'd from page 1

In endorsing the report, David Ratcliffe, Southern Company CEO and chair of the Georgia Research Alliance, said that acting on the recommendations would help to maximize the contributions of the state's research universities.

"Georgia Tech has provided Southern Company, the state of Georgia and the Southeast with a great resource for innovation, qualified graduates and research," he said. "It is in our best interest to keep Georgia Tech competitive and give all the state research universities the flexibility they need to compete with

their peers across the world. Georgia Tech's success in partnering with the private sector gives us an edge over our competitors located elsewhere."

The study also highlights expected outcomes and benefits that these changes would have if implemented. Among them are more high-end jobs for the city of Atlanta and state of Georgia, improved access to intellectual capital, development of the workforce of the future, expansion of a vibrant research enterprise, creation of new private-public partnerships and the expansion of infrastructure for economic growth.

BellSouth Chairman and CEO Duane Ackerman said he believed the report's message required urgency.

"The United States is at a crossroads where we need to compete in a rapidly changing global economy," he said. "The race for innovation is extremely competitive. It will take the world's best-trained and most creative technological workforce for the United States to maintain its position as the world's innovation leader. If talent is not available here, U.S. and foreign companies will seek it elsewhere."

For more information...

Office of the President
www.gatech.edu/president

OIE, cont'd from page 1

various campus units. OIE is working with Housing and faculty to provide the new International House, a living-learning community designed to pair international students with globally-interested domestic students. Currently located in Harris Hall and led by Associate Professor of International Affairs Kirk Bowman, I-House promotes cultural exchange and awareness among its 20 residents. The program's success this year has prompted Tech to expand it to 48 residents in the fall.

OIE has also been involved with the Women's Resource Center and the Counseling Center to promote resources for spouses of international students, including an orientation and support group as well as providing information on childcare and enrolling children in school. And a weekly coffee hour attracts international and domestic students who want to talk about cultural issues.

"Many of these things were happening, but they weren't connected and it was difficult for students to learn about all the resources available to them. OIE has partnered with these organizations to offer one-stop shopping," said Sheila Schulte, who was recently promoted from associate director to director of International Student and Scholar Services.

Many of OIE's new services are the

result of student input provided through focus groups conducted through the Office of Organizational Development and a student advisory board.

"We want students who leave here to feel good about Georgia Tech both academically and socially," said Schulte. "They can concentrate on the academics if the social and emotional piece is fulfilled. That's what I hope we're doing with these extra services we're providing."

Expanding programs to meet a growing demand

OIE is also expanding its services for domestic students who want an international education. The office continues to increase its study abroad programs from 30 in 2000 to 65 in 2005, and the percentage of Tech students graduating with study abroad experiences is the highest among public institutions in Georgia.

The International Plan also brings a host of new challenges and opportunities. In this first year, the International Plan exceeded its participation goal by 65 percent. The projection is for 200 participants next year and for 300 students in every subsequent year. OIE plans to help academic departments develop new university partnerships abroad, to expand and better exploit existing partnerships, and to expand study abroad advising and planning services to students who will participate in these programs.

"We hope that the International Plan will help differentiate us from our peer institutions and help us better prepare our students to practice their disciplines in a global context. It's rare for a technologically oriented institution like ours to have such a successful education abroad program," said Amy Henry, director of Education Abroad.

OIE is also developing scholarship support for students. The first recipients of the Class of 1962 Study Abroad Scholarship will go abroad in the summer and fall of 2006, and the first recipients of the ACC International Study Scholarship will also study abroad in 2006. OIE also administers a program of scholarships and work stipends that is funded by the President's Office and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia that expands each year to assist more students in financing their international experiences.

"The campus has changed a lot in the 10 years I've been here," added Henry. "There's an atmosphere here at Tech at all levels that encourages international education. Students have opportunities they've never had before and they are very eager to take advantage of those opportunities."

For more information...

Office of International Education
www.oie.gatech.edu

Legislature, cont'd from page 1

Another positive aspect of the budget is an average 4 percent salary increase for University System faculty and staff. The increases will take effect January 1, 2007.

University System officials were advocates for several bills that will have a direct impact on Georgia Tech and other public colleges, universities and technical schools. House Bill 1294, the "carry forward" bill approved on the last day of the session, allows higher education institutions to continue their practice of carrying forward funds derived from certain student fees — such as technology fees and continuing education fees

— from one fiscal year to the next. If the bill had not been approved, campuses would have been forced to change their accounting systems and all monies from these fees would have had to be used by June 30.

Another last-minute approval was Senate Bill 562, which creates the Georgia Higher Education Facilities Authority. This authority will provide financing for institutions that wish to build revenue-producing structures such as dormitories or parking decks. These projects will no longer have to compete for general obligation bonds with other state building projects.

Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance Robert Thompson noted, "We were particularly pleased to have legislation

renewing our ability to carry forward locally generated revenues from one fiscal year to the next, and that the legislation authorizing the Board of Regents to sell revenue bonds was passed."

Georgia Tech's students were more involved in this year's legislative session than ever before. Members of the Student Government Association's Student Lobby Board worked hard to find sponsors and get a bill introduced calling for an end to sales tax collections on the sale of textbooks. The bill did not make it out of the Ways and Means Committee due to lack of time for a fiscal study, but it will be introduced again in the next legislative session.



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Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.

Swant named VP of Administration and Finance

President Wayne Clough and Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance Robert Thompson announced last week that Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning Steven Swant will assume additional duties as Thompson's deputy. To reflect these additional responsibilities, Swant's title will be changed to Vice President for Administration and Finance, while continuing to lead and direct the Office of Budget and Planning.

"This organizational change is being made at this time to help assure leadership continuity of the Administration and Finance team and organization over the next few years," Thompson said. "Steve's dedication and creative contributions to Georgia Tech's strategic and operational achievements over the last ten years, coupled with



Steve Swant will assume additional duties as deputy to Senior Vice President Robert Thompson.

his extensive research university experience, will be invaluable in the future as Georgia Tech leadership transitions occur."

"Steve's appointment to this position will reinforce leadership continuity over time, and help assure Georgia Tech maintains its momentum to define the technological university of the 21st century," Clough added. "I am pleased to appoint Steve to this important position, and that

we have been able to attract and retain the kind of leadership talent at Georgia Tech that Steve represents."

"I appreciate Dr. Clough's and Mr. Thompson's acknowledgement of my contributions and look forward to providing leadership wherever I can in sustaining and enhancing the Institute's future," Swant said.

A message to the campus from University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll Davis

I had an opportunity to introduce myself to many of you via the webcast of my first board meeting in February. I am sending this message to reach those of you who missed the webcast.

My wife, Elaine, and I are excited about the prospect of living in Georgia and to have the opportunity to work for such a great University System. We have been overwhelmed by your legendary Southern hospitality, and we like it!

I want you to know that your work makes an important contribution to our state and in many instances to our nation. We must be driven by our mission of "creating a more educated Georgia" — a mission that changes individual lives and enhances the overall quality of life for our state's citizens.

It is due to your work and effort each day that higher education is available to citizens throughout the State of Georgia — a quality education that is drawing more and more national recognition. This University System also powers Georgia's economic engine. It is no surprise that this state is the fastest growing east of the Mississippi. That did not happen by accident. People and businesses are drawn to centers of education and intellect, and you are the nucleus of that intellectual activity. You must also be the catalyst for its expansion. That is why what you do has so many implications for the future prosperity of this state.

I appreciate all that you do to create and sustain a world-class system of public higher education, a system that serves more than 250,000 talented students, who understand the indisputable impact that education — quality education — will have in their lives.

The next few months will be a time of transition for the System, during which I will listen, learn and observe. Through visits to all 35 USG campuses over the next few months, I also will give you an opportunity to meet with me so that you can learn my core values, my principles and commitments.

Already, I have had many meetings with staff

and phone conversations with legislators and have been charged by the Governor with safeguarding Georgia's "crown jewels." I am anxious to hear your views regarding what is working and what isn't to help me in working with the Board of Regents to establish the future direction of this System.

So far, I have visited 11 USG institutions and enjoyed them all. Your creativity is evident and the pervasiveness of your achievements is staggering. But, I also am receiving lots of feedback on what we at the System level can do to make the System function better and more responsively to its constituents.

I will continue to use my campus visits as data-gathering opportunities to help formulate my vision and plans for the future. I want to better understand our System, its current performance, and the needs and issues on our campuses before drawing any conclusions. I also plan to meet with our legislative partners during and after the session.

The activity I have seen in just seven short weeks here in Atlanta — budgets being developed, new presidents being named, academic programs being evaluated, and economic development taking place — all reflect the incredible vitality and significance of this University System. My pledge — my contract — with you is to develop and articulate clearly what we will do, how we will do it, what our end results should be, and certainly how they should be measured.

This is a great time to be involved in public higher education. Never before in the nation's history has the creation of a more educated society held such great significance for the future direction of this state and our nation. In a world in which some countries are just starting to realize the dynamic power higher education holds to transform societies, our role in affirming that truth here in Georgia takes on a new, competitive urgency.

I'm excited to be on board. I look forward to celebrating our future achievements together.

IN BRIEF:

Student opinion survey online

The Spring 2006 course/instructor opinion survey (CIOS) is available for students beginning Monday, April 17 until Sunday, May 7. Students should go to www.coursesurvey.gatech.edu to complete their surveys.

Women in Engineering hold awards banquet

The Women in Engineering Program (WIE) held its 6th annual Excellence Awards Banquet on March 30 at the Georgia Tech Hotel Ballroom. In all, nearly \$90,000 in corporate scholarships was awarded to 85 undergraduate female students who have achieved "high honors" status, and exhibited exceptional leadership and community service.

Two Excellence in Teaching Awards recognized Professors David Sanborn (Mechanical Engineering) and Robert Speyer (Material Science and Engineering). The Faculty Mentoring Award was given to Aerospace Engineering Associate Professor Marilyn Smith. Each of the faculty members were nominated by women engineering students.

Five undergraduate students — Josepha Lkhumetse, Kia Davidson, Lisa Hightower, Jennifer Zeitang and Mark Weng — were recognized with Student Mentoring Awards for their participation in the WIE Mentor Program.

Two special awards were given to Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor William Sayle and Nuclear and Radiological Engineering undergraduate Sarah Brashear for their sustained and outstanding leadership to the Women in Engineering Program and in the Georgia Tech community.

For more about the program, visit www.coe.gatech.edu/wie.

Drama Camp registration

The Ferst Center for the Arts Drama Camp is a four-week summertime experience that introduces campers to the wonder and detail of theatrical performance. Drama Camp will be held in July and is for children aged 8-13.

Drama Camp offers workshops on acting, directing, playwriting, technical, musical theatre, comedy improvisation, and special workshops on accent work, clowning, puppetry and fight choreography. The camp ends with a big show completely produced by the campers and is open to all parents and friends.

Children of Georgia Tech employees will receive a discount at the time of enrollment. A registration form is available at www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu/kids/dramacamp.php.

For more information call 385-4219 or e-mail tyler.woodstrom@arts.gatech.edu.

Tech recognized for International Plan

The Office of International Education recently garnered recognition from the Institute of International Education (IIE) by receiving Honorable Mention in their Andrew Heiskell Awards For Innovation in International Education. The IIE honored Tech's International Plan in their "Internationalizing the Campus" category. Launched last fall, the International Plan is a degree-long program that allows students to gain international competency in their major field of study. The plan is available for students in all six colleges.