

# CAPITOL BUZZ



*Sine Die Edition*

Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol  
VOLUME VII, ISSUE VI – Thursday, March 20, 2014

## General Assembly Adjourns Sine Die



*Image courtesy of House Photo Office*

## ADVOCATE

*for GeorgiaTech*

As the General Assembly members return to their districts, families, and jobs, please consider writing a hand written note to your Senator, Representative, Lt. Gov Casey Cagle, and Governor Deal thanking them for their service to the state and support of Georgia Tech and higher education in Georgia.

To learn how to get more involved in the Capitol Jackets group and keep up to date with activities in the interim period, please email [casey.aultman@gatech.edu](mailto:casey.aultman@gatech.edu)

To find your elected officials, visit [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org)



## BUDGET REPORT

The House and Senate Conference Committee agreed to a final FY15 budget and both chambers passed the final budget on Tuesday, Day 39. The FY15 budget now awaits Governor Deal's signature.

### ***Budgetary items affecting Georgia Tech:***

- \$1.7M in bonds for planning and design of the Library/Crosland Tower renewal project
- \$4.5M in bonds for the Environmental Health and Safety Operations Facility

- \$40M in bonds to be allocated among USG institutions for major repairs and renovations
- \$47.37M in new formula funds to be allocated among USG institutions for critical operations, including \$11.4M for the merit based salary increase pool for USG employees
- \$8.97M in bonds to support research through the Georgia Research Alliance
- \$9.4M to increase the HOPE Scholarship factor rate by 3%

# *Letter from the President*



**Georgia Institute  
of Technology®**

Office of the President

Dear Capitol Jackets Members,

As the 2014 Legislative Session adjourns Sine Die, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Georgia Tech Capitol Jackets, the campus community, and thousands of alumni and supporters across the state who have supported Georgia Tech throughout the session.

These past few months, our active network of Yellow Jackets has united once again to convey Georgia Tech's legislative priorities and amplify their importance to our state leaders. Each and every interaction was a critical touch point. Building authentic local constituent-to-lawmaker relationships is incredibly important to keep communication lines open and ensure the Institute can adequately pursue our strategic vision.

Additionally, I would like to extend a special thanks to Capitol Jackets Steering Committee Chair Stephanie Kindregan, who successfully led our network and engaged new members around the state, all while navigating legislative priorities of her own organization, Delta Air Lines. We are sincerely grateful for her tireless enthusiasm.

We should be very proud of the work we have accomplished together. Some of my favorite highlights from the session include:

- We began strong with a record number of supporters at Georgia Tech Student Day at the Capitol.
- We maintained a steady presence with our Georgia Legislative Interns and staff and alumni serving the state in legislative or policy roles.
- We gained positive momentum as our budget items were supported by the Governor, House, and Senate, and we secured the support we needed to push our items through to the end.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the visible presence of the Capitol Jackets. As you enjoy these spring months, I encourage you to reflect on our motto of Progress and Service, think about the positive impact you are making, and thank your legislator.

Sincerely,

G.P. "Bud" Peterson  
President



# Legislative Roundup

## Final Status of Bills and Resolutions from our Watchlist

**HB 516** ..... **Will not move forward this session**

*Allows members of the Optional Retirement Plan the opportunity for a one-time switch into the Teacher's Retirement System.*

**HB 788** ..... **Passed, Sent to Governor**

*Extends existing tax-exemption of USG property to private partners who operate student housing and other services for public colleges and universities.*

**HB 743** ..... **Passed, Signed by Governor Act 347**

*Amended Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations bill.*

**HB 744** ..... **Passed, Sent to Governor**

*General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2015.*

**HB 697** ..... **Passed, Sent to Governor**

*Extends Technical College student HOPE grants to cover full tuition.*

**HB 875** ..... **Will not move forward this session**

*Changes current provisions relating to the carrying of weapons and maintains the prohibition of concealed carry on college campuses. Reduces the penalty for permit holders carrying weapons on campuses to a fine of no more than \$100.*

**HB 60** ..... **Passed, Sent to Governor**

*Revises provisions for certain judges to obtain weapons carry licenses. Amended to allow permit holders to carry weapons in some locations but not on college campuses.*

**HR 1124**..... **Passed and adopted**

*Recognizes Georgia Tech Alumnus, Dr. Allen Ecker, for his contributions to economic development in Georgia.*

**HR 1265** ..... **Passed and adopted**

*Creates the House Study Committee on Autonomous Vehicle Technology.*



First Lady, Val Peterson, speaks with Capitol Jackets members at the Legislative Briefing.

## SPOTTED



Lt. Gov Casey Cagle and Buzz at Be Healthy Georgia Day at the Capitol.

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



LEFT: President Peterson with the six 2014 GT interns at the Capitol.

MIDDLE LEFT: GT Parent Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones hugs Governor Nathan Deal after his State of the State Address.

MIDDLE RIGHT: GT Alumnus Senator Hardie Davis with US Senator Saxby Chamblis on the Senate floor.

LOWER LEFT: Representative Geoff Duncan, GT alumnus, and his sons Bayler and Parker on the House floor.

LOWER RIGHT: First Lady Sandra Deal and President Peterson in the House Gallery for the Governor's State of the State Address.

