

# CAPITOL BUZZ



Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol  
VOLUME IX, ISSUE IV – Monday, February 22, 2016

## FOLLOW

*Today marks the twenty-fifth legislative day.*

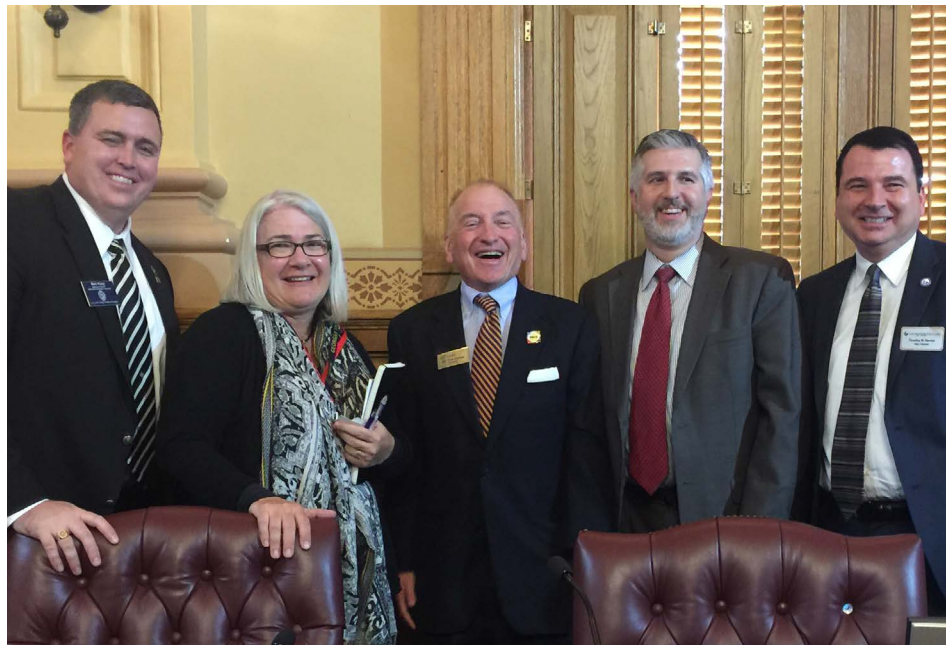
On Friday, the House of Representatives passed its version of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget including many Georgia Tech and University System priorities:

- \$55.4M to the USG for merit-based pay adjustments and employee recruitment and retention initiatives effective July 1, 2016
- \$60M in bonds for Major Repair and Rehabilitation funds for the USG
- New Formula Funding for the USG



Rep. Terry England, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, presents the budget bill to the House of Representatives. The House passed the FY17 budget, HB 751, on Friday.

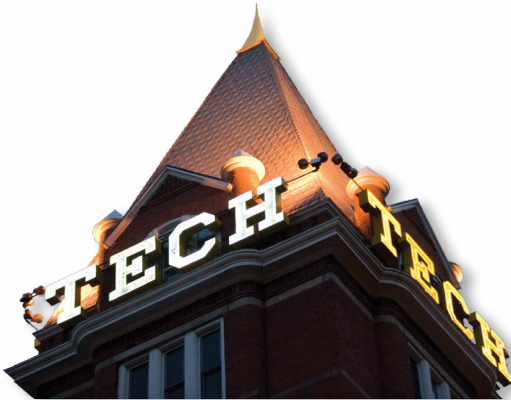
## Georgia Tech experts present at State Capitol



Every year, Georgia Tech students, faculty and staff are invited to the Capitol to present on a variety of key issues facing the state. This session has already brought several Yellow Jackets to the Capitol in an official capacity. Pictured above, Dr. Lizanne DeStefano, Executive Director of the Georgia Tech Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC), joins fellow panelists at the Educate Georgia Summit at the State Capitol. The “Innovation in Higher Education” panelists include representatives from both the Technical College System and University System of Georgia. Pictured below is PhD student, Jonathan Walker, first place winner of the Three Minute Thesis Competition last fall. Jonathan presented to the Senate Science and Technology committee on his research topic, “Leaving Ancient Rocket Engines Behind.”



# Intern Spotlight



Laura Breithaupt is a Biochemistry major from Marietta, GA. This session Laura is working in the office of Representative Sharon Cooper (R – 43), Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee.



Hunter Tredway is a Public Policy major from Atlanta, GA. This session Hunter is working in the office of Senator Bruce Thompson (R – 14), Chair of the Senate Science and Technology Committee.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

*There has been no movement on the following bills from previous issues of Capitol Buzz: HB 779, HB 801*

**Updates on bills and resolutions from our watch list:**

- HB 745** ..... **Passed House; Assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee**  
*Renews provision allowing USG institutions to carry forward a small amount of funds from one fiscal year to the next.*
- HB 750**..... **Signed by Governor**  
*Amended Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations bill.*
- HB 751**.....**Passed House; Assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee**  
*General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017.*
- HB 792**..... **Passed House Public Safety Committee**  
*Permits the carrying, possession, and use of electroshock weapons by students or employees at a public university.*
- HB 859**..... **Passed House Public Safety Committee**  
*Changes current provisions to allow certain licensed firearm holders to carry weapons on college campuses and restricts those persons from carrying into buildings or property used for athletic sporting events or student housing.*
- HB 977** ..... **Assigned to House Rules Committee**  
*Outlines provisions limiting University System tuition and student fee increases based on prior year rate of inflation.*
- SR 1001** ..... **Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee**  
*Creates the Senate Study Committee on Higher Education Affordability.*
- SR 1002** ..... **Adopted**  
*Commends University System of Georgia Outstanding Scholars on Academic Recognition Day for 2016.*