

CAPITOL BUZZ

Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol
VOLUME VII, ISSUE III – Monday, February 17, 2014



House adds Georgia Tech priority to FY15 budget



The \$4.5M funding request for Georgia Tech's small capital Environmental Health and Safety project was added by the House to the state's FY15 budget and was passed by the House Appropriations Committee last Tuesday. The FY15 budget is on the House Rules Calendar for consideration today, Legislative Day 22.

Photo: Representative Lynne Riley, Governor's Floor Leader and Georgia Tech parent, pictured on the House floor.

FOLLOW

Get more frequent Capitol and campus updates on Twitter, @CapitolJackets, or online at www.gov.gatech.edu

@CapitolJackets:

New adjournment resolution: General Assembly in session until March 20, adjourned last week for weather, back in session today for day 22.

@CapitolJackets:

@GTRI experts Terry Hilderbrand and Isaac Asher presented to Joint Science & Technology Committee last week at the State Capitol.

ADVOCATE

for GeorgiaTech

As the full House considers its version of the FY15 budget today, please take a moment to send a handwritten note of appreciation to your State Representative for supporting Georgia Tech and higher education in Georgia.

A special thank you to Capitol Jack-ets Steering Committee Members David Jackson, Tom Gurley, Jonathan Hawkins, and Caroline Freeman for sharing with us their outreach to House members this week.

To find your elected officials, visit: votesmart.org



Priorities:

Hazardous materials storage key to safety and efficiency

One of Georgia Tech's top legislative priorities this session is to secure state bond funding for the relocation of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) operations. EHS staff members develop programs and provide oversight and training in laboratory/chemical safety for all of campus. The current configuration and location of EHS operations cannot support the Institute's needs for hazardous material management.

This project provides for the relocation of hazardous material storage away from main pedestrian corridors on campus. The location of the new EHS building is on the periphery of



campus and was recently acquired by the Institute for efficient expansion. This funding request will reconfigure a newly acquired facility that co-locates training, storage, and administrative services for Georgia Tech's EHS operations. The total projected cost for this relocation project is \$5M. Georgia Tech has pledged an additional \$500,000 in Institute funding to further leverage the \$4.5M state bond funding request for FY15.



Emily Rabun is a junior Business Administration and Public Policy major from Alpharetta, GA. She is working this session in Senator Bill Heath's office, Chairman of the Government Oversight Committee.

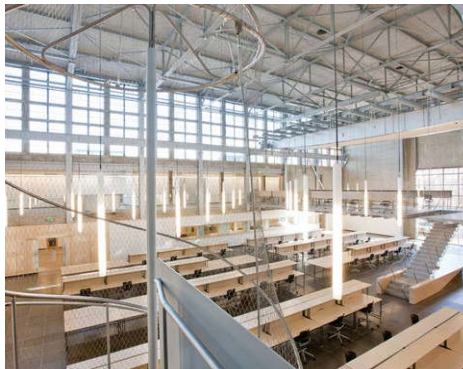
Updates from GT interns' experiences are posted to the Twitter feed, @CapitolJackets.

Positive Momentum

State funding in 2009-2010 supports cutting edge research in historic location

The Hinman Research Building is known on campus for its advanced research and historic significance. Previously home to the precursor for the Georgia Tech Research Institute, the Hinman building is now the flagship research building for the College of Architecture. The current research produced in this building demonstrates the “perfect union of the past, present, and future of architectural research and education at Georgia Tech,” as stated by Alan Balfour, former dean of the College of Architecture.

The Hinman building held its grand reopening in March of 2011 after



two years of funding from the state totaling \$6.4M of the \$10.7M total project cost. The rehabilitated space includes graduate studios, computer labs, high-fidelity simulation and planning labs, administrative offices, and galleries. Current day architecture students of all ages know this building for its inspiring lighting and artistic influence.

Recognizing Talent

Resolutions honoring Georgia Tech achievement

Dr. Allen Ecker, Tech alumnus and founder of Scientific Atlanta, will be recognized by HR1124 this session for his contribution to economic development and the tech community.

Gautam Goel, Tech Mathematics student from Atlanta, will be recognized by SR902 this session as a University System Outstanding Scholar for academic achievement.

Legislative Roundup

HB 516 Passed House Retirement Committee

Allows members of the Optional Retirement Plan the opportunity for a one-time switch into the Teacher's Retirement System. This bill will be considered by the full House today.

HB 788 Passed House Ways and Means Committee

Extends existing tax-exemption of USG property to private partners who operate student housing for public colleges and universities. This bill is currently in the House Rules committee.

HB 743 Passed Senate

Amended Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations bill.

HB 744 Passed House Appropriations Committee

General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2015. This bill will be considered by the full House today.

HB 697 Passed House Appropriations Committee

Extends Technical College student HOPE grants to cover full tuition.

HB 875 Passed House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

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.