

# CAPITOL BUZZ



Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol  
VOLUME VII, ISSUE IV – Monday, March 3, 2014

## Georgia Tech alumnus honored by House



Chairman Tom Rice from Gwinnett County recognized Dr. Allen Ecker for his contributions to economic development in the state. Dr. Ecker, joined by his wife Sandra and three children, was also accompanied by Dean Gary May of the College of Engineering to receive this honorable invite resolution.

## FOLLOW

Get more frequent Capitol and campus updates on Twitter, @CapitolJackets, or online at [www.gov.gatech.edu](http://www.gov.gatech.edu)

@CapitolJackets:  
Today is officially legislative day 30, the infamous Cross-over Day. Keep calm and *Sine Die* y'all #GAPolitics

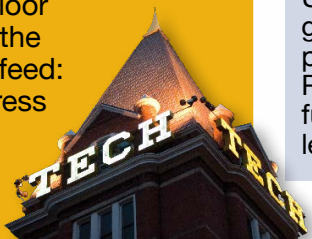
@CapitolJackets:  
President Peterson continues to meet with legislative leadership to promote Georgia Tech's priorities #GoJackets

## ADVOCATE

*for GeorgiaTech*

The Senate and House finalized the Supplemental FY14 budget last week and sent it to the Governor for signing. Governor Deal signed the amended budget bill, HB 743, on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

The Senate is slated to vote upon its version of the FY15 budget this week on Day 33 – Thursday, March 6. For real time Senate Floor updates, visit the Senate Press feed: @GASenatePress



## Priorities:

*President's consistent engagement advances Tech priorities*

**President Peterson pictured right with Speaker David Ralson.**

Since the first day of session President Peterson has been in the Capitol weekly, engaging with legislators to advocate for Georgia Tech in the General Assembly. Consistently meeting with legislative leadership in support of University System legislation, budgetary items, and Georgia Tech's priorities this session, President Peterson has cultivated meaningful relationships with our state's leaders.



The President's dedication to ensuring Georgia Tech is represented state-wide has garnered much respect from Georgia's leaders and has led to high impact visits this year.

## Intern Spotlight



*Rebecca Harris is a junior Public Policy major from Macon, GA. She is working this session in the Senate Research Office on the Higher Ed, Education, Government Oversight, and Retirement Committees.*

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

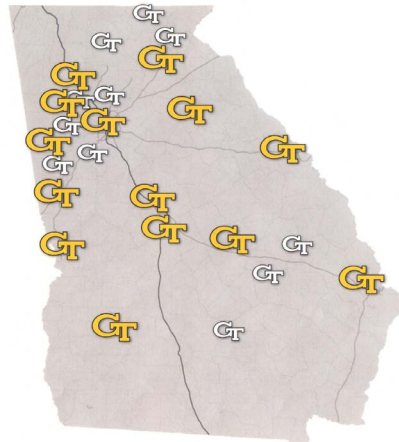
## Positive Momentum

### *Support for "B" units = Support for state-wide economic development*

The Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) and Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI2) receive funding support through the state's B-budget and are thus referred to as "B" units. These state sponsored activities consistently prove their worth, as both GTRI and EI2 generate significant economic impact for every state dollar appropriated.

In FY13, GTRI leveraged state funding to attract more than \$300M in federal funding to Georgia and created 84 new high-tech jobs, producing an annual impact well in excess of half a billion dollars. One of the most

well-known components of EI2 is the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), recently highlighted as "one of 12 business incubators that are changing the world," by Forbes magazine. ATDC assisted more than 400 startups in 2013, generating over \$90M in capital activity.



## Legislative Roundup

### *Bills and Resolutions from our Watchlist*

**HB 516** ..... House tabled

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

**HB 788** ..... House passed, awaiting Senate committee assignment

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

**HB 744** ..... Assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee

*General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2015.*

**HB 697** ..... Assigned to the Senate Higher Ed Committee

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

**HB 875** ..... Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Non-Civil 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.*