

CAPITOL BUZZ



Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol
VOLUME VII, ISSUE V – Monday, March 17, 2014

LG's "Be Healthy Georgia" is all the Buzz



Buzz attended the annual Be Healthy Georgia Festival hosted by Lt. Gov Casey Cagle to promote healthy living among the state's families and children. The free, family day event took place at the State Capitol last weekend.

FOLLOW

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

@CapitolJackets: Senate Approps Chair notes that the FY15 budget passed by Senate last week is built on approx. 4.4% revenue growth over the FY14 amended.

@CapitolJackets: Tech play-by-voice @Brandon-Gaudin got a taste of Georgia visiting the State Capitol last week #GoJackets

ADVOCATE

for GeorgiaTech

Conference Committee members were appointed by both chambers to finalize the FY15 budget and convened for the first time last Tuesday. Stay tuned for final budget updates in the Sine Die edition of Capitol Buzz, released when the gavel falls this Thursday night.

A special thank you to Capitol Jackets Jason Byars, Larry Toney, Linda Sorrow, Scott Petty, Judy Freeman, Per Holtze, Jake Reese, and Tom Gurley for sharing with us their outreach to Senate members this week.



Priorities:

Georgia Research Alliance, partner to state's universities, secures funding

The Georgia Research Alliance, GRA, is a nonprofit organization that works closely with the Georgia Department of Economic Development in partnership with Georgia's research universities to expand research and commercialization capacity within higher education institutions.

This session, \$10M in bond funding was placed in the FY15 budget for GRA to invest in research at member institutions. Currently, GRA is working closely with Georgia Tech on recruiting faculty to Georgia. These funds will help underwrite the cost for these scholars, their colleagues and equipment for new labs.



Member institutions' presidents are pictured above with the GRA President, Michael Cassidy.

From left: *President Carlton Brown, Clark Atlanta University; President Bud Peterson, Georgia Institute of Technology; President Mike Cassidy, Georgia Research Alliance; President James Wagner, Emory University; President Ricardo Azziz, Georgia Regents University; President Jere Morehead, University of Georgia. (not pictured, President Mark Becker, Georgia State University)*

Positive Momentum

Collaboration to raise awareness of local science and technology

Georgia Tech has partnered with Emory University and the Metro Atlanta Chamber in collaboration with the Atlanta Science Festival to highlight Atlanta as a global leader in innovation. This weeklong event in March will provide science programming to communities throughout metro-area communities promoting STEM fields at all levels of education.

To raise awareness among state leaders about this collaboration between the business community and higher education institutions, representatives from the Atlanta Science Festival and Georgia Tech presented to the Senate Science and Technology Committee about the initiative. Furthermore, both the House and Senate have

adopted resolutions recognizing the festival's activities and partnerships.

The Atlanta Science Festival will take place March 22-29.

For more information about the festival, visit atlantasciencefestival.org

Photo courtesy of the San Diego Science and Engineering Festival.



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.....Passed Senate Higher Ed Committee

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

HB 744.....Conference Committee Appointed

General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2015.

HB 697.....Passed Senate Higher Ed Committee

Extends Technical College student HOPE grants to cover full tuition.

HB 875.....Passed 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.

HB 60.....House Amended; Transmitted to Senate

Revises provisions for certain judges to obtain weapons carry licenses. Amended on the House floor to allow permit holders to carry weapons in bars and churches but not on college campuses.

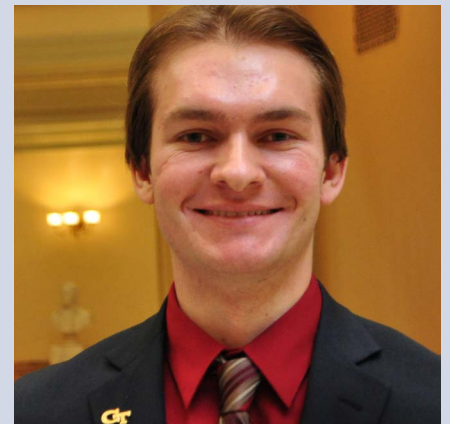
Intern Spotlight



Anna Hunter is a junior Economics and International Affairs major from Dacula, GA. She is working this session in Senator Josh McKoon's office, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

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

CONNECT



Dylan Broxterman is a junior Mechanical Engineering major from Ellaville, GA. He is working this session in Senator Judson Hill's office, Chairman of the Finance Committee.