Dear Capitol Jackets Advocacy Team:

In determining our legislative priorities this year, we knew it would be a challenging and exhilarating session. However, by uniting with our sister University System of Georgia institutions in support of our shared goals and through active engagement with state leaders, our Institute and the USG are poised for another year of excellence.

I am deeply grateful for your time and efforts in service to the Institute and to each other. Your actions as constituents bolstered the case for our most pressing requests: the ability to equip the Engineered Biosystems Building, a safe and operable home for important academic support services within the Chapin Building, and continued flexibility to manage funds responsibly through the “carry forward” rule. In addition, the University System will benefit from new funds for critical maintenance and day-to-day operations. The long-term health of the Capitol Jackets is of utmost importance to Georgia Tech. By volunteering your time to build relationships with state decision makers, your participation in the Capitol Jackets directly supports our ability to preserve the Institute’s long tradition of excellence. As we continue to work in the coming months to build upon a successful legislative session, we look forward to reconvening with the Capitol Jackets in the fall to review new ideas and to renew our excitement for the future.

Sincerely,

G. P. “Bud” Peterson, President

FY 2014 BUDGET SENT TO GOVERNOR

GT, USG PRIORITIES SUPPORTED

In a legislative session marked by fiscal uncertainty, lawmakers took until the final day of the session to come to a consensus on a budget for FY2014. Passed by both chambers late Thursday, the budget gives favorable consideration to Georgia Tech and the University System of Georgia (USG).

At the top of Georgia Tech’s budget priority list was $5 million in bond funding to complete and equip the Engineered Biosystems Building. The General Assembly included full funding in the budget to finish the project.

Tech also advocated for increases in allocations to the USG that would be spread among the system’s institutions. The General Assembly allocated $96 million in new Formula Funds for day to day operations. The legislature also approved funding for Major Repair and Rehabilitation at $49.12 million. Unfortunately, no funds were included for the newly formed Invest Georgia program that will support start-up businesses.

Another capital budget priority for Georgia Tech was for renovation of the Lloyd W. Chapin Building. The General Assembly allocated the full $1.875 million requested.

Though the first four legislative priorities set by the Institute directly involved budget allocations, the final item on the list, while non-budgetary, could help with the tight budget year. House Bill 45 renewed an expiring provision that allows USG institutions to carry forward certain funds from one fiscal year to the next, giving administrators flexibility in Institute budgeting.

On a final note, Georgia Tech was extremely pleased that the FY14 budget also includes $2,086,405 for the debt service adjustment on the North Avenue Apartments (former Olympic Housing facility).
CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT:
GT STUDENTS SERVING AS INTERNS

JASON LUPULOFF
This semester, Jason is interning as the legislative aide for Senator John Albers (GA-56), who represents most North Fulton cities including Roswell, Milton, Alpharetta, Johns Creek, and Sandy Springs. Some of his non-office work includes meeting with lobbyists, working in person with constituents on the weekends, and giving speeches on the Senator’s behalf.

“This internship plays to my passion perfectly! My feelings towards politics and the daily interactions at the Capitol are described around here as “catching the bug.” I would say that my favorite part of working at the State Capitol thus far is the trust the Senators put in you,” said Jason. “Whether it is research, or writing the general nomenclature for bills, everyone shows great respect and appreciation for your work. Also, it is pretty cool getting to see first-hand the process in which decisions are made that ultimately affect ten million people.”

BONNIE GAUPP
Bonnie Gaupp is a second year student studying International Affairs in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech. As a first-time intern at the Georgia State Capitol, this semester has been quite a new and exciting experience for her. Working as a Legislative Aide for Representative Mike Dudgeon, a Georgia Tech alumnus, Bonnie enjoys working on legislation that includes improving scientific infrastructure and technological innovation across the state of Georgia.

“Whether researching new bills, attending House and Senate committee meetings, or just running between various offices in the Capitol, I take pleasure in having the opportunity to gain first hand experience of state-level government while meeting a fascinating assortment of people each day at work,” said Bonnie.

To learn more about the Georgia Legislative Internship Program and how to receive first-hand experience of the Georgia General Assembly, please visit http://www.legis.ga.gov/intern/en-US/default.aspx.

TAKE TIME TO THANK LAWMAKERS
Georgia Tech received significant support in the FY2014 budget. Please take a moment to write a short note expressing thanks to Governor Deal and our state lawmakers.

Find your legislators and their district mailing addresses by visiting www.gov.gatech.edu and selecting “Find Your Legislator” from the “Important Links” on the right. We would appreciate notification of any communication with our state leaders so we can better track our advocacy efforts.

GEORGIA TECH AT THE CAPITOL

Photos courtesy of GCR, Institute Communications and GTRI.
**Legislative Watchlist**

**Priority Bills Highlighted**

**HB 45**
Passed, Sent to Governor
The “Carry Forward” measure would allow the University System of Georgia to carry a small amount of funds from one fiscal year to the next.

**HB 105**
Passed, Sent to Governor
Amended Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations bill

**HB 106**
Passed, Sent to Governor
General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2014

**HB 232**
Passed, Sent to Governor
This measure would allow the Board of Regents to determine the employee contribution rate for the Optional Retirement Plan.

**HB 287**
Passed, Sent to Governor
This legislation would transfer the Division of Archives to the Board of Regents.

**HB 318**
Passed, Sent to Governor
This bill would create the Invest Georgia Fund.

**HB 324**
Passed, Sent to Governor
This bill removes the requirement for potential HOPE scholars to fill out the FAFSA form.

**HB 372**
Passed, Sent to Governor
This bill revises eligibility requirements for HOPE grants at technical schools.

**HB 481**
Will not move forward this session
This bill would limit certain scientific research with regard to genetic material.

**HB 512**
Will not move forward this session
This bill would remove certain carrying restrictions in places of worship, bars and college campuses.

**HB 516**
Will not move forward this session
This bill would allow members of the Optional Retirement Plan to switch one time to the Teacher’s Retirement Plan.

**HR 826**
Will not move forward this session
This measure would create a House Human Embryonic Research Study Committee.

**SB 101**
Will not move forward this session
This bill would remove certain carrying restrictions in places of worship, bars and college campuses.

**SB 105**
Passed, Sent to Governor
The Uniform Fraudulent Transfers Act protects contributions to charitable funds made in good faith.

**SR 642**
Will not move forward this session
This measure would create a Senate Human Embryonic Research Study Committee.