University System students face tuition increase in ‘03

**Highest percentage increase since 1998**

Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Tuition rates for the new fiscal year have been approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, marking the first time in five years that the annual increase has been at or above 5 percent. A report released in January by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges noted, "Unfortunately, the return to tight budgets and tuition hikes will collide with steady and significant enrollment increases over the next decade. This will severely test state and federal commitments to higher education opportunity for the next several years." The University System of Georgia currently has a record enrollment of nearly 218,000 students. As a result, new and returning undergraduate and graduate students will face a tuition increase of 6 percent. This applies to the four research universities: Tech, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University and the Medical College of Georgia. The remaining 30 regional and state universities and two-year colleges will see a 4 percent increase, resulting in a 5 percent systemwide increase.

This is the second year that the University System of Georgia has been at or above 5 percent, arriving at a 5 percent increase, resulting in a 5 percent systemwide increase. As a result, new and returning undergraduate and graduate students will face a tuition increase of 6 percent. This applies to the four research universities: Tech, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University and the Medical College of Georgia. The remaining 30 regional and state universities and two-year colleges will see a 4 percent increase, resulting in a 5 percent systemwide increase.

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**Air quality experts expect return to normal pollution this season**

Jane Sanders
Research News

Though air quality in Atlanta last summer was the best on record since 1989, the state’s air pollution problems have not been solved. So researchers at Georgia Tech are about to start collecting this season’s air quality data around the state, hoping to advise cities on pollution control strategies, and alert metro Atlantans daily of ozone levels that could be harmful to their health.

"Last year was one of those rare annual events that occurs when the weather cooperates and you hit the cycle just right," explained Michael Chang, a senior research scientist in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and director of the Center for Urban and Regional Ecology.

"Though it was good to have cleaner air, unfortunately, it happened when we were conducting an air pollution study," Chang said.

Researchers plan to conclude the FAQs study by December 2003, about the time that the federal

**In serving community, GT SMART looks to broaden its mission**

David Terraso
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Living, working, play is the mantra of new urbanism. Placing homes, next to businesses, next to entertainment gives neighborhoods a strong identity and turns them from mere subdivisions into vibrant, connected communities. It’s the concept driving the construction of Atlantic Station to the north of campus, as well as the redevelopment of Midtown to the east.

And lately, it has become one aspect of the vision that’s driving Georgia Tech.

"Campus needs to be a place where students, faculty and staff can unwind and play. And it needs to be an active partner with its neighbors. We already know Tech is a great research and academic facility, now we need to ensure that it’s also a great community," said Dean of Students Gail DiSabatino, a member of GT SMART.

Known for its efforts to reduce underage and binge drinking among students, the goals of this coalition — made up of students, faculty, neighborhood organizations, city officials and community leaders — are actually much broader, said Sherry Crawley, communications specialist for GT SMART. "Our goal is to help build a bridge from Georgia Tech to the community as well as help build a sense of school spirit and community on campus. Reducing high-risk drinking among students is just one way to do that."

The Tech campus isn’t known as an after-hours destination, except for when there are home football games. To give students an alternative to the Buckhead scene and the late-night weekend traffic, GT SMART is working with student organizations to host parties and concerts centered around home football games. These efforts, coupled with the Fent Center’s plan to provide more shows geared to attract students, faculty and staff, should be a good first step toward making campus a more vibrant community after dark, said Vice President of Student Affairs Lee Wilcox.

In addition, the coalition is working to help Tech develop better connections with its neighbors to the north in Home Park and Midtown to the east. Last week, the group co-sponsored two off-campus living seminars with the Department of Housing. Titled “Trading Spaces,” the classes were designed to help students who are moving off campus learn both about their rights as tenants and their responsibilities as neighbors.

The coalition also gave $5,000 to the Home Park Community Improvement Association for the development of the neighborhood’s master plan. GT SMART’s contribution was in addition to an Institute gift of $10,000.

In Midtown, GT SMART is using its resources to advise the area’s Neighborhood Planning Unit on how to have a stronger voice regarding zoning and issuing liquor licenses in their neighborhood. Currently, the NPU only advises the city on whether to approve applications for liquor licences and zoning changes, giving
Larry Bowie
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs 

I f you’ve ever seen the membership list for 100 Black Men of Atlanta, you’d know it reads like a “who’s who” list of influential Atlantans. Last weekend, two with Georgia Tech connections went to the top of the list.

Last weekend, Tech alumnus William Stanley was sworn in as the new president of 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., a service organization whose members primarily serve as role models for Atlanta youth.

At the same ceremony, Robert Haley, special assistant to the president, who among other responsibilities spearheads diversity programs for the Institute, was sworn in as the organization’s president-elect. His term begins in 2004.

Stanley, the incoming president, is the first African-American graduate of Tech’s College of Architecture. He and his wife, Avice Love-Stanley, the first African-American woman to graduate from the college, merged their talents in 1977 to form Stanley-Love Stanley, P.C., an architectural firm with a list of credits that includes the Ebenezer Baptist Church/New Horizon Sanctuary, Tech’s Olympic Aquatic Center and the BellSouth complex in Lenox Park.

Stanley said his top priorities include spearheading a community campaign to raise as much as $20 million for the organization, increasing the scope of its mentoring and outreach projects, and finding a larger, permanent space for the group to base its operations.

Founded in 1986, the group serves as role models for grade school-aged youth, often assuming roles similar to that of a father, friend or teacher. They formed the Collegiate 100, a group of college students who help mentor, tutor and serve as role models for the youth.

Haley, who says he feels fortunate to have two years to map out his plans for the group before assuming the role of president in 2004, has been associated with Tech since 1992, when he was asked to help coordinate diversity programs in engineering.

Since then, he has been responsible for Tech’s premier minority recruitment weekend, called FOCUS, in which more than 300 African-American undergraduate students from across the country visit for an overview of the graduate degree programs each year during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend.

“It is truly an honor to have been elected by such a distinguished group of individuals and given the responsibility of providing the leadership, said Haley, who says he feels fortunate to have two years to map out his plans for the group before assuming the role of president in 2004.

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“Only a few years ago, the legacy of excellence and quality that has defined Tech was threatened by a series of fiscal challenges that would test the University System against the selected number of national peer institutions in a number of different areas, including state appropriations and tuition revenue. Last year, these findings supported a total tuition freeze at the System’s two-year colleges.

“Low costs are critical to the budget, and our goal is to keep them low, even in the face of rising costs,” said University System Chancellor Thomas Meredith.

“With the increase in the University System maintains an incredibly low tuition rate compared to its peers regionally and nationally.”

In accordance with the policy allowing research universities to request increases in out-of-state tuition rates to the levels of peers or benchmarked institutions, both Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia will see a $500 per semester additional increase in out-of-state tuition rates.

“The System’s budget took a significant hit as a result of the state’s budget cuts, resulting in major losses of operational and capital maintenance funds. The budget experienced an overall 2.5 percent cut, along with a $12.18 million loss of Major Repair and Rehabilitation funds. The new operating budgets for the USG’s campuses represent a larger reduction of 5.6 percent, which totals $78 million.”

“Tuition costs have been a ‘do or die’ item for the University System,” said Meredith. “Losing such large amounts of funding has had an extensive impact on our ability to run our universities well on a daily basis.”
Buckhead, said Phil Koboroski, many of the problems faced by an area and doesn’t develop to make sure the mix stays balanced, and they want housing, businesses and entertainment venues, but they want local control in choosing their air quality management strategies. 

"In the past several years, we’ve been able to improve both the accuracy and the length of our forecast," Chang said. "Now we want to know if we can stretch the forecast from 24 to 36 or 48 hours and remain within a level of accuracy that is necessary to maintain credibility. We’ve got an 80 to 85 percent accuracy rate now."

Six EFD forecasters and four Tech researchers, including Chang, make up a 10-member forecasting team that meets daily during smog season to forecast the next day’s peak ozone level. They also consider several different weather forecasts and assess what is happening with ozone levels that day — a big factor in the ozone forecast for the next day. It takes about 15 minutes for the team to reach a consensus on the forecast. When they cannot, the chief of EFD’s Air Protection Branch makes the decision on whether to recommend a smog alert. If the team recommends a smog alert, Georgia’s Clean Air Campaign publicizes it via the news media and changeable message signs on the highways. The goal is to get citizens and employers to reduce emissions-causing activities, such as driving, mowing and filling gas tanks during the day. Researchers at Georgia State University are examining whether the public responds to smog alerts. They have found a small, but growing, benefit from these messages, Chang says. "Atlanta is now taking the lead in the nation in terms of quantifying how people respond to smog alerts," he added.

"A Day in the Life," photo by Ed Tharp

Environmental Protection Agency imposes a deadline for cities to comply with its stricter air quality standard. Said Chang, "We will get the best information we can by then to the people who need it before the regulatory agencies mandate it to come up with a solution. The cities want local control in choosing their air quality management strategies."

In Brief:

High school kids get taste of college

The goal of "A Day in the Life," an event held last week on the campuses of Clark Atlanta, Emory University, Georgia Tech and Georgia State University, was to expose local 10th grade students about the realities of college life.

Tech, which allowed students from Grady and Southside Highs to shadow volunteer college students, can be accessed. The four research institutions comprising the Atlanta Outreach Consortium (AOC) — an effort to pool the universities’ community outreach resources in the Metropolitan Atlanta area. The AOC, which formed in 2000, is composed of outreach professionals, public policy faculty and the presidents of each campus. In addition, each institution has developed an outreach website that captures course, service learning and other outreach efforts sponsored by the faculty, the board to allow ease of research, communication and additional cross-disciplinary collaborations. For more information, refer to www.copp.gatech.edu.

Bookmark alert

Looking for ways to save time and trees? Georgia Tech has teamed with BellSouth to offer both white and yellow pages in electronic format. The client for both Macintosh and PC is available for download at phonebook.gatech.edu.

BellSouth provides the software and data files free of charge to Georgia Tech. The system is an Internet-based version of BellSouth’s phone listings, including Yellow Pages, residence, business, and government listings. Major cities in the Southeast, including metro Atlanta, can be accessed. The four users may also find all city maps and stadium seating charts, which can be printed.

Regents hit a milestone

Earlier this year, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia marked its 70th anniversary. Over that time, the system has grown from a native institution to 34 colleges, and universities, all governed by the Board of Regents. Appointed by the governor, the board will grow to a total 18 regents — 13 from state congressional districts and five at-large members — with the 2000 U.S. Census results. Today, the Regents oversee a combined enrollment of 218,000 students, 40,000 employees and an annual operating budget of $ 8 billion. More information on the anniversary is available at www.usg.edu/bof70th.

In memoriam

Georgia Tech lost a dedicated employee and good friend when Mary Jane Chappell, an administrative assistant in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), died of a heart attack after a long battle with diabetes on March 8. She was 57 years old.

Ms. Chappell joined the School of Electrical Engineering (now the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering) in 1982. Over the past 29 years, she worked in several secretarial and administrative assistant positions, supporting a variety of ECE faculty members, including a short period with Georgia Tech Lorraine.

ECE is collecting money and school supplies on behalf of the Woody Gap School in Union County, Ga. To make a donation in memory of Ms. Chappell, contact Lynda Buescher, assistant director for ECE personnel services, at 894-7574 or lynda.buescher@ece.gatech.edu.

IN BRIEF: