Provost Chameau outlines state budget picture

Bob Harty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

A s the State Legislature con-
venes for its 147th session, the dominant topic of conver-
sation is the state budget. With rev-


enue still well below what Georgia


needs to meet its $16 billion budget, state agencies had to cut an addition-


al 2.5 percent from their 2004 fiscal


year budgets. This is the third consecutive year of reductions in state appropriations to the University System. With almost $40 million in cuts from the state allocation for Georgia Tech over the last three years, many are wondering what the future holds.

Provost Jean-Lou Chameau is meeting with the academic units to discuss the Georgia Tech budget picture. Last week, Chameau met with faculty in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering to outline the budget situation and answer ques-


tions. His message was one of cautious optimism, noting that the state accounts for only 24 percent of Tech’s total budget (see chart).

“The state gets a very good value for 24 cents on the dollar, in terms of our graduates and economic development impact,” he said.

While the percentage of state sup-
port has decreased, tuition revenue has increased, now accounting for almost 13 percent of total revenue. However, Tech’s top funding source is research and other external depart-


ment revenues, at more than 44 per-


cent of the overall budget.

“It has been quite phenomenal,” said Chameau. “It keeps the growth engine going, but I’m worried about it. It’s very difficult for any organiza-
tion to maintain double-digit growth over multiple years. Having said that, research awards are currently almost 20 percent ahead of last year.”

“Yes, we have had budget cuts over the last three years, but we have managed our resources well, we’ve received our fair share of state sup-
port for higher education, we’ve done an incredible job in research and we’ve increased our tuition in a responsible manner.”

Innerspace: at undersea lab, researchers sleep with the fish

Maria Lameiras
Alumni Association

A team of four marine biology scientists and students from Georgia Tech spent 10 days in November living like fish to begin a two-year study that could help save dying coral reefs.

Tech’s “aquanauts” — including Professor Mark Hay, postdoctoral associate Todd Barsby, Ph.D. student Deron Burkepile and research special-
ist and technician Alex Chequer — were aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-owned Aquarius ocean laboratory in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Tech graduate students Zach Hallinan, Brock Woodson and Anne Prusak provided support for the mission from the surface, diving to the site on a daily basis.

Aquarius, a 47-foot cylindrical lab, is deployed three and a half miles offshore, at a depth of 60 feet, next to spectacular coral reefs. Mission scientists at Aquarius use saturation diving to study and explore the coastal ocean.

Hay, who led the Aquarius mission, is an experimental ecologist and holds the chair in Environmental Biology in the College of Sciences.

“Over the last 20 years, reef cover has gone from 60 percent in some areas of the Caribbean to 3 percent,” he said. “Reefs I started to study in 1977 are now essentially gone.”

The team spent nine hours per day diving, the physiological limit at that depth while saturated. “Saturation diving” is a technique that permits divers to remain exposed to the increased pressure of the ocean for weeks or months.

“We would go out at about 6 a.m., stay until noon, and then we were required to spend four hours in the Aquarius. Then we’d go out at 4 p.m. and stay until about 7 p.m.,” Hay said.

Workplace conflict managed through alternative dispute resolution program

Michael Nagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

T hough problems can arise in any working environment, it is not always apparent how to resolve them. Given these circum-
stances, it’s important to know what options are available.

The Ombuds program provides Georgia Tech faculty and staff with an independent and confidential forum for resolving professional disputes. Designed to be an alternative to the formal grievance process, the pro-
gram’s administrators provide infor-
mal assistance to individuals navigat-
ing Institute-related concerns.

“Ultimately, what [the program] is trying to do is improve the working environment at Georgia Tech,” said Edward Thomas, a retired faculty member now working as an ombudsman. “The idea is to assist individuals to resolve problems at the lowest possible level, and as far as possible limit the number of situations that become formal grievances.”

Created in 1999, the Ombuds Office reports directly to the President’s Office. Faculty liaisons have retired from Tech, while classi-


fied employees may seek counsel through Jean Fuller, director of facul-
ty and staff support services in the Office of Human Resources.

Citing documents that outline the program’s mission, Fuller said, the dispute resolution offices — students may seek similar help through the Office of the Dean of Students — are safe places where faculty and staff can solicit advice if they are unable to resolve a problem. These offices serve as an impartial means of facili-


tating discussion.
Undergraduate students lend a helping hand

Volunteering at a metro charter school

David Terraso
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

It’s 4:50 p.m. and the second grade classroom at the International Community School (ICS) is bustling. At a time when many elementary schools have already sent students home, the public charter school in DeKalb County is brimming with students and volunteers in its after-school program.

Unique among Atlanta elementary schools, ICS brings together children of refugees and immigrants with American-born students to provide an internationally based education. At first glance it looks just like any other school, with alphabet posters and murals on the walls. But here and there lie touches that reveal the special history of many of the refugees. A mural drawn by the kids depicts scenes of war and killing alongside pictures of friendship with captions such as “Children must not be used as cheap labor or soldiers.” Children have the right to play. Children have the right to protection from cruelty, neglect and injustice.” Although publicly funded, the school relies heavily on the generosity of volunteers. In any given week approximately 50 volunteers from Georgia Tech, Emory University and other Atlanta universities and schools help students finish homework, play educational games and burn off steam.

After finishing with their homework, many of the students turn to counting cards. The game is “21.” Volunteer Sheila Schulte points to her ace. “I have one,” she said to second-grader Adia Reid, from Jamaica.

Schulte draws an eight. “So how many is that?” she asked.

“Nine,” answered Reid.

Games such as this one help the students develop the ability to do mental arithmetic, said Schulte, who is also Tech’s associate director for International Student and Scholar Services in the Office of International Education. She helped to get the after-school program started by bringing international students and international affairs majors from Georgia Tech to supplement the school’s staff on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Since then, ICS has attracted students and faculty from Emory University, Georgia State University and the Atlanta International School.

“I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for our international students to see what the educational system is like outside of higher education,” said Schulte. “It’s a great way for me to get to know our students better. It’s very rewarding to get to know a group of students on a personal level and to watch their interaction with each other.”

Principal and co-founder Bill Moon said the school has benefited from the work of more than 300 volunteers since its inception in August 2002.

“Every piece of furniture you see in this room has been donated,” he said referring to his office. Before its opening, volunteers carpeted the school and painted the walls. They donated fire alarms, security cameras and computers. Home Depot even donated $40,000 in new playground equipment, then installed it.

“It’s not only the kids that are welcome on the playground of the International Community School,” said Schulte. “It helps our international students figure out American culture,” she said. Seeing up close how an American school works and watching the interaction between the American children and the immigrant children teaches them a lot about how Americans deal with intercultural differences.

Volunteers help keep the school running, said Moon.

“Nicholas Kelley gets a warm welcome on the playground.

“International Affairs undergraduate Nicholas Kelley gets a warm welcome on the playground of the International Community School.”

“I don’t feel right when I’m not volunteering,” explained Pone.

“Paing is one of the school’s success stories. When he moved to Atlanta last year from Burma, he spoke no English. Now in addition to studying English in school, he gets to study other languages and cultures as part of the school’s Heritage Language Program. Led by the school’s staff and supplemented by volunteers and parents, the program gives the students a chance to learn about a new culture and language every month. This year, they’ve studied Arabic, Bosnian, Vietnamese, Kurdish and Jamaican-Creole.”

“Tech student Mihir Jagga helps second-grader Shene Showan with her math homework.”

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Working at the dive site before dawn and as day turned to dusk provided interesting opportunities to observe different marine life.

“The coolest thing to me was to see the changes in fish at dawn and dusk. We’d start before the sun came up and we’d see the reef wake up as the nocturnal fish went away and the daytime fish started to move around,” Burkepile says.

“It was equally neat to go from light through dusk to darkness and to see all of the predatory fish come out.”

“You’d see huge schools of fish — 50 to 60 barracuda all together — swimming around right at dusk.

The underwater lab, with its lights and generators, also attracted fish.

“When we swam to Aquarius the first time it was dark, it was surrounded by clouds of fish,” Chequer said.

The long days of diving were physically draining, and the bedroom accommodations were less than spacious — about 7-by-8 feet with two sets of bunks stacked three high with a little less than 2 feet of space between bunks — but everyone slept well, given the daily schedule.

“We slept very soundly at the end of the day because we spent twice as much time in the water as we could have diving from the surface,” Burkepile says.

Although the water was 82 degrees, prolonged exposure meant a lot of energy expended keeping warm. “That means we were twice as cold and twice as tired,” Hay said.

Chequer said by the end of the mission, he was wearing “two wet suits, a vest, an underwater and a hood. That was the worst part of it.”

Living in cramped quarters was easier to adapt to than the “two wet suits, a vest, an under suit, and a hood” Hay said.

Chequer said the experience was “surprisingly normal.”

“When we were in Aquarius, I would sit and look out the window and I had to remind myself that I was underwater looking at fish. They’d come by and look in at us too.”

Although the mission was “surprisingly normal,” Chequer said the experience was “definitely a different time.”

Living in cramped quarters was easier to adapt to than the team thought it would be.

““It was definitely a different time. It was very compact living. We couldn’t all eat at the same time because there was only room for four of us to sit down, but we learned to move around each other within a day or so,” Burkepile says.

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Roughly the size of a school bus, Aquarius is located at Conch Reef, three and a half miles offshore and approximately nine miles south of Key Largo, in the Florida Keys.

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C A M P U S  E V E N T S

Arts & Culture

Jan. 22
The Ferst Center for the Arts will hold a “One Day Sale” from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Faculty and staff may purchase tickets to any remaining performance in the 2003-2004 season at 30 percent off the regular price at the Student Center box office. For information, call 894-9660 or see www.ferstcenter.org.

Feb. 5
The School of Literature, Communication and Culture presents the McEver Poetry Reading, featuring Thomas Lux, H. Bruce McEver and Patricia Smith, at 4:30 p.m. in the Clay Theater. For more information, visit www.iac.gatech.edu/poetry.html.

Feb. 7
The Ferst Center for the Arts welcomes the Grammy-nominated jazz quartet Yellowjackets for an 8 p.m. performance. Faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9660.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures

Jan. 22
The School of Mechanical Engineering’s Woodruff Colloquium welcomes J. Edward Colgate, professor of mechanical engineering at Northwestern University, on “Cobotics,” at 11 a.m. in the MacRC Auditorium. For more information, e-mail andrea.tone@its.gatech.edu.

Jan. 26
The School of History, Technology and Society and the Center for the Study of Women, Science, and Technology welcome Patricia Van Der Spuy, visiting scholar at Emory University, on “Rethinking Race in Cape Town, South Africa: Before Apartheid. The Abdurahman Family,” at 4 p.m. in the Student Success Center.

Jan. 27
The School of Mechanical Engineering’s Woodruff Colloquium welcomes J. Edward Colgate, professor of mechanical engineering at Northwestern University, on “Cobotics,” at 11 a.m. in the MacRC Auditorium. For more information, e-mail andrea.tone@its.gatech.edu.

Jan. 30
The School of History, Technology, and Society and the Center for the Study of Women, Science, and Technology welcome David Healy on “The Creation of Depression: A History of the Antidepressants,” at 11 a.m. in the Student Success Center. For more information, e-mail andrea.tone@its.gatech.edu.

Faculty/Staff Development

Jan. 30
The Office of Environmental Health and Safety hosts a six-hour course in defensive driving techniques. There is no cost to attend. Call 585-0265 for information.

Feb. 4
The Office of Sponsored Programs hosts a brown bag on “Effort Reporting,” with guest speaker Chuck Duffy, director of Grants and Contracts Accounting, at noon in the Research Administration Building. To reserve a seat, e-mail nadia.zitman@osp.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous

Jan. 26
A Fidelity representative will be conducting confidential investment consultations in the Office of Human Resources. To schedule an appointment, call 800-642-7131.

Feb. 16
Stay focused on your New Year’s resolutions by joining Weight Watchers at Work. Sessions are held in Success Center for 15 weeks from 11:20 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. For more information, call 585-1095 or e-mail karla.ruggiero@alumni.gatech.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

Appliances
Kenmore refrigerator, exc. condition, white, $150. Call 678-232-3475 or e-mail david.gifford@gtri.gatech.edu.

Austorials
1991 Honda Prelude Si. Fun to drive, 4 wheel steering, Automatic, sunroof, spoiler, CD player, black, 156k miles, $2,700. Call 894-7429 or e-mail jenifer.dubose@gtri.gatech.edu.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures

Jan. 22
The School of Mechanical Engineering’s Woodruff Colloquium welcomes Moe Khaleel, laboratory fellow at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, on “Hydrogen: The Fuel of the Future. Where We Are Now and Where Are We Going?” at 3 p.m. in the MacRC Auditorium.

2002 Toyota Camry LE. Original owner, 4-door, 25k miles, automatic, CD player, $13,000. Call 678 494-0885.

Furnitures
Full-sized mattress and box springs, excellent condition, $150 for both. Call Carol Heller, 894-1095.

Real Estate/Houseplants
2BR/1BA condo at GA 400 and Northridge, 1,300 sq. ft., $925/month + utilities. E-mail melissa@stricklandportraiture.com for more details and photos.

picturesque 2BR/1BA house for rent in Fairburn, 20 minutes south of Atlanta just off I-85. Large kitchen. Porch w/swing, rear brick patio. Shaded by big oaks. $700/month. E-mail angela.shartar@earthlink.net.

2BR/2BA condominium, ideally located, open floor plan with high ceilings, large closets, outdoor space and short commute to Tech. $329,900. Call 385-2818.

Visiting exchange student seeks to rent a room from Feb. 9 to June 18 with convenient walking or MARTA access to GT. Call 894-4219 or e-mail marc.levantson@me.gatech.edu.

Professional male seeks professional roommate for 2BR/1BA house in East Point. Convenient to MARTA, $400/mo. incl. utilities. Call Brian Burnett, 678-657-6887.

Brand new 2-story townhome for sale in a beautiful, gated new community in Palmetto, 15 minutes from campus. 2BR/3BA with fireplace, spacious yard. Asking $125,000. Call Debbie, 678-290-1273.

3BR/2BA townhouse in Decatur. One year old, all appliances, W/D, available now. $950/month + $500 deposit. Call 404-286-0944.

REAL ESTATE/HOUSEPLANTS
2BR/2BA condo at GA 400 and Northridge, 1,300 sq. ft., $925/month + utilities. E-mail melissa@stricklandportraiture.com for more details and photos.

FULLY FURNISHED CONDO: www.thewhelman.com. 1BR unit, all utilities paid. Fitness and business center, rooftop jacuzzi and clubhouse, 24 hr. concierge. $875 month plus security. Call 770-723-9242 or e-mail omar@speedfactory.net.

3BR/2BA home for sale. Clarimont/Briarcliff area. Brick ranch home with finished basement, work shop area, screened porch, expansive decks around inground pool. Call 894-9945 or e-mail karen.fore@oit.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous
Hitachi 43-inch HDTV w/stand, excellent condition, $1,200. Call 678-232-3475 or e-mail david.gifford@gtri.gatech.edu.

Free ping pong table to the first person to pick it up. Good shape. All accessories. Call Doug, 770-528-7048.

130-gallon tank/stand, $500 OBO; 3 ball pythons, $25/ea. OBO. Bearded dragon lizard w/20-gallon tank/light, $150 OBO. Dumeril’s boa w/50-gallon tank/light, $90 OBO. Gray banded king snake w/20-gallon tank/light, $80 OBO. Call 678-462-7132.

Wanted: tickets to the Georgia Tech/Wake Forest basketball game on 2/22. Call 894-8324.


BEARDED DRAGON LIZARD W/20-GALLON TANK/LIGHT, $300 OBO. Gray banded king snake w/20-gallon tank/light, $150 OBO. Call 678-657-6887.

Dumeril’s boa w/50-gallon tank/light, $300 OBO. Gray banded king snake w/20-gallon tank/light, $150 OBO. Call 678-657-6887.

3704. $3,000 OBO. Call Anita at 404-696-3342.

2,700. Call 678-290-1273.

3BR/2BA townhouse in Decatur. One year old, all appliances, W/D, available now. $950/month + $500 deposit. Call 404-286-0944.

130-gallon tank/stand, $500 OBO; 3 ball pythons, $25/ea. OBO. Bearded dragon lizard w/20-gallon tank/light, $150 OBO. Dumeril’s boa w/50-gallon tank/light, $300 OBO. Gray banded king snake w/20-gallon tank/light, $150 OBO. Call 678-462-7132.

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1998 Harley Davidson XL 1200 Custom Sportster. Less than 1,000 miles. Purple/blue, garage kept, lots of chrome extras plus cover, new helmet and locks. $9,400. Call 404-626-1200.