Course correction

Tech moves to adopt 8 percent budget reduction, increased student fees

On Nov. 17, the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents adjusted the system’s fiscal year 2010 budget to an 8 percent reduction.

In addition, the student Academic Excellence fee was increased from $100 to $200, effective spring semester 2010. In August, the USG requested 4, 6 and 8 percent budget reduction plans from each of the 35 member institutions. For Tech, this will amount to an additional $20.3 million in cuts, of which $6.1 million will be saved during the previously adopted six-day furlough program, and another $1.7 million will be generated from the student fee increase.

According to a campus message from President Bud Peterson, the remaining $12.5 million in cuts will be found in cuts around campus and new revenue streams. “Many of these already have been implemented,” he wrote. “We are awaiting further direction from the regents on how the budget reduction will need to be implemented.” And while the stimulus funding has helped somewhat, Peterson reminded the campus that these funds are not intended to be a long-term solution. Regarding the student fee, Peterson said this was an option of last resort, as the increase was only written into the 8 percent budget reduction. “Higher education is a unique entity,” he wrote. “Unlike businesses that are in it for the money, we are in it for the students.”

Training rewarded

OOD recognizes Tech community with awards luncheon

With every department dealing with budget cuts, Lanous Wright says he is pleased with the number of graduates at the annual Office of Organizational Development (OOD) awards luncheon, held Nov. 16 in the Student Center Ballroom.

Wright, director of Training Services, said more than 200 staff members had completed a circuit of classes in different certificate program offerings. “We were expecting a significant drop-off in the number attending,” he said. “It was a welcome surprise.”


“We have one of the most robust training programs not just in the state, but throughout the country,” Wright said at the banquet. “We completed a benchmarking study last summer, and we are well above the curve compared to our peers.”

In his welcoming remarks, Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance Steve Swant said he recognized the time and effort each person gave in earning his or her awards. “It’s important to continue to try and improve our capabilities to support this institution,” he said. “Many of you are probably taking part in the strategic planning conversation. We’re setting big grand objectives going forward, and every one of these big ideas is going to require dedicated, focused, well-trained and thoughtful staff and faculty.”

Wright hopes to keep the self-sustaining program as robust as it has been in recent years. “I try to encourage departments to book private, group-training sessions, as that is the more economical way for us to conduct training sessions,” he said, adding that 50 to 60 percent of the classes offered at OOD are free of charge. Even with OOD feeling the budget pinch, Wright said it was important to provide the luncheon. “This is all about people being recognized,” Wright said. “Even in tough times, people need a bright spot. The response we get from the event is tremendous. People appreciate this time out of each year that is taken to recognize something positive. We can’t put on events like these without help, so we appreciate the constant support of Institute administration, Sodexo, the Student Center for the Ballroom and Benchmark Trophy Center on Northside Drive.”

For more information

www.orgdev.gatech.edu
Research

Sequence of events

Petascale tools could provide deeper insight into genomic evolution

ABBY VOGEL

RESEARCH NEWS

Technological advances in high-throughput DNA sequencing have opened up the possibility of determining how living things are related by analyzing the ways in which their genes have been rearranged on chromosomes.

However, inferring such evolutionary relationships is computationally intensive even on the most advanced computing systems available today.

Research recently funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 aims to develop computational tools that will utilize next-generation petascale computers to understand genomic evolution.

The four-year $1 million project, supported by the National Science Foundation’s PetaApps program, was awarded to a team of universities that includes Tech, the University of South Carolina and Pennsylvania State University.

“Genome sequences are now available for many organisms, but making a biological sense of the genomic data requires high-performance computing methods and an evolutionary perspective, whether you are trying to understand how genes of new functions arise, why genes are organized as they are in chromosomes, or why these arrangements are subject to change,” said lead investigator David A. Bader, a professor in the Computational Science and Engineering Division of the College of Computing.

Even on today’s fastest parallel computers, it could take thousands of years to analyze genome rearrangements for large, complex organisms. That is why the research team is focusing on future generations of petascale machines, which will be able to process more than a thousand trillion calculations per second.

The researchers plan to develop new algorithms in an open-source framework that will utilize the capabilities of parallel petascale computing platforms to infer ancestral rearrangement events. The starting point for developing these new algorithms will be GRAPPA, an open-source code developed by Bader and initially released in 2000 that reconstructed the evolutionary relatedness among species.

“GRAPPA is currently the most accurate method for determining genome rearrangement, but it has only been applied to small genomes with simple events because of the limitation of the algorithms and the lack of computational power,” said Bader, who is also executive director of high-performance computing at Tech.

The researchers will test the performance of their new algorithms by analyzing a collection of fruit fly genomes.

“Fruit flies—formally known as Drosophila—are an excellent model system for studying genome rearrangement because the genome sizes are relatively small for animals, the mechanism that alters gene order is reasonably well understood, and the evolutionary relationships among the 12 sequenced genomes are known,” said Schaeffer.

The researchers believe these new algorithms will make genome rearrangement analysis more reliable and efficient, while potentially revealing new evolutionary patterns. In addition, the algorithms will enable a better understanding of the mechanisms and rate of gene rearrangements in genomes, and the importance of the rearrangements in shaping the organization of genes within the genome.

For more information
www.gtsresearchnews.atech.edu

DEAD WEEK, continued from page 1

a point when there was virtually no time to complete the assignments left alone prepare for the final exam.

The new policy establishes the following provisions:

- For courses with a traditional final exam, taken in class during the designated examination period:
  - Homework and projects are allowed during the week preceding finals, and a single final exam is allowed during finals week;
  - Tests, quizzes, lab reports and lab practices are not allowed during the week preceding finals, and no additional assignments are due after the final exam are allowed during finals week;
  - For courses with an alternative assessment rather than a traditional final exam:
    - Homework and an alternative final assessment (one project or lab report/practicum) are allowed during the week preceding finals or final week;
    - Tests, quizzes, additional lab reports/lab practices and additional projects are not allowed during the week preceding finals, and no additional assignments beyond the alternative final assessment are allowed during finals week.

In addition to new language related to the week preceding finals exams and finals week itself, the changes to the General Catalog also pull in existing policies from the Faculty Handbook and the Student Academic Bill of Rights to ensure that all student concerns and the Institute’s administrative requirements are met.

Some Senate members expressed concern that the policy will not be as effective as it should be unless the Institute adopts a “reading day” or “dead day” between the last day of classes and the last day of finals. Anderson Smith, senior vice provost for Academic Affairs, said that a faculty committee is currently considering the possibility of adding two reading days per semester.

In other business, the Academic Senate:

- Heard a presentation from Regents’ Professor Richard Fujimoto, chair of the Division of Computational Science and Engineering in the College of Computing, on a proposal to elevate the Division to School status. A detailed overview of Fujimoto’s presentation is available at www.facultysenate.gatech.edu/A2S2010-111709-A-Attach3.pdf.
- Heard a brief presentation from Herb Barnes, director of Information Security with the Office of Information Technology, on the updated Information Security Policy, which is available at www.facultysenate.gatech.edu/A2S2010-111709-A-Attach2.pdf.
- Approved changes to the Student Code of Conduct restricting appeals to the Institute president to cases that would result in suspension or expulsion, available at www.facultysenate.gatech.edu/A2S2010-111709-A-Attach4c.pdf.

For more information
www.facultysenate.gatech.edu

December 20
The Design and Technology for Healthy Aging Initiative at Georgia Tech welcomes MaryLas Quinn for an “Aging-in-Place” seminar, from 9 to 10 a.m., in room 207 of the Health Systems Institute.

American University Professor Arthur Shapiro presents “The Art and Science of Visual Illusion,” from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Clay Theater at the Student Success Center.

www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu

December 9
The School of Literature, Communication and Culture presents Winter 2010 Digital Media Demo Day, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Skiles Building.

www.lcc.gatech.edu
Institute

Tech hits top 10 in ‘Patent Scorecard’

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Tech has joined prestigious research universities in the top 10 of the 2009 “Patent Scorecard,” which ranks technology innovations generated from patents.

With a 38 percent increase in patent activity during the past year, Tech jumped from 11th to 8th place, with a focus on semiconductors and electronics, according to the report. “The great news is that Georgia Tech had the third highest ‘impact score,’ which measures the extent to which our patents are being built upon,” said Jilda Garton, associate vice provost for research. “We are also proud of the fact that Georgia Tech, which reports as a single entity, compares favorably with university systems such as the California University System.”

For more information
www.gatech.edu

Robert Nesmith
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Executive Director Tom Akins will not be completely walking away from the Division of Professional Practice (DOPP) when he retires in March. Akins, who has worked in the experiential education arm of Georgia Tech for 33 years, plans to continue his work in arranging a centennial celebration for the co-op program in 2012.

An alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering and a former co-op student, Akins returned to Tech as assistant director of the Cooperative Division after a few years as an engineer with First National Bank of Atlanta. In 1977, Akins also earned his MBA from Georgia State University. Students participating in DOPP’s cooperative education opportunities typically alternate semesters of work and semesters of school. During this time, they are paid for their work.

“There weren’t as many scholarships then,” Akins said. “I learned from my own co-op experience in the early 1970s. “Today, there are more students with scholarships. Experience is the main motivator—which is probably how it should be.” His varied experience with DOPP includes counseling students during their co-op experience.

In 1990, Akins became director of the Cooperative Division, and in 2002 he was named executive director of the now-named Division of Professional Practice. Under his leadership, the division added undergraduate internships and study-abroad opportunities for students. He was elected to multiple terms on the Institute’s General Faculty Assembly, Academic Senate and Executive Board. Akins also has served on several search committees and standing faculty committees.

In 2002, Akins proposed to the Office of the Provost an expansion of DOPP by adding an internship program. “This brought more students in because now they didn’t have to commit to every other semester,” he said. “It also helps students satisfy the work component of the Tech Practice scholarship. We have well over 1,000 students participating in internships. More than 2,700 are classified as co-op students, Akins said. When the graduate co-op program was added to DOPP in 2004 through reorganization, DOPP added 500 students each year, plus 150 or more with the recently created Technology Innovations generated from patents. The bulk of his “off time,” he says, will be spent on preparing for the year-long centennial celebration of cooperative education at Tech, timed for fall semester 2012. Some of his plans include publishing a book, in addition to collating some archival information. “I also hope to raise about $5 million in endowment funds for this office—for a good start for the second century.”

“I want to thank Provost Gary L. McInnis, [Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs] Andy Smith, President [Bud] Peterson and [Vice Provost for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies] Ray Vito,” Akins said. “Because of them, I’m able to stay on and help with the centennial.”

Akins also has been active in the Cooperative Education Division (CED) of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), serving one year as chair-elect and one year as chairman. He served two years as secretary-treasurer. He has conducted workshops and presentations on the state, regional, national and international levels, and serves as chairman of the Awards Committee. recipient of the CED’s 1998 Borman Award for outstanding service to the field of cooperative education and the CED Foundation’s 2003 E-ACE award, he also served as president of the Accreditation Council for Cooperative Education. Other professional involvements include the World Association for Cooperative Education, the Cooperative Education Internship Association and the National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates.

Akins’ leadership over the years to DOPP has been excellent,” Vito said. “He’s led the charge to offer new opportunities for students—not just here, but also abroad. He’ll definitely be missed for his contributions to Tech.”

“We’ve accomplished a lot since 1976,” Akins said. “I don’t have any regrets. I believe I have accomplished what I set out to do, and it’s time for someone else to build on what we started.”

For more information
www.dopp.gatech.edu

Budget, continued from page 1

in a recession, we cannot reduce production and inventory to align with reduced demand. While our resources are shrinking, the demand for our services is rising. Since the budget reductions started in fall 2008, Tech’s administrative units have worked higher reductions than academic units, keeping with the preservation of the Institute’s core missions of teaching, research and public service. All units had to adjust some expenditures on personal services and spending on travel, training, supplies and equipment.

Moving forward, Peterson says the administration will continue to monitor state revenues. New cost-saving initiatives will be presented to the campus. A worst-case scenario for Georgia would require additional furlough days or even layoffs.

“As always, we will continue to keep [the campus community] informed of more information as it is available,” Peterson wrote. “I greatly appreciate the support of the entire campus community as we work through these difficult times together.”

For more information
www.gatech.edu/budgetupdate

Events

December 12–20
Outdoor Recreation at Georgia Tech presents its first Eco-Adventure to Costa Rica. Cost varies, and airfare is not included. www.crec.gatech.edu/ortg

Ongoing
GATEA [Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access] seeks full-time employees with a mobility disability to take part in a telephone interview. Participants will be reimbursed. Call Claire Yang at 385-8599 or e-mail her at haiang.yang@ece.gatech.edu.

The Campus Recreation Center is offering Sun Tai Chi classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. www.crec.gatech.edu

For a more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit www.gatech.edu/calendar.

Classifieds

Automobiles/Motorcycles

1994 Vuelio 750cc motorcycle. $2,700, OBO. E-mail m4a138@hotmail.com for pics and info.

2007 Toyota Corolla. Burgundy, tan/wood grain interior. 36K miles. Aircars, exc. maintenance history. $13,100, OBO. Pics avail. E-mail waterbed99@gmail.com.

Seeking a reliable car for a college student in the price range of $8,000–10,500. E-mail price at photos40@yahoo.com.

1997 Subaru Outback Wagon, red 5-spd, 133K miles, exc. cond., $4,000. E-mail whinnitall@yahoo.com.

Real Estate/Roommates

1BR/1BA, 8th floor unit of Windsor Over Peachtree. $1,190 a month, incl. utilities. Close to restaurants and night clubs. Walk to Tech or Piedmont Park. Easy access to interstates, and MARTA is only a block away. Spectacular views of the fox, midtown and post. 24-hour concierge, gated parking commons areas. Call Pick at 770-221-4774.

2BR/2BA with brick ranch with HW floors. Large fenced-in back yard w/ woods. Finished daylight basement, 2-car garage with garage door. Briarcliff school district and convenient to Emory/CDC, I-40, I-285, Pk with approval. $1,300 rent with first month’s deposit. E-mail richard.cahninbome@psych.gatech.edu.

Pent or sell: Marietta 3BR/2BA ranch, 2-car corport, partial basement. HW floors, tiled kitchen and baths. Approx. 2,000 sq. ft. Fenceless private yard, quiet neighborhood. Convenient to I-75. $1,195/mo., $1,200 deposit, 1-yr lease. Call Mickey register at 678-488-1845 or e-mail mickey.register@comcast.net.

For rent: 2BR/1BA in Howell Station. west of Tech. 1,350 sq. ft. Rbgnt, large officer parking lot, separate dining rooms. Off-street parking, W/D included. $725. Call 404-742-7777 or e-mail grahnham@lfl.gatech.edu.

2BR/2BA condo, bonus room connected to bedroom. Charming, one-of-a-kind with great natural style. Grannie, stainless, great amenities, located in the heart of 30335 Ponce. MARTA within walking distance, surrounded by shops and cafes. Great sq. footage. Call 770-254-6140 or e-mail ty@tygatesch.edu.

Classifieds continue on page 4
First Gold Tower Awards spotlight communications efforts

COMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

More than 90 entries from 32 campus units comprised submissions for the inaugural Gold Tower Awards, announced Nov. 12.

Sponsored by Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing, the awards were decided to recognize excellence in these disciplines from across the Institute. Judges, comprised of Institute and external marketing communications professionals, decided on awards in several categories, such as Print Communications, Electronic Communications, Public Relations, Integrated Marketing Campaigns, Events and Leadership. In several of these groups, winners were named from each subcategory. Additional entries were recognized with awards of excellence.

“We initiated this program to recognize communications and marketing excellence at Georgia Tech,” said Jim Fetig, associate vice president of Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing. “And we wanted to bring communicators from across the campus together in a forum where we could share and learn from each other’s best works.”

Examples of annual publications, flyers and promotions, Web sites, integrated marketing campaigns and special events were on display for the 130 attendees to view. Eligible entries were produced from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, and were submitted by Aug. 28. Fetig announced award winners with a brief introduction of each project or person. Winners had their photos taken with President Bud Peterson.

“We are fortunate to have a team of talented and creative professionals who know the Institute, know their clients and can develop effective communications that enhance Georgia Tech’s reputation,” Peterson said, welcoming Gold Tower Awards attendees. “That reputation helps us motivate donors, and recruit faculty and outstanding students.”

Print Communications

- Advertisements, Flyers, Promotions, Posters and Postcards
- Gold Tower Award: “6 Reasons to Go” Study Abroad Promotion — College of Computing
- Recognizable IVT Excellence: Georgia Tech Football Poster
- International Campaign — Georgia Tech Athletics
- Brochures, Catalogs, Viewbooks, Handbooks and Guides
- Gold Tower Award: 2008-2009 MBA Viewbooks — College of Management
- Recognition of Excellence: Parents Calendar 2009-2010 — Georgia Tech Parents Program
- Magazines and Annual Publications
- Gold Tower Award: Research Horizons, Summer 2009 — Georgia Tech Research News & Publications Office
- Recognition of Excellence: 2008 Dean’s Report — College of Management

Electronic Communications

- E-mail Communications and Newsletters
- Gold Tower Award: The Compiler — College of Computing
- Web Sites
- Gold Tower Award: College of Management Executive MBA Web Site and Microsite — College of Management
- Video and Multimedia Presentations
- Gold Tower Award: “Magic Moments,” Class of 1968 50th Reunion — Georgia Tech Alumni Association
- Recognition of Excellence: “A Wonderful Gift” — Alumni Association
- Innovative Use of Technology and New Media
- Gold Tower Award: Virtual Tour of College of Management Building — College of Management

Integrated Marketing Campaigns

- Internal Campaign
- Gold Tower Award: Using the Health Building to Promote the HPV Vaccine to Students: A Collaborative Effort — Georgia Tech Health Services
- External Campaign
- Gold Tower Award: Comprehensive Marketing of Georgia Tech — College of Management
- Recognition of Excellence: Buzz Around Town — Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Public Relations

- Research News Writing
- Gold Tower Award: Slitting the Data: $3 Million Award Will Build a Foundation for New Myeloma Research — Georgia Tech Research News and Publications Office
- Special Events
- Gold Tower Award: Function Forming Fashion: One Hundred Years of the Belief Model to Georgia Tech — College of Architecture
- Recognition of Excellence: Transforming the Next Generation — Georgia Tech Alumni Association
- For more information
- www.gatech.edu/goldtowerawards

Classifieds

For rent: 1BR/1BA in Cabbagetown. Gated community. Granite, hardwoods, open floor plan. Includes 1 parking space, washer/dryer. Direct TV pool, clubhouse, 24-hour gym. $959/mo. $500 security deposit. Call Kate Kie at 404-450-1020.

For rent: East Atlanta, 3BR/1BA, updated brick ranch, modern kitchen w/ washer/dryer. FFR w/replace, fenced backyard, quiet street, HVAC, HN floors, easy access to I-20. $849/mo. Call 404-419-0874.

4BR/4BA, The Historic Ponson, Corner of Peachtree St. and Ponson Ave. 2 covered assigned parking spaces. 4,000 sq. ft. $3,200/mo, 12-mo. lease. 404-317-5687.

Rooms for rent: 3BR/3.5BA, fully furnished with 4-space carport and back yard. 2BR/2BA, 2 miles from Doraville MARTA station. Call 404-317-8888.

For rent: 2BR/2BA, 1,400 sq. ft. condo for rent. Great mom, sun room, dining room, kitchen, wd connection, fresh paint and new carpet. Electricity not incl. $800 month, $800 deposit, 2.4 miles from downtown. Will enroll. Call 770-939-0670 or 770-205-0175.

FURNITURE/APPLIANCES

Office refrigerators, white, 14 4-cubic ft. Purchased March 2008 for minimal office use. $300 or reasonable offer. Call Barbara at 404-385-2360 or e-mail barbara.miller@gatech.edu.

Hardwood futon w/ mattress. $350 ($400 new). Frame is solid hardwood with matching-style detailing. Mattress is 8” thick foam, firm. Handsome sofa also makes perfect occasional guest bed for 2 people. Red mattress cover. E-mail resale.furni@direc.gatech.edu for pics. Cash only, must be picked up from Midtown location.

For sale: 2 likes bar stools, $20 each; wicker sunroom loveseat with two chairs, $75; 4 executive conference chairs, $50 each. Call D. Sharma at 770-491-0512 for pics and info.

Dining room table. Glass top with cast iron support. Marking $100 USD. E-mail head.y家人@cox.gatech.edu for pic.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dell XPS M2010 Mobile PC. $2,000. Intel Core 2 Duo processor (2GHz), 20-inch desktop. $850. E-mail submissions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

For rent: 2BR/1BA, fully furnished with 4-space carport and back yard. 2 miles from Doraville MARTA station. Call 404-317-8888.

For rent: 3BR/3.5BA, fully furnished with 4-space carport and back yard. 2BR/2BA, 2 miles from Doraville MARTA station. Call 404-317-8888.

For sale: 2 likes bar stools, $20 each; wicker sunroom loveseat with two chairs, $75; 4 executive conference chairs, $50 each. Call D. Sharma at 770-491-0512 for pics and info.

Dining room table. Glass top with cast iron support. Marking $100 USD. E-mail submissions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Female Rottweiler mix, free to a good home. 1-2 years old. Spay Georgia certificate, all shots, smart, responsive and eager to please. E-mail iImlaw@comcast.net for photos or more information.

Check out more ads at www.whistle.gatech.edu. Ads appear and run for three weeks in the order in which they are received. E-mail submissions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.