Georgia Tech is a national research powerhouse and our visibility in Washington, D.C. has never been greater. But while Tech has managed to double federal funding for research over the past decade, other research universities are trying to mimic our trajectory, making the competition for increasingly scarce federal dollars as intense as ever. Read on to learn about Tech's proactive engagement with the federal government and analysis on research themes being pursued by major funding agencies.

Tech Submits Federal Budget Requests
TERI NAGEL
GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Recently, Tech’s federal relations director, Robert Knotts, briefed the campus community on the Institute’s federal appropriations requests now that the FY15 budget process is in full swing.

“We are proactively working to minimize the effects of a budget landscape that is still focused on cutting,” said Knotts. “The good news is that the budget deal that ended sequestration brings some stability, and federal research priorities are very much in line with core and emerging strengths at Georgia Tech.”

Each year, Georgia Tech, in coordination with other major research consortia, formally submits requests to members of the Georgia congressional delegation. Requests ask the members of Congress to weigh in with the Appropriations Committees in support of federal programs that are important to Georgia Tech. In some cases, these initiatives are elevated by letters of support signed by members of Congress. Letters can be found at www.gov.gatech.edu.

BUDGET, continued on page 2

Multi-agency Research Themes Emerge
TERI NAGEL
GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

As Congress mulls over agency allocations, Tech’s federal relations director, Robert Knotts, has been encouraging the Tech community to explore research themes stemming from President Barack Obama’s fiscal year 2015 budget.

“Expectations for award competitions are changing, and we are seeing an

RESEARCH, continued on page 2

Tech, Emory Students Launch Medical Technology Incubator
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech students and engineers have teamed up with Emory students and clinicians to launch Forge, a technology incubator with a mission of developing medical entrepreneurs.

“We have incredible clinicians at Emory, brilliant engineers at Tech, and tremendous entrepreneurial resources through VentureLab, the Advanced Technology Development Center, and FlashPoint,” said Erik Reinertsen, an M.D./Ph.D. student at Emory Tech and managing director of Forge. “Atlanta will be a leader in this space.”

Forge builds on a history of productive collaborations between clinicians and engineers in Atlanta, but with a human-centric focus.

“It’s driven by the graduate and medical students,” said Yogi Patel, a Ph.D. student in bioengineering. “We focus on startups, people, and learning through doing. Our colleagues in Silicon Valley and Boston have helped us understand that people are more important than specific technologies.”

Forge aspires to bring other lessons learned from those colleagues into the Atlanta medical community.

“We hope to instill elements of the Silicon Valley culture into Forge — under the guidance of academic leadership from Emory and Tech — undergraduates, faculty, postdoctoral scholars, residents, and fellows are encouraged to participate.”

c.gatech.edu/Q9Vxto

Forge’s Medicine 2.0 event hosted engineering undergraduate and graduate students from Georgia Tech to brainstorm, network, and envision the future of medicine with clinical faculty, fellows, residents, and medical students from the Emory University School of Medicine.

suffers from fragmentation,” said Reinertsen.

Though graduate students and entrepreneurs are spearheading Forge — under the guidance of academic leadership from Emory and Tech — the Georgia Tech community is excited about the future of medical technology incubation in Atlanta.
Hooding Added to Commencement Weekend

Tech celebrated its 247th Commencement on campus May 3 - 4. For the first time, celebrations included a Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony, in which doctoral candidates were honored at a special event on May 2, prior to their participation in the Commencement ceremony with master’s candidates on May 3. Around 3,000 students graduated during the weekend. More photos and videos are at c.gatech.edu/1nJdVb6.

BUDGET, continued from page 1

Programmatic Requests

This year’s programmatic requests that benefit a large population of campus include support for basic and applied research at the Department of Defense, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Department of Energy Office of Science, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Pell Grant program, NASA Space Technology, and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E).

Targeted Requests

Georgia Tech also submitted requests for continued support for specific programs, including the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Procurement Assistance Center, and the Southeastern Trade Adjustment Center, all of which operate out of Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI2).

Additional requests were submitted for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Technical Assistance Program and Regional Innovation Strategies Program, the Georgia Water Resources Institute, the Department of Education’s Investing in Innovation Fund (i3), Effective Teaching and Learning, STEM, and First in the World Competition; Title VI of the Higher Education Act (supporting international education), the Food & Drug Administration Pediatric Device Consortia Grant Program; the AMAC assistive technology center; and the NASA National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

More Information

• More than 70 percent of Georgia Tech research was funded by the federal government in 2013.
• The future of congressional support for research and development is currently being shaped, and the stakes are high. Visit innovationdeficit.org.
• View additional documents related to this story at gov.gatech.edu.
• To learn more, contact Robert Knotts at knotts@gatech.edu.

Research

Research involving big data remains in high demand, with cybersecurity, neuroscience data management, and health IT standards and interoperability appearing as priorities across agencies. Materials research priorities follow suit, with a particular focus on data sharing and data standards.

Commercialization is a common priority, especially in the areas of health care, manufacturing, materials, and energy. In addition, sustainability research in the water-energy-food nexus, energy security and independence, and climate and land use change also remain important to federal funding agencies.

The full briefing is available online at http://b.gatech.edu/1nC09k with details about specific agency programs and initiatives related to environment, STEM education, and international research.

RESEARCH, continued from page 1

Engage to Ensure Continued Support for Research

Knotts outlined Georgia Tech’s goals and supporting activities for elevating Tech’s profile among federal audiences. Among these include more proactive research development in collaboration with Tech’s Interdisciplinary Research Institutes and targeting opportunities and submitting nomination letters for a Georgia Tech presence on federal advisory committees.

“We want the entire Georgia Tech community, regardless of department, to be engaged in Washington, D.C., whether through a scientific society or visits to build relationships with agency and congressional staff,” said Knotts. “Our team is eager to collaborate and counsel our Georgia Tech colleagues on navigating the process.”

Sign Up for the D.C. Buzz

Interested in receiving weekly updates about Tech’s work with the federal government? Sign up for the D.C. Buzz at c.gatech.edu/1lCnjrG.

More Information

Secretory of Energy Ernest Moniz speaks on campus during the 2014 Sam Nunn Policy Forum.

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Archived issues of The Whistle can be accessed at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

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DesRoches Named Faculty Athletics Representative

President G.P. “Bud” Peterson has named Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor and Chair Reginald DesRoches as Tech’s next faculty athletics representative (FAR) to the Athletics Association. Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Professor Sue Ann Bidstrup Allen, who has served as the FAR since July 2009, will step down effective June 30.

DesRoches will serve as the liaison between the Institute and the Athletics Association on issues regarding rules compliance activities, new developments at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and activities related to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) membership. For the past two years, DesRoches has been one of six faculty representatives on the Athletic Association’s Board of Trustees. “Student-athletes have unique needs and challenges in successfully balancing their academic and athletic responsibilities,” Peterson said. “Reggie’s role is an essential part of maintaining an environment that fully supports our student-athletes, while acting as an Institute representative with the NCAA and ACC.”

“I also want to thank Sue Ann Allen for her years of commitment and exceptional service to both Georgia Tech and the Athletic Association.”

Athletics Director Mike Bobinski said, “Reggie brings great perspective from his service on the GTAA Board as well as a real appreciation for the role and value of intercollegiate athletics at an institution like Georgia Tech. I fully expect Reggie to be a strong voice in the ongoing development and administration of our athletics program and to have a similar impact in ACC governance matters.”

The FAR makes an annual presentation to the Faculty Executive Committee and Academic Senate on the status of the Institute’s intercollegiate athletics program, covering contributions to the educational mission of the Institute, statistical information on the academic performance of the participants in the programs; compliance with all institutional, conference, and NCAA regulations; and any matters of concern in the planning and implementation of athletic programs as they relate to the best interests of the Institute.

Since joining Tech’s faculty in 1998, DesRoches has pursued research interests in the design of buildings and critical infrastructures subjected to extreme loads, seismic risk assessment of transportation systems, and application of smart materials in seismic-resistant design and retrofit. He has a particular interest in mitigating the impacts of earthquakes in the Caribbean and western Africa. He was named Karen and John Hull School Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2012.

c.gatech.edu/1np18rV

Primary Responsibilities of the Faculty Athletics Representative

- Representing the Institute as the FAR with the ACC and the NCAA.
- Serving as vice chair of the Georgia Tech Athletic Association (GTAA) Board of Trustees and as vice chair of the Alexander-Tharp Fund Board of Directors.
- Serving as senior advisor outside of the athletics department to Tech’s president on matters related to intercollegiate athletics.
- Recommending and formulating institutional positions, along with the athletics director, on NCAA legislation and other matters affecting or related to intercollegiate athletics on campus.
- Serving as a member of the Institute Admissions Appeals Committee (IAAC) and the GTAA Academic Committee.
- Serving as chair of both the Student-Athlete Grievance Committee and the New Transfer Appeals Committee.
- Serving as a member of Tech’s NCAA Eligibility Certification Team, primarily responsible for evaluating the processes used.

Two Professors Named Georgia Author of the Year Finalists

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering’s John Cressler and the School of Bioengineering and Bioscience’s Robert Wood have been named finalists for Georgia Author of the Year awards.

c.gatech.edu/1j0br0g

Obama to Name El-Sayed to President’s Committee on National Medal of Science

The White House announced that President Barack Obama intends to name Mostafa El-Sayed, Regents Professor and Julius Brown Chair in chemistry and biochemistry, to the President’s Committee on the National Medal of Science. The appointment is for three years. El-Sayed earned the National Medal of Science himself in 2007.

c.gatech.edu/Q639gjd

FACULTY NEWS

Kurtis Named New Associate Dean in Engineering

Kimberly E. Kurtis a professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and its associate chair for graduate programs, was named the new associate dean for faculty development and scholarship. She will oversee the implementation of college-wide programs that help faculty advance in their professional careers.

c.gatech.edu/1B2JLJN

Lipton Elected Fellow of American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Richard Lipton, professor and the Frederick G. Stone Chair in Computing in the School of Interactive Computing, was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He joined College of Computing Dean Zvi Galil, elected in 2003, as the College’s second fellow.

c.gatech.edu/QVTXT7

Pishdad-Bozorgi Earns National Award for Teaching Excellence

Assistant Professor Pardis Pishdad-Bozorgi in the School of Building Construction was awarded the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) National Teaching Award, given annually through a national selection process to one tenure-track faculty member from a four-year ASC school.

c.gatech.edu/1re6r0D6

School of Public Policy Names New Chair

The School of Public Policy has selected Kaye Husbands Fealing as its next chair, effective July 1. Husbands Fealing comes to Tech from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. She is an economist with expertise in international trade policy; science, technology; and innovation policy in specific contexts; and knowledge generation and the development of networks.

c.gatech.edu/1kU2M9

Two Professors Named Georgia Author of the Year Finalists

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering’s John Cressler and the School of Literature, Media, and Communication’s Robert Wood have been named finalists for Georgia Author of the Year awards. Cressler’s honor comes for his first novel, Emeralds of the Alhambra, and Woods for his poetry work, The Awkward Fosses of Others.

c.gatech.edu/1j0br0g

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c.gatech.edu/Q639gjd

MISCELLANEOUS

May 12
First day of fall and short summer classes sessions.
www.registrar.gatech.edu

May 13
The Georgia Tech Alumni Association will host its Career Fair at the Cobb Galleria Center.
www.gtaumni.org/careerfair

May 13
Georgia Tech Strategic Consulting houses a Project Management Networking Forum. The forum will allow attendees to discuss how they plan, manage, and execute projects. RSVP at:
q.gatech.edu/gptomn

May 14
President Bud Peterson will hold his annual staff town hall at 11 a.m. in Room 152, Clough Commons.
www.president.gatech.edu

May 15
The Georgia Tech Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals will host an education seminar on “Constructing Your Future: Career Progression” at the GTRI Conference Center. Register at: iaapgeorgiatech.eventbrite.com

May 16
Bike to Work Day is part of National Bike Month, and Bike GT will host an event for those who cycle to work on this day. More information is available at: c.gatech.edu/1fEQEVs

May 22
General Motors will host a “GM Experience” event, where Georgia Tech students, staff, and faculty can test drive the different GM models. All drivers must present a valid driver’s license to participate. No pre-registration is required.

May 26
Campus will close to observe Memorial Day.

May 27
The Office of Human Resources will host the latest in its Be Well Series with “Oral Health with Delta Dental and Tech Dentistry” at 12:05 p.m. in the Student Center Theater.
www.ohr.gatech.edu/bewell

June 3–4
Bioengineering and Bioscience Unified Graduate Students (BBUGS) hosts training seminars and hands-on workshops on laboratory techniques, software analysis, and scientific communication for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in bioengineering and bioscience research fields.
www.techiniques.gatech.edu

June 16
Final exams begin for Early Short Summer Session.
www.registrar.gatech.edu

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

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**The Path Toward a Consumer Wearable Computer**

**Starner, Zeagler Curate Interactive Exhibit at CHI Conference in Toronto**

A history of wearable computing research came to life at CHI2014 with the Wearable Computing Exhibit, curated by Thad Starner, a pioneer in the field, and Clint Zeagler, a research scientist in the School of Industrial Design. The interactive exhibit displayed prototypes, devised by Starner’s research teams, showcasing the strides made in wearable computing and the evolution of electronic textiles, advances in battery life, on-body interfaces, and head-mounted displays.

Thad Starner, a technical lead on Google Glass and professor in Tech’s School of Interactive Computing, envisioned a wearable computing world and lived it decades before the technology became a commercial reality. Starner has worn the prototype of what would eventually become Google Glass since his early research in the 1990s. Starner is now advancing the research adoption of his lifelong professional work in wearable computing by enabling researchers nationwide to develop applications for Google Glass.

See an online version of the exhibit at:

[www.wcc.gatech.edu/exhibition](http://www.wcc.gatech.edu/exhibition)

**Remembering Mike Stilman**

Assistant Professor Mike Stilman, recognized as an emerging leader in humanoid robotics research, died following an apparent accident at his Atlanta home on Tuesday, May 6.

Stilman, who was recently awarded tenure and scheduled to be promoted to associate professor effective Aug. 16, joined the Georgia Tech faculty in 2008 after receiving his Ph.D. in robotics from the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. “We are stunned by this news about our colleague and friend Mike,” said Anne Anton, professor and chair of the School of Interactive Computing. “His promise as a brilliant young researcher was shown this year by his promotion to a tenured position and his winning of a prestigious institute-wide teaching award. This is a loss from which we will not easily recover.”

[www.cgatech.edu/1mCVNQY](http://www.cgatech.edu/1mCVNQY)

**Governor Recognizes Stamps Staff during National Nurses Week**

Governor Nathan Deal visited with the staff of Georgia Tech Stamps Health Services on Wednesday, May 7, in recognition of National Nurses Week. (Pictured L-R: Melanie Thomas, Debbie Spillers, Shan Baker, Denise Fair, Governor Nathan Deal, Pepe Bowman, Paula Gaffney, Kim Bell, Barrie Fogel)