

The System Supplement

A report of the Georgia Board of Regents • Vol. 44, No. 4 • April/May 2007

“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

‘Fixed for Four’ Continues; Regents Commit to 2nd Year of Guarantee

The Board of Regents reaffirmed in May a commitment made last year to provide a guaranteed tuition rate for incoming freshmen. Consequently, University System of Georgia sophomores will see no tuition increase in fall 2007. The board did approve new tuition rates for those students entering the System’s 35 institutions as freshmen this fall, as well as for those in their third year and beyond.

The tuition rates for freshmen factor in the requirement of the University System to provide approximately 25 percent of the cost of instruction over four years, with the state funding the remaining 75 percent. Those students not covered by the “fixed for four” plan will see modest tuition increases to meet this 25 percent requirement.

The board also approved a new tuition model that sets differential rates for some of the System’s comprehensive universities. These rates support the board’s strategic goal to direct students to quality institutions with a capacity for enrollment growth. Tuition at these institutions also is guaranteed for four years.

FY08 Budget

Finally, the board approved a budget containing a record \$2.1 billion state appropriation, along with \$276 million for construction and renovation of System facilities. The board also approved budget allocations to the System’s 35 degree-granting institutions and the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. The board’s actions on the budget are subject to Gov. Sonny Perdue’s approval of the overall state budget.

“Our tuition and budget are driven by our policy objectives, which call for us to maintain affordability and access while providing predictability for stu-

dents and parents,” said University System Chancellor **Erroll B. Davis Jr.** in a presentation to the board on tuition and the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget.

“Thanks to the support of Gov. Sonny Perdue and members of the General Assembly, we have the resources to meet these objectives and honor the pledge we made to our customers last year with the introduction of the innovative fixed-for-four plan.”

Fall 2007 Tuition Rates

Students who first enrolled in the University System in fall 2006 will see no change in tuition, as part of the guaranteed tuition plan. These fixed rates are \$1,946 per semester at research universities, \$1,280 per semester at regional and state universities, and \$802 per semester at two-year colleges.

Effective fall 2007, tuition for those students already enrolled in the System prior to fall 2006 will be \$2,044 per semester at research universities, an increase of \$134 over current rates; \$1,344 per semester at regional and state universities, an increase of \$76 from current rates; and \$834 per semester at two-year colleges, an increase of \$40.

Students entering University System institutions for the first time in fall 2007 will see a research university tuition rate of \$2,248 per semester; tuition at regional and state universities will

be \$1,434 per semester, and the rate at two-year colleges will be \$875 per semester. These rates are guaranteed for four years (three years at two-year colleges) and meet the estimated 25 percent share of instructional costs for that period.

Comprehensive Universities

As part of the board’s strategic thrust to focus future growth at those comprehensive universities with resources to provide additional student programming and course offerings, the fall 2007 tuition rate for entering students will be \$1,478 per semester at **Kennesaw State University**, **Georgia Southern University**, the **University of West Georgia**, and **Valdosta State University**. These rates are guaranteed for four years. Also, there are currently some variations in tuition where institutions with special missions have different tuition rates than other institutions in that sector. These variations will continue.

State Colleges

The board also adopted a new rate for the System’s seven state colleges (two-year colleges offering a limited number of bachelor’s degrees). Students currently enrolled at these colleges will pay \$888 per semester and students enrolling in fall 2007 will pay \$936 per semester. 🏠

Regents Visit Eagle Country

The Board of Regents convened for its April meeting at **Georgia Southern University** in Statesboro, where President **Bruce Grube** led the campus community in hosting the two-day visit by the regents and the staff of the University System Office. Shown at right meeting in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Center are (left to right), regents **Donald Leebern Jr.**, **Mansfield Jennings Jr.** and **Richard Tucker**, and Board Secretary **Julia Murphy**. 🏠



Board Receives Update on Customer Service Initiative

The University System of Georgia received high marks from Joe Doyle, director of the Governor's Office of Customer Service, for its outstanding efforts of the past year to support Gov. Sonny Perdue's ongoing initiative to improve customer service.

During a team presentation describing these efforts at the Board of Regents' April meeting, Doyle praised the efforts of **Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr.** and USG campuses, noting that "the visibility of the efforts of each institution in the University System were the highest of any entity in state government."

"We are pleased," Doyle said, "with the enthusiasm and quality of effort exhibited by all employees of the University System of Georgia."

Southern Polytechnic State University President **Lisa Rossbacher** detailed her institution's work in providing basic training in Lean Six Sigma, a de-facto standard in process-improvement methodology for USG insti-

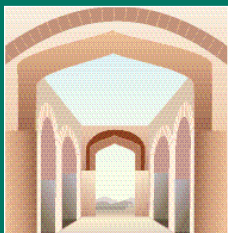
tutions, and how that training has led to measured improvements in service delivery throughout SPSU.

The criteria for selecting projects for service improvement, included focusing on: projects with relevance the public and students will understand; projects with "low-hanging fruit" that "move the needle" with minimum investment; projects resulting in real savings, not simply cost avoidance; establishing an atmosphere where "getting better is not optional;" and celebrating all successes.

Tonya Kilpatrick, special assistant to the associate vice chancellor of P16 Initiatives, demonstrated the application of Lean Six Sigma, a process improvement methodology, to increase access, flexibility and the convenience of master-of-education degree programs offered by nine of the USG's colleges of education. The overall goal of the project, she explained, is to increase enrollment at the nine colleges of education by providing world-class customer service.

Dr. Mark Pelton, an associate vice president at **Georgia College and State University**, presented results of a project that significantly improved the efficiency and responsiveness of GCSU's facilities-management team. Improving facilities management has a huge impact on bottom-line measures when your campus is part of a System that is responsible for 55 percent of all state-owned facilities, Pelton observed.

Jim Flowers, customer service champion for the University System, completed the presentation by citing published research findings indicating that the quality of service provided drives student satisfaction and satisfied students complete their degrees at higher rates. Dissatisfied students who leave without finishing their degrees deter the University System from achieving its goals regarding retention and graduation, he noted, but more importantly, "when students leave, their dreams are deferred." 🏠



Miller



Zaccari



Wingblade

USG Officials Win Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation

The University System of Georgia recently received a salute for its good stewardship of the state-owned historic buildings in its inventory from the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR officials honored the USG in late March with three of the agency's five Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation Stewardship, which recognize outstanding leadership and achievement in the preservation of state-owned or administered historic properties.

Michael Miller, a program manager in the University System Office's Office of Facilities, received the overall Governor's

Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for his dedication and significant commitment to the preservation of the University System's historic properties. Miller led the Board of Regents initiative that secured a Getty Foundation grant to develop a historic preservation plan template to be used by college and university campuses in master-plan updates.

Dr. Ronald Zaccari, president of **Valdosta State University**, and **Dr. George Wingblade**, who recently retired as director of physical plant at **South Georgia College**, both received Governor's awards for Historic Preservation Stewardship.

Zaccari was honored for his leadership in planning for the future growth and development of VSU's campus and his commissioned Campus Historic Preservation Plan & Related Planning Studies, which was completed in 2006.

Wingblade was recognized for the development of the South Georgia College Campus Historic Preservation Plan and playing a crucial role in launching the ongoing rehabilitation of Clower Hall, built in 1936 as a gymnasium, into the new Clower Hall Student Life Center.

Miller, Zaccari and Wingblade received their awards at a ceremony held during a DNR board meeting in Atlanta on March 28. 🏠

USG Digest

■ Individuals and organizations recently had a chance to weigh in with comments on a University System of Georgia policy interpretation of the Georgia Security and Immigration and Compliance Act that would make students who are unable to document that they are lawfully present in the United States ineligible for in-state tuition rates. On July 1, 2007, the University System intends to have the appropriate policies in place to implement the Act. University System officials held a series of four public comment sessions in Clarkston, Dalton, Gainesville and Tifton. Participants were allotted three minutes for oral comments and were invited to submit additional written comments or reports at each session or to a special website for inclusion in the final record. The first public session was held on May 8, at **Dalton State College** in Dalton. The second session was held the following day at **Georgia Perimeter College** in Clarkston. The third session was held on May 11, at the **University of Georgia** Tifton facility, and the fourth and final session was held on May 14 in Gainesville.

■ The wheelchair, largely unchanged for more than 100 years, is due for a major overhaul, thanks to **Georgia State University** Professor of Physical Therapy **Tai Wang**. The professor has developed a wheelchair that will make it easier for users to propel themselves around. Wang, a specialist in mobility issues, has long been looking for ways to reduce the shoulder injuries common among paraplegics and other wheelchair users. After six years, he has developed the E-Z Push wheelchair, which combines modern electronics with a single-action lever that allows users to move and steer the chair with a simple, one-handed push. Gone is the need to grab and turn hard rubber tires with both hands. A prototype is in development and should be ready within a few months. 🏠

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ON CAMPUS



Paying Tribute

Students, faculty and staff throughout the University System of Georgia honored the memory of the victims of the April 16 shooting rampage at Virginia Tech in a variety of ways. A number of campuses held candlelight vigils, including the **University of Georgia**, where (above left) freshman biology major **Jennifer Vercellotti** comforted freshman journalism major **Angela Alfano**. Two of Alfano's high school friends, Erin Peterson and Reema Samaha, were killed in the shooting. At **Gordon College** (above center), sophomore **Gabrielle Lamar** pinned an orange and maroon ribbon (the Virginia Tech colors) on freshman **Onterio Hollins** as a show of sympathy and support for VT.

Above right, **Christina DiGregorio**, a **Columbus State University** senior majoring in pre-pharmacy, writes condolences on a large banner with the VT logo that will be sent to the school. At right, **Georgia Tech** students sang "I Did Not Die" during a campuswide support rally.



USG Employees Recognized for Charitable Contributions

Units and campuses of the University System of Georgia brought home Governor's Cups given out in three of the five categories of the 2006-2007 State Charitable Contributions Program (SCCP) in early April and also several other awards for charitable giving.

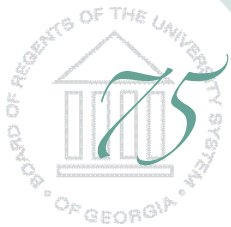
"It is imperative that we give back to the community in every way that we can, and I am so pleased that our nearly 40,000 employees have stepped up to the plate in this manner," said **Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr.** "It is obvious from the recognition so many of our institutions have received in this awards program that our employees care deeply about the welfare of their communities."

The SCCP awards the Governor's Cup to state agencies with the highest contributions per employee in any given year. The **University of Georgia** took the cup for agencies with 9,001 or more employees, **Georgia State University** claimed the

honor among agencies with 1,001-9,000 employees and the **Skidaway Institute of Oceanography** had the highest contributions per employee of any agency with 1-100 employees.

Runners up for the Governor's Cup receive Commissioner's awards. **Georgia Tech** captured this honor among agencies with 1,001-9,000 employees; **Armstrong Atlantic State University** received the Commissioner's Award for agencies with 501-1,000 employees; the Board of Regents University System Office won for agencies with 101-500 employees; and **East Georgia College** took home the Commissioner's Award for agencies with 1-100 employees.

The SCCP honored the Board of Regents University System Office for having amassed the largest increase in contributions (\$34,901 more than in 2005-2006). With 68 percent of its employees contributing, **Georgia Highlands College** won the award for the highest level of employee participation in the SCCP. 🏠



Did You Know...

... that since the year 2000, more than 55,000 new students have enrolled at University System of Georgia institutions, bringing USG enrollment to a historic high of 260,000 students by the end of 2006? 🏠

Thomas County Librarian Named New York Times Librarian of Year

Nancy Tillinghast, director of the Thomas County Public Library System in Thomasville, recently received the library world's equivalent of the Oscar – a *New York Times* Librarian of the Year Award for her outstanding public service and the positive impact she has had on her community.

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. and the Board of Regents saluted Tillinghast and her staff at the board's April meeting at *Georgia Southern University* in Statesboro.

The New York Times chose this year's winners from among more than 1,300 nominations. This is the third time in six years that Georgia has produced a winner.

Tillinghast follows in the footsteps of 2003 winner **Silvia Bunn**, branch manager at the Mildred L. Terry Branch of the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System in Columbus, and 2005 winner **Scott Routsong**, children's services librarian at the Brunswick-Glynn County Library.

According to Chancellor Davis, Tillinghast's exemplary service demonstrates the value the University System of Georgia adds to the communities it serves through its Georgia Public Library Service unit.

"We are very proud that Georgia librarians have received *New York Times* Librarian of the Year awards three times," he said. "Librarians fill

vital roles in our state and in our society. They bring together communities and foster the pursuit of knowledge. This national recognition for Nancy and her staff is well deserved. The innovative and community-focused library services in Thomas County and elsewhere in Georgia are models for public libraries across the United States."

Tillinghast was nominated for the award by **Liz Crockett**, director of the Thomasville Community Resource Center, who praised Tillinghast and her staff for their tireless efforts to instill the love of reading in Thomas County's citizens, to organize workshops for its service organizations and to increase the accessibility of library service in the county's most rural areas. "Without Nancy out there talking to every organization and community group, I doubt that Thomas County would have voted in the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)," Crockett wrote. The SPLOST supports a number of education-related initiatives in the county.

In March, The Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce also honored Tillinghast as its 2007 Woman of the Year. 🏠



Tillinghast

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