

# The System Supplement

A report of the Georgia Board of Regents • Vol. 45, No. 1 • January 2008

*“Creating a More Educated Georgia”*

## Davis: System’s Growth and Strong Support Balanced by Need to Manage Available Resources

Strong enrollment growth, improvement in graduation rates and a continued focus on keeping college affordable were cited as very positive signs of performance by University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. in his annual “State of the System” address to the Board of Regents at the board’s January meeting.

“The State of the System today is good when measured by a number of key indicators – public sup-

port, enrollment, retention, and graduation,” Davis said. “We are enrolling more students; we are keeping more students in college; and we are graduating more individuals to contribute to Georgia’s economic and intellectual growth.”

The creation and adoption by the board of a new Strategic Plan

for the System during 2007 also was cited by the chancellor as a key accomplishment that will enable the System to “move to a higher level of performance and have this great enterprise capitalize on the power of a true system.”

But Davis also noted that while the academic mission and the faculty of the System’s 35 degree-granting institutions deserve high marks, the risk management of resources is not at the same level of quality and consequently will be an area of priority attention over the coming year. “We do excellently in spots, but, as always, we can do better overall, particularly in how we manage both our operations and the resources that have so generously flowed to us,” he said.

Consequently, Davis noted that he would continue to focus on three key areas: increasing access to college, maintaining affordabil-



ty, and providing clear accountability to the public.

The System’s responsibility to meet a growing shortage of physicians to treat Georgians also will be a top priority in the coming years, Davis said.

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The full text of the State of the System address is at :  
<http://www.usg.edu/chancellor/reports/2008/jan08.phtml>

## Report Calls for USG to Expand Medical Education



Consultant Paul Umbach delivers his firm’s report on medical education expansion to the Board of Regents.

A report calling for the expansion of medical education in Georgia was accepted by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents in a special called meeting on Jan. 21.

The report, prepared on behalf of the regents by the Pittsburgh-based consulting firm, Tripp Umbach, was presented to and officially received by the board during its January 15 regular meeting. The subsequent action means that the regents will take the report under advisement for planning purposes.

The expansion would address a critical need for more physicians in the state of Georgia. “Georgia has slipped to 40th from 37th among all states in the number of physicians per resident,” said USG Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. “The health and safe-

ty of Georgians are at risk. We need more doctors.”

Georgia has a unique ability to address a serious need of educating more physicians, said Paul Umbach, president of Pittsburgh-based Tripp Umbach, which issued the report. “My firm has analyzed medical education needs across the U.S. and I can truly say that the stars and timing are lined up for this to be a truly collaborative, cost-effective effort that will lead to a healthier Georgia,” Umbach said.

The report calls for the *Medical College of Georgia* School of Medicine to expand statewide to 1,200 students by

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## State of the System

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Enrollment in the University System hit a record high of 270,022 students in fall 2007, an increase of 10,077 students from fall 2006. "That's the equivalent of adding another *Valdosta State* or *West Georgia*," Davis said. Another important measure of the System's ability to provide access to higher education is in the continued increase in enrollment by African Americans and Hispanics, Davis said. African-American enrollment increased by more than 5 percent from fall 2006 to fall 2007 to 65,000 students, and Hispanic enrollment jumped 13 percent over the same period, to 8,800 students.

The latest graduation report shows that 51 percent of the students who entered an institution in the System in fall 2001 graduated six years later from that institution. "This is the first year the institution-specific, six-year graduation rate has ever exceeded 50 percent," Davis said.

In terms of affordability, Davis noted that the Regent's guaranteed tuition plan, now in its second year, has enabled Georgia to maintain its historic ranking as one of the most affordable states in the 16-member Southern Regional Education Board for public higher education tuition.

Georgia's college affordability primarily reflects the strong support for public higher education by the Governor's office and the General Assembly, Davis noted, citing a record \$2.1 billion state appropriation, along with \$276 million for construction and renovation of System facilities, in the current fiscal year budget.

"This was a 10.5 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2007 and represented the largest increase in state funding for the University System in 12 years," Davis said. "This is extraordinary when compared to many other states and systems, and we thank Gov. **Sonny Perdue** and the members of the General Assembly for their continuing support."

But, Davis noted that the tremendous support

## USG 'Doing What's Right' to Curb Workplace Abuse

The University System of Georgia has launched a loss-prevention program called "Doing What's Right" that encourages honest and ethical behavior by its employees and provides resources such as a website and a toll-free phone number for voicing concerns about unethical or illegal activity without fear of retaliation.

"USG employees know the difference between right and wrong, and doing what's right is the most basic and most important way to ensure that the University System of Georgia and the Board of Regents upholds high standards," said Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. "However, we can't do the job alone. We need everyone's cooperation."

Whether the concern is about accounting or auditing irregularities, waste of resources, the falsification of records, misuse of assets, fraud, violations of USG regulations, harassment, discrimination or threats, Davis urges USG employees to "do the right thing" by reporting their concerns to a supervisor.

For those who don't feel comfortable doing so, the University System Office has contracted with an independent firm, The Network, to provide a reporting hotline. Employees may call 877-516-3466 or visit [www.reportlineweb.com/BOR](http://www.reportlineweb.com/BOR) 24 hours a day, seven days a week to document concerns. Individuals do not have to give their name, and their phone call will not be recorded without consent. ■

for the System also means that System leaders must focus more closely on the management of those resources. "Our primary challenge is not the level of resources we receive, but the proper and strategic use of those resources."

Referring to audit reports that indicated abuses in use of the state purchasing card program, Davis said that System officials would be working to create "a pervasive culture of continuous improvement and thorough risk management throughout the System." He vowed to set and meet higher levels of transparency and accountability in the management of the System's \$5.6 billion annual budget.

Davis also referred to an ongoing challenge for the System relates to Georgia's shortage of health care professionals (for more on this, see the story on p. 1 on the expansion of medical education).

In his address, Davis also noted the need to use the Strategic Plan to manage explosive enrollment growth and the System's funding needs as well as to ensure strong competitive salaries for faculty.

February marks the beginning of Chancellor Davis' third year on the job, during which he has overseen continued growth in the System, the creation of the Guaranteed Tuition Plan, major revisions in financial reporting and budgeting processes, the development of the System's new Strategic Plan, the development of a new model to set priorities for needed facilities, the creation of a System approach to meeting the state's needs for healthcare professionals, searches for a number of institutional presidents, the launch of Georgia Gwinnett College, and an 18 percent increase in state support for the System over the past two state budget cycles. ■



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## USG Digest

■ All her life, *Georgia State University* doctoral student **Erin Harper** thought of herself as African-American with French ancestry. But through a DNA analysis project in her biopsychology class last spring, Harper learned her ancestors traveled out of east Africa, through Asia and over the Bering land bridge to what is now North America, a lineage common to Eskimos.

"My family and I were in disbelief," Harper said. "But it made me want to know more and dig even deeper into my ancestry."

Harper is not alone. Many Georgia State students who participated in the project had similar reactions when they received answers.

This month, biopsychology professor **Scott Decker** will kick off the project again with a new class. The exercise not only teaches students the complexities of DNA, evolution and human migration, but it also can change their perspective on race, Decker says.

"What this experiment says is that any observable differences between us are climatic adaptations," he added. "We all have the same emotions, thoughts and decision-making processes."

Using a DNA collection kit, Decker's students will scrape their cheek cells and send samples to be compared against the largest DNA database ever assembled.

*National Geographic*, with the help of IBM, collected and analyzed DNA from people across the globe for their Genographic Project, which attempts to map out how the human species migrated out of Africa.

Once students learn their genetic journey, they will research the paths their ancestors took. The students' DNA will be submitted to the Genographic Project. Decker will also use the study in his research on how genetic results impact students' view on race.

"By giving students this information — tangible evidence — it changes their attitudes on diversity," Decker said. "It brings history to life."

### The System Supplement

**John Millsaps**  
ASSOCIATE  
VICE CHANCELLOR

**Diane Payne**  
PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

**To Provide Feedback**  
write to: [diane.payne@usg.edu](mailto:diane.payne@usg.edu)

## USG Developing New Approaches to Energy Use

Drought and \$100-a-barrel oil underscore the importance of efforts by the University System of Georgia (USG) to develop a long-term energy management plan that can be adopted at each of the System's 35 institutions. The recommendations of a special energy task force are contained in a Sustainable Energy Management Plan that was presented to the Board of Regents at its January meeting.

The plan, presented by task force leader **Dr. Michael Adams**, president of the *University of Georgia*, proposes a new energy management structure that would be coordinated at the system level. Campuses would be encouraged to establish a committee to develop an energy sustainability and efficiency plan under the leadership of a campus energy manager. The committees would establish benchmarks and recommend system wide standards for energy efficiency in daily operations and new construction.

"The goal of this task force is to provide a formal framework to help the University System and its member institutions pursue efficiency and sustainability projects," stated Adams. "Careful management of resources is necessary if the University System is to avoid having already limited dollars diverted from our primary mission of teaching, research, and service. These current and future efforts demonstrate our commitment to responsible environmental leadership."

In 2007, the University System identified critical issues that needed to be addressed system-wide. Adams was

selected as team leader for the Energy Management Initiative and charged with identifying the most effective practices in energy management, whether found inside or outside of the University System. The team worked with faculty and staff at other system institutions and Board of Regents staff to develop the Sustainable Energy Management Plan.

A number of University System institutions currently have efforts underway to reduce energy consumption. The *University of West Georgia* has established building temperature standards while electronic energy management systems have been installed at *Georgia Perimeter College*. *Valdosta State University* has installed sensors for actuating lights and equipment as well as establishing planning and training programs for the operations and maintenance staff. UGA has reduced energy consumption despite the addition of buildings and increased square footage.

USG institutions also have implemented strategies to reduce water consumption and increase efficiency in their heating and cooling systems. *Georgia Tech* is using condensate produced by cooling chillers for landscape irrigation. *Dalton State College* has installed low flow plumbing fixtures that use less water. UGA has met the Governor's target of a 10 percent reduction in water usage over year-ago levels. *Clayton State University* has updated heating and cooling equipment in its student center and performing arts venue with more efficient HVAC technology. 🏡

### Customer Service Commendations

The University System of Georgia (USG) received nine Commendations for Customer Service Excellence — more than any other state agency — from **Gov. Sonny Perdue** during his first monthly commendation ceremony on Jan. 29. Recognized for meritorious actions that enhance the public image of customer service or improve the way customer service is provided in

Georgia were: The USG's GeorgiaVIEW project team, headed by **Brian Finnegan**; the USG's Library Services-GIL (GALILEO Interconnected Libraries) Express team, headed by **Dr. Merryll Penson**; **Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli**, president of *Georgia Perimeter College*; *Kennesaw State University* (KSU), headed by President **Dan Papp**; the KSU Financial Aid Office, headed by **Dr. Nancy King**; **Linda Lyons**, KSU's Customer Service Champion and head of the KSU Center for University Learning; *Macon State College's* Customer Service Task Force, headed by **Lynn McCraney**; and the University of Georgia's Food Service team, headed by **Mike Floyd**. 🏡



## Medical Education

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2020, from 745 students currently, an increase of approximately 60 percent.

The consultant's study recommends that expansion should occur simultaneously in Augusta, where

To read the full report, go to: <http://www.usg.edu/mcg-uga/>

MCG is located, at MCG's two clinical campuses, Southwest Georgia Clinical Campus, based at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, and the new southeast clinical campus under development in Savannah; and through the development of a new four-year campus in Athens in partnership with the *University of Georgia* (UGA).

"A critical element of the proposed strategy is that we are looking at a state-wide solution to an issue important to all of us," said **Dr. Daniel W. Rahn**, MCG president and senior vice chancellor for Health and Medical Programs for the USG. "Together we can accomplish much more than we can separately."

UGA President **Michael F. Adams** said: "On behalf of the University of Georgia community, we are excited about developing this partnership program with MCG. I believe the acquisition of the Navy School property will allow us to provide long-term improvement in the health of Georgians and to offer a true service to the state."

In his Fiscal Year 2009 budget, **Gov. Sonny Perdue** has recommended \$7.2 million in funding to the USG for the purpose of medical expansion, in addition to the \$2.8 million appropriated in the current FY08 budget.

If implemented fully, Tripp Umbach calculates that the expansion will more than double the economic impact of MCG's School of Medicine, generating more than \$1.6 billion additional dollars annually and supporting more than 10,000 additional jobs statewide. For every \$1.00 invested by the State of Georgia in 2020 in medical education, a total of \$2.54 will be returned in state tax revenue, according to the economic analysis section of the consultant report. 🏠

## Recent Appointments at the University System Office

- ◆ **Dr. Cathie Mayes Hudson** has been promoted to Vice Chancellor for Research and Policy Analysis, after serving as associate vice chancellor since 1995. She has been a member of the Board of Regents staff since 1988.
- ◆ **Dr. Linda Noble** has been named Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs. She previously served as a tenured professor, department chair, dean, and most recently, assistant director of the

Center for Teaching and Learning at **Kennesaw State University**.

- ◆ **Dr. Melinda Spencer** joined the staff of the University System Office in January as Academic Affairs Chief of Staff. This is a new position for which duties include change management, strategic planning, research development and infrastructure, website innovation, space planning, and the support of senior leaders at the System's comprehensive universities. 🏠



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