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## Georgia Library Spotlight - Cumming Campus Learning Commons, University of North Georgia

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# GLA SPOTLIGHT

## University of North Georgia Cumming Campus Learning Commons

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge, the Cumming campus is the newest campus within the consolidated University of North Georgia (UNG). Opened in August 2012, with more than 400 students, the enrollment in Cumming is now over 700 students, with more classes being added each semester to meet the needs of

Forsyth county and surrounding communities. Conceived well before consolidation plans were announced, the Cumming campus was created as a collaborative effort between the former Gainesville State College and North Georgia College and State

University. The typical visitor to the learning commons can be either a dual enrollment, undergraduate, or graduate student, as well as a faculty, staff, or community member.

The learning commons offers a cozy, café style setting that draws in students who need a place to study, relax, research, or gather. Adding to the ambiance, windows overlook nearby Sawnee Mountain, which, with an elevation at over 1900 feet, is taller than both Kennesaw and Stone Mountains. Original art by the renowned artist Win Crannell hangs on the

walls, donated in honor of Dr. Sherman Day, the original head of the Cumming campus and a former president of North Georgia College. Photography by Jack Anthony, with restful scenes of northern Georgia, also adorns the space.

For convenience, technology, such as laptops and graphing calculators, is available for use either within the library or for checkout. A wall-mounted SMART Board, along with the availability of thirteen computer workstations,

invites students to congregate within the learning commons, where assistance is available close by from a full and part-time librarian, a graduate assistant, and student workers. Writing and math tutors are stationed within the learning commons four

days a week. A group study room and portable white boards facilitate group study and are used regularly.

The collection is almost entirely digital, rich with offerings of over 350 subscription databases and 200,000 academic e-books. Hard copies are shared from nearby UNG campuses or through GIL Express via couriers. For quick access, the digital collection is supplemented by hard copy textbook reserves and ready reference texts, such as the MLA and APA style guide handbooks. Interlibrary loans are easily



requested using ILLiad, found on the UNG Libraries' website.

Services offered in the learning commons include workshops open to students, faculty, and staff. This past spring, the learning commons provided sessions on how to download and use e-books and Zotero; as well, the commons offered a faculty workshop on identifying potential publishers for scholarly works. Faculty may request library instruction for their classes and students may request personal appointments with the librarians.

Over the last year and a half since opening, the learning commons hosted programs, including an art exhibit and artist talk featuring Didi Dunphy, a performance artist. Other programs

included Dog Therapy for finals week, Open Mic, Create a Valentine, and the Cumming Campus Book Club.

Looking towards the future, the UNG Cumming Campus Learning Commons is acquiring iPads and cameras for circulation and developing additional programming for its growing student population.

Please visit the UNG Cumming Campus Learning Commons website at:

<http://libguides.ung.edu/GA400> for more information about the library.

*Photo by Sandra Sullivan*