

NORTH GEORGIA

LEADER

Spring/Summer 2009

101st Senator

Duke Short
details career with
Strom Thurmond

Making a difference

Beauty queen advocates
lung cancer research

A fighting chance

Alumnus leads future
force integration



Way to go, Saints!

North Georgia's softball team captured the Peach Belt Conference Regular Season Championship, PBC Tournament Championship, NCAA Southeast Regional Championship, and the NCAA Southeast Super Regional Championship to advance to its first-ever Division II College World Series this spring. Keep up with athletics at www.saintssports.com. Photo: Office of Sports Information



NORTH GEORGIA LEADER

FEATURES



12 The 101st Senator

Duke Short helped define the career of one of the most formidable figures in 20th century American politics, Sen. Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina.



15 Beauty queen advocates lung cancer research

Alumna Tiffany Hudak uses her advocacy opportunities as Mrs. Georgia 2008 to educate others about a disease that kills more than 200,000 people annually in the U.S.



18 Giving soldiers every advantage in the fight

MG James Terry leads the Army's most comprehensive modernization effort in decades through the use of innovative technology for the battlefield.

North Georgia Leader

Published semi-annually for alumni and friends of North Georgia College & State University.

Editorial Staff

Kate Maine, editor

Joshua Preston '01/MPA '04, asst. editor

Debbie Martin '06, designer

Contributors

Jeffrey Boggan, Charity Cagle,

Rosann Kent, Mark Howarth '86,

Andrew Leavitt, Christian Pennington '09

Contact Information

E-mail: kmaine@ngcsu.edu

Mail: University Relations

P.O. Box 1599

Dahlonega, GA 30533

Phone: 706-864-1950

DEPARTMENTS

3 Around Campus

University news and announcements

7 North Georgia People

Faculty and staff accomplishments

8 Schools

News highlights for each of the university's four schools

12 Corps of Cadets

13 Student Snapshot

23 Alumni Association

25 Class Notes

32 Foundation News

34 Then & Now: Library

36 Upcoming Events



Regents approve new dorms, renovations for North Georgia

North Georgia has received approval from the Board of Regents to proceed with plans to build two new residence halls, a new parking deck to accommodate expected residential growth, and a new dining hall.

“Beginning this summer, our campus will be busy with construction projects for the next few years,” President David Potter said. “While it will be temporarily disruptive, we look forward to seeing this physical progress on our campus to further enhance the academic environment and student life at North Georgia.”

The construction projects, totaling approximately \$80 million, will be funded through tax-exempt municipal bonds that will be retired with student fees. Construction on the residence halls and the parking deck will begin this summer and will open in time for fall 2010 occupancy.

The two new residence halls, one for cadets and one for non-military students, will add more than 950 new beds to support the university’s efforts to increase capacity for resident students on campus and to support an ROTC mission of increasing the number of officers commissioned.

The cadet residence hall will be built behind Gaillard Hall near the current Alumni Center and will house 352 ca-

dets. The 600-bed residence hall for non-military students and the parking deck will be built on the west side of campus.

“Both of the new residence halls will feature suite-style accommodations,” said Mac McConnell, vice president for business and finance.

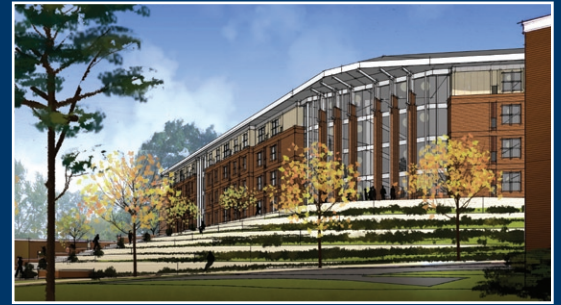
“The cadet dorm will have double-occupancy rooms and feature a floor plan unique to North Georgia to accommodate the Corps leadership needs.”

The design of each of the new structures will feature red brick to complement existing buildings on campus.

“The new civilian residence hall, located near the Health and Natural Sciences Building, will have phenomenal views of the mountains,” McConnell said.

Once new residence hall space is available in 2010, the university will construct a new dining hall in place of Sanford Hall, which currently serves as a dormitory. The new facility will include seating for 950, a 250-seat banquet area, and an outdoor plaza area that overlooks the university’s drill field.

The university also has multiple state-funded renovation projects and campuswide classroom technology



Top: A new residence hall will be built behind the Health & Natural Sciences Building to accommodate 600 students.

Center: An architectural rendering of the new cadet residence hall that will be constructed behind Gaillard Hall.

Bottom: Artist’s rendering of the new dining hall.

improvements, totaling about \$16 million, slated to begin this fall. First on the list is the transformation of the former Stewart Library into a Student Success Center. It will house many student services in a single, convenient location on the top floor and the bookstore on the bottom level.

In 2010, renovation will begin on Young Hall, Barnes Hall, and the Hoag Student Center. Young Hall will feature expanded classroom spaces and offices, Barnes Hall will be used strictly for office space, and Hoag’s interior will be renovated for expanded student-oriented space and an enhanced canteen.

All of the projects are part of the university’s master plan update that estimates North Georgia’s enrollment to reach a maximum of 6,500 to 7,500 students in the next 15 years.

Garden gives home to Appalachian seeds and stories



Photos: Joshua Preston

Many heirloom seeds, such as plumgrannies and Boxcar Willie tomatoes, have been passed down through generations of mountain families. But finding open-pollinated seeds that have been in a family for more than 50 years is becoming an increasingly rare occurrence. Also rapidly disappearing are the stories that go with them.

Now, both will have a new home thanks to Saving Appalachian Gardens and Stories (SAGAS), a project of the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center at North Georgia.

“The center is housed in the historic Vickery House, which is part of the campus, yet adjacent to the community,” Dr. Alice Sampson, the center’s director, said. “It is on the National Historic Register and is a perfect place for demonstration and teaching gardens.”

The SAGAS project is designed to promote cultural

and environmental education through seed and story preservation, according to Karrie Ann Fadoski, SAGAS project manager and biology professor. She outlined its three main goals:

- Preserve local heirloom seeds, distributing seeds to community members for non-commercial use.
- Serve science by stocking seeds with the state seed bank and using the garden as a teaching tool.
- Gather the memories that go with the seeds, collecting the stories of family food traditions and practices.

“Heirloom seeds will be planted and interpreted by master gardener and biology professor volunteers,” Fadoski explained. “Visitors and students will learn of historic gardening practices and listen to oral histories attached to the vegetables planted.”

Volunteers are invited to assist with a variety of activities, including collecting seed stories.

To volunteer, call the Appalachian Studies Center at 706-864-1540.

Career Services launches new initiatives for students, alumni

More than 40 businesses and agencies participated in the university’s annual Career Fair this spring.

Career Services has also launched an online tool, the Saint Job Board, where students and alumni can find part-time and full-time employment through jobs posted directly by employers. Available at www.collegecentral.com/ngcsu, students and alumni can post their resumes on the site.

Employers may post jobs for free on the board and can specify jobs for alumni only, if they so desire.

“We have a number of alumni registered as job seekers



Photo: Joshua Preston

on it already, so it is great to have mid-level positions posted there as well,” Dora Ditchfield, director of Career Services, said.

Students may also use the service to find jobs that provide work experience while in school.

“We equip them with resume tips, coach them on interviews, and help them with job search techniques,” Ditchfield said. “We’re here to help students transition

to a life after graduation where they can apply what they’ve learned here and make a contribution back to society.”

New North Georgia online community opens

After many months of work, North Georgia's new online community is now available at www.northgeorgia.org. All alumni and friends of the university may join the community, which will give registered members the opportunity to update their personal information, give to the university's foundation, and review their giving history, and register online for certain campus events.

Alumni will find current information about alumni activities and the Alumni Association, and you will be able to join the Association, purchase merchandise, and register for alumni events online.

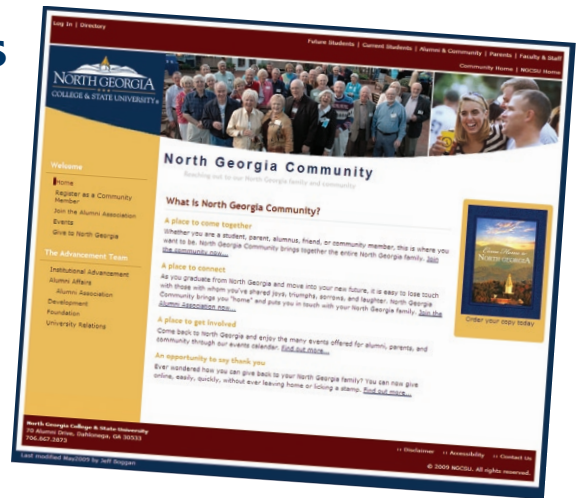
Visitors will find information about making charitable gifts to support

North Georgia and have the ability to make gifts online. Over time, we will develop more options to assist you in making your gifts in ways that will be most meaningful to you.

Active, paid members of the Alumni Association who register will have access to an online alumni directory as an exclusive benefit of association membership.

Donors who take the one-time step to "join" the community and request a password, will have access to conveniences, such as forms pre-populated with your information and access to your giving history.

Visit www.northgeorgia.org today.



We welcome your comments and suggestions, and hope you return to the site often to find and share information and build the strength of the community. See you on the Web!

Veterans Success Center assists with benefits

North Georgia has opened a Veterans Success Center to assist military service members with financial aid information and educational benefits.

The Veterans Success Center, a 289-square-foot office decorated wall-to-wall with posters of tanks and aircraft, has been designed to be a clearinghouse for all financial aid information and many educational benefits available to military service members enrolled at North Georgia.

The campus' significant military population includes former active duty military members and reservists in every branch of the armed services. The university's Corps of Cadets includes a majority of these service members, who are primarily soldiers in the Georgia Army National Guard or U.S. Army Reserve.

"The mission for the center is to be a place where veterans and their families can find out about veterans educational benefits," Jill Rayner, director of financial aid, said. "We also hope it will be a place where we can promote other services on campus that will benefit veterans, such as career services, tutoring assistance, disability services and academic services."

North Georgia has several financial aid options specific to the institution, including the state's Georgia Military Scholarship and stipends for cadet leaders in the military program. The Veterans Success Center will be a single location for members of the military to complete paperwork for the Montgomery G.I. Bill and where they can find assistance to other services such as Tuition Assistance.

"We want to be ready to assist veterans and their families to start at North Georgia or continue their education," Rayner said. "Our ultimate goal is getting the local community involved as well. We would love to have our local veterans be a resource for our returning soldiers, for those veterans to be a sounding board, and for the Veterans Success Center to be a safe listening place for soldiers to share their experiences."

Welcome to the new North Georgia Leader!



This new semi-annual magazine reflects the merger of two previous newsletters, *The North Georgia Leader* and *The Alumni Bulletin*. We retained the

name *Leader* for the magazine, because at North Georgia, we prepare students to be professional, civic and military leaders who will have a positive impact in their communities.

The stories we've featured illustrate some of the outstanding leaders that are a part of this outstanding institution. We hope you enjoy reading this first issue of the *North Georgia Leader* magazine and encourage you to share it with others who may be interested in learning more about North Georgia.

If you have suggestions about future issues, please contact Kate Maine, director of university relations, at kmaine@ngcsu.edu or 706-864-1950.

North Georgia PEOPLE

Berdanier publishes textbook

Lynne Berdanier, anatomy and physiology instructor, has published *Case Studies in Physiology and Nutrition*. The book provides students with stories about patients, their symptoms and clinical findings, and then poses questions to help students develop critical thinking skills.

Byrne leads nursing organization

Dr. Michelle Byrne, associate professor of nursing, is president of the Competency & Credentialing Institute. She was involved in the National Nursing Convener Organization meeting, addressing the formation of a National Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance, held at the George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., in April.

Carpenter wins Air Force grant

Dr. Holly Carpenter, assistant professor of chemistry, has received a three-year research grant from the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The grant will fund her work and that of two undergraduate students on "Synthesis and Structural Characterization of Reflectin Proteins."

Chesnut honored for foreign language education

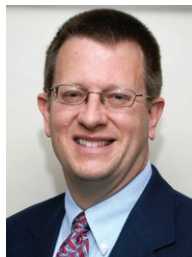
Dr. Jim Chesnut, professor of modern languages, received the President's Certificate of Excellence Award from the Foreign Language Association of Georgia for his contributions to the state K-12 and post-secondary foreign language educators, as well as his leadership as past president of FLAG, past president of Southern Conference on Language Teaching, and participation on the national board of the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Donat leads psychological association

Dr. Patricia Donat, associate vice president for academic affairs, has been

elected to serve a three-year term as president of the Southeastern Psychological Association.

Herbert shines as professor, adviser



Dr. Brad Herbert, chemistry professor, has won the 2008-2009 G. E. Philbrook Teaching Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching from the North-

east Georgia section of the American Chemical Society. Herbert was also recognized for his efforts to support the educational development of students and will receive an Outstanding Advising award from the National Academic Advising Association this fall.

Kokkala re-elected to position

Dr. Irene Kokkala, director of the Center of Teaching & Learning Excellence, has been re-elected as treasurer of the Southern Regional Faculty and Instructional Development Consortium. North Georgia will host the SRFIDC annual conference in 2010.



Martin leads state workshops on crisis response

Dr. Mac Martin, director of student counseling, has presented workshops statewide on "Psych 1st AID University" for front-line faculty and staff who are directly involved with students. Martin is certified in university crisis response.

Oates takes leading role in professional association

Dr. Richard Oates, associate dean of the School of Education, has been elected



vice president-elect of the National Association of Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education, an organization for professionals in higher education to foster leadership in teaching, administration, policy, preparation for the professions and scholarship.

Palma selected for physical therapy accrediting body

Dr. Stefanie Palma, physical therapy department head, will serve through June 2013 on the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education Central Panel, the only accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to accredit entry-level physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs.

President featured among state leaders

Dr. David Potter, president, has been named to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* 2009 Who's Who in Education list, which features education leaders who are shaping Georgia's K-12 and higher education systems. Potter was recognized for his efforts to internationalize the curriculum and campus at North Georgia to prepare students for work and service in a global economy.

Sampson to lead Appalachian Studies Association

Dr. Alice Sampson, director of the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center, is president of the Appalachian Studies Association, a group of approximately 1,000 members.



North Georgia will host the association's 2010 conference, March 19-21. Dr. Donna Gessell, executive director for regional engagement, will serve as chair of the conference's local arrangements committee.

School of Arts & Letters

North Georgia to offer master's degree in history

A new master's degree program at North Georgia highlights the university's role as the Military College of Georgia. The university's new Master of Arts in history begins this fall and will offer concentrations in either world history or military history.

North Georgia is now one of five universities in the Southeast and 20 in North America that offers a master's program in world history. Military history programs are even less common, and North Georgia is now the fifth in the region to offer one at the master's level.

"Military history is a natural choice for North Georgia as the Military College of Georgia, and the university has been at the forefront of developing world history in the core curriculum and extending it into upper division courses," Dr. Georgia Mann, recently retired department head for history and philosophy, said.

The 30-hour master's degree program in history will build upon the foundation of graduate courses already offered as part of North Georgia's Master of Education degree and Master of Arts in teaching degree.

The department will continue to provide content mastery for teachers seeking degrees in history education in addition to the students pursuing the new Master of Arts in history.

The new degree, which offers some courses online, is expected to attract military officers seeking career and professional advancement. Georgia has 11 military bases and the fifth-largest U.S. Armed Services population in the country.

Chinese teachers explore and exchange classroom techniques

North Georgia's School of Arts & Letters and School of Education sponsored a professional development workshop in April to help Chinese language teachers enhance their teaching and classroom skills. The event attracted nearly 20 teachers from Georgia schools.

"Most of the participants teach at the high school level, but there were also some who teach at the elementary and middle school levels," said Dr. Yan Gao, associate professor of Chinese in the Department of Modern Languages.

Mariana Stone, assistant professor and coordinator for the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher certification endorsement program in North Georgia's School of Education, also presented a session on classroom management.

Right: Jian Gao, a nationally acclaimed Chinese language teacher from Belmont Hill School in Massachusetts, demonstrated educational techniques and activities in a spring workshop.



Photo: Joshua Preston

Art department split creates new energy

The university's Department of Fine Arts became two separate academic units – the Department of Visual Arts and the Department of Performing Arts – in March, bringing new energy to each area. The renovation of West Main Hall in 2008 and a move by most of the visual arts courses to that building preceded the split and helped to define the strong programming within the fine arts department.

"Both sides – the visual arts and the performing arts – are growing so quickly and there are different needs," Dr. Pam Sachant, department head for visual arts, said. "There is some overlap, but there are also very distinct needs. We needed to be independent at this point."

The Department of Visual Arts, which has more than 150 art and art education majors, has added a minor in graphic design. Also on the horizon are program accreditation through the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, development of a graphic design shop to bring work experience to students, and an art advisory board for increased community collaboration.

Sachant recognizes the importance of continuing the vision started by Bob Owens, North Georgia's first art department head, and she plans to sharpen the curriculum of many programs Owens fostered in the 1970s, including art marketing, studio art and art education.

The Department of Performing Arts is making ambitious plans, too. Andy David, department head, is proposing the inclusion of a number of non-Western music courses for the 85 music and music education majors and new music courses for the core curriculum in an effort to bring the department in line with other professional music programs.

A new Master of Music degree program is in development, as is accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music.

"I'm committed specifically to increase offerings in non-Western music," David said. "With the study and nature of music in the 21st century, a music education that includes only traditional Western music isn't adequate."



Photo: Kate Maine

Local entrepreneurs learn to grow bottom line

Ten small business entrepreneurs learned valuable skills and best practices in a new certificate program available through North Georgia's Mike Cottrell School of Business and the Center for the Future of North Georgia.

"Small business owners are the backbone of our local economies, and nurturing their success through access to education and resources is an important economic development tool for the area," Dean Max Burns said.

The program was led by Ruben Boling, a North Georgia faculty member and NxLevel-certified instructor. The course included business skills training for small businesses, guidance in marketing, bookkeeping, financial projections, funding and operations.

NxLevel is a national program that has been delivered to more than 120,000 entrepreneurs in 47 states. According to the company, existing business owners have reported average sales increases of 32 percent within one year of graduating from this program. The program combined practical, hands-on experiences and successful entrepreneurs as



Dean Max Burns talks with entrepreneur class.

Photo: Joshua Preston

entrepreneurs as guest presenters to help businesses grow their bottom-line in today's challenging economic climate. Classes began in April and met weekly for eight weeks.

"This course is designed for entrepreneurs at different stages in their development who have an existing business and need help growing it to the next level of success," Burns said.

Business students go global

For 23 students enrolled in the international business course in the Mike Cottrell School of Business at North Georgia, spring break was a rigorous learning experience in London.

This was the fourteenth year for the popular international study opportunity. Dr. Russell Teasley and Kelli Crickey accompanied the students on the trip March 13-22.

"London is a very accessible international city, and, with its amazing financial district, it makes a choice location for students learning the ins and outs of international business," Teasley said.

The itinerary gives students a meaningful business experience, as well as a great cultural experience. Students were exposed to London's vast financial district, including the Bank of England, CV Star (an AIG affiliate), and the London Investment Banking Center.

The students completed a large amount of work to fulfill the course requirements, visited the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and Windsor Castle, and still had time to enjoy social interaction with students from the Oxford Campus.

Students also visited the Jaguar automobile assembly plant and heard from one of the world's premier international law firms, Denton, Wilde, and Sapté. This firm has been so impressed with North Georgia students in the past that they have encouraged students to apply for internships with the company.

Internships link students to regional economic development

The Center for the Future of North Georgia, part of the Mike Cottrell School of Business, is dedicated to supporting and promoting the region's economic development activities. Recently, the center created several new internship opportunities to connect the school to the businesses in the region and provide students with experience to help launch their careers.

This spring, six North Georgia interns worked with chambers of commerce and other companies or non-profits that support economic development in the North Georgia area.

Ruben Boling, North Georgia faculty member and the head of the internship program, ensures that students get a well-rounded business experience and that they have the opportunity to do meaningful work. Many finance and management majors are working in marketing so that they are exposed to an overall perspective of an organization's operations.

Dan Brown interned with Civitium, where he worked on financial analysis for a fiber optic project that aims to develop broadband connectivity and enhance economic development in a five-county region of Forsyth, Dawson, Lumpkin, White and Union.

"Dan has shown great aptitude for understanding the technology and its implications to the business model for the initiative," said Greg Richardson, founder and managing partner of Civitium. "His attitude and work ethic are tremendous."

Lindsey Nelson, who interned at the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce in Gainesville, said that the internship helped her "to be more creative in marketing and more proficient" with several computer operating systems.

Some of the interns, including Nelson, shared their experiences during the business school's second annual GOLD Conference, part of the university's annual Honors Conference. Nelson said her experience in event planning and marketing at the Greater Hall Chamber left her wanting more.

"I liked the non-profit side of fundraising," Nelson said. "The fundraisers aren't necessarily about the chamber just raising money, but rather how to take that money and help its members."

An acronym for Great Opportunities for Leadership Development, the GOLD Conference also gave students the opportunity to sharpen their job-hunting skills, get free financial tips, and interact with working professionals.

BUSINESS

School of Education

Service learning projects meet public education needs

Improving the educational experience of school-aged children was the main focus of a group of School of Education seniors who presented the results of projects they conducted during their internships in area schools at the university's annual Honors Conference in April.

"The design of the projects was based around the premise of giving something back to the school systems," Cindy Sherrill, a teacher education faculty member, said. "Teachers work with our students and mentor them over a two-year process, and we felt it was important to give something back."

As a result of a service learning project they conducted, education majors in Nancy Henderson's Math Models class made manipulatives to promote a deeper understanding of math formulas for students at Lumpkin County Elementary School.

Henderson, assistant professor of academic support, presented the learning manipulatives to Amy Blackstone, a teacher at Lumpkin County Elementary School this spring.

More than 20 service-learning projects were conducted by 80 teacher education seniors, who surveyed school administrators and teachers to identify the biggest needs within their schools and then implemented solutions.

"The service-learning helps them to be seen as leaders in their environment," Sherrill said. "It really places them in a new light in terms of their ability to move to a higher level of service in their particular schools."

A broader view of the world

About 30 students participated in School of Education study abroad experiences in 2008-2009 and had the opportunity to visit unique schools in England, Poland, Mexico, and Argentina. They explore varied education practices, meet and many times live with local educators, confer with school administrators and political officials, and travel to local sites. Students, like Katie Feagin shown here in Poland, return with a broader view of the world and are able to transfer that newfound knowledge to the students in their own classrooms.



Photo: Jacqueline Leeper

New language center to enhance global outreach

A new academic center has been created within the School of Education to capitalize on the ever-increasing number of language programs and partnerships being developed as a focus on global engagement, part of the university's new five-year strategic plan.

The Center for Language Education (CLE) will provide opportunities for international and regional students who are future or practicing teachers to develop English or other language skills. It will promote the best pedagogy for educators teaching English as a Second Language and help meet the needs of the state's diverse public school students.

A major component of the center will be collaborating with foreign universities and boosting faculty and student exchanges to promote cultural and language differences on campus.

"Public schools are becoming international," Dr. James Badger, director of the CLE, said. "We want our students to have a vision that is beyond our [national] borders, and we are actively moving in a direction to provide students an international experience."

Internationalizing the campus isn't just going overseas, Badger said, though the School of Education has plans to expand its existing study abroad programs.

Just as essential, according to Badger, who has taught English as a Second Language in four countries, is exposing undergraduates to international students on the Dahlonega campus, where interesting conversations can take place and where the students can learn about each other and different educational systems and cultures.

The center is also open to students in other areas of study, particularly international students enrolled full time, to give them an opportunity to improve their English language skills. The English as a Second Language (ESL) program offered through the center is an open enrollment program designed to teach students to perform with linguistic competence and confidence.

The CLE, because of the international dialogue it will have with foreign schools, will be primed to provide more direct pathways for faculty members across campus to collaborate on research with international scholars. Faculty will be able to share their research interests with overseas faculty members through international conferences or virtual seminars and e-mail, with the CLE being a resource in making those connections.

"The center is part of the School of Education's alignment with the strategic plan of the university and we are placing a special emphasis on the internationalization of the campus and growing North Georgia's language programs," Dr. Bob Michael, dean of the School of Education, said.

The three areas the CLE will focus on include ESL, educational endorsements for teachers working with students speaking other languages, and certifying teachers who speak other languages fluently so that they can teach that language in the education field.



Photo: Joshua Preston

Math and science majors get new computing technology

A new course in the School of Science & Health Professions will better prepare students for future engineering and science careers.

Computing for Scientists and Engineers will teach undergraduates the requisite skills to solve sophisticated math problems using advanced computational software.

The course content will be aligned with Georgia Tech's introductory computer science course so that North Georgia students in dual degree programs, which combine a physics, chemistry or math degree from North Georgia and an engineering degree from Georgia Tech or another engineering school, will be better prepared when they transfer. Students in the Regents Engineering Transfer Program, who transfer to their choice of any engineering school after two years at North Georgia, will also benefit.

Students will learn to use MATLAB, one of the most commonly used math and science problem-solving software packages in those communities. The software will give students first-hand experience to compute complex science-related problems they may have previously bypassed.

"The course is particularly appropriate for students going into engineering and for all the science majors," Dr. John Cruthirds, head of the mathematics and computer science department, said. "We expect biology, chemistry and math majors to take the course. That's what we need at a school like this, a course that covers a broad range of valuable skills in a number of majors."

"The math-based software packages are critical tools to solving the mathematical problems that arise in physics and engineering," Dr. Richard Prior, department head of physics, said.

MATLAB is a high-level language and interactive environment that enables students to perform computationally intensive tasks faster than with traditional computer programming languages.

"We'd still solve the problems if we had to write the programs ourselves, but this is a more convenient and faster way of getting there," Prior said.

Physics professors receive federal grant

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded a three-year renewal grant to two North Georgia physics professors.

The grant, totaling \$333,000 over three years, supports nuclear physics research conducted by Drs. Richard Prior and Mark Spraker in collaboration with the Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory (TUNL) and the High Intensity Gamma-ray Source project, both located at Duke University.

Prior, head of the physics department, has collaborated with physicists at TUNL since 1990. Spraker is part of the group as well, and has conducted research at the laboratory. Working as a team, their primary activities include studying nuclear reactions at very low energies.

"Reactions at these low energies are simpler to analyze and also are of interest in nuclear astrophysics," Prior said.

TUNL, located at Duke University, is the largest university-based nuclear physics lab in the United States and is funded by the Department of Energy. Its primary research faculty comes from Duke, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. However, it draws additional collaborators like Prior and Spraker from many different universities in the Southeast. Prior and Spraker are two of about 75 researchers working on experimental and theoretical projects with nuclear energy applications.

Clinic connects nursing program to community



North Georgia is becoming a powerhouse of healthcare training for the region, helping sustain the needs of the state's healthcare system.

A \$1.3 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Admin-

istration is being used through 2011 to sustain an on-campus clinic and use of a mobile medical van. These opportunities integrate student clinical experience and faculty practice to provide access to quality healthcare for uninsured and low income residents residing in seven counties of the North Georgia Appalachian region.

The staff treats general health ailments and helps patients manage their chronic diseases along with providing routine exams for preventive care. The clinic sees about 300 patients each month, filling a vital need in the community and providing a valuable educational opportunity for students.

"I think it's tremendously helpful," Dr. Grace Newsome, program director, said. "We have some nurse practitioner students doing preceptorships. We have associate's degree students doing non-clinical tasks. Also, some students work in our mobile van doing screenings."

The clinic serves residents of Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Hall, Lumpkin, White and Union Counties.

The service is free to patients whose income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level; those whose income is higher pay a small fee.

"The patients are very appreciative," Newsome said. "Most are working poor, with minimum-wage jobs and no insurance. We're the only provider that they have other than the ER."

North Georgia selected as ROTC strategic language hub

Based on the success of a 2008 Chinese language summer institute, North Georgia is adding programs this summer in Arabic and Russian. The courses – available to incoming freshmen, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets from other institutions, and students currently enrolled at North Georgia – offer students a summer immersion experience to learn strategic languages.

North Georgia is one of three schools in the country designated by ROTC Cadet Command as a strategic language hub for cadets who are commissioning through ROTC and wish to study critical languages to prepare for international leadership roles both during and beyond their military careers. The other schools are California's San Diego State University and Indiana University.

The summer institutes feature native-speaking faculty and teaching assistants and represent the North Georgia's strategic efforts to "internationalize" the campus and curriculum to promote students' understanding of the world and their ability to work and serve in a global community.

"The summer institutes are opportunities for students to engage in intensive programs to gain significant competencies in these languages and cultures," said Dr. Chris Jespersen, dean of North Georgia's School of Arts & Letters.

Launched in 2008 with funding support from a federal grant from the ROTC Language and Culture Project, the summer institutes were designed to promote education programs for languages that are not commonly taught within higher education. North Georgia was one of eight U.S. colleges and universities to receive the grant.

Cadets head to camp

All cadets know that the path to becoming an officer includes participation in the Army's Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Wash. This camp is very competitive, and North Georgia cadets, as shown in this photo, train in a rigorous, year-long program to prepare for the camp.

In 2008, the North Georgia cadets who participated in the camp outshined cadets from all of the other senior military colleges in nearly every category. This summer, almost 80 cadets will participate in LDAC, also known as "Warrior Forge."

North Georgia parallels Army on uniform change

Uniforms go from green to blue

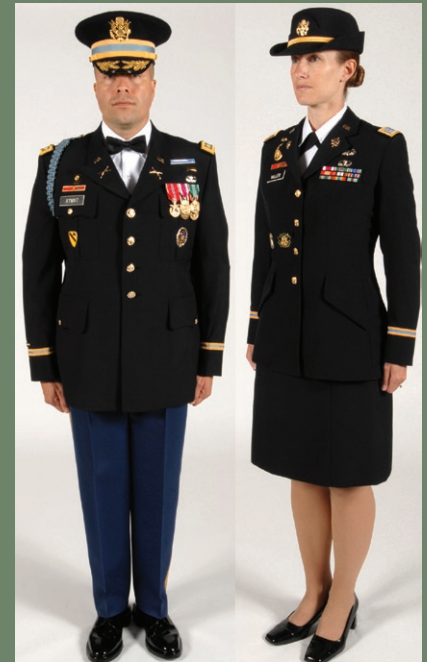
It is out with the old and in with the new when it comes to what our United States Army will be wearing. The familiar green service uniform, adopted by the Army in the 1950s and worn by North Georgia cadets for more than 30 years, has been discontinued. A new blue uniform, known as the Army Service Uniform or ASU, will take its place.

"The goal for the Corps of Cadets at North Georgia is to parallel the changes that the Army is making," Col. (Ret.) Tom Palmer, commandant, said. "It was not beneficial to make new cadets purchase the old uniforms when the new ASUs were already available."

The transition on campus began this past fall, when freshmen were able to purchase the ASU. Beginning this fall, only the new blue ASUs will be issued to privates. The ASU consists of a dark blue coat and lighter blue trousers with a gold stripe, and, for females, slacks or a skirt. The total cost for uniforms for fall 2009 will remain at \$1305 for incoming freshmen, the same price as the old green uniforms.

Palmer said that North Georgia's uniform rates are the least expensive among senior military colleges.

While all freshmen will wear the



ASU Dress Class A

ASU, upperclassman will not be required to purchase the new ASU and will still be allowed to wear the green uniform. Cadets will be allowed to wear their decorations on the ASU, and they can wear the uniform upon graduation, which helps keep the cost of the new uniforms reasonable. Soldiers will be expected to possess the entire uniform by July 2014.



Coming to America

Colombian student sets the stage for a (local) art revolution

By Joshua Preston

Visual arts junior Marcela Reales Visbal has been in the United States for only three years, yet she is poised to orchestrate a cultural shift at North Georgia. The Colombian native has transitioned from outsider to active student leader, and she envisions creating a community of artists on campus that will become central to the fabric of university life.

The platform to launch her ambitious plan – the Spectrum Art Club – started in 2007 and brought together a group of artists that infuses creativity into campus and community activities. Her vision for the club is to create the art equivalent of the annual Honors Conference or Fall Jam, two very different events that are both intrinsically tied to campus life.

“We are planning big events that will involve the whole student body,” Reales Visbal, a mixed-media artist, said. In her eyes, “everybody can do art,” and she plans to find the campus’s untapped talent as she leads Spectrum as its president next year.

As a North Georgia freshman, Reales Visbal’s focus was far from being a student leader. She was 1,700 miles from her hometown of Barranquilla, Colombia, and had to “grow up as a person” during the 18 months she was away from the familiar Caribbean coast. Learning to cook, budget money, master Southern slang, and find rides to Wal-Mart were her priorities before she made her mark on campus.

Spectrum owes a key part of its success to her ability to plan events, which she picked up as vice president of the International Students Association. Her ISA experience didn’t get lost in translation as she organized Spectrum’s biggest events this year, including an art-centric Halloween party and the club’s first major art sale.

Once a semester, the club plans to invite an artist to teach a workshop in a medium that is not taught at North Georgia. In fall 2009, Spectrum is planning an event focused on graffiti, a developing medium that is working its way into fine arts. Students will be able to try their hand at graffiti on sections of wall-sized wooden panels that will be displayed. Another significant project, featuring a student-produced film led by a New York-based director, will be open to all students.

Through her campus involvement, Reales Visbal has also learned to make hard choices. She declined the executive role in ISA, an organization that had nurtured her since she came to America, to focus on her vision to make Spectrum a vital organization on campus. Reales Visbal wants to bring out everyone’s creative side, and she believes it’s an essential part of college for students to “meet new people, promote the arts and exchange ideas.”



Photo: Joshua Preston

STUDENT SNAPSHOT



The 101st Senator

By Joshua Preston

Duke Short helped define the career of one of the most formidable figures in 20th century American politics, Sen. Strom Thurmond.

Thurmond served 47 years in the U.S. Senate and retired in 2003 as its oldest member at age 100. Even so, when the one-time presidential candidate and former South Carolina governor needed a chief of staff to manage his legislative agenda on Capitol Hill in the 1980s, Thurmond had to plead to get the man he wanted.

R.J. “Duke” Short, a 1956 North Georgia graduate, didn’t want the job, and he turned it down several times. Eventually, he took the post and served 15 years as Thurmond’s chief of staff, advising and building a close friendship with one of America’s most powerful politicians.

Short was already on Thurmond’s staff as chief investigator and staff director of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He oversaw hundreds of judicial nominations and worked closely with Supreme Court nominees through the confirmation process, including Sandra Day O’Connor and at least half a dozen other judges who were appointed to the country’s highest court. The work was a priority for Thurmond, who was the committee chair, so Short was given a reprieve on switching jobs.

But Short’s experience and the trust Thurmond placed in the Moultrie, Ga., native led Short to take the job in 1987, an experience he never regretted and that he viewed as

almost like having a new career.

Being chief of staff broadened his horizons beyond the judiciary, he said, and he became “involved in a little bit of everything,” all the while keeping focus on what Thurmond called “doing the people’s work.”

“Senator Thurmond’s constituent service was legendary,” Short wrote in his book, *The Centennial Senator*, about his longtime friend. From helping people with their Social Security checks, to getting passports for people in a hurry so they could go on vacation, to helping countless armed services members on a variety of issues, Thurmond was unusual in the respect he tried to help anyone he could, Short wrote.

“That’s pretty much what he dedicated himself to,” Short said. “He set the tone, and I followed his lead.” When Thurmond would leave for South Carolina early on a Thursday, he’d joke with his friend saying, “Now Duke, make a good senator,” leaving it up to Short to handle his constituents’

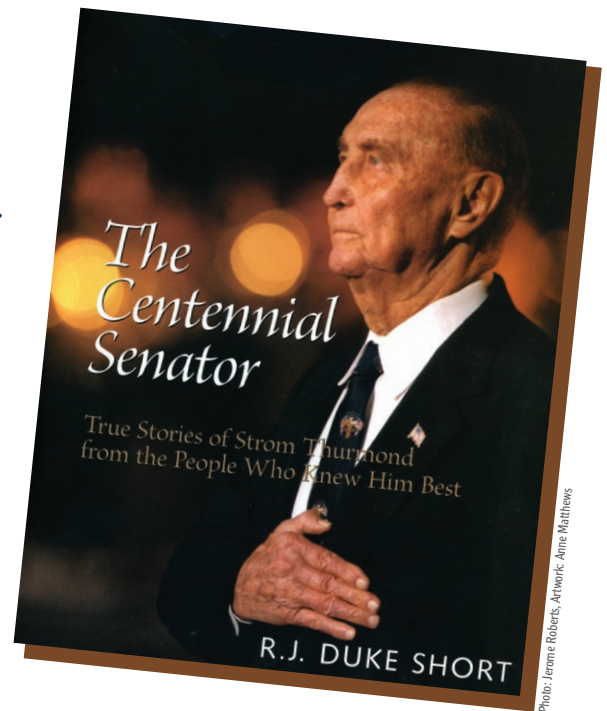


Photo: Jerome Roberts, Artwork: Aime Matthews

needs. Short became a unique presence on Capitol Hill, garnering the respect of Thurmond's peers and being dubbed the 101st senator for his work ethic and sense of personal responsibility to the Senate without overstepping his bounds as a non-elected official.

Former Senate majority leader Trent Lott, in 2002, remarked for the Congressional Record that Short was one of the Senate's "most beloved individuals."

"It takes a person of extraordinary integrity and incredible common sense to be able to juggle both the role and the responsibilities that Duke Short has shouldered," Lott said on the Senate floor. "I have actually gone to him and asked for advice . . . I know many senators have gone to Duke and sought his counsel as one of our longest-serving and most effective staff members. In so many ways Duke has been the Senate's unelected 101st senator." Roll Call, the Capitol Hill newspaper, named Short one of the 50 most powerful staffers in Congress many times in its annual list.

Short was loyal, even when he disagreed with his boss. "I would always support his position but only after making sure he knew my views, and often he would change his position," Short said. "Loyalty is first and foremost. That's the way I was raised."

Growing up during the Great Depression and World War II, the young Short learned from his parents the value of commitment and hard work. The military became his first career choice, but more schooling was expected. Short did both at North Georgia College. He attended North Georgia as the country was fighting a new conflict in Korea and then commissioned from the school and went to Europe to follow his dream. He was a paratrooper with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division when a bad parachute landing ended any chance of him continuing in the military.

Short took an unlikely career step in earning his doctorate in chiropractic medicine because of his own rehabilitation experience but soon switched jobs to find more excitement. He spent the next eight years with the U.S. Treasury as a special agent, collecting intelligence on organized crime. After several more years of interagency law enforcement work, Short ended up behind a desk and became restless.

At 39, Short connected with Thurmond through the help of his stepfather Lou Strom and started work for the senator in 1974 as the senior investigator for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security.

Short's experiences in his 30-year career on Capitol Hill ranged from the surreal, as when the country boy met dignitaries such as King Hussein of Jordan, to the very serious, as when he testified against the mafia.



Top: *The relationship between Thurmond and Short grew deeper over time, and Short came to view the senator as a father figure. Thurmond would always insist that Short was more of a sibling. "At his age and my age, he felt [we were] more like brothers."*

Bottom: *President Ronald Reagan, Sen. Strom Thurmond and Duke Short*

When Short met his wife Dee, she had a profound impact on the senator. Dee would cook meals for Thurmond, sometimes do his laundry and even be Thurmond's date at black tie affairs.

Toward the end of Thurmond's career and life – he died just five months after leaving office – Short took on more and more responsibility for the senator's affairs. He knows how fortunate he is to have spent a career with an American who dedicated his life to public service and to see how much one man, when driven, could accomplish.

"He led a remarkable life," Short said of the man who he respected and loved like a father. "The greatest tribute that we can give to the memory of James Strom Thurmond is to plan for tomorrow how each of us, in our own way, can work hard to help the people, all the people, and to continue to make this the greatest country in the world."

It is a philosophy that Short learned from his dear friend and embraces wholeheartedly each day of his life.

Beauty Queen

advocates for lung cancer research

Lifelong calling to help others nurtured at North Georgia

By Joshua Preston

Tiffany Hudak is a passionate supporter of lung cancer research and has had a statewide impact in educating Georgians about a disease that kills more than 200,000 people annually in the United States. Her work did not originate in a medical lab, or a hospital or even by treating patients, but rather through her advocacy opportunities as a beauty queen.



Photo: Matt Boyd

“ You can do as much or as little with the Mrs. Georgia title as you want – what I got out of it was being able to talk about lung cancer and the devastation behind it. ”



Hudak, a 1997 graduate of North Georgia’s nursing program, is not just any beauty queen. She wore the crown and title of Mrs. Georgia until February and used her semi-celebrity status to build support for more advanced treatments for lung cancer patients. During her year-long reign as Mrs. Georgia, Hudak traveled across the state creating awareness through public speaking events, fundraisers and in partnering with other medical research advocates.

Through all the photo shoots and event appearances, Hudak cherishes having been able to touch the lives of so many.

“You can do as much or as little with the Mrs. Georgia title as you want – what I got out of it was being able to talk about lung cancer and the devastation behind it,” Hudak, a registered nurse, said. “When you put on a crown, people pay attention and listen.”

Her message of “earlier detection, better treatments and more fund-

ing” for lung cancer allowed Hudak to orchestrate many benefit events, including the Free to Breathe 5K Walk and Run in Athens, Ga., that raised \$5,000.

Her work with the National Lung Cancer Partnership was one of the main reasons she participated in the Mrs. Georgia Pageant, a competition designed for married women. Her pageant success allowed her to create awareness of the national non-profit as a leading organization for lung cancer research and support.

Hudak, who works for a plastic surgical practice and is a part-time nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital in Athens, is no stranger to cancer. She remembers six years ago when her mother was diagnosed with lung cancer at a routine medical exam and died three weeks later. Her own battle with smoking makes her empathetic to those who have been diagnosed with what is often a death sentence. When she speaks, Hudak is fervent about improv-

ing treatments for those who are often criticized because of the perception that lung cancer is self-inflicted.

After being crowned Mrs. Georgia, she partnered with University of Georgia researchers to educate people on the non-smoking causes of lung cancer, notably radon, a cancer-causing radioactive gas that can be found in homes.

Her pursuit to help find a cure for cancer also stems from a need to help others. It is a characteristic that was nurtured while at North Georgia as a nursing student, an experience that changed her life but almost didn’t happen.

Finding life’s calling

School didn’t come easy to the former Tiffany Bridges, even when she wanted to be there. The one-time dancer took a few community college classes just to make her mother happy and still had dreams of making it big in New York when one science class

changed everything.

“I signed up for an anatomy and physiology course and got really interested in it – the human body, its inner workings – and I thought, ‘This is what I want to do.’”

The light switch had been turned on, she said, and Hudak found something to which she could dedicate herself. She quickly applied to North Georgia’s nursing program but was put on a waiting list, along with her new dream.

She didn’t get a call from the school until three days before classes started, by which time she had almost given up hope and started considering other options.

“When I got the call, it was a big indication to me that this was my big shot at life, and I didn’t need to screw it up,” Hudak said. “I was very focused.”

North Georgia was a fostering environment, she said, without a “host of distractions” to tempt her. Hudak lived near Dahlonega in cabins on the Chestatee Wildlife Preserve, where she would drive by zebras, llamas and other exotic animals every day. The occasional party at the cabins was as much

fun as she allowed herself.

In school, she persevered to stay on track with the academic work. She joked that she didn’t mess up the grading curve for anyone, but she had real moments of insecurity, as she said all students do.

“It didn’t come easy to me,” she said. “I knew what I had to do though.”

She learned from peers who were already licensed practical nurses, returning to school to become registered nurses. She enjoyed the diversity of the classroom, filled with mothers entering second careers, newlyweds and even moms-to-be. She also said that the nursing instructors gave her confidence to succeed in the program.

“North Georgia taught me to grow up and be an adult, and that’s something I’ll always credit the school for – becoming a mature, responsible adult.”

Twelve years later, after starting a healthcare career that she had just three days to decide to pursue, Hudak has defined her own success and happiness within the field.

In addition to her work in the operating room, she does legal nurse consulting, is a self-proclaimed “domestic goddess,” dedicated mother to

her 5-year-old son Grant, and wife of nine years to her husband Don.

The secret to her success, she said, including her whirlwind year as Mrs. Georgia, includes time management, having everything scheduled, and the support of her husband, family and friends – and accepting that support. All these have allowed Hudak to put her energy into taking the fight against lung cancer to a much larger audience, which she continues to do through the National Lung Cancer Partnership.

Three years ago, she finally conquered her nicotine addiction of 15 years, giving testimony to her own personal trials and triumphs. Hudak, now 37, has nothing to hide and everything to gain in helping others understand the dangers and devastation of lung cancer.

This spring, in recognition of her achievements and service to others, she was named the Distinguished Young Alumna by the North Georgia Alumni Association.

“I’ve been handed a wonderful gift to help people,” Hudak said.

Her passion to help others remains evident and people will continue to listen, crown or no crown.



Far left: Hudak with her son, Grant, and Gov. Sonny Perdue.

Left: Hudak’s husband, Don, is one of her biggest supporters.



GIVING SOLDIERS every advantage in the fight

By Kate Maine

When he first entered college, MG James Terry intended to pursue a management career in the carpet industry. Instead, he's now leading the Army's most comprehensive modernization effort in decades.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army



Photo: Annie Gammell

Left: A soldier reviews data during an FCS demonstration. **Right:** A squad of soldiers from the Army Evaluation Task Force at Fort Bliss, Texas, wait for the Small, Unmanned Ground Vehicle (SUGV) to enter a building and send back pictures of its interior before they enter. The SUGV is operated with a controller similar to those used for video games.

Terry, a native of Chatsworth, Ga., an area known for carpet manufacturing, graduated from North Georgia and received his commission in June 1978. Now, he oversees the Army's Future Force Integration Directorate (FFID), which is charged with integrating cutting edge technology into combat situations where it can interact with and enhance the Army's most valuable weapon—the soldier.

The operation, based at Fort Bliss, Texas, evaluates and tests equipment designed for the Army's future combat systems (FCS), which employ a combination of manned and unmanned systems and advanced networking to improve connectivity and situational awareness and understanding, and achieve synchronized operations that were previously unachievable.

"The future combat systems program is the first serious effort to get the Army's networks down to soldier level," Terry said. "It is the largest Army modernization program in 40 years."

An example of the technology includes a flip-down eyepiece, through which soldiers on the ground can see information about the others in their unit. Integration with other networks provides a decided combat advantage in providing information and intelligence down to platoon level, that before was at the brigade level, several echelons above. As a result, platoons and companies will have better and

more precise information and weapons in dangerous settings, such as urban reconnaissance environments.

Two sensor systems, tactical unattended ground sensors and urban unattended ground sensors, minimize soldier risk by providing pictures and sensor warnings to the force. The pictures and warnings are provided through a fourth system that consists of a computer and joint tactical radio system.

Current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have accelerated efforts to develop future combat systems.

"While efforts were already underway to develop some of the systems we've been working on, we needed to bring systems on sooner," Terry said. "The Army created FFID as a new



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

An unattended air vehicle takes off during a training exercise to test the experimental technologies of Army future combat systems. The UAV has a gimbal camera that can send a live video feed to a network to provide surveillance from above.

organization to do this. We determine where needs are from a systems standpoint and develop capabilities to meet those needs."

The integration effort is about more than technology development. The Army plans to provide FCS-enabled modular brigades beginning in 2011. The goal is to have a fully equipped FCS Brigade Combat Team at full operational capability to Joint Force commanders by 2017.

"When fully operational, FBCTs will provide the Army and the Joint Forces with unprecedented capability to see the enemy, engage him on our terms, and defeat him on the 21st century battlefield," Terry said.

Key to the successful integration of these emerging capabilities is to put these devices inside an organization to see how they work, Terry said. "It impacts how you train and develop leaders with these new capabilities."

FFID works with the 5th Brigade, 1st Armored Division in the mountainous desert terrain at Fort Bliss to evaluate and make recommendations on how new technology should be used, which units should use it, and even whether or not the Army should use certain technologies.

Terry noted one of the biggest and most obvious challenges in this transformation is that the Army is currently at war.

"It's like trying to fix a car while it is running," he said. "We spin out what's

ready and give it to soldiers who are currently engaged.”

Another challenge for Terry, who spends about one week each month in Washington as part of his job, is helping those who control the Army’s funding to understand the military’s vast needs. One supporter has been Congressman Ike Skelton, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and a leader in the House on defense issues. Skelton’s son, Jim, is a 1987 North Georgia graduate.

“Representative Skelton is a great American, and is very supportive of our military,” Terry said.

The tools being developed will have an impact on the cadets currently studying and training at North Georgia and other ROTC programs, Terry said.

“What we’re putting in a soldier’s hands now is new equipment that has never been there before,” he said. “The ground soldier ensemble is pretty futuristic stuff.”

His foundation for life and leadership

As a freshman, Terry started out in Alpha Company. He worked his way up to commander of the cadet corps. He credits North Georgia for providing a sum of experiences that prepare students not just for the military, but for life.

“North Georgia offers a rare mix of military experience, good academics and everything else that you get at a college,” he said.

Based on his time at North Georgia as a student and later, in the 1980s, as assistant professor of military science and assistant commandant, and his son Jared’s student experience, Terry said the North Georgia experience is one that transcends time and creates a real bond among former cadets.



MG James Terry and his wife Julie, both 1978 North Georgia graduates, now stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas. Photo: Annie Gammell

“Our soldiers give us their best and make significant sacrifices. We owe it to them to give them the best capabilities that we can. That is the essence of what we’re doing – giving them every advantage in the fight.”

“North Georgia provides a very real leadership experience, unlike what I’ve seen at other schools, including West Point,” Terry said. “At North Georgia, leaders in the cadet corps – with guidance from outstanding mentors – take care of cadets in their command.”

The Dahlonega campus is also where Terry met his wife, the former Julie Grogan, of Gainesville, Ga., and also a

1978 North Georgia graduate.

“We met in 1975, in the old mess hall,” he said. “We were married the day before I was commissioned.”

Julie has taught off and on through their journeys as a special education teacher, but took on the primary responsibility of raising their three children, now adults.

Terry has served in a wide variety of assignments, to include the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, battalion executive officer for the United Nations Command Security Force Battalion in Korea, executive officer to the Inspector General of the Army, chief of initiatives and deputy commander of the Joint Warfighting Center, and operations officer for the Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Army Central Command, at Camp Doha in Kuwait.

From January 2006 to February 2007, he deployed to support Operation Enduring Freedom as the deputy commanding general of operations for the Combined Joint Task Force 76 in Afghanistan.

Next Steps

Terry’s next military assignment will come in August, when he’ll take command of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY.

FFID will continue to work important tasks and missions over the coming years to ensure the delivery of future capabilities to the Army.

“What we’re doing in FFID is about soldiers and leaders and making sure we get it right,” Terry said. “Our soldiers give us their best and make significant sacrifices. We owe it to them to give them the best capabilities that we can. That is the essence of what we’re doing – giving them every advantage in the fight.”

Alumni ASSOCIATION

Membership matters...

What a privilege it is to serve as president of the Alumni Council and to represent you at North Georgia College & State University. It is really an awesome experience to visit with alumni at reunions and special events. What an outstanding group of individuals!

One of my goals for this year is to reach out to you to help grow our membership in the Alumni Association. Talk with former classmates and other North Georgia folks you may know to join and become active members of the association. The process will be easy, so just contact the Alumni Office at 706-864-1547 for information. The Alumni Council values your input into our regularly planned activities, helps you plan successful reunions, hears your concern, and is your voice at North Georgia.

The Alumni Council has been busy! Check out information on the new online community, community “after-hours” socials, and other regularly planned activities such as the annual Gold Rush reception.

Additionally, we hope you will be interested in re-living North Georgia experiences by purchasing the recently published, *Come Home to North Georgia*, a book that will stir memories and help you recall what makes North Georgia such a special place that is forever close to our hearts.

Linda Sumpter
President



Alumni Council

Linda Appling Sumpter '61, president
Bob J. Babich, II '85, vice president
Donna Martin Moss '82, secretary
Gates Scoville '57, treasurer
Seth A. Cole '03
Tony DaSilva '77
Chris Kemp '90
Sue Sewell Nix '53
Roger R. Nixon, II '95
Bill W. Pope '72
Elizabeth Lord Rhodes '66
Bernie Richardson '08
Lori Dalaine Stone '88
Karen Swann '77
Katie Eckler Sulka '01

NGCSU Ex-Officio Members

Dr. David Potter, president
Mac McConnell '79, vice president
for business & finance
COL (Ret.) Tom Palmer '73, commandant

Staff

Mark A. Howarth '86, executive director
Wendy Evans, staff assistant
Dowling Bowman, accountant

North Georgia commemorated in new book

North Georgia began as a small school, but has evolved into one of the South's premier – and most progressive – institutions.

Now, the university's Alumni Association has documented the school's transformation and history in *Come Home to North Georgia*, a coffee table-style book featuring photographs and personal narratives that celebrate more than 135 years of institutional history.

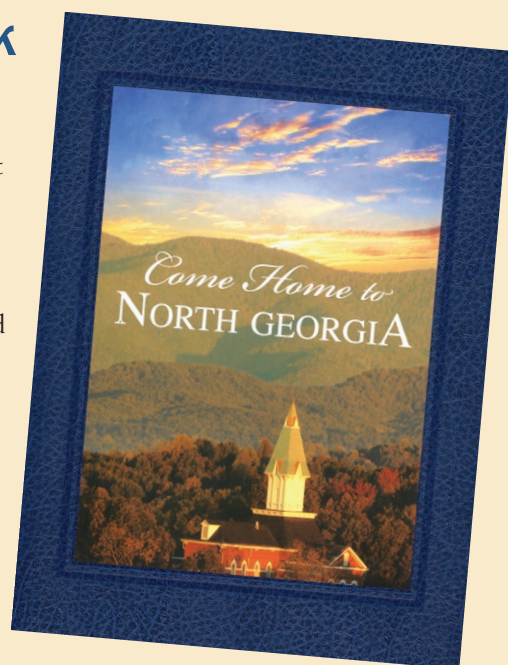
“We wanted the book to be something alumni could relate to and to make it personal for them,” Mark Howarth, alumni affairs director, said. “We all have personal experiences from our time as students, but there are also shared experiences that have made North Georgia a ‘home

away from home’ for many students and alumni.”

With 160 pages of history and current narrative that cover the full spectrum of North Georgia culture, the book's stunning photographs depict the scenic view of campus from Crown Mountain and many of the school's most cherished ceremonies.

The stories behind the school's landmarks are also revealed, including the golden history of Price Memorial, the construction of the Arch, and the unveiling of the “Freedom's Vigil” monument at the Memorial Wall.

The book is available online at www.northgeorgia.org, or by calling 706-864-1547.



Alumni Association honors alumni, faculty and students

The Alumni Association of North Georgia College & State University presented Martha Merritt, assistant professor in the university's Mike Cottrell School of Business, with this year's Alumni Distinguished Professor Award at the organization's annual awards banquet on April 18. Merritt began teaching accounting at North Georgia in 1988.



Martha Merritt

The Alumni Association also recognized Anne Amerson, a Dahlonega native and 1956 graduate of North Georgia, with its Hall of Fame Award.

"Membership in the Hall of Fame is the highest and most prestigious internal recognition that the university and the Alumni Association can bestow upon a graduate," Mark Howarth, director of alumni affairs, said of the award.



Anne Amerson

Amerson, who grew up on the North Georgia campus, where her father taught from 1933 to 1963, began collecting oral history in 1989, and wrote a column, "I Remember Dahlonega" for *The Dahlonega Nugget* until 1999. She has since authored *Dahlonega's Public Square* and four volumes of *I Remember Dahlonega*. Her most recent book, a historical novel published by the University Press of North Georgia, is called *Dahlonega's Gold*. It tells the story of America's first major Gold Rush, the Trail of Tears and the Civil War through

the eyes of a young bride.

Bob Stein, a 1971 North Georgia graduate who lives in Westminster, S.C., received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for his record of service and support to the university. Stein, once a member of the university's baseball team and a volunteer assistant coach, is the sponsor of the Bob Stein Baseball Scholarship. Additionally, the university's new baseball stadium has been named in Stein's honor.



Bob Stein

Tiffany Hudak, a 1997 graduate of North Georgia and resident of Bishop, Ga., received the Young Alumna Award. Hudak, a surgical nurse, was crowned Mrs. Georgia United States in 2008 and used her platform to bring attention to the prevention of lung cancer, a disease from which her mother died. (*Read more about Hudak beginning on p. 15*)



Tiffany Hudak

The Alumni Association also recognized two students with the Paul M. Hutcherson Award, which is presented annually to a male and a female senior who have shown strong personal conduct, as well as individual accomplishment on campus, at home and in the community. This year's award recipients are Lorraine Villasenor, an English education major, and Earl Porter III, a criminal justice major.

Alumni, parents gather for spring celebration

The 2009 Parents-Alumni Weekend was a chance to celebrate all that is special to North Georgia. Hundreds of parents, alumni and friends gathered in Dahlonega April 17-19 to visit with former classmates, spend time with students, and learn what's new on campus.

"It was an exciting time for parents and alumni to return to North Georgia to see new additions to the campus, catch up with old friends, and visit their children attending the university," Mark Howarth, alumni affairs director, said.

The event-packed weekend began with the 31st annual Morrison Moore Golf Tournament at the Achasta Golf Course, home course of the university's new NCAA golf teams. Later that afternoon, visitors enjoyed a wine tasting seminar led by former professor, Dr. Guy Oliver. That night, the classes of 1948-1954 enjoyed a reunion at the Alumni Center.

Saturday's activities started with an 8 a.m. run with the Corps of Cadets, followed by tours of the newest facilities on campus, and an alumni soccer game. Greek parents and alumni who have been part of North Georgia's fraternities and sororities enjoyed a picnic at Pine Valley.

Highlighting the weekend was the Alumni Association Awards Banquet, which featured suspenseful murder mystery entertainment put on by our faculty and staff. The weekend was capped with the Military Awards Review, in which more than 40 cadets received honors.



Photos: Kate Maine

1930s

Nettie King Fisher '38 is the mother of Judy and Linda Fisher who are students at North Georgia, the sister of Fred King, Eleanor King and Bit King, who all graduated from North Georgia, and the wife of Ronald Fisher, who also graduated from North Georgia.

Louise A. Riddle '38 lives in her home on Mortgage Hill, just four miles from town. Her father, Professor W. L. Ash, taught English at North Georgia for 25 years before his death in 1929. She is very proud of North Georgia College & State University.

1940s

Eugene Patterson '42 was recognized by Florida Gov. Charlie Crist in March 2009 as one of six "great Floridians" whose pioneering service shaped the state's cultural, educational and environmental quality of life. The tribute was part of Florida Heritage Month. Patterson, retired editor and president of the St. Petersburg Times, won a 1967 Pulitzer Prize while working at the Atlanta Constitution. He was specifically cited by Crist for his columns and editorials during the civil-rights movement. In accepting the award, Patterson said, "you are of

course honoring the men and women of the St. Petersburg Times" and his predecessor, Nelson Poynter.

Ethel Mintz Hudson '45 will soon be 82 years old. During the February and March phone-a-thon, one of the helpers called Ethel and during the conversation, Ethel mentioned that she was 81 years old, and how much she loved the "olden days" when she was at NGC. The young telephone helper replied, "Wow, you don't sound like you are 81." This comment made Ethel's day, however, she says she still has not figured out how she is supposed to sound!

William C. Lanier, Sr. '45 and his wife recently vacationed in London, where they visited museums and attended two plays.

Thomas Saffold '49 recently completed a trip around the world by air, bus and train through Germany, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Russia and China.

1950s

Robert F. "Bud" Jones '52 is still working. He owns Bud Jones Taxidermy and Decorating and decorates all Longhorn Steakhouses, Texas Steakhouses, Twisted Tacos, and other



'67 alumni visit DC

Eight members of the class of '67 visited Washington, D.C., together in March 2008. In addition to trips to Arlington Cemetery and Quantico, they visited the Vietnam Wall, where the names of many of their classmates, friends and comrades are inscribed.

Left to right: Ron Kelley, Bob Ridgway, Mike Clotfelter, Woody McFarlin, Ted Sheldon, Ralph Foster, and Scott Johnson (not pictured Bob Danforth).

restaurants. He is still singing and entertaining at 78-years-old! "Hooray", says Bud. He is also the author of seven books.

Sue Holliman '52 celebrated 52 years of happy marriage in 2008.

Roy Crittenden '53 retired as the Atlanta district sales manager for Eli Lilly and Company in 1992, and has been involved with the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the volunteer arm of the Coast Guard, since then. He is serving his fourth appointed term as assistant district staff officer for public affairs. Locally, Flotilla 29, of which he is a member, performs its activities on and around Lake Lanier, performing safety and regatta patrols, teaching safe boating courses, and performing vessel safety checks to ensure that the vessels of recreational boaters meet state requirements.



Former commandant featured speaker

Ben Purcell '50 was the featured speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony in Roswell, Ga., this year. Purcell, former student and commandant at North Georgia now retired and living in Clarkesville, Ga., was a POW for more than five years during the Vietnam War. Purcell, now 81, was a lieutenant colonel serving as an

administrative officer when his helicopter was shot down in South Vietnam in February 1968. When U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War ended in 1973, Purcell was the highest-ranking Army POW to be released. Purcell, right, is pictured here with Congressman Tom Price, of Georgia's 6th District.



'72 alumni hit the links

Members of the class of 1972 played in a charity golf tournament in April 2008 at Scott Air Force Base in St. Louis to support the 2008 Army Ball for that area. Andy Ford, Bill Johnson and Bill Booth traveled from Atlanta and Athens, Ga., to join Bil Johnson, who is stationed with the Army Element located at Scott AFB. It was a memorable weekend for "golf, telling tales and renewing friendships."

Pictured, left to right: Andy Ford, MG Bil Johnson, Bill Johnson, and Bill Booth

Billy L. Dove '56 is still in Asheville, NC, painting and riding horses. Visit his Web site: www.artofbilldove.info.

Richard and Patty Coleman '56 are enjoying retirement and are trying to stay in touch with friends and classmates.

Earl D. Gayler '56 sends warm regards to all, especially the classes of '56 and '57. He is still living in Washington, D.C., and is relatively healthy.

COL William C. Sanders '56 celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary in May 2008.

Ann Tingle Hare '57 retired as Dean of the Library at Lander University in December 2008.

Ted Crowe '58 attended his 50th Reunion in October 2008 and said he had a great time. He said that those who missed it, missed a wonderful time!

1960s

Catherine Gagliardy Weaver '65 retired from Well Star Health System in November 2007.

J. Michael Crittenden '67 extends warm thanks to those who assisted with the Class of '67 Reunion in 2007. He had not been back to the school in 36 years, and said it was a wonderful weekend! Mike and Nancy hosted two young soldiers from nearby Ft. Knox to join them for Christmas 2008. They were truly blessed from this experience and hope to make it a Christmas tradition. Mike and Nancy have five grandchildren and continue their work with Residents Encounter Christ (REC) and Bridge Prison Ministry Programs in their Louisville, Ky., area.

Dr. Judith Lee Pace '67 has retired after a career of 30+ years in biological research and looks forward to developing a new

endeavor in gemstones and jewelry. She extends a hearty "hello to her friends in the class of 1967." E-mail: Jpace6@kc.rr.com

Joseph Fallis '68 purchased Artistry Glass Studios in Chandler, Ariz., and he is realizing a lifelong dream. He makes custom stained glass panels, lamps and mosaics, and makes beads. He would like you to drop him a note through his Web site: www.artistryglass.com.

Patricia G. Ridgeway '69 celebrated the birth of her first grandchild, Dillon Patrick, in May 2008. Dillon is the son of Patricia's oldest son, Darren, and his wife, Sandra Gent, who live in Phoenix, Ariz. She still works in

the investment management group at Northern Trust Bank in Atlanta.

Linda "Vee" Veneable Stahlberg '69 is interested in forming an alumni group in the Macon, Ga., area. She, sadly, is a widow after 38 years of marriage to Gary, who was lost to cancer caused by Agent Orange. Vee is very active in the Vietnam Veteran's Widows Association.

1970s

Kathy Kaissling Gaston '70 is a consultant with Lighthouse Counsel, a full service consulting firm in Nashville, TN working with non-profits, independent schools and universities. She has been Director of Development at The Oak Hill School for the past 19 years. Kathy and her sister, **Susan Kaissling Akers '74** also are partners in an interior design company, Interior Motives.



Alumni compete in triathlon

MAJ Lawson Bell '97 (left) and LTC (Ret) George Hodge '80 competed in the 2008 Oklahoma City Redman Triathlon, which consisted of a 2.4-mile swim, followed by a 112-mile bike course, and finished with a 26.2-mile run. Each man finished in less than 13 hours and 30 minutes. Both are stationed at Fort Leavenworth and met thru the Leavenworth Triathlon Club. Bell is currently a student at the Command and General Staff College, and Hodge is an instructor in the Tactics Department.

Gladys Mixon '73 retired from Sara Lee after 32+ years, and she is now working for Toyo Tire. She attended the '73 35th class reunion recently and said it was great.

Nina Christina Alexander '75 and Craig Lykins were married in 2007. Nina works with the U. S. Department of Interior in Albuquerque, NM, and Craig is in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineer Supervisory Park Ranger for Cochiti Lake and Recreation Area in Northern New Mexico.

John and Jill Copeland, both '75, celebrated 30 years of marriage in 2008. John is the executive director/dean for the Fairbanks Campus of Wayland Baptist University. Jill is a commercial insurance underwriter for a North Slope-based company in Alaska. The Copelands welcome alumni to visit them any time.

Gloria Scott '75 received her license from the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church in June 2008 and is a pastor at Cairo U.M.C. in Gallatin, Tenn.

COL James M. DePaz '76 completed his 30-year Army career and now resides in Allen, Texas.

Earle Millican '77 and his wife Lisa are promoting librarianship. Lisa works



Alumni After-Hours Social

Abby Branan '05, Leanne Gilleland '01, and Leslie Fowler '81 served on the planning committee that helped put together the Alumni Association's first "Alumni After-hours" social in Gainesville, Ga., in March. The event was co-sponsored by North Georgia's Mike Cottrell School of Business and was held at the Northeast Georgia History Center.

as a library technical assistant at the Hightower Library of Gordon College. Earle is a public librarian at the Flint River Regional Library in Griffin, Ga.

MAJ Michelle F. Dailing '79 is stationed in Kaiserlauter, Germany, with the 21st theater sustainment command. If any alumni are in the area, she asks that they stop by and say hi. E-mail: michelle.dailing@us.army.mil

1980s

Pete and Joanie Hoffman, both '81, live in Abuja, Nigeria, where Pete is the Defense Attaché.

Derek J. Sentinella '81 is serving as Theater Engineer to the Pacific Command. He is currently deployed to South Korea. Derek's wife, Susan, lives in Georgia; his daughter, Forest, lives in Wyoming; and his son, Jonah, is stationed at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

David Robinson '82 and his wife Melody are enjoying the Washington, DC, area where David is the CFO for the International Trade Administration.

Wallace Ziprik '82 and his wife Kim returned in September 2008 from a musical performing tour of Italy that included appearances in the Vatican and Venice, plus other Italian cities.



Susan Morrison '84 and her husband Clay Thompson are enjoying the married life! Greetings to all of their friends.

North Georgia alumnus frocked to brigadier general

Stephen J. Townsend '82 was frocked in November 2008 to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony in Infantry Hall at Ft. Benning. He is the deputy commanding general (rear) of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky. This is a new position for the Army, Stephen said. The idea is to have a general officer presence at the installation while the division is forward. From 1988 to 1996, Stephen served in various positions with 75th Ranger Regiment. He deployed with the regiment in Operation Just Cause, the invasion of Panama, and Operation Uphold Democracy, the intervention in Haiti. He commanded the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Lewis, Wash., from December 2004 to November 2007. From July 2006 to September 2007, he led the Arrowhead Brigade during counter-insurgency operations in Mosul and Ninevah Province in northern Iraq, strike force operations across Baghdad and offensive operations to eject al Qaeda from Baqubah.



Mike Masters '83 ran the marathon in San Antonio to support Leukemia Lymphoma Society in November 2008.

Becky (Norman) Bala '85, since graduation, has been married, had five children, taught school, became a literacy coach, and has evolved into a "Sports Mom." Her son Cody is seeking a college baseball scholarship; sons Braxton and Garrin are football players; both girls play fast pitch softball. All of the children take piano, one takes voice lessons and one loves Karate. Becky's #1 "hobby" is driving her children to the various activities!



Tracy and Beth Sayers, '85 and '86 respectively, have four beautiful daughters: Elizabeth, Caroline, Laura, and Anna. They are keeping busy in Columbus, Ga.

Donna M. Ertzberger '86 is teaching again, second grade at Lanier Elementary, and still selling real estate part-time with Prudential. Jeff is doing light commercial building and some remodeling. Laney is growing up so fast.

Bill Morgan '87 and Amy Morgan '83 will have two of their children attending North Georgia in fall 2009. Bill works at Plant Scherer (GA Power) as a contract agent; he is closer to home than he has been in 20 years! They

have four children: Lydia, Sam, Whit, and Cooper. Amy is a stay-at-home mom.

Joe Williams '87 married the former Christina Borra in 2007. He retired from the Clarke County Police Department in 2008, and now Joe and Christina split their time between their small farm and the cabin on Lake Sinclair. All alumni are invited to drop-in.

Hans A. Wilson '87 spent 10 years in finance at NCR, and is now director of finance for Coweta County (Ga.).

Lisa (Kelahar) Wilson '88 teaches first grade at Canongate Elementary. They stay very busy with school and sports events with their children: Hans, Jr., Kiersten and Kurt.

LTC Joe Jarrard '88 celebrated his retirement from the Army in January 2009 on the North Georgia drill field. Joe served 21 years following his graduation from North Georgia. Joe and his wife, the former **Susan Folger '90**, have three sons: Ben, Will and Joseph.

Jeff Brown '89 and his wife and daughters welcomed baby William Norwood Brown into the family in October 2007.

1990s

Brett Challenger '90 and family have seen a lot of changes in the past few years. Between his and his wife's military deployments (Mary is an Army major and physical therapist), they spent three out of four years apart, but managed to become the proud parents of Nicholas Patrick Challenger in 2007. To keep the timing of their respective assignments aligned, the Army cut short a three-year tour in Germany and

brought them back to Ft. Sam Houston, where Mary works in the AMEDD Recruiting BN and Brett directs the G4 Transportation Branch of the newly-formed 6th Army Headquarters.

John Carter '92 and his wife, **Cheryl Hood Carter '95**, have three children – Abby, Joseph and Jack. They live in Dahlonga, and John is a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in Gainesville.

Dr. Chas Sisk '92 and Sandi Sisk '92 have decided to make Columbus, Ga., their home. Their sons, Zachary and Matthew, have become avid fishermen. Sandi is pursuing a master's degree in art history, and Chad is a gastroenterologist at Ft. Benning.



North Georgia alumni serve together in Baghdad

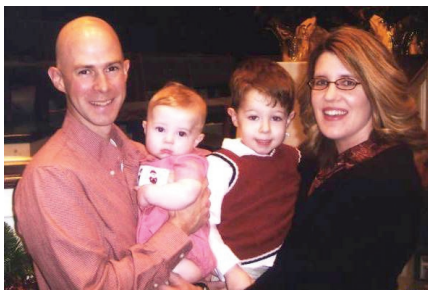
LTC Fred Wintrich '91 (center) submitted this photo taken in the Iskan neighborhood of West Baghdad as he and CPT Joe Marty '04 (left) and MAJ Tom Nelson '94 were headed back onto Camp Victory. He said, "I've got several younger alumni in the Strike Brigade, but with most battalions or squadrons out on combat outposts, there is not much opportunity for a group photo. By my nearest count, there are about 15 of us in MND-B or on Camp Victory, including Billy Geiger, Gil Watson, Mike Russell, Dane Acord, Josh Woodruff, Brendon Terry, and Joe Marty. You can't swing a dead cat in the DFAC without hitting another North Georgia grad, which is a good deal."

Trent Garrison '94 and Susan (Segars) Garrison '95 live in Loganville, Ga., with their son, Cole, and daughters, Heather and Brooke.

Cindy Cole '95 married Brian Kinney in April 2009.

Christy Wilson Coffey '96 has returned to teaching after taking a few years off to be a stay-at-home mom. She is currently teaching seventh grade at Buford Middle School and would love to hear from friends. E-mail: coffey697854@bellsouth.net

MAJ Joshua J. Fulmer '96 and Amy Parks '96 have relocated to Ft. Benning to join the 75th Ranger Regiment. They invite friends passing by to look them up.



MAJ Derek Story '97 and Kelly Perkins Story '98 welcomed their second son, Ryan Lawson, in 2007. His big brother, Patrick, is now six years old. In July 2008, they moved to Washington, D.C., and Derek began working on his master's degree at the National Defense Intelligence College on Bolling AFB.

Keri (Hinton) Judson '97 welcomed her husband, Lyle, home from Iraq in August 2007. They had identical twin boys, Dominic and Alexander, in January 2008. They live in Canton, Ga.

Dr. Bryson R. Payne '97 and wife Beverly welcomed their first child, Alexander, in June 2008.

Bryson received his Ph.D. in computer science from Georgia State University in 2004, and is currently the chief information officer and a member of the computer science faculty at North Georgia.

Samuel Edwards '99 and Brandilyn Edwards '00, after four years in Germany, moved back to Georgia with their children, Laney and Eli, in May 2008. Sam is a small group instructor at the Maneuver Captain's Career Course. Brandilyn started graduate school at Columbus State University to earn a master's in school counseling.

2000s

Natalie Sims Gysin '00 and husband David welcomed a baby, Erica Victoria, in February 2008.

Amber Wilson Riggle '00 and her husband, Bob, invite everyone to check out the Web site for their photography company, Indigo Photographers, at www.indigophotographers.com. They are blessed in family and in business.

Robin Atkinson '01 and family welcomed their new baby boy, CJ, on Nov. 21, 2007.

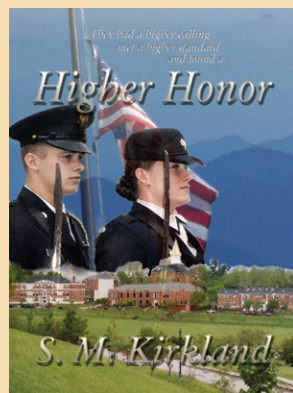


Shannon Baker '01 married Hunter Richardson in November 2008. Shannon is a doctoral student at The University of Mississippi, where she is studying higher education administration while working within the Division of Student Affairs at The University of Mississippi.

Dr. Chris Payne '02 is resident in anesthesiology at West Virginia University – Ruby Memorial Hospital.

Bryce and Beckie Fulcher, both '03, teach high school social studies. Each completed a master's degree in education administration and policy from the University of Georgia in 2007, and had their first child, Charlotte, in September 2008. The Fulchers now reside in Gwinnett County, Ga.

Kirkland publishes novel



Susan Kirkland '95 has published a novel, *Higher Honor*. It is a fictional account of students who struggle with challenging social and faith issues. The setting is a military-focused campus, inspired by North Georgia College & State University. Susan currently writes for the Calhoun Times in Calhoun, Ga. Visit her Web site: www.smkirkland.com.

Susan currently writes for the Calhoun Times in Calhoun, Ga. Visit her Web site: www.smkirkland.com.

CPT Joe Byerly '03 is wrapping up a 15-month deployment to Iraq with 2/1 CAV, 4/2 ID. He was awarded a Purple Heart in March 2008.

Amanda McGarey Byerly '04 is currently pursuing for M. Ed degree in Reading & Literacy from City University in Tacoma, Wash.

Adam Davenport '05 lives in Blue Ridge, Ga., and welcomes you to contact him. E-mail: acdavprt@yahoo.com

Seth D. Thompson '05 teaches physical education at Lambert High School in Suwanee, Ga.

Donna Lynch '05 is engaged to Josh Selby, a Barrow County (Ga.) firefighter/paramedic and they plan to marry on Nov. 21, 2009.

Melinda Stoffel '05 and **Ben Maxwell '08** were married in November 2008 at R Ranch in Dahlonega.

Elsa M. Anderson '06 and her husband, Chris, welcomed their first son, Evan Christopher, into the world in November 2008.

Jessica Cole '06 and **Jeremiah Wright '04** were married in 2007 and live in Gainesville, Ga. Jessica works at Scottish Rite Hospital in the NICU as an R.N., and Jeremiah is a salesman at Jacky Jones Lincoln-Mercury.

Kala Gulledge '06 married CPT **John McRae '03** in October 2008 in Alpharetta, Ga.

Amber Miller '06 was recently married.

Defler enjoys family, misses Greek friends

Jennifer Crane Defler '98 and Kerry Stephen Defler of Fayetteville, Ga., welcomed son, Brady Crane Defler, in July 2008. They also have two daughters, Hannah Grace and Madalyn Hope, and another son, Bryce Nathaniel. Jenni sends greetings to all her Kappa Delta sisters and Gamma Sig friends, "I miss you guys!"



Derek (Johah) Sentinella '07 is assigned to E Company, 4th BN, 6th RGT, 4th BCT, 1st AD, Fort Bliss, Texas. He is Platoon Leader of Mechanized Sapper Platoon.

Melodie Thomas '07 married Joshua Barker in August 2008.



North Georgia alumni and family gathered at the Havana Club - Hoge Barracks, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, on April 5, 2008. Everyone brought a dish to share and memories to re-live – good times!

Submit your Class Notes

We invite you to share your news with North Georgia classmates through Class Notes.

Submit your news to Alumni Affairs, North Georgia College & State University, P.O. Box 1599, Dahlonega, GA 30533, or send an e-mail to wjevans@ngcsu.edu.

Remember, you can also visit us at www.northgeorgia.org to update your contact information and join or renew your membership in the NGCSU Alumni Association.



In Memoriam

North Georgia College & State University paid tribute to the following alumni, employees and friends in the annual Memorial Retreat during the 2009 Parents-Alumni Weekend. They are listed by class year with their date of death.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|----------------|
| Mr. Frank J. Killingbeck '33 | Dec. 19, 2008 | Mrs. Marjorie Land Sacre '45 | Oct. 31, 2008 | Mr. Donald W. Tompkins '66 | Aug. 10, 2009 |
| COL William B. Dyer, Jr. '35 | Apr. 20, 2008 | Mrs. Virginia Fellows Harris '45 | Dec. 18, 2008 | Mr. Michael Leon Weaver '68 | Mar. 1, 2008 |
| Mrs. Sybil West Allison '35 | June 3, 2008 | Mrs. Jo Neal Daniel Griffeth '47 | May 4, 2008 | Mr. Donald L. Pearce '68 | Feb. 22, 2009 |
| Mr. Julian P. Wade '35 | Dec. 10, 2008 | Mr. James E. Coleman '48 | Oct. 7, 2008 | Mrs. Geneva Davis Parsons '69 | Aug. 3, 2008 |
| Mrs. Mary Langford Isbell '36 | Apr. 1, 2008 | Mr. Wiley C. Collier '49 | Apr. 28, 2008 | Mr. R. Mark Brown '69 | Oct. 3, 2008 |
| Mrs. Ethel T. Lockard '37 | Aug. 20, 2008 | Mr. J. Milton Lathem '49 | May 16, 2008 | Dr. Frank H. Parrott '70 | June 17, 2008 |
| Mrs. Ruby Edwards Shivers '37 | Sept. 21, 2008 | Mr. James L. Reeves '49 | June 15, 2008 | Mrs. JoAnn Robinson Salter '70 | Oct. 27, 2008 |
| Mr. Jonathan P. Dyar, III '37 | Oct. 25, 2008 | Mrs. Alice Hersey Whitaker '50 | Apr. 11, 2008 | Mr. George A. Clippard '72 | Nov. 23, 2008 |
| Mr. George T. Jarrard '37 | Dec. 16, 2008 | Mr. John A. Bailey '50 | July 25, 2008 | Mr. David L. Coker '73 | Sept. 13, 2008 |
| Miss Ida Melba Whitmire '39 | Dec. 24, 2008 | LTC Jimmie McEver '50 | Aug. 2, 2008 | MAJ Ulysses G. Matherly, Jr. '73 | Jan. 19, 2009 |
| Mr. Perry L. Bridges, Sr. '40 | Aug. 9, 2008 | Mr. Joseph Jerry Fowler '50 | Aug. 28, 2008 | Ms. Sarah Nannell Hopper '74 | Oct. 15, 2008 |
| Mr. Hal B. Rhodes '40 | Jan. 25, 2009 | Mr. Marlin V. Law '50 | Dec. 15, 2008 | Mr. Jorge R. Sanchez '75 | July 28, 2008 |
| Mrs. Ruth Carter Boyle '40 | Feb. 3, 2009 | Mr. Joseph D. Hamilton '50 | Jan. 5, 2009 | Mrs. Carol Dyar Sargent '76 | Aug. 5, 2008 |
| Mr. Marion E. Wood '40 | Feb. 28, 2009 | Mrs. Plennie Jordan Robinson '51 | July 2, 2008 | Mr. Carolyn Ruark Morris '76 | Sept. 17, 2008 |
| Dr. Cliff Ray, Jr. '41 | Mar. 20, 2008 | Mrs. Mary Willis Smith '51 | Aug. 4, 2008 | Mr. Thomas G. Rodgers '76 | Oct. 5, 2008 |
| Dr. Warren B. Cutts, Jr. '41 | Aug. 26, 2008 | COL Robert A. Stephens '51 | Jan. 20, 2009 | Mr. Marvin Jewell Vandiver '76 | Jan. 19, 2009 |
| Mr. James R. Dodd '41 | Nov. 4, 2008 | Mr. Philip L. Leatherwood '53 | Sept. 1, 2008 | Mr. George J. Lambert, Jr. '77 | Apr. 17, 2008 |
| Mr. Earl D. Smith '41 | Mar. 29, 2009 | Mr. Billy J. Martin '55 | May 17, 2008 | Dr. Jim G. Coone '85 | Nov. 28, 08 |
| Mr. Hugh McDonald Inman '42 | May 26, 2008 | COL (R) Luther U Campbell '55 | Oct. 5, 2008 | Mrs. Shelly Mauldin Galloway '86 | Mar. 24, 2009 |
| Mr. Fred Snell, Jr. '42 | Oct. 10, 2008 | Mr. Willie Walker '56 | Apr. 9, 2009 | Mrs. Joan Hayman Raaf '87 | not available |
| MAJ Eldred P. Hudson '42 | Jan. 11, 2009 | Mr. Thomas Elwyn Jenkins '57 | Oct. 17, 2008 | Mr. Michael J. Alldred '88 | June 15, 2008 |
| Mr. Don W. Beaty '43 | May 23, 2008 | Mr. Robert W. Mitchell '57 | Feb. 2, 2004 | Mr. Jonathon T. Hudson '93 | Oct. 5, 2008 |
| Mrs. P. Jean Miller Dolvin '43 | Aug. 10, 2008 | Mr. Hugh L. Belcher '58 | Aug. 17, 2008 | Mr. Michael D. Martin '96 | Sept. 30, 2008 |
| Mr. Warren E. Clegg '43 | Sept. 27, 2008 | LTC Ronald T. Wise '58 | Jan. 14, 2009 | Mrs. Amy Moore Talley '97 | Mar. 7, 2009 |
| Mr. P. Hughes Palmer '43 | Oct. 6, 2008 | Mr. James O. Ellegood '59 | July 5, 2008 | Ms. Andrea J. Woods '99 | Mar. 19, 2009 |
| Dr. William H. Houston, Jr. '43 | Nov. 26, 2008 | Mr. John Everette Worthington '59 | July 11, 2008 | Mr. Joseph S. Hatfield | June 21, 2008 |
| Mr. Eugene H. Massey '43 | Dec. 28, 2008 | Mr. Craig P. Fickling '59 | Dec. 19, 2008 | <i>Past Parent, Foundation Trustee</i> | |
| Mr. Thomas W. Moss, Jr. '44 | June 16, 2008 | Dr. Henry Greene Bryant '60 | Feb. 11, 2009 | SFC Ronald Crow | July 21, 2008 |
| Mr. Jack Torbett '44 | Sept. 11, 2008 | Mrs. Sandra Fisher Aaron '61 | May 20, 2008 | <i>Former Faculty, Parent</i> | |
| Mr. Robert L. Cox '44 | Nov. 21, 2008 | Dr. Carl Hawkins Naman '63 | May 30, 2008 | Mrs. Frances R. Tanksley | Feb. 18, 2009 |
| Mr. John C. Ethridge '44 | Dec. 13, 2008 | Mr. James M. Rowe, Jr. '63 | June 9, 2008 | <i>Friend</i> | |
| Mr. William T. (Bill) Bush '44 | Jan. 26, 2009 | Mrs. Linda Mullinax | | Dr. Marlene Anthony | not available |
| Mr. Davis Reid Merritt '45 | Aug. 8, 2008 | Underwood '65 | Nov. 15, 2008 | <i>Retired Faculty</i> | |
| Mr. Eldred L. Tippins '45 | Oct. 11, 2008 | Mr. James Alex Acree, Jr. '66 | Aug. 24, 2008 | | |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman
COL (Ret.) Edward J. Nix '51 • Marietta, GA

Vice Chairman
George E. Coleman, Jr. '53 • Alpharetta, GA

Secretary
E. Paul Stringer '53 • Dahlonega, GA

Treasurer
Barbara DeMarco Williams '73 • Atlanta, GA

NGCSU President
Dr. David L. Potter • Dahlonega, GA

NGCSU Alumni Assoc. President
Linda Appling Sumpter '61 • Cumming, GA

NGCSU Saints Club President
H. Mike Hyams • Dawsonville, GA

TRUSTEES

MG (Ret.) Jere H. Akin '59 • Morganton, GA

Mike Cottrell • Dahlonega, GA

Dr. James A. Crupi '70 • Plano, TX

James Faulkner • Dahlonega, GA

Joe M. Hatfield '85 • Clarkesville, GA

COL (Ret.) T. Haines Hill '56 • Gainesville, GA

Terry B. Horton '57 • Warner Robins, GA

H. Dwight Mathews '66 • Norcross, GA

Robert S. Mathews '71 • Atlanta, GA

Mary Helen McGruder '68 • Cumming, GA

J.T. Morgan '50 • Covington, GA

LTG (Ret.) Burton DeWayne Patrick '57 • Thomson, GA

Dr. L. Jeffrey Payne '83 • Gainesville, GA

Brooks Pennington III • Madison, GA

Roberta Green Sims '53 • Dahlonega, GA

Janice H. Van Meter '59 • Columbus, GA

NON-VOTING TRUSTEES

BG (Ret.) Josiah Blasingame, Jr. '54 • Monroe, GA (Trustee Emeritus)

GEN (Ret.) William J. Livsey '52 • Fayetteville, GA (Trustee Emeritus)

Vice President, business & finance
Frank J. McConnell '79 • Dahlonega, GA

Faculty Representative
Dr. Ross Alexander • Dahlonega, GA

STAFF

Executive Director, Dr. Andrew Leavitt

Accountant, Dowling R. Bowman

Secretary, Pamela S. Stoffel

Leavitt to lead institutional advancement



Dr. Andrew Leavitt became the new vice president for institutional advancement at North Georgia on June 1. Leavitt succeeds Bruce Howerton, who retired in December.

"North Georgia has an incredible mission and story to tell, and I look forward to helping the university accomplish its goals," Leavitt said.

The Office of Institutional Advancement encompasses alumni affairs, development, university relations, and management of the NGCSU Foundation, which provides philanthropic support to the university.

"North Georgia is striving to meet growing student and regional needs, and there are many exciting projects on the horizon that depend upon expanded state and private support for their success," Dr. David

Potter, university president, said. "Andy Leavitt brings valuable experience to the advancement function at North Georgia and the important role it plays in communicating the mission of the university and developing resources that support and enhance our work."

As associate vice president for development and alumni relations at the University of West Georgia from 2005 through 2008, Leavitt managed donor programs, community relations activities, and alumni special events programs and recognition activities.

During that same time, he served as executive director and treasurer of the institution's foundation and worked with the board of trustees to develop fund-raising strategies, administered major real estate holdings for residence hall development, and oversaw the development of two major construction projects – a 9,500-seat stadium and a Greek Village.

Leavitt, a native of Tucson, Ariz., was also a chemistry professor at the University of West Georgia and began teaching there in 1994. He holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Utah and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Arizona. In 2006, he completed the Management Development Program at the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education. Leavitt and his wife Karen have three children.

Foundation unveils strategic plan to support university

The NGCSU Foundation has adopted a five-year strategic plan designed to provide external financial support for the university's mission and strategic initiatives.

The plan aligns with the university's strategic plan, which was adopted in 2008 and was built upon the framework of the institution's core values and four dimensions of leadership:

- teaching and learning innovations;
- educating engaged citizens;
- contributing to regional development;
- creating an organizational culture that reflects our mission and values.

The foundation's Trusteeship Committee, chaired by MG (Ret.) Jere Akin, was tasked with developing the foundation's strategic plan.

It emphasizes the need to generate financial support to increase the availability of scholarships and awards to support highly qualified students and to support participation in capital building projects through public-private partnerships.

"As a cooperative organization that exists

to support the university's mission, we are pleased to rededicate ourselves to helping the students, faculty and staff at North Georgia," said COL (Ret.) Ed Nix, board chairman. "This institution has a strong tradition of educating great military and civilian leaders, and we will look to those leaders to take North Georgia to new heights."

The foundation's strategic plan also contains a renewed emphasis on major gift and ongoing annual fundraising, increasing support for the Corps of Cadets and academic programs, and a self-examination of the foundation's organization and operations.

The foundation's fundraising goals, to be met in concert with the Office of Institutional Advancement, will provide transformational support for the university.

"I am very grateful for the vision of the board of trustees and its tireless work and support," said Dr. David Potter, president. "The involvement and support of North Georgia's alumni and friends is essential to accomplishing our mission."

Happy Anniversary

NGCSU Foundation celebrates 50 years

For some, the concept of a university foundation may seem like a new idea, but the North Georgia College & State University Foundation Inc., has been serving North Georgia for more than 50 years.

In 1958, Congress passed the National Defense Student Loan Act, which provided federal loans for college students. Most of the funds for these loans came from the federal government, but each participating college had to provide local matching funds. President Merritt Hoag received permission to seek private gifts to support the college, and five North Georgia alumni stepped forward to organize the North Georgia College Foundation Inc.

The initial "Articles of Incorporation of the North Georgia College Foundation Inc." were signed on Jan. 12, 1959, by Robert M. Moore of Dahlonega, O. L. Amsler of Decatur, Oscar Lilly and R. L. Rogers of Gainesville, and Jesse J. Gainey of Thomasville. Robert Moore served as chairman of the foundation's board of trustees.

The Internal Revenue Service granted the foundation tax-exempt status in 1961, and during the 1961-62 academic year,

the foundation provided \$2,272 to match federal loan money.

In 1973, the foundation amended its articles of incorporation to establish the foundation as a perpetual organization. Over the next decade, the endowment grew to more than \$1 million.

The college name was changed to North Georgia College & State University in 1996, and the foundation changed its name in 1998 to reflect the university's change. By this time, private fundraising had become an essential part of the university's financial operations and the endowment grew to more than \$10 million.

In the early 2000s, the foundation financed construction of John H. Owen Hall, the first privatized student residence hall on campus, and purchased 220 acres of land on Radar Ridge adjacent to the campus. Also, with the support of the donor's family, the foundation successfully petitioned the Superior Court to modify the terms of a testamentary trust established by alumnus Roy Bottoms, and greatly expanded the number of scholarships supported by the endowment.

In recent years, the foundation's real estate activities have increased dramatically. In addition to the purchase of several key pieces of property and the former BB&T bank building in downtown Dahlonega, the foundation financed construction of a new student parking deck and recreation center. The foundation also financed renovation and equipping of a remote campus site in the City Hall building in Cumming, where North Georgia's new MBA program is temporarily housed. As a result of all of this real estate activity, a separate real estate foundation was incorporated in 2008.

With numerous gifts from generous donors, including Mike Cottrell's history-making \$10-million gift in 2007, the foundation's endowment has grown to more than \$26 million, and the foundation now provides more than \$3 million of annual support to the university.

On June 12, 2009, Dr. Andy Leavitt was appointed executive director of the foundation. With a distinguished history in its first 50 years, the future of the NGCSU Foundation is bright indeed. Happy Anniversary!

Donors rise to the challenge! *Annual giving challenge successful*

This year, one of our North Georgia alumni leaders agreed to match donations, up to \$50,000 total, that represented either new gifts or increases over the previous year's gifts to the annual fund. Donors to the annual fund responded in grand fashion, and the challenge was successfully met!

Preliminary results indicate that \$229,656 in qualifying donations – more than four times the minimum amount needed for the match – have been received.

"As a result of the increased gifts to the annual fund, an additional \$50,000 will be added to the North Georgia Fund by a very generous benefactor," said Chris Church, director of annual giving.

While the number of dollars raised is important, Church said the number of individual donors who answered the challenge is even more impressive.

"So far, we have recorded qualifying gifts from 1,360



Betty and John Douglas

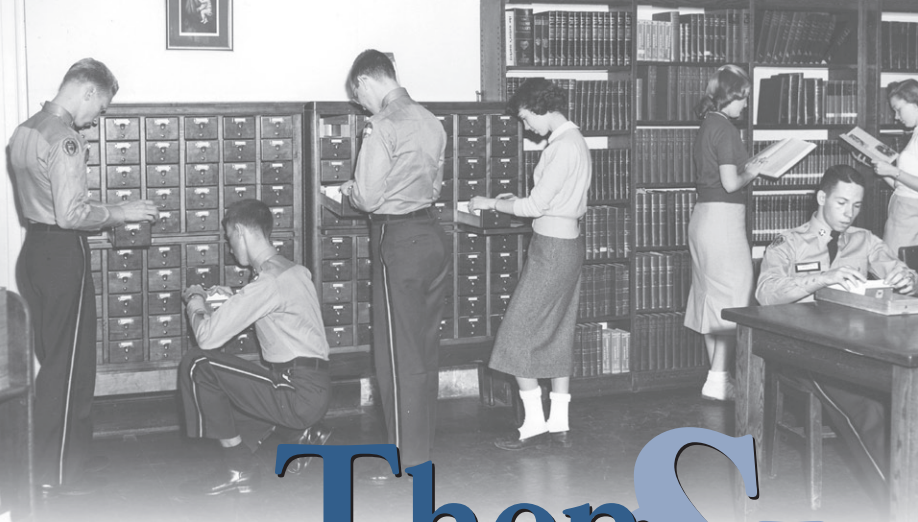
individual donors who gave new gifts, or who increased their giving over last year's amount," she said.

John and Betty Douglas, alumni from the class of 1964 and active volunteers, have chaired North Georgia's annual giving campaign for three years and will continue in that role another year.

"John and Betty were integral in soliciting this challenge gift," Church said. "We owe them much gratitude for helping make this successful."

The North Georgia Fund, representing annual gifts that are currently available for spending (not endowment gifts or special grants), is the underpinning of charitable giving at North Georgia.

"We are grateful for the generous support of our alumni, parents and friends – and also faculty and students," Church said. "Those gifts help support many of the programs that distinguish North Georgia from other schools."



Then & Now

Young Hall, pictured here, was built as a federal works project in 1938 and was used as the school's library from 1941 until 1971. In fall 2008, North Georgia opened the new Library Technology Center to replace the former Stewart Library and provide students with a modern learning environment.

In the first month of its operation, the Library Technology Center saw more than 26,500 unique visitors, an increase of nearly 80 percent from the same period in the previous year.

With a coffee shop, rotating art exhibits and classes, the Library Technology Center is a natural crossroads of information and community-building, and the building's architecture, featuring expansive windows, provides visitors a beautiful vista of the campus.



Photo: Joshua Preston



Photo: Joshua Preston



Cynthia Home, the university's resident archiving expert, became very familiar with Crusselle in January, when a donor mailed his historical oration to the university. The staff carefully transcribed his historical oration, preserved the original document in acid-free plastic sleeves and cataloged it so that others could access it. Photo: Joshua Preston

University history preserved in new library archives

In 1878, W.F. Crusselle was part of North Georgia's first graduating class and, at age 17, the youngest. He went on to become editor of the Atlanta Constitution and co-founded the now nationally known Crusselle Freeman Church of the Deaf.

Crusselle was invited back to campus on the school's 25th anniversary in 1903 to deliver the commencement address, and through much of his speech, he marveled at the advancement in technology – from typewriters to telephones – that had revolutionized society since his graduation.

Crusselle's speech now rests neatly cataloged, 106 years later, inside a piece of technology that may have equally impressed the news editor if he were alive today. The 25-page document rests in guarded bookshelves that almost reach the ceiling and conceal their contents inside a massive casing. With the push of a single button, the shelves expand along sliding rails to reveal rows of hidden books and research material.

The newly cataloged archives include documents that reveal details of a young agricultural college and how it grew into the state university it is today. A separate repository, called Special Collections, houses rare books of scholarly interest that are available to researchers around the world.

The university's new Library Technology Center has created the capacity to properly catalog more than a century of the school's history. Members of the library staff are now meticulously archiving a myriad of artifacts and treasures related to North Georgia and the region.

"Certainly the archives are about the preservation of our past, but just as important, they are about creating pathways and access to the past in order to create new knowledge and understanding," Shawn Tonner, director of library services, said.

Upcoming Events

For more information about community and cultural events, visit the online events guide at www.ngcsu.edu/eventsguide.

For details about alumni activities, visit www.northgeorgia.org.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| May 7-Aug. 13 | Art Faculty Appreciation exhibit, Bob Owens Art Gallery, Hoag Student Center |
| May 14-July 30 | Observatory-Planetarium public education nights, each Thursday, 8 p.m. |
| Aug. 7 | Summer commencement |
| Aug. 11-16 | FROG week |
| Aug. 19 | Fall classes begin |
| Sept. 18-20 | Class of 1969 40th-year reunion |
| Sept. 26-27 | Fall Family Weekend |
| Oct. 9-11 | Class of 1963 46th-year reunion |
| Oct. 17 | Alumni Council meeting – Alumni Center, 10 a.m. Gold Rush alumni reception – Alumni Center, 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 24-25 | Class of 1964 45th-year reunion |
| Dec. 12 | Fall commencement |

Institutional advancement office relocated

Due to construction that will begin on campus this summer, the Office of Institutional Advancement has temporarily relocated from the current Alumni Center to the university's Downtown Office Building at 60 W. Main Street (across from the Holly Theatre).

The Office of Institutional Advancement includes alumni affairs, development, advancement services, and university relations.

All of these units will be located on the building's third floor, above the BB&T bank office, providing convenient and construction-free access for visitors.

As campus renovations progress, the Office of Institutional Advancement anticipates

eventually moving into a more centralized campus location that will be designed to best meet the office's specific functions. Until then, alumni affairs will continue hosting events at the existing Alumni Center, which is a house formerly used by North Georgia presidents.

The Georgia National Guard office and other military-related offices that support the Corps of Cadets will occupy the office space in the building, which will benefit the students they serve on campus.

While the phone numbers for the Office of Institutional Advancement will remain the same, please note the new mailing address of P.O. Box 1599, Dahlonega, Georgia 30533.



Office of Institutional Advancement
P.O. Box 1599
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Drill field dedicated to honor Livsey

The historic drill field at North Georgia College & State University was dedicated on April 18 in honor of GEN (Ret.) William J. Livsey, a 1952 graduate and the university's only graduate to achieve the rank of four-star general. "The drill field is central to the campus's life, and its new name will serve as a lasting reminder of the leadership and service North Georgia graduates have provided to their country and communities," Dr. David Potter, university president, said. Photo: Kate Maine

