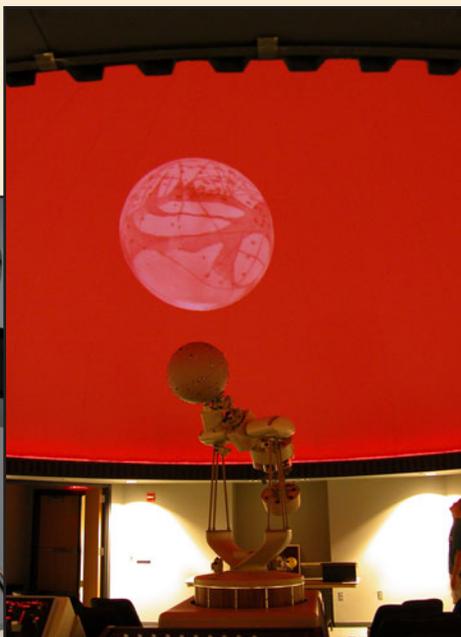


## Astronomy events feature solar neighbor

**RED PLANET:** A depiction of Mars is projected on the planetarium dome, showing off the capabilities of the new George Coleman Sr. Planetarium in the Health & Natural Sciences Building.



**STARGAZER:** Dr. Joseph Jones, associate professor of physics, teaches astronomy at NGCSU and maintains the new planetarium and observatory.

### *Mars closest to Earth in recorded history*

An astronomy spectacle that won't occur again in our lifetimes will take place the week of Aug. 25-29 – the planet Mars will be closer to Earth than at any time in recorded history.

The NGCSU Astronomical Observatory will open at 9:30 p.m. each night during the week, weather permitting, for public viewing of Mars through the 16-inch observatory telescope.

Public planetarium shows at the new NGCSU George Coleman Sr. Planetarium will begin Aug. 22 at 8 p.m., continuing every Friday, with the current season's show titled "Rendezvous With the Red Planet."

"Getting a good view of Mars

*(Continued on page 3)*

## North Georgia faculty member named a Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Jeffrey Sommers, assistant professor of history at North Georgia, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholars grant to lecture in Latvia. The grant is awarded through the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Sommers will teach in Latvia and develop curriculum on globalization studies during the 2003-2004 academic year. The country was formerly a part of the Soviet Union until the 1991 breakup of the USSR.

Sommers is among approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to some 140 countries this year through the Fulbright Scholar

Program. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.



Dr. Jeffrey Sommers

## NGCSU welcomes new faculty

**Dr. Ross Alexander**

Political Science/Criminal Justice

**Dr. Charles Bolyard**

Psychology/Sociology

**Capt. Brian Burkett**

Military Science

**Dr. Richard Byers**

History

**Dr. Michelle Byrne**

Nursing

**Dr. Amy Childers**

Language/Literature

**Janet Chubb**

Nursing

**Angeline Close**

Business Administration

**Andy David**

Fine Arts

**Dr. Harrison Davis**

Psychology/Sociology

**Lt. Col. Ed Dickens**

Military Science

**Dr. Kathleen Dolan**

Psychology/Sociology

**Capt. Patrick Duggan**

Military Science

**Marie Emery**

Nursing

**Chris Faulkner**

Men's Basketball Coach

**Mary-Margaret Finney**

Nursing

**Barbara Howerton**

Biology

**Dr. Dina Khalil**

Math/Computer Science

**Dr. Nkem-Amin Khumbah**

Math/Computer Science

**Dr. James Kirley**

Business Administration

**Phillip Luck**

Psychology/Sociology

**Dr. Robert Lyman**

Dean of School of Arts &amp; Letters

**Maj. Kenny Payne**

Military Science

**Jessica Poole**

Health/Physical Education

**Dr. Walter Roberts**

History

**Dr. Michael Robinson**

Biology

**Dr. Robert Sinn**

Math/Computer Science

**Rebecca Smoke**

Stewart Library

**Dr. Elisabeth Teal**

Business Administration

**Anita Thornton**

Nursing

**Thomas Thrasher**

Teacher Education

**Gregg Velatini**

Math/Computer Science

## New tuition rates effective this semester

At its May meeting, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved increased tuition rates starting fall semester. In an effort to maintain educational quality and access to University System schools, students will pay a nominal tuition increase at all 34 institutions.

Based on the increased demand and operational costs of the system's regional and state universities, the regents approved an increase at these institutions of \$101 per semester. North Georgia is one of 13 state universities in the University System of Georgia.

Tuition for full-time NGCSU undergraduates is now \$1,106 and \$1,327 for graduate students.

The state's 13 two-year colleges will experience an increase of just \$33 per semester. At the four research universities – where nearly 35 percent of the University System's students are enrolled in some of the highest-cost academic programs – tuition has increased \$209 per semester.

The low increases are aimed at maintaining the regional and state universities as affordable access points for all Georgians to gain a high-quality postsecondary education. The increases also position the research universities to better reflect the pricing structures of their regional and national peers. The regents' actions are aimed at maintaining the high level of educational quality achieved in recent years in the University System by balancing other operating revenues with tuition needs.

“The tuition rates approved by the board will help us maintain quality educational programs in the face of high demand for our services,” said Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith. “But, despite these necessary increases, in-state undergraduate tuition in Georgia's public colleges and universities still remains low when compared against our regional and national peers.”

*From Board of Regents News*



Angel Best and Matthew White, NGCSU sophomores, go through the grenade assault course at Pine Valley, one of the most demanding obstacles at the recreational facility.

**MILITARY MILESTONES:**

New military students at NGCSU went through the six days of intense physical and mental training known as FROG – Freshman Recruit Orientation Group – Week, Aug. 12-17. This semester marks the 30th anniversary of women entering the university's military program. Also, one of the largest freshman groups since the Vietnam era, 298 new military freshmen, started FROG Week. Among the military freshmen class are more than 40 women.

## Observatory spotlights Mars Week

(Continued from page 1)

will depend on the weather, not only here on Earth, but also on Mars," said Dr. Joe Jones, associate professor of physics, who maintains the university's astronomy facilities. He said that observers have reported a dust storm beginning in the southern hemisphere of Mars.

"This is the season on Mars when global dust storms can develop and obscure many of the dark surface features normally visible when Mars is close," he said. "One storm has already come and gone, hopefully this one will die out as well."

Volunteers from a regional astronomy club, the North Georgia Astronomers, will provide several other telescopes for public viewing at the observatory during Mars Week. Parking is limited at the observatory, located on Day Drive, and all flashlights should have red filters to help preserve the dark adaptation of visitors and staff.

During the week the major Martian features will be visible through a telescope and the planet's luminosity or brightness will be at its peak. It takes 26 months for the relative positions of Earth, Mars and the Sun to repeat. Mars makes its closest pass to Earth during times of opposition when the Sun, Earth and Mars align directly with each other and Mars is "opposite" or 180 degrees away from the Sun as seen in Earth's sky.

"Mars' orbit is fairly elliptical and its closest approach to the Sun this time around happens to occur almost at the same time as its opposition with Earth, causing this year's opposition to be the closest in about 60,000 years," said Jones.

Mars will pass approximately 56 million kilometers from the Earth on Aug. 27, about two-thirds the average distance. The next time Earth will be closer to Mars will be on Aug. 28, 2287, according to astronomers.

This opportunity to observe Mars at its best from the observatory is open to all faculty and staff. Mars is already visible to the naked eye rising in the east-southeast after the end of twilight. It appears as a very bright star shining steadily with a distinct reddish orange tint.

North Georgia's George E. Coleman Sr. Planetarium was dedicated in 1991 with contributions from the Coleman family. George Coleman Jr. is a 1953 graduate of North Georgia. Previously located at the same site where the new Health and Natural Sciences Building stands on Sunset Drive off of Main Street, the planetarium was installed in the new sciences building in early 2003.

For more information about the planetarium and observatory, contact Jones, 706-864-1511 or 864-1471. ▲

### Annual faculty retreat

The annual faculty retreat will take place Sept. 12 and 13 at the Mountain of Youth Resort, 10 minutes north of Dahlonega. All faculty members and staff are invited to attend the retreat, free of charge, which will focus on "Building Community through Leadership." For more information contact Dr. Irene Kokkala at ext. 1368.

### Upcoming campus events

- The **Regional Photography Juried Exhibition and Symposium** will be held September through October in the Hoag Student Center Gallery.
- Dr. Joe Chapman, NGCSU music program coordinator, will present his **annual recital of piano master-works** on Sept. 18 at 12:30 p.m. and Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gloria Shott Auditorium. The recital is free and open to the public.
- The **Fall Faculty Business Meeting** will be held on Sept. 23, 3:30-5 p.m., in the Health & Natural Sciences Building Auditorium.
- **Multi-percussionist Richard Grimes** will perform Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium as part of the Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series. The free event is open to the public.

the  
**Digest**

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**COLONEL TO COLONEL:** Susan Cleary, who 30 years ago was part of the first group of women to enter the North Georgia military program, is today a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. In July, she met the professor of military science, Col. Billy Wells, who discussed with her the current officer-commissioning program at the university and its continued high standards of training. The rising seniors who attended the U.S. Army National Advanced Leadership Camp this summer



Susan Cleary

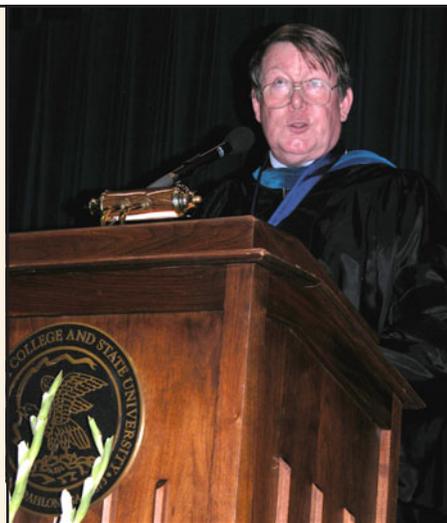
collectively produced the highest overall score out of the six senior military colleges. Wells also explained initiatives in the military department that are helping develop leaders for the "Total Army," including the active duty, National Guard and Reserve forces. Cleary will be featured in the 2003 President's Report, to be distributed in September.

**Dr. Tom Richardson**, North Georgia's senior faculty member, having taught for 32 years at the university, was the summer commencement speaker Aug. 8.

"I have been involved with advising chemistry majors and undecided students for many years and this is my last opportunity to offer advice to you," he told the graduates.

"Your time at NGCSU has provided you with a large number of skills and competencies and you should be proud of what you have accomplished, but your next job will require its own set of specific skills.

"Formal schooling is over for many of you, but all of you will continue to learn. I hope we, [the faculty], have given you a solid foundation and helped you see how to teach yourselves."



### Summer 2003 Grad Stats

- 194 Graduates
- 21 Education Specialist degrees
- 50 Master's degrees
- 116 Bachelor's degrees
- 7 Associate's degrees
- 21 Honors students (3.5 GPA or higher)
- 11 new U.S. Army 2nd Lieutenants



### New departmental brochures available

A new series of academic brochures is being produced by University Relations with the support of Academic Affairs. Six academic departments had brochures printed this summer. Each brochure outlines the current courses of study available and the benefits within each program.

For more information, contact University Relations at ext. 1949.