

Digest

► **Aug. 12, 2009**

A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

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Campus In Action

Get Involved events

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Representatives of the two groups met on the North Georgia campus in July and formally acknowledged each other's service in the Appalachian region and to its constituents by signing a memorandum of understanding, signifying a readiness to collaborate and to share news, research, and information.

The Digest is published bi-weekly by the Office of University Relations for North Georgia's faculty, staff, students and community.

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General FAQs about the [USG furlough policy](#) are available now, and North Georgia will issue more specific information about how furloughs will be implemented at the university in the near future.

The regents also approved a FY11 capital budget request of \$275.6 million, which includes \$19.7 million in equipment for six new facilities, \$6.5 million in infrastructure needs for two facilities, \$157.9 million in new construction or renovation for 10 projects designed and ready to be built, \$68.9 million in both design and construction funds for seven projects, and \$22.6 million for the design only of 11 projects.

The capital request also includes \$75 million in funds for major repair and rehabilitation of existing system facilities.

"We are working to serve a significant and ongoing increase in student enrollment with a financial resource base that is certainly not keeping up with the growth in our student population," said Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. "Our challenge is premised on the fact that Georgia will need all of the college graduates we can produce — and more. Georgia will need everyone it can find with the education to move this state forward and continue its economic vitality and growth."

The board's approval of changes in employee health benefit programs and mandatory employee furloughs were necessary, according to USG officials, to help meet a five percent withholding by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) of the system's FY10 state cash allotments, which totals \$115 million.

Along with all other state agencies, the USG was instructed by OPB to include with its budget request three reduction plans of four, six and eight percent. The three reduction plans, which include the three mandatory furlough days, total \$94 million at the four percent level, \$134 million at the six percent level and \$176 million at the eight percent level.

Looking in detail at the FY11 budget request, the regents approved a request for \$140.7 million in new dollars. This includes \$107.8 million for student enrollment increases in fall 2008, \$5.7 million in funds for the operation of new building space in the system, \$21.3 million for increases in the employer share of health insurance premiums, \$4.4 million in benefit costs for USG retirees, \$900,000 to continue the Regents' continued two-year-old effort to expand medical education, and \$625,000 in new dollars for the Georgia Public Library Service.

Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs Usha Ramachandran said that the increase of \$107.8 million in the request is a function of the system's funding formula, a mathematical formula that factors in student credit hours to arrive at needed state funding to support student instruction. "For the new budget request, the formula increase is based upon an enrollment increase of 5.6 percent, which generated an increase of 398,000 in the number of credit hours students took," she said.

The new dollars, if recommended by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly, would provide critical state support for these new students. However the new funds are based on fall 2008 enrollment, not the students enrolled in fall 2010, when the funds will be available. "We appreciate the support of the Governor and the General Assembly for the formula funding, and recognize how important it is for us as stewards to be extremely efficient in the use of these dollars," Ramachandran said.

The system-level reduction plans approved today by the regents spell out how reductions will be accomplished at each of the percentage levels requested by the Governor. While these three plans were approved in concept, the reality of the current five percent withholding of state funds required the board to approve today actions that will take place in the coming months to meet what is a new \$115 million reduction in the USG's FY10 state appropriation.

Therefore, the board approved six mandatory furlough days for faculty and staff. This will affect all 40,000 USG employees, except the lowest paid (annual salary of \$23,660 or lower), and is the equivalent of up to a three percent pay cut. These six furlough days will be implemented over the remainder of the FY10 fiscal year, but will, according to Davis, not affect classes or employee retirement plans.

The board also approved changes in health insurance programs affecting almost 5,000 employees enrolled in the USG's indemnity plan, which will be eliminated. Other changes will encourage retirees to move to Medicare Plan B, seed the high deductible PPO plan to encourage more employees to switch to this plan and make other structural changes in the System's health insurance plans. These will go into effect this fiscal year.

These two changes — furloughs and health care plans — will generate \$43.5 million of the \$115 million currently being withheld and are part of the four, six and eight percent reduction plans that will be submitted to OPB. The remaining \$71 million of the current \$115 million being withheld from the USG will be generated at the institutional level and could include layoffs and new employee furloughs, internal reorganizations, an increased focus on energy conservation and the elimination of low-enrollment programs.

These actions at the system and institutional level will meet the \$94 million four percent reduction plan amount.

To reach a six percent reduction level, the system will look to institutions to impose additional furloughs, new layoffs of employees, the elimination of positions and other actions institutions can identify to generate savings.

To reach the eight percent reduction level, the system will increase, in spring semester of 2010, the institutional mandatory fee first implemented in January 2009 by \$150 at the four research universities and some comprehensive institutions; by \$100 at all other comprehensive four-year institutions; and by \$75 at the state and two-year colleges. The changes to the mandatory fees will result in a cumulative total of \$250, \$175, and \$125.

Place a moratorium on other institutional mandatory student fee increases with the exception of public-private venture projects for FY11.

"These are difficult reductions for all," Davis said. "We are spreading the pain among our employees and withholding the direct financial pain to our students as an absolute, last resort. But we are committed to serving our students — all of our students — with continued high academic quality."

The actions on the FY11 operating and capital budget requests now go to OPB for incorporation into the overall state budget recommendations the Governor will present to the General Assembly in January 2010. Any action regarding reductions at the four, six and eight percent levels will depend upon the final decisions by the Governor and General Assembly.

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Representatives of the two groups met on the North Georgia campus in July and formally acknowledged each other's service in the Appalachian region and to its constituents by signing a memorandum of understanding, signifying a readiness to collaborate and to share news, research, and information whenever appropriate or available.

This was the first time the ARC had met on a university campus, and they had specifically requested to meet at North Georgia. The ARC has awarded more than \$1.6 million to North Georgia College & State University.



Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch, vice president of academic affairs, welcomed the members of the Appalachian Regional Commission at its meeting on campus in July.



Anne Pope, left is the federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and North Georgia's Dr. Alice Sampson, right, is president of the Appalachian Studies Association.

Antonia inducted to Ranger Hall of Fame

Keith P. Antonia, director of cadet admissions, was one of 11 former U.S. Army Rangers who was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on Aug. 5. Antonia was selected for his outstanding service to the U.S. Army and the Ranger community during his 20-year military career.

"Today is my 50th birthday and what a birthday gift to be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. I'm very deeply honored," he said during the ceremony held at the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts in Columbus, Ga.

Antonia also took a moment to recognize all active duty Rangers for their dedication and sacrifice and to thank the Rangers with whom he served over his career.



His military service includes combat deployments in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, where he served as a scout platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne Division in 1983, and in Operation Just Cause as battalion S3 Air and assistant jumpmaster with the First Ranger Battalion during the Panama invasion in 1989. He spent 12 years in Ranger units including company commands in the Ranger Training Brigade and the 1st Ranger Battalion, and Senior Liaison Officer and Operations Officer for the 75th Ranger Regiment. His last Army assignment was command of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion at Camp Frank D. Merrill in Dahlgonega – the Mountain Phase of Ranger School.

Other individuals inducted by the Ranger Training Brigade and the 75th Ranger Regiment were: James J. Altieri, William T. Anton, A.J. "Bo" Baker, Alford M. Bukaty, Edwin L. Dean, Russell E. Dodge, Robert P. Gary, Steven J. Murphy, James B. Peake, and Carlton G. Savory.

Since the Ranger Hall of Fame's inaugural year in 1992, 257 former Rangers have been inducted into the hall of fame, along with 13 honorary inductees. Inductees are selected impartially from Ranger units and associations representing each era of Ranger history based on their extraordinary contributions. The photos and citations of the individuals will be displayed at the hall of fame located at the Ranger Training Brigade headquarters in Fort Benning.

Staff Council maps year ahead

By Melissa Lach

The 2009-2010 Staff Council met July 24 for its annual planning retreat, during which President David Potter and Mac McConnell, vice president of business and finance, spoke about the current and future budgetary challenges facing North Georgia. McConnell also provided an overview of construction projects that will begin this fall.



Other presenters at the retreat included members of the Office of Institutional Advancement. Andy Leavitt, vice president, took the opportunity to introduce himself to members of the Staff Council and pledged continuing support from NGCSU Foundation, and Kate Maine, director of university relations, lauded the group's efforts to build community and presented opportunities to promote Staff Council-sponsored activities.

Dr. Elizabeth Combier, CEO of the Faculty Senate, and Martin Erbele, president of the Student Government Association, each discussed their hopes to build upon the emerging partnership between Staff Council, the Faculty Senate, and SGA.

The officers elected to serve as the Staff Council's executive committee are Wendy Evans, president; Jared Goodall, vice president; Melissa Lach, secretary; Audrey Bush, treasurer. Additional members of Staff Council include: Deb Adams, Melissa Adams, Todd Bermann, Anna Brown, Elayne Dowdy, Carol Huczek, Steve McLeod, Linda Smith, Pam Stoffel, and Tiffany Yeoman. Alternates are Megan Georgia, Susan Hughes, and Susan Miller.

The Staff Council committees are nominations and elections, staff development, public relations, scholarship, welcome, Chili Cook-off fundraising event, White Christmas Goods and Fundraising event, and a newly formed Brainstorming committee.

The Staff Council looks forward to a fun and productive year. Staff Council meetings are open to everyone and are held the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A of the Hoag Student Center. For more information, visit the [Staff Council Web site](#).

Campus in Action

Men's quartet performs at Braves games

A men's quartet, led by Dr. Jack Broman, represented North Georgia College & State University and sang the national anthem at two Gwinnett Braves baseball games this summer. Quartet members included (left to right) Rich Grimshaw, a current voice major at North Georgia; Randy Barker, a 2006 North Georgia graduate who majored in music; Dr. Jack Broman, music professor and director of choral activities; and Dr. Mark Spraker, physics professor.



Barrow's interview aired throughout Canada

Dr. Lee Barrow, professor of music, was interviewed as an expert on the music of Ottorino Respighi by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The interview was aired throughout Canada on the program "Saturday Afternoon at the Opera" on CBC-2 on July 11. He also had his handbell composition, "Nun Danket," published by Beckenhorst Press.

Batchelder earns MPA degree

Dr. John Stuart Batchelder, professor of criminal justice, completed his Master of Public Administration degree at North Georgia.

Jossey presents paper at UK conference

Dr. Laurie Jossey, associate professor of health and physical education, attended a conference titled *The Next Generation Besieged: Violence, Sex, and Substance Abuse* at Oxford University, UK, March 29 - April 3. The conference was co-chaired by Dr. James Giordano of Georgetown University and Dr. Daniel Hall-Flavin from the Mayo Clinic. At the conference, Jossey presented a paper titled *Substance Abuse Education and Youth Risk Behavior*, which included a review of selected public school health education programs in the United States and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control.

Morgan represents higher education on forensic panel

Joseph S. Morgan, assistant professor of criminal justice and forensics, was selected as the higher education representative on the State Board of Education's Forensic Education Panel. The group developed a state-wide curriculum for both middle school and secondary schools in forensic science, which is being implemented for the first time this fall.

Payne named chair-elect

Dr. Bryson Payne, chief information officer, has been named chair-elect of the Board of Regents' Administrative Committee on Information Technology, the professional advisory group of all 35 University System of Georgia CIOs and IT Directors. Payne is serving on the ACIT Executive Committee for 2009 with current chair Dr. Barbara White, CIO at the University of Georgia. He also is currently serving on the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Information Technology/CIO for the University System Office.

Wilson selected to attend faculty institute

Dr. Charles "Trey" Wilson, assistant professor of political science and criminal justice, was selected to attend a month-long, fully-funded faculty institute at the University of New England that was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and addressed the topic "The Rule of Law: Legal Studies and the Liberal Arts."

North Georgia faculty and staff are invited to submit news of professional accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to digest@ngcsu.edu.