

Nursing students off to successful beginning

During the first week of school, a subset of North Georgia's record number of enrolled students was thinking "I Can." That is the slogan of the nursing "camp" that introduced 100 incoming nursing students to the associate of science nursing program.

The camp allowed the new students to meet the nursing faculty members and their student counterparts in the second year of the program. After the opening session of "I Can Camp," where President Nathaniel Hansford addressed the new students, they broke up into "icebreaker" groups.

After meeting some of their peers, the students were put into one of three groups, which indicated the campus on which they would pursue their studies. The nursing program is offered in three locations: Dahlonega, Gainesville and Cobb County.

(Continued on page 4)



"I CAN CAMP": Dr. Michelle Byrne (right), a clinical instructor in the nursing program, calls for volunteers to lead the breakout sessions during the nursing student orientation. Nursing faculty from the associate's program led the "camp" activities to get the students ready for the new school year.

Campus life gets face lift with residence hall changes



Lewis Hall opened this semester after major renovations kept it unoccupied for the last academic year. The renovations, which began last November, improved the aesthetic appearance of the interior and fixed some structural defects. Returning female residents entered Lewis in late August enjoying improved amenities and a refurbished interior that made it look as new as its Owen Hall counterpart.

The improvements to Lewis include updated electricity and plumbing throughout the building, repairs to walls, heating units added in each room – allowing residents more control over room temperatures – new windows throughout the building, an elevator, new kitchen, new carpet, furniture and fresh painting throughout Lewis. Other additions include a group

(Continued on page 2)

LIVING IN STYLE: Students housed in Lewis Hall are enjoying a new look and several new amenities.

Campus in Action

Dr. John Broman, music, presented a session titled “Choral Music by Georgia Composers” at the summer conference of the Georgia American Choral Directors Association in Spivey Hall on the campus of Clayton College & State University in Morrow, Ga. **Dr. Lee Barrow**, fine arts, was one of the featured composers with his piece “Praise The Lord” for mixed choir and organ.

Dr. Brad Herbert, chemistry, published “Capillary Electrophoresis as a Probe of Enantioselective Interactions Between Photoactive Transition Metal Complexes and DNA” in the “Electrophoresis” journal, vol. 24 (2003) 2704-2710.

Dr. Brent Paterline, criminal justice, published a textbook titled “Drug Identification and Investigation for Law Enforcement.” The book is published by Staggs Publishing and is sold at Police Academies across the United States.

Dr. Judy True, a professor emeritus of education at North Georgia, received the Distinguished Service Award for Leadership from LEADER, a Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association. The award is presented annually to a member of LEADER who has made significant contributions to the Special Interest Group and to the International Reading Association.

Annual golf tournament

The annual fall faculty and staff Golf Tournament will take place on Sept. 19 at the Skitts Mountain Golf Course. Lunch will be provided and a cost of \$25 includes the green fee and golf cart. There will be a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. All retired employees are invited to the golf outing. Contact Dr. Bud Reisel at ext. 1757 for more details and RSVP no later than Sept. 16.

‘I gave at the office’ campaign launched

by Jeff Boggan, director of Development

Changes have been taking place at the Alumni Center, especially in the NGCSU Foundation’s fund-raising programs. Staff and program changes signal a new emphasis on raising more money from private sources to support the people and programs at NGCSU.

Change # 1: Staff responsibilities have changed to focus more attention on donors.

Change # 2: The North Georgia Fund was created to emphasize the broader, campus-wide impact of private gifts to North Georgia.

Change # 3: Volunteers are helping in the fund-raising process – alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends. Volunteer efforts are critical to involve more people and raise more money for the university.

Change # 4: A more intensive employee fund-raising campaign has been launched, with a goal of enlisting support from all NGCSU employees. The five-week “I gave at the office” campaign runs from Aug. 12 through Sept. 19.

We found out that most people don’t know about the Foundation, where their money goes, or why their participation is important. So we are committed to speaking with as many people as possible to answer their questions and ask for their financial support. We want to send a powerful message and say that all of our employees support our mission. Making a gift is a tangible way to show that support.

Have you made your gift commitment yet?



Residence hall renovations

(Continued from page 1)

study room, a seminar room and a small computer lab.

The Corps of Cadets also grew to where housing for military students could not be accommodated with only Gaillard and Sirmons Halls, so Sanford was added as a third living area for cadets. Sanford Hall has traditionally been used as an upperclassman women’s residence hall.

The Golden Eagle Band and brigade staff leadership now live in Sanford.

With the opening of Lewis this semester and increased cadet numbers, there are approximately 1,400 resident students living on campus.

The reopening of Lewis has allowed the Office of Residence Life to make sure every resident female student has a bed on the central campus and that there are no “overflow” students this year, who would have to live temporarily in apartments.

“We are very pleased to be able to do this, as our philosophy of residence life includes the idea that living in a residence hall community supports and enhances the overall growth of the student,” said Jennifer Wallace, director of Residence Life. ▲

U.S. News includes NGCSU in rankings

Of the more than 1,400 American colleges and universities reviewed by U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" for 2003, North Georgia is again included in the second tier of Southern universities offering master's degrees.

"No University System of Georgia institutions ranks higher than NGCSU in US News and World Report except the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech," said President Nathaniel Hansford. "In our category, Southern Masters Level institutions, we rank in the highest tier of any USG schools."

Other USG institutions in the same tier as NGCSU are Georgia College & State University and Georgia Southern University. Brenau University, a private school, was the only other institution in the state in the second tier.

The publication is available at newsstands or online for a fee.

Upcoming Events

The Office of Student Counseling will sponsor three weekly support groups, starting this week, which will be open to all employees. The **Drug and Alcohol Support Group** will meet on Tuesdays, starting today. The **Eating Issues Support Group** will start meeting this Wednesday and the **Depression Support Group** will meet regularly on Thursdays. All meeting times start at 4 p.m. in the Barnes Hall basement conference room 18. For more information contact student counseling at ext. 1819.

Representatives from the **Office of Homeland Security** will visit campus on Sept. 11 from 1-2 p.m. in Young Hall 214. They will talk about the office's organization and duties and tell audience members how to apply for employment with Homeland Security.

On behalf of the University System of Georgia, the Burriss Institute will be calling randomly selected employees and retirees who were enrolled in the **PPO Healthcare Plan** in 2002 or are enrolled in the PPO Plan in 2003. The calls are part of a **customer survey** and will be made to employees' and retirees' homes weeknights, 6 to 9:30 p.m., during September.

In conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 - Oct. 15, the university will host a visit by **fiction writer Lorraine Lopez** for a reading **Sept. 23 at 7 p.m.** in Hoag Auditorium. She will read from her recent collection of short stories, "Soy La Avon Lady." Copies of the book will be available in the bookstore within the next two weeks.

The NGCSU Staff Council is sponsoring the workshop **"How to Become a Great Communicator"** on Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in room A on the fourth floor of the Student Center. Contact Laura Mullins at ext. 1602 to reserve a space.

CORRECTION: The Sept. 2 Digest caption "RED PLANET" incorrectly attributed canals as a surface feature on Mars. Also, the correct spelling of the planetarium is the George E. Coleman Sr. Planetarium.

From U.S. News & World Report's
"America's Best Colleges"

North Georgia College & State University

Peer Assessment Score (5 highest):
2.9

Average Freshman Retention Rate:
74%

Average Graduation Rate:
50%

% of classes under 20 ('02):
43%

% of classes with 50 or more ('02):
2%

Student/Faculty ratio ('02):
14/1

Percent of Full-time faculty ('02):
84%

SAT/ACT 25th-75th Percentile ('02):
970-1160

Freshmen in top 25 % of HS class:
52%

Acceptance Rate:
57%

the
Digest

digest@ngcsu.edu

NGCSU President:
Nathaniel Hansford
Director of University Relations:
Annette Hannon Lee
Editor/Writer:
Joshua Preston
Designer/Writer:
Debbie Martin
Photographers:
J. Preston, A. Lee

The Digest is published biweekly, except holidays, during fall and spring semesters and monthly during the summer semester by University Relations. Submit material to the above e-mail address. The next scheduled publication date of the Digest is September 15. **Deadline for submissions is September 8.**

Nursing program experiences record enrollment

(Continued from page 1)

“The faculty are absolutely ecstatic about the coming academic year and the students we have enrolled,” said Dr. Jill Hayes, head of the Department of Nursing. The department encompasses associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degree programs, with a total teaching force of 30 faculty members this year.

“Last year’s pass rate for students moving on to the second year was 96 percent and the caliber of incoming students this year is incredible,” Hayes said. “They have an average GPA of 3.18 which is the highest on record for an incoming first-year nursing class.”

The Health & Natural Sciences Building and new technologies have helped facilitate the growth for the programs, including the classes now held on the campuses of two Cobb County hospitals.

Housed in the HNS Building, the nursing department has access to SMART classrooms, which include e-learning equipment, allowing long-distance learning between classes and instructors. E-learning Services, which maintains the SMART classrooms, is also located in the HNS Building.

“Students also have access to three labs and a new Medical Science Library right here in the building,” said Hayes. “They now have easy access to all nursing faculty and staff in one area and support for the technology.”

Hayes said the master’s degree nursing program also had more applicants



FIRST-YEAR NURSING STUDENTS:

Melisa Rodriguez gathered one group of nursing students together during an icebreaker session. More than 530 people applied to the associate’s program, but only one-fifth, were accepted. Faculty to student ratio requirements limited the number accepted.

this year than ever before and, along with the bachelor’s degree program, strong applicants across the board are seeking nursing education.

“The baccalaureate-seeking students are enthusiastic about the new schedule option of having all classes on one day, during the day, and the fact that two of the courses are offering an online option,” Hayes said.

Opportunities outside the classroom are also growing for nursing students. Some of them this year will work in Cobb County with a daycare center for children with special needs. Students will also go to a geriatric hospital for inpatient psychiatric-mental health clinical experiences, which will strengthen the gerontology component of the curriculum.

“The programs are exceeding all expectations with the number of applicants and the academic quality of the student applicants,” Hayes reiterated. Many have prior bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Hayes said there are already more than 100 nursing student applications for fall 2004. 🏠

BOOMING

BUSINESS: One of the essential stops for students the first week of school was the bookstore, where textbooks, uniforms and other necessities created the highest sales receipts of the semester. “We had 6,118 transactions on the registers the first week of



school,” said Laurie Davis, the bookstore manager. “On an average week, we have 530 transactions.” Davis said they had to keep up with a multitude of phone inquiries and general foot traffic through the store while trying to help with customers’ requests for the new school year. Lisa Justus (left), having survived the first-week rush, will celebrate with her co-workers the bookstore’s 50th anniversary this year.