

# Digest

► **Aug. 26, 2009**

A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

## University addresses H1N1 concerns

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## Take note...

Continuing Ed open house

Dahlonega Jazz Jam

Grad school entrance + NCLEX practice exams available

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New minor in criminal forensics

Service and volunteer fair

Rifle and pistol teams begin season

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## Campus In Action

## North Georgia ranks among top 25 in South's best schools

For the sixth consecutive year, North Georgia College & State University has been included among the top Public Universities in the South among those institutions providing undergraduate and master's programs in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual edition of "America's Best Colleges."

Among public institutions in the South, North Georgia is ranked at 23, in a tie with three other institutions. Among both private and public universities, North Georgia is number 56 in the 2010 edition of the publication.



## North Georgia expands faculty exchange opportunities in China



In May, North Georgia signed a faculty exchange agreement with Liaocheng University, Shandong Province, PRC. The agreement provides the opportunity for North Georgia faculty from any discipline to teach Liaocheng students in

English for three-week periods in May or June, starting in 2010. Liaocheng University is located in the western part of Shandong Province and is a comprehensive university of nearly 30,000 students.

*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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**Make submissions to [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).**

The next scheduled publication date is Sept. 9. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 4.

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"We are pleased to have maintained this strong ranking on such a consistent basis," said Kate Maine, director of university relations. "Our standing can be attributed to the quality of our students and faculty and our academic and student life programs."

North Georgia's incoming freshmen consistently have among the highest average SAT scores of all institutions in the University System of Georgia, and the university maintains one of the highest graduation rates in the system.

Founded in 1873, North Georgia is the second-oldest public university in the state, and has been designated by the Board of Regents and the General Assembly as the Military College of Georgia as well as a state Leadership Institution.

"Because so many students struggle to pay for a college education, we're also pleased that this year's report highlighted the tremendous educational value that North Georgia offers," Maine said.

The report shows that for institutions in the same category as North Georgia, its graduates have among the lowest amount of debt related to their education.

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Liaocheng University is located in the western part of Shandong Province and is a comprehensive university of nearly 30,000 students. Originally founded in 1974 as a branch of the Shandong Teachers' College, Liaocheng University now attracts students from around the world.

"This exchange agreement is an opportunity for North Georgia faculty to teach in China during a time in the academic year when it is usually more convenient for them," said Dr. Chris Jespersen, dean of the School of Arts & Letters. "The Liaocheng administration was really very accommodating. They're as excited about the arrival of our faculty next year as we are in sending them. I think this will prove to be a mutually beneficial relationship."

Liaocheng University's Vice President Zhang Guiqiao visited the North Georgia campus earlier in August to meet members of the university's administration and faculty. At a luncheon to welcome him and his Liaocheng colleague, Mr. Shan Shidong, to the campus, he presented Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch, vice president of academic affairs, with a traditional Chinese paper cutting to recognize the new partnership between the institutions.

Although there is not a set number of faculty who can participate in the program, Jespersen said, he expects that four or five North Georgia faculty may participate in the first exchange.



*Liaocheng University's Vice President Zhang Guiqiao presented Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch, vice president of academic affairs, with a traditional Chinese paper cutting to recognize the new partnership between the institutions.*



*A scene from the campus of Liaocheng University in China.*

## University addresses H1N1 concerns

*By Karen Tomlinson, director of Student Health Services*

North Georgia College & State University has monitored the viral activity associated with the H1N1 virus throughout the summer months, both internationally and locally. The university's Leadership Council and Pandemic Committee have worked closely with the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Board of Regents and have been meeting regularly to participate in planning and preparation

activities.

The H1N1 flu causes symptoms similar to the seasonal flu (fever and upper respiratory symptoms) and is treated the same way. The activity of the virus in the Southern Hemisphere has shown that the number of people affected by the H1N1 and seasonal flu is expected to be higher than usual this season.

However, the severity of the illness has not been increasing. So far this fall, staff in Student Health Services (SHS) have seen a few students with "influenza-like illnesses" but have not been able to confirm H1N1 infection. The treatment is the same as seasonal flu and SHS is following current CDC and Public Health guidelines for these students.

There are several simple measures to take to help prevent spread of the H1N1 and seasonal influenza viruses. These are:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when you cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer often
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people
- Stay at home if you are sick and limit contact with others
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Get your seasonal flu vaccine

Student Health Services will be giving seasonal influenza vaccinations in the coming months. Students, faculty, and staff will be notified via email when these are available. The H1N1 vaccine is still unavailable.

There is still considerable uncertainty about the spread of the influenza virus. Given these unknowns, it is understandable that there may be anxiety and worry. The main objectives are to keep things in perspective, get the facts and maintain a positive outlook. Please keep in mind that having flu symptoms does not necessarily mean that a person has the H1N1 virus, as it could be the common, seasonal flu.

For more information, please visit these Web sites:

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

[www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov)

[health.state.ga.us](http://health.state.ga.us)

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

[www.georgiahealthinfo.gov](http://www.georgiahealthinfo.gov)

## Take note...

### **Continuing Ed open house, Aug. 27**

Visit the Office of Continuing Education for an open house and tour on Aug. 27, 5-7 p.m. to get a complete picture of its programs and fall classes. Bring your questions for instructors and staff to the H.M. Stewart Center for Continuing Education, located across the street from the main entrance to campus.

### **Dahlonaga Jazz Jam, Aug. 30**

Witness the launch of the Dahlonaga Jazz Society! Join Andy David and Bill Fiedler as they present a free concert and open jam session in tribute to the preservation and continuation of America's only native art form. Bring your musical talent or hang out and listen. The show is Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. in Gloria Shott Performance Hall.

### **Grad school entrance + NCLEX practice exams available**

The Office of Career Services will offer the Kaplan Test Drive to provide opportunities for students who wish to practice the following entrance exams: GRE, GMAT, MCAT, DAT, LSAT, and NCLEX. Students who are interested in the practice exams should register in Barnes Hall 114 no later than Sept. 11. A \$10 fee is required.

### **CTLE workshops planned**

The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence has much to offer this semester. Upcoming workshops, which will be in room 374 of the Library Technology Center, include:

**Promotion and Tenure Review:** Aug. 27, 12:45-2:10 p.m., and Sept. 11, 3:30-5 p.m.

**High Impact Practices:** Sept. 10, 12:45 p.m.

### **New minor in criminal forensics approved**

The Board of Regents has approved North Georgia's request to establish a minor in criminal forensics. The minor is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice.

### **Service and volunteer fair, Sept. 3**

On Thursday, Sept. 3, 12:45-2 p.m., the university's annual Service and Volunteer Fair will take place on the Student Center Patio (Adams Great Room if it rains). Representatives from local community agencies will be present to share information about upcoming volunteer needs and service opportunities. This is a fantastic opportunity for all of us to learn more about getting involved with our community.

### **Rifle and pistol teams begin season**

The North Georgia Rifle and Pistol teams invite you to their home competitions. The first home match will be against Columbus State University, Sept. 12. Following matches will be announced as they are scheduled. Intercollegiate rifle and pistol competitions mirror the events in the Summer Olympics and require a high level of training. Both teams compete at the Division 1 level. This past season, the rifle team was most improved in the league and moved up several places in league standings. The pistol team is among the top 10 in the nation among all universities.

### **Sign-up for Faculty-Staff Golf Tournament**

Mossy Creek Golf Course (formerly Skitt Mountain Golf Course) will be hosting this annual event Sept. 18. The cost to play is \$25 per person. Breakfast will be at 8 a.m. with a 9 a.m. tee time. It is a best-ball tournament, and golfers of all abilities are invited to play. Sign-up via e-mail to [facandstaffgolf@ngcsu.edu](mailto:facandstaffgolf@ngcsu.edu).

### **Correction**

Due to an editing error in the previous issue of The Digest, the meeting day for Staff Council meetings was incorrect. The Staff Council's standing meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month.

## **Campus in Action**

### **O'Gorman Attends the Oxford Roundtable**

Jane O'Gorman attended the Oxford Roundtable, "Women in the Academy: Prospects and Promises," at Oxford University, July 12 - 17. The Oxford Roundtables were instituted in 1989 as a discussion forum concentrating on important policy questions. O'Gorman was the discussant leader for the keynote address, "Pay No Attention to the Women Behind the Curtain: Women, Religion and the Academy, Medieval and Modern" by Kathyryne Beebe, P. Phil., VH Galbraith Fellow in Medieval History, St. Hilda's College, University of Oxford.

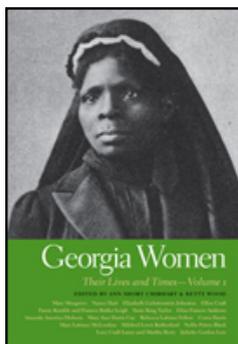
### **Vinson takes first in national championship**

Emily Vinson, a North Georgia student from Gainesville, finished first in the K-1 Women's Senior 200-meter sprint in the 2009 USACK Sprint National Championships on Lake Lanier on Aug. 22. Vinson is a member of the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club. She and her teammate also won the K-2 200 event.

### **North Georgia excels at LDAC**

Seventy-six members of North Georgia's Corps of Cadets participated in the Army's annual Leadership Development Assessment Course this summer, and achieved the highest excellence rating — 26.7 percent — of all schools in attendance.

Col. Michael Pyott, professor of military science, said, "Our cadets did a wonderful job at LDAC, and I believe we can continue to claim our status as the nation's number-one senior military college based upon our overall excellent rating." The next highest ranking school at LDAC was Texas A&M University.



### North Georgia instructor contributes to *Georgia Women*

Dr. Jennifer Lund Smith, associate professor of history at North Georgia, is a contributing author for a new book, *Georgia Women*, published by the University of Georgia Press. The book is a collection of biographical essays on notable women in Georgia's history, and Smith wrote a chapter on Lucy Craft Laney and Martha Berry, two outstanding figures who dedicated their lives to teaching.

### Habitat for Humanity triumph

The Lumpkin County and North Georgia chapters of HFH joined forces to build safety railings for a Lumpkin County man who, because of physical disabilities, must use a ramp to access his home. Volunteers were met with emotional gratitude by the owner when the project was completed. Thanks go out to all who were involved!



### Davis named to Education Policy Fellowship program

Dr. Shirley Davis, School of Education and director of the Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education, has been named to the Education Policy Fellowship Program by the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. The program is designed to improve the chances of children and youth to succeed by preparing participants to increase their knowledge and skills to make difficult policy decisions.

*North Georgia faculty and staff are invited to submit news of professional accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).*