

## Chancellor makes case for budget

The University System of Georgia's ability to bolster the state's economy through its strong academic programs, its contributions to the state's workforce, its role in luring researchers and new businesses to Georgia and its construction program was the key message on Jan. 21 when Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith addressed the Joint House and Senate Appropriations Committees on the fiscal year 2003 amended budget and the FY 2004 budget.

Recent budget cuts, totaling \$184 million in FY 2003 alone, have threatened the quality of the services offered by the University System of Georgia, Meredith said. For example, because of faculty attrition and the loss of teaching positions, the student/faculty ratio

and class sizes have increased, more students are being taught by part-time instructors instead of full-time professors, and access to some classes has been reduced significantly.

"All of these items have a cumulative impact on quality," Meredith said. "And quite frankly they have an impact on student debt, as it takes longer for many students to graduate. ... It means that we are coming very close to the point where what you have so carefully built – one of this nation's outstanding systems of public higher education – will be compromised. ... The core of our mission of teaching, research and service to this state must be protected from further erosion."

*From the Board of Regents, Jan. 27 Legislative Update. The full text can be accessed at [www.usg.edu/pubs](http://www.usg.edu/pubs)*



### COACH'S MILESTONE:

Buffie Burson, the Lady Saints head basketball coach, achieved her 200th win at the university in January. President Nathaniel Hansford congratulates the coach, in her ninth year at North Georgia, during the Homecoming game on Jan. 25.

## Nursing professor called to serve country in U.S. Army Reserves



**ARMY BUDDIES:** Jeanne Samter (L) with former Army nurse Jan Partin at Samter's send off on Jan. 28.

Jeanne Samter, assistant professor in nursing, as she is known here at North Georgia to her students and colleagues, became Lt. Col. Samter on Jan. 30 when she flew to Fort Lewis, Wash. after being called to active duty with her U.S. Army reserve unit.

The professor of six years at the university left her husband and three children in Alpharetta, Ga. Thursday morning, with orders to deploy with the 396th Combat Support Hospital.

Samter, who commissioned as a U.S. Army officer in 1970 in the Army Nurse Corps, has faced leaving her family once before during the Persian Gulf War. She was called to active duty status then, but did not see combat. She was stationed at Walter Reed U.S. Army Medical Center for three months in preparation to go to the Middle East.

This time around, the 23-year Army veteran has orders to go to Kuwait. Samter says she would like anyone at the university who wishes to write her to do so via e-mail at [jrsamter@bellsouth.net](mailto:jrsamter@bellsouth.net).



## Campus in Action

**Dr. Harriette Richard**, psychology and sociology, conducted a workshop titled "Teaching and Diversity: Making it work for you" at the Arts and Humanities International Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 12-15.

### Greater knowledge, greater responsibility

Christina Parker, former administrative secretary in the Department of Teacher Education, graduated at fall commencement with a bachelor of science in social science.



The newest employee-degree recipient wears an honor stole for Pi Gamma Mu, the university's social sciences honor society.

"When I started classes here at North Georgia the professors for whom I work were very supportive and encouraged me the whole time I was going through school," Parker said. "That meant a lot to me."

Parker now works in the School of Education as the admissions and certification officer. She processes the admissions and teacher certification applications for the school.

"Having been able to go to work and go to school here has been a great advantage for me," Parker said. "It has been very worthwhile."

Parker has worked in the University System for more than eighteen years. Eight and a half of those years have been at North Georgia.

## Speakers will discuss leadership roles

Three speakers at North Georgia will discuss different aspects of leadership as part of Leadership Week, Feb. 10-14.

• **Dr. Jim Muncy**, a marketing professor at Valdosta State University, will address how to be "Successful in Leadership" at 8 p.m. on **Feb. 10** in the Gloria Shott Auditorium. Muncy also is president of Muncy Leadership International, a company devoted to developing and training leaders, and serves as the executive director of the Association

for Consumer Research. He recently published the book "A Few Keys to All Success."

• **James Hunter**, who has more than 20 years of experience in leadership training and development, will speak on **Feb. 11** at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the

Health & Natural Sciences building. Hunter is the author of the best-selling book "The Servant: A Simple Story About the True Essence of Leadership."

• **Dr. Barry Friedman**, professor of political science and coordinator of the graduate program in public administration at North Georgia, will lecture on "Democracy in Organizational Life" on **Feb. 13** at 5 p.m. in room B of the Hoag Student Center.

All events are free and open to the public.

Hunter's speech is sponsored by the NGCSU Leadership Initiative. The other events are sponsored by the Resident Student Association. For more information about Leadership Week, contact Njeri Pringle, RSA advisor and graduate assistant, at [nmpringle@ngcsu.edu](mailto:nmpringle@ngcsu.edu).



## Black history month speakers

**James Allen**, a white Atlanta antiques dealer specializing in African American artifacts, will speak on Feb. 4 at 12:30 p.m. in the Gloria Shott Auditorium. His photographs of lynchings in the United States, collected over a quarter century, have been published in "Without Sanctuary."

**Minnijean Brown-Trickey**, one of nine black students in 1957 that entered Little Rock Central High in Arkansas, helping end segregation, will speak on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium.



Minnijean Brown-Trickey

## NGCSU faculty members part of special forces training

“My least favorite part was waiting at the Huddle House at 2:30 a.m. for the ‘contacts’ while I was role-playing and being approached by my own students whom I had to deceive in order not to compromise the mission,” said Dr. Elizabeth Combier, who participated in U.S. Army Special Forces training exercises during a week in October.

Combier, along with Dr. Kristi Hislope and Mariana Pomphile, all Spanish-teaching faculty at North Georgia, participated in simulated missions with the elite soldiers at Camp Frank D. Merrill, the Army’s 5th Ranger Training Battalion, north of Dahlonga.

After their teaching duties ended daily, the three faculty members posed as informants and passed along information in



**PLAYING THE PART:** (L to R) Dr. Kristi Hislope, Mariana Pomphile and Dr. Elizabeth Combier immersed themselves in their special operations assignments, helping U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers in their training.

Spanish to special forces soldiers, helping them carry out operations, including ambushes and raids. Another situation required Pomphile and Hislope to be rescued in a staged exercise.

“I was blindfolded and being rescued on a dark, cold, wet night. I was running with a soldier, and I

fell down some steps and hurt my knee. They dragged me back to the truck. But at least they rescued me!” Hislope said of her experience.

Lt. Col. Bill Shaw, the former executive officer of North Georgia’s ROTC department, and special forces personnel helped train and prepare the three women for their roles in between their classes.

“We wanted to support our military in their training, and as patriots we want to do our part, however small,

to fight terrorism,” Hislope said.

The teachers’ experiences weren’t all painful.

“My favorite part was passing along the information in Spanish,” Pomphile said. “It made me feel like I was in some James Bond movie.”

### Upcoming Events *All free and open to the public*

A **cyber seminar**, led by Information and Instructional Technology's Chief Information Officer Jay Steed, will take place Feb. 6 at 12:30 p.m. in Newton Oakes Center 107. The seminar includes topics on GroupWise, anti-virus applications, Web management and computer purchasing.

The **Art Educators Invitational III exhibition** features outstanding works by selected art teachers and their students from throughout the north Georgia region. The exhibit is on display through March in the Hoag Student Center Gallery.



U.S. Army Chorale

The Nix Series presents the **U.S. Army Chorale** in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium on Feb. 18 at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Chorale’s concert will focus on a wide selection ranging from Broadway stage and jazz to contemporary country and top-40 charts music.

### the **Digest**

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## International Awareness Week

Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.

*Hoag Student Center Auditorium*

**Tropical Breeze** – the UGA steel drum band performs music of the Caribbean

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 12:30 p.m.

*Barnes Hall basement conference room*

**Faculty Roundtable** – discussion of "Have you ever wanted to start a study abroad program?" Tom Dennis will discuss how his company helps study abroad directors with program arrangements throughout the world.

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.

*Young Hall 214*

**Study Abroad Forum** – Information and expertise provided on opportunities to study in Europe, Asia and Latin America

Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

*Hoag Student Center Auditorium*

**"Monsoon Wedding"** (foreign film in Hindi with English subtitles)– romantic comedy set in contemporary India

Friday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m.

*Young Hall 214*

**European Union Certificate discussion** – Students in any major may pursue the E.U. Certificate, a system-wide initiative to provide a background on the E.U. Summer study abroad opportunities will be discussed. Guest speaker Sheryl Major will discuss last year's study abroad trip.

*For additional information, contact Dr. Dlynn Armstrong-Williams or the International Programs Office at ext.1869 or 2858.*



**LET IT SNOW:** Among the faithful few who showed up in the snow for the NGCSU Foundation's Jan. 16 "Welcome Back" reception for faculty and staff were these good-natured folks who ventured out on the patio of the Alumni Center. Joining in the fun were Dr. Andy Schaffer (on the left, with snowball in hand), Mariana Pomphile, Dr. Kristi Hislope, Margaret Pointevint, Michael Marling de Cuellar, Maj. Richard Neikirk and Col. Gerald Lord. The university officially closed that day at 3:30 p.m. because of the weather conditions.

## 'Digest' wins Award of Excellence

The Council for Advancement & Support of Education District III has given the 2002 Award of Excellence for Tabloid Improvement to "Digest," North Georgia's newsletter for faculty and staff.

Submitted by Joshua Preston, editor, the award recognizes the work of Preston, Annette H. Lee, University Relations director, and Debbie Martin, a NGCSU senior who serves as a part-time designer and writer for the "Digest."

The 15 submissions in the awards category from colleges and universities across Southeastern states were judged on news writing, design and photography in relation to the publications' budget and staff resources.

Preston submitted three copies of the "Digest" from spring 2001 as examples of the publication's previous format, and three copies from fall 2002 to illustrate the current news emphasis, plus the design, which incorporates color photographs on the front and back pages.

Winning entries will be displayed at the CASE District III Conference in Atlanta, Feb. 23-26, and award-winners will be recognized at that time. 🏆

