



### Writer speaks on her passion for nature

Janisse Ray, a guest of the Visiting Writer Series, will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 25 in the Health and Natural Sciences Building Auditorium on her novel "Ecology of a Cracker Childhood."

Ray was raised in Baxley, Ga., and her book tells how a childhood spent in rural isolation grew into a passion to save the almost vanished longleaf pine forests.

## North Georgia's Forsyth program flourishes

The university's Forsyth County program, less than two years old, has added a second classroom location and has gained a new coordinator to help NGCSU's expansion into the area.

The university began offering classes at North Forsyth High School this semester to better accommodate the number of enrolled students. Computer classes will continue in the county's Board of Education Center, where the Forsyth collaboration originated in fall semester 2001.

"Forsyth's citizens have expressed a real commitment to higher education in their county," said Dr. Donna Gessell, director of NGCSU Graduate Studies and External Programs. "They have been gracious hosts, sharing their educational facilities."

The program also has gained an on-site coordinator, Mike Weaver, a former principal of all three Forsyth

County high schools, who will work with Gessell to explore new opportunities for the university's satellite program.

Weaver, who worked in the Forsyth school system for 16 years, will be available part-time in the Board of Education building and at North Forsyth.



Mike Weaver

"He plans to visit with high school guidance counselors to provide information to recruit students for the program and to meet and greet students entering summer classes to make them feel welcomed into the program," Gessell said.

This spring more than 20 classes

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**E-LEARNING EXPERIENCE:** These Chestatee Middle School kids from Hall County were introduced to North Georgia's e-learning services on Feb. 11 in the Health & Natural Sciences Building. Tom McCracken, coordinator of e-learning services, showed two classrooms of students how they could interact with each other for a "long-distance" learning experience. The students used their fingers as a communication interface on the interactive SMART BOARD touch screen to maneuver a camera in the other classroom to see their friends and to draw their names on the screen – watching the computer convert their handwriting into typed text.

North Georgia utilizes the two e-learning labs to conduct joint classes in Gainesville College and nursing classes with two Cobb County hospitals.



## Campus in Action

**Dr. Carl Cavalli**, political science and criminal justice, presented a paper titled, "September 11th Effects on Ideology and Attitudes Among NGCSU Students" at the annual meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association in Savannah, Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

**Dr. Michael Reese**, political science and criminal justice, presented "The Supreme Court's Continuing Struggle to Define the Constitutional Parameters of Stop and Frisk" at the annual meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association and the Criminal Justice Association of Georgia on Jan. 31 in Savannah, Ga.

**Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Dr. Kristi Hislope and Mariana Pomphile**, language and literature, presented a paper titled "Building Community in the Foreign Language Classroom" at the 10th Georgia Conference on College & University Teaching at Kennesaw State University, Feb. 7-8.

**Mariana Pomphile**, language and literature, conducted a workshop titled "Integration of Technology into the Foreign Language Classroom Environment" at the 10th Georgia Conference on College & University Teaching at Kennesaw State University, Feb. 7-8.

**Kevin Krackenberger**, military science, was promoted in January to the rank of major at a ceremony at the university. The 17-year soldier was recently selected for Army Command and General Staff College, which gives him the opportunity to earn a master's degree in international strategy and foreign policy.

## Forsyth program experiences growth

*(Continued from page 1)*

across several disciplines, and all the schools at the university, are being offered to North Georgia undergraduate and graduate students in Forsyth County. Gainesville College also is offering classes at the high school, continuing its partnership with North Georgia to offer core curriculum courses.

More than 200 North Georgia students are enrolled in Forsyth classes for the spring, a steady increase from the 135 students enrolled in the fall. Classes meet at 5 p.m. or later to accommodate those who work full-time and students who travel to take the classes.

From the perspective of one professor that teaches on the Dahlonega campus and in Forsyth County, the growth only benefits the university's educational goals.

"The Forsyth program represents a substantial investment on the part of NGCSU in higher education in North Georgia," said Dr. Eric Link, who teaches one American literature class in Forsyth. "The cooperation right now between NGCSU and North Forsyth High School reinforces a bond that already existed between North Georgia and Forsyth County, and in time the Forsyth program could grow into a full-fledged branch campus that houses complete programs. The potential is there, for sure."

More than 30,000 surveys were sent by External Programs and Continuing Education in January to Forsyth County residents to assess their needs.

"We have had more than 800 returned so far," Gessell said. "We hope to use that information to set specific directions as to which degree programs to offer."

Weaver also will help promote Continuing Education programs.

Those involved with North Georgia's venture into Forsyth County are optimistic about the potential for the future. With the recent growth, they plan to continue to make it even more accessible to current and prospective students. 🏡

### Upcoming Events

The annual **Women & Leadership Conference**, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled for March 4 at North Georgia. The conference begins at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Health & Natural Sciences Building.

North Georgia's music faculty will hold a **Faculty Cooperative Recital** in the Gloria Shott Auditorium on Feb. 25 at 12:30 p.m.

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**Digest**

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## Leadership Roundtable continues collaboration across campus

Twelve faculty and staff members were selected as participants for the spring semester Leadership Roundtable.

Bob Thomas, director of the Leadership Initiative at North Georgia, will lead the roundtable participants through a series of activities that will enhance their understanding of leadership and provide them with tools that can be used for leadership development in their given area.

As the new Leadership Roundtable members for spring 2003 prepare to create their own intercampus dialogue surrounding leadership dynamics, a few of the initial group members of North Georgia's Leadership Roundtable share their experiences and how they are applying them on the job.

### Roundtable participants for spring

Dr. Toni Barnett – Nursing  
 Maj. Christopher Dare – Military Science  
 Dr. Donna Gessell – Graduate Studies  
 Dr. Kristi Hislope – Spanish  
 Dr. Irene Kokkala – Biology  
 Michael Marling de Cuellar – Fine Arts  
 Master Sgt. Tony Nunley – Military Science  
 Dr. Marvin Pippert – Psychology & Sociology  
 Mariana Pomphile – Spanish  
 Dr. Andy Schaffer – Business Administration  
 Pam Stoffel – Advancement  
 Terry Wilfong – Admissions



**Shari Holtzclaw**, electronic systems facilitator at the Stewart Library, works directly with students on a daily basis, and enjoys sharing with them the knowledge she acquired as a member of the Leadership Roundtable.

"I now have a greater respect for the title of leader," said Holtzclaw. "I have learned the true meaning of

leadership. . . sometimes to be a good leader, you also must be a servant to the group."

She also learned that a person does not have to be the head of an organization to be in a leadership role; people can be leaders in their everyday life as parents, co-workers or mentors.

"We all have to learn to be good role models and good leaders, because you never know when your actions may influence or impact another individual," Holtzclaw said.



**Lt. Col. Bill Shaw**, from overseas, reflects on how the Leadership Roundtable has had a "tremendous impact" on his life.

"I thought I was a fairly objective leader from my 18 years of leadership experience in the Army, but it was not until I met Bob Thomas that I realized there was an entirely different dimension

to leadership that I had not thought about – servant leadership," said Shaw. "As I reflected on my life, it became obvious that all of the great people from which I had learned leadership, military or not, embodied servant leadership ideals."

He feels that their diverse group of roundtable members bonded quickly and shared things on a more personal level than groups typically do.

"For the first time in my life I truly understood the power and importance of diversity," he said.

Shaw is currently on an Army special forces assignment.



**Dr. Thomas Austenfeld**, language and literature, feels that the Leadership Roundtable helped him to understand and clarify his own leadership philosophy as a department head and in terms of personal enrichment.

"I learned things about the psychology and sociology of leadership that I had not yet reflected upon," said Austenfeld. "Above all,

though, I met persons on campus who, like I, want to contribute to a positive, respectful work environment on this campus."

He said that learning the various aspects of servant leadership helped the group to establish the vocabulary necessary to describe their ambitions and goals, along with finding ways to achieve some of those goals.

"The roundtable is in the process of finding its identity as a group that can help foster and direct the university's leadership mission," Austenfeld said. "Its flexible character, removing it somewhat from the official positions of power and authority at the university, is its greatest strength."



**Dr. Elizabeth Combier**, language and literature, who fellow roundtable participant Shaw calls a "true leader," grew professionally from the roundtable.

"I relished the opportunity to get to know other employees of the university and to hear their perspectives of what our mission is on campus and how we can best achieve success, both as a group and as an academic

community," Combier said.

"I feel so much more a member of the entire academic community as if we were a brotherhood or sisterhood with a common bond – that bond being the palpable desire to advance and to progress the success of our students and employees. We ultimately felt we were committed to the college, proud of it and owned it in some way. I never had this sense before the Leadership Roundtable and certainly not at other institutions where I have taught."

## Project Partnership adds new component



**PROJECT YOGA:** Sherri Williams (R), assistant professor in the physical therapy graduate program, led a group of elderly community residents and PT students on Feb. 11 in the first of six Yoga sessions.

Dubbed “project Yoga,” it is the newest component of Project Partnership, a 9-year-old commitment to Lumpkin, Dawson and Hall County residents to help the elderly and infirmed improve their health and home safety.

Project Partnership also includes a fitness and wellness program and aquatics program, in which former President John Owen participates.

“Students reap the biggest benefit from the project,” said Dr. Lynda Woodruff, professor of physical therapy. “Helping those in the community makes a difference in their lives and how they view their role as a future professional. They get the exposure to the aspects of rural living and rural personal values.”

## U.S. Army Chorale will perform on campus



Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez of the Army Chorale

The U.S. Army Chorale will perform on Feb. 18 at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium at North Georgia. The Chorale’s concert offers a wide selection of music ranging

from Broadway stage and jazz to contemporary country and top-40 chart hits. The event is sponsored by the Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series at North Georgia.

**BLACK HISTORY INSIGHT:** Dr. Harriette Richard (L), associate professor in psychology and sociology, speaks with James Allen, who was invited to campus for Black History month. Allen gave insight into his collection of

photographs depicting lynchings in the United States to a near-full Gloria Shott Auditorium on Feb. 4. Some of his photographs were on display during the lecture. Allen spoke on the harsh truths about



America’s history of violence against blacks. Near the end of the forum, students and employees spoke about their own feelings on the injustices endured by the generation before them. Some of Allen’s photo collection is published in the book “Without Sanctuary,” and the exhibit is housed at Emory University in Atlanta.



**SERVANT LEADERSHIP:** On Feb. 11, Jim Hunter addressed an audience of approximately 100 students, faculty and staff in the HNS auditorium. The leadership trainer and consultant’s presentation led his audience to define leadership and, specifically, servant leadership: “One skilled at identifying and meeting the legitimate needs (as opposed to wants) of others and influencing them to more fully contribute their resources toward beneficial goals, with character that inspires confidence.”

Hunter, accompanied by President Nathaniel Hansford and other North Georgia administrators, also spoke to the Georgia Rural Development Council in Atlanta on Feb. 10. Hunter is the author of “The Servant,” described by NGCSU’s Leadership Initiative Director Bob Thomas as “the best book on servant leadership.”