

## School of Education uses research for teacher improvement

The School of Education's broad initiatives have pushed North Georgia's education majors to excel and become some of the best educators in the region and state, according to recent indicators.

Three of White County's five "teachers of the year," including the school system's top teacher, are NGCSU graduates. NGCSU also consistently finishes as one of the top three preparation programs in Georgia in terms of pass rates for teacher certification tests.

"Pass rates are above 90 percent, with the new Leadership Preparation program boasting a 100 percent pass rate since the program's

### STAYING CONNECTED:

Dean Robert Michael visited an education class for the presentation of the plaque for NGCSU's new Collegiate Middle Level Association, a professional education organization for college students preparing to become middle level teachers. Michael tells them "You are representing our leadership mission."



beginning four years ago," said Dr. Robert Michael, dean of the School of Education.

Among successful initiatives at North Georgia is one with graduate students who are teachers in area

schools and university faculty involved in action research, through which teachers develop ways to identify problems, research solutions, and subsequently improve

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## Remember When

### GC and NGCSU celebrate 20-year partnership

To celebrate the partnership of Gainesville College with North Georgia that began in 1984, five current and former presidents of those institutions of higher education were present at a reception on Jan. 27 in the GC Continuing Education/ Performing Arts Center.

Each of the administrators recognized the "pioneers" who originally organized the four-year degree programs on the two-year college campus. Currently, about 450 students are enrolled in the collaborative academic courses that have included nursing, business administration, education, public administration, criminal justice and computer information systems classes over the past 20 years.



*Left to right: Gainesville College founding President Hugh Mills, NGCSU President Emeritus John Owen, GC President Martha Nesbitt, former GC President J. Foster Watkins and NGCSU President Nathaniel Hansford.*

*GC's first President Hugh Mills, NG '43, center, joins GC President Martha Nesbitt and NGCSU President Emeritus John Owen in cutting the 20th anniversary cake.*



## Campus in Action

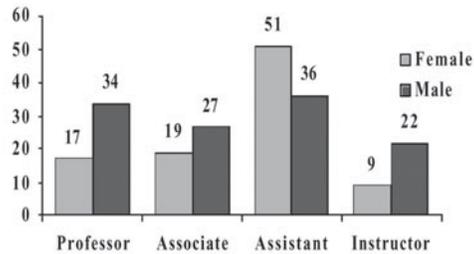
**Dr. Michelle Byrne**, nursing, co-wrote "It Was Huge! Nursing Students' First Experience at AORN Congress," an article published in the January Association of periOperative Registered Nurses Journal, Vol. 79, No. 1. Byrne was accompanied by four nursing students to the AORN Congress convention last year and the article documents their experiences there.

Nine faculty members in the Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice participated in the Georgia Political Science Association's 2003 convention, Nov. 13-15. **Drs. Leo Downing** and **Ross Alexander** chaired separate criminal justice panels. **Dr. Mike Reese** presented "The Defense Rests: A tribute to Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch." **Brent Paterline** and **Brooks Lansing** presented "Child Molestation: Criminal Typologies of Offenders" at the same panel. **Dr. J. Stuart Batchelder** co-wrote and presented "Computer Assisted Learning in Prison—Context-specific Limits to Programmatic Success." On the International Political Economy Panel, **Dr. Brian Murphy** presented "Shifting the Parameters of Transatlantic Commercial Interaction." **Dr. Carl Cavalli** presented at the Presidency Panel "The Value of Presidential Contact with Congress: Lyndon Johnson Medicare." **J. Derek Sutton** presented "Intergovernmental Relations, Shared Governance, and Homeland Security: The Politics and Organization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency" at the Public Policy II Panel.

**Joshua Preston**, **Annette Lee** and senior **Debbie Martin** received accolades for a second year for their work on the "Digest." The Council for Advancement & Support of Education District III selected the publication for a Special Merit Award in the category of Internal Tabloids and Newsletters. CASE is designed to provide education professionals in alumni relations, communications, and development with essential tools to advance their institutions.

## NGCSU Fall Facts 2003

### Full-Time Instructional Faculty



*BY THE NUMBERS: Of all the full-time faculty, about 41 percent are assistant professors, 24 percent hold full professor titles, 21 percent make up the associate professor portion and the remaining 14 percent are instructors at NGCSU.*

### EDUCATING FORCE:

*The number of full-time faculty was 204 in 2001 and is now 215, about a 5 percent increase, while the number of part-time faculty was 83 in 2001 and now is 128, about a 54 percent increase.*

### All Faculty

School	Full-time	Part-time
Arts & Letters	69	49
Business & Govt.	36	15
Education	31	51
N&H Sciences	53	13
Admin & Acad Supt	26	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>128</b>

## Upcoming Events

**Phil Smith**, southern director of the Concord Coalition, will make a presentation on debt and deficit at the Gainesville College Auditorium in the Continuing Education building on Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public. The Concord Coalition is a non-partisan grassroots organization advocating fiscal responsibility.

**Natasha Tretheway** a prize-winning Emory poet, will read from her collections, *Bellocq's Ophelia* and *Domestic Work*, on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. as part of the Visiting Writers Program. The reading will take place in the HNS Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

A workshop on **faculty-student and staff-student fraternization** will take place on Feb. 24 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. Burns Newsome from the University System's Office of Legal Affairs will conduct the workshop. Issues concerning legal and ethical issues related to employee-student dating, among other issues, will be addressed.

The 2004 Hoag Lecture Series presents "**Cloning Technology: The Real Story**," a lecture by Steve Stice, on March 2 at 7 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. Stice holds the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar Chair at the University of Georgia. His research focuses on developing innovative animal cloning and stem cell technologies. For more information, call 864-1425.

On March 4, the NGCSU Women & Leadership Conference will feature keynote speaker **U. S. Navy Captain Gail Harris** at 12:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. For more information, call 864-1978.

# School of Education advances learning with action research

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classroom practices.

North Georgia is a member of a consortium of institutions involved in the Teachers as Researchers Academy – TARA – offered through SERVE, a federal educational research and development laboratory located at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Included in the consortium with NGCSU and SERVE are the University of Montevallo in Birmingham and Western Carolina University in Cullowhee.

Dr. Ann Stucke, a teacher education faculty member, and Michael, involve NGCSU students and recent graduates in the TARA training.

“What they learn is generating a positive impact in how educators in K-12 schools improve learning,” said Michael. “The North Georgia students and graduates teach at participating area schools, which have included Chestatee Middle School and North Hall Middle School in Hall County and Gilmer County Middle School in Ellijay.”

TARA participants typically are involved in action research projects for two to three years. This involvement includes a series of professional learning workshops that receive technical support from their sponsoring institution.

NGCSU graduates Susan Ferrell and Mark Barton are working with NCGSU in researching the effectiveness of an integrated social studies and science curriculum thematically based on the water resources of Georgia. Another TARA project involves recent Education Specialist program graduates Suzanne Jarrard and Holly Mauny in the development of effective leadership teams at Chestatee Middle School.

“My involvement with school-based research and improvement efforts helps me stay current on the challenges of developing a successful action research program with teacher leaders facing the ever-increasing demands and pressures of public schools,” Stucke said.

“Working with practitioners informs our courses and curriculum through the collaborative work of exemplary practitioners and university faculty,” Michael added.

In addition to supporting their teacher researcher colleagues, TARA participants are exploring a number of educational improvement issues, including incorporating action research skill-development in professional learning activities of school personnel and utilizing the lessons learned from TARA to influence education practice and policy.

This year’s annual TARA consortium conference will be hosted by NGCSU on March 5-6. Workshop participants will present the results of their action research projects, attend a series of skill development seminars, and continue their conversations about teacher-led school improvement.

Anyone interested in the work of TARA and who would like additional information about the possibility of participating in next year’s consortium activities may telephone 864-1998. 🏠



**Pulitzer Prize winner Eugene Patterson to speak at North Georgia:**

The NGCSU alumnus, and former Atlanta Journal-Constitution editor from the 1960s, will recall the civil rights movement on Feb. 12. He will address “The Changing South of Gene Patterson.” The event, at 12:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium, is part of Black History Month activities. A book-signing will take place afterward. For more information, dial ext. 1949.

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**Digest**

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HOMECOMING '04

**TRADING SPACES:** The Alumni Center traded its old patio furniture in for a new set. Vice President Bruce Howerton helps Emily McAfee, alumni affairs, put a new chair together in time for homecoming weekend.



**DONORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE:** Scholarship recipients had the opportunity to meet their benefactors at a luncheon hosted by the NGCSU Foundation during homecoming weekend. More than 20 donors and others representing scholarship endowments, along with 60 scholarship recipients, attended the Jan. 24 event. The students in many cases met those whose financial support is helping them in their higher education pursuits.

**HOMECOMING HIGH:** Cadets from Alfa Company keep their spirits high along with Colin Sattler, demonstrating “el-evated” pushups during the homecoming games. The Saints were edged out by Emmanuel College, 74-79. The Lady Saints won 80-71. Amanda McGarey was crowned homecoming queen.



Photo: Eric Mabbott

**Staff Sweet-n-Greet**

The 2nd annual Sweet-n-Greet Social will take place Feb. 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Adams Great Room. The social is sponsored by the Staff Council and representatives will be at the event to answer questions about the organization.

**Sweetheart Review**

The Corps of Cadets will honor the “sweethearts” who help the different military organizations at a review in the Memorial Gym at 8 p.m. on Feb. 13. All employees are invited.

**LOCAL SENSATION:** The critically acclaimed bluegrass/country band,

Valerie Smith and Liberty Pike, performed two concerts on Feb. 5 as part of the Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series. Among the group was Dahlonga native John Wesley Lee, far right, who plays the mandolin. Carl McDonald in materials management, a mandolin player and friend to the Lee family, showed the performer some pointers before Lee started touring. Lee has garnered national awards, including first place in the Mandolin Contest at Merlefest in Wilkesboro, N.C., and a top five finish at the 2000 National Mandolin Championships in Winfield, Kan.

