

Gessell receives distinguished professor award

Dr. Donna Gessell has been named the recipient of the 2004 Distinguished Professor Award, which annually honors a faculty member who demonstrates a "total service" philosophy to NGCSU.



Dr. Donna Gessell

The faculty member's endeavors in excellence in teaching and service to students and extracurricular participation in service to

NGCSU and its community, research, and scholarly publication establish the basis for the NGCSU Alumni Association award.

In October 2002, Gessell, an associate professor of English literature, took on the added responsibilities as the director of Graduate Studies and External Programs, both fast-growing segments of the university.

Gessell now divides her time among teaching, managing the growing graduate student body, and sustaining the growth of North Georgia's satellite campuses in Forsyth County and at the Gainesville College University Center.

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Faculty meeting goes live to campus



WIDER AUDIENCE: Scott Marshall, e-learning and opportunity services, monitors the Webcast of the Feb. 25 faculty meeting.

For the first time in North Georgia's history, a faculty meeting was transmitted live via an internal Webcast, so that faculty and staff could view the proceedings from campus computers. For those without access to a personal computer, the meeting also was simulcast in the HNS Auditorium.

"This communication tool adds to the university community environment," said President Nathaniel Hansford at the Feb. 25 Faculty Business Meeting. "It's a great vehicle to provide information and to communicate, and I think a large part of what a university is about is free communication."

Hansford discussed the budget, including a potential 5 percent cut in the new fiscal year (FY '05) beginning July 1, vowing, "We are committed to not laying off any personnel."

A 2 percent pay increase for state employees proposed by Gov. Sonny Perdue is a possibility said the president, adding that he hopes the General Assembly will consider an even larger increase.

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Montana Skies, featuring the cello and guitar duo of Jonathan and Jennifer Adams, will perform in concert March 11 at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. The husband and wife team, formerly known as the Adams Duo, creates a blend of music that includes original compositions and varied styles, with influences from classical, ethnic and jazz music. This event is sponsored by the Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series. For more information, call 864-1431.



Campus in Action

Dr. Thomas Austenfeld, language and literature, presented a paper titled “Spanish Baroque and Austrian Modernism in Hugo von Hofmannsthal” at the 20th Century Literature Conference in Louisville, KY on Feb 26-28. He also chaired a panel on Dadaism and the Avant-Garde at the conference.

Dr. Noel D. Campbell, business administration, and John Charles Bradbury co-wrote “Local Lobbying for State Grants: Evidence from Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship,” which was published in the *Public Finance Review*, 31:4 in 2003. Campbell also had the article “Do Lottery Funds Increase Educational Expenditure? Evidence from Georgia’s Lottery for Education” published in the *Journal of Education Finance*, 28:3, 2003.

Peers get ‘pied’ for cancer research

The Annual Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser, sponsored by the NGCSU Relay-for-Life Team, will donate proceeds from the event to the American Cancer Society.

Employees may vote for those listed below and the top three vote-getters will be “pied” on April 1 on the Student Center Patio at 1 p.m. It costs a quarter to vote and there is no limit on the number of votes submitted.

Contact departmental secretaries to submit votes.

Contestants include: Sgt. Maj. Byron Barron, Dr. Judy Bryant, Joe Cubera, Lt. Col. Ed Dickens, Mike Ferguson, Dr. Robert Fuller, Jimmy Gable, Gregg Green, Dr. Brad Herbert, Dr. Scot Irwin, Amanda Lammers, Maj. Richard Neikirk, Mack Palmour, Jason Pruitt, Dr. Steve Smith, Chief Mike Stapleton, Wes Thomas, Dr. Dan Thompson, Dr. Carl Weinberg and Dr. Jimmy Woods.



JUST CLONING AROUND: Dr. Steven Stice (1), the 2004 Hoag Lecturer, brought his expertise in the science of cloning to campus on March 2. The

University of Georgia researcher talked about the current state of affairs in cloning and the technology and controversy surrounding the science. Michael Marling de Cuellar, chairman of the Hoag Lecture Committee, and President Nathaniel Hansford talk with the scientist before the presentation.

Faculty meeting *(Continued from page 1)*

The '03-'04 Military Leadership Special Funding Initiative, originally a \$750,000 appropriation from the General Assembly, was cut 6 percent this year. An additional 10 percent reduction is proposed for '04-'05. The university raises \$250,000 annually in private gifts to supplement the total.

Hansford warned that there might be changes in the HOPE Scholarship funding.

The governor’s budget includes \$1 million for maintenance, renovation and repair of campus facilities. The president hopes the university will be allocated funds next year to begin planning for and designing a Library/Information & Instructional Technology Center for North Georgia. Looking ahead to possible future campus construction, Hansford foresees a new capital request for a Leadership and Learning building plus funds for renovation of the Education Building and its infrastructure.

Other topics covered by Hansford include possible changes in enrollment growth management, determining priorities for freshmen-student and transfer-student acceptance, and monitoring retention rates.

“I commend our faculty for working with less to make sure that the high academic standards of NGCSU are maintained,” the president said as he noted successes in qualifications of entering freshmen – over 90 percent with HOPE Scholarships – as the university maintains high retention and graduation rates.

“Our leadership and military mission has been a success,” Hansford said.

Students are learning to distribute grants, employees are involved in leadership activities and the military program is expected to grow again next fall, while maintaining the quality of the Corps of Cadets.

Regarding the application process to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, a decision has been made not to apply to the NCAA this year because of scheduling conflicts and other issues. The decision took into consideration the student athletes and how they would be affected, Hansford explained. A decision on NCAA membership is under consideration.

The now-completed five-year Strategic Plan is guiding the university’s future, said the president, as he outlined some of the opportunities and challenges on the horizon as the plan is implemented. ▲

Distinguished professor named

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"It is truly an honor to be recognized in this fashion," Gessell said. "Just looking at the list of those who have been singled out before me is humbling. I have had the privilege of working with several of the previous awardees, and I respect the values they represent."

Nine years ago Gessell came to the university as an assistant professor of English to teach 18th Century British Literature and John Milton and to oversee the Writing Center and develop the Writing Across the Curriculum initiative at NGCSU.

Gessell's passion for teaching comes through when she talks.

"This semester I'm teaching English Composition II," Gessell said. "It's my favorite course because students learn to think critically through writing about literature.

"To experience students' enthusiasm when they learn to think beyond what they have been accustomed to is why I teach."

The university's external programs are expanding through Gessell's initiatives.

"We are working to bring the psychology degree program to Forsyth County, which would be the first complete undergraduate degree there," Gessell said.

"The Forsyth campus will have a heavy emphasis on leadership, and we hope to offer parts of the leadership curriculum to businesses as certificate programs. Eventually, we hope to work with the community to have a building there dedicated to the NGCSU program."

Gessell has served on the Leadership Curriculum Committee, Leadership Task Force, Leadership Roundtable Society, on numerous university committees, and she chairs the Graduate Council and serves on the Deans Council.

Gessell's daughter, Amanda Frye, is a sophomore majoring in physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and produces theatre for the Shakespearean Ensemble there. Gessell's husband, John Segars, is a golf course pro.

In the Lumpkin County community, Gessell also serves in leadership positions in the Girl Scouts, Beta Phi's annual Wildflower Festival of the Arts, and the Lumpkin County Literacy Coalition. 🏠

Upcoming Events

"An Evening with Debussy" concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Gloria Shott Auditorium, March 8-9. The free event is open to the public. For more information, contact the Fine Arts department at 864-1423.

Professors to kiss pig: The Physical Therapy Class of 2005 convinced six faculty members to compete in a fundraiser that will result in one of them having to kiss a pig on March 11 to raise funds for a convocation. Votes may be submitted to Lynn Youngblood at a dollar per vote. Contestants are Cecilia Democko, Drs. Robert Laird, Frank Fearon, Scot Irwin, Carol Miller and Sherri Williams. The event will take place in HNSB room 321 at 12 p.m.

Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, a gay teenager brutally beaten and killed in 1998, will speak on March 25 on anti-violence and how to make communities safer. The 7 p.m. event will take place in the Memorial Hall Gym. For more information, call Dr. Donna Waddell at ext. 1652.

The **Golden Eagle Band** of the NGCSU Corps of Cadets will perform a free concert on March 27 at 2 p.m. at the outdoor Gazebo next to the Dahlonega Square. For more information, call 864-1423.

The theatrical production of **"Driving Miss Daisy"** will take place in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium, March 31-April 3 at 7:30 p.m. and April 4 at 2 p.m. For additional information, contact the Fine Arts department at 864-1423.

the
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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 March 22. **Deadline for submissions is March 15.**

WOMEN LEADERS: An international ensemble of speakers converged at NGCSU March 3-5 for the annual Women and Leadership Conference. Speakers from Africa, India, Hawaii, as well as others from the Southeastern United States participated in the event. Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Gail Harris, the keynote speaker, talks with Kathryn Kuebler, one of more than 60 female military students. Kuebler is part of the 30-year legacy of women in the university's ROTC program, which began in fall of 1973.



Photo: Jamie Fisher

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR: International students brought their cultures to life in a show filled with skits, a fashion parade, dance and music routines on March 3. The NGCSU International Students Association 3rd annual Cultural Show introduced the students' 20 countries to more than 200 people in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium.

Leading by example

Retired U.S. Army Col. Danny R. McKnight, currently a Homeland Security coordinator, spoke to the Corps of Cadets on March 1 about his experiences in Mogadishu, Somalia in October 1993 when American soldiers became embroiled with Somali guerilla fighters. He told the audience of more than 500 about his promise to his troops.

"I will never ask you to do anything that I cannot do and will not do with you," McKnight said.

"Now that's what I told them up front. That's a great statement but you have to be able to really back up that statement and you have to do it every day. We're talking about living up to what you say to the great young men and women that you are having the opportunity to lead. I had no idea how prophetic those words were going to be come October 1993 when I had to be right there with them in probably the toughest, ugliest conditions I could ever imagine in Somalia."

McKnight was the 3rd Ranger Battalion commander and led the groundforce convoy that fought its way through Mogadishu to relieve besieged American soldiers.



SERVICE RECORD: Sally Kelley, the senior ROTC executive assistant in military science, was honored for 25 years of service in the U.S. government,

the last 15 years of which have been at the university. Kelley, with Col. Billy Wells, is instrumental in helping prepare military students for commissioning as officers in the U.S. Army. She maintains the network of records necessary for the future officers and communicates with the ROTC cadet command.