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available to incoming freshmen, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets from other institutions, and students currently enrolled at North Georgia offer students a summer immersion experience to learn strategic languages.

New language center to enhance global outreach



A new academic center at North Georgia has been created within the School of Education to capitalize on the ever increasing number of language programs and

partnerships being developed as a focus on global engagement, part of the university's new five-year strategic plan. Beginning this summer, the Center for Language Education (CLE) will provide opportunities for international and regional students who are future or practicing teachers to develop language skills and to promote the best pedagogy for educators teaching English as a Second Language.

The Digest is published weekly by the Office of University Relations for North Georgia's faculty, staff, students and community.

Director of University Relations: Kate Maine
Public Relations Coordinator: Joshua Preston
Designer: Debbie Martin

University expands summer institute language programs

North Georgia is selected one of two ROTC strategic language hubs

By Kate Maine

Based on the success of a 2008 Chinese language summer institute, North Georgia College & State University is adding programs this summer in Arabic, Russian and French. The courses available to incoming freshmen, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets from other institutions, and students currently enrolled at North Georgia offer students a summer immersion experience to learn strategic languages.

North Georgia is one of two schools in the country designated by ROTC Cadet Command as a strategic language hub for cadets who are commissioning through ROTC and wish to study critical languages to prepare for international leadership roles both during and beyond their military careers. The other school is California's San Diego State University.



Dr. Chi-Hsuan Catterson, a Chinese instructor at North Georgia

(Photo: Joshua Preston)

The summer institutes, June 23 through July 31, feature native-speaking faculty and teaching assistants and represent the North Georgia's strategic efforts to "internationalize" the campus and curriculum to promote students' understanding of the world and their ability to work and serve in a global community.

"The summer institutes are opportunities for students to engage in intensive programs to gain significant competencies in these languages and cultures," said Dr. Chris Jespersen, dean of North Georgia's School of Arts and Letters.

The summer institutes were launched in 2008 with funding support from a federal grant from the ROTC Language and Culture Project, designed to promote education programs for languages that are not commonly taught within higher education. North Georgia was one of eight U.S. colleges and universities to receive the grant at the time.

ROTC is partnering with the National Security Education Program (NSEP), a federal initiative designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of citizens with foreign language and international skills to serve the needs of national security and competitiveness, to focus on the critical languages and cultures of Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America.

North Georgia's Department of Modern Languages adopted Chinese as part of its language programs with a few courses before developing a full-fledged academic minor in Chinese. As part of the program, North Georgia has implemented a study abroad component in partnership with Tsinghua University in Beijing.

The Chinese institute, which offered nine credit hours in Chinese language, was the first college experience for virtually the entire class – 14 of the 16 students were freshmen. The students experienced almost complete immersion in the Chinese language and culture with a 14-hour daily schedule every weekday in addition to weekend trips.

North Georgia's Chinese language program has experienced rapid growth since it started less than two years ago with only two courses, subsequently becoming an academic minor. The university is making plans to offer students the opportunity to major in Chinese in the near future.

In addition to the language programs offered through the summer institutes, the university is offering courses in Strategic Issues in a Changing World and MATLAB. The Strategic Issues course is designed to introduce students to the history and theory behind the world's present conflicts and provide opportunities to discuss ancient conflict, terrorism and evolving security issues. MATLAB is used by scientists and engineers around the world working in aerospace, semiconductors, biotech, financial services, and earth and ocean sciences to perform sophisticated and efficient computing. In the MATLAB course, students will learn to design and construct algorithms and programs for scientific and engineering problem-solving, as well as the mathematics necessary for success in Calculus and future science classes.

For details about the summer institutes at North Georgia, visit apache.northgeorgia.edu or phone 706-864-1800.

New language center to enhance global outreach

By Joshua Preston

A new academic center at North Georgia has been created within the School of Education to capitalize on the ever increasing number of language programs and partnerships being developed as a focus on global engagement, part of the university's new [five-year strategic plan](#).



The Center for Language Education will enhance the English skills of non-native speakers and prepare future teachers for diverse schools.

(Photo: Joshua Preston)

boosting faculty and student exchanges to enhance cultural and language differences on campus.

"Public schools are becoming international," Dr. James Badger, director of the CLE, said. "We want our students to have a vision that is beyond our [national] borders, and we are actively moving in a direction to provide students an international experience."

Internationalizing the campus isn't just going overseas, Badger said, though the School of Education has plans to expand its existing study abroad programs to England, Poland and Mexico.

Just as essential, according to Badger, who has taught English as a Second Language in four countries, is exposing undergraduates to international students on the Dahlonega campus, where interesting conversations can take place and where the students can learn about each other and different educational systems and cultures.

The center is also open to students in other areas of study, particularly international students enrolled full-time, to give them an opportunity to improve their English language skills. The English as a Second Language (ESL) program offered through the center is an open enrollment program designed to teach students to perform with linguistic competence and confidence.

The CLE, because of the international dialogue it will have with foreign schools, will be primed to provide more direct pathways for faculty members across campus to collaborate on research with international scholars. Faculty will be able to share their research interests with overseas faculty

Beginning this summer, the Center for Language Education (CLE) will provide opportunities for international and regional students who are future or practicing teachers to develop language skills – to improve their English or learn another language – to promote the best pedagogy for educators teaching English as a Second Language and to meet the needs of the state's diverse public school students.

A major component of the center will be collaborating with foreign universities and

members through international conferences or virtual seminars and e-mail, with the CLE being a resource in making those connections.

"The center is part of the School of Education's alignment with the strategic plan of the university and we are placing a special emphasis on the internationalization of the campus and growing North Georgia's language programs," Dr. Bob Michael, dean of the School of Education, said.

Much of the programming is in partnership with the School of Arts & Letters and the idea for the center emerged from the rapid increase in language education on campus, Michael said. Part of that expansion includes new summer language institutes this year, a partnership with the national Defense Language Institute for cadets, and an increase in language courses on campus to include Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

The three areas the CLE will focus on include ESL, educational endorsements for teachers working with students speaking other languages, and certifying teachers who speak other languages fluently so that they can teach that language in the education field.

North Georgia's economic impact nearly \$165 million

By Kate Maine

A newly released report shows that the economic impact of North Georgia College & State University on Lumpkin and surrounding counties was nearly \$165 million with an employment impact of 1,559 jobs during the 2008 Fiscal Year.

The report, produced by the Selig Center for Economic Growth in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, measured university and student spending and associated jobs in Lumpkin, Hall, Dawson, White, Forsyth, and Union counties.

"The report shows that the university system continues to be one of the state's major economic engines, and North Georgia plays a vital role in helping support the economy in our region," said Dr. David Potter, president of North Georgia College & State University.

About 70 percent – \$115.4 million – of North Georgia's total economic impact was due to initial spending for salaries and benefits, operating supplies and expenses, and other budgeted expenditures, as well as spending by the students who attended the institution in FY2008. Re-spending – the multiplier effect of those dollars as they are spent again in the region – accounted for another \$49.2 million.

North Georgia's enrollment for fall 2008 exceeded 5,000 students, and the university employs approximately 500 faculty and staff.

Together, the 35 institutions of the University System of Georgia (USG) made a \$12.1 billion economic impact on the state's economy during Fiscal Year 2008.

The Selig Center analyzed data collected between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, to calculate the University System's FY2008 economic impact. This work updates a similar studies conducted on behalf of The Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP), an initiative of the Board of Regents' Office of Economic Development.

The previous report, based on FY2007 data, placed the USG's economic impact at \$11 billion. The first study in the series calculated the USG's impact at \$7.7 billion in FY1999. The latest \$12.1 billion thus is a \$4.4 billion increase since FY 1999 – or a growth of 57 percent in the system's economic impact on Georgia's communities.

"While our research has consistently shown the important economic contributions public colleges and universities make to communities and the state, this latest study supports the argument that the University System can play an important role in helping Georgia's economy recover," said study author Dr. Jeffrey M. Humphreys, director of economic forecasting for the Selig Center.

Researchers found that, on average, for every dollar of initial spending in a community by a University System institution, an additional 51 cents was generated for the local economy hosting a college or university.

Humphreys said that for each job created on a campus, 1.6 jobs exist off-campus because of spending related to the college or university.

In addition to the \$12.1 billion in total impact generated by the University System in FY2008, the study determined that Georgia's public higher education system is responsible for 2.6 percent of all the full- and part-time jobs in the state. While approximately 39 percent of these positions are on-campus jobs, a majority – 61 percent – are positions in the private or public sectors that exist because of the presence in the community of USG institutions.

The Selig Center's FY2008 report may be downloaded [online](#).

North Georgia awards faculty and staff for service

North Georgia recognized 73 faculty and staff members – representing more than 800 years of service – for their continuous service to the university during a ceremony on April 1 at the Hoag Student Center.

Jarad Conner, of human resources, and Dr. David Potter, president, presented the awards, which recognized continuous service in increments of five years.

Six of the employees honored have served at North Georgia for 25 years or more. The three recipients of the 25-year service award were Dr. Joe Chapman, music professor; Shari Holtzclaw, access services manager in the Library and Technology Center; and Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch, vice president of academic affairs.

Nora Jones, of advancement services, and Wesley L. Thomas, director of the student center and student activities, were recognized for each having 30 years of service. Joseph Fitts, of materials management, was recognized for 35 years of service.



Wes Thomas and Nora Jones were recognized at an April 1 ceremony for their 30 years of continuous service to North Georgia College & State University. (Photo: Kate Maine)

Service Spotlight

Karson Levely
Graduate Assistant, Regional Engagement
The Vickery House

Levely has worked at North Georgia since 2001, previously in undergraduate and cadet admissions. Now, as a student working toward a master's degree in public administration, she is a graduate assistant working for the university's Office of Regional Engagement, which promotes collaborative projects between North Georgia and the communities it serves. The Office of Regional Engagement also coordinates service-learning opportunities that allow students and instructors to shift the focus from classroom to external settings on and off-campus.



How do you interact with students in your job?

My main job has been to work on Web site development for all regional engagement at the university. I am also involved with service learning, which bridges the gap between volunteering and interning, and meets academic requirements. Basically, the course hours are earned by a student volunteering or interning somewhere on campus or in the community. For example, the university's Leadership classes helped with the Yahoola Creek project last year and nursing students volunteer their time at schools and nursing homes in the community.

What is your favorite thing about your role?

I really enjoy the Web development part of my job. I also love working with Donna Gessell. She's fun to be around, and I also find it fun being on the forefront of things in the office.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

I'm a cross fit trainer, and I love hanging out with my husband, who has just returned home from Iraq. We are enjoying being together and living a more normal lifestyle.

Take note...

Owen recounts journey from farm to educator

Dr. John Owen, president of North Georgia College & State University from 1970 to 1992, recently wrote an account of his journey from barefoot farm boy to university president for the magazine at his alma mater, the University of Florida.

It was 1940, and this country boy from Quincy set off in the back of his friend's pick-up truck to further his education at the big University of Florida (enrollment approximately 2,400) in the big city of Gainesville (population approximately 3,000, including the country, I believe.)

I brought to Florida that day a suitcase with two pairs of pants (identical for some reason), two shirts and a cheap pair of shoes that left blisters on my feet for months because I'd been used to running barefoot all summer.

Read more of his story, [An educator from the "sticks."](#)

International Food Festival, April 2

The International Students Association will hold its annual International Food Festival on Thursday, April 2, noon to 2 p.m., on the patio of the Hoag Student Center (rain location-Adams Great Room). Admission is free.

Katrina commander keynote for Honors Conference

The 14th Annual Honors Conference, April 7-8, will showcase student excellence and achievement and conclude with a keynote from retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, widely hailed by the media as the "Category 5 General" who led Task Force Katrina in the aftermath of the devastating hurricane that struck the Gulf Coast in the summer of 2005. Honoré will speak on "Building a Culture of Preparedness" in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium at 5 p.m. on April 8. Honoré is currently a senior scientist with The Gallup Organization, where he is working on developing questions to determine levels of preparedness, and is a CNN preparedness contributor.

Legislative Update highlights

This week's issue of the [USG Legislative Update](#) features the Senate Appropriations Committee actions to restore some of the targeted cuts to the University System of Georgia's (USG) budget made earlier in the session, including \$600,000 to fund North Georgia's leadership mission and about \$6 million needed to fund the university's capital improvement projects to renovate the former Stewart library, Hoag Student Center, Young Hall and Barnes Hall, and to update classroom technology campus wide.

Admissions open house gets overwhelming response

Despite the rain, more than 1,000 people attended the Office of Undergraduate Admissions' spring open house on March 28. Two open houses are held each year to give prospective students and their families an opportunity to visit campus and see the Academic and Activities showcase.

Master plan update scheduled

The university's master planning process is nearing completion and all faculty and staff are invited to meet with the consultants from Sasaki on April 14, 2-3:30 p.m., to see the latest plans. The meeting will be in room 163 of the Library Technology Center.

CTLE seeks nominations for teaching awards

The university's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence is accepting nominations for its annual Distinguished Professor of Teaching & Learning and Excellence in Teaching awards. Nomination forms and

criteria are available through the [CTLE Web site](#). There are two new Excellence in Teaching awards this year – Practices in Service-Learning and Scholarship of Engagement – that recognize work in the work of community engagement.

All nominations should be submitted by April 30.

Campus in Action

Palma selected for accrediting body

Dr. **Stefanie Palma** has been asked to serve on the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) Central Panel for the next term of July 2009 through June 2013. CAPTE is the only accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to accredit entry-level physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs.

Rayner promotes financial literacy in Georgia

Jill Rayner, director of Financial Aid, and colleagues from around the state met with Gov. Sonny Perdue this week to commemorate April as Financial Literacy Month in Georgia. Rayner has participated on numerous state and federal committees and task forces related to student financial aid.

Photo: North Georgia's Jill Rayner (second row, third from left) and financial aid colleagues from around the state received a proclamation from Gov. Sonny Perdue declaring April as Financial Literacy Month.



Kokkala re-elected to position

Dr. **Irene Kokkala**, director of the Center of Teaching & Learning Excellence, was re-elected as the treasurer of the Southern Regional Faculty and Instructional Development Consortium on March 24 and will serve in that position for the next three years. The annual conference of SRFIDC will be hosted by North Georgia in 2010.