

## Parents-Alumni Weekend features the dedication of Owen Hall

On April 5 at 2 p.m. during Parents-Alumni Weekend, the John H. Owen Residence Hall, the university's newest student dwelling, will be dedicated to the former North Georgia president of 22 years.

The building project, undertaken by the NGCSU Foundation, was completed and opened to students fall semester 2002. Ground was broken for the building in November 2001, less than a year earlier. The campus community watched last spring and summer as the construction steadily changed the North Georgia skyline.



The John H. Owen Residence Hall opened in August 2002.

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## Fearon receives Distinguished Professor Award

On Dr. Frank Fearon's 10th anniversary as a North Georgia faculty member, the associate professor of physical therapy has been named the 2003 Distinguished Professor.

"I was pleasantly surprised to receive this award and am excited and honored to have been selected," Fearon said.



Frank Fearon

"Like many faculty, I do not try to do a good job for any award, but it is very rewarding to receive such a recognition.

"My motivation is very much an internal drive to do well at whatever task I am given," Fearon said. "I enjoy the challenge of teaching, always striving to improve."

Fearon also has a positive outlook on his duties beyond teaching. "I would recommend that service be seen as an opportunity to have fun. Even the Traffic Appeals Committee can be fun!"

Fearon unofficially came to NGCSU in 1991 from Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville as an "on loan" assistant to North Georgia's vice president for Academic Affairs. The

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## Rascal Flatts performs at North Georgia

The award-winning trio Rascal Flatts will bring their contemporary style of country music to North Georgia on April 4 at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Hall gymnasium. The group recently landed their first No. 1 song on the Billboard Country Singles Chart with "These Days," from their platinum-selling sophomore album titled "Melt."



Rascal Flatts consists of Jay DeMarcus, Gary LeVox and Joe Don Rooney.

The trio was named the 2001 New Vocal Group of the Year by the Academy of Country Music.

The event is sponsored by the Student Activities Board. NGCSU faculty and staff may purchase tickets for \$20 at the Hoag Student Center Director's Office.

For more information, call student activities at x1643.

## Campus in Action

**Dr. Marc J. Gilbert**, history, was selected to occupy one of the two places reserved for faculty members in the University System of Georgia's new online course in Russian language offered via Georgia Tech. Gilbert plans to use the program to be able to identify classroom resource materials in world history and explore materials in Russian about Afghanistan.

**Dr. Gerald Skelly**, School of Business and Government, published an article titled "Developing and Delivering an Undergraduate International Business Course Abroad: Observations and Experiences From the Land of Big Ben" in the Fall 2002 issue of *Journal of Business and Training Education*.

**Dr. Elizabeth Combier**, language and literature, presented the paper "Corpses on the Golden-Age Stage" at the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater conference in El Paso, Texas, March 7-9. She also presented a paper, "Staging an Adaption at NGCSU," at the National Symposium on Theater in Academe held on March 13-15 at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va.

**Dr. Gordon E. McNeer**, language and literature, delivered the paper "When Tropes Become Traps, a Translator's Dilemma" in a session that he chaired at the conference on "Tropology: Text and Context" held at Binghamton University in New York on March 21. Also on March 21, McNeer's bilingual edition of "Jose Hierro's Libro de las Alucinaciones" was presented at the Universidad Popular Jose Hierro in San Sebastian de los Reyes, Spain.

**Dr. Grace Newsome**, nursing, was elected as president of the Georgia League for Nursing at the annual conference in February. She will serve as president until February 2005. Newsome also had the article "Interstitial Cystitis" published in the February issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*.

## Concert embraces roots of bluegrass

The nationally acclaimed group Chris Jones and the Night Drivers will bring the rich earthy tones of traditional bluegrass music to the Hoag Student Center Auditorium on April 8 at 7:30 p.m.



Chris Jones and the Night Drivers are Kristin Scott Benson, Casey Driessen, Chris Jones, Mickey Harris and Brad Meinerding.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series at North Georgia.

The group's music takes the simplicity of bluegrass and flavors it with the story-telling nature of country and the soulful spirit of southern gospel. From sorrowful ballads to lively tunes, each of their songs reflects the joys,

trials and tribulations of the working class. Their music is inspired by early masters of bluegrass, like Flatt & Scruggs and the Stanley Brothers.

Jones' rustic baritone overlays and vividly contrasts with the dynamic harmonies of his band mates. In addition to lead vocals, Jones is a songwriter and guitarist. His hard-driving band, the Night Drivers, consists of Kristin Scott Benson on the banjo, Mickey Harris on the upright bass, Casey Driessen on the fiddle and Brad Meinerding with backup vocals.

## Distinguished Professor Award 2003

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physical therapy program was being proposed at that time. In 1992 he began teaching part-time in the newly established PT graduate program and was lured to taking a full-time faculty position the following year.

Fearon is the coordinator of physical therapy's admissions, chair of the department's Curriculum Committee and Outcomes Assessment Committee and the CAPTE accreditation coordinator. He serves on his school's Promotion and Tenure Committee and the university's Grievance Committee as well as multiple search committees. Fearon is presently vice president of the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia and is also a committee member of Boy Scout Troop 111 in Cumming.

He says what he enjoys most about his involvement at North Georgia is the process of teaching. "It is remarkably rewarding to see students become excited about learning," he said. "This university truly values excellence in teaching and its students."

Since 1971 the NGCSU Alumni Association annually selects a member of the faculty to receive the Distinguished Professor designation, and this is the second year in a row that a graduate program professor has received the award. Dr. Barry Friedman, coordinator of the Masters of Public Administration Program was the 2002 Distinguished Professor recipient.

Fearon will receive his award at the noon luncheon on April 5 in the Dining Hall during Parents-Alumni Weekend. ▲

## North Georgia Jazz holds concert

“It don’t mean a thing...if it ain’t got that swing!” Duke Ellington’s popular theme will resound in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium on April 3 at 12:30 p.m. and April 4 at 7:30 p.m. as "North Georgia Jazz" hits the stage with a program of big band swing.

The 15-piece jazz ensemble from North Georgia will perform a variety of classic tunes made popular by jazz artists such as Ellington and Glenn Miller, along with contemporary swing music and a patriotic tribute. The concert also includes Latin selections.

The ensemble recently completed it’s first spring break tour to the Georgia coast. For more information, call 864-1423.



Dr. Joe Chapman (l) directs the North Georgia Jazz band.

## North Georgia hosts Wellness Expo

North Georgia will host a Wellness Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 3 in the Memorial Hall gymnasium. It will include free health-related treatments including blood pressure checks, glucose testing, nutrition information and eye vision screenings.

Representatives from more than 20 health and wellness organizations will be at the event, including the Dahlonega School of Massage, Life Line Screening, Chestatee and Northside Hospitals, the Lumpkin County Health Department and Sheriff’s Department and Mountain Eye Clinic.

NGCSU faculty and staff giving out information about their services include Student Counseling, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Health & Physical Education Department, Library and Recreational Sports.

## Parents-Alumni Weekend

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During the dedication ceremony, a plaque with the likenesses of Dr. John H. Owen and his wife Margaret Owen will be unveiled in the residence hall’s community room. All faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the ceremony.

Also, planned for PA Weekend is a speech by retired Army Gen. William J. Livsey, NG ’52, at the 20th anniversary of the NGCSU Memorial Wall dedication, the 25th Annual Parents-Alumni golf tournament, the Distinguished Professor and Outstanding Student presentations and Alumni Awards Banquet.

For more information, contact Alumni Affairs at 864-1547. ▲

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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 April 14. **Deadline for submissions is April 7.**

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

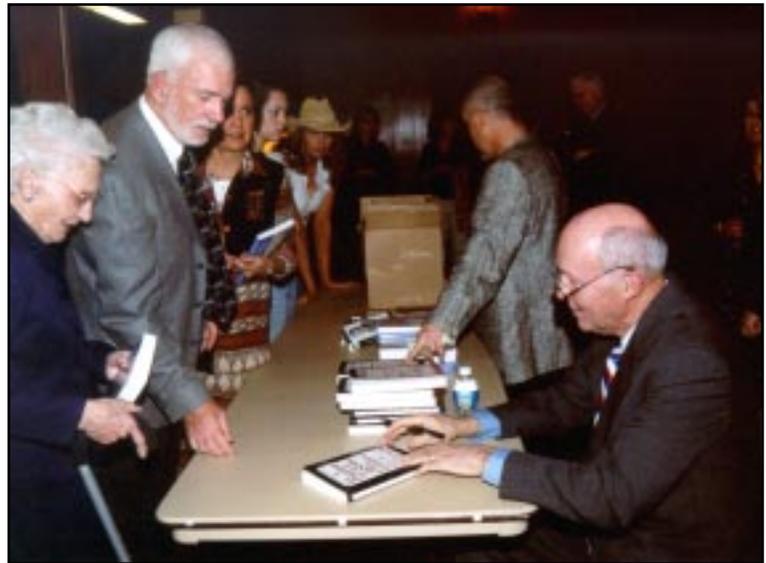
State Sen. Carol Jackson, D-Cleveland, and Dr. Elizabeth Plunkett-Butimer, owner of Bowden Manufacturing, will participate in the next **“Forum on Female Leadership Across the Curriculum: Business and Government”** at 12 p.m. on April 1 in Newton Oakes Center room 019.

North Georgia’s 8th annual **Honors Day Academic Conference** will feature student presentations and academic panels throughout the day on campus April 15. Faculty and staff are invited to attend.

The **National Shakespeare Players** will perform Shakespeare’s “As You Like It” on April 17 at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Hall gymnasium. The event is sponsored by the NGCSU Cultural Events Committee.



**CAREER SOLDIER COMES TO CAMPUS:** Sgt. Maj. Byron Baron, the new senior non-commissioned officer for the ROTC program, spoke at a “change of responsibility” ceremony on March 24. Baron will take the post from Sgt. Maj. Matthew Shortencarrier, who is retiring from the U.S. Army after 30 years of service. Baron’s responsibilities will include training cadets in the officer-commissioning pre-camp program, the Ranger Challenge intercollegiate military team and the NCO Academy, which prepares sophomore cadets for leadership positions.



**LESSONS ON WAR AND LEADERSHIP:** Mrs. Faye Clegg Hoag(l), the widow of Merritt E. Hoag, and her son George Clegg with wife Dale Clegg were among those who had books signed by retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, following his March 25 talk for the Merritt E. Hoag Lecture series. Smith, seen frequently on the CBS Early Show as the military analyst, is the author of “Rules & Tools for Leaders,” “A Hero Among Heroes – Jimmie Dyess and the 4th Marine Division” and other books. “This will be a war of enormous consequence for world events in the next 20 to 30 years,” Smith predicted as he engaged his audience with his commentary on the War with Iraq. He responded to wide-ranging questions from students, faculty and others among the approximately 200 attending the lecture. Smith encouraged educators to “Get people involved in real issues with real experiences as part of the educational process.” The next morning, he spoke with students in two classes on campus before departing for New York and his television analyst duties.



**COMMANDER’S CALL:** The steady rainfall during the March 17 St. Patrick’s Day parade in Savannah forced the Golden Eagle Band commander, cadet Captain Dallas York (r), to make a decision whether or not the military band would perform. Maj. Chris Dare, the unit advisor and ROTC program executive officer, told the business management senior that it was the band’s call. Jack Dillard, in the background, did get the chance to play his festively decorated sousaphone that day in the parade.