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A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

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Weekend. Livsey, a native of Clarkston, Ga., graduated from North Georgia in 1952 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in U.S. Army's infantry division. He is the only North Georgia graduate to achieve the rank of four-star general.

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Make submissions to digest@ngcsu.edu.

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North Georgia to dedicate historic drill field in honor of Gen. James Livsey

By Christian Pennington

The drill field at North Georgia College & State University, an icon for generations of students, will be dedicated in honor of one of its own – Gen. William J. Livsey – during the 2009 Parent-Alumni Weekend.

Livsey, a native of Clarkston, Ga., graduated from North Georgia in 1952 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in U.S. Army's infantry division. He is the only North Georgia graduate to achieve the rank of four-star general.



William J. Livsey Field

The drill field, site of many Corps of Cadets and student activities, is central to the campus's life and members of the campus community are invited to attend the dedication ceremony on Saturday, April 18, at 2:30 p.m. at the reviewing stand at the drill field.



Gen. William J. Livsey

Livsey served in the Army for more than 35 years holding every level of command from platoon leader to commanding general of two Field Armies. His military training includes Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Army War College.

Livsey retired in 1987, after having serving as Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, Commander-in-Chief of Combined Forces Command, Commander of the United States Forces in Korea, and as Commanding General of the Eighth United States Army. Other notable assignments include I Corps Chief of Staff in Korea, Executive to the Army Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C. and Southeast Asia, staff officer in the Office of Research and Development, and leadership instructor at West Point.

Livsey's numerous military honors include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

Livsey and his wife, Bena Sue, reside in Fayetteville, Ga. In October 2008, the Georgia Department of Transportation named a portion of Georgia Hwy. 314, in Fayette County, in Livsey's honor.

War college officers speak to students on national issues

By Joshua Preston



U.S. Army Col. Steve Williamson (Photo: Joshua Preston)

On April 6, several classroom lectures on campus were replaced by discussions on complex national security and public policy issues where students were challenged to think about what their roles would be in shaping the future of America.

Senior military officers from the U.S. Army War College in Pennsylvania were invited to speak on campus as part of the Eisenhower Series College Program, a communication and outreach project sponsored by the war college. A community forum in the Nix Center later that night drew about 140 audience members who discussed topics with a panel

consisting of four military colonels from the U.S. Army's top strategic school.

North Georgia's undergraduates studying international law, sociology, military science and other topics were given insight into security threats to the United States and the country's shifting role in the global community. Students had the opportunity to talk to the military officers who are studying strategic national issues at the war college, and engage them in ideological and practical discussions.

During one session, U.S. Army Col. Steve Williamson discussed with sociology students the changing nature of warfare. The topic tied into a lecture the students will hear next week in Dr. Franziska Bieri's class on "Conflict, war and terrorism as a social problem."

Williamson gave students an idea of how international conflict has changed within just his 20-year military career by briefly describing his military assignments, from Operation Desert Storm to a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo to the War on Terror in Afghanistan, where the U.S. military is engaged in counter-insurgency operations.

"We've gone from standard tank-on-tank battles to something very different within about two decades," Williamson said.

He discussed several factors that have shaped new threats for the American military: advances in communication technology, fighting insurgents or non-state actors, the increased predominance of the non-military aspects of war such as politics and economics, and what he called the "battle of narratives," which centers on "fighting for the hearts and minds of youth in countries" that are torn by conflict.

One area he said that is of particular concern to him is the economic downturn.

"As it deepens, what will happen is that the governments struggling just to maintain their territorial areas are going to have greater difficulties," he said.

He noted the possibility of some African nations and other areas of the world destabilizing and becoming lawless, not able to maintain their governments.

If a paradigm shift in the nature of warfare is taking place, Williamson believes the United States' biggest asset to mitigate global conflict is its leadership, but he also pointed out that a certain level of readiness needs to be maintained.

In paraphrasing Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Williamson concluded that the United States has to "continue to look at terrorists around the world, but we cannot lose our ability to fight the big war."

Service Spotlight

Mary Kay Crowell

Technical Media Support, Nursing Department

Mary Kay Crowell, who has worked at North Georgia since 2002, helps students with entry into the BSN program. Helping students in any way that she can is what she strives for.

How do you interact with students in your job?

I help students register for classes that they need, and make sure that they are able to get in them. I also program the online applications, online course evaluation surveys, and Web site for the entire nursing program.



What is your favorite thing about your role?

I love the interaction that I have with students, and I am also involved with a Pet Therapy program. I teach classes at the Office of Continuing Education for teachers and citizens to learn how to interact with dogs.

I also work with nursing students to show how they can use dogs to help patients overcome disabilities. Interacting with the dogs helps the patients overcome the emotional side effects of disease or disability. The physical therapy students I work with use the dogs to motivate patients to walk by giving them the dog's leash. Education students also use the dogs to help children read. Children who are scared to read aloud in class are encouraged to read to the dogs. They love it, and it is a great motivational tool for them.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

My favorite thing to do outside of work is ride my horses, and my husband and I recently won a state title. We do ballet and musical freestyle with our horses. It's just like dancing, but with horses, and I love it.

Take note...

Workshops available to enhance personal financial skills

On Tuesday, April 14, the Office of Financial Aid is hosting a series of presentations aimed at improving financial literacy. The first presentation will be at 1 p.m. at the Office of Continuing Education and will focus on budgeting and money management. This will be followed by a presentation at 6 p.m. in the Special Collections Room of the Library and Technology Center and will provide information regarding credit scores and maintaining good credit history. These presentations are open to anyone; however, students are particularly encouraged to attend, as all students who attend will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship at each presentation.

Legislative Update highlights budget news

The Georgia General Assembly ended its 2008 Legislative Session at midnight on April 3 with several good-news items that preserved the Board of Regents' basic priorities in the final budget approved for the University System of Georgia (USG) for Fiscal Year 2010. See the USG's online newsletter, [Legislative Update](#), for highlights of the approved budget, including the restoration of special initiative funding for North Georgia's leadership mission.

Campus in Action

Gessell presents at conference

Dr. **Donna Gessell**, executive director for regional engagement, presented a paper on " 'Coded Dreams': The Pastoral World of Courtship in Billy Roper's Works" at the 32nd Annual Appalachian Studies Conference on March 28 in Portsmouth, Ohio.

Sampson elected president of Appalachian Studies Association

Dr. **Alice Sampson**, director of the Appalachian Studies Center at North Georgia, has been elected president of the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA). The ASA has approximately 1,000 members and its mission is to promote and engage dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression and action among scholars, educators, practitioners, grassroots activists, students, individuals, groups and institutions. North Georgia will host the association's 2010 conference, March 19-21. Dr. **Donna Gessell**, executive director for regional engagement at North Georgia, will serve as chair of the local arrangements committee for this conference. Sampson has selected "Engaging Communities" as the conference theme.

Tonner elected to committee; Library Technology Center featured

Shawn Tonner, director of library services, was elected to the Regents Academic Committee on Libraries (RACL) on March 27. The cover of the winter 2009 issue of GLQ: Georgia Library Quarterly (volume 46, #1) features a photograph of the Special Collections Room in the Library Technology Center. Tonner's article, "Library Technology Center Debuts at North Georgia College, is included in this issue.

North Georgia faculty and staff are invited to submit news of professional accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to digest@ngcsu.edu.