



Congressman Norwood speaks to graduates

North Georgia graduated more than 540 students on May 8 in two ceremonies. U.S. Rep. Charlie Norwood spoke to the graduates and to 20 students commissioning as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army at an earlier ceremony.

"I want to challenge each of you to make the most of your respective lives and to invest [yourselves] wisely and honorably," Norwood told the graduating students. "The greatest cultural treasure we hand off to you today is freedom. It is also your greatest protection. Use it, love it, protect it, nourish it."

Seventy-nine students graduated with associate's degrees in nursing, 399 with bachelor's and 66 with master's. More than 130 graduated with honors, achieving a 3.5 grade point average or higher. Eight students were named distinguished military graduates. 🏛️

Four successful alumni honored



Dr. James L. Skinner III

The NGCSU Alumni Association honored four alumni at the Saturday evening banquet during Parents-Alumni Weekend, April 16-18.

Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were retired Maj. Gen. Jere Akin, NG '59, who lives in Marietta, Ga.; retired Col. Gerald Lord, now NGCSU associate vice president for Business and Finance, NG '61; and Tracy Sayers, NG '85, the chief operations officer for Pezold Management Company in Columbus, Ga.

Named to the 2004 Hall of Fame was Dr.

James L. Skinner III of Clinton, S.C., NG '60, whose M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English are from the University of Arkansas.

After serving in the Army and attaining the rank of captain, Skinner joined the faculty of Presbyterian College, where he became chairman of the English Department. He recently retired after 38 years of teaching.

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Corrigan wins Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Brian J. Corrigan, a professor of English at North Georgia, is a recipient of the 2004 Regents' Teaching Excellence Award from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Corrigan was selected for the statewide award from nominated faculty members representing 15 regional and state universities.

NGCSU Vice President for Academic Affairs Phil Buckhiester, who has known Corrigan since the English professor joined the North Georgia faculty in 1990, said, "Dr. Corrigan is known across the campus for bringing enthusiasm, professionalism, dedication and expertise to his classes."

Buckhiester said Corrigan earns outstanding scores on student evaluations.

"These scores are, in part, because students sense that Brian truly cares, not just about his subject matter, but about them and their intellectual and personal growth," the vice president explained. 🏛️



Corrigan teaching a literature class outdoors at North Georgia.



Campus in Action

Syed R. Ahmed, computer science, presented a paper titled "Comparing Database Systems for Teaching Database Principles" at the IADIS International Conference on Applied Computing 2004 in Lisbon, Portugal, March 23-26. He also presented the paper "Applications of Data Mining in Retail Business" at the International Conference on Information Technology ITCC 2004, organized by the IEEE Computer Society, in Las Vegas, Nev., April 5-7.

Dr. Marc Jason Gilbert, history, will serve as the leader of a national workshop for teachers titled "Mapping the World: Geographic Frameworks for Teachers of World History" at Kennesaw State University on June 17.

Gregg Green, director of recreational sports, is the newly elected National Intramural Recreational Sports Association Georgia state director. He will hold the office for two years. NIRSA is a non-profit membership organization serving a network of more than 4,000 trained professionals and students in the recreational sports field in the United States.

Dr. Kristi Hislope and Mariana Stone, language and literature, presented a paper titled "Hispanic Cultural and Language Issues in Rural Georgia Schools" at the Language Variety in the South Conference at the University of Alabama, April 15-17.

Dr. M. Reza Nourbakhsh, physical therapy, published the paper titled "Relationship Between Muscle Length and Moment Arm on EMG Activity of Human Triceps Surae Muscle" in the April 2004 edition of the Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology.

Dr. Linda S. Williams, language and literature, presented "Strengthening the Ties Between Business Communication, Leadership, and the Liberal Arts" at the Association for Business Communication Conference in San Diego, Calif., April 2.

NGPA receives Golden Steeple Award



Becky and NGPA President Robin Fricton with Hansford

The North Georgia Parents Association was awarded a Golden Steeple Award by President Nathaniel Hansford on April 17 during the Alumni Awards Banquet. He awarded the honor because of the Parents Association's commitment to and involvement with the

university's students. This is the first organization to receive the award.

"One of the highlights of my tenure as president has been the formation of the NGCSU Parents Association," Hansford said. "This group of parents has provided direct support to all of our students and cadets in many valuable areas. Moreover, they have been a resource of information for parents of FROGs and other freshman." ▲

Alumni Association honors successful alumni

(Continued from page 1)

Among Skinner's numerous honors, he won the Presbyterian College Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, the Board of Visitors Distinguished Service Award, was selected Professor of the Year at Presbyterian, Professor of the Year for South Carolina by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, and won the Governor's Award as the State Professor of the Year.

Skinner met his wife, Ramona York Skinner, NG '61, while a student at North Georgia. He expressed appreciation for the military education he received here.

"The military teaches you that you are part of a whole, you're a member of a team. You develop a concept of yourself that integrates you into something larger. As I have learned from teaching literature all these years – John Milton, Shakespeare and others – you are not free unless you serve something outside yourself. And military teaches you that. I thank God I learned that at North Georgia, because I haven't learned it anywhere else."

Of all the awards he's received, Skinner said, "Nothing exceeds this one, to be honored by your alma mater." ▲



Maj. Gen. Jere Akin



Col. Gerald Lord



Tracy Sayers



50 YEARS LATER:
One of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decisions, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, which ruled segregation in public schools unconstitutional, turned 50 this year. On April 22 two speakers in Shott

Auditorium talked about the role the court decision played in society. Dr. Robert Pratt, author of "We Shall Not Be Moved: The Desegregation of the University of Georgia" and a professor at UGA, talked about UGA being the first Southern university to admit black students. Pratt graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and specializes in African-American and Southern American history. Dr. George White spoke on the international context of the court decision and how the United States was viewed by other nations at the time of the decision. White teaches at the University of Tennessee and graduated with a Ph.D. from Temple University. He specializes in the history of race relations. Pictured (l to r) are black history month committee members, Drs. Jennifer Smith and Chris Jespersen, with White and Pratt.

Upcoming astronomy event

A presentation of the "Transit of Venus" on June 8 will take place during sunrise at the Coleman Planetarium in the Health & Natural Sciences Building on Sunset Drive. An overnight program takes place beginning at midnight on the night of June 7.

Web video from Europe of the passage of Venus across the sky will be presented in the planetarium beginning at 1 a.m. on June 8. As the sun rises, and weather permitting, a video feed will be available from small solar telescopes on the planetarium roof. Venus' transit ends at 7:25 a.m. EDT.

For more information, contact Joe Jones at 864-1511 or 864-1471.

NGCSU invites you to attend a Retirement Reception honoring Dr. and Mrs. Phil Buckhriester June 1, 5-7 p.m. Alumni Center

MILITARY SERVICE:

A ceremony honoring Fred Fitts and Bill Price for their service to the military program took place April 19 on the drill field. Fitts is retiring after 30 years as a Department of the Army civilian employee, 28 of those years being at NGCSU. Price retired in 1992 after 20 years in the commandant's office. He remained on staff as the Rifle Team coach and is now leaving that position for his "second" retirement. Pictured (l to r) are Col. Tom Palmer, Bill Price and Lisa and Fred Fitts.



Season stats for faculty/staff teams

Intramural basketball

January to March

Regular season wins and losses: 2-3

Postseason: Quarterfinals of campus basketball tournament

Intramural softball

March-April

Regular season wins and losses: 3-4

Postseason: Quarterfinals of NGCSU softball tournament

Call Recreational Sports at ext. 1622 for other opportunities in intramural sports.

the Digest

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Employee service awards

Employees were recognized on April 29 for their years of service to the university by President Nathaniel Hansford in the conference room in Price Memorial Hall.



25
years

(1 to r) Wesley Thomas, Kaye Biddy and Ann Tallant with President Hansford
Not pictured: Nora Jones

30
years

Not pictured: Joe Fitts, Katherine Grizzle



20
years

(1 to r) Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch, Shari Holtzclaw, President Hansford and Dr. Joe Chapman

10
years



(1 to r) Dana Turner, Judith Lewis, Dr. Carl Cavalli, Dr. Frank Fearon, Jason Pruitt, Bill Craig, Dr. Robert Fuller, Martha Farmer, President Hansford, Suzanne McCarter and Dr. Gerald Skelly
Not pictured: Lavon Dyer, Beverly Kirchner, Dr. Victoria McCard, Dr. Wayne Morris, Dr. Sylvia Moseley, Dr. Michael Reese, Dr. Stephen Smith, Daryl Truelove, Robin Webber, Dr. Sherri Williams



15
years

(1 to r) Pauline Brown, Dr. Susan Gannaway, Arnold Branscome, Mary Hummel, Jackie Lee, Dr. Martha Merritt and President Hansford; *Not pictured: Jeffrey Boatfield, Dr. James Chestnut*

5
years



(1 to r) Dr. Grace Newsome, JoAnn Dankelman, Michelle Gilstrap, Dovie McEntire, Dr. Kim Melton, Cindy Lowe, Lynn Saine, Dr. Anne Stucke, Dr. Daria Chronic, Roberta Niles, Dr. Scot Irwin, Martha Doster, President Hansford, Ashraf Mady and Glenn Jones; *Not pictured: Dr. Toni Barnett, Catherine Brooks, Dr. Noel Campbell, Thomas Cantrell, Maebelle Duff, Hoyt Flanagan, Dr. Markus Hitz, Kim Hudson, Dr. Georgia Mann, Dr. Marvin Pippert, Dr. Michael Powell, Derek Suranie, Dr. Sally Wiedmann, Sgt. First Class Thomas Young*



RETIRING EMPLOYEES: A reception for those employees retiring from NGCSU took place on April 27 in the Adams Great Room. Recognized for their years of service were (1 to r) Phil Buckhiester, Anna Sanford, Patricia Mulkey Moss and Doris Sutton. *Not pictured are Phil Norrell, Roy Roberson and Arlene Thurman.*