

Murphy receives honorary doctorate from his alma mater

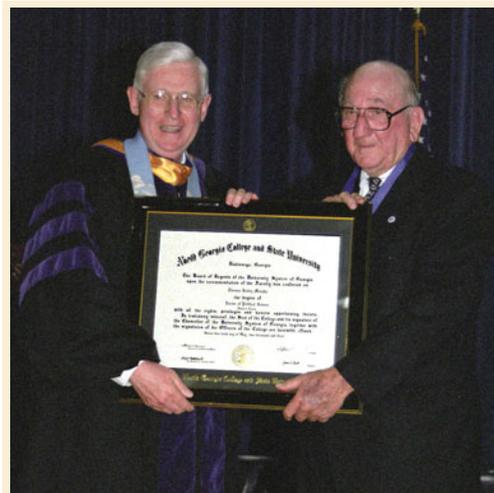
It was 62 years ago when 17-year-old Tom Murphy first set foot on the campus of North Georgia College. Without the young student's knowledge or consent, Murphy's father had enrolled him in the institution. Today, Murphy, 79, says it was the best thing that ever happened to him, because he needed the discipline that the college's Corps of Cadets provided. He graduated on May 9, 1943.

After 42 years in the Georgia Legislature, 29 as Speaker of the House, Murphy returned to his alma mater on May 10 to accept an honorary doctorate of political science from North Georgia. With overflowing crowds in the gymnasium on campus, Murphy also served as the commencement speaker for two separate ceremonies as NGCSU awarded degrees to 432 students.

"Take our failures of the past and make them your successes of the future," Murphy said. "Take your wonderful education and your God-given talents to make this nation a better nation and a better world for future generations. I have no doubt in your ability to do this."

"Tom Murphy has served as a leader in state government, Georgia politics, and in his community for over five decades," said NGCSU

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HONORARY DEGREE: NGCSU President Nathaniel Hansford (left) confers an honorary doctorate of political science on former Georgia House Speaker Tom Murphy, an alumnus of North Georgia.

North Georgia claims two GACC Coaches of the Year



Michael Davenport and Tom Cantrell

Head athletic coaches Michael Davenport, softball, and Tom Cantrell, baseball, have both been named Coach of the Year for 2003 in the Georgia Alabama Carolina Conference in the NAIA. Both coaches are second-time recipients of the award.

Davenport, Coach of the Year in 2002, led his team this year to a GACC regular season title and post-season championship. The Lady Saints finished this season 20-0, making history by winning every regular season game, a first in GACC softball.

"It is quite an accomplishment considering the quality teams that are in the GACC and it says a lot about this team's focus on its goals this season," Davenport said.

He celebrated his 100th career win this season, his third as head coach, and was also named the GACC 2003 "Female Coach of the Year" for his performance as a women's team coach.

Cantrell, charged with rebuilding NGCSU's baseball program, came in 1999 and has since taken the four-year-old Saints baseball program to two GACC regular season titles, 2001 and 2003, and an NAIA Southeast Region XIII championship in 2002. Cantrell, Coach of the Year in 2001, has 13 years of collegiate coaching experience. He celebrated his 100th win at NGCSU last season. 🏆



Campus in Action

Syed R. Ahmed and **Dr. Ahmad Ghafarian**, math and computer science, co-authored the paper titled "Data Mining and the Privacy Issues." Ahmed presented the paper at the International Conference on Information Technology Coding and Computing in Las Vegas, Nev., April 28-30. The conference was sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society Task Force on Information Technology for Business Application.

NGCSU Staff Council Representatives for the 2004 and 2005 academic years have been selected. **Laura Mullins**, academic affairs; **Master Sgt. Tony Nunley**, commandant's office; **Amanda Lammers**, student activities; **Kimberly Pruitt**, admissions; **Lynn Youngblood**, physical therapy; and **Karen Roop**, development will serve a two-year term.

Joshua Preston, university relations, who serves as an officer in the Georgia Army National Guard, was promoted to first lieutenant on May 3 at the Oglethorpe Armory state headquarters in Ellenwood, Ga. The promotion became effective May 12.

Tom Murphy

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President Nathaniel Hansford in conferring on Murphy the honorary doctorate. "He has demonstrated the true characteristics of leadership."

Murphy, enjoying a semi-retirement except for some work in his law practice in his hometown of Bremen, Ga., said in his closing remarks, "As far as I am concerned, I am out of political office. This will be, as far as I'm concerned, my last public appearance anywhere except in the courtroom." ▲

Strategic planning is progressing

North Georgia's strategic planning process is now proceeding at the "unit" level, said Charles Hawkins, Director of Institutional Research and Planning at NGCSU. Units, he explained, encompass all areas of the university for planning purposes: The four schools plus Student Affairs, University Advancement, Business & Finance, Enrollment Management Services, Stewart Library, Academic Support Services, Graduate Studies & External Programs, Division of Public Services, Institutional Research & Planning, Information Technology, and Athletics.

"All units submitted mission statements, which were approved by President Hansford and the vice presidents in March," Hawkins explained. "Currently all units of the university are conducting meetings to draft their proposed goals for the five-year plan, considering in that process the mission, vision, core values, planning assumptions, summarized notes from the public forums, the university's new five-year strategic directions, and the University System of Georgia strategic plan."

Hansford and the vice presidents are now reviewing the proposed goals, which were submitted by May 15. University Advancement and Information Technology, which both support all the other areas of campus, will not finalize their proposed goals until after other units' goals have been approved.

"Since many faculty are not available over the summer, approved goals will not be presented to the Strategic Planning Committee until early fall," Hawkins said. "At that time, units will begin working on their action plans to accomplish their goals. Of course, non-academic units may want to get a head start on the process by working on their action plans as soon as their goals are approved by the president and vice presidents." ▲

School and departmental brochures in progress

The first newly designed departmental brochure is now in final stages of production. The Department of Business Administration in the School of Business & Government was the first to provide University Relations with a draft of its brochure copy for editing, along with information on classes to be photographed for the full color six-panel publication.

Language and literature and mathematics and computer science are next in line for their brochures, followed by psychology and sociology and fine arts.

Deans or department heads who wish to have a school or departmental brochure edited and designed with new photographs may send a draft of their revised brochure copy via an e-mail attachment to Annette Lee, ahlee@ngcsu.edu, along with a schedule of at least three different classes to be photographed.

The only cost for schools or departments will be the actual printing costs following the dean or department head's approval of the final brochure design.

Simulating Battle, Educating for Reality

—A visit to Fort Benning, GA—

by Thomas Austenfeld, special contributor to "The Digest"

At the invitation of Col. Billy Wells, professor of military science, eight faculty and administrators from NGCSU traveled to Ft. Benning on a two-day educational visit.

"I wanted to educate our faculty about the kinds of advanced training typically available to North Georgia's military graduates," explained Col. Wells. "With the recently increased cooperation between civilian faculty and the military science department, we have the opportunity to bind the Corps of Cadets more closely into the academic enterprise. Informed faculty members are the key."

Accompanying Col. Wells and Col. Tom Palmer were Dean Gerald Skelly, Dr. Clayton Grant and Dr. Stuart Batchelder from the School of Business and Government; Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Dr. Kristi Hislope, Ms. Margaret Poitevint and Dr. Thomas Austenfeld from the School of Arts and Letters; and Dr. Judi Bryant.

We were welcomed with briefings and demonstrations showcasing the educational opportunities that await an infantry soldier at Ft. Benning. Conceptual thinking as well as articulate speaking and clear writing are indispensable prerequisites for a successful career in the military. Leadership skills are constantly in evidence. NGCSU graduate Dana Acord (NG '92) explained the Army's "small group instruction" educational model as we witnessed a mission debriefing.

Simulated battlefields were next

on the agenda. Some battle-field training is now conducted in virtual reality laboratories where soldiers test their skills in a networked environment. Strategic and tactical exercises in the simulator cannot replace

active field experience, but they offer field commanders total surveillance and the opportunity for focused critique. They are also less dangerous to life and limb than live-fire exercises.

We attended two outdoor demonstrations that were coincidentally scheduled during the visit. The first, a demonstration of Bradleys and their squads in action against a variety of targets arranged on ridges at varying distances, had been arranged as part of an incentive program in intensive reading for the children of the Ft. Benning school system whose parents are currently on overseas assignments. Witnessing the firepower, precision, and lethality of the two armored vehicles was sobering to the faculty. Few had ever come this close to observing the dual purpose for which weapons are designed: to intimidate and to kill. I was struck by the incongruity of elementary school children witnessing this exercise. Where I'm from in Western Europe, displays of firepower tend to be more muted.

The second demonstration



L to R: Dr. Clayton Grant, Staff Sgt. Daniel Jones, Dr. Thomas Austenfeld, Margaret Poitevint, Cols. Tom Palmer and Billy Wells, Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Dr. Stuart Batchelder, Dr. Gerald Skelly, Dr. Judith Bryant and Dr. Kristi Hislope.

showcased the skills of a graduating Ranger class. After nine weeks of training in three different terrains, including low-mountaineering training at Camp Merrill near Dahlonega, Rangers demonstrated climbing and rappelling skills,

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the
Digest

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Spring 2003 Graduation Stats



432 Graduates
 307 Bachelor's degrees
 58 Master's degrees
 67 Associate's degrees
 94 Honors (3.5 GPA or above)
 15 New second lieutenants

Fort Benning trip *(Continued from page 3)*

amphibious landings, explosives operations, helicopter infiltration and exfiltration as well as hand-to-hand combat techniques.

"It was awesome," said Dr. Comber, adding, "The Rangers command a variety of specialized field skills."

Mark Howarth, director of Alumni Affairs, organized a reception for the visitors and former NGCSU graduates at the Officer's Club. Among the guests were Chuck McClure (NG '41), past Director of Alumni Affairs Verne Smith (NG '61), and Sam Snead (NG '61) who reminisced with Dr. Clayton Grant.

Before heading for home, the group visited the National Infantry Museum with exhibits ranging from revolutionary times to the present.

Civilians visiting a military installation are likely to be struck by its single-minded sense of purpose, regardless of one's political opinions. NGCSU is bound up with the nation's military through a long history and through its educational mission.

The faculty who visited Ft. Benning learned about the significance of academic achievement in military graduates' choices for their careers. They recognized that officers need both critical thinking and ethical reasoning skills, and they diagnosed the myriad ways in which military as well as civilian graduates can yet fall short of these qualifications when put to the test of life.

Lifelong learning, the faculty realized again, is the only way to advance on the military career track.

Show your North Georgia pride...



Brag with the tag!

If you want to be the proud owner of one of the first 100 North Georgia license plates to be issued in 2004, you'd better rush to contact Pam Stoffel in advancement, ext. 2873. As Digest went to press, only 10 numbers were still available in that elite group of tag numbers. Reservations for numbers are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Even if you don't care to be among the first 100 to claim your tag, you have only until the end of July 2003 to let the State of Georgia know that you want a new North Georgia license plate when they are issued.

Go to NGCSU's home page, www.ngcsu.edu, and use the new tag emblem in the bottom right corner to access more information, including the MV-9C order form from the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: Faculty from the NGCSU School of Education formally accept a 2003 Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research from University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas Meredith (L). They received the award for the Education Specialist degree program. (L to R) Dr. India Podsen, Dr. Susan Gannaway, Dr. Joe Richardson, USG Senior Vice Chancellor for Academics and Fiscal Affairs Daniel Papp, Dr. Toni Bellon, Dr. Larry Berneking, Dr. Bob Michael and Chairman of the Board of Regents Joe Frank Harris.