



## NGCSU named to top five in Best Values list

Consumers Digest has named NGCSU the nation's fifth best value in public higher education in the magazine's list of top values in public and private colleges and universities.

The nationwide listing appears on the Consumers Digest Web page, [www.consumersdigest.com/](http://www.consumersdigest.com/) contents, at the "Top 75 College Values" icon on the left.

The public universities listing includes Florida International University in Miami in first place, Eastern Oregon University in Le Grande second, California Polytechnic State in San Luis Obispo third, North Dakota State in Fargo fourth, and North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega fifth.

Brigham Young University-Hawaii was at the top of the listing of private colleges and universities, followed by Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah; Lane College in Jackson, Tenn.; Grove City College in Pennsylvania; and MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kan.

To determine the rankings, 3,500 schools were measured on quality aspects of the institutions factored against the annual tuition and room-and-board costs for students. The formula considered academic excellence of first-time freshmen and

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## Managing student growth

It is a common perception that in an economic recession, college application and enrollment numbers increase – with fewer job opportunities, people find their way back to school. In NGCSU's case, the larger economic picture is only part of the reason the university has seen a steady growth over the past decade.

"People associate North Georgia with quality academic and military programs," said Robert LaVerriere, director of Undergraduate Admissions. "Combine this with small classes, low cost and a beautiful and safe campus, and you have a powerful 'package' that increasing numbers of prospective students are noticing."

"Systemwide university populations are growing," said LaVerriere. "North Georgia has had a 12 percent increase of applications since fall of 2003."

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**PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH BEGINS:** The first rounds of campus input for the search of the university's next president began on June 29. Focus groups, including ones for staff, faculty and students took place in Hoag Auditorium, where Dr. Jan Greenwood (standing), head of the search firm Greenwood and Associates, solicited input from the participants. By Oct. 22, five unranked finalists' names for the presidency will be given to Chancellor Thomas Meredith. A public announcement of the new president is anticipated during the Nov. 17 Regents meeting in Atlanta. Greenwood said that additional input may be e-mailed confidentially to [jangreenwood@earthlink.net](mailto:jangreenwood@earthlink.net).



## Campus in Action

**Dr. Toni Barnett**, nursing, has been appointed by Gov. Perdue to serve a three-year appointment on the Georgia State Board of Nursing. The eight-member board will meet monthly and develop regulations to set and maintain the standards for state nursing practices and education.

**Dr. Noel D. Campbell**, business administration, had the article "Do Legislators Pay To Deviate from Constituents?" published in the Summer 2004 issue of the Eastern Economic Journal. He co-wrote the article with Edward J. Lopez.

**Laurie Davis**, bookstore manager, presented "Making an Impact in Your College Community" at the Florida Association of College Stores at the Crowns Plaza in West Palm Beach, Fla., May 25-27.

**Dr. Barry D. Friedman**, political science and criminal justice, co-wrote the article "Integrating Teaching, Learning, and Community Outreach: Western Carolina's Local Government Youth Assembly" with H. Gibbs Knotts, C. Don Livinston and Gordon E. Mercer of Western Carolina University. The article was published in June 2004 in the International Social Science Review.

A chapter, "Broadcast Communications: Getting the Word Out," written by **Annette Hannon Lee**, University Relations, in the "CASE Handbook of Institutional Advancement" is about to be published again – this time online as part of the Media Relations package on the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Web site, July 2004. The 3rd edition of the book, published in 2000, is a CASE "bestseller."

**Jan Partin**, nursing, presented "Adolescent Mother's and Adult Mother's Perceptions of Maternal Infant Communication Cues During Feeding" at the 12th Annual Congress on Women's Health at Hilton Head Island, June 5-7.

## USG tuition set for next academic year

After final action by the Board of Regents in May, in-state undergraduate students attending NGCSU will pay \$55 more per semester in tuition during the next academic year, starting Aug. 16.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia's Committee on Finance and Business Operations approved new tuition rates that will hold the line on tuition increases to between \$35 and \$80 per semester. The board voted to increase undergraduate, resident tuition at the University System's four research universities by \$80 per semester (or \$160 per year); tuition at the regional and state universities by \$55 per semester (or \$110 per year); and tuition at the two-year colleges by \$35 per semester (\$70 per year).

The modest \$160 per-year increase in the USG's "research university" tuition is in direct contrast to the double-digit "sticker shock" being experienced by college-going students attending "flagship universities" in other states around the nation.

"The cost of a college education in Georgia continues to be a tremendous value," said University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith. "I am very pleased that the Board of Regents – in spite of the financial challenges the System faces – has maintained its commitment to keep college access affordable for our students. To be able to attend some of the best public universities nationally – institutions at the top end of the quality scale and at the low end on cost – is, without question, one of the best bargains available to Georgians." *From Board of Regents News*



**SYSTEM-WIDE SENDOFF:** After 40 years in the Board of Regents' Office of Facilities, Judy Wilder, senior contracts administrator, retired at the end of June. Wilder, pictured in the striped shirt behind the podium, was treated to a steak cookout at Pine Valley on June 25 hosted by North Georgia and organized by NGCSU Vice President for Business & Finance Mac McConnell and Associate Vice President Gerald Lord. In attendance were Physical Plant colleagues from North Georgia and several other colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia, along with Wilder's co-workers from the BOR. Wilder was highly regarded throughout the system and considered "sort of everybody's mom," according to one source. She plans to work as a consultant to the USG in the coming months.

# Student overcomes disability to obtain bachelor's degree

Paula Sue Halcomb of Alpharetta graduated from NGCSU in May with a 3.49 grade point average and dual bachelor's degrees in early childhood education and special education. This milestone in Halcomb's life came after being seriously injured in a car accident in 1998. Because of the severity of her injuries, she had to withdraw from school.

"I received physical, occupational and speech therapy during a three-month period, but I will always be considered as having traumatic brain injury," Halcomb said.



Paula Sue Halcomb



Rodney Pennamon

Told she may never be able to attend school again, Halcomb made the decision to return to university life one year later in the fall of 1999. NGCSU's Office of Student Disability Resources was a major factor in Halcomb making her goal a reality she said.

The 25-year-old met with Rodney Pennamon, coordinator of disability resources, who helps integrate students with disabilities into the college setting. The two discussed options to help Halcomb succeed in school. A list of personalized accommodations included a reduced course load carefully

selected by her advisor, preferential advisement and registration to ensure a workable schedule, an assigned note-taker for each class and testing in a distraction-free environment. Halcomb was also encouraged to use the writing and math labs and to locate a tutor through Student Development.

"We serve close to 100 students, keeping continuing services available to each of them. Each semester an average of 20 new students request services," said Pennamon. "Part of Paula's success was that she was a go-getter and really knew what she wanted." ▲

## In the News

U.S. Army Reserve Capt. Brian Burkett, national recipient this May of the General Douglas MacArthur Award, left the corporate world to go back into the U.S. Army after Sept. 11, 2001. "I am committed to the defense of this nation," said the newest faculty member in military science.



For the complete story go online to [www.ngcsu.edu/digest](http://www.ngcsu.edu/digest)

## Commencement

for summer semester will take place Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Gymnasium with Dr. Brian J. Corrigan, professor of English, as the speaker. The Commissioning ceremony will take place in the HNS Auditorium the same day at 3 p.m.

## Best Values list

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the school's educational quality. The estimated cost of attending each university then helped determine the academic value per dollar.

For public universities, only nonresident tuition figures were considered, because attending a public school in the state where students reside usually offers the best value for their education dollars.

A news release issued by Consumers Digest says that the published edition of the magazine includes an erroneous listing. The correct Top 75 list is posted on the publication's Web site. ▲

## the Digest

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## Summer honors a success

North Georgia hosted an annual summer honors program from June 20 through July 2. For 12 days, high school juniors and seniors were given a taste of university life by attending classes, taking field trips and residing in residence halls.

The mornings began with breakfast and one or two lectures on topics ranging from Japanese architecture

to geometry to health and food. After fueling up at lunch and having an hour of free time, students broke into focus groups for an hour and then headed to Pine Valley to take part in the ropes course.

On most nights, students attended lectures that included goal setting and making the distinction between good and bad information. Other evenings were filled with trips to the NGCSU planetarium or tours of the Dahlonega town square.

The summer honors program students made presentations to their parents and others the last day of the program on July 2. 🏠



**HANDS-ON BIOLOGY:** Dr. Chris Jespersen with snake-handling-son Alex. Isaac Callahan (background), from N.W. Whitfield High School, attended SHP with 21 others.

## Student growth

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Freshman acceptance numbers have also increased this year. A freshmen group of 1,828 was accepted in fall of 2003. For this fall, 2,085 freshman have been accepted, an increase of 14 percent. The transfer student population has also grown due to interest in NGCSU's nursing, business and education programs according to LaVerriere.

More freshmen are commuting because the female residence halls are already full. In previous years, the university has been able to accommodate female applicants on the waiting list by providing housing that became available as the school year started. This year, residence halls are expected to remain at maximum capacity, leaving potential students on the waiting list without a dorm room and subsequently they cannot attend school.

"Students have been asked to consider NGCSU for spring or fall of 2005," said LaVerriere.

Last year, the transfer and commuting student populations made it hard to maintain small classroom sizes explained LaVerriere. The limited flexibility to hire more teachers caused the university to implement new criteria for the admission of transfer and commuter students.

"Transfer students are now required to have at least 12 core credits and commuter student acceptance is based on the freshman index, which ranks students based on merit," he said. 🏠

## Public Safety dons new gear

The NGCSU campus police department has been awarded a grant through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. This program, through the United States Department of Justice, provides grants, paying up to half the total cost, for bulletproof vests to police departments, sheriff's deputies and other selected law enforcement agencies.

According to Chief Mike Stapleton, the grant will pay \$3000 of the \$6000 cost for nine vests. Officers will have the choice to wear the vests at all times or only when needed. For more information on the Bulletproof Vest Partnership, visit <http://vests.ojp.gov>. 🏠



Public safety officers Bill Black and Sandra Barfield