



On Sept. 11, NGCSU cadets performed a 21-gun salute on the Drill Field during a 9 a.m. ceremony to mark the anniversary hour of the terrorist attacks.

We gathered to remember



Doug Grey and Joe Simpson, both of Echo Company, provided authentic Scottish Highland bagpipe music at the Sept. 11 memorial. The two freshman cadets have started a new bagpipe tradition at NGCSU.



The community gathered at 7 p.m. on Sept. 11 at the Drill Field for a Candlelight Vigil, sponsored by the Dahlonega/Lumpkin County Ministerial Association.

Dr. Lee Barrow (right), head of the Fine Arts Department, joined the NGCSU Singers for the grand finale of the Memorial Concert on Sept. 10. Dr. John Broman (left), director of Choral Activities, conducted.



President Hansford convenes Strategic Planning Committee

North Georgia is embarking on its third strategic plan in recent history.

President Nathaniel Hansford called together 41 representatives of North Georgia's schools, departments and divisions, including graduate and undergraduate students, to meet on Sept. 12 to discuss a new strategic planning procedure to take the university into the future.

Hansford explained to the large group that the first strategic plan was a two-year plan written in 1998. When that plan concluded in Summer 2000, a second two-year plan followed. A Planning Committee reviewed progress of that plan in Fall 2001 and extended it for another year.

The president announced that the current Strategic Planning Committee would be divided into three subcommittees to review (1) the University Mission, chaired by Vice President for Academic Affairs Phil Buckhiester, (2) the university's Core Values, with Education Dean Bob Michael chairing, and (3) the university's Planning Assumptions (internal and external), chaired by Arts and Letters Dean Kathy Sisk.

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Campus in Action

Dr. Jeffrey Sommers, history, had his essay titled “The Middle East and Blowback” printed in the new book “Shattered Illusions,” which was published in September by Amal Press.

In the News

“There’s no doubt that since Sept. 11, some of our civil liberties as Americans have become casualties in the name of the war on terrorism.”

Dr. Michael Reese
criminal justice professor
Sept. 11, Gainesville Times

Upcoming Events

A **retirement reception** for **Dr. Steve Ross**, director of Graduate Studies, will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Center Great Room.

Judith Ortiz Cofer will read from her novels at 7 p.m. on Sept. 24 in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the Cultural Events Committee, is free and open to the public.

The **Southern Printmaking Biennale exhibition** is on display in the Hoag Student Center Gallery through October. Internationally known printmaker Sydney A. Cross, president of the Southern Graphic Council, selected a wide variety of prints from artists throughout 11 states in the South for the exhibit.

Staff Council Scholarship recipients named

The Staff Council Scholarship was awarded by the NGCSU Staff Council to the following recipients for fall semester: Maryam Ahmed, Syed Ahmed, Sandra Barfield, Candace Cubera, Joni Grizzle, Carol Huczek, Jennifer Neikirk, Erin Papka, Gary Papka, Chris Parker, Melinda Stoffel and Sherry Williams.

Any full-time NGCSU staff member who has completed a year or more of service at North Georgia may apply for this scholarship.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to staff members (or their dependent children) who are enrolled in a degree-granting program. The money may be used for tuition or books.

Each staff member who is awarded the scholarship may receive up to \$100 per semester. The scholarship funds are generated through fund-raising events and donations to the scholarship fund.

For more information and an application form, visit the Web site: <http://www.ngcsu.edu/Resource/staff/fund.htm>

Auditions to be held for madrigal dinner performers

The Music Department and the Student Theatre Guild at North Georgia will hold auditions on Sept. 28 and Sept. 29 for “Yuletyde Feaste: What a Tangled Web,” a madrigal dinner filled with song and laughter.

The auditions will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gloria Shott Auditorium in the Nix Cultural Center on campus.

Auditions will consist of “cold” (unrehearsed) readings from the script; no singing will be required.

Men and women may audition for a wide range of acting parts, including roles such as Dorothy of the Wizard of Oz, a Court Jester, Lords and Ladies, and Serving Wenches.

Performance dates for “Yuletyde Feaste” will be Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium.

For more information, contact Dr. Kevin Mace at (706) 867-2760 or kmace@ngcsu.edu.

Strategic Planning Committee (Continued from page 1)

Dr. Dan Papp, senior vice chancellor, Office of Academics and Fiscal Affairs, has given permission for North Georgia to review its mission, which has not been reviewed in eight years.

Charles Hawkins, director of Institutional Research and Planning, gave a presentation on the differences between strategic and traditional planning and the advantages and disadvantages of different length plans.

“Strategic planning involves consideration of both internal and external factors, spanning organizational units, and resulting in long-range goals for the university,” Hawkins said. “With almost as many different formats for plans as there are plans, I’ve found that plans from other USG institutions range from two-year plans to a ten-year plan at the University of Georgia, and general plans with no timelines at some institutions.”

The subcommittees are to meet and provide recommendations to Hawkins by Oct. 2, and the entire committee will meet again on Oct. 10.

North Georgia listed in U.S. News rankings

U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" for 2003 listed NGCSU, along with 34 other universities, in the second tier of Southern universities offering master's degrees.

Georgia College & State University and Georgia Southern University are the only other schools in Georgia's public university system included in this tier. Brenau University was the remaining Georgia school in the second tier. All other University System of Georgia schools in the Universities – Masters (South) category were in other tiers.

"America's Best Colleges" reviews more than 1,400 American colleges and universities annually and provides statistics for institutions of higher education in several categories, including freshman retention rate, graduation rate, class size, student/faculty ratio, average alumni giving rate, etc. The publication is available at newsstands and can be accessed for a fee online.

From U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges"

NGCSU			
Peer Assessment Score (5.0 Highest)	Avg. Freshman Retention Rate	Avg. Graduation Rate	
2.8	75%	51%	
Student/Faculty Ratio ('01)	% Full-time Faculty	SAT/ACT 25th-75th Percentile ('01)	Freshmen in Top 25% of HS Class
13/1	85%	970-1140	53%
% of Classes Under 20 ('01)	% of Classes w/ 50 or More ('01)	Acceptance Rate ('01)	Avg. Alumni Giving Rate
44%	3%	59%	9%

NGCSU cuts costs with VISA credit cards

North Georgia conducted more than \$1 million in business and 6,100 transactions with VISA during the last fiscal year. This translated to an administrative cost savings of \$600,000, because purchase orders did not have to be prepared. North Georgia was presented a rebate check for \$5,708.65, because of the university's large volume of business with VISA. NGCSU was ranked number 30 out of 154 state agencies in VISA card volume for fiscal year 2002.



Tom Fox (center), director of Materials Management at North Georgia, receives the VISA rebate check from Steve LePage (left), Department of Administrative Services, State Purchasing, VISA Program Coordinator, and Darren Muise, vice president for Bank of America and account manager of Commercial Card Services.

Faculty and staff may apply for leadership grants

The Faculty and Staff Leadership Grants Program Committee was allocated \$50,000 for the 2002-2003 academic year. The funding will provide opportunities for faculty and staff members to expand leadership education and development at North Georgia.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from each academic school, the Staff Advisory Council, Academic Support Programs and the Leadership Initiative.

Faculty, staff, academic departments and administrative departments are eligible for the program. Proposals may come from individuals or groups, and may focus on teaching, research or service.

Applications and proposals should be e-mailed to Bob Thomas at bthomas@ngcsu.edu or delivered to room 209 in Barnes Hall by 5 p.m. on Oct. 31. Award notifications will be made on Nov. 26.

the **Digest**

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A TRIBUTE TO HEROES: On Sept. 16, NGCSU Police Chief Mike Stapleton and Sandra Barfield raised the commemorative flag honoring passengers on United Flight 93, one of the doomed planes hijacked by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. An anonymous southwest Georgia man made the “Let’s Roll” flag, displaying the words of passenger Todd Beamer as he and others attempted to overpower the terrorists before the plane crashed in Pennsylvania. Safe Communities in Albany, Ga., plans to present the flag to Beamer’s widow, Lisa, after it has made the rounds of all 34 USG colleges and universities. The flag was flown at North Georgia until Sept. 19.

OPEN FORUM:

Dr. Shirley Holmes, professor of education at NGCSU, was one of five panelists discussing “Twelve Years After ADA – the Americans with Disabilities Act: Have Attitudes Toward the Disabled Changed?” The participants, ranging from educators to government officials, examined aspects of the federal statute, which was enacted in 1990 and designed to prevent discrimination and promote equal opportunities for the disabled. The Sept. 17 event, in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium, is part of NGCSU’s first annual Dignity Week. Holmes, who is in a wheelchair, said the forum provided the opportunity for students to hear from people with different disabilities who work in different professions. “My students hear my perspective all the time, so the interaction with the audience and the different viewpoints was one of my favorite parts of the day,” she said. Holmes has taught special education for six years at NGCSU.



ALL IN A DAY’S WORK: Ambling Companies of Valdosta, Ga., commissioned artist Terri B. Webb of “Something Original” to create a mural on the lobby wall of Owen Hall built by Ambling. Webb came to the campus on Sept. 5 and completed the large mural in one day, with her husband, Richard, a paramedic, standing by to assist with setting up her scaffold and handing her paint. The artwork features the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance framing the North Georgia campus, highlighted by the gold-covered steeple of Price Memorial Hall. Webb’s final touch was to paint a soaring eagle in the foreground of the picture before returning to Tifton, where she owns a shop, “The Banana Tree.” When asked where she studied art, Webb described her natural talent as, “I just received my master’s in art from the Lord.”



University Directory Submissions

The 2002-2003 University Directory, listing faculty and staff contact information, will be published in October. All returning and new employees are asked to submit corrections and updates for the publication by Oct. 5 to digest@ngcsu.edu or call Josh Preston at 864-1949.