

Digest

► July 8, 2009

A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

Arts & Letters Conference issues call for papers

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Take note...

Archaeology Club forming

Campus In Action

Get Involved events

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Appalachian Studies Center to administer state arts funding



The Georgia Appalachian Studies Center (GASC) at North Georgia has been appointed by the Georgia Council for the Arts as the re-granting agency to administer Grassroots Arts Program (GAP) funds for fiscal year 2010 in Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Pickens, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White counties. This statewide arts program is designed to support emerging arts organizations and grassroots-level arts programming.

The Digest is published weekly by the Office of University Relations for North Georgia's faculty, staff, students and community.

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Make submissions to digest@ngcsu.edu.

The next scheduled publication date is July 22. The deadline for submissions is July 17.

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Cynthia Horne, the university's resident archiving expert

Treasures like the Rhodes/Talmadge letter are becoming a frequent occurrence in the archives and special collections at North Georgia. Some of the documents that have come to light recently include the Faculty Minutes of 1883 to 1895, a commencement speech delivered in 1903 by William Frank Crusselle, who was a member of the school's first graduating class in 1878, and a partial copy of the 1874 catalog owned by Professor B.P. Gaillard.

The Library Technology Center, in partnership with Lyrasis, a national consortium of libraries, has selected a sample group of historic university catalogs and yearbooks for digitization. Lyrasis' Mass Digitization Collaborative assists libraries with preservation and digitization of rare and valuable materials. With funding from the Sloan Foundation and a modest charge to the library, the collaborative creates high-quality digital copies of every page from the original books. The digital copies are housed, backed-up, and accessible [online](#).

"Researchers anywhere in the world will have full online access to North Georgia's treasures," Horne said. "When the digitization is complete, the preservation lab returns the originals to the library, where they will be preserved for years to come."

All of the library's digital files will be cataloged for easy access.

"Having digital copies of these treasures not only increases access, but decreases or even eliminates the wear and tear on fragile originals" Horne said.

The first set of 85 volumes is a demonstration project. Ultimately, the Library Technology Center plans to digitize all of the catalogs dating back to 1874 and all of the yearbooks back to 1906. A major goal of this project is to show the benefits of historic document digitization to the university and the community.

To see a sample of the quality of the digitized output, see Villanova College's catalogs [online](#).

Archival efforts enhanced by new conservation resources

Treasured objects and artifacts held by the Library Technology Center at North Georgia College & State University will be preserved for future generations with help from the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums

and has awarded almost 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History.

"When IMLS launched this initiative to improve the dire state of our nation's collections, we understood that the materials gathered would serve as important tools for museums, libraries, and archives nationwide," said Anne-Imelda Radice, IMLS director. "We were both pleased and encouraged by the overwhelming interest of institutions prepared to answer the call to action, and we know that with their dedication, artifacts from our shared history will be preserved for future generations."

North Georgia will receive this essential set of resources based on an application that described the needs and plans for the care of the university's collections. The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a component of Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, a conservation initiative launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study it released in partnership with Heritage Preservation, *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections*.

"The initiative shines a national spotlight on the needs of America's collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections," Radice said.

If you have a treasure in the attic that you would like to donate to the university's archives and special collections, contact Shawn Tonner (sctonner@ngcsu.edu), library director, or Cynthia Horne (crhorne@ngcsu.edu), archives assistant.

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The Georgia Appalachian Studies Center (GASC) at North Georgia College & State University has been appointed by the Georgia Council for the Arts as the re-granting agency to administer Grassroots Arts Program (GAP) funds for fiscal year 2010 in Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Pickens, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White counties.

This statewide arts program is designed to support emerging arts organizations and grassroots-level arts programming, including collaborative projects by artists, arts organizations, and non-arts organizations, to serve a broad range of residents, including traditionally underserved communities. Funding is open to any non-profit organization, including units of local government, to support arts programming.

"As a new GAP Regional Partner, our funding philosophy is to help otherwise un-served and underserved areas to 'live and learn the Appalachian story' by extending funding opportunities in the arts," said Rosann Kent, GASC assistant director and GAP project administrator.



The idea behind GAP is to allow local communities to make decisions about the types of arts programming they want and to provide funding for smaller, emerging groups as they get off the ground, to "fill in the gap" as start-up organizations establish themselves and generate income through grants from larger funders, sales, or donations, she said.

Established groups may also apply for GAP funding to make quality improvements – to get to "the next level" of artistry – or to expand their programs and develop new audiences.

"Ideally, GAP creates new opportunities for citizens to experience the arts, while fostering greater awareness and developing local partnerships in the arts. GAP also aims to have a positive impact on overall community development in these growing counties," Kent said.

The Grassroots Advisory Committee, comprised of 20 volunteers representing the 10 counties in the region, will review applications and recommend funding allocations. The committee is comprised of community representatives with a variety of backgrounds in areas such as tourism, visual and performing arts, education, economic development, non-profit management, and business.

Primary consideration will be given to applications that propose art projects with a commitment to excellence, accessibility, education, collaboration, and support for local artists. Projects with the potential for lasting impact and positive change will take priority.

Maximum grant amount is \$1,500. Applications and guidelines are available [online](#). The application deadline is August 15.

For additional information about GAP, the application process, or to put your name on the GAP mailing list to receive future information for this region, please e-mail the Project Administrator at rkent@ngcsu.edu.

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What are the potential benefits and challenges of the growing relationship between the United States and China? That is the question posed for the 2010 Arts & Letters Conference at North Georgia College & State University.

The conference, scheduled for Feb. 26-27, will examine how the political, economic and cultural links between China and the U.S. have shaped the history of each country and influenced current global conditions.

"The relationship between China and the U.S. will undoubtedly continue to be a significant one in the coming century," said Dr. Tanya Long Bennett, head of the English department and conference chairperson. "The 2010 North Georgia Arts & Letters Conference will bring together scholars from diverse fields to explore the benefits and the challenges of this relationship."

Papers may investigate past, present, and/or future relations between the two countries.

"The numerous influences on this relationship must be studied as an integrated whole to fully understand its ramifications," Bennett said. "This conference is designed to help promote that cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary dialogue."

The conference invites proposals from any discipline and highly encourages interdisciplinary approaches to the topic. Possible areas for discussion may include, but are not limited to, Chinese philosophy and American literature; Chinese and American economic, social, and/or cultural interdependence; and issues related to American and Chinese security and strategic interests. Conference exhibits will be arranged for visual art that addresses the China/U.S theme.

Abstract submissions, due by Sept. 1, should be between 250-300 words and articulate how the presentation engages the conference theme. Completed presentations must be submitted no later than Jan. 3. Student submissions are welcomed. All submissions should be submitted either electronically or in hard copy to Dr. Tanya Long Bennett, English department.

Take note...

Archaeology Club forming

Are you interested in preserving the past? The Georgia Appalachian Studies Center held a information meeting about starting a North Georgia Archaeology Club in Dahlonega this week.

"Membership will be open to anyone interested in learning about the past, and preserving the archaeological record of those who lived here before us. No prior knowledge or experience in archaeology is required," Dr. Jack Wynn, an adjunct faculty member in North Georgia's Department of History & Philosophy.

As a forest archaeologist for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, he helped discover a 10th century American Indian culture, the Vining people, in middle Georgia.

The group will include community and university members and be a chapter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology.

For more information, contact Dr. Jack Wynn, jtwynn@ngcsu.edu; or Jason Norsworthy at jnor398@hotmail.com.

Campus in Action

2009 Outstanding Staff Member

Angie Erwin has been selected by the Staff Council Awards Committee as the 2009 Outstanding Staff Member. Erwin, who works in the math and computer science department, will receive a plaque, a Boston rocker, and a gift certificate from the Campus Connection.

PT faculty members become board-certified

Three faculty members in the Department of Physical Therapy have recently become board-certified specialists in their fields. **Dr. Dawn Hayes** is now a Geriatric Certified Specialist; **Dr. Ruth Maher** is a Women's Health Certified Specialist (the first time this exam has been given), and **Dr. Stefanie Palma** is now a Neurologic Certified Specialist.

Barnaby earns certification

Jim Barnaby, director of materials management, recently earned credentials as a Certified Public Purchasing Officer (CPPO) from the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC). To become certified as a CPPO, candidates must demonstrate through an application process that they meet specific requisites established by the council; including formal education, procurement related coursework/training, public purchasing experience and functional management experience. A comprehensive written examination is required to confirm candidate's mastery of the body of knowledge for public purchasing professionals.

All North Georgia procurement staff members are currently pursuing their state certification. **Jim Barnaby** and **Donna Kondon** are nationally certified purchasing officers and public buyers; **Milton Hansen** will take his CPPB exam this year.

Saints softball coaches honored

North Georgia's head softball coach, **Mike Davenport**, and assistant coaches **Andrea Moss** and **Keri McKee** have been named the Southeast Regional Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

The Saints finished their historic season as the #3 team in the nation with the program's best winning percentage in school history with a record of 50-5. North Georgia captured the Peach Belt Conference Regular Season Championship, PBC Tournament Championship, NCAA Southeast Dahlenega Regional Championship, and the NCAA Southeast Super Regional Dahlenega Championship to advance to their first-ever Division II College World Series.

Davenport concluded his best season at the helm of the Saints, advancing to his third College World Series, and his first at the NCAA level. After his ninth season, Davenport has accumulated 361 victories to just 135 losses for a winning percentage of .727.

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