

# Digest

► **Jan. 26, 2009**

*A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University*

## Web site gets new face, functionality

Visitors to the university's site will soon notice a transformation, as the home page, primary landing pages and certain departments will display the site's new look and functionality.

## Program identifies at-risk students

The Student Success program provides support for students who are performing poorly in their coursework and at-risk of failing at least one class.

## Communication opportunities growing

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## North Georgia adds golf to athletic lineup

Men's and women's golf will begin in fall of 2009.

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## New housing for 1,000 students planned for 2010

Incoming students for fall semester 2010 will likely have their pick of several new residence halls on the main campus, some that include traditional dorm rooms and others with suites that offer semi-



private bathrooms and other amenities. The new residential spaces are expected to increase North Georgia's resident population, now at 1,550 students, by more than 60 percent.

## Smithsonian exhibit to be assembled by art students



The Smithsonian traveling exhibit, "Key Ingredients: America by Food," will be entrusted to 11 fine arts students next month as they put together the entire display for the exhibit's six-week regional showcase starting Feb. 28.

The students will in effect become honorary curators of the exhibit, unpacking crates, assembling the displays and deciding where the pieces will be placed on the third floor of the Library Technology Center.

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**Make submissions to [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).**  
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# New housing for 1,000 students planned for 2010

By Joshua Preston



*New housing for military and non-military students is being planned for 2010 and will be near Gaillard Hall and behind the Health & Natural Sciences Building.* (Photo: Joshua Preston)

one military and one non-military – that include approximately 1,000 beds and will be ready for occupancy by August 2010. A developer will be hired in February to build both projects and privatized financing will fund the construction, which is expected to start in late summer. The development team will include an architecture firm that will make the final recommendation for the number and size of the dorms.

"We want the architects to give us creative alternatives, but with our terrain it seems we will need two or three smaller buildings rather than one large one," said Jeff Davis, director of auxiliary services and associate vice president for facilities. This may apply to both the military and non-military housing projects or just one project, Davis said, but the number of actual buildings has yet to be finalized.

Early numbers indicate 400 of the beds will be for new military residence halls and 600 will be used for non-military residence halls. The non-military dorms are expected to house mostly freshmen and sophomores.

"The new dorms will allow us to start working to get back to a traditional residential learning experience for more students," said Mac McConnell, vice president for business and finance.

With the new buildings, North Georgia will be able to house around 2,500 students of the university's current enrollment of 5,500.

"We have a compelling need for housing," Davis said. "We're leasing apartments to accommodate student housing needs and we have a backlog of demand."

Sasaki Associates Inc., the firm hired to create a new campus master plan, helped conduct focus-group studies to recommend building locations for the new dorms. The new military housing is expected to be near Gaillard Hall, one of three current cadet quarters, and the new civilian housing will be in the area behind the Health & Natural Sciences building.

Topping North Georgia's list of strategic directions in the university's 2008-2013 Strategic Plan, implemented in the fall, is increasing residentially based learning experiences.

Building more residence halls is a major component of achieving that goal. North Georgia's newest

Incoming students for fall semester 2010 will likely have their pick of several new residence halls on the main campus, some that include traditional dorm rooms and others with suites that offer semi-private bathrooms and other amenities. The new residential spaces are expected to increase North Georgia's resident population, now at 1,550 students, by more than 60 percent.

North Georgia will develop two distinct expansion projects –

dorm, John H. Owen Hall, opened in 2001, and prior to that, Donovan Hall was the most recent dorm to be completed, back in 1975.

## Smithsonian exhibit to be assembled by art students

*Art education majors will add interactive food art*

*By Joshua Preston*

The Smithsonian traveling exhibit, "Key Ingredients: America by Food," will be entrusted to 11 fine arts students next month as they put together the entire display for the exhibit's six-week regional showcase starting Feb. 28. The students, who are enrolled in Art Aesthetics and Criticism, will in effect become honorary curators of the exhibit, unpacking crates, assembling the displays and deciding where the pieces will be placed on the third floor of the Library Technology Center.

Being a small part of Smithsonian history is not lost on Corey Doerr, a senior in graphic arts. Doerr plans to apply theory from the classroom and use it for practical application when the national exhibit arrives.

"You have to emphasize the importance of space around the work and think about aesthetics and how the traffic will flow," he said. "I want to take what I've learned about composition from graphic design and apply it to composition in a room."

"Key Ingredients" traveled to more than 150 locations this past year and inspired other food- and art-related events in the host communities to complement the national exhibit. The Georgia Appalachian Studies Center at North Georgia has helped to coordinate more than 15 local companion events for the Smithsonian exhibit through April.

The students who will oversee "Key Ingredients" are also helping stage four other food-inspired art events that include, among other things, art of America's junk food and the dishes used in local cuisine. Students will interview artists and develop publicity so visitors can make the most of their trip to Dahlonega as they learn about the evolution of the nation's food culture.

"My mother has mountains of old recipes and cookbooks, and food has always been a big part of my family life," Adrienne Phagan, a senior in art education, said.

Phagan will use that family passion to guide her work as she talks to local artists and focuses attention on the art behind the food.

Dr. Ana Pozzi, the art course instructor, emphasizes the intellectual importance of the students' work.

"This exhibit makes art available to us in such a way that we can work with it and get a point of view that only an original piece of artwork can provide," she said. "As part of the course, the students will create interpretations of the art and interview artists to gain insight into their work."

A separate effort by a class of 10 art education majors and student volunteers will focus to engage



*Local artist Jim Fambrough talks with art senior Corey Doerr and art education senior Adrienne Phagan in his Dahlonega home and studio. Fambrough will have his food-inspired art displayed to complement the Smithsonian exhibit at North Georgia.*

*(Photo: Joshua Preston)*

elementary-school students in the food culture through interactive educational venues at the "Key Ingredients" exhibit on campus. A large number of school children are expected to visit the exhibit through the spring.

Art education majors will create interactive areas in the library to teach students about basic food selection using the food pyramid; kitchen etiquette and family dinner time; and test their understanding of what ingredients they need for their favorite foods.

Dr. Chris Dockery, the art education instructor, said that all the venues are very much art-based, from a board made of felt that kids will use to create "felt food" meals to a large cardboard kitchen set with papier-mâché food that will allow interaction at a dinner table.

Art education majors will also take their interactive art projects on the road into Lumpkin County.

"Students will design lesson plans related to the 'Key Ingredients' exhibit and take them to elementary schools where kids will create food-related art work," Dockery said.

For more information on "Key Ingredients" and the companion events taking place through April, contact the Appalachian Studies Center at 706-864-1540 or go online to view the [events calendar](#).

## Web site to get new face and functionality

By Kate Maine

In the next week or so, visitors to the university's Web site will notice the beginning of a major transformation, as the home page, primary landing pages and certain departments will display the Web site's new look, part of an initiative to enhance the site's appearance and functionality.

Plans to transform the university's Web site began many months ago, and it has involved meetings with numerous groups on campus. The web development team – a partnership between

Information & Instructional Technology (IIT) and University Relations – is moving much closer to implementing the site's new web-based content management system (CMS), which will change the way content is added and used on the site.

This initial phase of the Web transition will be primarily an aesthetic change on those pages and areas of the site that are externally focused, such as admissions and financial aid. Those offices depend heavily on the Web site to interest and communicate with potential students, and the group felt it most important to address those areas first.

The Web site's functionality will increase when the CMS software, from Ektron Corporation, is implemented in late spring. The Ektron system will allow unit web coordinators to easily edit content on their areas of the site without the need for specialized design software and will enable sharing of



content and resources between departments.

"As an added benefit, because the software is Web-based, edits can be done from anywhere with Internet access," said Robert Tripp, an Ektron representative who was on campus in January, in a demonstration for unit web coordinators.

Ektron CMS software is in use at many other colleges and universities, including Wofford, Johnson & Wales, and the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

"Ektron will send a trainer to campus in the late spring, once the web development team has more of the framework of the new site developed, to conduct two day-long training sessions for the unit web coordinators," Judy McHan, web resources administrator, said. "It will be quite extensive and completely hands-on training."

To preview the design of the new home page and to see how the work has progressed on the Web site redesign project, visit the [Web design group's Wiki](#).

The total Web site transformation may take 12-18 months, due to the amount of content that needs to be created or migrated from the current site. There are thousands of existing html files and other documents that, over the course of years, have caused the site to become cluttered and challenging to navigate.

To make the site easier to navigate, the new design will feature landing pages that are designed around each user's role – such as faculty & staff, current students & cadets and future students & cadets – and will feature resources and links in related content groups. The landing pages and a site index will replace the existing QuickLinks function.

## Student Success program identifies at-risk students

### *Advisement survey implemented*

*By Joshua Preston*

The Student Success program, formerly known as the Early Alert program, received 570 referrals during the fall semester for students who were performing poorly in their coursework and at-risk of failing at least one class. That number is more than three times the number of referrals from the previous fall and is in part due to an automated report that the Banner Information System now generates during a designated progress report period.

Faculty members report student grades that, if below a certain score, are automatically rolled into the referral report that is sent to the Office of Academic Affairs.

Of the 570 referrals, about 40 percent of the students worked with a Student Success program team member to fill out individual success plans that outline how students can improve their academic performance.



The Student Success Team is a

new part of the Student Success program and is comprised of four faculty members and seven staff members.

*Students now have the option of meeting with a Student Success team member to help them if they are struggling academically.*

*(Photo: Joshua Preston)*

"The Student Success team members let advisors know when they are meeting with their students and where [that advisor] can provide support or identify where skill development may be needed," Dr. Patricia Donat, associate vice president for academic affairs, said.

A new advisement survey was administered in the fall with 2,210 students fully completing the survey.

Based on the report, areas generally needing improvement are in the length and content of advising sessions and the degree of personalization. Students who participated in the survey particularly want to discuss post-graduation options and want their sessions to be longer and more personalized to their individual goals.

"The emphasis should be on mentoring rather than just on registering for classes and completing their plans of study," Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch, vice president for academic affairs, wrote.

Advisors will have the opportunity to attend new advisement workshops this semester. The Center of Teaching and Learning Excellence will conduct introductory workshops to provide basic information to advisors and advanced workshops that may touch on topics such as how to provide high-quality advising, issues with transfer students and other areas identified on the advisement survey.

## Communication opportunities growing

*By Kate Maine*

Institutional communication, particularly in a growing and active organization like North Georgia, is always a hot topic because of its many challenges and occasional breakdowns. I'd like to share with you some of the plans and projects that are underway to help us all be more systematic and conscientious as we enhance internal and external communications.

- *The Digest*, our monthly campus newsletter, has transitioned from a print publication to an online and e-mail publication. Its electronic format, in addition to saving us money, removes the space constraints for news and information. Now, to provide more timely and frequent campus communication, we will be increasing production to a weekly schedule. In addition to the types of articles included in previous editions, we will include reports from the university's various governance groups, notices of special events, and opportunities to highlight people and activities on campus. As you plan communication about events and notices, I encourage you to consider using this tool, rather than campus-wide e-mail. The newsletter is scheduled to be published on Wednesdays, so please e-mail any notices to [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).
- If you haven't checked out [North Georgia Today](#), please consider making it your home page on the Web site. We are striving to post a variety of campus information there, and you don't want to miss anything!
- To identify communication needs and opportunities for collaboration and greater efficiency, University Relations started a campus communicators group this past fall. While this is primarily a group of faculty and staff members whose roles include departmental or campus communications, anyone is welcome. If you'd like to be added to our group, just let me know.
- Similarly, to share information between multiple departments, we are exploring the possibility of holding quarterly meetings with university administrators and directors. These meetings would be open to anyone, but intended to promote communication between offices about upcoming projects and initiatives.
- Externally, we are preparing to launch a new university magazine – for alumni, donors and other constituents – that will provide us the opportunity to better showcase the university's work and the accomplishments of our alumni. It will take the place of two existing

newsletters, the *North Georgia Leader* and the *Alumni Bulletin*. Look for the first issue later this spring.

As you can tell, we have a lot of work ahead of us, but I am confident our labor will bear great results! Please direct any questions about these efforts and other ideas you may have to my attention at [kmaine@ngcsu.edu](mailto:kmaine@ngcsu.edu).

## North Georgia adds golf to athletic lineup



*Randy Dunn, David Potter and Tom Fowler*

*(Photo: Sports Information)*

President David Potter and Athletic Director Randy Dunn announced, on Jan. 26, the addition of men's and women's golf as NCAA Division II sports to North Georgia's athletic department starting in the fall of 2009.

"We are pleased to initiate these programs at North Georgia," President Potter said. "This should enable us to recruit strong scholar-athletes to the university, and it will provide greater visibility to our institution throughout the region and the state."

North Georgia has partnered with Achasta Golf Course to be the home course for the Saints golf teams. The Jack Nicklaus Signature course is located just minutes from campus in the foothills of the North Georgia Mountains along the Chestatee River.

Tom Fowler, head golf professional at Achasta and PGA professional since 1994, will be the head coach for both the men's and women's programs. Tommy Aaron, 1973 Masters Champion and PGA tour legend, has agreed to serve as honorary coach. Aaron, a native of Gainesville, Ga., captured back-to-back SEC individual golf titles for the University of Florida in 1957 and 1958, and played on the PGA Tour from 1961 to 1979.

"I am proud and excited to have been asked to coach for North Georgia," Fowler said. "I am looking forward to coaching a world-class team that will proudly serve as ambassadors for the university, Dahlonega, and the game of golf."

## Take note...

### Master of Arts in history approved

North Georgia's Master of Arts in history was approved this month by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents and will be offered starting in August. The master's degree offers areas of study in either world history or military history.

North Georgia is now one of five universities in the Southeast and 20 in North America that offers a master's program in world history. Military history programs are even less common, and North Georgia is now the fifth in the region to offer one at the master's level, according to Dr. Georgia Mann, head of the Department of History & Philosophy at the university.

The program will provide training in the theoretical and methodological elements of the discipline of history; advanced research techniques and analysis; and oral, written, and multi-media communication skills.

## Concert celebrates 300 years of piano

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the invention of the piano, and North Georgia will honor the occasion by presenting A Tricentennial Celebration of the Piano: 1709-2009, featuring Dr. Joe Chapman, director of keyboard studies. The concert will be held on Monday, Feb. 2, at 8 p.m. in the university's Hoag Student Center Auditorium. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. NGCSU students and employees are admitted free with their Saints ID card. For more information, contact fine arts at 706-864-1423.



## Homecoming this week

North Georgia will celebrate Homecoming on Saturday, January 31. Basketball games will be held at 2 p.m. (Lady Saints) and 4 p.m. (Saints) vs. Francis Marion. Between games, the Blue Ridge Rifles will perform. During halftime of the men's game, the Homecoming Court will be presented and the Homecoming King & Queen will be crowned. Please make plans to attend.

## Discounts available for Georgia employees

Trying to decide what to do for family outings this winter and spring? As a State of Georgia employee you can take advantage of a variety of discounts for entertainment, sporting events and some services available on the [Team Georgia Connection Web site](#). Some of the discounts will expire soon, so be sure to check out these opportunities soon.

## Inclement weather notifications

In the event that inclement weather causes the university to close or delay classes, how will you know?

1. The easiest way is to make sure you are signed-up for Connect-Ed, which can contact you automatically via telephone or e-mail.
2. The university's Web site will display a special message on its home page in the event of weather cancellations.
3. The university will notify local and regional news agencies as needed to help spread the word.

## Campus in Action

### Students present research at national meeting

Two students, Josh Crunkleton and Dusti Nisbet, won a cash prize in recognition of their research poster presentation at the national meetings of the Mathematics Association of America (MAA) and the American Mathematics Society (AMS) in early January, when they and two other students, Amanda Peck and Lauren Prill, traveled to Washington, D.C., to present their research at the MAA Undergraduate Poster Session.

Crunkleton and Nisbet, conducting research under the direction of Dr. Brad Bailey, presented *r-Reduced Cutting Numbers and Vertex Attrition of Multipartite Graphs*. Prill and Peck, conducting research under the direction of Dr. John Holliday, presented *Clustering Coefficients: the Value of a Vertex*.

*NGCSU faculty and staff members are welcome to submit academic accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).*