

## Hands-on leadership training



Dr. Andy Schaffer (left) and his management class test the new Leadership Reaction Course at Pine Valley on a rainy day. Schaffer explains to his class how to successfully complete the “destroyed bridge” obstacle. The \$26,500 course, completed for fall semester through Leadership Initiative funds, is comprised of six stations with two identical obstacles at each station. The course is designed to teach team building and problem solving among students.

## North Georgia rated a best value in public higher education

North Georgia is rated among the 100 best values in public education by Kiplinger’s magazine. The October 2002 issue of Kiplinger’s Personal Finance features the 100 best public colleges and universities in terms of cost, quality and financial aid. Only three universities in Georgia made the list: University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and NGCSU.

The magazine’s editors surveyed more than 500 U.S. public institutions, then “narrowed the list to the 200 most selective universities, based on entrance exam scores of the 2001 freshman class.”

To determine the final 100, said reporter Josephine Rossi, “we looked at a variety of additional measures of quality, including how many freshmen return for their sophomore year, four-and six-year graduation rates, student-faculty ratios, how much a college spends on each student for instruction, and how much it spends maintaining its libraries.”

The schools were then ranked on a combination of quality and cost measures. North Georgia was listed at number 93 on the Kiplinger list. The complete listing and information on the methodology may be accessed via the Internet.

U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges 2003 edition placed NGCSU in the second tier of masters degree-granting universities in the South. Of the USG universities, only Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia were ranked in higher tiers by the publication.

## Leadership Roundtable participants selected

The applicants selected to participate in the fall semester Leadership Roundtable were announced Sept. 30. Eighteen employees applied and 12 were selected, two more than originally intended.

Roundtable participants will be part of a series of activities that will enhance their understanding and knowledge of leadership and provide them with tools and

techniques that can be used for leadership development in their given area. The activities of the Leadership Roundtable will encourage participants to get to know other participants and build community among themselves and past and future members of the program.

The deadline to apply for the spring semester Leadership Roundtable is Jan. 31.

### Roundtable participants for fall

Dr. Thomas Austenfeld - Language & Literature  
 Dr. Larry Berneking - Education  
 Dr. Catherine Chastain - Arts & Letters  
 Dr. Elizabeth Combier - Language & Literature  
 Charles Hawkins - Institution Research  
 Shari Hotzelaw - Library  
 Mack Palmour - Admissions  
 Anita Roush - Continuing Education  
 Dr. Andy Schaffer - Business  
 Dr. Terry Schwaner - Biology  
 Lt. Col. William Shaw - Military Science  
 Nadine Webb - Advancement



## Campus in Action

**Robert LaVerriere**, admissions and recruiting, will travel Nov. 16-23 to Sao Paulo and Campinas in Brazil to represent North Georgia in a recruitment effort through a collaborative Global Partnership Grant awarded by the University System of Georgia. LaVerriere and Dr. Nancy Shumaker, director of International Programs at Georgia Southern University, plan to visit public and private secondary schools and attend college fairs to recruit students for NGCSU and the University System of Georgia.

A series of NGCSU Leadership Academy workshops will be held fall semester to help student leaders maximize their skills. Faculty and staff members who will lead workshops include: **Dr. Andy Schaffer, Billy Shaw, Annette Lee** and **Wesley Thomas**. Workshops will cover a range of topics, such as setting and reaching goals, public relations and publicity, basic parliamentary procedures for meetings, financial management, motivation for success and group dynamics.

**Linda Smith**, admissions, had her submission to the University System of Georgia's Video Contest selected as one of the winners. Smith will be featured in the upcoming "Points of Pride Video" that the University System is producing to orient new employees to the system.

## In the News

"It is this kind of thinking that keeps Georgia's children at the bottom of the academic ladder. Dumbing down the curriculum further will guarantee that they are even less able to compete with their peers at Georgia universities and beyond."

**Dr. Brian Mann**  
assistant professor of French  
*letter to the editor regarding a  
proposal to drop foreign language  
requirements in public schools,  
Sept. 29, Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

## NGCSU highway safety grant renewed

North Georgia received a \$24,000 grant in September through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to continue the "Reducing Drug and Alcohol Risk Through Peer Education" program started last spring at the university.

"The money will be used to support a broad program of drug and alcohol education and prevention efforts on the campus," said Betty Greene, project director for the grant. "One focus of educational efforts will be to prevent alcohol related accidents and deaths on our state highways."

NGCSU, receiving an initial grant of \$20,000 for the 2001-02 academic year, trained students to provide education and prevention programs on campus.

Greene selected 16 North Georgia students to go through the Bacchus and Gamma Peer Educator Program this summer, and they developed the P.L.U.S. team or Peer Leaders Understanding Students.

"We hope to offer educational programs to sororities and fraternities, and first year students in the residence halls, including the Corps of Cadets," said Greene.

NGCSU will hold an employee **Benefits Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 22**, in the Memorial Hall Gym. Vendors and administrators involved with the NGCSU employee benefits plans will be on hand to provide information and answer questions. In addition, many local companies and businesses will be present to highlight discounts offered to NGCSU employees.

The **2003 Open Enrollment** period for NGCSU's benefits plans will be held from **Oct. 14 to Nov. 14**. During this time period, employees may make changes in their benefits coverage that they are not allowed to change at any other time during the year. Changes made will be effective Jan. 1, 2003. Human Resources will mail detailed information to all full-time regular employees in the coming weeks.

## Annual Faculty/Staff Golf Tournament results

Twenty-four golfers participated in the annual Fall Faculty/Staff Golf Tournament held Sept. 20 at Skitt Mountain Golf Course.

Aramark Food Services served lunch at the event and provided the plaques for the first- and second-place teams. The NGCSU Foundation provided prizes for the tournament winners.

### Tournament winners are:

**First place team** - Bruce Howerton, Norman Loyd,  
Nancy Negley and Tim Singleton

**Second place team** - Arlene Thurman, Gene Conyers,  
Frank Fearon and Jack Broman

**Longest drive (women)** - Arlene Thurman

**Longest drive (men)** - Chris Dare

**Closest to the pin** - Richard Oates

## Georgia Guitar Quartet to perform on Oct. 10



Georgia Guitar Quartet

The Georgia Guitar Quartet will perform on Oct. 10 at 12:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. This is the first event of the season sponsored by the Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series at North Georgia. The Quartet was formed in 1996 and hails from Athens, Ga. The group performs original pieces by a variety of musicians. The

event is free and open to the public.

In honor and memory of his father, John L. Nix Jr. and his wife Sarah Highsmith Nix created a significant trust fund for the benefit of North Georgia through the university's Foundation. The endowment funds special fine arts events and exhibits that contribute to a better understanding and preservation of mountain cultural traditions.

## Salute to Benny Goodman music coming to campus

The American Swing Orchestra is coming to North Georgia on Oct. 17 to present "A Musical Salute to Benny Goodman." The 7 p.m. event in the Memorial Hall Gym is free and open to the public, and the audience will be able to dance the night away to the classic musical tunes.



American Swing Orchestra

From 1936 to 1946, the legendary Benny Goodman's swing band's popularity set the pattern for such bands as those led by Tommy Dorsey and Artie Shaw. Harry James, Ziggy Elman and Jess Stacy were among the Goodman band's soloists, and musical selections included "Don't Be That Way," "Jersey Bounce" and "Stompin' at the Savoy." Jazz was emerging as a major element of swing bands' music.

Clem De Rosa, a member of the Jazz Hall of Fame, who also has led the Glenn Miller and Dorsey Brothers Orchestras, leads the re-creation of the Benny Goodman sound. For the American Swing Orchestra, De Rosa has assembled all of the big Goodman arrangements and added selections by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and others.

The event is sponsored by the NGCSU Cultural Events Committee.

### NGCSU Trivia Question

North Georgia's new residence hall, John H. Owen Hall, opened Aug. 17 for students, making it the seventh building on campus currently used for student housing. Can you name the oldest residence hall on campus still in use? Do you know what administrative building was formerly a military barracks for cadets? The first correct answers will be printed in a future Digest.

## Upcoming Events

A **National Depression Screening Day**, hosted by the Office of Student Counseling, will be held from 12:45 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Newton Oakes Center, room 010. There will be a short video presentation. Participants also may take a free, anonymous depression screening test and speak with a mental health professional.

Faculty and staff are invited to the Alumni Center on Oct. 19, 4-6 p.m., for the annual **Gold Rush Alumni Reception**. Meet and greet North Georgia alumni and enjoy food and beverages served on the patio and provided by the Alumni Association.

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**Digest**

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## Legendary apple tree on North Georgia campus



NGCSU apple tree planted in 1980.

A Granny Smith apple tree, growing on the North Georgia campus near the Alumni Center, is the only surviving tree out of an original two dozen saplings brought to this area in 1980 from Australia or New Zealand.

Dr. John Owen, longtime president of NGCSU, now retired,

recalls that Professor Chester Himel, a University of Georgia entomologist-biochemist, brought the saplings 22 years ago to the north Georgia area. A dozen of the trees were planted in a nursery owned by Dr. Walter Sanders of the USDA Hydrological Laboratory in Athens, Ga. Deer that jumped the fence of the supposedly protected area, however, destroyed those saplings.

Dr. Gayther Plummer, at that time a professor of botany at North Georgia, received six of the original small trees. He gave three saplings to Owen, then president of North Georgia College.

“We planted those three saplings at the side of the President’s Home (now the Alumni Center) on the campus by the circular driveway,” Owen recalls. “Over the years, I and many other people, mostly visiting alumni, have enjoyed these apples.”

Owen says, “The years have taken their toll and there is only one Granny Smith Apple tree left out of the original two dozen, and that’s the tree on the North Georgia campus.”

As some might say, “How about ‘them’ apples?”



**FINAL SENDOFF:** Dr. Steve Ross told the audience at his retirement reception, “This institution is you people, and this is what makes this place special.” The Sept. 24 reception in the Adam’s Great Room honored the 25-year North Georgia veteran who became a jack of all trades. He held many positions through his years here, including coordinator of off-campus programs, Teacher Education’s acting department head, certification officer for Teacher Education, liaison to the Board of Regents Alternative Dispute Resolution Initiative, faculty athletic representative and coordinator of Graduate Studies.

## Grant will establish records management program

North Georgia received a \$2,500 grant to establish a records management program that will provide a formal plan for maintaining university records. The project is funded by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board, Georgia Archives, Office of the Secretary of State.

The program will assist the university with conforming to the provisions of the Records Retention Guidelines published by the University System of Georgia.

Dr. Terry McLeod, who retired October 2001 as the chief information officer at North Georgia, is the project director.

The grant contract gives the university from Oct. 1, 2002 to Sept. 30, 2003 to complete the tasks delineated in the grant proposal. After this period, McLeod said the university may seek additional grants that will support further efforts in this area. The university will contribute approximately \$4,000 worth of secretarial services for the program.

Previously, inventory was not kept for the vast number of university records that have accumulated over the years and the institution’s disaster plan did not specify actions needed to protect records.

The funds will be used to train staff on inventory procedures, and to inventory all institutional records, develop a disaster plan and create a policies and procedures manual.

A staff member from each unit on campus will receive training and will be responsible for records management of her or his respective unit.

A Disaster Preparedness Plan and the Records Management Policy & Procedures Manual will be distributed to every office on campus at the end of the grant.