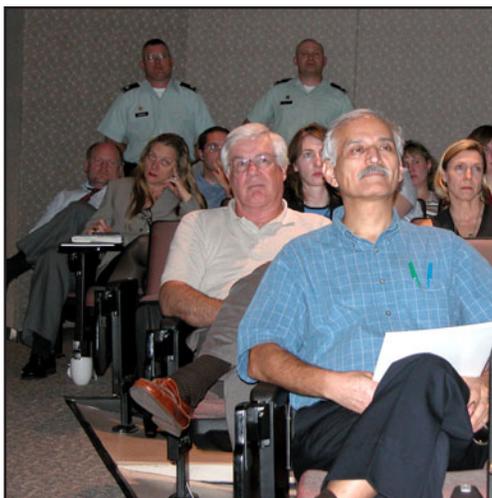


President presents budget picture to faculty

At the Sept. 23 faculty meeting in the HNS Auditorium, President Nathaniel Hansford told the audience that this academic year the university's budget will be similar to last year. Again, the state has asked for USG institutions to cut 2.5 percent from their budgets, but universities don't have to identify specific programs to cut at this point.

Hansford predicted that fiscal year 2005 will be more problematic in regard to budget reductions. The Board of Regents has requested that state universities demonstrate how they would cut 7.5 percent from the 2004-2005 budget if asked to do so. That size cut would amount to \$1.3 million from North Georgia's budget.



ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE: Faculty members heard President Hansford's explanation of potential budget cuts.

"If those cuts should take place, and we don't yet know for sure that they will," Hansford said, "North Georgia would experience larger

class sizes, fewer classes offered each semester, classes offered less often, students taking fewer classes and taking longer to graduate, and possibly limitations on enrollment and on some student services."

Hansford said those predictions are based on the assumptions of no tuition increases or other revenue enhancements.

"If any of those things change, of course, then the budget outlook would be different," he said.

With over 80 percent of NGCSU's budget going to personnel, Hansford said his priorities would be to (1) protect academics and (2) not lay off staff, but possibly have reductions through

(Continued on page 3)

Retreat stresses collaboration

by Dr. Andy Schaffer, assistant professor of business administration

About 60 NGCSU faculty and staff members gathered for their annual retreat on Sept. 12 and 13, which took place at the "Mountain of Youth" center in Dahlonega.

The theme, "Community Building," grew out of discussions at the 2002 retreat. The focus this year was to discuss boundary-breaking within the campus community and also between NGCSU and other off-campus communities.

Of course, ample time was built into the retreat for social interaction and informal discussions. The

(Continued on page 4)



Photo by Anita Roush

BUILDING COMMUNITY: (l to r) Dr. Alice Sampson and Jeanette Mann (standing) spend time socializing with Dr. B.J. Robinson and Dr. Amy Childers at the retreat.



North Georgia considers move to NCAA

When President Nathaniel Hansford took office in 1999, he “inherited” from President Sherman Day a proposal to move North Georgia’s sports programs from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Hansford formed a task force chaired by now retired Coordinator of Graduate Studies Steve Ross to examine the pros and cons of the change. The committee concluded that, although it would not be a single and easy process, it was clear that in the long run the move would be positive for North Georgia, explained Hansford, addressing the Sept. 23 Faculty Meeting in the HNS Auditorium.

A consultant was hired to determine the viability of the candidacy of North Georgia for the NCAA, Division II, and, in particular, the Peach Belt Athletic Conference, where many of the “sister schools” within the University System of Georgia now compete. The consultant found no major shortcomings in terms of facilities, sports programs, finances or scholarships.

The process entered the one-year exploratory phase in July 2002. That fall, the commissioner of the Peach Belt, Martin Vanover, came to assess the North Georgia situation. He was most helpful in reviewing

the NGCSU athletic program and left with a very favorable opinion of NGCSU.

The next step in the process will be to apply to the Peach Belt Conference for conditional membership. It is hoped that the Peach Belt Conference at its January 2004 meeting would then consider NGCSU’s request and approve NGCSU for future membership when it is eligible. Hansford noted that NGCSU needs to have an assurance of a conference affiliation before seeking provisional NCAA membership. If the Peach Belt actions are favorable, NGCSU would apply to be a provisional member of the NCAA, District II this summer. If the application is accepted, NGCSU would become a

provisional member immediately and remain in this status for four years.

“There is some pain in the process,” Hansford warned. “Provisional members of the NCAA may not participate in NAIA championship tournaments. This greatly affects NGCSU since we have competed so successfully in conference and post-season play.”

Despite that limitation Hansford concluded, “We have the scholarships, the sports programs, the gender equity and the facilities. We need to move on.”



TOP OF THE CLASS: The Excellence in Teaching Awards and the Distinguished Professor for Teaching and Learning Award for this year were presented on Sept. 23. The honorees were announced during the faculty meeting in the Health & Natural Sciences Auditorium. The recognitions consist of a certificate, a monetary award for professional development or instructional enhancement and a nameplate added to the Teaching and Learning plaque in the Hoag Student Center. Awardees pictured include (l to r) Dr. Andy Schaffer, business administration, “Classroom Leadership Development;” Dr. Eric Link, language and literature, “Bringing Scholarship into the Classroom;” Dr. Ann Stucke, teacher education, “Promoting Active Learning” and Dr. Jacqueline Leeper, teacher education, “Technology Utilization.” Faculty award winners not pictured are Dr. Greta Olsen, chemistry, for “Developing Critical Thinking,” and this year’s Distinguished Professor of Teaching and Learning is Dr. Dan Thompson, chemistry.





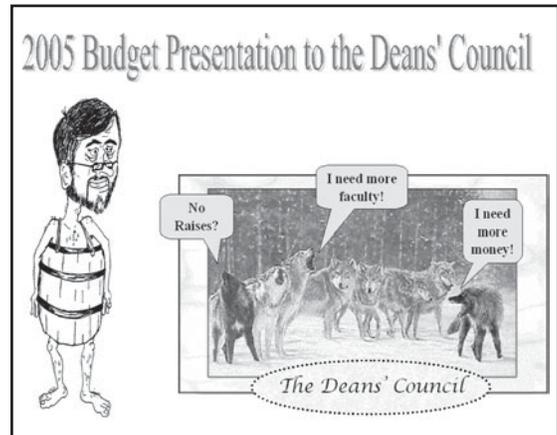
STUDENT LEADERSHIP: The Student Government Association hosted a faculty reception on Sept. 18 where a majority of the 37-member student leadership organization came and interacted with faculty and staff in the Adams Great Room. Dr. Marc Gilbert and Willie Gordon talk with a group of SGA representatives during the event. The new SGA leadership was able to talk with faculty members about plans of the organization for the school year. Freshmen SGA members also met a diverse group of faculty members across the academic disciplines.

Fall business meeting

(Continued from page 1)

attrition – a reduction in employee numbers due to retirements, resignations or other causes.

“Every other college and university in the system is going through this same planning process,” Hansford explained. “We hope this won’t come to fruition, but we must plan for the potential worst-case scenario.”



BUDGET HUMOR: This slide in Business & Finance Vice President Mac McConnell’s PowerPoint presentation at the faculty meeting depicts the Deans Council meeting with Academic Affairs Vice President Phil Buckhiester.

Upcoming Events

Parents Weekend, sponsored by the NGCSU Parents Association, will take place on campus Oct. 3-5. For details visit www.ngpa.net

International Week, Oct. 7-9, will provide information for faculty and students on international education opportunities. Faculty opportunities include an Oct. 7 discussion on how to participate in teaching and professional development abroad. The Oct. 9 “Jackpot!” session will focus on how to win grant funding for departments to further internationalization through the Office of International Education at the Board of Regents. Both events take place in the Barnes Hall conference room from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. each day. For additional International Week events and information contact the International Programs office at ext. 2858.

Project Dignity and the Gay Straight Alliance will sponsor **Jeff Cleghorn's** visit to campus on Oct. 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. Cleghorn made a presentation at last year’s Diversity Week and spoke about his story of “coming out” after graduating with honors from NGCSU as a respected Corps member and after a distinguished career in the military.

Ludlow Porch, a radio personality for more than 25 years and author of 13 best-selling humor books, will perform at NGCSU on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Gloria Shott Auditorium. There will be a book-signing after the show. Friends of the Library, a Dahlongega organization, is co-sponsoring the event with NGCSU.

the
Digest

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EMPLOYEE GIVING:

The NGCSU Foundation faculty and staff campaign, achieving 53.5 percent participation, brought in financial support for the university totaling \$38,730. Development staff visited departments and offices during the six-



week campaign to solicit gifts that would help support Foundation activities which include student scholarships, faculty and staff development, academic programs, fine arts, athletics, leadership programs, the Corps of Cadets, and many other campus programs and activities. Representatives from the groups on campus that gave financial support were invited to a Sept. 23 luncheon. The representatives here are part of groups on campus that had 100-percent giving rates. (L to R) Vice President Mac McConnell, Business & Finance; Delores Daughtery, Auxiliary Services; Anita Roush, Continuing Education; President Nathaniel Hansford, President's Office; Michelle Gilstrap, Financial Aid; and Jill Brady, Registrar's office. Academic Support Services, Stewart Library, and Academic Affairs also achieved 100 percent participation.

FICTION FAN:

Dr. Donna Gessell (r), director of Graduate Studies & External Programs, gets her copy of Lorraine Lopez's collection of short stories, "Soy La Avon Lady," signed on Sept. 23 in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. Lopez read from her collection of stories on campus in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Lopez received a doctorate in creative writing from the University of Georgia and is currently an assistant professor of English at Vanderbilt University.

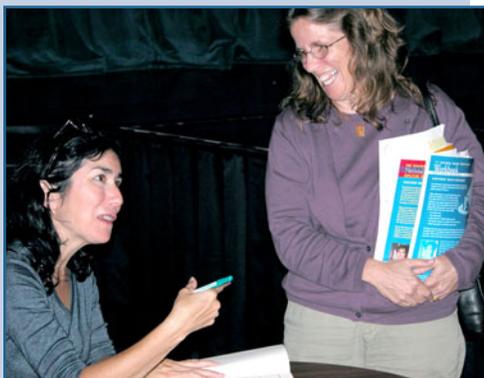


Photo by Jack Dillard

NIX SERIES: The first cultural event of the year sponsored by the NGCSU Foundation's Nix Series was multi-percussionist Richard Grimes and his ensemble of two other percussionist and cellists on Sept. 25. The next Nix Series event, pianist Denise Parr Scanlin, will take place on Oct. 28 in the Gloria Shott Auditorium.

**Faculty retreat***(Continued from page 1)*

beautiful, late-summer weather provided some extra energy.

The retreat began with a presentation by Dr. Jim Crupi, an NGCSU Foundation Board Member. Crupi challenged participants to overcome personal fears, old habits, and to cross traditional campus boundaries as they tackle a variety of leadership challenges.

After an informal reception and dinner, participants from the first two Leadership Roundtables presented a series of skits and discussions. This activity demonstrated how the Roundtable has helped break down some on-campus barriers. The presentation also served to dispel the rumor that the Leadership Roundtable is some kind of "secret society."

Saturday morning began with an open discussion led by Annie Hunt Burriss, former associate vice president for the Office of Economic Development in the University System Office.

Now the governor's deputy chief of staff for policy, legislative affairs and executive appointments, she discussed the challenges of building community outside of the campus' boundaries and provided a variety of examples from her affiliation with the Georgia Board of Regents and her work with Gov. Sonny Perdue.

The retreat ended with an active workshop. Participants broke into small groups to discuss community building. Questions included, "To what degree are the military and non-military aspects of our community united?" and "What are some examples that demonstrate that our faculty and staff have reached across traditional 'borders' to create a more inclusive community?"

The groups then presented summaries to the other participants. This final session generated many good ideas and examples that will be discussed across campus as NGCSU continues its community-building efforts.