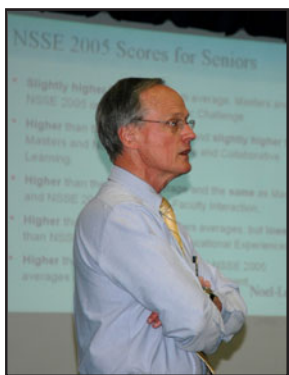


Learning communities focus of presentation on retention

As part of a comprehensive review of NGCSU's enrollment strategy, a presentation by Noel-Levitz consultant group representative Dr. Charles Schroeder took place on Nov. 8 in the Stewart Center for Continuing Education.



Dr. Charles Schroeder

Schroeder's presentation focused on learning communities, prevalent tools that universities are utilizing to help increase retention rates.

"The more that students are engaged at the university, the higher the retention," said Schroeder, who has worked this semester with campus representatives on retention management issues.

Schroeder presented a cursory overview of the university's responses in this year's National Survey of Student Engagement and comparative survey averages for USG institutions and other schools granting master's degrees.

(Continued on page 3)

Defining university identity goal of task force

The fall faculty business meeting on Oct. 13, also attended by staff members, included a presentation by Andy Fleming, a consultant working with a campus Institutional Identity Task Force



Task force chair Dr. Robert Fuller with consultants Brandon Smith and Andy Fleming

made up of faculty, staff and a student representative, and initiated by President David Potter to help guide the formulation of a well-defined institutional identity.

Fleming, who has interviewed university "stakeholders" from internal and external audiences, presented the preliminary results of the research.

(Continued on page 3)

Senior vice chancellor addresses North Georgia Military Review



Reviewing party, left to right: Dr. Georgia Mann, Heather Marshall, Col. Tom Palmer, Drs. Daniel Papp, David Potter, Clayton Grant and Robert Fuller.



Dr. Daniel Papp

Dr. Daniel S. Papp, the senior vice chancellor for Academics and Fiscal Affairs of the University System of Georgia, spoke at the Oct. 24 Faculty and Staff Military Review on the Drill Field.

North Georgia's employees, Papp said, are part of an elite few. "You are the faculty and staff of one of only six Senior Military Colleges in the country. This is an immense responsibility, and it is a responsibility that you handle superbly."

Papp said that the number of times the Corps of Cadets has won top honors in national competitions, the quality of the officers who graduate, as well as the success of the alumni are evidence of the quality of the university employees.

The ceremony included performances by the Golden Eagle Band, the Blue Ridge Rifles precision drill team and the Patriot Choir. Eight cadets who earned top 4.0 grades in the spring semester were honored.



Campus in Action

Dr. Thomas Austenfeld, language and literature, delivered a paper titled "Crossing Frontiers in Thomas Mann's 'The Magic Mountain'" at the European Culture Congress, Universidad de Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, Oct. 21.

Dr. Brian Jay Corrigan, language and literature, has had his novel, "The Poet of Loch Ness," nominated for the prestigious PEN/Faulker Prize in Literature. His novel was one of two titles nominated by his publisher from its catalogue of over 200 books.



Laurie Davis, bookstore manager, was featured in the September/October 2005 issue of "The College Store" trade magazine and selected as one of "20 Women to Watch." Full article at www.ngcsu.edu/digest.

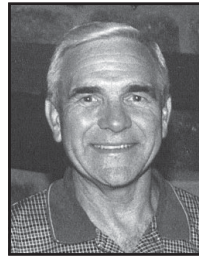
Dr. Loretta Delargy, nursing, attended the 53rd Annual Convention of the Georgia Association of Nursing Students in Augusta in October as the advisor to the NGCSU GANS chapter, which had 25 students participating in the convention. The chapter won six awards, recognizing the members' nursing contributions. Full story at Digest Extra online.



Several NGCSU art faculty members were involved with presentations and exhibitions at the Georgia Art Education Association's state conference in October at Lake Lanier Islands. **Hank Margeson** and **Noelle Petersen** presented "Alternative Monoprints," a hands-on workshop for teachers experimenting with photographic and printmaking processes. **Michael Marling de Cuellar** presented "Art Out Of The Classroom," a digital multi-media presentation of environmental artwork produced by NGCSU students. All three faculty members had artwork selected by GAEA for the

GOBLINS ON CAMPUS: North Georgia Halloween activities included the Phi Mu sorority pumpkin-carving party for the community on Oct. 26. Children picked designs and watched as sorority members carved pumpkins. Children also visited residence halls for Trick-or-Treating on Halloween. Pictured is Erika Porter, a senior military student and sorority sister, scooping out pumpkin seeds with 3-year-old Sophie Mullins, daughter of Laura and Sean Mullins in Academic Affairs.

Dr. Barry D. Friedman, political science and criminal justice, organized the triennial international convention of the Pi Gamma Mu social-science honor society that took place Oct. 20-22 in Nashville, Tenn. During the convention, Friedman was installed as first vice president of the society.



Gerald Lord, associate vice president of Business & Finance, has been elected to post 3 of the Dahlonega City Council for a four-year term. The council helps develop policy for the city government.

Dr. Kim Melton (left), business administration, and **Dr. Donna Gessell**, graduate studies and external programs, served as volunteers at the 50th Girl Scout National Council Meeting in Atlanta, Ga., in October. Both represented the Girl Scouts of Northeast Georgia: Gessell as the Lumpkin County Service Unit director and Melton as a member of the Board of Directors. More than 10,000 Girl Scouts from around the world attended.



Dr. C. Michael Powell, business administration, received a commendation in 2005 from Governor Sonny Perdue for his dedication to students that extends beyond the classroom and for interweaving course material with its real-world applications.

Dr. Linda Williams, language and literature, presented "Charting a Business Communication Course on the Sea of Technology" at the 70th Convention of the Association for Business Communication that took place on Oct. 21 in Irvine, Calif.

The Community Leadership Connection was nominated by the Georgia Family Connection for a People's Choice Award and was awarded the Kid's First Award by the Lumpkin County Family Connection. The nomination and award are for the creation of the connection's Web site, www.connectinglumpkin.org.

Course schedule lengths cut for two-year term

The university calendar committee produced a new academic calendar, recently approved by the President's Cabinet, that will effectively cut two weeks from course schedules beginning fall 2006 through spring 2008. Summer semesters will be unaffected, said Dr. Donna Gessell, committee chair.

The current 17-week fall and spring semesters will change to 15 weeks, plus final exam periods.

"It better serves student learning because, although it is a more intense, focused period of classroom instruction, it allows more time in between terms" said Gessell.

She noted that students may use the time for co-curricular learning, and employees may prepare and provide services at a higher level, such as completing financial aid packets and maintaining classrooms.


"One key benefit for faculty members is having more time for preparing courses and doing research, activities which contribute to effectiveness in creating a student-learning centered environment," said Gessell.

Retention presentation (Continued from page 1)

He also discussed the faculty's role in learning communities.

"Faculty-student contact is the most important condition in promoting student learning and success, not only inside the classroom, but outside as well," said Schroeder.

Several of the estimated 40 faculty and staff members present asked questions about the feasibility and development of learning communities at North Georgia.


The enrollment management review by Noel-Levitz involves recruiting and retention areas of concentration and is expected to result in short- and long-term improvements for enrolling students. 

University identity (Continued from page 1)

He and Brandon Smith, representatives of Fleming Consultant Group, have interviewed students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and community members – individually and in focus groups – to understand current thinking and perspectives about the university. Potter explained the purpose of the Institutional Identity Task Force and the need for an image-enhancement campaign. Task force chair Dr. Robert Fuller urged employees to become involved with the task force initiatives. An online survey was made available for anyone to respond to the group's presentation.

"We want your insights about how we might refine this portrait of our identity and use it to help this university press forward into the future," Potter said. "Our best prospects for success are to share a vision that guides and intensifies our work together. To further our unique destiny we need your participation."

Potter expressed hope that the work of the task force will help establish a clear identity for the university and attain a high level of visibility in the broader local and national communities. He announced the establishment of a \$100,000 fund allocated specifically for image-enhancement activities.

Additional information is online at www.ngcsu.edu/resource/irp/irphone/Institutional%20Identity/institid.shtml 

Promotion for public events

University Relations promotes North Georgia's special events that are open to the public. A comprehensive calendar of public events is available online at www.ngcsu.edu/news. NGCSU event coordinators may request to have information posted on that calendar.

NGCSU public events are also publicized by University Relations in various media outlets. Complete information should be submitted electronically at least one month prior to the event. The earlier you provide the information, the better the event can be publicized to a wide audience.

Area newspapers are currently compiling spring guides for local events. NGCSU events for spring should be submitted no later than the first week of December to University Relations.

To submit an event, please e-mail jjpreston@ngcsu.edu the following information: name of event, location and directions if event is off-campus, date and time, description of event, contact number and/or e-mail and cost of tickets, if any. Print-quality digital photographs may also be submitted.

the
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Cadet Recruitment Center hosts biannual recruiting event

More than 180 high school juniors and seniors from 11 different states attended the biannual National Leadership Challenge at North Georgia, a turnout that exceeded the number of participants last year by 100 students.

In an attempt to increase the quality of students entering the North Georgia cadet corps, the Cadet Recruitment Center staff has set minimum academic requirements for all interested high school applicants. NLC participants had at least a 2.5 grade point average and a minimum 950 SAT score.



Keith Antonia

“NLC is the premier recruiting event for the corps each semester,” said Keith Antonia, assistant director of admissions for cadet recruitment. “The prospective cadets participate in teambuilding and confidence activities such as constructing rope bridges across mountain streams at Camp Merrill, rappelling, competing in a leadership reaction course and a low ropes course at Pine Valley, and taking part in a capstone event on Saturday night that is known as the ‘Legacy of Gold.’”

Legacy of Gold highlights the corps’ history and traditions, and



Prospective cadets participate in the NGCSU National Leadership Challenge on campus Nov. 4-6.

demonstrates cadet activities and organizations in a dramatic production, including spotlighting cadets rappelling off Rogers Hall. More than 70 high school seniors who attended stated that North Georgia was their first choice for their higher education. Current cadets also benefited from the weekend.

“NLC provides the North Georgia cadets with an opportunity to plan, coordinate and execute a complex training activity,” said Antonia. “This further develops their decision-making, problem-solving, communication, time management and leadership skills.”



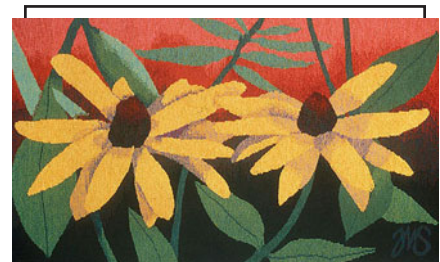
Pictured in the serving line are Dr. Terry Schwaner, left, and, in the red hat, Gyllian Pena from Peru.

CULTURE EXCHANGE FOR A CAUSE:

More than 50 guests at the International Students Association 2nd annual International Dinner on Oct. 28 were treated to a full-course dinner and entertainment at the Baptist Student Union house. ISA students in native-cultural outfits catered to faculty, staff, administrators and community guests and performed during the event. “The dinner exposes guests to international cuisine and culture, and this year the students raised funds for Katrina relief along with ISA activities,” said Dr. Thomas Austenfeld, advisor to the student group.



Kaye Bidby, Jebet Ngetich – originally from Kenya but now a U.S. citizen – and Ann Tallant at the dinner.



‘Echoes of Appalachia’ exhibit

“Echoes of Appalachia,” an art exhibition featuring tapestries and fabric collages focusing on motifs and themes from Appalachia, is on display through Jan. 20 in the Hoag Student Center fine arts gallery. Artwork by NGCSU Professor Emerita Tommye Scanlin (tapestry shown above), Pat Williams and Diane Getty are featured in the exhibit. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 864-1512.