

Project combines academic efforts

Faculty members from departments across campus are collaborating on an interdisciplinary academic project that will ultimately provide skills in a new area of science to students in several fields of study.

The 11 faculty members from biology, chemistry, mathematics and computer science, military science and physics want to incorporate “bioinformatics” into what Dr. Terry Schwaner calls “a timely and truly interdisciplinary course” at NGCSU.

In layman’s terms, informatics is “information science” and bioinformatics applies it to the biological sciences.

“Informatics – in particular bioinformatics – searches databases of chemical structures, DNA sequences, and proteins sequences in an attempt to identify and compare organisms, sequences, and chemical entities that pertain to biological processes,” the biology department head said.

The faculty are working to create a course possibly for next fall.

Applications for the science are already clear. Schwaner said a recent report stated that an individual’s 3.5 billion base-pair genome can be placed on a CD-ROM. Then a physician will identify sequences indicating the possible development of disease

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GRADUATE STUDIES: Associate Professor Reza Nourbakhsh, top center, guides graduate students in physical therapy through a tutorial session. October is designated physical therapy month and NGCSU graduate students in the program will be promoting awareness of fitness and general health education on Oct. 14, 21 and 28 from 12-2 p.m. outside the Canteen and on the first floor of the HNS Building. Students will be stationed at booths to answer questions about the role of physical therapy in today’s healthcare system, give out brochures on exercise and provide assessments of hand-grip and abdominal strength to interested students and employees.

Ludlow Porch performing Oct. 16

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.

Porch has appeared on Nashville Now, The Mike Douglas Show, BBC television, C-Span, CBS Radio and starred in two television specials. The life-long humorist was even named one of the top five trivia players in the world. He is featured in the recent PBS production “Lost Atlanta” and nominated to the Radio Hall of Fame.

There will be a book-signing after the show. Dahlonega Friends of the Library is co-sponsoring the event with NGCSU.



Campus in Action

Dr. Ahmad Ghafarian, math and computer science, obtained a Graduate Certificate in Information Assurance and Security from the department of Computer Science at Purdue University in Indiana by completing 11 credit hours of graduate courses. The NSA and CERIAS center at Purdue University sponsored the program this summer.

Dr. Kristi Hislope, language and literature, published "A Reading Study of Spanish Heritage Speakers" in the September 2003 issue of "The Reading Matrix."

Upcoming Events

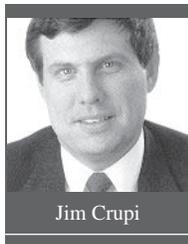
Dr. George Williams, dean of Graduate Studies and Sponsored Research at Savannah State University, will speak on "**Enhancing Your Professional Growth and Scholarly Activity Through Grant Writing**" on Oct. 16 at 1 p.m. in Newton Oakes room 019. The presentation is part of an ongoing grant series sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies and the Faculty Development Advisory Council.

The Resident Student Association is holding a fundraiser to help benefit breast cancer research by the Susan B. Komen Foundation for **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. Any faculty or staff member who donates \$5 may wear jeans to work on Oct. 31, designated "Denim Day." To participate, contact Meredith Erwin at mrrerwi5246@ngcsu.edu or Residence Life at ext. 1902.

The NGCSU Student Theatre Guild, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Mace, will perform a staged reading of the radio broadcast of Orson Welles and Howard W. Koch's adaptation of H. G. Wells' "**The War of the Worlds**" at 8 p.m. on Oct. 30 at the Wandering Mug on South Chestatee Street in Dahlonga. Admission is \$5.

What's leadership anyway?

By *Dr. Terry Schwaner*, head of the Department of Biology, and
Dr. Donna Gessell, director of Graduate Studies & External Programs



Jim Crupi

"When people have too much information, they ignore it

all and depend instead on their long-held beliefs."

Jim Crupi, NG '70, president and founder of Strategic Leadership Solutions, Inc., at the 2003 NGCSU Faculty Retreat.

We recognize leaders for many reasons. Most obvious are leaders who assume positions of prominence: presidents, heads of state, legislators, and CEOs, for example. Some leaders administer to the sick or disadvantaged, others lead troops into battle. Many use words, music, or art to inform and inspire, and thereby lead others. Teachers are among the most powerful of leaders, opening the minds of students to the world around them. Consequently, it is important and justifiable to have the Leadership Initiative on the university campus to inform all segments of the community of the role of leadership, and to improve continually upon its effectiveness.

The two strategic goals of the Leadership Initiative at NGCSU are (1) the University will develop programs emphasizing leadership across the curriculum, and (2) the University will encourage leadership development among all constituencies of the university community, through opportunities additional to those related to course curricula. A few points may help clarify some basic assumptions of

the Leadership Initiative:

- Everyone who "develops influential citizens" exercises leadership; although we are all leaders, what makes the difference is how effectively our leadership helps others to develop as leaders.

- Leadership does not have to be positional; some of the greatest leaders have had no positions.

- "Servant" leadership is only one of many models of leadership; other kinds of leadership models that do not involve the word "servant" are just as valid.

- Using the term "leadership" and then following it with a discourse on the military fosters a leadership-military connection; although the connection fits part of the NGCSU mission, it is not exclusive of any particular segment of the university community.

- Using the term "leadership" and equating it with academics or learning mitigates biased feelings among all aspects of the university community because teaching and practicing life-long learning are our most important goals.

Ultimately, each individual has to identify leadership in a personally meaningful way. What follows is the basic question, "How effective am I as a leader?" A related question is, "In what ways am I a leader?"

What individuals in the Leadership Roundtable Society experienced over the past year was a personal awareness of those benchmarks of leadership. So inspiring, some might call it humbling, was that experience, that several have volunteered to host retreat seminars, review proposals that address the goals of

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The Lens 2003 Photography Biennale III: Dealers, Collectors, Artists is an "Atlanta Celebrates Photography" event at the university featuring fine art photography exhibitions.

Exhibitions, on display through October, are by Jennifer Julian, Judy Morris Lampert, undergraduate John David Raper, faculty members and graduate students.



From John David Raper's "Reflections of Latest Works"

Academic disciplines combine for project

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and prescribe gene therapy and conventional treatments as they are discovered over the course of a person's life.

Dr. Anne Gaillard, biology, and Dr. Greta Olsen, chemistry, attended sessions on bioinformatics at national meetings in San Francisco and New Orleans, respectively. Gaillard and Schwaner also presented a paper on the project at a teaching and learning conference at Kennesaw State University.

This summer two speakers, Dr. Eric Freden, from the Math & Computer Science Department at Southern Utah University, and Steve Thompson, from the Florida State University School of Computational Science & Information Technology, addressed several group members and provided additional information via the Internet to help design the proposed course.

Drs. Markus Hitz, Thomas Fox and Schwaner spent a day at Oakridge National Laboratory, a federal science and technology research center in Tennessee, talking with people involved in the genomics/proteomics/bioinformatics program there.

"Our proposal seeks to present an interdisciplinary model for a course, which has never been done on this scale at NGCSU," Schwaner said.

"It provides opportunities for faculty to take a leadership position on this issue – at least in our geographical area. Students will have the opportunity to learn and apply knowledge and skills that will better equip them for graduate programs in this field and prepare them to study and contribute to a new area of science that is almost certainly destined to have a far-reaching impact on our society."

The project, funded through a Leadership Initiative grant, also involves Dr. Tom Richardson, chemistry; Drs. John Cruthirds and Paul Patten, mathematics and computer Science; Col. Billy Wells, military science; and Drs. Richard Prior and Claud Elliott, physics. ▲

Meaning of leadership

(Continued from page 2)

the Leadership Initiative, and try in other ways to "spread the word." What they realized was where they were on the journey toward effective leadership. The Leadership Initiative then fosters two things: an awareness of where an individual is among the benchmarks of leadership, and subsequently, how to grow and affect others by fostering leadership projects.

Administration, staff, and faculty have again been invited to submit proposals that address the goals of the Leadership Initiative for 2003-2004. Contact Bob Thomas at ext. 2794 to find out more information. We hope that everyone in the university community will embrace the concept of leadership development on campus as a profoundly personal awareness. The Leadership Initiative tries to create that awareness.

For the full story, go to the Web site www.ngcsu.edu and click on "News."

the
Digest

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GRANT OPPORTUNITY: Drs. Chris Jespersen and Dlynn Armstrong-Williams sit across from Susan Leisure from the Office of International Education at the Board of Regents who talked about how to obtain grant funding to further internationalization for students and faculty. Several NGCSU faculty members have taught outside the United States with help from the OIE. For more information go online to www.usg.edu/oie or contact Leisure at susan.leisure@usg.edu.

SCIENCE TALK:
Dr. Stefan Lutz from Emory University presented "When Proteins Itch and Scratch - Improving



Nucleoside Phosphorylation with Hybrid Kinases" on Sept. 26. The guest speaker was invited to campus by Dr. Greta Olsen, chemistry, to broaden students' understandings of the wide-world of scientific research. Chemistry seniors present their academic research to the campus community throughout the semester. The presentations are typically on scheduled Fridays in Rogers Hall, room 307. For additional information, contact the chemistry department at ext. 1505.

Promotions & Tenure

Promotions and tenure

Dr. Thomas Austenfeld
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Dr. Toni Barnett
Nursing, Professor

Dr. Noel Campbell
Business Administration, Associate Professor

Dr. Daria Cronic
Teacher Education, Associate Professor

Dr. Chris Jespersen
History, Professor

Dr. Grace Newsome
Nursing, Professor

Dr. Marvin Pippert
Psychology and Sociology, Professor

Dr. Michael Powell
Business Administration, Associate Professor

Dr. Sally Wiedmann
Psychology and Sociology, Associate Professor

Dr. Sherri Williams
Physical Therapy, Associate Professor



Noel Campbell



Sally Wiedmann



Sherri Williams

Promotions

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Dr. Frank Fearon
Physical Therapy, Professor

Dr. Wayne Morris
Biology, Professor

Lindsey Reeves
Health and Physical Education, Assistant Professor

Dr. Steve Smith
Psychology and Sociology, Professor

Dr. Linda Williams
Language and Literature, Associate Professor

Tenure

Dr. Lee Barrow
Fine Arts

Dr. Markus Hitz
Math and Computer Science

Dr. Kim Melton
Business Administration



Toni Barnett



Frank Fearon



Steve Smith