

North Georgia offers its first doctoral program

For the first time in its 132-year history, NGCSU is offering a doctoral program on its campus. The doctor of physical therapy degree will be offered in collaboration with the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, beginning next summer. Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah also is part of the consortium offering the doctoral-level degree.

"We are very pleased with this collaborative effort to provide our outstanding physical therapy program," said NGCSU President David Potter. "We appreciate the cooperation of our partners. We now have



Dr. Robert Laird with physical therapy students teaches in one of the HNSB clinical classrooms.

the ability to prepare therapists at the highest level of education needed for this critical profession."

"This is an innovative approach to move physical therapy education in Georgia to the doctoral level,"

said Dr. Shelley Mishoe, dean of the MCG School of Allied Health Sciences. "The agreement allows AASU and NGCSU to offer doctoral degrees without losing the identity of their existing physical therapy programs."

The American Physical Therapy Association has endorsed the doctor of physical therapy degree as the profession's entry-level

degree. The MCG physical therapy program was upgraded from a master's to a doctoral-level program in May. The doctor of physical therapy programs at AASU and

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PHILANTHROPY FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

NGCSU President David Potter and Dahlonega Mayor Gary McCullough volunteered to be waiters Dec. 5 at Pizza Hut to raise money for the Community Helping Place White Christmas program, which supplies food to needy families in

the community during the holidays. More than \$900 from tips and pizza sales went to the charity. Potter (left) takes a dinner order from fine arts Assistant Professor Michael Marling and Forsyth County art educator Jennifer Schuch with 4-year-old daughter Haley. "It's quite refreshing to see the president taking time out of his day to do this for the community," said Marling. Ministerial Association and CHP White Christmas volunteers also participated. More CHP support came through the Staff Council with members collecting from faculty and staff more than 1,436 lbs. of food, as well as toys and money, on Dec. 8.

Record number of students enrolled

With 4,765 students now attending North Georgia, the institution has the largest enrollment in its history.

The fall 2005 enrollment of NGCSU has increased by 4.7 percent over fall semester last year, the second highest growth rate of the 13 state universities plus the four research universities and two regional universities in the University System of Georgia.

"We are pleased to be able to serve the increasing educational needs of our region and our state," said NGCSU President David Potter.

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Campus in Action

Dr. Brian Jay Corrigan, language and literature, had his novel, "The Poet of Loch Ness," ranked No. 2 in fiction and included in the "Top 100 books of 2005" list published in the Kansas City Star. His novel also made the "Top 100 Ranked Books" list at Amazon.com during the month of November.

Dr. Brad Herbert, chemistry, and **Susan Bailey**, NGCSU student, presented "Synthesis and Characterization of Model Systems for Cr (III)-DNA Covalent Adduct Formation" and "Characterization of Diimine Complexes of Cr (III) containing Ancillary Ligands capable of H-Bonding with DNA" at the 57th Annual Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Memphis, Tenn., Nov 1-4.

Dr. Markus Hitz and **Dr. Bryson Payne**, math and computer science, presented "Implementing an XML-Based Device-Independent Scalable Graphical User Interface" at the Association for Computing Machinery's mid-Southeast conference on Nov. 11 in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The

presentation showed how scalable vector graphics and JavaScript can replace various proprietary plug-ins in the latest generation of Web browsers and numerous mobile devices.

Dr. Georgia Mann has been named the new head of the NGCSU history department, effective Dec. 1. Mann joined the North Georgia faculty in 1998. She received her Ph.D. from the University of North Texas.

Dr. Michael Reese, political science and criminal justice, presented "The Sixth Amendment Confrontation Clause: A Scalia Perspective" at the annual meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association and the Criminal Justice Association of Georgia in Savannah, Ga., Nov. 11.

Dr. Robb Sinn, math and computer science, will represent NGCSU at the International Conference of College Teaching and Learning in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., in April. Sinn receives this award for his contributions to the intellectual learning environment of the university.

Doctoral program

(Continued from page 1)

NGCSU will begin in the summer 2006 semester, with plans to "teach out" the universities' remaining master's degree candidates over the next two years. North Georgia's long-established master's program in physical therapy has been recognized regionally and nationally, and has consistently had far more applicants than the number of graduate students it can accommodate.

"This consortium will allow three seasoned programs, each very successful in their own right and with their own unique strengths, to collaborate, in ways never before really attainable, toward a common goal of better serving the continued development of our profession and the rehabilitative health care needs of the citizens of Georgia," said Dr. Robert Laird, head of North Georgia's physical therapy program. "I believe the consortium will yield tremendous benefit to all of our constituents."

"I look forward to the admission of our first DPT students on NGCSU's campus and hearing of their success as they move through the curriculum," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Roberts-Betsch. "Our physical therapy faculty have designed an excellent program for them."

The Consortium Curriculum Review Committee, comprised of faculty and administrators from all three programs, will handle admissions, curriculum, administration and faculty affairs. Faculty members will remain employees of their original institution, but will have the opportunity for additional appointments with the MCG School of Allied Health Sciences. 🏠

TOUCH OF

HOME: On Nov. 12, families of deployed Georgia Army National Guard soldiers had the opportunity to speak to their loved ones via a live video feed in the Pennington Military Leadership Center. Instructional Technology Director Scott Marshall and military science instructor Maj. Steve Ballew collaborated to make the long-distance reunions available. Onscreen is a soldier from Gainesville stationed at Camp Liberty, Iraq. "We are honored to be a part of this partnership with the Army National Guard in providing this service to our soldiers and their families," said Marshall. "It's important for our deployed students as well to know their North Georgia family is still thinking about and working for them, and we look forward to their safe return."



NGCSU survey says...

During the Oct. 13 presentation to faculty and staff by the Institutional Identity Task Force, chaired by Dr. Robert Fuller, a Power Point presentation by the Fleming Consulting Group indicated results of a wide-ranging survey conducted by the consultants, Andy Fleming and Brandon Smith.

The task force followed the presentation with an online survey to determine the campus community's reaction to the findings and to find out about other opinions and ideas faculty and staff might offer.

Dr. Charles Hawkins, director of Institutional Research, reported to task force members that 95 percent of respondents think that the university can be better than it is now, but only 58 percent think the institution needs dramatic change.

"Faculty, staff and administrators differed on the need for dramatic change, with 88 percent of administrators and 60 percent of faculty saying that such change is needed, while 52 percent of the staff said such change is not needed," Hawkins explained.

With 78 percent of respondents indicating "the process of interviews and discussions captured who we are at NGCSU, most also shared the foundational focus and vision values presented and agreed with the call to live by our values," Hawkins said.

The description positional situation presented by the consultants was agreeable to 88 percent of administrators, 79 percent of staff members, but only 66 percent of faculty.

In the true spirit of academe, respondents provided wide-ranging comments regarding the presentation, the vision, values and general direction for North Georgia for the task force to consider in its deliberations.

The survey table, provided by Hawkins, indicates the responses regarding the key survey questions – view the table at www.ngcsu.edu/digest.

The Institutional Identity Task Force is accepting grant proposals for the President's Innovation Fund through Feb. 1, 2006. Grants for amounts up to \$10,000 will be awarded March 1. The \$100,000 fund is designed to encourage collaboration among departments and disciplines in creatively strengthening NGCSU's competitive position, supporting institutional values, or enhancing learning. The grant request form may be accessed online at www.ngcsu.edu/digest. Complete proposals to Kelley Roberts, director of Sponsored Programs, for initial review.

Fall commencement and commissioning

The commissioning of new Army lieutenants and commencement will take place on Dec. 17. The commissioning ceremony is at 10 a.m. and commencement will be at 1 p.m., both in the Memorial Hall Gymnasium. Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr., commander of the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Colo., will speak at commissioning. The graduation speaker is Dr. Carol Miller, associate professor of physical therapy and 2004 NGCSU Distinguished Professor of Teaching and Learning.

Changes needed for University Directory

Employees wishing to update the information in the current campus telephone directory should contact Nancy Jones, NMJones@ngcsu.edu, in Human Resources via e-mail – or otherwise in writing – regarding corrections and changes to the directory by the end of December.

Has your office address or phone number changed? What about your title and/or office or department? Secretaries, please check the current publication to make sure Nancy knows of new employees who should be included. Also let her know of retirees or others who have left campus, so she can delete those names.

No personal e-mail addresses – only NGCSU e-mail addresses – are used in this directory, published by University Relations working with Print Services. Your home address, spouse's name and your home phone number are welcome, but not required.

If you are an employee without a copy of the 2005 Directory, you may request one from Human Resources.

the
Digest
digest@ngcsu.edu

NGCSU President:
Dr. David Potter
Director of University Relations:
Annette Hannon Lee
Editor/Writer:
Joshua Preston
Designer/Writer:
Debbie Martin
Photographers:
**J. Preston, Loretta Roebuck,
Jonathan Kiel**

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Regents name Davis USG chancellor

Board of Regents
Chairman J.
Timothy Shelnut
announced Dec. 8
that Erroll B. Davis
Jr., chairman of
Madison, Wis.,
based Alliant
Energy Corporation
has been named
chancellor-designate of the University
System of Georgia. Davis will assume
the chancellor's position in early 2006.
Full story at www.usg.edu/news



BETTER TO RECEIVE:

Students
awarded
NGCSU
Foundation
scholarships
showed their
appreciation
by writing
letters to their
donors and
contributors'
families at a
letter writing



and pizza party coordinated through Advancement Services. The Nov. 17 event in the Adams Great Room had a turnout of 85 students, who finished off 23 pizzas while composing letters to their benefactors, telling about themselves and their educational pursuits. The Foundation supported 175 students this year through scholarship funds managed by the Foundation from private donations. Pictured at the event are Advancement Services staff members – and Santa's helpers in appropriate attire – Tiffany Yeoman and Nora Jones.



Holiday Luncheon



North Georgia's annual
Holiday Luncheon will
take place Dec. 16 at noon
in the campus dining hall.



President David Potter
invites all faculty, staff and
administration to attend.



Record enrollment (Continued from page 1)

“And we are grateful that students turn to North Georgia for their education.”

Only Savannah State University increased by a larger percentage than NGCSU, 10.4 percent for a total of 3,091 students.

The 3,488 students enrolled full-time at North Georgia make up 73.2 percent of the total “head count” enrollment.

“We appreciate the support our state legislature has provided to meet

these enrollment increases through its funding for higher education,” Potter said. “The state's recognition of the importance of higher education for Georgia's future is most heartening.”

The University System of Georgia fall enrollment report shows a seventh consecutive year of growth in attendance at the state's public colleges and universities. 🏛️



MIDNIGHT SHOWING:

Students showed up in droves on Dec. 7 at the dining hall from 10 p.m. to midnight for North Georgia's biannual super study hall known as the Midnight Breakfast. More than 30 faculty attended to help students prepare for final exams. Aramark provided a full menu of breakfast items served by student government

members. Pictured sitting is biology instructor Barbara Howerton (r) with some of her students studying in the packed dining hall.