

## Appalachian higher education center opens

The new Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education is the first such agency in the state to unite colleges, universities, technical colleges and high schools to increase the number of Appalachian Georgians to continue their education beyond high school. The center, created to further the educational goals of “at-risk” Appalachian region students, has been funded for the current year at NGCSU.

The Jan. 12 opening event introduced the Appalachian center to area constituencies as well as educational partners, local and national public officials and Georgia high school students. Appalachian Center for Higher Education Director Shirley Davis presented the mission of the center to the audience in the Pennington Military Leadership Center.

The center is designed to provide opportunities for grant awards to high schools; to develop close

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**APPALACHIA ADVOCATES:** Speaking at the GACHE opening event were Shirley Davis, director of the GACHE; Mike Beatty, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Gov. Perdue’s representative for the Appalachian Regional Commission; NGCSU President David Potter; and Rick Peltz, alternate federal co-chair for the ARC.

## Bodri named sciences school dean

Dr. Michael Bodri, North Georgia’s newest academic dean, took charge of the School of Natural & Health Sciences with the start of the new year.



*Dr. Michael Bodri*

Bodri most recently was chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. The practicing veterinarian has a background in both the natural and health sciences and looks forward to the opportunities in his new post.

“I’d like to start ‘building some bridges’ with research facilities and organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control, Georgia Aquarium, and Atlanta Botanical Garden,” said Bodri. “In terms of funding from federal agencies, it is more likely to occur if you have collaborative arrangements with other agencies and academic partners.”

Bodri was part of a different kind of collaborative effort during the response to Hurricane Katrina last September. The evacuation center at Northwestern State was coordinated from

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**CONGRESSIONAL VISIT:** U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., visited NGCSU for a “legislative breakfast” sponsored by the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 6. More than 80 community and university members attended the event. Chambliss had the opportunity to meet several war veterans while on campus. Pictured is the U.S. senator with several National Guard soldiers and U.S. Marine reservists who served on active duty in combat zones. Included in the group are retired veterans and commandant’s staff members Chief Warrant Officer Benny Wyrick, left, and Sgt. First Class Doug Hyde.



## Campus in Action



**Dr. David Broad** is the new head of the Department of Psychology & Sociology. He is the former dean of the School of Arts and Letters at the State

University of New York College of Technology at Alfred. Broad received his Ph.D. from SUNY Buffalo, a M.S. in exercise physiology from Canisius College and a master's degree in sociology and an undergraduate psychology degree from the University of Houston.

**Dr. Michelle Byrne**, nursing, was appointed to the Board of Directors for Competency & Credentialing Institute, a National Healthcare Organization based in Denver, Colo. This election was conducted among current CNOR- and CRNFA- certified nurses throughout the United States.

**Andy David**, fine arts, performed with his jazz quartet in New York City, N.Y., during the International Association of Jazz Educators Annual Conference held in January. The quartet also performed at an evening recital at the Studio Theater of the River Center for the Performing Arts on Jan. 21 in Columbus, Ga.

**Dr. Brent Paterline**, criminal justice

and political science, presented "Duration of Stalking Among Former Intimate Stalkers" at the annual meeting of the Criminal Justice Association of Georgia in Savannah, Ga., Nov. 11. He also has written four chapters in the college textbook, "Drugs, Society, and Criminal Justice," edited by Charles F. Levinthal of Hofstra University and published by Allyn & Bacon Publishing. Paterline's chapters include: "The History of Drug Use and Drug Legislation," "Theoretical Perspectives on Drug Use and Abuse," "Drugs and Crime" and "Drugs and the Criminal Justice System."

The **NGCSU Digest** has received recognition for a third year from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District III, which includes colleges and universities throughout the Southeast. For "Best Internal Newsletters and Tabloids" the Digest shared Awards of Excellence with the Duke University Health System, the University of Miami and Vanderbilt University. **Joshua Preston**, editor of the Digest and public relations coordinator; **Annette Hannon Lee**, director of University Relations; and **Debbie Martin**, an art marketing major, have produced the award-winning publication for the past four-and-a-half years. It is printed on campus in Print Services.

## Leadership summit planned for February

A leadership summit for NGCSU faculty and staff, "How to Develop Informed, Engaged, and Responsible Citizens," will take place Feb. 24 and 25 from 3 to 9 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. The Unicoi State Park retreat in Helen includes keynote speaker Dr. George Mehaffy, vice president of the American Democracy Project.

NGCSU is a member of the ADP, which targets undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The project grows out of a concern about decreasing rates of participation in the civic life of America in voting, in advocacy, in local grassroots associations, and in other forms of civic engagement that are necessary for the vitality of democracy. For more information, contact Jill Rayner at ext. 1688.

## Appalachian center

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relationships with schools; to heighten awareness and advance the concept of higher education; and to provide technical assistance and training to high school grantees. The NGCSU School of Education is partnering with the new higher education center to provide resources and expertise.

The Appalachian Regional Commission, which provides part of the funding for the new center, has identified eleven counties as "educationally distressed" – Banks, Elbert, Fannin, Franklin, Lumpkin, Chattooga, Dade, Gilmer, Gordon, Murray and Walker.

"The Appalachian center will target the high schools in these counties," said Davis. "In addition, other services, including workshops, dissemination of research, and technical assistance will be available for most counties in the northern tier of the state."

"Georgia's current high school graduation rate hovers around 64 percent with only 28 percent of the state's 18-24 year olds enrolled in postsecondary programs," said Alice Sampson, project manager for the higher education center and director of the Appalachian Studies Center at NGCSU. "For a number of our Appalachian high schools the student college enrollment rates are closer to 8 percent. We believe we can do much better."

The center is inviting the 21 higher education institutions in the Georgia Appalachian region to serve on an advisory board and to promote the new initiative.

For more information about the Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education, contact Shirley Davis at gache@ngcsu.edu or 706-864-1995. 🏠

## Senior art exhibitions on display in the Nix Center



Debbie Martin with her collage, "Portrait of Palonia"

**Debbie Martin's "Journey to Yesterday: My Family History"** is a collection of photography and mixed media art collages that depicts five generations of her family's history. The senior student art exhibition is on display Jan. 13-28 in the Nix Center Art Gallery.

The exhibit includes photos Martin took of family heirlooms and pictures, many of which she added biographical touches to

through single and multiple-exposure camera work. The collages also include her journal notes on the family members and several pictures printed on fabric. All of the work is rendered in sepia-toned coloring on matte paper to keep a historical feel. Martin plans to graduate in May from NGCSU with a double major in art marketing and computer information systems. She works part-time on campus for Information Technology and University Relations.

Other shows on display this week in the Nix Center are **"Recyclable" by Andy Puchstein**, featuring large metal sculptures, and **"Haunted Georgia" by Carl Smith**, showcasing photography of eerie images from various locations in Georgia.

The exhibits are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

The NGCSU Cultural Events Committee announces the **2006 Spring Film Festival: "Forgotten Wars, Forgotten Heroes: Films About WWI and the Korean Conflict."** The original **"All Quiet on the Western Front"** (1930) movie will be shown on Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Gloria Shott Auditorium. Stanley Kubrick's **"Paths of Glory"** (1957) film will be shown Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Hoag Auditorium. For more information, contact Dr. Kevin Mace at 867-2760.

The **"Art from Georgia Schools"** exhibition will be on display from Jan. 31 to March 8 in the Hoag Student Center Fine Arts Gallery. The juried show features 30 paintings, drawings, photographs and prints by art instructors and their most talented students from 12 Georgia schools. A reception and awards ceremony will be Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. Contact Pam Sachant at 864-1512 for more information.

A **piano recital by Ian Altman**, a faculty member at Mercer University, will be held on Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gloria Shott Auditorium. A reception will follow the performance. The event is part of the John L. Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series. For more information, call 864-1431.

**Alfonso Lopez, violin, and Michelle Tabor, piano**, will perform Feb. 9 at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Gloria Shott Auditorium. They have performed on tours together in the United States and Venezuela. A reception will follow the evening performance. The event is part of the John L. Nix Living Heritage Fine Arts Series. For more information, call 864-1431.

More NGCSU events at [www.ngcsu.edu/news](http://www.ngcsu.edu/news).



"Study Sketch #7" by Paul Angelo Vogt, art teacher, Woodward Academy Middle School

## Grant proposal deadline

The Institutional Identity Task Force is accepting grant proposals for the President's Innovation Fund through Feb. 1. Grants will be awarded March 1.

The \$100,000 fund is designed to encourage collaboration between 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](http://www.ngcsu.edu/digest).

## Legislative Update

Gov. Sonny Perdue's budget proposal recommends full formula funding, an average 4 percent merit increase for faculty and staff, and \$4.7 million to renovate the Education Building at NGCSU. For more details on the governor's FY07 budget requests for the University System of Georgia visit [www.usg.edu/pubs/lu](http://www.usg.edu/pubs/lu).

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**Digest**  
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The Digest is published monthly by University Relations. Submit material and current news to the e-mail address [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu). The next scheduled publication date of the Digest is Feb. 13. **Deadline for submissions is Feb. 6.**



## Fall Commencement 2005



Dr. Carol Miller

Excerpt from Dr. Carol Miller's commencement speech:

"A healthy sense of self is much more than one's social role and worldly success. ... health depends on one's intellectual capability and growth. For that, we are quite comfortable recognizing cognitive identity in school settings – in fact this ceremony is based upon that very premise. But in today's world, I am more uneasy that somewhere in the discovery of self from childhood to adulthood, we have lost site of our inner self: our beauty– physically and emotionally."

For full speech, go online to [www.ngcsu.edu/digest](http://www.ngcsu.edu/digest)

### Graduation Stats

15 Associate's degrees in nursing  
171 Bachelor's degrees  
33 Master's degrees  
29 Honor graduates  
12 New Army lieutenants

## North Georgia receives \$50,000 Academic Grant from WebSurveyor

The WebSurveyor Corporation of Herndon, Va., has awarded a grant with a commercial value of \$50,000 for the use of online survey tools by NGCSU faculty and staff.

"The award from the corporation's Academic Grant Program allows us to create and administer online surveys hosted on the vendor's site," said Dr. Charles Hawkins, director of Institutional Research at NGCSU, who applied for and received the grant.

"After testing the online survey software, I would like to announce it for use by other departments at NGCSU needing to perform Web-based surveying," Hawkins explained. "I want to assist departments with this important component of institutional effectiveness."

Hawkins said that WebSurveyor would benefit North Georgia by not requiring already scarce university technology resources for support and not requiring software purchases by individual departments that want to administer Web-based surveys.

"Web-based surveying offers many advantages over paper-based surveying, including cost and efficiency," he said. "Surveying provides a very important source of information usable by all university departments to ensure that they are accomplishing their missions and to provide information to improve their services."

If North Georgia's use of the online surveying tools is successful, Hawkins said he would share information about the product with colleagues at other universities who may be interested. 🙏



Dr. Charles Hawkins

## New sciences dean

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within his college with some 800 evacuees being taken care of by university and community volunteers, as well as Red Cross and FEMA workers. Biology students, mostly pre-med majors, operated food and clothing drives to assist the evacuees. Bodri's own role included ensuring the treatment of animals of evacuees with the help of students enrolled in the veterinary technology program.

Bodri is not new to Georgia – he did his master's degree work at the University of Georgia in entomology. He earned a Ph.D. in parasitology and a V.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and his first degree, a B.S. in entomology, is from the University of Maryland. He has held faculty and administrative positions at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pa., and served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania.

"What led me to NGCSU was the quality of the university and the caliber of the students. I think those qualities are very obvious," Bodri said.

The new dean is married to Elaine Fitzpatrick and they live in Dahlonega with their dog Maggie and hundreds of plants. 🙏