

Digest

► **Feb. 4, 2009**

A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

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Service Spotlight

Shari Holtzclaw, Library
Technology Center

Take note...

'Come Home to North Georgia'
NGCSU in USG publications
Research scientists visit
New online faculty development
Dinner with local author
Alumni Association Council
Save the date - Chili Cook-off

Campus In Action

USG legislative and budget update

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matters affecting higher education in Georgia. On Jan. 22, Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. presented and defended the Governor's Fiscal Year 2010 budget recommendations for the University System of Georgia to members of the Georgia General Assembly's Joint Appropriations Committee.

North Georgia student gets inside look at inauguration



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The Digest is published weekly by the Office of University Relations for North Georgia's faculty, staff, students and community.

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Make submissions to digest@ngcsu.edu.

The next scheduled publication date is Feb. 11. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 6.

USG legislative and budget update

North Georgia weighs impact of budget reductions

By Kate Maine

The recession is an economic reality impacting citizens, businesses and government services on a daily basis. So, it is no surprise that this year's General Assembly is firmly entrenched in budget matters, including those affecting higher education in Georgia.

On Jan. 22, Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. presented and defended the Governor's Fiscal Year 2010 budget recommendations for the University System of Georgia (USG) to members of the Georgia General Assembly's Joint Appropriations Committee.



(Photo: Georgia Department of Economic Development)



Chancellor Davis

His main message to legislators, both in his presentation and in answering the many questions that followed was that, with a \$2 billion budget shortfall looming over this legislative session, "We must not make decisions that mistake the urgent for the important.

"We recognize the gravity of the situation, and we want – and we are – doing our part in these tough times," Davis said. "We are not a cost to the state and its citizens – we are an investment. We are not a problem; we are a solution. We are the agency of state government that brings solutions and knowledge for today and more critically, for tomorrow. The risk we are trying to manage is not for today, but for the future – Georgia's next generation of leaders, teachers, doctors, nurses and business professionals, all of whom will serve the state."

North Georgia, like all of the system's institutions will feel the sting of the state's budget cuts. The governor's recommended budget eliminates special funding initiatives, like the one that supports North Georgia's leadership program and certain instructional technology services.

"North Georgia has been significantly impacted by the governor's proposed budget, and we're going to have to carefully consider budget requests for the upcoming year from a strategic perspective," said Mac McConnell, vice president of business and finance, in briefing the university's Leadership Council on the budget news this past week.

As part of his budget recommendation, the governor also proposed a \$325 million bond package to fund new construction and renovation projects throughout Georgia's University system.

While the proposal includes \$10.4 million for the design, construction and equipment for capital improvement projects at North Georgia, it represents a reduction of nearly \$6 million from the university's needs and the Board of Regents submitted budget. The projects include renovation and construction related to Barnes Hall, Young Hall, Stewart Hall and Hoag Student Center, as well as campus wide technology improvements in classrooms.

"The budget news is severe at this point," McConnell said. "However, it is not final until the legislature votes on it, and we will strive to have these funds restored, if possible."

Conceptual plans for the renovations at North Georgia will continue so that the university can take advantage of funding as it becomes available, but if the governor's recommended budget is approved as presented, the university will have to re-prioritize the projects.

The governor's budget does allow for the formula funding increase expected due to enrollment growth, but this will most likely offset anticipated budget reductions.

The System is "striving to provide access and maintain academic quality in the face of exploding volumes and diminished resources," Davis noted. Although the governor's budget recommendations reflect a \$147.7 million increase in the University System's formula funding, they also include reductions of \$249.8 million – 10.9 percent of the USG's budget.

"The net change is a \$102 million reduction, even as we add 33,000 students beyond the formula funding," he said.

To access the full text of Chancellor Davis's remarks and weekly the Legislative Update newsletter for USG faculty and staff, visit the [USG Web site](#). Back issues are also posted for reference.

North Georgia student gets inside look at inauguration

By Christian Pennington

Wil Maxwell, a North Georgia senior political science student, attended this year's presidential inauguration as a participant in a seminar especially for college students and got an inside look at the media's impact on the presidential campaign, the transition of leadership, and the national and international issues facing the new administration.



Maxwell, who had never been to Washington, spent 10 days in the capital city and earned three course credit hours for his participation in Campaign 2008: The Presidential Academic Seminar Series – The Presidential Inauguration, a seminar offered by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. Students from more than 120 colleges and universities attended the seminar, and Maxwell said the experience made him care more about politics than he did before.

A supporter of John McCain throughout the election process, Maxwell said he planned to attend the inauguration even before Barack Obama was elected president. Attending the inauguration as part of this seminar was, in Maxwell's words, "a lot of work, but fun and more

than I ever expected."

Each day, the students heard from a variety of speakers including experienced news professionals, like Bob Schieffer of CBS News and Ted Koppel of National Public Radio, members of President Obama's transition team, and agents from Homeland Security. In the afternoons, students were able to tour historic monuments and sites like the U.S. Capitol, the Smithsonian Institute, the National Archives, and the National Park Zoo.

Students chronicled what they learned on each tour with journals and were given the opportunity to write a five-page memo to the president.

The actual inauguration consisted of about two million people and many different concerts open to the public filled with patriotic songs. Maxwell described the actual inauguration as exciting and cross-racial.

"Everyone there was open to conversation about anything, and it was easy to strike up a conversation with anyone there," he said. "Everyone was very enthusiastic about the historic event; it was interesting to see different people's perspectives and views on America."

As part of the seminar, Maxwell also witnessed another memorable, but more intimate, event, when his group got to see Hillary Clinton confirmed as secretary of state. The ceremony took place in a small setting about the size of North Georgia's Hoag Auditorium, he said.

Maxwell described Washington as "revolving around politics," explaining that you could get free newspapers on the subway about current events happening in politics, and that it was all people talked about.

"Anyone would be able to find a career there, and there are endless internship opportunities," he said.

Blue Ridge Rifles excel at national meet

The Blue Ridge Rifles took first place in two events and second in two other events, earning the unit second place overall, at the National Invitational Drill Meet at Auburn University on Jan. 24.

The team placed second in the Squad Basic and Individual Exhibition events and first in the Squad Exhibition and Dual Exhibition events.

"This meet was a great competition for us," Cadet Sean Brookshire, unit commander, said. "These guys are working hard. Not only are they doing their jobs, but they are also working on rebuilding the unit, and they have been able to maintain a very competitive edge."



The team is looking to build its numbers and strength in the year ahead, according to Brookshire. The unit is currently composed of two freshmen, three sophomores, three juniors, and three seniors. As part of its recruitment and retention efforts, Brookshire said the unit plans to purchase new uniforms and equipment for next year's team.

Future performances for the Blue Ridge Rifles include an event at Columbus State University on Feb. 11, the Sweetheart Review on Feb. 13, a drill competition in Memphis on March 28, and Parent-Alumni Weekend on April 19.

Cadences continue at North Georgia

Rumors based on a fall 2008 online student newspaper article about cadences used during physical training by the Corps of Cadets have resulted in irate alumni, a Facebook group dedicated to bringing back cadences, and general promulgation of misinformation.

The student article focused on a rift between civilian male students and cadets that was initiated when cadets were yelling cadences in a patio area close to civilian student residence halls during morning physical training.



"When that happened, I heard the cadences and directed the cadet formation to move back into the main roadway," Col. Michael Pyott, professor of military science, said. "Later, that same day, the director of residence life contacted the commandant, asking that troop formations stay out of this confined area, a very normal request."

"This is a normal early semester occurrence and has taken place many times over the last 10 years, particularly in the first 2-3 weeks of school," Col. Tom Palmer, commandant of cadets, said. "The Corps leadership complied, although it took several days for all

military organizations to get the word. Since the third week of school, no formations have been observed nor heard in the patio/service area between Lewis and Lewis Annex."

Because civilian male students are new to campus this year, the rumors that resulted from the article have escalated this minor incident into a significant conflict in the eyes of some constituents, including students and alumni.

"Unfortunately, some readers took the student comments in the article to mean that cadences were no longer allowed on campus," Pyott said. "In actuality, all other roadways on campus have always been open to running formations, and cadences are highly encouraged on these roads. Physical training continues on this campus as it has for many, many years."

Only three areas on the campus are off-limits to physical training formations, according to Pyott, who is responsible for all morning PT sessions. He cited specifically the new parking deck, which presents a troop safety issue; the patio area between Lewis Hall and Lewis Annex, a respectful gesture to civilian students of both genders who are sleeping within several feet of this area; and academic buildings, particularly the interior hallways.

Army cadences, sung by hundreds of cadets, may still be observed and heard each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, as hundreds of cadets engage in physical training. Similarly, every weekday from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m., Army cadences can be heard from a special unit known as "Pre Camp."

"As long as cadences are professionally sung, they will continue on our campus during the early morning hours," Palmer said. "The cadences serve a military purpose, and they are part of the legacy of the Corps of Cadets and the university."

Service Spotlight

Shari Holtzclaw

Manager, Access Services
Library Technology Center

Holtzclaw, who has worked at North Georgia for 25 years, is described by her supervisor as "Ms. Customer Service." As a manager at the Library Technology Center, Holtzclaw ensures that students have access to the facility and its many services during a wide range of hours. She's also a proud North Georgia alumna, who graduated in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in computer information systems.



Holtzclaw admittedly loves to talk about North Georgia. She's a Dahlonega native and practically grew up on campus, as her mother worked here for 30 years before retiring. She has a deep loyalty and dedication to the university and its students that is demonstrated in daily performance and service to students.

How do you interact with students in your job?

Being a college student is hard enough, and I know that anything I can do for students around campus or when they enter the library is helpful. I try to offer a friendly hello or approach students, so that they don't have to feel like it is their job to approach me. The new Library Technology Center is a big beautiful place, but it can also intimidate new freshmen. So, I go out of my way to offer assistance if I see a student looking puzzled or struggling to find something. It is important to be understanding and patient with all students, and my staff is great about demonstrating these qualities.

What is your favorite thing about your role?

I love being a department manager, but I also love working as a team member. Setting goals and re-assessing them is an important part of my job. I like to do more for my department than just taking on the supervisory role – we are a great team.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

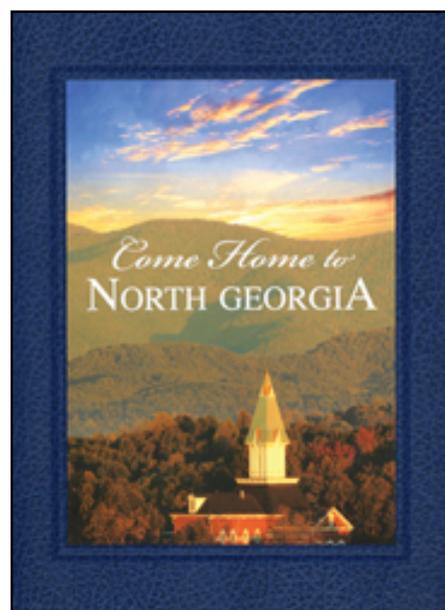
I love riding motorcycles. I have a street bike and a dirt bike. My husband races bikes, so our weekends consist of going to his races. I also love spending time with my two daughters and son-in-law and traveling to our favorite hideaway in Montana.

Take note...

'Come Home to North Georgia' now available

All who have strolled the historic Dahlonega Square, walked the university's campus and marched on the fields, know one thing – there is no other place like North Georgia College & State University. *Come Home to North Georgia*, a new coffee table-style book highlighting the history, pride, patriotism and traditions of North Georgia is now available.

From beginning to end, the colorful book is an enduring tribute to the courage and commitment that turned a congressman's dream into what is now one of the top-ranked universities in the South. Rich with photos and firsthand stories, the book captures the heart and history of a place so many have loved and fondly called their home away from home. The book is now available at an introductory price of \$55 through Alumni Affairs. To purchase your copy, contact Wendy Evans at wjevans@ngcsu.edu.



North Georgia featured in USG publications

The latest issue of [The System Supplement](#), a monthly newsletter from the USG Board of Regents, features a

report about the system's task force on philanthropy, a group chaired by President David Potter, and recognizes Cadet Earl Porter, who was named the top cadet on the 2008 ROTC National Order of Merit list. (Please note that the identification errors in the photo are scheduled for correction in the next issue.)

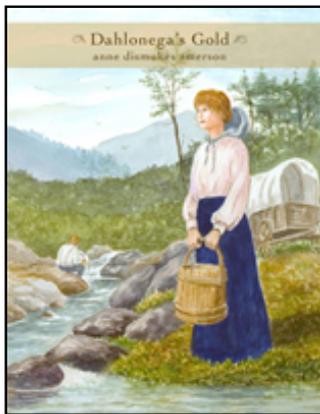
Also, 2nd Lt. Richard Ingram, who graduated from North Georgia and was commissioned on Dec. 13, is featured in the Feb. 2 issue of [Legislative Update](#). Ingram was the first soldier to receive such severe combat wounds to subsequently receive a commission through ROTC.

Darwin seminar headlines visits by research scientists

Seven visiting scientists with specialties ranging from toxicology to zoology will put the spotlight on the sciences at North Georgia, Feb. 4 through March 5. The Feb. 25 Darwin Day Seminar at the university will feature Craig Nelson, a Carnegie Professor from Indiana University, who will discuss evolution and why it continues to be a controversial topic in the United States. Four candidates for the Dr. Harry B. Forester Eminent Scholars Chair in Biological Sciences will discuss their applied research Feb. 4-13. A research seminar will take place March 4 and a UGA doctoral candidate will discuss working with American cougars on March 5. The seven scholars will present a variety of scientific topics in forums open to the public. For more information, contact the Department of Biology at 706-864-2854.

New online faculty development series available

The USG Office of Faculty Affairs, in conjunction with the Digital Innovation Group and Advanced Learning Technologies, announces the first in a series of faculty development online sessions. Dr. Andy Boverly will deliver the first session Feb. 26 at 3 p.m. with "Web 2.0! The Read/Write Web." Boverly is an associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology, at Valdosta State University. He has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, including teaching, administration and professional development. During the sessions, two-way audio is available via Live Classroom chat. To access the session, please go to [Wimba Classroom](#) and enter "DIG" for the room ID along with the user and institutional name. For details, contact Linda Noble in the USG Office of Faculty Affairs at 404-656-0764.



Readers win dinner with local author

Five lucky readers who purchased copies of Dahlongega native Anne Dismukes Amerson's *Dahlongega's Gold* directly from the University Press of North Georgia between late November 2008 and early January 2009 will have dinner with Amerson at the Piazza restaurant in Dahlongega in February. The five names were randomly drawn by Amerson on Jan. 31. The dinner, sponsored by the University Press of North Georgia, will give these readers the chance to ask Amerson questions about her historical fiction novel, as well as her other books.

Alumni Association Council gets update on campus master plan

At its quarterly meeting on Jan. 17, the North Georgia Alumni Association Council received an update on the campus master planning process, including conceptual locations for new student residence halls and future academic buildings. The group also met students nominated for the Paul M. Hutcherson Award, presented annually to senior undergraduate male and female students who have shown strong personal conduct and individual accomplishment on campus, at home and in the community. The recipients will be announced during Parent-Alumni Weekend in April.

Also, the Alumni Association is planning an Alumni After-hours Social for Gainesville-area alumni on Thursday, March 5, 5:15-7:15 p.m., at the Northeast Georgia History Center. The event is co-sponsored by the Mike Cottrell School of Business.

Save the date – Chili Cook-off coming up!

The university's Staff Council will hold the annual Chili Cook-off on Wednesday, March 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on the Hoag Student Center patio. Twenty chili cooks will vie for the honors of Best Chili, Best Presentation and Taster's Choice. The official judges for this year's contest are Elizabeth Combier, Justin Middleton and David Geyer.



In collaboration with the Fine Arts department, this year's event will also mark the beginning of a series of commemorative chili bowls made by students participating in SPECTRUM, the student art club. The bowls will be available for purchase at the event and will also be featured as raffle prizes for the event.

For the low price of \$4, individuals may sample chili from each of the contestants and cast their vote for the Taster's Choice award. The price includes a cold drink, and desserts will be available at a nominal cost.

Proceeds from the Chili Cook-off will benefit the university's faculty-staff Relay for Life Team, and the proceeds from the chili bowls will be shared by SPECTRUM and faculty-staff Relay for Life Team.

Campus in Action

Dr. Patricia Donat, associate vice president for academic affairs, has been elected to serve as president of the Southeastern Psychological Association for a three-year term that commences in the 2009-2010 year. Her term as president-elect begins in February 2009 at the SEPA annual meeting.

North Georgia faculty and staff are invited to submit news of professional accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to digest@ngcsu.edu.