

Renovations and construction span campus

Auxiliary Services and Physical Plant are managing more than 10 major renovation, repair and construction projects to ensure facilities are up-to-date and provide optimal environments for instruction, working conditions and resident student life.

Coming off the \$2.2 million interior remodeling and renovation of the five-decade-old Lewis residence Hall, Gerald Lord, associate vice president for business and finance, is setting his sights on the nine months ahead. At the end of that period the last of more major renovation projects and construction projects will be complete.

Military Leadership Center – The Board of Regents approved at its September meeting the name of the Military Leadership Center, named in honor of

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RENOVATED SPACE FOR MILITARY PROGRAM: The Brooks M. Pennington Military Leadership Center will stand next to the front entrance of the university on South Chestatee Street. The 28,653 square-foot building, former home to plant operations, will be dedicated to military science classroom instruction and cadet corps leadership training. The \$3 million project is expected to be completed for the beginning of fall semester 2004. The leadership center will have space for planning and coordinating operations for the Corps of Cadets. Classrooms will feature state-of-the-art wireless digital technology, and computers will be equipped with battle-simulation software to support officer training. The center will provide a dedicated place for the NGCSU Fire Arms Training Simulator designed to instruct rifle marksmanship and minor tactics.

Higher education adds value to salaries, economic impact

Graduates of North Georgia and other University System of Georgia institutions generated more than \$4.4 million in wages for Lumpkin County in 1998, according to a new study of the economic impact of higher education on Georgia. Nearly \$2 million of this total is directly attributable to the graduate's college degrees.

The study, commissioned by the USG's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program, puts a dollar value on public higher education in Georgia.

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta conducted the "Value of University System of Georgia Education" study, based on the earnings of almost 90,000 University System students who graduated from University System institutions between 1993

and 1997. The study shows that the increased earnings resulting from their higher education degrees added nearly \$1.25 billion to the state's economy during 1998, the most recent year for which information was available.

"A public university degree in Georgia pays off for the graduates and for the economy of the state as a whole," said NGCSU President Nathaniel Hansford. "Last year Kiplinger's magazine named North Georgia College & State University one of the top 100 best values in public education in the nation, and this validates the worth of our undergraduate and graduate degrees."

The USG's ICAPP study shows that a college degree

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Campus in Action

Dr. Brian Jay Corrigan, language and literature, was the chief contributor for the Renaissance era of the 2003 Encyclopedia of British Literature by Steven R. Serafin and Valerie Grosvenor Myer, editors. Corrigan published over 20 articles and the featured topical entry on "Renaissance Drama" in the book.

Dr. Irene Kokkala, biology, published the "Instructor's Manual and Test Bank" for the Environmental Science textbook by G.T. Miller Jr., 10th edition.

Dr. Linda Roberts-Betsch, Office of Academic Affairs, was appointed by the State Senate to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Response, Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Offenses.

Dr. Linda S. Williams, language and literature, presented "When the 'E' in 'Effective' Also Stands for 'Ethical': Creating and Evaluating Sales Messages" at the 68th Annual Convention of the Association for Business Communication in Albuquerque, NM.

Upcoming Events

The original Inspector Clouseau comedy, "**A Shot in the Dark**," will be presented Nov. 12-15 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium. Admission is free.

Dr. Jack Broman will conduct the **NGCSU Singers** and **Le Belle Voci** in their annual fall concert on Nov. 18 at 12:30 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the HNS Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

The **NGCSU Symphonic Band** will present its fall concert, under the direction of Dr. Joe Chapman, on Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. and on Nov. 25 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. Admission is free.

CROSSFIRE LUNCH

The Crossfire Lunch on Oct. 30 brought out the school's expert on HOPE, Director of Student Financial Aid Deborah

Barbone (R), during the event's debate on "HOPE and SATs: What's Fair?" The discussion between a small group of faculty, staff and students ranged in topics from whether to put family income cap requirements on HOPE eligibility to the dependency of Georgia families on the scholarship to how high schools define a "B" average, the grade needed to get the scholarship. "The original intent of HOPE was to keep smart students at home [in Georgia] and it's been very successful at that," Barbone said. The central topic of whether HOPE eligibility should be tied to Scholastic Aptitude Test scores and Gov. Sonny Perdue's push to make that a reality opened up the discussion and educated many of those attending about the details of the scholarship Georgia students use more than any other. Crossfire Lunches take place weekly on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Young Hall lobby on the second floor. For more information, contact Dr. Carl Cavalli, assistant professor of political science, at ext. 1872. Pictured (L to R) are Miranda Cathey, Cavalli, James Kyte and Barbone.



GYPSY JUDGE: Michael Marling de Cuellar, fine arts, meets craftsman and artist Dale Michels, who traveled with wife Shabari Bird to campus with a gypsy wagon they created, to judge the Bizarre Hat Contest.

BIZARRE GROUP: Julie Sibley (l), part-time fine arts instructor, put together the first Bizarre Hat Contest on campus on Oct. 29. Students in her Textile Design class expressed their creativity by making silly hats and showing them off to other fine arts students during the competition. The handcrafted hat designs included dunce, snowflake, moose and scarecrow hats, among others. Everyone was a winner with the judges who awarded prizes to each participant.



Campus renovation and construction projects *(Continued from page 1)*

the late Brooks M. Pennington Jr., a 1943 student who, along with his family, provided generous financial support to the university as an insurance beneficiary through the NGCSU Foundation. The architect, Flynn-Finderup Architects, has been selected and blueprints for the new design of the building, the former home of Physical Plant and Materials Management, have been approved. The renovation project will begin this month and is expected to be complete in July 2004.

“The commandant’s office and military science department will be better equipped to accomplish their important missions in the renovated facility,” Lord said.

Sunset Drive – Physical Plant and Materials Management will have a new facility constructed on Sunset Drive, along the same road the HNS Building is located. The construction of the facility, combined with renovations for the Pennington MLC, will cost about \$6 million. It is also set for a summer finish date.

The widening of Sunset Drive, phase one of a projected three-phase project, is under way and phase two, the extension of the road to Highway 9, will follow. Combined, the projects are estimated at \$750,000.

“This project allows an alternate route to access the HNS Building parking lot as well as the new Physical Plant and Materials Management Center,” Lord said. “This will greatly reduce the traffic on the southern part of Sunset Drive where we have many students walking between the main campus and the

sciences building.”

A proposed phase three of the Sunset Drive project will re-align roads, create turn lanes and add a traffic light at the intersection of West Main Street and Sunset Drive, where the crosswalks are located. Budget permitting, this \$325,000 project will be bid and awarded to a contractor in the spring.

Gymnasium – Of university-wide importance is the Memorial Hall Gymnasium “Exit Project,” estimated at \$200,000. Graduation, sports and many other events take place in the gym. Current fire codes limit occupancy there to approximately 1,300 people.

“Graduation exercises in the gym would have to be moved elsewhere and we would have to severely limit attendance at basketball games,” Lord said. “With the added exits, we will be able to have approximately 3,200 occupants.”

Weather permitting, the project will be completed by the beginning of spring semester.

ADA Projects – Several other projects have helped make facilities compliant with the American Disabilities Act. ADA restroom projects for Hoag Student Center, Sirmons Hall & Donovan Hall have totaled \$50,000. A recently completed elevator in the student center also allows better access for those with disabilities to the four-story building.

Campus Dining – The dining hall renovation, a \$130,000 project, has improved the building’s aesthetics, space and dining accommodations, allowing the implementation of Aramark’s “Real Food On Campus” concept.

Academic Buildings – Funding to continue renovations in the Education Building is being sought. The Newton Oakes Center chiller replacement, \$65,000, kept employees and students cooler last summer and Barnes Hall received the same chiller replacement treatment for \$55,000.

The Future – The next major project that will change the North Georgia landscape is the Library and Technology Center, a \$21 million construction project. The center is currently under design by the Architecture Group Inc., and Lord has hopes of receiving funding for the project in the next two years.

The project is currently number seven on the Board of Regents building-priority list and the economy will dictate when it is funded, Lord explained. ▲

the
Digest

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The Digest is published biweekly, except holidays, during fall and spring semesters and monthly during the summer semester by University Relations. Submit material to the above e-mail address. The next scheduled publication date of the Digest is Nov. 24. **Deadline for submissions is Nov. 17.**



FAMILY AFFAIR: (front row, l to r) Retired Brig. Gen. Grimm and Jeanette and Brian Mann.



Laird

Fall faculty review

The Corps of Cadets' annual military parade for faculty members drew a third of the 307-faculty workforce to the drill field on Oct. 27.

Dr. Bob Laird, department head of physical therapy and the guest speaker at the review, addressed the cadets and audience on the foundations of leadership.

"I believe the name of NGCSU will become synonymous with the production of leaders who do really care, who do truly practice courage and integrity in their daily lives," said Laird.

"The corps and all civilian students can work closely with these committed faculty and administrators seated behind me as we continue to flesh out the powerful words in our mission and core values," Laird said.

Attending the review ceremony from Kerrville, Texas, was Jeanette Mann's father, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. John H. Grimm. He visited Mann, who works in continuing education, and his son-in-law, Dr. Brian Mann from language and literature, arranging his visit to see the cadet corps' parade that Monday.

Value of university education

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is worth an average of \$14,000 a year more than a high-school graduate's expected earnings. In fact, over the course of a working career the average graduate of a USG college or university may expect to earn almost \$1 million more than a high-school-educated worker

Regarding the state of Georgia's "investment" in higher education, University System Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith was quoted in a news release saying:

"As our funding partners struggle with grave budget issues, I would encourage them not to harm this generator of economic growth. Georgia so far has resisted the trend we see in many states to reduce substantially the state's investment in higher education. Our economy has benefited from that decision, and as this study has shown, those benefits will continue to increase in

the decades to come."

The top programs of study based on total economic impact are business administration, nursing, teacher education, liberal arts and sciences, accounting, computer and information sciences, education administration, law, and business, all of which are programs offered at NGCSU, with the exception of law (a pre-law concentration is offered).

The earnings of nearly 2,100 graduates of North Georgia with 1998 Georgia salaries above \$10,000 were studied, and their salaries totaled \$66,779,215. The researchers determined that the portion of that total attributable to their college degrees was \$25,254,200. The average wage for those graduates was \$32,167, with the "education value" of that salary — the difference made by higher education — \$12,165. These figures were only for 1998 earnings. The

total impact of their higher education during their lifetimes could be as much as 40 times these figures.

Statewide, the study shows, a bachelor's degree alone increases earning power by an average of 34 percent over a high school diploma.

The researchers, Georgia Tech's Bill Drummond and Jan Youtie, also found that the areas of specialties where there are significant shortages of labor in Georgia include elementary and kindergarten teachers as well as registered nurses. NGCSU offers majors of study in those fields and experiences capacity enrollments for those and other "in-demand" academic majors.

Full copies of "The Value of University System of Georgia Education" may be downloaded from the ICAPP Web site at: www.icapp.org/publications.htm

