

## NGCSU top state university for graduation rates

North Georgia, one of the University System of Georgia's 13 state universities, ranks at the top of that group in graduation rates for the fourth consecutive year and has gained year-to-year improvements in increasing student retention and Regents' Exam pass rates.

These measures of educational effectiveness are included in the newly released 2004-05 Annual Report Card from the Georgia Office of Student Achievement. The five-year-old OSA provides accountability data for all of Georgia's public education system from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary levels and has reported data on the USG institutions, now totaling 35, for the past four years.

"We are very proud of the rankings for North Georgia," said NGCSU President David Potter. "We are making a contribution as



an institution to the critical objectives of retention and graduation as advocated by the University System of Georgia."

North Georgia has posted its highest graduation rate, 49.3 percent, since the figures were first reported for the 2001-02 academic year. The graduation rates measure the percent of first-time, full-time, degree-

seeking students who earn a bachelor's degree within six years. NGCSU's graduation rate is up 3.5 percentage points and is the best among the 13 state universities and is third in the USG, with the University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology listed first and second.

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## *Innovation funding allocated*

President David Potter, through the President's Innovation Fund, has authorized 15 campus projects. The funded proposals are designed to advance the university's mission and encourage collaborative and creative thinking within North Georgia's community. The Institutional Identity Task Force reviewed 26 proposal requests and made recommendations for funding. A report on each of the projects will be submitted after their completion dates. The allocations exceeded the original PIF total of \$100,000 by more than \$23,000. For details on each of the projects, contact the project managers. *(See list of funded projects on page 3)*

## Survey this

**WebSurveyor**, a comprehensive software product for creating and administering online surveys is now available to NGCSU faculty and staff, made possible through a grant secured by Dr. Charles Hawkins, director of Institutional Research and Planning.

Access to this system is available without charge to employees and students through the WebSurveyor Corporation grant. For more information go to [www.ngcsu.edu](http://www.ngcsu.edu) and click on the Institutional Effectiveness Web page, Assessment, Surveys, and WebSurveyor.



## Campus in Action

### Dr. John Bello-Ogunu

has been named the new director of Academic Support Programs at North Georgia. He previously served as the Assistant Provost for Academic Services & Retention at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. Bello-Ogunu earned a doctorate in speech communication from Ohio University, a M.Ed. degree in mass communication from Southern A & M (Baton Rouge), and a bachelor's of science in mass communication from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



**Laurie Davis**, director of the NGCSU Bookstore, has been selected to serve for the 2006-07 academic year on the President's Advisory Council for the National Association of College Stores. The new group has been established to advise committees, board members and NACS staff on different issues within the college-store industry. Davis has served on the state-level association's board for the past eight years as an officer to include president and most recently as treasurer.

**Dr. Ahmad Ghafarian**, math and computer science, was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship in Information Assurance and Security by the University of Maryland University College. The fellowship consisted of online course work and research projects. The goal of the fellowship is to train qualified IAS faculty members who can apply for their institution to be recognized as Center of Academic Excellence in IAS by NSA.

**Michael Marling de Cuellar**, fine arts, has artwork featured in the Atlanta Printmakers Studio Founding Members' Exhibition on display through March 22 in the Roy C. Moore Art Gallery at Gainesville State College. The exhibit showcases printmaking from over 36 artists.

**Dr. Richard M. Prior** and **Dr. Mark C. Spraker**, physics, were coauthors on a paper, "Astrophysical S Factor for the  ${}^7\text{Li}(d,n_0){}^8\text{Be}$  and  ${}^7\text{Li}(d,n_1){}^8\text{Be}$  Reactions," that was published in The Physical Review in February 2006. The work was done in collaboration with Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory at Duke University.

Several members of the NGCSU nursing faculty were recognized at the Georgia Association for Nursing Education's annual conference at St. Simons Island, Feb 15-17. **Dr. Michelle Byrne** received the Jane Van de Verde Award: GANE Outstanding Nurse Educator Award for 2006 and **Kim Hudson-Gallogly** received the Mabel Korsell Award: Recognition of Outstanding Service to GANE in 2006. **Loretta Delargy, Kim Hudson-Gallogly, Elaine Hummel, Kathy Smith, Dr. Ann Sumners** and **Elaine Taylor** gave poster presentations during the conference. *(More about the conference at [www.ngcsu.edu/digest](http://www.ngcsu.edu/digest))*

North Georgia has been selected to be included in the American Association of State Colleges & Universities' monograph of "The Electoral Voices Project" of the American Democracy Project. The monograph will summarize the best voter registration, education, and participation information on AASCU campuses. **Dr. Carl Cavalli**, political science and criminal justice, and **Miranda Cathey**, vice president of the NGCSU Political Science Student Association, wrote the submission.

**Dr. Andy Schaffer**, business administration, had the article "Consider cost and strategy when choosing between expatriate and host-national managers" published in the Journal of Business and Management, Vol. 11, No. 1. He co-wrote the article with Dr. Jay Rhee from Korea University.



## Graduation rates

*(Continued from page 1)*

"These outcomes reflect the dedication to students exhibited by our faculty and staff and the hard work of those students to accomplish their educational goals," said Potter.

NGCSU and the two research universities are also the only schools with rates above the USG's graduation-rate average of 46.7 percent. The nation's average six-year graduation rate for freshmen at four-year institutions is 54.4 percent, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

"While our graduation and retention rates have steadily increased, we still strive to exceed the national average and are working diligently toward that end," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Roberts-Betsch.

Retention of students at NGCSU is at 76.8 percent and has improved for two consecutive years by at least 1.5 percentage points each year, placing North Georgia above the system's average of 75.4 percent.

The Regent's Exam, a graduation requirement for all undergraduate college students, includes reading and writing sections. North Georgia's reading pass rate is the third best among the state universities at 90.7 percent. More than three-quarters of North Georgia's students pass the essay section. Both sections are measured for those students with 45 credit hours.

The university has posted a four-year gain of almost 25 percent in Regents' Exam pass rates, one of the largest margins of improvement in the USG.

For the complete report card, go to [www.gaosa.org](http://www.gaosa.org). 

## Innovation projects *(Continued from page 1)*

The following projects were funded:

- **Survey Faculty Views on Peer Review of Teaching** – James Badger and Dr. Irene Kokkala – \$10,260
- **Conduit Press** – Dr. B.J. Robinson – \$10,000
- **Holistic Undergraduate Education at NGCSU: Integration of Co-Curricular Learning Outcomes with General Education Outcomes** – Dr. Denise Young, Laura Whitaker-Lea and Dr. Laura Getty – \$10,000
- **NGCSU Appalachian Art, Craft & Eco-Entrepreneurship: A Student-Community Business Incubation Office** – Dr. Alice Sampson – \$10,000
- **Publications for Recruitment of Prospective Students & Cadets** – Jennifer Collins and Keith Antonia – \$10,000
- **Teachers by Design: Redesign Middle Grades Teacher Prep** – Dr. Toni Bellon – \$10,000

- **Research and Development of Financial Forensics Program** – Dr. Thomas De Berry – \$10,000
- **MAP-LEAP Tutoring Program** – Diana Darris – \$10,000
- **Campus Cadre of Experts: Understanding by Design** – Robin Gower – \$9,500
- **Summer Honors Leadership Initiative** – Dr. Robb Sinn – \$9,500
- **ILLiad Project** – Mary Poland – \$7,394
- **Event Information Management** – Joshua Preston – \$6,300
- **F.A.Q. - Audio/Visual Advisement Supplements for Psychology and Sociology Majors** – Dr. Chuck Robertson and Dr. John Wilkins – \$4,505
- **Alumni Data Mining Project** – Chris Church – \$4,000
- **Graduates of the Last Decade: The GOLD Group** – Chris Church – \$2,400

## Upcoming Events

The **Annual Chili Cook-Off** sponsored by the Staff Council will take place on March 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hoag Student Center Patio. Everyone is invited to taste and see who will be selected as NGCSU's favorite chili maker. Chili samples, a drink and a vote will be sold for \$3.50 while they last. The deadline to enter the cook-off is March 15. Contact Jeanette Mann to sign-up at ext. 2952 or e-mail [jmann@ngcsu.edu](mailto:jmann@ngcsu.edu).

The NGCSU Student Theatre Guild's production of **"The Glass Menagerie"** by Tennessee Williams will take place in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium, March 29-April 1 at 7:30 p.m. and April 2 at 2:30 p.m. In this classic play, the matriarch of the family tries to find a "gentleman caller" for her fragile daughter. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 864-1431.

### *Meet the new chancellor on March 24*

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. will visit all 35 colleges and universities of the University System of Georgia in the coming weeks. The campus visits will provide the new chancellor the opportunity to meet faculty, staff, students and community leaders.

Davis will be at North Georgia on Friday, March 24. All faculty and employees are invited to meet him at 11 a.m. in the Hoag Auditorium. Students may talk with him in the Adams Great Room at 11:30 a.m.

During his four-hour visit to North Georgia the chancellor also will converse with university administrators and community representatives to learn about NGCSU strengths, issues, challenges and opportunities.



**LEISURE READING:** The Stewart Library has a newly acquired popular fiction and nonfiction collection for those interested in leisure reading. This collection is on display in the library lobby and is refreshed monthly with new titles. All books are listed in the library catalog at <https://gil.ngcsu.edu/>.

## *USG Legislative Update*

*(March 9, 2006, [www.usg.edu/pubs/lu](http://www.usg.edu/pubs/lu))*

Funding for the new NGCSU library and technology center for \$18.4 million was included in FY06 amended budget for the Georgia General Assembly. Information on other USG projects and FY07 updates are included at the above Web address.

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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 April 10. **The deadline for submissions is April 3.**

## North Georgia view in 2006

### *A snapshot of what's big this year*

The **National Leadership Conference** at North Georgia March 30-31 features top-level military officials and educators, including the Army Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army. Invited participants will discuss the future of military education and how to train future military officers through the nation's colleges and universities.

North Georgia is planning to add two new major structures to campus in 2006. Groundbreakings are expected this year for a **parking deck**, to be constructed on an existing parking lot on the Dahlonega campus, and a **student recreational center**. Student fees will fund the projects, which will be financed through the NGCSU Foundation.

An increase in the university's **Forsyth County class offerings** is expected, so students who enroll at North Georgia will have the option of taking some core-level courses in Forsyth County. The university also offers numerous classes at Gainesville State College's University Center in Hall County.

NGCSU is continuing its first season of intercollegiate athletics in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II **Peach Belt Conference** with baseball, softball and tennis this spring. The Lady Saints basketball team proved its competitive edge in winning the regular season Peach Belt Championship title in the Saints' inaugural season of play.

North Georgia's first doctoral degree program, a **doctorate of physical therapy**, will begin this summer. The degree is offered through the Medical College of Georgia on the NGCSU campus. 🏛️



**HOAG LECTURE:** Dr. Jim Cobb, center, 2006's Hoag Lecturer, spoke on "Southern Identity in a Global Society" to a packed Hoag Auditorium on Feb. 22. He is the Spalding Distinguished Professor of History at UGA. L to R: Dr. Georgia Mann and Michael Marling, event coordinators; Cobb, Faye Hoag and her grandson Pete Hoag.



**DIALING FOR DOLLARS:** The Phonathon, the division of advancement's annual fund-raising drive targeting North Georgia alumni, took place in February in the Alumni Center. Chris Church, left, the director of the Annual Fund, coaches student callers for the two-and-one-half-week event that brought in \$50,000 in donations and pledges to the NGCSU Foundation.



**EDUCATION INNOVATORS:** The Feb. 25 North Georgia Pioneer RESA Science Education Conference at the university drew 53 science curriculum educators from middle- and secondary-education schools in the region. Dr. Byron Howell of the South Central Microscale Chemistry Center and Steven Pruitt, the Georgia Program Manager for Science Education in the Georgia Department of Education, were the keynote speakers. There were seven presenters, including four NGCSU faculty members, for the breakout sessions that allowed the local science teachers with opportunities to explore innovative methods of instruction through hands-on training. The conference was funded by a PRISM grant from the National Science Foundation. Pictured is Dr. Brad Herbert, assistant professor of geology, during his earth science and geology presentation.