

# Digest

► **Feb. 18, 2009**

*A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University*

## America's food culture up close

A national exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution, coming to North Georgia's Library Technology Center Feb. 28 - April 11, explores one of our most universal bonds and delves into the traditions of everyday meals. *Key Ingredients: America by Food* looks at the country's history of food and will be enhanced by 18 unique community events.

## Take note...

USG's Legislative Update explores stimulus bill

Scholarship event allows students to meet benefactors

Campus invited to master plan briefing

Rifle team notches big win

## Campus In Action

## University faces additional budget cuts

To prepare for the possibility of further state budget cuts in the current fiscal year, President David Potter issued a statement at the beginning of the week asking all employees to set aside any budget resources that could be used to meet additional budget cuts. "As an institution, we must plan for the possibility of additional austerity cuts. Given our already lean operating budget, I know this is not an easy task," Potter said in the statement, which directed all departments to avoid any expenses that are not already encumbered or that are not essential to meet instructional or basic institutional needs.

## Information security measures increase to protect data



The university's information security officer, Jim Webb, had to sever all connections with an entire country in 2008 just to keep the North Georgia e-mail system from collapsing. A full-scale onslaught by more than 200 e-mail servers in China attempted to completely paralyze the campus's e-mail and stop any type of communication via the network. Webb and the Information Security Services team responded quickly to mitigate the damage, temporarily cutting off all network traffic from China to block the unrelenting spam e-mail.

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

**Director of University Relations:** Kate Maine  
**Public Relations Coordinator:** Joshua Preston  
**Designer:** Debbie Martin

**Make submissions to [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).**  
The next scheduled publication date is Feb. 25. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 20.

North Georgia College & State University, 82 College Circle, Dahlonega, Ga., 30597  
Last modified on: Tuesday, 24 February 2009 19:22:28 -0500 by [University Relations](#)

## University faces additional budget cuts

*By Kate Maine*

To prepare for the possibility of further state budget cuts in the current fiscal year, President David Potter issued a statement at the beginning of the week asking all employees to set aside any budget resources that could be used to meet additional budget cuts.

"As an institution, we must plan for the possibility of additional austerity cuts. Given our already lean operating budget, I know this is not an easy task," Potter said in the statement, which directed all departments to avoid any expenses that are not already encumbered or that are not essential to meet instructional or basic institutional needs.

The prediction proved true when, on Feb. 17, Gov. Sonny Perdue announced that the state revenue estimates for FY 2009 are being reduced by \$450 million. State agencies and institutions have already been severely impacted by budget reductions that started this past summer, and continued revenue declines have the state's elected officials and agency directors searching for ways to further reduce the budget deficit.

The governor has recommended a variety of measures to meet the newest cut including an approximate one percent cut to all state agencies totaling \$131 million. The additional one percent reduction to FY09 totals \$20.2 million for the University System of Georgia, bringing the cumulative cuts to 10.5 percent and \$239.2 million. For North Georgia, the newest cut will mean an additional \$250,000 to \$285,000 that will need to be identified.

As Gov. Perdue has just announced these new reductions, campus presidents and staff will be working with the Board of Regents office over the coming days to meet this goal.

While no decisions have been made regarding how to meet the additional one percent, the USG office has stated that any decisions will continue to follow the chancellor's philosophy of making permanent changes to what will be permanent cuts to the budget, and to seek to protect students in the classroom and the core missions of teaching, research and service.

## Information security measures increase to protect data

*By Joshua Preston*

The university's information security officer, Jim Webb, had to sever all connections with an entire country in 2008 just to keep the North Georgia e-mail system from collapsing. A full-scale onslaught by more than 200 e-mail servers in China attempted to completely paralyze the campus's e-mail and stop any type of communication via the network.

Webb and the Information Security Services team responded quickly to mitigate the damage, temporarily cutting off all network traffic from China to block the unrelenting spam e-mail.

Such attacks on the campus's technology network are not typically that large in scale, but they remain a constant threat to the university's daily business operations and the capabilities for instructional technology use.

An even more acute threat now being addressed within Information Security Services, a section of Information and Instructional Technology, is

the handling of sensitive electronic data by users on campus.

Even as professional cyber criminals multiply and use more sophisticated techniques in an attempt to infiltrate the campus technology infrastructure, faculty and staff are entrusted with an increasing amount of sensitive data that can be copied and transported more easily than ever before and is at risk of being compromised.

Webb views this combination as a major security issue and shudders at the thought of a worst case scenario: student records making their way onto portable computing devices that may be lost or stolen and used for fraud or identity theft.

President David Potter ratified an Information Security Program policy in 2008 to develop a framework for the university community to understand the importance of information security.

"Information resources, such as data, computers and network services, have become indispensable assets that higher education institutions rely upon to facilitate the fulfillment of their missions," Potter wrote in his statement.

"North Georgia acknowledges a strong commitment toward making appropriate and reasonable efforts to protect our information resources from relevant threats."

The university's Banner Information System alone has several thousand student records, which contain confidential information protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, known as FERPA.

Other university departments and offices continue to integrate and rely upon technology for daily operations, in some cases requiring the storage, transmission and use of confidential information.

"Information security touches each of us, and we all have some responsibility in managing that data," Webb said. "Technology is key across our entire enterprise and understanding how to protect data is not just an IT issue."

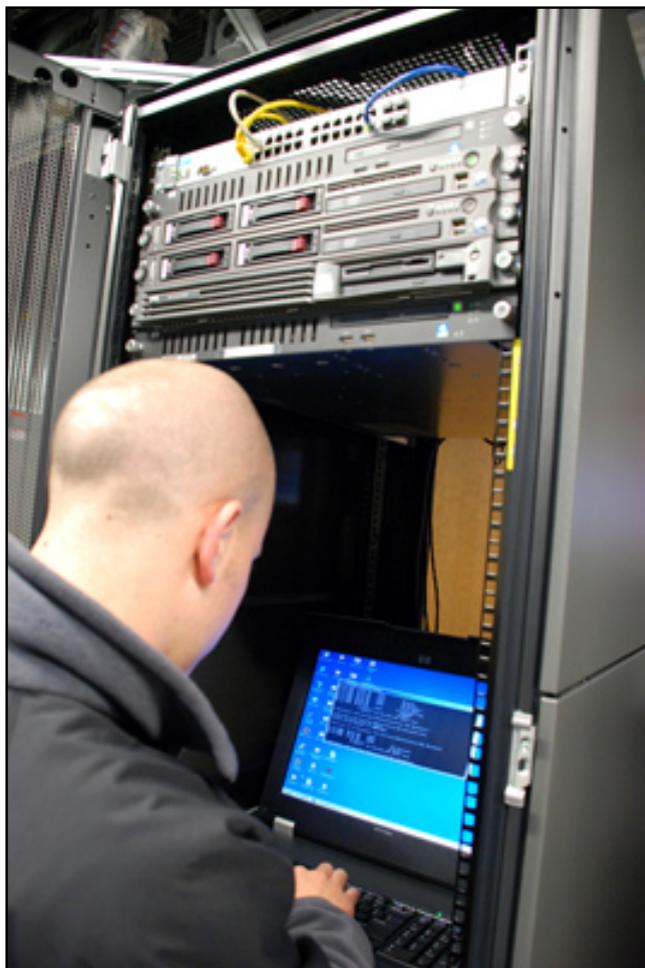
Dr. Bryson Payne, the university's chief information officer, said that there have been a few recent "close calls" involving the security of systems storing sensitive and confidential student and employee information. A recent change to the IIT security team's operating procedures has been to add dissemination to all associate vice presidents and higher of a report of every major security incident as it occurs. The result, Payne said, is to create a higher level of awareness among campus leaders of the importance of information security processes.

The Information Security Oversight Committee, led by Payne and executives from each division of the university, is actively reviewing policies, procedures and strategies to help mitigate and prevent future data breaches.

Webb hopes to develop two configuration models for computer security to protect data on the more than 1,800 computers on campus. Computers that have sensitive data will be encrypted and those that do not will remain fully accessible.

Another concern is an ever increasing number of "shadow systems" on campus that have sensitive data and may not be known to IIT's security team.

"We're not going to sit and look over someone's shoulder or arbitrarily restrict access to data, but we need to know where it exists so we can help people better manage it," Webb said.



*Information Security Analyst Brian Murray checks a network server, which is protected in an access-controlled area of West Main Hall.*

*(Photo: Joshua Preston)*

"In IIT, we understand our database systems and we administer our servers in a secure environment," he said. "But we find out about shadow systems all the time on campus where confidential data is stored and may not be properly protected."

As business on campus comes to a close at 5 p.m. daily, the network servers continue to deflect the onslaught of cyber attacks. Before heading home, the information security team reviews the computer network activity and checks firewall logs - more than half a million spam e-mails are stopped on any given day. Security team members note that only one computer during the week was infected with a fatal virus, down from an average of five since new anti-virus defenses were deployed to campus computers this semester.

For Webb, it's a daily battle to stay one step ahead of a faceless threat.

As Information Security Analyst Brian Murray puts it: "One group somewhere goes to bed and another gets up and the attacks just keep coming."

## America's food culture up close

### *Students become key to Smithsonian art experience*

By Joshua Preston



*Chelsey MacMillan, Hannah Brown and Teresa Hindmon prepare China dishes and cookbooks for next week's Key Ingredients: America by Food art extravaganza. (Photo: Joshua Preston)*

A national exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution, coming to North Georgia's Library Technology Center Feb. 28 - April 11, explores one of our most universal bonds and delves into the traditions of everyday meals. *Key Ingredients: America by Food* looks at the country's history of food and will be enhanced by 18 unique community events that highlight the Southern influence in America's culinary culture.

North Georgia students are playing a major role

in the exhibit, including helping set up the Smithsonian display, creating interactive food venues in the library, and organizing a handful of art exhibits to showcase local talent.

Eleven university students from a senior-level art class will be honorary curators for the main exhibit and have been entrusted with unpacking crates and assembling displays. Those same students researched local art pieces related to the region's food heritage and are assembling two major companion exhibits in the library.

"The students have written art analyses about objects such as tea sets, China dishes and cookbooks, and will display the pieces they selected in four cases," Dr. Ana Pozzi, their art professor, said.

The students selected objects that had some history to them, Pozzi said, and they are learning about curating by planning every detail for the displays, including cleaning the windows to the cases. The themes to the displays include: The Cook and the Book, Five O'clock Tea, Drinks of the World, and A La Carte.

Many of the pieces in the displays are from Dr. Joyce Stavick, a professor of English and the official curator of *Key Ingredients* for its six-week exhibition on campus. Stavick is also directing two

companion events, Family Recipes Scrapbooking and Vegetarian Cooking, taking place on March 7.

North Georgia art instructor Jim Fambrough and alumna June Koehler will also have their art entrusted to art students as they set up the show *Visual Feasts*, which showcases multi-media art and ceramics related to food.

A large number of school children from local school districts are expected to visit *Key Ingredients*, which prompted art education students to develop the Kid's Corner in the library. The interactive creation is designed to engage elementary-age children and teach them about the benefits of good nutrition. Three distinct experiences include a set of "felt food" that students will place on felt-board food pyramids to learn about the food groups, a paper and cardboard kitchen set to teach about food preparation and etiquette, and a recipe-sharing space that allows students to display their own recipes in the library.

The last major exhibit, *Folks & Food: Feast to Famine*, will be a juried student art show that opens March 26.

"The idea is that food is universal but it is also really local," Dr. Pam Sachant, coordinator of the visual arts program, said. "We're asking students to think back to their associations with food and, through their art, express those associations."

The *Key Ingredients* exhibit visit to North Georgia is in partnership with the Georgia Humanities Council and the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center. To learn more about the exhibit and the regional events in conjunction with *Key Ingredients*, visit the [Georgia Appalachian Studies Center Web site](#) or call 706-864-1540.

## Take note...

### USG's Legislative Update explores stimulus bill

On Feb. 12, Shelley Nickel, the associate vice chancellor for planning and implementation, addressed the state's Special Committee on Stimulus Priorities, which had posed some questions to USG officials about how the USG is handling the economic crisis. The current issue of the [Legislative Update](#) highlights her remarks and explores how state and Board of Regents officials are working to determine the net effect of the \$787 billion stimulus bill on Georgia and the University System.

### Scholarship event allows students to meet benefactors

On Feb. 7, more than 120 students and 32 donors who sponsor scholarships participated in the university's annual Scholarship Luncheon, which recognizes scholarship recipients and the scholarships created to assist them in their careers at North Georgia. The event, sponsored by the Office of Advancement Services and held in the dining hall, provides an opportunity for scholarship recipients to meet the initiator of their scholarship, to understand the history associated with the person honored by the scholarship, and to personally thank the benefactor.

It also provides the benefactors with an opportunity to learn about the students' experiences at North Georgia and their future plans, further encouraging the patrons' desire to support students through scholarship investment.

### Campus invited to master plan briefing

The consulting firm working on the university's master plan update will present an update on the process on March 3, 1:30 to 3 p.m., in room 269 of the Library Technology Center. The master plan process, which makes recommendations for future facility developments on campus, such as residence halls and classroom spaces, has involved interviews with many groups on campus and assessments of our current facilities. Members of the campus community are invited to the March 3 meeting to learn details of the master plan proposals.

### Rifle team notches big win

In the Southeastern Rifle League competition on Feb. 14, the North Georgia Saints rifle team won against Clemson, Wofford, Mercer, and Georgia Military College, and NGCSU first-semester freshman Evan Bouchard took the individual win.

Because of the team's win in this competition, which also served as the Southeastern Intercollegiate Sectionals, the Saints also earned the top awards in that event, the results of which are used as the NCAA championship selections. Intercollegiate shooting uses the same competition rules and equipment as the Summer Olympics.

Rifle is a varsity sport within the athletic department and is in its first year as an NCAA team. The team includes male, female, civilian, and cadet students. The Saints' next competition is Feb 28 in a league match hosted at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's new range in Anniston, Ala. The team will travel a week later to The Citadel for the league championship.

## Campus in Action

*North Georgia faculty and staff are invited to submit news of professional accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).*