

## Faculty debate changes to core curriculum



**CORE REVIEW:** Faculty members give their input on the proposed new core curriculum, going to a vote on April 26.

At an April 4 meeting on the proposed changes to the NGCSU core curriculum, with more than 40 faculty members present, many voiced their perspectives on the fundamental courses taken by all NGCSU students.

Faculty members examined the lack of an ethics course in

the proposed new core, the number of credit hours a leadership course should be weighted, and even the extent of how transformational the revised core really is in meeting the learning outcomes the General Education Committee used as guidelines.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Conference draws top U.S. Army leaders

The United States' top Army leaders headlined the March 30-31 National Leadership Conference at NGCSU.

Secretary of the U.S. Army Francis Harvey also took time to speak with the university's Corps of Cadets in a separate address.

"North Georgia has historically been a developer of leaders with

its cadets, many whom go on to join the Army, so the university is an important source of commissioning officers," said Harvey.

The NGCSU conference focused on the evolving educational requirements that military personnel need in the 21st century and the broader

*(Continued on page 2)*



**TOP BRASS:** Maj. Gen. Alan Thrasher, NG '72, Secretary Francis Harvey, employees Cols. Bruce Georgia and Tom Palmer and Vice President for Student Affairs Judi Bryant.



### *Austenfeld named 2006 Distinguished Professor*

The NGCSU Alumni Association will honor Dr. Thomas Austenfeld, professor of language and literature, as the 2006 Distinguished Professor during Parents-Alumni Weekend, April 21-23.

Before joining the NGCSU faculty in 2000, Austenfeld had served on the faculty of Drury College in Springfield, Mo., since 1991. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Münster, Germany, in 1985, he earned his Master of Arts degree in 1986 and his Ph.D. in English in 1991, both from the University of Virginia.

"One of Thomas' strengths as a teacher is found in his European background," wrote Dr. Eric Link in his nomination of Austenfeld for the award. "He brings respect for learning and a comprehensive knowledge to all of his classes."

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Campus in Action



**Dr. Ross Alexander** has received the Student Government Association's "Faculty Member of the Year Award" for the 2005-2006 school year. The assistant professor of political science, who came to NGCSU in 2003, teaches undergraduate courses and is a faculty member in the master of public administration degree program. Students nominate faculty for the award.

The Georgia General Assembly passed a unanimous resolution in March establishing the **Appalachian Studies Center** at NGCSU as Georgia's official Appalachian Studies Center. **Dr. Alice Sampson**, teacher education, is the ASC director. Visit the center online at [www.ngcsu.edu/resource/ASC](http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/ASC).

**Dr. Thomas Austenfeld**, language and literature, published an essay titled "German Heritage and Culture in Louise Erdrich's 'The Master Butchers Singing Club'" in the "Great Plains Quarterly," Vol. 26, # 1 (Winter 2006).

**Dr. Brian Jay Corrigan**, language and literature, will read from and discuss his latest novel, "The Poet of Loch Ness," during the "Cover to Cover" program hosted by St. John Flynn on Georgia Public Broadcasting radio (local station in our area is WNGC FM 89.5) on April 30 at 8 p.m.

**Dr. Ahmad Ghafarian**, math and computer science, presented the poster "An Innovative Approach in Teaching Object-Oriented Programming to the Novice" at the Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education symposium that was held in Houston, Texas, March 1-4.

**Dr. Marc Jason Gilbert**, history, was chosen by the Foreign Policy Research Institute to deliver a presentation on modern India, March 11-12, in Chattanooga, Tenn. Over 40 master teachers

from across the nation gathered to receive a briefing on India's growing role in international affairs.

**Dr. Christopher Jespersen** is the new dean of the School of Arts & Letters. He was the head of the history department since 2001 and interim dean since 2005. Jespersen has held academic positions at the University of Arizona and Clark Atlanta University. He earned his Ph.D and B.A. in history from Rutgers University where he was the Henry Rutgers Scholar. He was recently named the George Washington Distinguished Professor by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia. He serves on the editorial board of Diplomatic History and served a Residency at Kyoritsu Women's University in Japan in May 2005.



**Sgt. 1st Class Eric Leid**, military science, finished in second place in the 800-yard service-rifle shooting event at the Small Arms Championships at Fort Benning, Ga., March 3-14. Nearly 200 Army soldiers and cadets participated.

**Jane O'Gorman**, director of public services, was recently elected to serve on the Georgia Adult Education Association Board of Directors as vice president for programs for the 2006-2008 term. GAEA is an association with membership from universities, community and technical colleges,

government, business and industry, and professional associations involved in the continuing education and training of Georgia citizens.

**Dr. Bryson Payne**, math and computer science, gave an invited lecture, "Digital Image Processing on GPUs" (translated title), at SSI '06 (Workshop on Intelligent Systems) in Madrid, Spain, in March. He also served on the doctoral dissertation committee of graduating Dr. D. Antonio Sanz Montemayor at Universidad Rey Juan Carolos in Madrid.

### Leadership conference

*(Continued from page 1)*

process of creating effective leaders in the military, private and public sectors.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff and the nation's highest-ranking Army officer, opened the conference with a keynote address highlighting the future direction of Army leadership development.

Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, responsible for the active duty military forces involved in Hurricane Katrina operations, spoke on crisis leadership and adapting to remain effective in crisis situations.

More than 160 conference attendees participated in the two-day event. 

**Dr. You Ju Lee**, a native of Korea, will perform in her New York City debut in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on April 23 at 5:30 p.m. The award-winning pianist has performed in Europe, Asia and the United States. Lee, who completed her doctorate at UGA in 2000, teaches piano and music history at North Georgia. Tickets for her recital are available from the box office of [www.carnegiehall.org](http://www.carnegiehall.org), 212-247-7800, or in person at 57th Street and Seventh Avenue in Manhattan.



## Core curriculum (Continued from page 1)

Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Roberts-Betsch noted a nationwide trend at institutions of higher education toward revising the core courses that students are required to take.

“We realized we hadn’t reviewed our core curriculum at NGCSU in a long time,” Roberts-Betsch said.

Internationalization, a factor in the revision process, produced one of the more visible proposed changes to the core – a foreign language requirement.

“We have a lot going on language-wise at NGCSU, and it is being driven largely by the Department of Defense’s acknowledgement of the critical need for language skills in the military as well as other sectors of our economy,” language Professor Brian Mann wrote in an e-mail. “We are inaugurating an accelerated Chinese program in the fall. We’re also formulating a proposal to try and bring some federal-level funding to bear on our expansion efforts.”

An April 26 meeting of the Academic Activities Committee will include a vote on the proposed core curriculum. If approved by that body, the curriculum will be submitted to the USG Board of Regents for approval and subsequent implementation will start fall semester 2007.

“We are committed to improving our core curriculum for our students, and we got off on the right foot, although it’s just the beginning,” said Dr. Donna Gessell, director of Graduate Studies and External Programs. ▲

## 2006 Distinguished Professor (Continued from page 1)

Austenfeld’s ability to speak several foreign languages “enlivens his World Literature classes.” Link said.

“Anyone who has ever observed Thomas teach will affirm that one gets caught up in his engaging presentation style. A second, noteworthy strength of Thomas’ teaching is the infusion of philosophical content – ethical reasoning, critical thinking, logical support for arguments – in the writing assignments he gives to composition students as well as to his senior seminar in English.”

Last year, the Student Government Association named Austenfeld its “Faculty Member of the Year.” He works with the International Students Association, serves on the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council and the Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment Committee, among other assignments on campus. President David Potter appointed Austenfeld chair of the committee to design an Intellectual Property Policy for the university.

Included in his other volunteer work, Austenfeld is active in St. Luke’s Catholic Church and sings with the University Singers.

His book, “American Women Writers and the Nazis: Ethics and Politics in Boyle, Porter, Stafford, and Hellman,” was published in 2001. He also is the author of numerous articles, chapters, book reviews, and other publications and has made presentations at dozens of academic and professional conferences.

His wife, Anne Marie Austenfeld, is a graduate student in Library and Information Science at the University of Alabama. ▲

## Upcoming Events

**Honors Day**, April 11, will showcase a diverse and accomplished group of students, faculty and guest speakers in activities throughout the day. A detailed schedule is available at [www.ngcsu.edu/resource/honors](http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/honors).

A **Vietnam War poetry reading** will feature Vietnam-veteran poets W. D. Ehrhart and David Connolly on April 12 in the HNS Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 864-1911. The free event is open to the public.

The **2006 Parents-Alumni Weekend** is scheduled for April 21-23. For information and reservations, contact Alumni Affairs, 864-1547.

**Spring commencement** will take place on May 13 in the Memorial Hall Gym in two ceremonies, 12:30 and 4 p.m., with U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss as the speaker. The **commissioning ceremony** for new Army lieutenants will be at 10 a.m. in the gym.

*More universitywide events online at [www.ngcsu.edu/news](http://www.ngcsu.edu/news)*

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**Digest**  
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### Business office employee marks 35-year career

Frankie Caldwell, the university’s accounts payable supervisor, has worked for six administrations at North Georgia. Celebrating 35 years at the institution this year, Caldwell came to NGC in February 1971 and started work in what she called the “secretary pool” before moving to the procurement office.

“I did administrative support for the whole campus,” said Caldwell, a lifelong Dahlonega resident. “Not everyone had a secretary of their own.”

In her three-and-a-half decades on campus Caldwell has seen entirely new ways of doing business.

Price Memorial Hall at one time had a central supply room in the basement and Caldwell said if you wanted anything, you had to go to her.

“Pencils, pens, paper, it didn’t matter. There were no departmental purchasing cards back then to order things.”

When the procurement function split into purchasing and accounts payable, Caldwell stuck with what she enjoyed and was good at – paying invoices. In



President David Potter with Frankie Caldwell

accounts payable everything was done by hand for a long time, Caldwell said. She wrote vouchers and filled out a spreadsheet with data that would later be input into a data-processing machine in a separate office.

“When all that stopped it was wonderful,” Caldwell said.

But change didn’t always come easy. PeopleSoft, the accounting software currently used by NGCSU, replaced a software program used for two decades on campus.

“You look for familiarity when it’s



**EMPLOYEE SERVICE:** Faculty and staff were recognized at an April 3 ceremony for their service to North Georgia. Pictured (top) are 30-year vets Mary Jo Hester and Dr. James Parker and (bottom) 25-year employee Karen Layne. Twenty-year employees recognized were Cindy Truelove and Bonnie Morris.

More photos at [www.ngcsu.edu/digest](http://www.ngcsu.edu/digest).

not there,” Caldwell said. “It takes some getting used to some changes.”

Caldwell is the mother of three sons, Shane, Marty and her youngest, Grant, a junior in high school. 🏡



**TOP COOKS:** The annual chili cook-off event, sponsored by the NGCSU Staff Council, raised almost \$300 to support NGCSU community projects such as the employee scholarship fund. The winners of the contest were (left to right): Best Presentation – Dr. Steve Smith; Tasters’ Choice – Joyce Sutton; and Judges’ Award – Chuck Robertson. More photos at [www.ngcsu.edu/digest](http://www.ngcsu.edu/digest).

### Employees play big part in CLA event

On April 1, more than 40 members of the Citizens Leadership Alliance – a consortium public and private organizations in Lumpkin County – filled more than 130 bags with trash from the Ga. 400 highway section in Lumpkin County. Participants scoured the high-



Participants remove trash around the “upside-down ampersand” sign.

way for two-and-a-half hours, picking up trash and debris. Executives from member organizations, including President David Potter and a majority of the NGCSU cabinet, participated in the community event along with other NGCSU employees and students. Public safety officers directed traffic control on Ga. 400.

“It was hard work, but it brought the community together for a worthwhile effort with results that were immediately apparent,” said Vice President Mac McConnell.