

Digest

► **Feb. 25, 2009**

A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

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Career Services launches new initiatives for students, alumni



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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 March 4. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 27.

Career Services launches new initiatives for students, alumni

By Joshua Preston

More than 40 businesses and agencies will come to campus on March 4 to recruit potential new employees at the annual Career Fair, and expectations for student turnout are high, given the state of the job market.

But the event is only the spearhead of a much larger effort by Career Services to prepare students to find employment in an ailing economy.

This month, the office rolled out the [Saint Job Board](#), an online tool where students and alumni can find out about part-time and full-time employment through jobs posted directly by employers. Students and alumni can also post their resumes on the site. The Saint Job Board will also be for students seeking work experience while in school, and it will be open to employers in the region able to cater to the student population.

"We're here to assist students from freshmen on up," Dora Ditchfield, director of Career Services, said. "We provide work-related experience – such as internships, help students determine what career they want, and help students to pick majors, too."



Scene from last year's Career Fair. (Photo: Joshua Preston)



Dora Ditchfield, director of Career Services, works with Elissa Charron on building a resume.

(Photo: Joshua Preston)

a preview of the enhanced services through Career Services and to generate student interest in talking with individual employers who visit campus.

Regions Bank representatives visited campus this past week seeking qualified candidates for their Management Associate Program, but only four students turned out, Ditchfield said.

She recognizes it's an uphill battle in some areas but is making sure Career Services is fully accessible to meet student needs.

Career Services teamed with Kaplan Inc., which provides preparation for graduate school entrance exams, in February to administer a host of sample tests for students interested in practicing nursing or entering graduate school for medicine, law, business and other areas.

The on-site testing allowed 87 students to take the tests, get sample scores and have a better understanding of the entrance exam testing for each field, Ditchfield said.

She and Assistant Director Robbie Ouzts talked with more than 1,000 students in the fall, either by individual appointment or through class workshops, to give them

Career Services has started a number of new activities this year including revamping its Web site, developing an employer brochure to bring more companies to campus, starting a monthly newsletter and is continuing classroom-specific workshops. An important new tool called the Strong-Interest Inventory allows the Career Services staff to help students pick an academic major or it can be geared to help seniors select a career.

In addition to these new initiatives, the Career Services staff continues to work with students individually.

"We equip them with resume tips, coach them on interviews, and help them with job search techniques," said Ditchfield, who is a former Berry College career services professional.

She said one of the strengths of a small school like North Georgia is the unlimited number of times a student can utilize its Career Services.

"We're here to help students transition to a life after graduation where they can apply what they've learned here and make a contribution back to society."

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The two-day event will offer participants the opportunity to learn about the available capabilities of human identification, hone investigative skills, gain insight into emerging issues and trends in forensic science and earn professional development credit.

Among the speakers are experts from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Hazardous Material Response Unit (HMRU) who will address attendees regarding federal response and

coordination in the event of chemical and bio-hazard fatalities.

The HMRU responds to criminal acts and incidents that involve hazardous materials (HAZMAT). The unit also develops technical proficiency and readiness for crime scene and evidence-related operations in cases involving chemical, biological and radiological materials, and it trains U.S. and international law enforcement in these skills.

Joseph Morgan, assistant professor of criminal justice, organized and will direct the program at the symposium, which is in its second year. Morgan is a board certified medicolegal death investigator and has 20 years of experience as a death investigator in Atlanta and New Orleans.

Full program details for the forensic symposium are available [online](#).

Take note...

USG's Legislative Update gives progress report on bills

The General Assembly passed the halfway point of the 2009 Legislative Session last week, and University System of Georgia officials are monitoring the progress of dozens of bills that are of interest to the System. A list in this week's [Legislative Update](#) presents a progress report on those bills.

Fiscal Year 2009 funds took an additional 1 percent cut with Georgia tax collections dropping precipitously and Gov. Sonny Perdue announcing on Feb. 17 that an additional \$131 million will have to be cut from the state's current year budget. The 1 percent cuts he ordered for all state agencies would have been much worse if not for the federal stimulus funds Georgia will be receiving. Perdue reduced his recommendation for the Board of Regents' Fiscal Year 2009 Amended Budget by an additional \$20.4 million, bringing the cumulative cuts to the University System of Georgia for FY 2009 to 10.5 percent, or \$239.2 million.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning series Feb. 26

A two-part professional-development series focusing on key lessons from the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning will take place Feb. 26 in the Library Technology Center, room 269. Participants will be asked to consider and discuss how the approaches might apply in their own teaching. The presenter, Dr. Craig Nelson, is Professor Emeritus at Indiana University. An evolutionary ecologist, Nelson is an expert on evolution, integrating science and religion, and "creation science."

Series details:

How can I radically reduce or eliminate low grades?

Thursday, Feb. 26, 8:00 - 9:25 a.m.

How can I make my students brighter and harder working?

Thursday, Feb. 26, 9:35 - 11 a.m.

Presenter: Dr. Craig Nelson, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University

Location: Library Technology Center - Room 269

Nelson also will be speaking Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. in the Health & Natural Sciences Auditorium on "Evolution, Creation, or Both?" This event is open to the public. Nelson researches teaching, especially the teaching of critical thinking. His biological research has been on evolution and ecology. His articles on teaching address critical thinking and mature valuing, diversity, active learning, teaching evolution, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. He has presented invited workshops at national meetings and institutions in 37 states and eight countries. He co-directed a series of national institutes for high school biology teachers on "Evolution and the Nature of Science" and was founding director of IU's Environmental Program. In addition, he was the founding president of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. He received the highest award bestowed by Indiana University, as well as the President's awards from both Vanderbilt, and Northwestern Universities. In 2000, he was named the "Outstanding Research and Doctoral University Professor Of The Year" by the Carnegie Foundation.

New workshops to help advisors improve advisement

The university has designed new workshops to help advisors better serve the needs of their students during the advisement process. The spring advisement training, offered through the Center of Teaching and Learning Excellence, begins this week. Introductory workshops will cover the basics, while advanced workshops will explore how to provide high-quality advising, issues with transfer students and other areas identified in a fall 2008 advisement survey. Details on the first two workshops are below. To register, contact CTLE at ext. 1862.

An Advisement Treasure Map

Thursday, Feb. 26, 12:45 - 2:10 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 2, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Presenter: Jill Brady

Guiding students toward the treasured North Georgia degree can be a daunting task that's not for the faint hearted. Join the Registrar's office staff for a session regarding a wide variety of advisement topics that often trip the most experienced guides. Topics will include: Overall North Georgia degree requirements, how

to read a North Georgia transcript, advising shortcuts for transfer students, credit by all kinds of exams, military experience and online resources available.

Advanced Advisement

Thursday, March 5, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Monday, April 6, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Presenter: Dr. Kathy Sisk

Do you need to be better informed on how to advise transfer students? Are you up to date on policy regarding students who have completed POLS 1101 via an AP exam or CLEP and the legislative requirements? Come join us as we work through these and other issues using some actual case studies.

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.