

Digest

► **Dec. 2, 2009**

A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

Global scenes win prizes

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Take note...

Fall Commencement, Dec. 12

Anthony publishes book on Boar's Head Brigade

Sustainability Corner

Campus In Action

Get Involved events

Got your flu vaccine?



As wintry weather begins to sweep onto the North Georgia campus, it's a common question among students and colleagues -- "Got your flu vaccine?" The spread of 2009 H1N1 flu virus has people talking about whether or not they should get the vaccine to prevent illness, particularly since health administrators expect the H1N1 virus to make a resurgence in early 2010. College-age students are included in the target

populations recommended for the vaccine.

History students look at Vietnam era through eyes of alumni

In preparation for a tribute being planned for the 26 alumni of North Georgia College & State University who were killed in service during the Vietnam War, a group of history majors has learned more than expected about this era and the people from their own school who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The tribute is being planned for the university's Parent-Alumni Weekend in April, in cooperation with the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association.



The Digest is published bi-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 Dec. 16. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 11.

Got your flu vaccine?



Nurse Judy Taylor administers the H1N1 flu vaccine to fellow nurse, April Robinson, in Student Health Services.

strong as expected, according to the SHS Director Karen Tomlinson.

"We've administered the vaccine to about 300 people – mostly employees," she said. "Our goal would be to have as many students as possible receive the vaccine prior to the winter break so they are protected from this strain as they interact with others during the holidays. We want them to be able to return to campus as healthy as possible."

The CDC reported in its Nov. 30 H1N1 Flu U.S. Situation Update that 32 states are experiencing [widespread influenza activity](#). Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far are 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses.

Georgia is currently reporting only regional influenza activity. However, according to the Georgia Department of Community Health, between April 24 and Nov. 24, there were 672 hospitalizations and 39 deaths in Georgia related to H1N1 cases.

Given the sufficient supply, SHS is now providing the free vaccine to university retirees and spouses of university employees, in addition to the previous groups. SHS has both the intranasal and injectable forms of the vaccine and will administer the vaccine, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

In contrast to campus demand for the H1N1 vaccine, Tomlinson said that SHS has administered about the seasonal flu vaccine to about 800 people – a higher number than in past years. However, it's important to note that the seasonal flu vaccine does not protect against 2009 H1N1 flu.

In addition to getting the vaccine if you fall into one of the target populations, the CDC recommends practicing good hygiene to avoid getting sick with the flu. Its advice includes washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing; covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; staying at home or at your place of residence if you are sick for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Another recommendation – particularly for college students who may live together with other students – is to frequently clean your living quarters. Commonly-used surfaces, such as doorknobs,

As wintry weather begins to sweep onto the North Georgia campus, it's a common question among students and colleagues – "Got your flu vaccine?" The spread of 2009 H1N1 flu virus has people talking about whether or not they should get the vaccine to prevent illness, particularly since health administrators expect the H1N1 virus to make a resurgence in early 2010.

College-age students are included in the target populations recommended for the vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination for pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, and people between the ages of 25 and 64 who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

The university's Student Health Services received the H1N1 vaccine and began administering it free of charge to students, faculty and staff in late November. However, the demand for the vaccine has not been as

refrigerator handles, remote controls, computer keyboards, countertops, faucet handles, and bathroom areas, should be cleaned often.

History students look at Vietnam era through eyes of alumni

Stories made history come to life

In preparation for a tribute being planned for the 26 alumni of North Georgia College & State University who were killed in service during the Vietnam War, a group of history majors has learned more than expected about this era and the people from their own school who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The tribute is being planned for the university's Parent-Alumni Weekend in April, in cooperation with the [Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association](#), which has conducted similar tributes in other communities. The students, all seniors conducting internships with Dr. Eugene VanSickle, history professor, have been talking with alumni to develop biographical information to be used as part of the tribute.



History majors Brenna Buchanan, Daniel Serrat, Peter Rehm, and Adam Farrar review notes for an oral history project that will be part of a future tribute to North Georgia alumni who were killed during the Vietnam War.

"This project did more for me than just help me to learn about the veterans who gave their lives; it also helped me to learn about the strong friendships that are forged here at North Georgia," Adam Farrar, one of the students who is also a cadet, said. "Text books show the deaths as just numbers, but when you delve a little deeper and start to learn about the soldiers who gave their lives it gives those numbers an even more grim reality."

To conduct their research, the students would often talk with alumni participating in recent class reunions or examine old university yearbooks. All of the students felt the project helped them develop essential skills and gain a greater appreciation for history.

"Oral history is far more intriguing than history taken straight out of a textbook," Peter Rehm said. "I really felt as if I was able to help people remember, in a good way, their lost family members and friends. I feel as if I have been able to do these heroes a great honor by remembering their past lives."



Francis "Mac" McDowell

Rehm's research included interviewing people who knew Francis "Mac" McDowell, a member of the class of 1966 who was awarded posthumously the Distinguished Flying Cross for his valiant action as a helicopter pilot in defending an embattled landing zone in August 1969 in Binh Long, South Vietnam.

McDowell's classmate, Warren Kirbo, shared this memory, "I was at home on leave the night I heard Francis had been killed. I was sitting at my mother's kitchen table when it was announced on WSB radio... His name was just one of about a dozen from Georgia called out. I don't think I ever really believed he was dead until I touched his name on the Wall."

Kirbo's remembrance is just one example of many stories that were shared about this group of alumni.

"The research exposed great camaraderie that naturally develops between brothers-in-arms," Daniel Serrat said. "This project provided a much richer exposure to the event than any textbook could ever

hope to achieve."

Brenna Buchanan was surprised by some of the discoveries she made about the campus experience during the Vietnam War era.

"While learning more about the university that we call home, I was slightly aware of, but still surprised by the fact that there was a Home Economics degree offered here!" she said. "I was also taken aback by the fact that there was a Dean of Women, in addition to several different "beauties" selected each year from each class."

Overall, though, Buchanan said that the men she studied became real to her over the course of the internship.

"They are more than just a name in a database or a carving into a wall. Over time they became my friends, my brothers, my family," she said. "This internship made me appreciate the sacrifices that they made for their country that allow us to live the way we do today."

More details about the tribute will be published in future editions of [The Saint](#) and in [North Georgia News](#).

Global scenes win prizes

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People/Culture category – Aaron Cohen for his photo, *Rue Saint-Jean #4*, taken during his trip to Quebec, Canada.

Landscape/Nature category – Michael Thompson for his photo, *Raging Torrent*, taken on a study abroad trip to Morocco.

Architecture category – David Broad (faculty) for his photo, *Le Pigeon Des Tulleries*, taken in France.

· *Shown above right:*

Creative/Artistic category – Carol Huczek (staff) for her photo, *Gondola Ride*, taken in Venice, Italy.



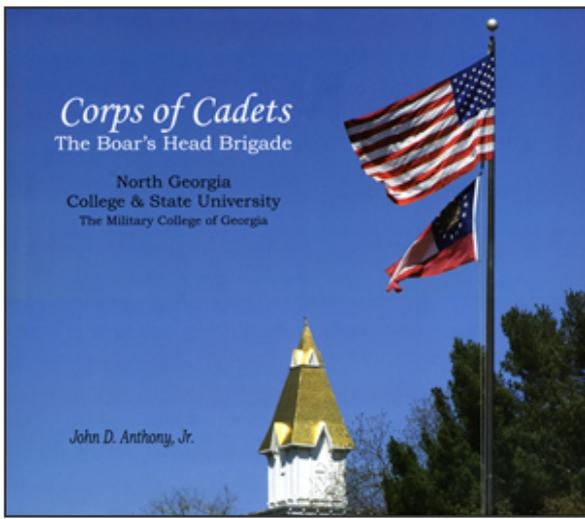
Take note...

Fall Commencement, Dec. 12

More than 250 students will graduate during the university's fall commencement on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. The event will be held in Memorial Hall Gymnasium and feature Martha Merritt, accounting professor and the Alumni Association's 2009 Distinguished Professor.

Please note that due to the high number of graduates, tickets are required for guests to attend the ceremony. The doors will open at 12:45 p.m. and it is recommended that guests arrive no later than 1:30 p.m.

The commissioning ceremonies for new second lieutenants will take place at 9:30 a.m. in the Pennington Military Leadership Center.



Anthony publishes book on Boar's Head Brigade

Jack Anthony, a renowned photographer and a 1951 graduate of North Georgia, has recently published a book featuring the Boar's Head Brigade. The coffee table-style book highlights the cadet experience in the Corps of Cadets at North Georgia. Its dynamic photographs tell the cadet story from FROG Week through commissioning. The book is available for purchase through the [Campus Bookstore](#) for \$39.25 per copy.

Sustainability Corner

Did You Know???

North Georgia College & State University is using LED lights to decorate for the holidays. The manufacturer claims the lights can consume less than half the electricity of standard bulb-type holiday lights and they reduce waste by lasting 10 times longer.

Sustainability Tip

When possible, use the stairs instead of the elevator. You get some exercise, reduce energy costs, and reduce the overall costs associated with maintaining elevator equipment. One less ride now is one more for those who need it in the future.

Campus in Action

Margaret Poitevint, math and computer science, is one of the 2009 Faculty Athletics Representative Institute Fellows. She participated in the fifth annual Division II Faculty Athletics Representatives Fellows Institute, Oct. 23-25. The meeting focused on strengthening leadership roles in athletics.

North Georgia faculty and staff are invited to submit news of professional accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to digest@ngcsu.edu.