

## North Georgia at top in graduation, retention and teacher tests

North Georgia has the highest graduation rate of the 13 state universities in Georgia, one of the best retention rates and a top teacher-certification pass rate, according to the 2001-2002 Annual Report Card on the University System of Georgia, released by the Office of Education Accountability in December.

"We are pleased with the high rankings of our graduation rates and retention rates," said Philip Buckhiester, vice president for Academic Affairs. "North Georgia has enjoyed high rankings in these categories for many years."

North Georgia's six-year graduation rate is 49 percent, the only state university rate above the university system's 41 percent average. Students who start at NGCSU and transfer to other



EDUCATION LEADERSHIP: The third cohort of Education Specialist degree recipients to graduate from NGCSU relish the moment at fall commencement 2002.

schools within the university system have a 62 percent graduation rate, the highest among Georgia state universities and the only one above the 48 percent system average.

Two of the state's research universities, Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia, had the only higher graduation rates of 67 percent and

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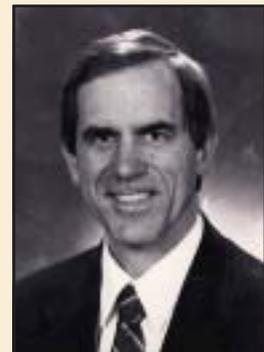
### Writer speaks on 'Colleges and Universities as Citizens'

Dr. Robert Bringle, co-author of "Colleges and Universities as Citizens," will visit campus on Jan. 28 and discuss the book at 12:30 p.m. in Newton Oakes Center 019.

His book presents a vision for higher education, the factors that have shaped its current status and the steps that could be taken to produce change.

"Dr. Bringle's expertise in service learning and campus and community interaction fits perfectly with NGCSU's emphasis on servant leadership," said Dr. Andy Schaffer, coordinator for the event, sponsored by the North Georgia Leadership Initiative.

Bringle is the Chancellor's Professor of psychology and philanthropic studies at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis. As a social psychologist, Bringle is widely recognized for his research. He earned his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Massachusetts.



Dr. Robert Bringle

## Campus in Action

**Tom McCracken** and the NGCSU E-Learning/Opportunity Services



were the first member and program to be recognized in the "Salute Members" section of the Georgia Distance Learning Association's Web site. The article can be viewed online at: [gdla.net/index/resources/Salute\\_Members](http://gdla.net/index/resources/Salute_Members).

**Dr. Linda Williams**, language and literature, served as a responder for a panel presentation, "Ways of Seeing in the Composition Classroom: Turning to Biology, Linguistics and the Workplace," at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference in Atlanta on Nov. 23.

**Dr. Linda Williams, Dr. Donna Gessell, Dr. Laura Getty, Dr. Sandee McGlaun and Dr. Tanya Bennett**, language and literature, co-authored "The Credible Writer: Teaching Ethos in First-Year Composition," published in the fall issue of "Dialogue: A Journal for Writing Specialists."

**Dr. Ahmad Ghafarian**, math and computer science, presented the paper titled "Application of PBL and APL Strategies in Teaching of Information Systems Courses in Two Countries" at the 16th annual conference of the International Academy for Information Management in Barcelona, Spain on Dec. 13-15. The paper was co-authored by Willie Yip.

## USG enrollment, retention and SAT scores at all-time high

One year after completing the phase-in of higher admissions standards, the University System of Georgia announced a record number of students enrolling at its 34 institutions. Also, more are staying in the system after their freshman year, more are attending college full time, and the system's students are academically stronger.

The system's overall headcount enrollment is now 233,098 – an increase of 7.1 percent over the fall 2001 total of 217,546. The system's full-time-equivalent enrollment increased by 13,950 students, or 8.2 percent, over fall 2001. System-wide, 66 percent of USG students now enroll full time.

The number of African-American students enrolled in the University System also increased 8.8 percent from 48,677 in fall 2001 to 52,941 in fall 2002.

"These increases reflect both new students coming into the system and record retention rates within the system," said University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith. "Improving our ability to retain students was one of the goals cited in the Board of Regents' Strategic Plan. We retained more first-time freshmen (from fall 2001 to fall 2002) than has ever before been recorded in the system's history."

With 73.5 percent of North Georgia's fall 2002 students enrolled full time, NGCSU's official fall enrollment was 4,178, an 8.2 percent increase over fall 2001's enrollment of 3,863. NGCSU's full-time equivalent number in fall 2002 was 3,467, a 7.4 increase over the previous fall's 3,227 FTE.

A separate report, produced by the Office of Strategic Research and Analysis, shows that the average SAT scores of the system's fall 2002 first-time freshmen – one of the strongest measures of the academic strength of incoming students – also is at a record high. The average composite score (combined verbal and math scores) of incoming USG freshmen is now 1,030, which is up from 1,026 in the fall of 2001 and from 1,021 in the fall of 2000. System-wide, the average SAT scores for USG students are now 516 in math and 514 in verbal.

"Our students continue to perform above the national average and the increase in scores is proof that raising the bar for college admission is the right thing to do," Meredith said.

NGCSU is one of 12 USG institutions with average incoming freshmen SAT scores exceeding 1,000. In fact North Georgia is among the top five schools in the SAT average scores listing, with Georgia Tech the highest with 1,325, then the University of Georgia with 1,211, Southern Polytechnic with 1,094, followed by NGCSU with 1,069 and Georgia State with 1,066.

## Homecoming Events

The Alumni Association's annual **homecoming reception** takes place Jan. 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Alumni Center. Faculty and staff are invited to welcome back our alumni at the reception. Please call 864-1547 to RSVP by Jan. 22. **Womens' basketball starts at 6 p.m.** and the **men's game starts at 8 p.m.**

## Strategic Planning works with 'vision statement'

In early January, President Nathaniel Hansford told members of the Strategic Planning Committee that North Georgia's re-stated mission statement approved by the committee will be considered a "vision statement" for the time being in the group's ongoing planning process.

"Eventually, the Board of Regents will review the mission statements of all University System of Georgia institutions in one unified process," Hansford explained, following communication with Chancellor Thomas Meredith. "Since throughout the strategic planning process we have always recognized that the new statement was not a change of our mission but a reformulation of our current mission statement, I do not believe that this should have any impact on this process now or as we go forward."

The current mission statement will stay in place and the new NGCSU vision statement will read:

"The vision of North Georgia College & State University is to provide an environment of academic excellence that develops civilian and military leaders who are respectful of all people and are committed to high ethical standards, continuing intellectual and personal growth, and service to the state, the nation and the world."

## ~~NGCSU Staff Council Scholarships awarded~~

The NGCSU Staff Council Scholarship Committee has awarded a combined total of \$500 to the following people for Spring Semester 2003: Maryam Ahmed, Candace Cubera, Betzaida Green, Joni Grizzle, Jennifer Neikirk, Joshua Preston, Linda Smith and Nadine Webb.

The Staff Council Scholarship provides assistance to qualified employees and their dependants who are enrolled in degree-granting programs at North Georgia. The scholarship is made possible by Staff Council fund raisers and donations.

If you are interested in assisting with future fund raisers, please contact any of the "volunteer committee" members: Velma Bails, 864-1464; Michelle Gilstrap, 864-1413; or Valarie Grizzle, 864-1979.



**PARTY GOERS:** (L to R) Steve Gallant, Myrtle Ricketts, Susie Tritt, Valarie Grizzle, Velma Bails and Joe Cubera enjoy their coworkers' company at the annual Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 20. Approximately 350 current and former employees gathered for the event, including 95-year-old Fred Hood, a Dahlonega resident and former employee of 26 years.

## New telephone procedures

To place long distance calls, the new dialing procedure is 9 + 1 + 10-digit telephone number. Dialing local areas, 9 + 7-digit number, is unaffected. On-campus calls also remain the same by dialing the last four digits of a number. Fax machines, modems or telephones with speed dialing will need to be reprogrammed. Contact Tom Fox at 864-1940 with any questions.



## ID card modification

University identification cards without social security numbers are available to faculty and staff who wish to have one. New ID cards are being issued in the Student Center, room 311.

A free replacement card will be made if you bring your current ID to the Student Center during regular business hours or call Wes Thomas at 864-1643.

## the Digest

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# North Georgia rates high in state

(Continued from page 1)

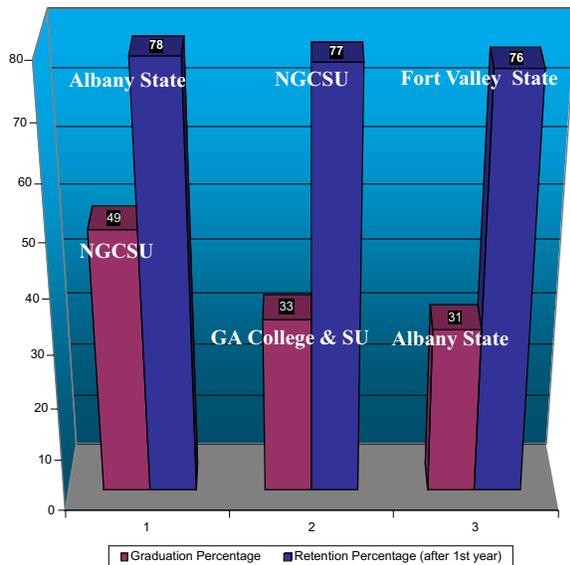
69 percent respectively.

North Georgia's retention rate is among the best, with 77 percent of first-time, full-time freshmen still enrolled a year later. Albany State University had the highest state university retention of 78 percent. NGCSU students who transfer and stay within the university system have an 86 percent retention rate, again only third behind Georgia Tech and UGA.

NGCSU's pass rate of prospective teachers taking the Praxis II certification tests last year was more than 90 percent, higher than the other 12 state universities. UGA was the only other state institution of higher education to post a pass-rate over 90 percent. The complete listing of Praxis II pass rates is not yet available from the OEA.

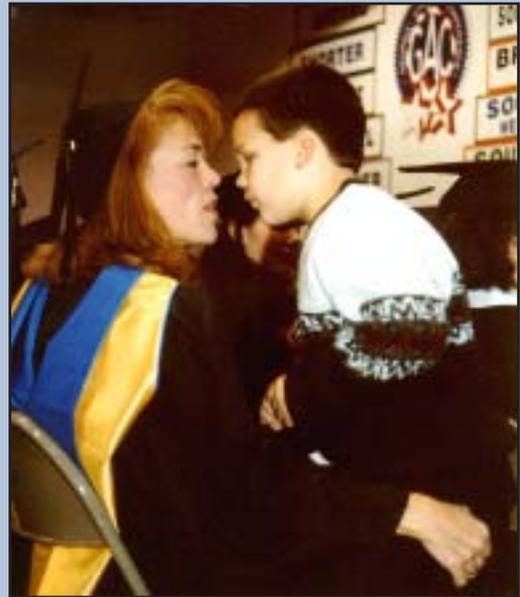
The OEA report can be accessed at: [reportcard.ga-oea.org](http://reportcard.ga-oea.org).

## Top state universities in graduation and retention rates



Data from the OEA report card at [reportcard.ga-oea.org](http://reportcard.ga-oea.org)

## Fall commencement 2002



**MAMA DOES GOOD:** Jody C. Price received her degree on Dec. 20 along with 259 other graduates. Price, with her son Cody, earned a bachelor of science in early childhood education.

## Graduation Stats

**Total Degrees conferred - 260**

**Education Specialist - 24**

**Master's - 23**

**Bachelor's - 204**

**Associate's - 9**

**Honors (GPA 3.5 and up) - 40**

**New 2nd Lieutenants - 20**



**HOLIDAY HIGH NOTES:** Current and former employees and friends of the university volunteer their vocal talents at the Dec. 20 Holiday Luncheon under the direction of Jack Broman. In the front row are (L to R) Anne Marie Austenfeld, fine arts; Anita Prince, math and computer science; Erin Peck, Amos and Anne Amerson's daughter; Mary Beth Hutcheson, fine arts; Anne Amerson, NG '56; and Janey Chapman, Joe Chapman's wife. In the back row are (L to R) Kirk Weller, fine arts; Thomas Austenfeld, language and literature; Lee Barrow, fine arts; and Eddie Green, math and computer science.