

North Georgia sets the pace for graduation rate

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement recently released its annual report card on Georgia's educational institutions and their students' performances.

University System of Georgia schools were "graded" on graduation and retention rates as well as Regents' Exam pass rates.

North Georgia continued to be at the forefront of graduating the highest percentage of students in Georgia's public state universities with 46.3 percent of students graduating within six years.

While this percentage fell slightly from last year's, which was 49 percent, it is still more than 10 percentage points above the closest state university.

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▶ See page 4 for fall 2003 graduation stats.

GC and NGCSU celebrate 20-year partnership

To celebrate their collaborative partnership that began in 1984, administrators of Gainesville College and North Georgia are inviting students, alumni, faculty, staff and the community to a Jan. 27 reception commemorating the anniversary.

To enhance the educational offerings in the Gainesville/Hall County area, 20 years ago nursing and business administration were the first degree-program courses to be offered on the GC campus by the collaborating institutions.

Since then, education, public administration, criminal justice and computer information systems classes have been added.

Now more than 450 students are enrolled in the NGCSU courses offered at the University Center on the GC campus.

The 5 p.m. Celebration Reception on Jan. 27 will take place in the GC Continuing Education/Performing Arts Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Those individuals who helped initiate the partnership will be recognized at the event.

For additional information, call Dr. Donna Gessell, NGCSU director of Graduate Studies and External Affairs at 706-864-1543 in Price Memorial Hall.



MAKING WAY: The area for the new Materials Management and Physical Plant building has been cleared at the end of Sunset Drive, past the Health & Natural Sciences Building. Construction on the facility is expected to start in February. Sunset Drive will also be

extended and connect with Hwys. 9 and 52 to prevent congestion of traffic at the Sunset and West Main Street intersection where students frequently use the crosswalks.



Campus in Action

Syed R. Ahmed, math and computer science, presented a paper titled "Data Mining & Data Royalty" at the 15th annual meeting of the Association for Global Business in Atlanta on Nov. 21.

Dr. Ed Green and Professor Emeritus **Dave Pandres**, math and computer science, had their paper "Unified Field Theory from Enlarged Transformation Group. The Consistent Hamiltonian" published in the Aug. 8, 2003 issue of the International Journal of Theoretical Physics, Vol. 42, No. 8.

Dr. Grace Newsome, nursing, will be NGCSU's new liaison to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The SACS Commission on Colleges is the regional accrediting body in 11 U.S. Southern states and in Latin America for those institutions of higher education that award associate, baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degrees. Newsome will be working with the university community as it prepares for the next SACS visit in 2007.

Leadership Roundtable participants selected

Bob Thomas, director of the NGCSU Leadership Initiative, announced the names of participants in the Spring 2004 Leadership Roundtable:

Elaine Taylor - Nursing

Dr. Georgia Mann - History

Dr. Robb Sinn - Math & CSCI

Dr. David Morris - Business

Elizabeth Lewis - Political Science & CJ

Becky Gentry - Biology

Margaret Poitevint - Math & CSCI

Lt. Col. Ed Dickens - Mil. Science

Linda Smith - Admissions

Sgt. Maj. Byron Barron - Mil. Science

Dr. Kathleen Dolan - Sociology

Dowling Bowman - NGCSU Foundation

For more information about the Leadership Roundtable, call ext. 2794.

Online bulletin board established for employees

Mink coats and gas-powered generators probably wouldn't ever be used in the same situation, but these two items have found a home together on the new North Georgia CommunitE-Bulletin Board.

Designed by the Staff Council as an all-in-one-stop for classified ads and other information, the bulletin board is now available to all employees via the N drive on the NGCSU computer network.

"The new Bulletin Board offers employees the opportunity to get the word out about items without interfering with daily business and involving others who are not interested," said Mary Hand, Staff Council president.

The Staff Council has made posting and finding items of interest easy for employees. Categories for all items are listed on the N drive as "real estate," "miscellaneous items for sale," "items wanted," "yard sale," or "free." Employees interested in posting items may send information to classifieds@ngcsu.edu. Details for submissions are on the bulletin board.

The Staff Council developed the communication forum through a directive from President Nathaniel Hansford and implemented it with the help of Information and Instructional Technology staff. 

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Meetings for **university Web page unit coordinators** will take place on Jan. 13 and 15 from 12:30 to 2 p.m., NOC 210, as part of the training for the university's new Web site processes and procedures. The Web unit coordinators will learn how to more effectively manage their online content and be introduced to the new design and content organization of the NGCSU Web site. An updated list of the unit coordinators may be accessed on the N network drive in the Web Advisory Committee folder.

An Atlanta-based chamber music group, **Pandean Players**, will perform in two concerts at North Georgia on Jan. 13 at 12:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. The event is part of the J. L. Nix Jr. Living Heritage Fine Arts Series. For more information call ext. 1431.

The Alumni Association will host the annual **Homecoming Reception** on Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. at the Alumni Center. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Emily McAfee at 864-1547 or e-mail ejmcafee@ngcsu.edu prior to Jan. 16.

Faculty and staff are invited to nominate students for the **H. Michael Hyams, Jr. Leadership Award**, which recognizes the outstanding senior leader who exemplifies the qualities most admired and respected in Dean Hyams: dedication, enthusiasm and integrity. Nomination forms are due by Jan. 16 at the Office for Student Affairs in the Hoag Student Center, room 330.

The NGCSU Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the **2004 Distinguished Professor Award**. Nomination forms are due by noon, Feb. 13, in the Alumni Center. Forms may be printed from the Alumni folder on the N drive. For more information, contact ext. 1547.

Employee leadership grants span range of topics

The recipients of the 2003 Faculty & Staff Leadership Grants were recently announced. The following grants were selected by a committee of the Leadership Roundtable.

Dr. Alice Sampson - Education
Community Integration & Leadership Development - \$5,000

Dr. James Chesnut and Col. Billy Wells - Lang. & Literature
Foreign Language & Leadership Promotion - \$2,400

Dr. Donna Gessell - Graduate Studies
Community Outreach & Service Learning - \$5,000

President Nathaniel Hansford - President's Council
Values Clarification - \$3,300

Jennifer Wallace - Student Affairs
Leadership, Values & Student Outcomes - \$3,200

Wes Thomas - Student Center
NGCSU Leadership Resource Team - \$1,500

Dr. Bonnie Robinson - Language & Literature
Leadership through Writing - \$1,100

Spotlight on leading

Dr. Alice Sampson has involved her students in conducting Appalachia marketing research, to promote the area's culture and heritage. Students are continuing to build on the project and have become involved in a regional Appalachia Teaching Project. Five students went to Washington, D.C., to present a proposal for "Developing a Sustainable Future for Appalachian Communities."

Sampson and other faculty have now mobilized students to start a Community Leadership Connection, which fosters collaboration between the university and the Lumpkin County area. She will encourage employees to get involved in the community through the faculty and staff leadership grant.

"Our hope in launching a center such as the CLC is to have a lasting effect on all of the campus of NGCSU and the entire community of Dahlonega," Sampson said. 

North Georgia graduation rates

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North Georgia's six-year graduation rate is the only state university rate above the university system's 41.3 percent average.

"The best part of North Georgia is its students and these reports simply validate their academic achievements," said NGCSU President Nathaniel Hansford.

Students who start at NGCSU and transfer to other schools within the university system have a 57.8 percent graduation rate, down from 62 percent last year, but the highest among Georgia state universities and the only one above the 48.8 percent system average.

The only institutions to outpace NGCSU in any of these areas are two of the three system research universities – the University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

North Georgia's associate of science degree in nursing boasted better graduation percentages in a three-year timeframe, 29.6 percent, than any of the system schools' combined associate's degree programs.

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement is the new name for the former Office of Education Accountability that was established July 1, 2000 by the state law known as the A Plus Education Act. While the name has changed, the OSA mandate still focuses on improving student achievement and improving school completion.

For the complete report card, go online to <http://reportcard.gaosa.org/> 

the
Digest

digest@ngcsu.edu

NGCSU President:

Nathaniel Hansford

Director of University Relations:

Annette Hannon Lee

Editor/Writer:

Joshua Preston

Designer/Writer:

Debbie Martin

Photographers:

J. Preston, A. Lee

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Fall Commencement 2003



Graduation Stats

- 227 Graduates
- 40 Master's degrees
- 179 Bachelor's degrees
- 8 Associate's degrees
- 33 Honors students
(3.5 GPA or higher)
- 8 new U.S. Army 2nd Lieutenants

Dr. Frank Fearon, the 2003 distinguished professor, was the Dec. 19 commencement speaker. He addressed 227 degree recipients during the ceremony.



“Let me first congratulate all of you for your successful completion of your degrees...It truly is an accomplishment – a culmination of years of hard work to meet a goal. You are walking through a door – a closure to all of that concentrated effort, and at the same time a commencement, or an opening of a door to new opportunities, and hopefully, meeting new goals.”

Fearon reiterated to the graduates they would have leadership roles to play after college.

“Leadership is not just promoting those who end up in important positions. It starts with making leadership decisions for yourself – determining where you are going and how you get there. That may mean you set the direction and lead others, or it may mean choosing to follow and help those leading in the right direction.”

MARSHALLING DUTY:

Dr. Larry Berneking (r), a faculty marshal for students at commencement, assists graduates on their big day. He helped facilitate the organization of the ceremony, making sure more than 60 students in the School of Education, including master's degree



recipients, arrived on time and were in the right location. Pictured are a group of bachelor's degree recipients, many of whom are part of the first group of graduates receiving a joint degree in early childhood education and special education.



WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS: At the Holiday Luncheon given by the Office of the President, Catering Manager Mary Kirk Cole and Food Services Director Jeff Marshall of NGCSU Campus Dining Services received congratulations and thanks for their work from Frances Hansford, wife of President Nathaniel Hansford.



DESSERT DELIGHT:

Among the crowd of faculty, staff and retirees in the Dining Hall were Chris Rodriguez, admissions, and Kathryn McNeal, cadet recruitment, enjoying the food, especially the dessert table, at the Dec. 19 event.