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► **March 4, 2009**

A newsletter for North Georgia College & State University

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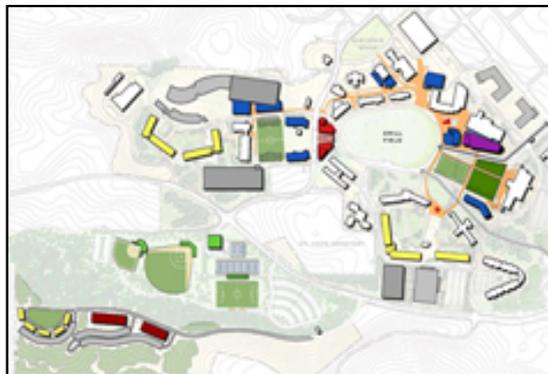
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## Master plan update nears completion



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of needed academic buildings, residence halls and other spaces devoted to student life activities. Members of the Sasaki consulting team have been gathering data and meeting with campus constituents to determine housing locations and to analyze space needs for academic programming.

## Developer selected for new campus housing projects

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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](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).**

The next scheduled publication date is March 11. The deadline for submissions is March 6.

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# Master plan update nears completion

By Kate Maine

The university's master plan update that began in August 2008 is nearing completion and consultants visited campus this week to share conceptual ideas for placement of needed academic buildings, residence halls and other spaces devoted to student life activities.

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*Master Plan alternatives (Click image to view PDF)*

*(Lord-Aeck-Sargent/Sasaki Associates Inc.)*

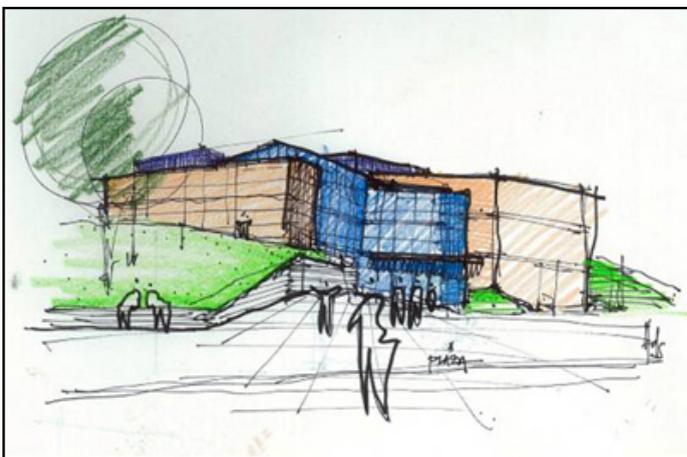
North Georgia's enrollment is projected to reach a maximum of 6,500 to 7,500 students in the next 15 years. With that in mind, planning has focused on the enrollment target of 7500 FTEs, or full-time equivalent students.

The ideas presented this week mark the second phase of the master plan update process to define design alternatives and gather feedback from the campus community. Members of the Sasaki team met with campus administrators, students, faculty and staff, and alumni to get input on the proposed projects.

Goals of the plan update include supporting the university's increased military mission by creating new beds for the Corps of Cadets, along with expanded office and support space; providing 600 additional civilian beds to better meet our housing demand; and better matching instructional space with current and anticipated teaching practices.

Plans call for a total of 900 to 1,000 cadet beds to meet the ROTC mission of increasing the size of the Corps. Given its high priority, a decision has already been made to locate new military housing in the area behind Gaillard Hall.

This location could facilitate converting the current Alumni Center to office space for military-related functions. Additionally, a convocation center, which the university proposes to develop in conjunction with the National Guard, could be constructed near that location, facilitating access from Morrison Moore Parkway.



The preferred site for new civilian housing is west of the Health & Natural Sciences (HNS) building. The advantages of that area are its relatively level site, it provides critical mass for a new housing district, it is within easy walking distance to the core of campus, and its proximity to potential academic buildings on the west portion of campus.

In addition to three 75-seat classrooms and two 150-seat classrooms, the consultants' research indicates that the university will eventually need 13,000 assignable square feet (asf) of classroom space to supplement existing classrooms. While this may call for construction of some new classroom buildings, it is likely to include reconfiguring some existing classrooms and

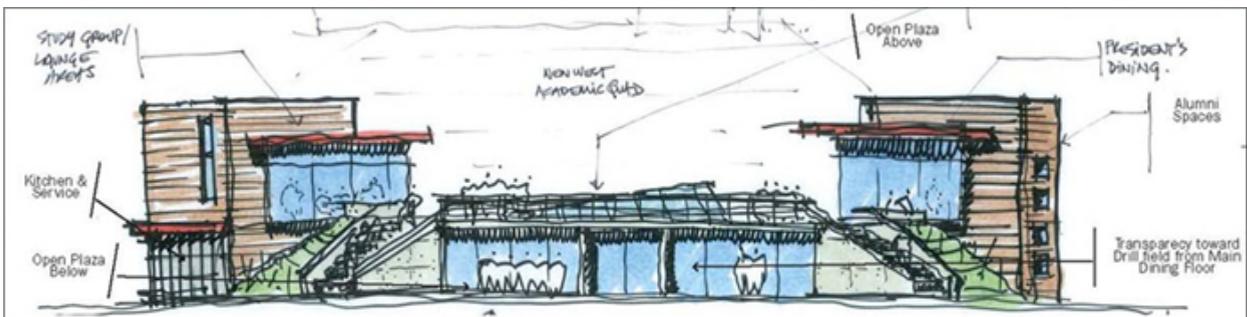


*Preliminary concept drawings for addition to Young Hall (Sasaki Associates Inc.)*

laboratories.

The consultants noted in their presentations that, based on national standards, existing classrooms and laboratories are underutilized at North Georgia. This may point to the need for more efficient space scheduling or "right-sizing" some of these spaces to better meet established norms.

One of the ideas presented was to construct an addition to the rear of Young Hall, which is already slated for a renovation project, making funding viable in the near term. The addition could allow for one or more large classrooms and provide greater accessibility. The proposal also calls for creating a pedestrian pathway where the alleyway between Barnes Hall and Young Hall is currently located.



*Preliminary concept drawing for new dining facility (Click image to enlarge) (Sasaki Associates Inc.)*

Sasaki also proposed constructing a new dining hall on the location where Sanford Hall now stands. The facility would replace the current dining hall and ensure that dining services is centrally located to existing and future residence halls.

The plan is expected to be completed by early summer 2009. To get more information or provide feedback on the proposals, members of the campus community should contact Julio Canseco, director of project management at North Georgia.

## Developer selected for new campus housing projects

*By Joshua Preston*

North Georgia has selected Ambling University Development to manage the design and construction of the new military and civilian residence halls set to open fall semester 2010. The firm, which was also responsible for building Owen Hall, the university's first privately financed residence hall in 2001, was selected on Feb. 13 through a competitive bidding process.

"The developer is really the single point of responsibility for design and construction of the project," said Jeffrey Davis, associate vice president of business and finance and director of auxiliary services. "They hire the contractor and architect and make sure they work together to get the project built."

To manage the 18-month project, Ambling has assembled a development team that includes Choate Construction Management and Lord, Aeck and Sargent Architects.

The university will assume no financial risk during the preconstruction phase, which will involve Ambling

developing detailed design plans for the proposed new student housing.

After the project design plans are finished and a guaranteed maximum price for the housing is set, the university's real estate foundation plans to finance the construction through tax-exempt bonds, a commonly used tool for public-private projects that allows the debt to be serviced later through student rent.

With work on the design phase now starting, several questions must be answered — how will the buildings meet the program needs of the military and civilian student populations, what will be the final number and style of rooms and what shape will the commons areas take to enhance the student experience?

One of the biggest unknowns at the moment is the actual number of residence halls that will be added to campus. Davis said that the answer will depend on the terrain and the final costs of the projects. Ambling will guide the process to determine how many buildings should be built for a projected 1,000 new beds the university plans to fill with increased enrollment.

Also included in the winning bid for the housing projects was a request for Ambling to submit a cost estimate for developing a new dining hall, expanded parking and renovation of an existing residence hall — projects being considered as part of the university's master plan update. The university is analyzing these projects to determine if they are economically feasible.

"On the surface they look promising, but we have to make sure our financial projections can support them," Davis said.

## Take note...

### Polar historian is featured speaker at Hoag Lecture

Please encourage your students to attend the Hoag Lecture scheduled this evening, March 4, at 8 p.m. in the Hoag Auditorium. The speaker will be Dr. Tim H. Baughman, presenting a lecture entitled "Polar Explorer as Leader: Sir Ernest Shackleton."

A widely-recognized polar historian, Dr. Tim H. Baughman is a history professor at the University of Central Oklahoma, where he also serves as a mentor in the Educators' Leadership Academy. Baughman's publications on polar history include *Before the Heroes Came: Antarctica in the 1890's*, 1994; *Ice: The Antarctic Diaries of Charles Passel*, 1995; and *Pilgrims on Ice: Robert Falcon Scott's First Antarctic Expedition*, 1999. Baughman has journeyed many times to the Antarctic, often serving as a lecturer on expedition cruise ships to polar regions.

A reception in the Hoag Great Room will follow the lecture.

### North Georgia celebrates tricentennial of piano

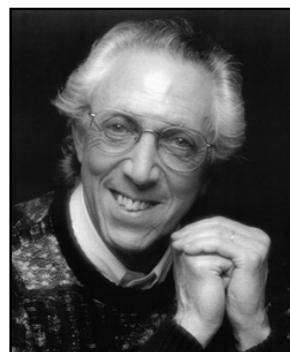
2009 marks the 300th anniversary of the invention of the piano, the most popular instrument of choice for musicians all over the world. In 1709, Bartolomeo Christofori, an Italian inventor, created the earliest version of the piano, when he replaced the harpsichord's plectra, which merely plucked the strings, with hammers designed to strike the strings directly. The new instrument, which was capable of producing a wide range of volume from very soft to very loud sounds, was aptly named pianoforte, Italian for soft-loud.

To commemorate this historic event, the Performing Arts Department at North Georgia will host two piano concerts in March.

Lois Finlay, North Georgia piano instructor, will present a concert on Friday, March 6, at 8 p.m., featuring music of Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin. Finlay — a Juilliard graduate — has enjoyed a distinguished career as a performer and teacher; many of her students have won top awards in various state and national competitions.

Eugene Barban, a guest artist and professor emeritus at Winthrop University, will perform on Tuesday, March 10, at 8 p.m. His career includes performances with orchestras in the United States, Asia and South America.

Both performances are free and open to the public. They will be held in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium, located on the Dahlonega campus. For more information, please contact the Performing Arts Department at 706-864-1423.



## USG Legislative Update available

The current issue of the USG's Legislative Update has been posted [online](#). Highlights include the House of Representatives' approval of its version of the Fiscal Year 2009 Amended Budget, which differed in only a few respects from Gov. Sonny Perdue's revised recommendations and a report on the potential impact of federal stimulus funds on the University System of Georgia.

## Shared Services project impacts payroll procedures

The USG Shared Services project, along with the consolidated PeopleSoft and ADP databases, will be fully implemented as of July 1, 2009. The Shared Services project is a way for the USG to take advantage of efficiencies that can be gained by consolidating several administrative functions and implementing several helpful online processes to reduce reliance on paper processes. Because this project will impact the way North Georgia processes payroll, financial, and human resources data, every employee will notice some changes, including the following important items.

1. Beginning July 17, all paper paychecks will be mailed from a central location in California, and we cannot guarantee that they will arrive on payday. Human Resources strongly recommends that all employees sign-up for direct deposit of their paychecks. You can establish direct deposit of your paycheck (and travel/expense reimbursements) through [Employee Self Service](#). Please contact Human Resources at extension 1440 if you need assistance.
2. Beginning in July 2009, employees who are paid monthly will receive their paychecks (or deposit advice) on the last working day of the month, instead of the 25th of the month.

The Shared Services project is a work in progress, and more information will be provided as it is available. Many of the processes developed at North Georgia will be based on your feedback in the next few weeks. An informational Web site has been established to ensure that you have access to the most current information about the [Shared Services project](#). At the bottom of the Web page, there is a link where employees may submit questions. Please take advantage of this opportunity, as your questions will be used to establish a "Frequently Asked Questions about Shared Services" Web site for North Georgia employees.

## Symposium addresses student mental health concerns

Faculty, staff and students are invited to the spring 2009 School of Education symposium on March 25, 12-1:30 p.m., in room 163 of the Library Technology Center. The symposium will feature a panel of North Georgia professionals who will describe some approaches for teaching millennial students, share their knowledge and experience in responding to students with emotional, behavioral or academic problems, and identify resources available at North Georgia to best address the needs of at-risk students.

Panelists include Dr. Teresa Fletcher, community counseling; Dr. Mac Martin, student counseling; Susan Ferrell, School of Education; Elizabeth McIntosh, learning disabilities and physical challenges; and Mike Stapleton, chief of police. The moderators will be Dr. Michelle Byrne, nursing department, and Joseph Covert, School of Education.

## Annual Leadership Conference approaching

Registration for North Georgia's annual Leadership Conference, April 2-4, is under way. The conference will be held in the Library Technology Center, and all students, faculty members, scholars, and practitioners are invited to participate.

There are four types of presentations that can be submitted, including a paper presentation, panel discussion, poster presentation, or workshop. For details and registration forms, visit the [Web page](#) or contact the Office of Continuing Education by e-mail at [conted@ngcsu.edu](mailto:conted@ngcsu.edu) or phone at 706-864-1918.

## Senior Class BBQ planned

Faculty and staff are invited to attend the annual Senior Class BBQ, sponsored by the Alumni Association, on April 8, 4-6 p.m., at the Alumni Center. Also, please encourage seniors to participate in this event, which gives the university an opportunity to wish our seniors well as they complete their degrees and to encourage them to stay connected their alma mater. If you plan to attend, please make a reservation with Wendy Evans at 706-864-1547 or by e-mail at [wjevans@ngcsu.edu](mailto:wjevans@ngcsu.edu).

## North Georgia pistol team earns invitation to national championship

The North Georgia pistol team swept the team and individual gold medals at the recent Southeastern Intercollegiate Sectionals competition, earning an invitation to the 2009 NRA Intercollegiate Pistol National Championship. Collegiate shooting competitions in the United States are very challenging since they mirror

the Summer Olympics shooting events.



*2008-2009 NGCSU Pistol Team at Collegiate Sectionals – Left to right: Coach JP O'Connor, David Jones, Anneke Strickland, Justin Beverly, Cheryl Roberts, Harrison Ulmer, Kaitlin Kleinsteuber, Tori Kostecki, Mark Baldry*

held in April, marking the fourth consecutive year she has earned that honor. For the past three years, JP O'Connor, North Georgia's coach and a National Development Coach for both rifle and pistol, has been invited to run the instructional clinics at the National Junior Olympics.

The team will travel to Fort Benning during spring break to compete in the national championships, hosted by the U. S. Army Marksmanship Unit. They will be competing with teams from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ohio State, the Citadel, Texas A&M, the Coast Guard and Merchant Marine academies, and others. Only the top 10 teams are invited in the co-ed events and only the top five teams in the women's events.

In separate competitions, Cheryl Roberts also earned an invitation to the National Junior Olympics

## Campus in Action

Dr. Mac Martin, North Georgia student counseling, and Bruce Holmes, USG director of safety and security, presented a workshop at North Georgia at the end of February on "Psych 1st AID University," designed for front-line faculty and staff that are directly involved with students. Martin and Holmes are certified in university crisis response, and the workshop, offered statewide, is sponsored by the Board of Regents in support of the Chancellor's Emergency Operations Planning Initiative.

*North Georgia faculty and staff are invited to submit news of professional accomplishments for the Campus in Action section to [digest@ngcsu.edu](mailto:digest@ngcsu.edu).*