

Spring Semester Underway

Northern Maine Community College's Spring 2007 semester got underway on January 16. "It's nice to see so many new people getting started," said William Egeler, dean of students. "We have a very diverse group of people coming in."

According to Egeler, while numbers are still fluctuating during the college's add/drop period, numbers do appear to be up over last year at this time. The mix of students includes some who have moved back to the area and are taking classes, as well as 'traditional' students who started their education elsewhere and are now looking for a change. Others have simply decided that now is the time to get started on their education, for a variety of reasons. "People are not delaying, rather they are getting started now...even if it is only on a part-time basis," said Egeler.

Whether new to campus or returning with one or more semesters under their belt, students had three exciting new classes added to their list of options for electives.

NM has partnered with UMPI to offer *Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare* on the NMCC campus this spring. See the related story on page 2.

Introduction to Meteorology, a field course in weather observation, is being taught by Ted Shapiro, chief meteorologist at WAGM-TV in Presque Isle. Time will be spent mastering the terminology of weather prediction, exploring the

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NM Grads Play Increasingly Important Role in SAD 1 Delivery of Education

Northern Maine's largest school district is increasingly turning to graduates of the County's Community College (particularly from the business technology department) for instructional staff in its regional technical center and to support its information technology infrastructure.

A recent survey of teaching staff at SAD 1's Presque Isle Regional Career and Technical Center shows that one-third of the faculty are graduates of Northern Maine Community College or one of its forerunners. The team responsible for coordinating and maintaining the school district's vast technology infrastructure is even more populated by NMCC alumni – two-thirds of the department's staff earned degrees from the College.

"There are several benefits of having graduates from our local community college," said Larry Fox, director of the PIRCTC. "Since most of our students who attend a community college choose



NMCC graduates working for SAD 1 in the area of information technology and at the Presque Isle Regional Career and Technical Center are (left to right) Jason Belanger, Carl Saucier and Angel Cray, who comprise two-thirds of the district's technology staff, and Amy White, Erin Argraves and Cameron Adams, who comprise one-third of the instructional staff at PIRCTC.

to attend NMCC, their instructors here are intimately familiar with the College's programs and staff. These teachers also tend to be native to the County and plan to make a long-term commitment to the area."

One of these instructors is Amy White, PIRCTC business teacher and a 1999 graduate of NMCC's medical office administration program. White began working in the school district seven years ago as a technician. She is now teaching in the same classroom that she took classes in as a student at Presque Isle High School.

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NMCC Accounting Students to Provide Free Tax Assistance

Area residents will once again be able to come to Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle for free tax assistance this tax season. Senior accounting information systems students will be providing this service through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program several afternoons a week.

Offered at the College for more than 20 years, this free tax assistance program is sponsored jointly by the College, AARP and the Internal Revenue Service. In the past few years, students handled approximately 1,000 returns a year through VITA. In addition to preparing the returns, the students are also able to file them electronically at no charge.

The accounting students will be taking part in a one-week training session prior to VITA start-up on February 1. The training is being provided by Lowell Glidden, a retired IRS field agent and an AARP member, as well as College accounting instructor Robert Scott.

“Students get to supplement their course work by doing real taxes for real people,” said Scott. “The best reinforcement you can get is to put your skills to the test in the ‘real’ world. Businesses also recognize the value of both the training and the experience that this program provides our students, both in tax preparation and in developing customer service skills. This gives our students an advantage as they enter the job market, whether they enter directly after graduation or after going on to obtain a four-year accounting degree.”

The VITA program is intended for elderly and low income individuals. Those who can afford to do so or who have more complicated returns should contact a local professional tax preparer for assistance.

NMCC and UMPI Partner to Bring Social Work Course to Campus

The University of Maine at Presque Isle and Northern Maine Community College have teamed together to offer Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare in the spring semester on the NMCC campus.

“We wanted to create a real and visible bridge for any student attending NMCC to participate in the continuum of education that the community college and university systems offer,” Kim-Anne Perkins, professor of social work at UMPI and director of the campus Bachelor of Social Work program, said.

Targeted at students at both campuses the class, Perkins said, is a perfect fit for NMCC students pursuing the associates of arts in liberal studies. The credits will also transfer to UMPI for those wishing to continue on for the baccalaureate degree in social work.

“In several other parts of the country, the community college system is the primary feeder to BSW programs,” Perkins said. “The courses required for the NMCC liberal arts degree are core requirements for the BSW degree.”

In the class, students will explore social work, social welfare and the human needs they address. Both the American and Canadian social welfare systems will be examined by looking at

culture, politics, economics and populations at risk.

Since the class also counts as a social science elective, Perkins said nursing students and early childhood education students will likely participate.

“This course offering is consistent with the development of other entry-level courses we have developed at NMCC over the past few years, such as Introduction to Business and Introduction to the Health Care Professions,” NMCC Vice President and Academic Dean Alan Punches said. “Each is designed not only to provide important content material but also an enticing overview of career options in their respective occupations.”

Punches stressed the introductory course is an “important foundation for people preparing for careers in human services and/or social work.”

He added students who would otherwise be forced to prolong their university and college careers due to scheduling conflicts between the two institutions will benefit from the collaboration.

“Students can take this course at NMCC and continue their education in synch with their peers at UMPI in the social work program instead of losing a semester or, in some cases, even a year to complete the course at UMPI,” Punches said. “In those cases, four-year programs of study can often extend into five years.”

It makes sense, Perkins feels, for the two campuses to cooperate in this manner, as the students are the ultimate winners.

“It’s important for people in Aroostook County and western New Brunswick to think about their educational options on a continuum,” she said. “We are somewhat unique in that Presque Isle has a community college and University of Maine System campus in the same town.”

VITA begins on February 1 and will be offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in a conference room off of the main Christie Building lobby. There are no scheduled appointments, rather individuals must come, sign in, and be helped on a first-come, first-serve basis. For shorter wait times, Scott encourages people who can do so to wait a few weeks before coming in for assistance.

The VITA program will not be offered during semester breaks, which are scheduled for the weeks of February 19-23 and April 9-13.

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NMCC and Maine Quality Centers Enter Training Partnership with Aroostook Starch

From left: Maine Quality Centers State Director Jim McGowan, NMCC President Tim Crowley and Aroostook Starch Plant Manager Doug Clifford signed an agreement on December 13 establishing education and training partnerships between the three entities.



An Aroostook County producer and manufacturer of potato starch will benefit from an education and training partnership with Northern Maine Community College and the Maine Quality Centers program that will both improve operational efficiency and pave the way for future workforce expansion.

The memorandum of agreement signed December 13 at Fort Fairfield-based Aroostook Starch by officials

from all three organizations calls for NMCC, in collaboration with the Maine Quality Centers, to provide education and training for as many as 26 Aroostook Starch employees over an 18-month period, beginning in January 2007. The contract work represents a joint initiative by the College and Quality Centers program representing a \$33,600 value toward the workforce development and expansion of the Fort

Fairfield enterprise.

The understanding forges a partnership between Aroostook Starch and NMCC, whereby the continuing education division of the College will facilitate training for company employees in various areas identified as critical to the company's growth. Training will include sessions in high pressure boiler training, forklift operation, Microsoft Office computer skills, good manufacturing practices, supervisory training, and other topics including safety practices and programmable control systems in use at the plant.

"This grant is essential to Aroostook Starch. It will not only help train existing and potential new employees, but more importantly help us to diversify the skills of our employees and, as a result, improve our efficiency," said Doug Clifford, plant manager. "We currently have areas of our production that rely solely on the knowledge and expertise of a single employee. If that individual calls in sick or takes time away from work, we have to shut down

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Social Work, *from page 2*

That proximity, Perkins said, makes cooperative ventures attractive and logistically feasible.

"This is a fantastic idea and we should do more of it," Punches said. "It promotes a better understanding between the campuses, and reinforces the very relationship we should enjoy as educational partners. It sends an important message to the community that both institutions are committed to providing the necessary educational resources to meet the needs of the region. Our region is always served when our two institutions collaborate, and, most significantly, this collaboration provides a real service to our students."

Perkins and Punches are confident the collaboration between the two institutions means better educational opportunities for all. "I hope this course serves as an example of how we can forge numerous linkages between our two institutions for students at both academic settings," Perkins said.



President Tim Crowley speaks to a group of legislators in the NMCC library on January 11. The group was touring the state as part of a program sponsored by the Maine Development Foundation to familiarize legislators to the entire state and the issues faced by each geographic area. While they were in the Presque Isle area, President Crowley had the opportunity to travel on one of the buses and speak to the legislators onboard as they traveled to the campus. They disembarked for a brief visit to the library, where each was presented with an NMCC bottle of water and a packet of information on the college. A second bus made a similar trip through the UMPI campus, and UMPI and NMCC joined forces to host a dinner for the legislators at the Houlton Higher Education Center later that evening.

Nursing Faculty & Students Host Well-Elder Tea

A tea was hosted on the Presque Isle campus as well as at the Houlton Higher Education Center in December for several seniors from area communities to thank them for participating in the “well elder” program at the college.

The program connects first-year nursing students with healthy seniors in their community who volunteer to allow the students into their homes over a period of time to practice their assessment techniques. Students take vital signs and review medications, home safety and general health lifestyles. Students also gain valuable experience practicing their interview and listening skills.

“The focus of our first semester students is the adult and older adult,” explained Betty Kent-Conant, nursing and allied health department chair. “The clinical experience is scheduled in long-term care facilities and nursing homes. However, residents in these type of facilities represent only about five percent of the total elder population, so this is a wonderful chance for the students to observe and experience ‘normal’ aging in the individual’s own environment.”

According to Kent-Conant, it has also shown the students that elderly citizens contribute to the community and can be very active.

NM Partners with Maine Veterans’ Home for Clinical Site

When faculty in NMCC’s nursing program elected to send their students to the Maine Veterans’ Home in Caribou in the fall semester as a new site for clinical learning, they expected the 14 prospective nurses would be the beneficiaries of a positive, hands-on learning experience. Those expectations

were met, but the good that has come as a result has also been far reaching for MVH’s residents and staff.

“It has been wonderful. Everyone gains – our staff, the students and certainly our residents,” said Diane Sinclair, director of nursing at the Veterans’ Home. “I can’t say enough about how good it has been having them here. The teaching part is critical for the students, but the residents have so enjoyed having the students in our facility. They get extra special attention from them. The staff values their interaction with the students and NMCC instructors. All have been very professional and the experience has



Those who took part in training at the Maine Veterans’ Home clinical site received a fruit basket during the holidays from MVH in appreciation of their efforts. They are, sitting from left: Erik Vaughn, Tonya DuVal, Laurel Beaulieu, and Becki Palmer-Bugbee. Standing, from left: instructor Roberta Everett, Jessica Buckley, Jillian Miller, Tammy MacDougall, Amber Broome, Sandi Arce, and Tracy Rossignol.

been a very positive one.”

The interaction has resulted from the various hands-on duties in which the staff at the Veterans’ Home engaged the student nurses, including helping with patient medication administration and daily living activities. According to NMCC nursing faculty, experiential learning opportunities such as these and the willingness of local facilities to host the students are important to the student’s overall experience.

Students have clinical experiences which involve direct client care in a variety of health care settings, including acute

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Above are the “Well Elders” (seated) who attended the tea held in their honor in December, along with the nursing students (standing) who worked with each Well Elder. They are, from left: Al Bourchard of Presque Isle and student Tim Foster; Peggy Tuttle of Presque Isle and student Whitney Dick; Marcia Carroll of Presque Isle and student Janet Levesque; Glenna Smith of Presque Isle and student Abby McLaughlin; Greta Tompkins of Presque Isle and student Andrea Pratt; (photo 2) Bob Detweiler of Fort Fairfield and student Nick Taxiarchis; Nadia Margison of Woodstock, N.B. and student Mallory McKeil; Marg Seymour of Perth, N.B. and student Mandy Renouf; Violet Fraiser of Presque Isle and student Destin Larrabee; Marie Ashby of Fort Fairfield and student Heidi Smith; Kay Brown of Washburn and student Erik Vaughn. Nursing students from the Houlton cohort and their “well elders” took part in a tea held simultaneously at the Houlton Higher Education Center.

Dean's List - High Honors

3.85 - 4.0 Grade Point Average

Christy Bartlett	<i>*Angela Howe</i>
Stacey Beaulier	Charity Keenan
Craig Black	Kristina Kenneson
<i>*Michaele Black</i>	<i>*Jennifer Kiser</i>
Aaron Boyd	<i>*Jennifer Knowles</i>
Stephanie Burtt	Kemuel LaChance
Michael Corella	Deborah Lagasse
Joey Cyr	<i>*Coleby Lamoreau</i>
Nathan Doody	Justin McBreairsty
Elena Dumond	<i>*Mitchell Pruett</i>
<i>*Benjamin Duplessis</i>	<i>*Christopher Putnam</i>
Nicholas Fitzpatrick	<i>*Henry Rauschnot</i>
<i>*Helen Fox</i>	Daniel Robertson
Chanel Gagnon	Karen Simpson
Stas' Ginish	Corey Vincent
<i>*Frank Hafford</i>	<i>*Achieved a perfect 4.0 semester</i>

Students Recognized for Academic Achievement for the Fall Semester

NMCC Dean of Students William G. Egeler III has announced the Dean's List for the college's 2006 fall semester. One hundred fifty-seven full-time students achieved a 3.20 average or better; thirty-one of these students were named to high honors with a grade point average of 3.85 or better. Eleven students had the distinction of earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

"Not only have these students succeeded academically, but it never ceases to amaze me the challenges that many of them have overcome in their personal lives and how well they have done," said Dean Egeler. He noted that many students deal with a variety of issues that can hamper success, such as financial concerns, long commutes for class, family commitments, and/or jobs in which they are working too many hours. "Kudos to all of the students who were named to the Dean's List, particularly those who overcame great obstacles to do so."

Dean's List - Honors

3.20 - 3.84 Grade Point Average

Leigh Albert	Whitney Dick	LeeRoy King	Sarah Scott
Chris Anderson	Lacy Dickinson	Pamela Knoll	Nina Scott
Nagmeldin Arbab	Jacob Doucette	Amy Landry	Gregory Shemkovitz
Ryan Ashby	Tonya DuVal	Tyler Lapierre	Ian Simmons
Emily Baron	James DuVal	Colby Lauritsen	Stephanie Smith
Patrick Beaulieu	Charles Eckstein	Brian Leach	Jennifer Smith
Brandon Berube	Tara Forcier	Kevin Lemay	Trudi Smith
Delia Bess	Nickolas Gagnon	Jessica Levasseur	Amber Smith
Amy Bogue	Christopher Gagnon	Andrea Long	Evelyn Sock
Tyler Boucher	Joshua Gonsioroski	Rafe Longver	Kurt Soucy
Justin Boucher	Emily Goodine	Vanessa MacDonald	Erik St Peter
Tristan Brochu	Jared Goody	Christina Maguire	Joshua St Peter
Adam Brown	Philip Gray	Jeremy McCluskey	Bradley Staples
Nicholas Bryant	Jill Greenlaw	Shonda McLaughlin	Michael Sterling
Maegen Bulley	Shane Grindle	Taylor McLaughlin	Ashley Thomas
Christopher Burns	Jing Guan	Scott McLaughlin	Christine Torre
Brandon Carlow	Kevin Hallett	Thomas Merrill	Floyd Tracy
Derek Cassista	Kathryn Harris	Tyler Michaud	Matthew Tribou
Jacob Chambers	Curtis Harrison	Darren Miles	Robert Underwood
Michael Chasse	Rebecca Havens	Bridgette Moulton	Shauna Vaillancourt
Daniel Chute	Benjamin Hebert	Kyle Nunley	Daffaine Vincent
Melinda Clark	Joseph Henderson	Timothy O'Neill	Kirk Voisine
Amy Lou Coppola	Amber Hill	Kevin Ouellette	Krista Watters
Paige Corbin	Micaela Hotham	Rebecca Palmer-Bugbee	Leanne White
Christopher Crawford	Amy Jackson	Jeremy Perry	David Whitman
Andrea Day	Alan Jalbert	Andrew Poland	Cecilia Wiggins
James Day	Jacob Jarrett	Amanda Pooler	Randall Willett
Monika Day	Meagan Johndro	Allen Prosser Jr	Brent Willette
Gretchen DeLong	Debra Johnston	Niklas Roble	Sonja Williams
Dustin DeLong	John Kennedy	Leane Saucier	Matthew Wright
John Dennis	Harold Kierstead Jr	Tina Saucier	
Tammy Deschesne	Garrett Kilcollins	Daisy Saulis	

Semester Begins, from page 1

water cycle, and how the sun affects the weather. Other areas will include atmospheric circulation, cloud formation and identification, as well as how to make weather assumptions based on observations of temperature, pressure, humidity, wind direction, and sky cover.

"I'm aiming for students to gain the ability to interpret weather 'clues' and construct short range weather forecasts for personal use. I would also like to see students pass along their new found weather smarts to young people...perhaps bringing them along for the gathering of data for the weather journals students will be keeping as part of the class," said Shapiro.

Snowshoeing, skiing and ice fishing are among the activities in which participants enrolled in the inaugural spring semester *Discover Aroostook* course will engage as they learn about the numerous recreation and cultural opportunities available in the County during the winter and spring months.

Outings will include ice fishing on a local lake, snowshoeing and Alpine, cross-country and backcountry skiing at some of the best spots in the County for outdoor activities. Students will also learn about and experience the Can-Am Sled Dog Races in Fort Kent and later in the semester will visit a local maple syrup farm during tapping season and canoe on area lakes and rivers.

Field trips follow classroom lectures, assigned readings or some other introductory activities to help students gain as much understanding about what they experience. In addition, students are required to keep updated entries in a reflective journal and document, through photography and videography, their experience for a final semester public presentation on their learning experience.

"People are recognizing that your really can get there from here," said Egeler of the students who are coming to the College to prepare for a career, to start working toward a four-year degree, or simply to enhance their lives.

Agreement Signed, from page 3

that area of operation. After completion of our training program with NMCC and the Maine Quality Centers, that will no longer be the case."

Aroostook Starch was officially re-opened on July 5 of this year by a new management company, Starch Partners, LLC. This after it sat idle for nine months following a plant-wide layoff by the former owners due to soft market conditions last September. Just over a year later, the company is looking ahead to adding to its current 16 employees.

"Among the benefits of this training program is that it will allow us the opportunity to hire new employees should market conditions warrant further expansion. We currently have good, solid contracts and should these continue and we negotiate additional work, we could see growth of up to a total of 26 employees," said Clifford.

Working in partnership with companies like Aroostook Starch to meet the workforce development needs of the region is at the very core of Northern Maine Community College's mission, and, according to President Timothy Crowley, is an area on which the institution has placed a great deal of emphasis as it moves forward.

"We have a long history of working hand and hand with area businesses, large and small. It is critical to the economic vitality and development of the region that we not only be responsive, but respond quickly to the needs of the employers in our region. We do this every day through both our continuing education division, as well as our academic programs. Our faculty works closely with business and industry professionals from throughout northern Maine and beyond to ensure we offer

quality instructional programs that meet the existing and emerging needs of the workplace," said Crowley. "We will not only continue to work in that direction, but, moreover, we will collaborate with economic development organizations throughout our region to explore areas where we can initiate workforce development and academic programs to assist in efforts to attract new business ventures

to Aroostook County."

A key partner in NMCC workforce development efforts over the past decade has been the Maine Quality Centers program, an economic development initiative of the Maine Community College System. The

Quality Centers provide job-specific workforce training for new and expanding businesses, and new employment and career advancement opportunities for Maine people. Customized training is provided at no cost to either the businesses or the trainees.

"Providing customized training and educational services to help businesses compete is an important part of a Community College's mission. Maine Quality Centers is just one tool that NMCC has to offer local workers and businesses to strengthen Aroostook County's economy," said James McGowan, state director of the Maine Quality Centers. "We are very pleased to partner with Aroostook Starch and NMCC to support this training and we look forward to the results."

Since the Maine Quality Centers began, 198 expanding Maine businesses have been served by the program creating 10,729 new jobs statewide. In Aroostook County, 20 businesses have benefited from training partnership agreements, totaling an investment of more than \$1.5 million dollars in the region's economy and just over 1,000 new hires.



Students Benefit from Industry Expert Visit

As business and industry in Aroostook County and across the country increasingly go high tech and high speed, they will need more and more qualified people to install the cable for computer networking, as well as for security systems, video conferencing and automated systems that will give them a competitive edge.

For many businesses in the region, the trained workforce they will need to handle these functions tomorrow can be found today in NMCC classrooms and lab facilities. To ensure these future professionals have access to the latest information and hear from experts working in the field, instructors like Joe McLaughlin of the computer electronics program often invite industry professionals to visit with students in his classes.

Such was the case recently when McLaughlin welcomed Katharine Koziell of Ideal Industries, a manufacturer of wire-nuts, tools and supplies for the electrical trade, to speak to students in his program, as well as in the information technology and electrical construction and maintenance programs.

“This demonstrates to students what industry is using for test equipment and network terminating components. Students see the information being taught

at the College is what industry is looking for,” said McLaughlin.

Not only did the students learn about the proper way to terminate different types of cable and the different types of test equipment available to check and certify cable installations, Koziell provided them with a “hands-on” opportunity in the area of terminating cable. Specifically, the students installed three different types of connectors.

“I discussed the best practices when installing low voltage/computer wiring and cable, as well as testing requirements. All of the students I presented to were attentive and participated in the discussion. Several had some prior exposure to the subject and offered their insights. Many asked good questions, so I know they were thinking about the topic,” said Koziell.

Koziell has been a representative for Ideal Industries since 1995 and has presented at schools and colleges throughout the country. “I have followed students



through school and into the field as contractors or into the distribution side of the electrical trade. It is rewarding to have them remember that I presented at their school,” said Koziell.

Ideal Industries is located in Illinois, with manufacturing facilities in Illinois, New Jersey and California.

NM Students Help Central Aroostook Humane Society



From left, students Amanda Gagnon, Todd Willey, and Nick Gagnon present the sign they made to Christine Robinson, president of the CAHS board of directors.

The efforts of three NMCC students to increase the visibility of a local animal shelter will help the regional non-profit organization. Led by two students in Pam Crawford’s marketing class, the fall semester project developed a promotional campaign for the Central Aroostook Humane Society, located on Cross Street in Presque Isle’s Skyway Industrial Park. When the ground thaws next spring, a new sign will be erected on the corner of the animal shelter property facing Central Avenue.

The new sign was the first of two phases of the project undertaken by Todd Willey of Presque Isle and Amanda Gagnon of Van Buren to assist CAHS with getting the word out. It features the humane society’s current logo, which displays the slogan “Help Us Help Them”.

“We wanted to do something that would promote the location of the physical site of the Central Aroostook Humane Society, and what better way than to create a double sided sign for all to see. The Central Aroostook Humane Society has a small sign over the entrance; however, this sign is larger, has the logo with the slogan on it, and will be placed near the road for all to see clearly,” said Amanda Gagnon, who made the sign.

Amanda Gagnon turned to her brother Nick Gagnon, also of Van Buren and a freshman in NMCC’s residential construction program to assist in creating the sign. Supplies for the project were donated by the S.W. Collins Company, Rathbun Lumber and MPG Ace Hardware.

“This sign is a wonderful way to draw attention to where we are located and will hopefully make people think about the Central Aroostook Humane Society and adopting a homeless pet from us, as they notice the sign,” said Christine Robinson, president of the CAHS board of directors. “The more advertising we have the more animals find homes.”

LaJoie Joins NM Faculty

The NM community welcomes a new faculty member to campus this semester. Paul LaJoie has joined the trade and technical occupations department as an automotive technology instructor.



LaJoie will be joining the team of current transportation program instructors, Dan Boyd (automotive technology), Bob Rice (diesel hydraulics) and Bob Collins (auto body repair), to help meet the growing needs of all three programs.

He will be teaching Automotive Electricity, Automotive Electronics, Automotive Heating & Air Conditioning, and Motor Vehicle Inspection...all four of which are required classes for students in each of the three transportation programs. In addition, he is assisting Boyd during the auto tech labs.

Prior to joining the faculty, LaJoie was a service technician at Whited Ford for nearly ten years, first at the dealership and, after that closed, at the truck center. In addition to performing inspections, LaJoie has experience troubleshooting electrical and electronic circuits, as well as diagnosing and repairing engines, transmissions, brake systems, climate controls systems, steering and suspension systems.

LaJoie earned his associate degree in automotive technology from the College in 1991. He is a State of Maine certified inspection mechanic and has completed numerous Ford Motor Company specialty training courses.

"When you change careers, it's a challenge--but it's a very exciting challenge," said LaJoie. "It's more than just instructing the students, but understanding how everything works at the college. This semester is really a learning process, and I'm working hard to learn as much as I can in a short time."



NM Grads, from page 1

"My education at NMCC was invaluable. I use so much on an every day basis," said White. "In teaching my classes I feel that I have an edge because I know what is offered at NMCC and where my students need to be to be successful at the Community College. One of the biggest things that I take from my experience at NMCC is that an education at a community college can take you places that you would never expect. I would definitely not be where I am today without my NMCC experience."

White credits her success in large part to the faculty and staff at NMCC, particularly Ann Osgood and Paula York, who teach in the office administration programs. She also acknowledges the campus environment that is fostered by instructors, administrators, and staff who "genuinely care about the success of their students."

"It is always gratifying to see our graduates succeed," said Osgood. "It is also rewarding to see the impact they have in businesses and organizations throughout our region. The positive contribution of our business department alumni at SAD 1 mirrors the experience of numerous other employers in our region."

In addition to White, NMCC business department graduate Erin Argraves serves on the instructional staff as an applied life science and natural resources teacher. Argraves is a 1998 NMCC graduate.

Cameron Adams, who earned an associate degree in drafting from NMCC in 1993, serves as PIRCTC drafting technology instructor.

The instructional technology White, Argraves, Adams and their district-wide colleagues use on a daily basis is largely supported by fellow NMCC alumni. Three of the five staff members in the SAD 1 technology staff all earned associ-

ate degrees from the College.

"Technology changes daily in a business environment and school districts are no exception. Our teachers work with the students in very many different ways and technology is a daily added means to this process. Students, teachers, staff, and administration rely on the network,

hardware, and software to be functioning effectively at all times," said Sherry Johnston, SAD 1 technology coordinator. "These three graduates help fulfill these needs along with always searching for better, more efficient ways to improve our systems. They not only came to us with the necessary skills to maintain our systems but also the ability to research

issues and areas unfamiliar to them."

According to Johnston, whenever a position opens on the information technology staff, NMCC is contacted for recommendations. The staff members she has hired to date are "well prepared and independent, while working well with others."

One of those individuals is Angel Cray, a 2000 graduate of NMCC's information technology program and the school district database manager.

"The knowledge and hands-on experience I received from NMCC have helped me become the person I am today. The overall experience has made me successful in my career as well," said Cray.

Working side-by-side with Cray are Carl Saucier, a 1996 graduate of the computer electronics program, who serves as a computer/network technician; and Jason Belanger, a 2004 computer electronics program graduate, who serves as the laptop technician for SAD 1.

"They have their areas of expertise and interact effectively as a team to accomplish the best outcome for SAD 1. There are so many areas of technology; and when combined with this caliber of the NMCC graduates, another asset is generated," said Johnston.

"The knowledge and hands-on experience I received from NMCC have helped me become the person I am today."

Angel Cray
Information Technology
2000

Boucher Named Statewide Educator of the Year

An NMCC nursing and allied health instructor has been selected by his peers across the state as “Educator of the Year.” Daryl Boucher of Presque Isle was presented with the prestigious award by the Maine Council of Associate Degree Nursing Programs, which is comprised of several colleges and health care facilities across the state that award associate degrees in nursing.

“Daryl brings creativity, enthusiasm, strong written and oral communication skills, a sense of humor, and sensitivity for both students and peers,” wrote Betty Kent-Conant, chair of NMCC’s nursing and allied health department in her letter of nomination to the Council. “I believe he is an extremely positive role model for students at all levels. He is a high achiever and seeks to provide educational leadership in both nursing and emergency medical services.”

Boucher is the first faculty member teaching in Northern Maine to be honored as Educator of the Year by the statewide organization since the award was established in 1994. He has served as a full-time faculty member at NMCC since January 1998. In addition to serving as a nursing instructor, Boucher heads up the college’s emergency medical services program.

Prior to his appointment, Boucher served as clinical coordinator at The Aroostook Medical Center in the

emergency/out-patient department. He continues to work with TAMC as an ER nurse and paramedic for Crown Ambulance on occasion.

“His strong background, both as a registered nurse and as a paramedic, allowed him to have a broad spectrum of knowledge and expertise for emergency nursing. His teaching at the paramedic level also gave him additional experience in teaching adult learners. His strong clinical skills, coupled with his teaching experiences and serving as a preceptor for nursing students have helped to make him an extremely valued addition to our nursing department,” wrote Kent-Conant.

Boucher earned his bachelor of science in nursing degree from UMFK and a master of science in nursing from St. Joseph’s College in Windham.

At NMCC, he has served as chair of the College strategic planning committee, assessment committee, and of the nursing department’s program evaluation committee. In addition to teaching students on the Presque Isle campus, Boucher uses distance education technology to teach students at sites in Washington County and Houlton.

He has served as an integral player in the advancement of the associate degree level of EMS education at NMCC. Recently, he revised the original curriculum for EMS to correlate and meet



Daryl Boucher (left), an instructor in NMCC’s nursing and emergency medical services programs, is congratulated by NMCC President Tim Crowley for being named “Educator of the Year” by the Maine Council of Associate Degree Nursing Programs.

requirements for the national EMS curriculum.

In 2006, Boucher was instrumental in bringing a course in pediatric and neonatal care transport to NMCC. It marked the first time such a course was offered in Aroostook County.

Boucher has been the recipient of the State of Maine EMS Excellence Award and was presented the President’s Award in May 2006 by NMCC President Timothy Crowley, who also presented Boucher with the Maine Council of Associate Degree Nursing Programs Educator of the Year award recently.

Boucher and his wife Stacy reside in Presque Isle with their daughters, Hilary and Hana.

Enjoy some winter fun and learn a new skill...

Snowshoeing

Discover a “Winter Wonderland” in your own backyard! A guided tour on snowshoes through the beautiful trail system at the Nordic Heritage Center will reveal this hidden treasure. This is a 3 hour class for beginner to expert on snowshoes. Snowshoes available for rent at the NHC for a cost of \$5.

BNI 770 ♦ Cost \$15/person ♦ Saturday, February 10 ♦ 9am – 12pm

Cross Country Skiing

Join the adventure of cross country skiing by learning to ski on the trails at the Nordic Heritage Center. From “never-ers” to advanced skiers, this is the perfect opportunity to learn to move on skis. Equipment available for rent at the NHC for \$10 (skis, boots, poles).

BNI 765 ♦ Cost \$15/person ♦ Saturday, March 10 ♦ 9am – 12pm

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NM Brightens and Enlightens Holiday Season

Acting in the capacity of Santa's literary elves, more than a dozen students, joined by Colleen Harmon of the College learning center, handed out more than 1,100 books to kids of all ages during the annual Holiday Light Parade.

The free book distribution marked the third year Harmon has lead the initiative, which evolved both as an idea to give-away something that had a connection to the nature of the College and what it offers the community, as well as providing area children with something from which they would benefit.

"Everyone should be able to read and everyone should be able to have books without worrying about it taking away from paying for fuel to heat the home or food for the table," said Harmon. "Sharing a book is like sharing an adventure, and we wanted to make certain all children had the opportunity to enjoy an adventure."

Toward that end, Harmon and several students worked for weeks in advance of the parade to collect donated books from various groups and individuals.

Storage bins full of books lined the NMCC float, which was decorated by the NMCC Student Senate under the direction of advisor Dennis Albert. The College entry was designed to appear like a snow hill and had children of NMCC employees and students on sleds atop it. The float led the parade as the first entry.

"I enjoyed participating. I think that giving the books to the children shows them that reading is important," said NMCC student Tammy Deschene. "I felt like I was giving back and at the same time demonstrating how others care about the children in the community."

Deschene, Harmon and the students who both worked on preparing the NMCC float and at distributing the books along the parade route received an unexpected benefit from their participation in the effort when they learned the NMCC parade presence was named "best non-profit" entry.

New Executive Chef and Dining Manager Brings Vast Culinary Experience to County

A new executive chef and dining manager hired by the food service management company at Northern Maine Community College brings with him extensive and award-winning culinary experience.

Mark Strang, who resides in Patten and is in the process of moving his family to central Aroostook, has worked in the restaurant and foodservice industry, in nearly every capacity, for more than two decades, including the past ten years in management. Most recently, he was the manager of the Chili's Restaurant in Bangor.

"I'm very excited about being back in the college atmosphere. My goal is to provide students and staff with a quality dining facility, as well as share my love and passion for culinary arts and cuisine with the local community. I am looking forward to working with community organizations and businesses that hold functions on our campus to help make their functions as memorable and impressive as possible," said Strang.

A graduate of the culinary arts program at Eastern Maine Community College, Strang has studied classical French cuisine, menu design, baking, soups, salads, dining room service, desserts and plate presentation.



Prior to managing the Bangor restaurant, he spent several years as executive chef and kitchen manager at the UM-Machias. His duties there included managing 20 employees, specialized caterings, creative menu design, inventory and other areas.

During his tenure at Machias and as a result of a management agreement between the foodservice program there and at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, Strang had the opportunity to travel to Fort Kent, the site of the 2004 Biathlon World Cup, to be an integral part of the award-winning foodservice team.

He was among the chefs that prepared daily meals and special event caterings for hundreds of athletes, coaches, technicians, VIPs and volunteers from over 20 countries during the event. At the end of that year's World Cup circuit, the participants who traveled the complete 14-venue event, including a dozen prominent European sites, voted the Fort Kent food service tops for the year.

Community groups and organizations interested in hosting events on the NMCC campus and working with Strang to create unique and ideal menus for the function should contact the NMCC continuing education division at 760-1155.



NMCC Foundation Receives Donation to Fully Endow a Scholarship at the College

The NMCC Foundation recently received a gift from the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament Charitable Foundation. The \$12,500 gift, added to their previous gift, brings the scholarship to the \$20,000 level. This scholarship will be used to assist students at Northern Maine Community College.

The Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament is an annual three-day fishing event held at the Spring Point Marina in South Portland Maine. The 9th annual tournament was held from August 3-5, 2006. The participants vie for one or more of the five largest fish and a share of the \$12,500 in prize money, and a grand prize of \$25,000 for a registered boat that sets a new Maine State record in the Rod and Reel Category.

Over the past seven years, the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament has made charitable contributions exceeding

\$175,000. In 2005, SITT made a commitment to endow a scholarship in order to assist students in Northern Maine achieve their educational goals.

"We are very thankful to the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament Charitable Foundation for their commitment to assisting students in Northern Maine," said Lisa Corrigan, executive director of the NMCC Foundation. "We feel fortunate to have an organization based in southern Maine identifying the important work that Northern Maine Community College does."

Students will be able to apply for the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament scholarship the next academic year, when enough interest has been generated to award the scholarship. "Because this is an endowed, only the interest is awarded annually, making this a gift that will benefit NMCC students in perpetuity," said Corrigan.

Nursing Students, *from page 4*

care (hospitals), long-term care (nursing homes), skilled nursing facilities, public schools, home care agencies, and other venues. Such is the case with first semester students. They are scheduled for clinical rotations in long-term care settings in the general regional areas.

"NMCC has been fortunate to have close contact with the Presque Isle and Caribou nursing homes, TAMC's long-term care facility in Mars Hill, and similar facilities in Houlton and in Calais. It was decided that this year we would schedule a rotational group of students to go to the MVH for those experiences as there is a diversity of the client population that would enhance the students' education," said Betty Kent-Conant, chair of the NMCC nursing and allied health department. "This experience, like all others for students in clinical settings, was very positive and met the educational objectives required by faculty."

"Maine Veterans' Home provides our students with a diverse population of residents," said Daryl Boucher, nursing instructor and emergency medical services program coordinator. "Typically, nursing homes have a higher population of female residents. At the Veterans' Home, not only is there a larger population of males than we typically see, it also provides us the opportunity to work with a governmental system of healthcare. Students gain valuable experience in working with governmental documentation requirements in a different system. Working with Veterans is also positive for students because residents have the opportunity to share life experiences with them."

As a result of the positive experience, Boucher, Kent-Conant and Sinclair are looking forward to placing students in the facility in future semesters.

A Look at the Foundation Board..



Lois Dickson is the manager/owner of Tempo Employment Services on North Street in Presque Isle. Lois joined the NMCC Foundation Board in 2005.

She has a degree in Business Administration from the University of Memphis and began her professional career as an account manager at the Malmo Advertising Company in Memphis, Tennessee. From there, she became a manager of Retail Training Certification Programs at the First Tennessee Bank in Memphis. A native of Aroostook County, Lois then moved back to The County to begin her work at Tempo.

Lois is a member of the National Federation of International Business (NFIB) and was listed in the National Registers *Who's Who in Executives and Professionals* in 1999. She is currently a board member of the Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce. Lois is a former board member of the County Federal Credit Union and a former member of the Presque Isle Rotary Club.

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CSA 632 ♦ Cost: \$79 – text additional ♦ .6 CEUs
Monday & Wednesday, February 5 & 7 ♦ 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Microsoft PowerPoint

Learn how to create dazzling multimedia presentations. Create and display slides filled with formatted text, video, audio, animation, special effects, charts, outlines, video clips, images, and links to the Web. Learn how to work with task panes and the clip organizer and how to download clip art and templates for your presentations. Save your presentations in HTML so they can be shared with others over the Web.

CSA 651 ♦ Cost: \$79 – text additional ♦ .6 CEUs
Thursdays, February 22 & March 1 ♦ 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Introduction to the Internet and E-Mail for Seniors

Learn how to use browsers and search engines to look for information and entertainment on the World Wide Web and bookmark favorite places so you can return again and again. Also learn how to create, send, and receive e-mail.

SEN 605 ♦ Cost: \$45 – text additional ♦ .3 CEUs
Wednesday, February 14 ♦ 1:00pm – 4:00pm

CRMA Certification

This 40-hour course is designed for individuals working in and responsible for administering medications in Residential Care Facilities. Participants will learn safe, accurate, and appropriate methods of administering medications as well as acceptable documentation techniques. Enrollment limited to 12.

HLT 705 ♦ Cost: \$299 ♦ 4.0 CEUs
Fridays, February 9 – March 9 ♦ 8:00am – 5:00pm



Development Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Global Positioning System (GPS)

Topics include navigational waypoints, latitudes and longitudes, physical features and their attributes, satellite tracking and positions, distance and bearing, mask angles, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinators, and Selective Availability (SA) concepts. Bring your GPS to class!

BNI 745 ♦ Cost: \$89 – no text ♦ .9 CEUs
Tuesdays & Thursdays, February 13 – 20 ♦ 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Yoga: Beginner Level Yoga Class

Learn the foundational components of alignment and breathing, as well as the practice of basic stretches, balancing poses, strengthening exercises and relaxation techniques. Wear comfortable clothing - not baggy, not restrictive. Bring a yoga sticky mat AND a blanket. Blocks and straps will be provided. Release signature required.

BNI 685 ♦ Cost: \$65
Wednesdays, January 31 – March 21 ♦ 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Stress Reduction Program

Through simple breathing practices, simple stretches for the body, a systematic relaxation, meditation and self-inquiry practices, you gain back the control of your life and the direction it takes. Especially designed for those experiencing: stress from job, family or financial; anxiety & panic; fatigue; headaches; high blood pressure; sleep disturbances. Learn a long-lasting approach to the things/persons that seem to create stress for you.

BNI 760 ♦ Cost \$65
Tuesdays, January 30 – March 20 ♦ 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Snowshoeing

A guided tour on snowshoes through the beautiful trail system at the Nordic Heritage Center will reveal this hidden treasure. This is a 3 hour class for beginner to expert on snowshoes. *Snowshoes available for rent at the NHC for \$5.*

BNI 770 ♦ Cost \$15/person
Saturday, February 10 ♦ 9:00am – 12:00pm

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