

New NMCC Alumni Association Off and Running

It has been several years since Northern Maine Community College has had an active group of alumni come together as an organization to promote and celebrate what it means to be a graduate of the institution, but after months spent laying the groundwork, the new NMCC Alumni Association is off and running.

A vision of Richard Engels, the immediate past chair of the NMCC Foundation, the new association formally appointed 31 members and convened for the first time just prior to the recent annual dinner of the College Foundation. Gary Cleaves, the Foundation Board member appointed by Engels to serve as the provisional president of the NMCC Alumni Association, spoke about the diversity and uniqueness of the new group at the event.

"We currently have more than 30 alumni that have volunteered to serve and get the association going. It is great that we have each decade represented along with representation from the present class at NMCC," said Cleaves, himself a graduate of the very first class to earn a degree from the College in 1965. "These volunteers will take the first steps to making an effective Alumni Association."

The committee includes the dozen members of a smaller provisional committee that has worked over the past year to get the organization's infrastructure in place. Over the past several months, a set

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Celebration Marks New Era in Delivery of Healthcare Education in the St. John Valley

St. John Valley community and business leaders and representatives from area medical facilities joined NMCC students, faculty and staff on October 28 in ushering in a new era in healthcare education in the region.

Through a partnership between two public education organizations, NMCC and the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative, and with the support of the private sector, in the form of a \$100,000 contribution from TD Bank through the TD Charitable Foundation, the College was able to expand its associate degree nursing program into northernmost Maine. At a ceremony held at Madawaska High School, site of the off-campus center where NMCC nursing students are taking classes locally, officials celebrated the launch of the clinical course component of the program

"Access to high quality, affordable associate degree nursing education is now available here in the St. John Valley," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "This would not be possible, and we would not be here today marking this occasion, were it not for the generous support of TD Bank and the willingness of the partners gathered here in this room to come to the table, roll up their sleeves and say 'what can we do together to make this happen.' Maine, the St. John Valley and the healthcare organiza-



NMCC President Timothy Crowley (right) expresses his appreciation to TD Bank and the community partners who helped bring the College's associate degree nursing program to the St. John Valley. Photographed with Crowley are (from left) Tom Kent, retired St. John Valley businessman and former NMCC Foundation board member; Michael J. Kelley, TD Bank regional vice president and NMCC Foundation board member; and Ken Theriault, Madawaska area State representative.

tions in this region will benefit from this program. Most importantly, those who will benefit from this effort are the students taking courses in this facility who are with us today."

Crowley's sentiments were echoed by TD Bank Regional Vice President Michael J. Kelley, who is an alumnus of the College, serves as a director on the NMCC Foundation Board and was instrumental in securing the bank's support to expand the nursing program offered by the College.

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Children's Books to Be Handed Out at Holiday Light Parade

Approximately 3,000 children's books have come in since students and employees at NMCC turned to the community earlier this fall for assistance in collecting books to give away along the route at the annual Holiday Light Parade on December 5.

The call for books put out in October resulted in many individuals, both community members and NMCC students, bringing in new and used children's books to the College. In addition, several County organizations, including Box of Books, Bookmart, First Book of Aroostook, Catholic Charities Maine and the Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library have contributed boxes of books.

The book giving initiative evolved six years ago both as an idea to give-away something that had a connection to the



NMCC students, from left, Brittany Hewitt, Dustin Graham and Shannon Smart sort through and insert bookmarks into the books donated for the Holiday Light Parade giveaway.

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. With the current state of the economy, this is especially true," said Colleen Harmon, a business technology instructor at NMCC who launched the book collection project and has coordinated it along

with others every year since. "Sharing a book is like sharing an adventure, and we want to make certain all children have the opportunity to enjoy an adventure."

A number of College employees and students, along with their families, will be taking part in this year's effort. They will be walking alongside the float in the parade to hand out the books to children gathered to enjoy the festivities.

This year's theme will be "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree", with 2009 Aroostook Idol Pam Cyr riding on the float and performing the song. In keeping with the theme, students in NMCC's welding and metal fabrication program, along with instructor Dennis Albert, built a metal Christmas tree for the float.

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Victorian Christmas Customs Presented



Kim Smith explained several Victorian customs that are still with us today during the holiday season, as well as showed examples of many Victorian types of ornaments, including the one above that participants had the opportunity to make.

With the Holiday season approaching and Presque Isle's Sesquicentennial year coming to an end, NMCC hosted a presentation by a local historian that took a look back at the origin of many of the traditions we celebrate today.

Victorian Christmas Customs was presented by Kim Smith from the Presque Isle Historical Society on December 2 in the Edmunds Conference Center at NMCC. In addition to the discussion led by Smith, attendees also had the chance to make a Victorian ornament.

"Many of the current traditions we practice during the Holiday season come from the Victorian era," said Smith, who discussed what the Victorian era was and from where many of the traditions we look forward to each year come.

Smith covered a number of topics involving the Christmas tree, including

the origin of artificial trees, the concept of a village or train under the tree, Christmas tree lights and the tree stand. She also discussed Victorian traditions and their evolution as it relates to Christmas cards and wrapping paper, as well as Christmas carols and window displays.

Smith has researched and written over twenty presentations of topics of interest on Presque Isle's history, which she presented on a weekly basis over a five-month period to the Seniors Achieving Greater Education (SAGE) program at UMPI; and currently on a monthly basis as the "Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series" for the Presque Isle Historical Society.

She researched and implemented a guided walking tour of historic downtown Presque Isle. In addition, she served on the committee which developed a self-guided walking tour that features 28 plaques with historical details and photos.

Smith is chair of Presque Isle's Sesquicentennial Celebration, as well as the treasurer and corresponding secretary for the Historical Society.

NMCC Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

The College hosted a presentation on Traditional Native American Culture and Spirituality on November 24 led by Joseph Davis, the cultural advisor and traditional ceremonial leader to the Wesget Sipu Tribe. The event was coordinated to mark National Native American Heritage Month.

Davis spoke about the spiritual values of Native life found in tribes across the country, the universal importance of the environment to Native peoples, as well as differences that emanated from geography.

“Essentially the traditions of Native American culture and spirituality are based on the same basic tenets. Some of the traditions vary depending on the geography and climate of where the tribes are located across the country. However, we are all defined by our geography and the environment, and many of the traditions come from these two,” said Davis.

Davis, who also serves on Council for the Wesget Sipu Tribe in northern Aroostook County, was a frequent guest



lecturer on Native American culture and history at several colleges and universities while living in Chicago. He moved to the St. John Valley three years ago.

The Wesget Sipu (Mi'kmaq for Fish River People) Tribe is comprised of the Maliseet and Mi'kmaq people that have lived on the native lands along the Fish River and the St. John River for many generations. Many Wesget Sipu people are

French speaking Native Mi'kmaq descendants who came along with the Acadian people to the St. John Valley in the years following the Great Deportation.

In addition to the presentation, NMCC marked Native American Heritage Month with a display of the library's expanded collection of books both on Native American topics and written by Native American authors. Many of the books were donated to the library in memory of Katherine Pictou, a student who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. She served as an officer for the Student Senate and the campus chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, as well as a student representative on the NMCC Foundation Board of Directors. Pictou was named one of two Maine All-Academic Scholars from NMCC.

Pictou, who was of Native American descent, was passing on the traditions of her culture to her two children.



Perham Family Thankful for Giving Spirit of NMCC Students and Instructors

In this season of thanks and giving, Kathleen Williams of Perham is most thankful for a group of students and instructors at NMCC who have made it possible for her to no longer fear exiting and entering her own home.

A series of medical problems with her back and knees, which required multiple surgeries, left the single mother of two unable to navigate the concrete steps that led to the entryway of her home. Over the past couple of years, she has taken numerous tumbles, some that have resulted in serious injuries.

“I feared going out of the house thinking I might get injured again,” said Williams. That fear was eased on the day before Thanksgiving, when a crew of NMCC students under the direction of residential construction instructor Guy Jackson, showed up on her doorstep to remove the old steps and install new ones, built specific to code with a shorter distance between steps, and railings on both sides. The volunteer team came out on the first day of their Thanksgiving break.

It was a surprise that Williams' son Robert had been planning for some time.

A student at NMCC with a double major in computer-aided drafting and residential construction, he asked for the help of two of his instructors, Jan Greico, who teaches English and happens to be a neighbor, and Jackson.

“Jan knew about the situation with my mother and we both knew Guy Jackson was the person to approach. He came out to the house and we took measurements and it took off from there,” said Robert Williams.

Constructing the steps became a project of the 2009 graduating class of residential construction students. “The materials for this project were donated anonymously,” said Jackson as he looked on proudly while his students put the finishing touches on the newly installed steps. “The students who worked on these steps gained valuable hands-on experience in a project that will be put to good use for many years to come, and the students out here today are learning the importance of the gift of giving – which is especially appropriate this time of year.”

“It is nice that we could help someone in the community. I was always taught



that you should use your gifts and abilities for a reason and it is important to use them to help others,” said Gabe Cheney, a first-year residential construction student. For classmate Annie Cleveland, helping get the steps in place was a family affair. Her father Reno Corriveau of Caribou, owner of Reno's and Sons Landscaping, donated his time and equipment to remove the old steps, which had been a stumbling block in getting the new steps placed on site.

“It's wonderful that the students have done this and come out to put the new steps in. My son is always talking about how great the people are at NMCC, and now I understand why,” said Williams.

Esquibel Appointed as NLN Ambassador

NMCC nursing instructor Dr. Kimberly Esquibel has been appointed by the National League for Nursing to serve as an NLN Ambassador.



"We created this selective program to make it as easy as possible for nurse faculty and nursing programs at all levels of academia to understand what the NLN has to offer to enhance professional development and status," explained NLN CEO Dr. Beverly Malone. "At the same time, we expect the ambassadors to communicate to NLN professional staff and the board what issues and challenges are of greatest concern to nurse educators in the field so that we can maximize the effectiveness of our programming and services."

Esquibel has been on the faculty at NMCC since 2000. She is also an adjunct instructor for St. Joseph's College. "I am honored to have been appointed by the National League for Nursing to serve as a liaison between them and the nursing faculty here at NMCC. The NLN has so much to offer in regards to professional development, workshops, and grant opportunities. I hope to keep the faculty informed of these, as well as current NLN initiatives in the field of nursing," said Esquibel.

Esquibel has considerable nursing experience. She worked for eight years as a per diem staff nurse in the inpatient psychiatric unit at TAMC and has held several nursing positions at Cary Medical Center, including emergency room/phone triage nurse manager, staff educator, nurse manager in the medical/surgical, oncology and specialty clinics unit, and senior nursing supervisor/intensive care unit charge nurse.

Esquibel earned her doctor of philosophy in psychology from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She holds a master of science degree in nursing education from St. Joseph's College of Maine, and a master of public administration with an emphasis in health services management and a bachelor of science in nursing from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

She belongs to a number of professional organizations, including the NLN, Maine State Nurses' Association, American Nurses' Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Northern Maine Health Care Coalition and the County Health Education Resources group.

Alumni Association, from pg. 1

of Alumni Association by-laws drafted by Engels, Cleaves and other Foundation volunteers, and ratified by the Foundation Board, was reviewed and the board membership expanded to its present size.

Among the unique aspects of the new organization is the broad definition of who encompasses the group's membership.

"Some of the volunteers are what we consider traditional alumni in that they earned a certificate, diploma or degree from NMCC. Others are community friends who have perhaps taken courses through the Continuing Education Division or interface with the College in some other way. This is intentional, as the definition of an NMCC alumni, as it is deemed by the new NMCC Alumni Association, is purposefully broad," said Cleaves.

The group was presented with its first contribution at the close of the meeting. Raynold Gauvin and Heidi Graham of Advantage Payroll presented the NMCC Alumni Association with a check in the amount of \$2,500 to support the organization's start-up. The donation was a combination of proceeds from seminars hosted



The newly established NMCC Alumni Association recently held their first meeting, during which time the association was presented a donation of \$2,500 from Advantage Payroll. From left, Raynold Gauvin and Heidi Graham from Advantage Payroll present the donation to Gary Cleaves, provisional president of the NMCC Alumni Association, and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

by Advantage last year, as well as from employee contributions at the company.

"We are most appreciative to Ray Gauvin and the team at Advantage Payroll, most notably Heidi Graham, a graduate of NMCC and member on our Alumni Board, for their generous gift to the Alumni Association. Their gift will enable us to get a number of things started," said Cleaves.



Members of the NMCC Alumni Association Board of Directors are, standing from left:

ROW 1: Tomi Henderson '74 & '98 of Mars Hill; Pamela Gorneault '09 of Presque Isle; Mary Michaud '96 of Mapleton; Timothy Roix '85 and Lee Gauvin-Roix '92 of Presque Isle; Judy Hilton '75 & '76 of Presque Isle; Cindy Albert '84 of Presque Isle; and Tammy Putnam '94 of Presque Isle.

ROW 2: Dennis Albert '76 of Presque Isle; Virginia Joles of Presque Isle; Gisele MacDonald '84 and Danny MacDonald '84 of Caribou; Emily Smith '98 of Presque Isle; Heidi Graham '84 of Mapleton; and Guy Jackson '73 & '79 of Presque Isle.

ROW 3: Scott Carlin '80 of Presque Isle; Cherie Black '04 of Caribou; Renee Eager '06 of Presque Isle; Gary Cleaves '65 of Lascassas, Tennessee; Kerry Gordon '96 of Fort Fairfield; and Paula Parent '85 & '87 of Caribou.

Absent from photo: Susan Graves '83, Janet Kelle '84, Paul LaJoie '91, and Joane Maingrette '09, all of Presque Isle; Nicole Engstrom '08 and Tim Todd '91 of Caribou; Heidi Carmichael-Smith '08 of Limestone; Sylvia Forte '81 & '89 of Houlton; John LaJoie '90 of Van Buren; Patrick St. Peter '75 of Cross Lake; Robert Williams '09 of Perham; and Justinian Engels '02 of Lakewood, New York.

Students Build Teaching Tools that Will Be Used by Future Generations of College Students

Students enrolled in a basic electronics class at NMCC this fall are building the teaching tools that will be used by those that follow in their footsteps, and the hands-on learning experience has a secondary benefit of saving the institution money.

Every year students in first-year classes taught by NMCC computer electronics instructor Joseph McLaughlin conduct lab experiments on pieces of equipment known as trainers. The alternating and direct current circuit devices are used in introductory courses for those studying computer electronics, electrical construction and maintenance and, more recently, wind power technology.

As McLaughlin prepared for his classes this summer he realized that the trainer devices he had used in his courses over the past 15 years were showing wear and were in need of replacing. The meticulous care he and his former students had exercised had already extended their usefulness five years beyond the traditional ten years for similar units.

“I looked into the replacement trainers and found them to average in cost around \$350 each,” said McLaughlin. “On the other hand, a kit to build such a unit cost \$100 less.”

It wasn't, however, the hundreds of dollars in savings that swayed the instructor to go with the kits, but rather the concept of providing an excellent experiential learning opportunity for this year's incoming class. The idea of having the students themselves build the trainers they and their successors would later use proved to be the most lucrative of all.

“It's good hands-on practice that is hard to simulate. It's a project they get to see all the way through and get a tangible final product. The students get to put their soldering skills to work, as well as learn



From left, NMCC computer electronics student Jessica Long of Ashland and wind power technology students Aaron Nelson of Farmington and Benjamin Dutil of Winslow work on constructing trainers in the lab component of a basic electronics course taught by instructor Joseph McLaughlin recently.

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Medical Assisting Students Present Health Education Teaching Displays

As part of National Medical Assistants Week activities, the senior-level students in that program presented health education teaching displays on October 30. Topics included Halloween safety, childhood obesity, staying active indoors during winter, the food pyramid, Seasonal Affective Disorder and preventing falls among the elderly in the winter.

This project helps students develop critical thinking skills, gets them to use resources, and improves oral communication skills, according to Susan Dugal, medical assisting coordinator.

Medical Assistants week is sponsored annually by the American Medical Technologists, who selected “A Caring Touch

that Means so Much” as the theme for this year's celebration to emphasize the commitment of the professionals as vital members of the healthcare team.

The services provided by medical assistants include both the office administrative and clinical aspects of their place of employment. Administrative duties include keeping patient records, managing financial matters, handling insurance arrangements, processing correspondence, and overall office management. Clinically, the medical assistant prepares and assists in patient examination, records laboratory data, assists with office surgical procedures, performs basic physical assessment and measures vital signs.

Susan Dugal, coordinator of NMCC's medical assisting program, accepts a special appreciation award in honor of National Medical Assistants Week from Dean Grivois of Acadia Health Education Coalition. AHEC works to increase awareness of health career fields.



NMCC Foundation Celebrates Successful Year



Richard Engels, outgoing chair of the NMCC Foundation Board of Directors, highlighted some of the successes of the Foundation over the past year.



Lisa Clark was one of three students who spoke at the dinner about what it meant to them to receive a scholarship, both financially and personally.



Local businessman Scott Carlin joined fellow alumnus Judy Hilton in sharing personal messages about what it means to be a graduate of the College.

With double-digit growth in both donations to the organization and dollars raised through fundraising initiatives over the previous fiscal year and a marked increase in student scholarship disbursements, the NMCC Foundation celebrated its most recently completed fiscal year at an annual dinner meeting held at the College on November 5.

The non-profit organization exists to support NMCC by raising and managing student scholarship funds and other special initiatives that assist students in reaching their goals of attaining a post-secondary degree at the College. Over 100 board members, donors, college students, alumni, faculty and administrators were in attendance to celebrate a most successful year for the NMCC Foundation.

"After exceeding in 2008, by over half a million dollars, the \$2 million goal of our first-ever major gifts campaign, the College, with the support of the Foundation over the past year, went to work instituting the projects made possible by the campaign. This included the official opening for the Allied Health Simulation Center, supported by the Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation, and the opening of the new Business Technology Center, funded by MMG Insurance. As the result of a federal grant received during the *Campaign for the County's College* with the support of Senators Collins and Snowe, extensive renovation work was completed on NMCC's Christie lecture hall, which was officially re-opened in July and named after late Foundation Board Member and College supporter Peter G. Hunt, Sr.," said Richard Engels, outgoing NMCC Foundation board chair in his remarks.

Despite the challenging economic times, the NMCC Foundation realized an impressive 60 percent growth in donations and 29.5 percent increase in fundraising revenue in the fiscal year, which ran

from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, compared to the previous year. Newly established scholarship funds, additional gifts from donors to existing scholarship funds, and donations raised through the major gifts campaign resulted in 44 percent more in scholarship disbursement over the previous year.

Other highlights of the past year noted during the annual meeting included the support received in the form of a \$10,000 donation by Maine Public Service Company to support NMCC's new wind power technology program, the first disbursements to College faculty from the Investing in Innovation technology endowment fund created through the major gifts campaign, and the development of a new strategic plan for the Foundation crafted by a committee led by incoming board chair Brian Hamel.

A highlight of the annual dinner was a presentation by the newly re-invigorated NMCC Alumni Association. Judy Hilton and Scott Carlin, members of the new group, spoke about what it means to be a graduate of the College and the difference the institution has made in their lives and the lives of their families. Hilton graduated from then NMVTI in 1975 with an associate degree in computer programming and 1976 in business administration. Carlin graduated in 1979 in the business administration program.

Three current recipients of Foundation scholarships also took part in the event. Lisa Clark of Garfield, a medical office administration and medical coding student, Chelsea Sadler of Perham, a liberal studies student, and Jennifer Tweedie of Blaine, a nursing student, each explained what their scholarships meant to them.

Three awards were presented during the course of the evening to honor donors and volunteers. The 2009 Special Benefactor of the Year Recognition Award was



A new annual report encompassing the past academic year of the College and the past fiscal year of the Foundation was handed out at the Annual Meeting and mailed to friends of the College. If you have not received one, contact the NMCC development office at 768-2809.

presented to the organizers of the annual Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament. Paul and Alice LaBrecque of the coordinating committee attended the meeting to accept the award on behalf of the organization, which has donated tens of thousands of dollars to the NMCC Foundation for scholarship funds over the past several years. The LaBrecques, in turn, presented the Tuna Tournament's annual contribution in the amount of \$10,000 to the Foundation.

The Foundation's Eagle Award was presented to Roger Roy, Foundation finance and investment committee chair and executive vice president of MMG Insurance, for the impact he has had on the foundation. The prestigious service award is presented to an individual who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty.

During the meeting, Richard Nadeau of Presque Isle, owner of A & L Construction, was elected as a new member of the board. Also introduced was first year student representative Dustin Graham, a liberal studies student from Mapleton.

Elected as the 2009-2010 slate of officers for the Foundation were Hamel, who will step in as the new chairperson and Vicki Smith as vice chairperson.

Continuing in their current roles are Larry LaPlante, treasurer, and Lois Dickson, secretary. Engels becomes the immediate past chair of the board. Joining the officers on the executive board are Bruce Sandstrom and Michael Kelley Sr., who will serve as directors-at-large; Gary Cleaves, who will represent the alumni association, and Graham and fellow student Mariah LeMieux, who will serve as NMCC student representatives.



Outstanding Benefactor Recognition Award: From left, Michael Kelley, Sr., Foundation board member; Brian Hamel, Foundation board chair; Alice and Paul LaBrecque, who accepted the award on behalf of the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament organization; and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

Outgoing NMCC Foundation board chair Richard Engels (left) is presented with an award to thank him for his leadership and dedicated service to the organization by incoming chair Brian Hamel (center) and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.



2009 Eagle Award: The award was presented to Roger Roy, Foundation finance and investment committee chair. Presenting the award were (from left) Richard Engels, outgoing Foundation board chair; Brian Hamel, incoming Foundation board chair; Roy; and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.



Members of the NMCC Foundation Board are, seated from left: Dustin Graham, student representative; Richard Engels (*immediate past president*), attorney with Bemis & Rossignol; Brian Hamel (*president*), partner at Thompson-Hamel; Vicki Smith (*vice president*), vice president of marketing at Katahdin Trust Company; Lois Dickson (*secretary*), owner of Tempo Employment Services; Larry LaPlante (*treasurer*), finance director at NMCC; and Gary Cleaves, retired, representing the Alumni Association. Standing, from left: Richard Nadeau, owner of A & L Construction; Michael Kelley, Sr., executive vice president of TD Banknorth in Presque Isle; Bruce Sandstrom, senior vice president of finance at The Aroostook Medical Center; Robert White, retired; Roger Roy, executive vice president at MMG Insurance; Chris Fitzpatrick, senior regional vice president at Machias Savings Bank in Houlton; Jane Towle, co-owner/broker at REMAX Central; Scott Carlin, owner of Star City, Hillside, and Mars Hill IGAs; Virginia Joles, director of communications, board relations, and economic development at Maine Public Service; NMCC President Timothy Crowley; Melony Hunt-LeShane of Fort Fairfield; Gregg Collins, vice president of S.W. Collins Company; Sandra Gauvin, retired; Raynold Gauvin, retired; Emily Smith, partner at Smith's Farm, Inc.; Connie Sandstrom, executive director of the Aroostook County Action Program; and Carl Flora, president and CEO at the Loring Development Authority. Absent from photo: Janet Grieco, English instructor at NMCC; Philip Grondin, Sr., retired; Mariah LeMieux, residential construction and computer-aided drafting student at NMCC; Edwin Nickerson, director of business development at the Loring Development Authority; and Terry Wade, plant manager at Smith and Wesson.

Trainer, from pg. 5

valuable problem solving skills as they follow written instructions and put the components together in a way that results in a working trainer,” said McLaughlin.

Constructing the 18 new trainers takes the 15 students anywhere between nine and 12 hours per unit. Upon completion, they then test and calibrate the trainers, which in turn allows them to use other test equipment including Oscilloscopes, multi-meters, and frequency counters.

“This provides us with a great hands-on experience,” said Jessica Long, a computer electronics student from Ashland. “We are getting to work with some equipment we will use in the field. I understand much better when I can actually do it. By putting it together myself, I understand how each component works.”

The single mother enrolled at NMCC this fall to expand her future career opportunities. Until recently she worked as clerical support in the office of a long-haul trucking company where she often ended up having to repair the network when it went down, even though she says she didn't really understand all of the ins and outs of what she was doing.

“I was interested in computers. It's a growing and needed field. I've noticed there aren't many women going into it, and I wanted to do my part to help change that,” said Long.

The co-ed is among the largest incoming class of students in the electrical/ electronics programs McLaughlin has seen in his 28 years with NMCC. He is currently teaching three lecture courses and two lab sections of basic electronics to accommodate the more than 70 students enrolled in the discipline this fall.

Aside from the size of this year's class, the students working on the trainers will leave their mark behind on the equipment they are constructing. Future generations using the devices will know who built the units as a “constructed by” sticker will be affixed to each trainer with the name of the student who completed the project.

“I never imagined that I would be able to do something like this and now other students will benefit in the future,” said Casimiro Fernandez, an electrical construction and maintenance student from Central Falls, Rhode Island. “It's opened my eyes to going further in the electronics field, perhaps even changing my major to computer electronics.”

Nursing in the Valley, from pg. 1

“By supporting this program we are able to meet a real need in northern Maine,” said Kelley. “TD Bank is committed to partnering with organizations like NMCC and the collaborative that help to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in the communities we serve.”

After offering core liberal arts courses to the eight nursing students in the first St. John Valley cohort over the past 18 months, NMCC began delivering its key nursing and clinical component courses to the students this semester via videoconferencing technology with courses originating on the Presque Isle campus. Locally, nursing instructor Sandra Pelletier of Fort Kent was hired to work on-site in the Madawaska classroom and to supervise the nursing students at the local clinical sites.

“Having the RN program in the St. John Valley has provided us an opportunity that we otherwise would not have had. Most of us have children and also work while attending school. Being able to attend a nursing program close to home has been such a blessing, by enabling us to spend quality time at home with our families,” said Janice Labrie, a student who spoke at the ceremony. “Although the two year program is challenging, it has been less of a financial burden. We will also be able to enter the workforce as registered nurses in 2011, allowing us to provide financial support for our families. If this program would not have been offered, some of my classmates would not have pursued their dreams of becoming a nurse.”

Introducing NMCC's nursing program in the St. John Valley followed a concentrated effort by the College, St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative, and representatives of both the allied health and education communities in the Valley to meet a need expressed by the stakeholders.



Guests at the opening ceremony of NMCC's nursing program in the St. John Valley had the opportunity to see the technology at work that allows the distance learning, as students began their class which originates with an instructor on the Presque Isle campus.

“The initiative to bring a two-year associate degree program to the St. John Valley is a perfect example of the remarkable outcomes that can result when public, non-profit

providers put their heads and energies together to address a local need and when the private, for profit sector employs its resources to address that same pressing need. In an era that is increasingly requiring us all to come out of our service silos and to combine our resources for the benefit of those we serve, this undertaking stands out as a model in Maine for both the present and the future,” said Peter Caron, director of adult and community education for SAD 27.

“The availability of a local nursing degree has been a very positive addition to the educational opportunities available in the St. John Valley. Non-traditional learners, juggling the demands of families, and employment have been able to pursue their dreams of a nursing career,” said Christine Cowie, director of adult and community education for the Madawaska School Department and SAD 33. “The addition of this cohort of nurses to the workforce in the St. John Valley will be welcomed by local health care facilities who advocated for bringing the Northern Maine Community College associate degree in nursing program to the St. John Valley.”

TD Bank was among the first organizations to support the MCCS Rural Initiative, which has funded efforts to increase access to higher education in rural parts of the state. The expansion of allied health education program offerings in the St. John Valley by NMCC was the first project to be funded through the bank's donation.

The delivery method of the NMCC associate degree nursing program in the St. John Valley is similar to how the College offers its program in southern Aroostook at the Houlton Higher Education Center.

More than 250 Children Enjoy Kinderfest; Proceeds Benefit Wintergreen Arts Center

More than 250 children along with their families took part in fun activities at NMCC on October 24 as the college hosted Kinderfest. The German-themed event for families in and around Aroostook County was held as a fundraiser for the Wintergreen Arts Center's renovation project at their new facility in downtown Presque Isle.

"My son Jacob had a great time in the bouncy house and making a gingerbread house. It was nice to see so many families come out to Kinderfest to support the Wintergreen Arts Center renovation," stated Shannon Smart, business administration student and event organizer. "This event wouldn't have been possible without the help of so many wonderful volunteers, such as Heidi Broad-Smith [early childhood education instructor], the NMCC Student Senate, and a number of students, faculty and staff here at the college, as well as Wintergreen Arts Center staff."

For the Wintergreen Arts Center, the Kinderfest event comes at an ideal time as the organization is in the midst of its \$100,000 fundraising campaign to conduct necessary improvements and renovations to its new home on State Street. Wintergreen was given a ten year lease from Tony and Glenn Burgess-Capp free of charge with the utilities included. The money will go toward electrical improve-

ments, a new bathroom, floor and ceiling restoration, lighting, signage, furnishings, and landscaping.

"I just loved Kinderfest. I saw lots of new young faces at the party and I'm eager to introduce a new generation to Wintergreen II. It was such a privilege to be associated with NMCC's efforts. NMCC students and staff were awesome," said Lara Cannon of Wintergreen Arts Center. "My children and family had a great time, as did hundreds of other families from throughout the area."

Wintergreen Arts Center also hosted an Oktoberfest celebration that same evening at the Shriners Club. The event included a live band and German food.

"Oktoberfest was equally well attended and fun. Between the two events we had over 550 people enjoying a little Bavarian culture and celebration," said Cannon.

Activities



Kids had fun making German hats (above), gingerbread houses (left), and felt gingerbread men. They also painted birdhouses (below), created pictures with potato stamping, and made German flags and paper chains.



Other activities included a Hansel and Gretel puppet show (above), karaoke (right), face painting, a movie matinee, and a bouncy house (sponsored by Cary Medical Center).



The proceeds raised from Kinderfest were recently presented to representatives from the Wintergreen Arts Center to help with the renovation project at their new facility in downtown Presque Isle. Taking part in the presentation of the \$1,153 were, from left: Wintergreen Arts Center Board members Nikki Staples and Nola Farley; Lara Cannon, executive director; NMCC students Shannon Smart, who coordinated the event, and Dusty Graham; and Student Senate Advisor Dennis Albert.



Attendees enjoyed goodies such as hot dogs, hot pretzels, potato pancakes, cookies and root beer floats.

Three Student Athletes Named to All-Academic Team by USCAA

Three NMCC student athletes have been honored for their achievements in their respective sports and in the classroom. Parker Brown and Lucas Ireland, members of the soccer team, and Zachary Dinsmore, who played on the golf team, were named to the All-Academic Teams in their respective sports by the United States Collegiate Athletic Association.

To be selected to the All-Academic Team for a two-year institution, student athletes must play in a sport recognized by the USCAA, be in their second year and attain a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Brown, a senior in electrical construction and maintenance, joined the Falcon soccer squad for the first time this year. The 2008 Presque Isle High School graduate played soccer and ran track for four years in high school, as well as played for two years on the basketball team.

"I didn't even know that this honor existed before I heard that I had been named to the All-Academic Team. It gives us the opportunity as students to be recognized for doing well both in the classroom and on the soccer field," said Brown. "I

enjoy playing soccer and am happy I can represent the College by making it on this national list."

Brown and Ireland are among a group of 29 men's soccer players from across the country, and the only two in Maine, named to the USCAA

All-Academic Team for soccer this fall. In addition to this honor, Ireland was the only player from New England named to the USCAA Men's Soccer All-American Honorable Mention list, his second year to be honored by the national organization.

"It's nice to see our hard work being recognized," said Ireland. "It's a really great honor to be acknowledged for a second year and to make the list with my peers from other schools across the country."

Ireland, a 2008 PIHS graduate, played on the soccer, basketball and baseball teams throughout his high school career. He will



Parker Brown & Lucas Ireland

graduate in May with an associate degree in residential construction and a certificate in computer-aided drafting.

The only golfer from New England named to the USCAA All-Academic Team is Zachary Dinsmore of Caribou. He is among only nine student athletes from across the country to receive the honor.

Dinsmore is a senior in electrical construction and maintenance. The 2008 graduate of Caribou High School played on the Viking baseball team, including a year as captain, and was on the CHS golf team.

"This is great. I've always taken both academics and athletics seriously growing up. It is an honor to be named to this list," said Dinsmore.

NMCC is one of nearly 70 small colleges and universities that participate in the USCAA. The organization exists to provide quality athletic competition on a regional and national level for smaller institutions of higher learning and their student athletes.



Zachary Dinsmore

Successful Season for NMCC Falcons

The NMCC Falcons soccer team completed another successful season under the coaching of Robbie Krul, his sixth season of leading the team.

The Falcons had a great start to the beginning of their 2009 season. They picked up a 2-0 win in their season opener on September 12 on the road against Eastern Maine Community College. NM continued their road trip south to upset Southern Maine Community College the next day, 2-1 in overtime.

"We knew we had two weeks to prepare for that opening weekend, and with nine newcomers on the team this season, it was important to make sure the guys connected with each other. They came together quickly," explained Coach Krul to Kevin Sjoberg of The Star-Herald.

The Falcons first home game was under the lights on the MSAD#1 stadium turf. They picked up their first loss, to Central Maine Community College. The Falcons then came out on top with a 5-1 win over EMCC. Next came a hard played home game against Hesser which ended in double overtime with a winning goal by Falcons striker, Tyler Robinson.



For the final two regular season games, the Falcons hit the road to take on New Hampshire Technical Institute and Unity College during a cold and rainy weekend in October. NMCC met half way with NHTI in Auburn, Maine, but unfortunately was unsuccessful with a 6-1 loss. The Falcons were victorious, coming out on top against Unity College, 2-1.

The strong starting lineup for NMCC Falcons included Matt Tarr in goal, with Divid Rugg at sweeper and Sam Harris of Washburn at stopper. The outside backs were Team Camptain Elizan McLean of Presque Isle and David Flint of Houlton.

In the midfield was Team Captain Luke Ireland of Mapleton, Dustin Graham of Brunswick, Parker Brown of Mapleton, and Team Captain Justin Lyshon of Bangor. Derek Boucher of Greenville and Tyler Robinson of Southern Aroostook were the starting strikers for the Falcons.

The Falcons were supported by their substitute players, Dusty Graham of Mapleton, Sebastian Viola of Washburn, Patrick Kinsey of Fort Fairfield, and Gabe Cheney of Castle Hill.

By the end of the season, the Falcons had a record of 5-2, tied with CMCC and SMCC for second place in the Yankee Small College Conference, which ended putting NMCC in fourth place for the semifinal playoffs--a third straight year for the playoffs for Northern Maine.

On October 13, the NMCC Falcons took on the first place NHTI in New Hampshire, being defeated in the match 4-0, putting an end of the 2009 NMCC Falcons soccer season.

"We had a very strong season. We beat some good teams and put together an impressive 5-3 overall record. I am proud of the team's commitment."

Donald Collins Inducted into Northern Maine Construction Hall of Fame at NMCC Ceremony

Well-known and highly respected County leader and businessman Donald F. Collins was inducted into the Northern Maine Construction Hall of Fame during a ceremony held on October 20 in the College's residential construction lab.

"Aroostook County has had a number of individuals who have been and need to be recognized for service to their community, their state and their nation. We are glad to honor Mr. Collins here today," said NMCC President Tim Crowley as he welcomed the group of local business leaders and family members and friends of the Collins family. Crowley went on to say that, as a father, he felt one of a person's greatest accomplishments is to be recognized by others in front of your children, so they can see what value others place on you. He went on to assure the Collins family that, "we recognize the work your dad has done, and the difference he has made."

Collins is the fourth generation member of his family to operate the S.W. Collins Company. He is credited with diversifying and expanding the business from the 1950's through the 1980's. For several years, he also managed the Collins Construction Company, selling lots from the original Collins farm and building houses on them. Founded by his great-grandfather Samuel W. Collins in 1844 as a lumber sawmill, Donald Collins transitioned the company to what it has grown to today when he designed and built a home retail center which opened in 1980 and drew "do-it-yourselfers" in addition to contractors. Although he continues to serve on the board of the S.W. Collins Company, Donald Collins retired from the business in 1992.

His interest in the industry extended beyond Aroostook County. He was active in the Retail Lumber Dealers Association of Maine, including serving as its president. In 1985, he was named the association's first Lumber Person of the Year.

His public service has included holding a number of elected positions, including serving as mayor of Caribou, in the Maine House of Representatives and for four terms in the Maine State Senate.

Collins has been involved in numerous business, community and educational



organizations. His extraordinary leadership and community service have earned him many honors, including Caribou's Citizen of the Year in 1975. He was also recognized on the state level as the Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Business Leader of the Year and by the Caribou Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow in 1987.

"To our family, Dad has always been in the Hall of Fame, now we are proud that he's being inducted into the Northern Maine Construction Hall of Fame at NMCC," said Sam Collins, one of Donald's sons and the current president of S.W. Collins Company. He spoke of his father's deep regard for Hollis Burgess, a former long-time instructor of the residential construction program at NMCC who was inducted posthumously to the Hall of Fame in 2007, and the role his father played in supporting the program over the years.

"I remember him telling me that we have a shared responsibility in educating those that will be the future of this industry," recalled Sam Collins.

Although U.S. Senator Susan Collins, another of Donald's six children, was unable to attend the event due to her schedule in Washington, her chief of staff, Steve Abbott, was on hand to read a personal letter from the Senator to her father. While the Senator has received many awards and honors in Washington, Abbott told attendees, "the thing that she will always be most proud of is being one of the Collins kids from The County."

After the unveiling of his photo, Donald Collins spoke to those who had

Several members of the Collins family joined Donald Collins (center right) and his wife Patricia (center left) as they unveiled the photo that will now hang in the entrance of the Mailman Trades Building at NMCC with fellow honorees in the Northern Maine Construction Hall of Fame. Joining the couple are, from left, Laura, Claire, Lise, Gregg, Lori, Tess, Sam and Mike Collins.



gathered in his honor, thanking them for their kind words and reminiscing about his early days getting started in his father's saw mill.

"I haven't been here [on the NMCC campus] for awhile—I'm amazed at what's happening here, and I commend you," he told College representatives at the event.

The Northern Maine Construction Hall of Fame was created in 2007 to recognize key individuals who have contributed both to the profession and have served as mentors to others entering the profession. The wall of honor is located inside the main entrance of the Mailman Trades Building.



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