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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Toward Excellence

Early Winter 2011

Printed February, 2011

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NMCC Receives \$1.2 Million Private Gift to Support Growth of Alternative Energy Education and Training

The inspirational life story of a self-made man and philanthropist who achieved great success in Silicon Valley, and the parallels drawn to the educational opportunities provided to students in Aroostook County to achieve their dreams, have paved the way for a \$1.2 million dollar gift to NMCC.

During a January 24 press conference, officials with NMCC and the NMCC Foundation announced one of the largest private contributions ever given to a community college in Maine and the largest donation to date to an Aroostook County higher education institution. The gift is provided by California resident and Presque Isle native Mary Smith in honor and memory of the life of her late husband Rodney Smith, a native of England, who, despite an impoverished youth and incredible odds, achieved extraordinary success in the United States as a businessman and pioneer in the semi-conductor industry.



Rodney Smith

“My husband came from an environment where he could never have dreamed of achieving the heights of success that he realized in his lifetime. This might be true of many of the students who begin the journey toward achieving their life’s dreams by attending Northern Maine Community College,” said Smith in a statement read by her attorney Richard Engels, NMCC Foundation Board member and past chair. “Rodney was a philanthropist who believed very strongly in giving

to those less fortunate who were working to better their lives and those of their families and communities. He also respected greatly the fact that I loved the area of northern Maine where my roots are. That is why I believe strongly in the work of the College and want to support its efforts in improving the lives of people and the economy of the region, while paying tribute to Rodney’s amazing life in a meaningful way.”

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NMCC Kicks-Off its 50th Anniversary with Fun, Food and Music

The sights, sounds and tastes of the early 1960’s were alive on the NMCC campus on January 12, as the College officially kicked-off its 50th Anniversary.

Approximately 600 students, faculty and staff and community members were on hand for a 60’s “sock hop” celebration. The two hour event, which spanned the lunch hour, included free burger and hot dog baskets, milk shakes, root beer floats and banana splits. Entertainment included D.J. Bob Collins, NMCC automotive collision repair instructor, spinning Rock ‘n Roll hits from the era, as well as a number of live performances. Folks also had the chance to take to the dance floor to compete in the twist, the limbo and even a hoola hoop contest.

Event planners wanted to kick-off the first 50th anniversary event as students returned from the holiday break to set the tone for the

coming months. The new semester at NMCC began on January 10.

“The whole event was a great time! Not only was it a cool way to start off the spring semester, but it was a nice break in between classes for the day,” said Dustin Graham of Mapleton, a liberal studies senior. “Without worrying about homework, I was able to eat lunch and have fun with retro dances and music, both participating and watching others perform. It’s nice to have events like this to look forward to, breaking up the usual schedule between work and school.”

Graham was the winner of the limbo contest, and a finalist in the hoola hoop contest, losing that title to NMCC nursing student Alix Curtain of Presque Isle. Other

cont. on pg. 11



Raymond's Research Published in Journals



The research and writings of NMCC humanities instructor David Raymond, chair of the arts and sciences department, grace the pages of recent editions of four publications.

In "The Controversy over Adoniram Judson's Famous 'Change of Sentiments,' 1813-1820," published in the Spring 2010 edition of *Baptist History & Heritage*, Raymond explains the conflict surrounding Judson's defection to the Baptists. In a separate article, "Judson's 'Famous Change of Sentiments' Reconsidered," published in the Summer 2009 *American Baptist Quarterly*, he explains the Congregationalists' view that Judson's defection was motivated more by poor relations with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions than by any sort of theological awakening. Together, these papers call for a revised view of the origins of the Baptist foreign missions movement in America.

Part of Raymond's research was supported through funding provided by the NMCC Foundation. The grant encourages the work of instructors in contributing to a climate of scholarship benefiting the comprehensive Community College.

A third article explores the role of work in the life and thought of Henry David Thoreau. It appears in a recent edition of *The Concord Saunterer*, an annual, peer-reviewed journal of Thoreau Scholarship, which contains in-depth essays about Thoreau, his times and his contemporaries, and his influence today. In this paper, Raymond traces the evolution of Thoreau's philosophy of work through his writings, especially his classic work of literature *Walden* and his essay "Life Without Principle," and his work as a handyman, bean farmer, and surveyor.

His fourth work is forthcoming in the Spring 2011 edition of the *Maine History Journal*. "Echoes of a Distant Thunder: The Unitarian Controversy in Maine, 1734-1835" traces the history of this famous conflict within the Congregational churches, explaining Maine's part in this famous controversy that resulted in the formation of a separate Unitarian denomination.

18 NMCC Employees Reach Milestones

"Recognizing the members of the NMCC family who have reached important milestones of service to the College is very important because it is the faculty and staff here at NMCC who impact in the lives of our students each and every day," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley during the annual employee recognition luncheon which was held in October this year. "Time and again we hear from students, parents and alumni about how much of a difference NMCC has made in their lives or the lives of their children. Everyone who shares this sentiment with me also speaks of the individuals on the College faculty and staff who were instrumental in helping them to achieve their goals and realize their dreams."

David Guerrette, who teaches occupational health and safety (OSHA) courses, is the first NMCC employee to pass the 35 year milestone before retiring. He was presented with a large wall clock engraved with the College logo and a sentiment reflecting on his service and dedication for three-and-a-half decades.

Brian McDougal, trade and technical occupations department chair, and Ann Osgood, business technology instructor, join an elite group of employees who

have marked 30 years of service and have had trees planted on campus in their honor.

In addition, 25 year service awards were presented to Cindy Albert, administrative specialist II; Timothy Crowley, president; Joseph McLaughlin, computer electronics instructor; and Tom Richard, director of residential life and human resources.

Twenty year honors were presented to Catherine Chapman, payroll and personnel coordinator; J.P. Levasseur, physics and math instructor; and David Raymond, arts and sciences department chair.

Fifteen year honors were presented to Leah Buck, assistant dean of continuing education and Lori Googins, ergonomics and occupational wellness instructor and director of athletics.

Ten year honors were presented to Pam Crawford, business administration instructor; Kim Esquibel, department chair for nursing and allied health; Judy Morin, Custodian III; and Greg Thompson, life sciences instructor.

Dennis Dyer, commercial driving instructor, and Larry LaPlante, director of finance, were honored for five years of service.



Among those NMCC employees recognized for milestones of service to the college were (front row, left to right) Brian McDougal and Ann Osgood, 30 years; David Guerrette, 35 years; Catherine Chapman and David Raymond, 20 years; and Cindy Albert, Timothy Crowley, Joseph McLaughlin and Tom Richard, 25 years. Missing from photo is J.P. Levasseur, 20 years.



When Dave Guerrette (center) was recognized for being the first employee to reach 35 years of service, he invited recent retirees Sonny Michaud (left) and Dan Hotham to come up and share the spotlight with him. Both began working at the college near the same time as Guerrette, and the three have shared many experiences at the college over the years.



NMCC General Advisory Council chair Athill Hebert (right) presents College President Timothy Crowley (center) with an engraved clock plaque marking his 25th anniversary with NMCC. Joining Hebert in honoring Crowley is Brian Hamel, chair of the NMCC Foundation.

Community Leaders Recognize Crowley for a Quarter Century in Leadership at NMCC

"It is unusual today that an institution of higher learning can boast that its president has been a member of the team that has moved the college forward for a quarter century. We are fortunate. For Tim Crowley, Northern Maine Community College is not just a stop along the way on his professional journey. It is his life's work and passion," said NMCC General Advisory Council chairperson Athill Hebert in honoring President Timothy Crowley during the Foundation annual dinner.

Hebert joined with NMCC Foundation Board chair Brian Hamel in surprising Crowley with a tribute acknowledging his 25 years of service and leadership to both the College and Aroostook County community. The two leaders expressed sentiments on behalf of the more than 40 volunteer directors that serve on both the Advisory Council and Foundation Board.

"Tim's leadership and outreach to the region's business and community leaders has been key to NMCC's responsiveness

to the County's needs, which makes the College a primary resource for local employers," said Hamel who, as a former member and chair of the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees, chaired the presidential search committee that appointed Crowley as president.

Crowley is NMCC's seventh leader. He first joined the campus community in 1985 as dean of students. In 1991, he was named vice president and academic dean. He succeeded former NMCC president Durward Huffman as college leader in 2002.

"Tim has capably led this campus and has laid the foundation for a strong and bright future. His leadership has positioned the campus for sustained and attainable growth, as a leader in energy efficiency and alternative energy, and as a model of fiscal efficiency in a challenging economic time, which is especially noteworthy," said Hebert.

Mints Hired to Teach Medical Assisting Program

Penny Mints of Mapleton has joined NMCC as the lead instructor for the medical assisting program. Mints, who most recently served as a clinical project coordinator at The Aroostook Medical Center, comes to the College with 17 years experience in healthcare and healthcare education.

"We are so pleased that Penny has joined the faculty. She brings a wealth of both professional and clinical expertise, as well as teaching experience," said Kimberly Esquibel, chair of the nursing and allied health department.

Prior to serving as clinical project coordinator at TAMC, Mints was a diagnostic medical sonographer for TAMC and Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. She held a similar position at Cary Medical Center from 2001 through 2006.

Her teaching experience includes serving as a part-time instructor for the UMPI, where she taught courses for students enrolled in the medical labora-



tory and medical technology programs. She also served as a preceptor for the students while they were in clinical rotations at area healthcare facilities.

"Medical assisting students at NMCC participate in a curriculum that is comprised of both classroom learning and medical practice practicum. They have an ambitious attitude about learning and transitioning from the college setting into the healthcare setting, and it will be very rewarding to be an integral part of that transition," said Mints.

Mints holds a master of science in business degree from Husson University and a bachelor's degree in clinical science from U-Maine. She completed coursework in diagnostic ultrasound from Southwest Missouri Allied Health and the medical technology program at EMMC. She is professionally licensed as a registered diagnostic medical sonographer and as a medical technologist.

NMCC Expands Service in the Valley with New Hire

Efforts to expand course and program offerings in the St. John Valley through the college's off-campus center have gotten a boost with the hiring of a well-known local woman as a student support representative in the region.



Karen Ouellette of Fort Kent has joined NMCC to assist the College in meeting the needs of its current and future students taking courses through its outreach center in the St. John Valley. A graduate of NMCC herself, Ouellette is also working with the local business community to ensure the College offers the courses and programs in the region to benefit their current and future workforce.

"Karen is a wonderful addition to our extended campus community and the right person to help us move forward in the St. John Valley," said Jason Parent, NMCC director of development and college relations. "She is an effective communicator and a great and passionate advocate for whatever causes she supports."

Ouellette has been visiting with area business and community leaders and meeting students. The primary focus of her outreach has been to poll business owners about what additional courses NMCC could offer that would be of benefit to their enterprise and current employees.

Ouellette works part-time for NMCC on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Her office, NMCC's St. John Valley Off-Campus Center, is located at Madawaska High School.

NMCC works collaboratively to offer courses in the region with the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative (comprised of the Madawaska/MSAD 33 Adult and Community Education Program and the MSAD 27 Adult and Community Education Program) and the MSAD 24 Adult and Community Education Program.

For more information on courses in the St. John Valley, call (207) 551-5781 or e-mail kouellette@nmcc.edu.

Tutoring Goes High Tech at NMCC

Tutoring has gone high tech at NMCC as students looking for assistance with coursework are now able to sit down at home or elsewhere and meet face to screen with someone on campus who can help. Using Skype software and a web cam, Academic Success Center tutors and students are connecting in a way that is innovative, convenient and effective.

"We have a large number of non-traditional age students with young families, work responsibilities and other circumstances that make it very difficult or impossible for them to travel to campus outside of class for help," said Laura McPherson, director of the Academic Success Center. "We also have students that live far away from campus, including those who take courses through our off-campus centers in Houlton and the St. John Valley."

The idea to use on-line, real time, computer video technology to provide tutoring assistance was first conceived over a year ago, when one of McPherson's student tutors had to miss class because she was ill. Her instructor allowed her

to attend class via Skype with the help of a fellow student. She was able to see and hear the lecture, as well as contribute to the class.

That experience spurred a discussion at one of the ASC staff meetings and led to a pilot project last spring. Skype was selected after the test phase because of the better quality picture, according to McPherson.

To launch the program, mini-workshops are now underway. As an extra incentive for attending, students have the opportunity to sign up to win one of five web cams that will be given away.

The sessions take the students through everything from how to download the free Skype software and operate the web cam to a tutoring demonstration. Students are walked through the ASC website and shown how they can search for a tutor by subject area to schedule an appointment for Skype tutoring. The site also shows which tutors are logged-on, providing students who need it the opportunity to get help on the spot.



J.R. Kierstead (left), a tutor in the NMCC Academic Success Center, works with Kristopher Bouchard (on computer screen) an NMCC student from Houlton on a trigonometry problem via Skype. The ASC is introducing "Skype" tutoring as a convenient option for students beginning this semester.

Student Kristopher Bouchard of Houlton recently "Skyped" to get help with his trigonometry homework from tutor J.R. Kierstead.

"It was different at first, but once we got going it went very well," said Bouchard. "It was very helpful to me. We were able to work through the problem by writing the steps down and showing our work back and forth by holding it up to the web cam. It was the next best thing to sitting down next to one another."

From his perspective, Kierstead sees tutoring using real-time communication technology as having some benefits over the traditional in-person sessions. Aside from the obvious convenience, he has seen how tutoring on-line has resulted in more effective and efficient use of time.

"I have found that it creates a much more structured environment. By communicating using technology, the time seems to be much more focused on the student's part," said Kierstead.

Skype is not the only technology-driven platform the ASC is using to connect with its students. McPherson and her tutors use Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo Messenger and have a blog for the ASC.

For now, Skype tutoring sessions are being offered Monday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Those hours may change in the future to better accommodate student users. Future expansion of the program may include incorporating a new Beta version of Skype that can connect multiple sites and allow individuals to see everyone participating in the real-time discussion. This feature would allow for group tutoring sessions from students at various locations.

NMCC to Host African American Read-In

To help celebrate Black History Month in February, as well as to promote literacy, NMCC will be joining with organizations across the country in hosting a Read-In. The public is invited to the Read-In at noon on Friday, February 11, in the NMCC library.

Coordinating the annual event is English instructor Jennifer Graham and Gail Roy, assistant dean of learning resources. To keep things interesting, the duo are taking a different direction with this year's Read-In.

"Previously, I selected authors and gave some biographical information. This year, we have asked students, faculty and staff to identify a piece of work by an African-American author that they like and to explain why they like the author or the work they selected," explained Graham. "This will result in more choice and will reflect what our campus identifies with in literature. In this sense, it will be more personal than in past years."

Graham plans to read the poem "Theme for English B" by Langston Hughes. "It's one of my favorite poems. Hughes explores the dynamic between a white teacher and black student at a time (1951) when diversity, in and out of the classroom, was less understood. In the poem, he points out that not only can students learn from instructors, but instructors can learn from their students. This poem is a good reminder for me to try

to see things from my students' points of view and to learn from them and the experiences they bring to the classroom," said Graham.

To help facilitate the selection of readings for the February 11 event, as well as to celebrate Black History Month, the library will be hosting a display throughout the month of February of books by African American authors. A number of African American authors are represented at the NMCC library in a variety of genres.

"Because African American authors are, above all, American authors, their works are of interest to any reader interested in American literature. But they are of special interest in offering a unique perspective on the American experience, very often an intellectually and culturally challenging one," said Roy. "The Read-In encourages us to discover authors we might otherwise overlook and to recommend new books to add to the library's collection."

Roy plans to read a short story by Percival Everett during this year's Read-In. She became a fan of his work after hearing a short story of his read on a radio program.

Nationwide, the Read-In is sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and by its Black Caucus. It has been endorsed by the International Reading Association.

\$1.2 Million Gift, from page 1

The Smith gift will be put to immediate use and is directed to projects designed to support the emerging green energy industry in the region and state. NMCC President Timothy Crowley announced that the College will use the funds to establish the Northern Maine Center for Excellence in Alternative Energy Training and Education, a project that had been conceptualized by college officials in hopes of finding funding resources. That project will be fast-tracked, as will the purchase of \$650,000 of instructional equipment which will allow for the expansion of NMCC's wind power technology program. This equipment will allow the College to double its enrollment of first year students in the program from 18 to 36, to better serve the student demand for the program as well as industry needs.

"We have begun the work needed to support the economic vitalization of this region by building a solid education program focused on the use of renewable energy," said Crowley. "This profoundly generous and most appreciated investment by Mrs. Smith toward that goal will have significant impact on our ability to help Aroostook County build the infrastructure and workforce needed to ensure alternative energy is key to unlocking the future economic potential of the region. By bringing the education and training needed for the use of renewable resources that are abundant in this region under one roof, we can respond to the demand, as well as make the best possible use of our resources to educate the public and the workforce of the future."

Although College officials intend to announce further specifics of what projects will be initiated and which purchases will be made with the large gift in the near future, the intention is to utilize \$500,000 to support the establishment of the Center for Excellence. NMCC will develop the facility at a recently renovated 7,800 square foot building located nearby the campus on Skyway Street that was formerly used by the Presque Isle Public Works Department.

The College had previously made arrangements with the Presque Isle Industrial Council to lease the facility beginning this spring to provide additional classroom and lab space to both accommodate the record number of students enrolled in the building trade programs and new

initiatives within those programs to incorporate curriculum in alternative energy. The donation will allow for development of the center concept and for the purchase of needed technology and equipment to ensure students have training opportunities that will be most effective toward creating a new industry in the region and moving it forward.

"During his lifetime, Rodney Smith was instrumental in advancing the high-tech electronics industry in Silicon Valley. This gift in his honor will serve as a catalyst for the development of yet another promising sector that holds significant potential for northern Maine," said Brian Hamel, chair of the NMCC Foundation Board of Directors. "The students, faculty and staff of the College, as well as the people of Aroostook County and the State of Maine, are the direct beneficiaries of this wonderful gift that will have a lasting impact on the economic development of our region"

Rodney Smith was born in Oldham, England and grew up in a very poor working class neighborhood. He attended an Anglican school where a teacher noticed his brilliance and insisted that he study to prepare for the 11-plus exam. He excelled and received a scholarship to an exclusive private school.

Despite his ability to meet the academic rigors at the school, the young Mr. Smith felt he didn't "fit in" with the wealthy upper class students, a sentiment compounded by the stark reality of insurmountable fiscal challenges, a two hour train commute, and no time or place to study. Under mutual agreement with the school it was decided that he would leave.

At loose ends after leaving the school and with no parental guidance, at age 16, Smith enlisted in the British Army to be a student in the Army Apprentices School at Arborfield. The Apprentices School was established within the British Army to train young soldiers in specialized technical trades. Smith finished his service



NMCC Foundation Board Chair Brian Hamel (left) and Richard Engels, NMCC Foundation immediate past board chair, listen as NMCC President Timothy Crowley announces that the College will establish the Northern Maine Center for Excellence in Alternative Energy Training and Education through a \$1.2 million gift made in honor and memory of Rodney Smith.



Future site of the Northern Maine Center for Excellence in Alternative Energy Training and Education.

in the Army's Royal Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). Through the support of the British Army he received his degree in electrical engineering.

At age 27, he left the British Army and made his jump "across the pond" to the United States where he began working for General Electric on the east coast. After a short time with G.E., Smith headed to California to work for Fairchild Semiconductor, where he spent 13 years, becoming the general manager of the company's second largest division. In 1983, he was hired by the founders of the Altera Corporation to serve as the first CEO. Altera is the leading company in innovative custom logic solutions and invented the world's first reprogrammable logic device in 1984. Smith led the company to great success for two decades before retiring on January 1, 2001.

In December, Mrs. Smith directed a \$50,000 contribution to NMCC for the purchase of technology for the wind power technology program. See page 9 for more details on that gift.

NMCC Hosts Competition for Area High School Students

Students enrolled in the electronics/computer servicing program at the Caribou Regional Applied Technology Center recently tested their knowledge in a skills competition hosted by NMCC. Computer electronics instructor Joseph McLaughlin and seniors in his program set up and judged the regional contest which serves as a preliminary for the state SkillsUSA competition.

The event is a contest in computer maintenance technology. It consists of a written exam, similar to the industry standard A+ certification exam, followed by a hands-on activity designed to measure the students' mastery of several fundamental computer repair tasks.

Each of the participating students was assigned a computer to troubleshoot and tasked with determining the problem and documenting the steps to repair the unit. They were scored on safety, troubleshooting skills, and their documentation of the process used. Scores were combined with the test scores to determine a rank order of the contestants.

Coming in first place was Ian Thibeault of Caribou, with Jeff Rossignol of Stockholm placing second and Jeff Johnson of Westfield placing third. Also

competing were Colby Conroy of Woodland and Sean Schniederat of Caribou.

"This is a great experience for my students," said Lisa Anderson, electronics/computer servicing instructor at the Caribou Regional Applied Technology Center. "In addition to practicing for the SkillsUSA competition, this gives them the opportunity to have a problem set up by someone other than me, as well as the chance to collaborate with folks who they may work with in the future and to see former students from this program succeeding at the college level."

Anderson also finds it personally rewarding to see her former students succeeding at NMCC. Three of her former students, now enrolled in the computer electronics program, were on hand when she and her group came to campus.

"This is a great partnership that benefits both the regional technology center and the College," said McLaughlin.



Taking part in the competition from the CRTC were, front from left: Lisa Anderson, computer servicing instructor at the Caribou Technology Center and her students Ian Thibeault, Jeff Johnson, Sean Schneiderat, Colby Conroy, and Jeffrey Rossignol. Working with the group of high schoolers was, back from left: Joseph McLaughlin, NMCC computer electronics instructor, and his students Pierre Gagne, Shawn Morin, Jesse King, Luke Dube, Scott Rossignol, Doug Ewing, Buddy LaCombe, and Gerald Belanger.

"These students have already expressed an interest in working with computers, and having them visit our lab and see what we do here can lead to them deciding to come to NMCC. My students benefit as well. Not only does their role in this competition give them a chance to experience a teaching moment, but it allows them to put a lot of the safety skills and troubleshooting methods which they've learned in class to use."

A strong partnership already exists between the two programs. McLaughlin serves on Anderson's advisory committee and provides technical and educational support when needed. Anderson plays a similar role on McLaughlin's advisory committee.

Students Prepare for Off-Shore Wind Industry

Although offshore wind power projects may be a few years away in Maine, students in NMCC's wind power program participated in training they will need to work in the emerging industry.

NMCC wind power technology instructor Wayne Kilcollins added an optional component to his innovative program. Students had the opportunity to train and earn certification in helicopter underwater egress training and surface vessel emergency operations, the latter of which is required by the U.S. Coast Guard for all workers on oil and natural gas platforms, and now for technicians working on offshore wind projects.

"This is not a required part of our curriculum, but for students who may end up working on offshore wind projects, this would be something needed before beginning their work assignment. It makes the students that much more marketable. It is a great addition to their resume," said Kilcollins.

Thirteen seniors traveled with Kilcollins to MMA to participate in classroom and hands-on training exercises to earn certifications in both surface vessel emergency operations and helicopter underwater egress training. Included were several hours of training in a pool conducting exercises to simulate what would happen in the event of a surface vessel or helicopter emergency at sea.

One of the students taking part was Scott Neimi, who is thankful for the opportunity to gain the additional training as his future may include working with offshore wind.

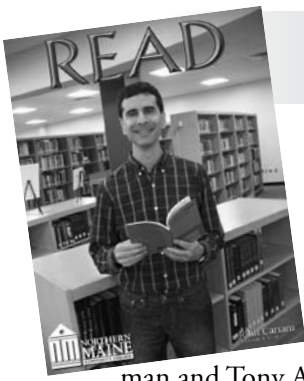
"I was kind of nervous about being flipped upside down in the water strapped into a helicopter simulator, but it went smoothly. With the training, I'll be better prepared to know what to do without panicking in the event of a water emergency," said Neimi.

With advance work currently underway for offshore wind test sites off the



NMCC wind power student Justin Foran (left) of Milo and instructor Wayne Kilcollins (center) undergo hands-on helicopter underwater egress training at Maine Maritime Academy. Working with them is MMA instructor John McMillan.

coast of Maine and the Cape Wind project off Cape Cod currently in the permitting phase, Kilcollins is hopeful that job opportunities will be available for those who choose to pursue a career in offshore wind. He has spoken with firms working on the Cape Wind project that have expressed a willingness to partner with NMCC on future employment and internship opportunities for students.



When playwright and actor John Cariani visited NMCC to speak with students and faculty, he signed a copy of the play for the NMCC Library and also posed for a photo to promote reading.

Cariani Visits NMCC

The Presque Isle man and Tony Award nominee who penned an Off Broadway production about the romantic happenings one cold night in northern Maine recently returned home and visited NMCC, where he spent time with students and faculty.

John Cariani's visit to NMCC came just as *Dramatics Magazine* released its top ten list of the most performed plays in North American high schools in 2010. Cariani's *Almost Maine*, depicting a mythical town in northern Maine, tops the list, edging out plays with longer-standing high school histories, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ranked second) and *Alice in Wonderland* (ranked sixth).

While at NMCC, Cariani spoke with classes about his work, including the writing process, and took a moment to sign a printed copy of *Almost Maine* for the College library. He also posed for a READ poster that will hang in the library.

NMCC to Hold Book Signing with Local Writers

Some members of a local writers' group whose work has been published in a new book, *Breathe Volume II*, will be at NMCC on Wednesday, February 9, for a book signing from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Edmunds Conference Center. In addition to signing books, which will be available for purchase during the event, the writers will be reading some of their favorite pieces.

"We like to read to an audience very much and love listener feedback. I think most people write because they want to share the worlds they create, whether fictional or real," said Wendy Koenig, president of the Caribou-based writing group Breathe. The group focuses on a positive but honest atmosphere, with an effort put on keeping everybody writing, learning and having fun, according to Koenig.

The group recently published their second book, *Breathe Volume II*, an anthology of poetry, prose, short fiction and non-fiction. This anthology was a

The American Library Association established the READ campaign, a literacy program to encourage reading for enjoyment. The campaign displays posters of notable Americans and celebrities who are photographed with their favorite book to lend support to the simple but powerful message: READ! The series is the most widely recognized promotion for literacy and libraries, and it is now possible for libraries to create their own posters.

The Cariani READ poster will be hung in the library with others that include former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, Jerry "The Beaver" Mathers, and former NMCC Mitchell Peace Scholars.

In addition to penning *Almost Maine*, Cariani had a recurring role on the NBC show *Law and Order* and made his Broadway debut in the 2004 revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

combined effort of every member of the group. They decided to publish a second volume of work based on the warm reception the first book received, according to Koenig.

"It's an enjoyable book to just thumb through and read. The wide variety of talent is amazing. We have beginners and advanced writers alike. They all have pieces in our book," she said. "Even our cover was designed by a group member."

The February 9 book signing is being coordinated by Gail Roy, the College's assistant dean of learning resources.

"Book signings are a great way to support the creative efforts of those in our community, as well as to promote reading for pleasure," said Roy. "The Breathe Volume II book signing is a great opportunity for members of the campus and local community to see and hear more about work from these local writers."



Two Programs Undergoing Reviews

Two allied health programs have been undergoing reviews by external organizations. The medical assisting program, added to the curriculum in 2007, is seeking accreditation, while the emergency medical services program is renewing its state approval.

The medical assisting program, undergoing its first review by an accrediting body, had a team of site surveyors visit campus in November. Program documentation, course outlines, evaluation instruments and program outcomes were reviewed. The team also met with campus and community constituencies.

"The end goal of all of this is so our graduates can take the Certified Medical Assisting (CMA) credentialing exam, which is the gold standard for medical assisting," said Susan Dugal, medical assisting program coordinator. "This accreditation will serve the students, the College, and employers quite well."

An application was submitted by NMCC last April, followed by a self-study in July and the site survey in November. The survey team's findings will be presented to the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB) in February. The board makes recommendations to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs about granting accreditation. NMCC will hear results this spring.

Site evaluators from Maine Emergency Medical Services were also on campus in November to conduct their visit. The College is an authorized Maine EMS Training Center. Authorization for such a designation is valid for a period of five years. NMCC is seeking renewal of that status for another five-year period.

"This is important for the program as it verifies that NMCC's training center is meeting or exceeding the minimum required educational standards. It assures the EMS program is continuously involved in program improvement and evaluation," said Daryl Boucher, EMS program coordinator.

The EMS site visit also follows a comprehensive self-study prepared by Boucher and other instructors. After the visit, Maine EMS receives a written report and a recommendation from the site visitors, from which they will base their decision regarding continuing approval. The decision is expected this month.



The NMCC Foundation presented the 2010 Outstanding Benefactor Recognition Award to WAGM-TV at their annual dinner. The award was accepted by (left to right) Peter and Carol Kozlowski, WAGM station owners, and Kelley Landeen, WAGM sales manager. Presenting the award were NMCC Foundation Board vice chair Vicki Smith and board chair Brian Hamel.



The NMCC Foundation presented the 2009 Eagle Award to Scott Carlin (center), Foundation board member and president of the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization, for his instrumental work at getting the new group off and running. Presenting the award are Brian Hamel, Foundation board chair (left) and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.



Roger Roy (center), outgoing chair of the NMCC Foundation Finance and Investment Committee was presented a special recognition award for his service as chair of the committee since 2003. Presenting the award are Bruce Sandstrom (left) the incoming chair of the committee and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

NMCC Foundation Realizes Double-Digit Percentage Growth in Annual Giving

A 17 percent increase in annual giving to the NMCC Foundation over the past year is a reflection of the work of the institution throughout the region and the positive impact of the College on the lives of its students and in the communities it serves.

That was the message shared with the over 100 donors and friends of the Foundation gathered at the College in November for the organization's annual dinner meeting. The event featured remarks from NMCC students who are scholarship recipients. Honors were also presented to key leaders, donors and volunteers who have been instrumental in moving the Foundation and College forward.

"Our work and the collective support of our donors have never been more crucial to ensure students have access to higher education," said Brian Hamel, chair of the Foundation board. Our efforts to support the College through various initiatives, including student scholarships, instructional technology and innovation, as well as to assist the

institution in meeting immediate and emerging needs, have expanded in recent years."

Private support for the institution is more critical than ever, according to President Timothy Crowley, given issues surrounding the state budget and the current state of the economy, which has led to record enrollment at NMCC, a 12 percent increase over two years.

"Our growth and continued improvement to programs and services would not be possible without the active involvement of the NMCC Foundation. It is your interest in the College and support of our mission that allows us to be an important part of the fabric of Aroostook County," said Crowley.

Highlights of the past year noted during the meeting included the receipt of a \$20,000 anonymous gift. Half of the donation established an endowed scholarship for students enrolled in nursing and allied health programs, while the other half created an endowed emergency fund to help NMCC students in the greatest need. Also noted was the work of the new



Members of the NMCC Foundation Board are, sitting from left: Board Chair Brian Hamel, managing partner at Thompson-Hamel; Vice Chair Vicki Smith, senior vice president of marketing at Katahdin Trust Company in Houlton; Treasurer Larry LaPlante, finance director at NMCC; Secretary Lois Dickson, owner of Tempo Employment Services; Immediate Past Chair Richard Engels, attorney with Bemis & Rossignol. Standing, from left: Dustin Graham, NMCC student; Scott Carlin, owner of Star City, Hillside, and Mars Hill IGAs; Richard Nadeau, president and owner of A&L Construction; Virginia Joles, director of communications and economic development at Maine Public Service; Carl Flora, president and CEO at the Loring Development Authority; Pam Buck, NMCC instructor; Connie Sandstrom, executive director of the Aroostook County Action Program; Chris Fitzpatrick, senior regional vice president at Machias Savings Bank in Houlton; Jan Grieco, NMCC instructor; Betty Kent-Conant, retired; Robert White, retired; Bruce Sandstrom, senior vice president of finance at The Aroostook Medical Center; and Timothy Crowley, NMCC president. Absent from photo: Gary Cleaves, retired; Gregg Collins, vice president of S.W. Collins Company; Raynold Gauvin, retired; Sandra Gauvin, retired; Philip Grondin, Sr., retired; Michael Kelley, Sr., regional vice president of TD Bank in Presque Isle; Mariah LeMieux, NMCC student; Melony Hunt-LeShane, account manager, Kilbride & Harris Insurance Services; Roger Roy, executive vice president at MMG Insurance; Emily Smith, partner at Smith's Farm, Inc.; Jane Towle, co-owner/broker at RE-MAX Central; and Terry Wade, plant manager at Smith & Wesson.



The \$50,000 contribution from the Troutbeck Fund will be used to purchase a second mechanical drive system trainer for the wind power program. A similar unit, purchased by the College last summer, is in high demand as evidenced from this photo taken in the NMCC wind power technology lab this semester.

Annual Meeting, *cont.*

NMCC Alumni and Friends Organizations. The NMCC Foundation played a critical role in getting the group started.

The 2010 Benefactor of the Year Award was presented to WAGM-TV. Owners Peter and Carol Kozlowski and sales manager Kelley Landeen accepted the award on behalf of the television station, which has partnered with the Foundation and College for fundraising activities and has been a large donor, providing scholarship assistance to NMCC students through the Foundation.

The Foundation's Eagle Award was presented to Scott Carlin, Foundation board member, alumnus and president of the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization. The owner of Star City, Hillside and Mars Hill IGA, Carlin was elected the first president of the alumni group formed a year ago. He has volunteered countless hours, and he and his wife Rena have been key donors.

Betty Kent-Conant of Fort Fairfield, the recently retired chair of NMCC's nursing and allied health department, was elected as a new board member. Also introduced were new faculty representative Pamela Buck and new student representative Darren Lawrence.

Presenting the donation (from left) are CHER members Darcy Kinney, community education coordinator for the Aroostook Medical Center; Linda Menard, library/CME coordinator for TAMC; Dean Grivois, northern Maine coordinator for Eastern Maine AHEC; and Susan Dugal, NMCC nursing instructor. The gift was received by Kim Esquibel, chair of the nursing and allied health department; Richard Engels of the NMCC Foundation Board of Directors; and Mariah LeMieux-Lupien and Dustin Graham, student representatives on the Foundation Board.

NMCC Wind Power Program Receives \$50,000 to Purchase Needed Equipment

The NMCC Foundation received a \$50,000 contribution from the Troutbeck Fund, an advised fund of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The gift is designated toward the purchase of needed instructional equipment for the Wind Power Technology Program.

The Troutbeck Fund was established by Mary Smith of California, a native of Presque Isle, as an advised fund in memory of her husband, Rodney Smith, and her parents, Hope and Robert Akeley, both of whom were born and raised in central Aroostook County.

"We are profoundly grateful to Mrs. Smith for her advocacy on our behalf and for her support in the form of this contribution through the Troutbeck Fund," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

The contribution will allow for the purchase of a mechanical drive system trainer that will be utilized by students to learn the fundamentals of mechanical transmission systems used in wind power and other industrial settings. The College purchased a single unit, which cost \$43,000, last summer. According to instructor Wayne Kilcollins, having a second trainer will provide for more individual hands-on learning opportunities and make more efficient use of lab time.

"This is a key piece of instructional equipment for our program. Utilizing the trainer, students learn industry-rel-

evant skills including how to operate, install, analyze performance and design basic mechanical transmission systems," said Kilcollins.

In addition to the mechanical drive system trainer, the College intends to use the remaining \$7,000 from the contribution toward the purchase of a multimedia interactive programmable controller unit. This equipment will allow students to program a controller and connect different motors, switches and other devices to see how the program they created interacts with these components.

"We are very fortunate to have such a high level of support come from throughout the region, but to have a gift of this size come from across the country in Silicon Valley is affirmation of the high quality education NMCC delivers and the critically important role the College plays in meeting the education, training and economic development needs of our state," said Brian Hamel, NMCC Foundation Board chair.

Hamel credits the outstanding work of the faculty and staff at NMCC and the community awareness efforts undertaken by the College, as well as the work of the Foundation board, which all contributed to the College realizing the gift. He noted the efforts of his predecessor, Richard Engels, as especially significant.

Group Disbands, Donates Funds to Foundation

The vision of a collaborative of health care educators and professionals from throughout Aroostook County will live on despite the organization's decision to disband, as members have designated their remaining funds to an NMCC Foundation endowed scholarship for nursing and allied health students.

For the past decade, County Health

Education Resources (CHER) has been a non-profit, self-supporting consortium dedicated to providing education that enhances health care services in Aroostook. The group decided earlier this year to disband, but the question remained of what to do with the just over \$1,600 in remaining funds.

"As a group, we felt that a scholarship

would be a good way to support students entering into health careers. NMCC has always had a strong commitment to education in this area, so we felt this would be the best way to help students and ensure that the legacy of CHER continued," said Susan Dugal, chair of CHER.





Robert Clark

Computer Programming
1975

Bob has led the efforts of the Northern Maine Development Commission for more than 20 years. Under his leadership, NMDC has become one of the leading development organizations in the state. In recognition of his accomplishments, he has received a number of awards from various groups, including Developer of the Year, Economic Developer of the Year, Champion of Economic Development, and Spirit of Aroostook. He serves on more than 20 boards, including the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees. Although Bob has not stayed in the computer programming field, he says that the business courses he took at the then NMVTI gave him the financial background that he would later use extensively, while the computer programming courses gave him the ability to see a logical path and develop solutions to any problem that may arise. "It gave me the foundation for business that I needed; the foundation for everything I've done," he said. Bob also holds a BS in accounting from Husson College.

Nancy Putnam

Associate Degree Nursing - 1984



Nancy has had a passion for healthcare throughout her life, always knowing that she wanted to be an RN. She graduated from the diploma level Licensed Practical Nurse program in 1971. After working for a number of years as an LPN teaching childbirth education, she made the decision to come back to then NMTC after her youngest child finished high school and reach that goal of being an RN. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Husson College; and then, with a new goal of becoming a nurse practitioner, she earned a master's degree from the University of Maine. She now practices medicine as a nurse practitioner at Houlton Family Practice, a job which gives her great satisfaction. She has a particular interest in nutrition and women's healthcare. Nancy feels her greatest strength is "to recognize what I don't know. It makes me respect the people who come to this practice for an opinion; it's very humbling."

NMCC Launches Search for Candidates to Fill Final Three Stars for Anniversary

The search is on to identify members of community who, over the past half century, have played a key role in the development of Northern Maine Community College and its forerunners Northern Maine Technical College and Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute.

The NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization is turning to the public to help find three additional "stars" to complete its constellation of NMCC's 50 Shining Stars, a project initiated for the College's 50th anniversary. The intent was to identify one alum from each of the graduating classes.

The challenge is that, although founded in 1961, the college did not welcome its first students until 1963, and as a result held its first graduation in 1965, leaving four of the 50 star slots open. Alumni board directors intend to fill one of the four with a member of the class of 2011, but that still leaves three.

"We decided that it would be most appropriate to honor some of NMCC's community friends who have helped advance the College in meaningful ways over the past five decades," said Scott Carlin, president of the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization. "It is reflective of the critical and much appreciated support NMCC has received from throughout the region since the days when the institution was just a dream to the very real success it is today. It also goes well with our group's inclusive mission to engage all alumni and friends of the College."

Over a period of several months, a committee from the organization held meetings and work sessions to identify

alumni from each of the classes dating back to 1965. These individuals collectively represent the array of academic programs (past and present) and the breadth and depth of the impact the College and its alumni have made over five decades.

"We were looking for and selected a really good mix of people who have been successful in their own right and have made a positive difference in their profession, community and in the lives of others around them," said Cindy Albert, committee member. "These 'shining stars' tell the true NMCC story."

To capture those stories, several students spent last summer and fall conducting interviews with and collecting photos of these individuals. In the coming months, the stories will be shared with the community through a marketing campaign and in a number of publications.

Four of these stars were honored as the forerunners to introduce the project at the alumni banquet last fall: Robert Clark of Fort Fairfield, Robert Lilly of Scarborough, Nancy Putman of New Limerick and Ammie Toby of Houlton.

They, along with all of the other 50 stars, will be the special guests at the 50th Anniversary Gala Banquet planned this September. At that event, posters of each star will be unveiled.

Individuals who want to recommend a "Shining Star" should send a letter of nomination explaining why they believe that person is deserving of the honor. Letters should be mailed by March 1 to the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization, 33 Edgemont Drive, Presque Isle, ME 04769, or e-mailed to alumni@nmcc.edu. For more information, contact the alumni office at (207) 760-1188.

Ammie Toby

Automotive Body Repair & Automotive Technology - 1993



Ammie has always enjoyed working on and learning about automobiles. She decided to go to NMTC because she wanted to both apply her skills in a hands-on program and prove the stereotype wrong regarding women in that trade. After co-owning a body shop for a few years, Ammie decided to move into the teaching field. She has been teaching her trade to high schoolers at Region 2 vocational school in Houlton for 12 years. She feels rising to the rank of teacher is one of her biggest accomplishments. Once a year she brings her students to the College, encouraging them to take advantage of the affordable, quality programs available to them conveniently close to home. Ammie is truly a lifelong learner. She has been enrolled in a class every year since she graduated. She is hardworking and has earned the respect of folks in her field.



NMCC's student services staff helped to set the mood for the 1960's celebration held on campus recently. The group collectively won the "Spirit" Award not only for their great outfits, but for their lively performance of "Hand Jive" ...one of the highlights of the event.

NMCC nursing students Greg Palm and Alix Curtain were among the many who got into the 'swing' of things with the hoola hoop contest. Curtain was named contest winner.



Folks put their hips in motion doing the twist at the NMCC celebration.



Helping to set the mood for the 1960's diner theme, staff from Aramark, NMCC's dining services, operated a mock "soda fountain," handing out free banana splits, root beer floats and other drinks. They also delivered free hot dog and hamburger baskets to tables, serving approximately 600 during the two hour event.



Kim Smith (left), from the Presque Isle Historical Society, and Betsy Harris, NMCC registrar, both served on the committee that helped plan the celebration.



NMCC President Tim Crowley gets in on the fun as he helps hold the limbo stick for Robbie Krul, assistant director of admissions, and the other participants in the limbo contest.



Heidi Graham (left) and Cindy Albert, two of the "Pink Ladies" at the celebration, hang out in the mock drive in.

Celebration, from page 1

contest winners included: Joyce Tremblay, secretary for the academic dean, for her dance moves doing the twist; Lori Googins, athletic director, best dressed; Tyler Freeman of Caribou, most talented; and 15 members of the NMCC student services staff, spirit award for their outstanding outfits and performance of "Hand Jive."

"We wanted to start off our anniversary celebration with something fun and light-hearted," said Betsy Harris, NMCC registrar and chair of the subcommittee that planned the event. "It went off even better than we had hoped. The number of people attending the event and the people opting to perform were both larger than we had anticipated. The feedback we've gotten back from across campus and from the community has really been incredible."

The College will continue planning events to celebrate several milestones in the coming years: the 50th anniversary of the founding of the college in June of this year, marking when Maine Governor John H. Reed signed a bill into law that established the institution; the 50th entering class in August, 2013; and the 50th graduating class in May, 2015. Events will be held this fall on the weekend of September 9 when the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization hosts its second annual Homecoming. A gala 50th anniversary banquet is planned for that time.



A group of trade instructors lip syncing to "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" performed during the 1960's celebration. Members were, from left: Dennis Albert, welding & metal fabrication; Guy Jackson, residential construction; Al St. Peter, plumbing & heating; and Dave Guerrette, safety. Performing with them was Austin Albert, son of NMCC employees Dennis and Cindy Albert.

Thank you to all who joined us for our celebration! A special thanks goes out to all of those employees, students and community members who performed for us that day, truly making the day memorable.

Caribou Rotary Club Donates Books

The college, in collaboration with the Aroostook County Action Program, turned to the community last fall for assistance in collecting books to give away along the route at the annual Star City Holiday Light Parade on December 4.

The call for books resulted in many individuals, community members, NMCC students, and ACAP students and families bringing in new and used children's books to the College and ACAP sites throughout The County. In addition, several organizations, including Box of Books, First Book of Aroostook, Zippel Elementary School, and Mardens contributed boxes of books. Among those who donated books was the Caribou Rotary Club, donating 300 books.

"We wanted to support this very worthwhile community project," said Joyce Knorr, Caribou Rotarian and NMCC alumna, who brought the project to the club's attention.

NMCC student Dustin Graham was present at the Caribou Rotary's November 17 meeting to receive the books. Graham has taken a leadership role on the project this year along with Colleen Harmon, the NMCC instructor who launched the project seven years ago.

"Children from all over Aroostook County attend the Holiday Light Parade and receive a book as a result of this effort every year. It is because of the generosity of individuals and organizations, like Caribou Rotary, that we are able to make this happen," said Graham.



Caribou Rotarian Joyce Knorr (left) and Club President Mark Draper (center) present NMCC student Dustin Graham with more than 300 children's books collected by club members.

Mars Hill Rotary Donates to Wind Power Program

Mars Hill Rotary Club donated \$800 to the NMCC wind power technology program for the purchase of a fall arrest harness assembly, safety equipment used to protect technicians climbing and working in a wind turbine. Students use the harnesses in lab and climbing exercises.

Instructor Wayne Kilcollins visited with the Mars Hill Rotary Club twice in 2010 to speak about the wind power program. In the first presentation, he provided a general overview of the program. He was invited back to speak specifically about the safety measures observed and equipment used in the program. He brought along one of his students, Scott Niemi, who helped demonstrate the fall arrest equipment used in the industry and in the NMCC program.

Kilcollins and Niemi shared with the club that the harnesses were expensive – \$800 each – and noted that several students needed to use them at the same time, which proved challenging given the limited number available. The need for additional fall arrest equipment to train future wind technicians in Aroostook County hit a chord with the Rotarians, who live in the host community to Maine's first commercial wind farm.

"Seeing and hearing about the success of and demand for the wind power technology program at NMCC and the obvious benefit of the wind industry here in Mars Hill and across northern Maine, it seemed donating to the program was a very appropriate way of giving back to the community," said Edward Wright,



Edward Wright (left), president of the Mars Hill Rotary Club checks out the new fall arrest harness assembly worn by NMCC student Scott Niemi. The safety equipment was purchased by NMCC through a donation from the Mars Hill Rotarians. Niemi and NMCC Wind Power Technology Instructor Wayne Kilcollins (right) visited with the Rotarians last spring to speak about safety measures and equipment students and instructors in the program utilize.

president of the Mars Hill Rotary Club. "Rotary's motto is 'Service Above Self', and we saw this as an opportunity to benefit local students and the communities we serve at the same time."

Not only has the newly purchased fall arrest harness enhanced the inventory of safety equipment for the program, the new harness is actually the next generation safety device.

"They are lighter and the straps can be adjusted a lot easier. Carrying the extra weight makes a big difference when you are climbing hundreds of feet," said Niemi, who will be among New England's first "home-grown" wind power technicians when he graduates in May.

NESHHRM Presents Scholarship to NMCC Student



Presenting a \$500 scholarship to NMCC student Krissy Williams (second from left) are LaNiece Winslow, NESHHRM President (second from right), and Bob Canney, NESHHRM Scholarship Chair. Joining them is NMCC instructor Pam Crawford (left), who recommended Williams for the award.

NMCC student Krissy Williams is the recipient of a \$500 scholarship from the Northeast Society for Human Resource Management. The group presents the NESHHRM/Deborah Kierstead and Milton Bailey Memorial Scholarships annually to students enrolled in a business program at NMCC, UMPI, UMFK, or Husson University in Presque Isle.

"NESHHRM is very happy to present our scholarship to such an outstanding student," said LaNiece Winslow, NESHHRM president.

Williams, a first year business administration student, aspires to become a human resources manager. The single mother of three enrolled at NMCC after more than a decade in the workforce.

Precision Metals Manufacturing Program Gains New Equipment through Partnership with International Machine Tool Builder

NMCC students and the growing metals manufacturing industry sector in the region and statewide will be the beneficiaries of a partnership between the campus and the largest computer numerical controlled machine tool builder in the Western World.

A new state-of-the-art automation lathe, with an estimated value of \$110,000, is in place in the precision metals manufacturing lab as the result of a newly signed school entrustment agreement with Hass Automation, Inc. The partnership is facilitated and supported by Haas designated reseller Windsor, Connecticut-based Trident Machine Tools, LLC.

According to Dean Duplessis, precision metals manufacturing instructor, the newly entrusted equipment boasts significant hardware and software upgrades, including increased tool and part capacity, which will provide students with a much



Dean Duplessis (far right), NMCC's precision metals manufacturing instructor, looks on as a new state-of-the-art Haas automation lathe was delivered and installed in the college's CNC lab recently.

broader spectrum of "real-world" project experience in the lab. The new software incorporated into the lathe provides new and enhanced functions to facilitate set-up and component manufacturing.

The precision metals manufacturing program was first introduced in 2002, through an initial investment of federal funds championed by Senator Susan Collins to positively impact the industry in the region and state. In 2003, the CNC

lab was designated as the first Hass Technical Education Center in Maine and endorsed by Hass and Trident Machine as a program that would re-invigorate precision manufacturing in the northern part of the state and draw students to a career field with a shortage of skilled workers.

The College and Hass entered into an agreement at that time and Hass equipment, valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars, was placed in the program's lab. Access to the technology and the breadth

of experience it provided students, along with the strength of the curriculum, led to designation by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) as an accredited training program in level I and level II machining skills.

According to Duplessis, graduates from his program are recruited each year by several local and statewide firms, as well as companies in New Brunswick.

NMCC Partners with County Surveying Firm to Expose Students to Tools of Their Trade

Thanks to a partnership between NMCC and Blackstone Land Surveying in Caribou, computer-aided drafting students are gaining firsthand knowledge of newer technology utilized by fellow land surveyors in the community.

The collaborative effort, initiated between Dale Blackstone and adjunct instructor Roger Crouse, is allowing students to gain knowledge about equipment that incorporates what they learn in the classroom with new technology. Eight students have been working in the field with Blackstone and his colleague, fellow licensed land surveyor Brad Fox. The two demonstrated the importance and uses for two tools used to perform land surveys.

The first piece of equipment introduced by Blackstone was a Total Station, which uses a telescope to collect land data such as distances and various locations. That data is then able to be stored digitally and later transferred to a computer. Once downloaded into a computer, software within the Total Station can be used to create a physical drawing of the location being surveyed.

Blackstone also showed students how they could use a Global Positioning System (GPS), which allows users to attain the exact latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates of the land itself. This helps gain understanding of where the land is geographically prior to drawing it out.

"These hands on study sessions are the next best thing to having this equipment available in the classroom. They serve a great benefit to these students because this is the equipment they will be using when they graduate," said Crouse. "Sessions like this are the most cost efficient way for students to gain both technical knowledge and hands-on training. It allows them the chance to have access to a wealth of information from a technological and hands-on standpoint.

The equipment demonstrated by Blackstone and his team can range in price from \$40,000-\$55,000 and, in these economic times, purchasing it is



Surveyor Dale Blackstone (right) demonstrates land surveying technology to NMCC students. Working with Blackstone are (left to right) part-time NMCC instructor Roger Crouse and students Mariah LeMieux-Lupien of Presque Isle and Robert Ewing of Washburn.

cost prohibitive.

Offering this education to the students also helps Blackstone in his profession. "Part of our licensure stems from us working within education, and as a part of continuing education we are able offer this hands on instruction to students. We are able to earn the credits we need to stay licensed, but more important than that, we are able to help these students looking to pursue surveying as a career," said Blackstone.

National Tree Presentation



Kim Smith from the Presque Isle Historical Society led a presentation in December on the selection of the national Christmas tree that came from Presque Isle in 1959. The 70 foot white spruce from the Parsons Road was selected as the national Christmas tree and officially lit by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In addition to holding a special place in the hearts of people from Aroostook County, the national Christmas tree that year was unique in that it was the first from a private citizen and not from a national forest and it was the first ever used from east of the Mississippi River. Two of the gentlemen who helped cut down the tree and transport it to the train (as part of a Maine Public Service crew) shared their memories and also brought a cross section of the tree.

Constitution Day Presentation



The College celebrated Constitution Day on September 17 with a variety of activities. The highlight of the day featured a presentation by Presque Isle attorney Richard C. Engels of the law firm Bemis and Rossignol entitled "Toward a More Perfect Union - The Constitution an Ongoing Experiment in Limited Government." The day also included special meal items and a student-led voter registration drive.

Students Perform One-Act Play



Students in NMCC's Women in Literature class staged a performance of Susan Glaspell's one-act play *Trifles* in December. Instructor Jan Grieco (back left) built the production of the play as part of her curriculum of the assessment process for the course. *Trifles* was written in 1916 and is loosely based on true events of a small town. The play tells the story of characters in an isolated rural area. It is set in a farmhouse, where a mysterious murder has taken place. The production was student organized, from casting to set design, costumes to makeup, directing to stage crew, and everywhere in between. Members of the class and production include: Stephanie Brigley of New Sweden, Aline Brissette of Caribou, Mallory Ferrier of Ft. Fairfield, Michelle Fundalewicz of Ashland, Sarah Goodine of Washburn, Arielle Googins of Presque Isle, Dusty Graham of Mapleton, Janet Grivois of Grand Isle, Brittany Postell of Presque Isle, Penny Richards of Presque Isle, Chelsea Sadler of Perham, Zachery Stetson of Blaine, Alysia Thibodeau of Madawaska Lake, and Marisa Zonin of Presque Isle.

NMCC & ACAP Collect & Hand-out Books to Kids



NMCC students and employees partnered with the Aroostook County Action Program to brighten and enrich the lives of area children through what has become a signature service activity for the campus during the Holiday season. The collaboration made donating books more convenient for community members throughout the region by offering more drop-off locations. Volunteers from both organizations gathered on December 5 to walk in the Annual PI Holiday Light Parade to hand out the books to children along the route.

Area Senior Citizens Thanked

Local senior citizens who allowed NMCC nursing students into their homes last fall as part of the College's Well Elder program were thanked for their generous assistance during a tea on November 23 held on the Presque Isle campus as well as the NMCC Off-Campus Center in Houlton.

The Well Elder program pairs members of the first year nursing class with healthy senior citizens who volunteer to allow students into their homes throughout the semester to practice their assessment techniques. The student nurses take vital signs and review medications, home safety and general health lifestyles. Students also gain valuable experience practicing their interview and listening skills.

A total of 39 students enrolled in the first year nursing class on the Presque Isle campus and an additional eight students participating in the NMCC nursing program offered at a distance at the Houlton Higher Education Center were engaged in the well elder program this fall.



Central Aroostook area residents participating in the Well-Elder program gathered on the NMCC campus for a tea where they were thanked by the students. Among those gathered were (seated, from left) Carol Allen of Presque Isle; Terry Cheney of Mapleton; Clark Jalbert and Marlene Kelley, both of Presque Isle; Carroll Bagley of Mapleton; James Tweedie of Blaine; and Florence Cook of Bridgewater. Standing behind each of their respective well-elders are NMCC first year nursing students Emily Cyr, Leslie Cote, Amy Durland, Reid Hankins, Wendy Adams, Danielle Guerrette, and Amber Bennick.



Southern Aroostook residents participating in the Well-Elder program gathered at the Houlton Higher Education Center for their tea. Taking part were (seated, from left) Lowell Cornell, Jr. and Judith Oliver of Haynesville, Richard Desautel and Helen Hagan of Houlton, Arthur Holman and his wife Ann (standing) of Island Falls. Celebrating with them were (standing, same order) Michele King, Tory Rouse, Jamieson Romanelli, Theresa Duff and Kevin Schmidt.



Also taking part in the Well-Elder program on the NMCC campus were (seated, from left) Claudette Plourde of Fort Kent; Beverly Derrah of Limestone; Annis Roope of Castle Hill; Lavina Corey and Charlene Maynard, both of Washburn. Standing behind each of their respective well-elders are first year nursing students Alix Curtain, Meagan Pelletier, Jessica Reed, Michelle Doody and Jennifer Pinette.

Ernest Charette Inducted into Northern Maine Construction Hall of Fame



Joining the more than 50 people in attendance at the celebration were Charette's children (left to right) Roland Charette, Sandra Beaulieu, Rachel Charette, Ernest and his wife Eglina Charette, Gloria Daigle and Bob Charette.

Ernest Charette of Fort Kent, age 94, was recognized for his many accomplishments in the construction field by being inducted into the Northern Maine Construction Hall of Fame in October. As a surprise, he was also presented an honorary high school diploma from Fort Kent's Community High School at the NMCC event. He had earned the credential 75 years earlier, but an unfortunate twist of fate kept him from actually possessing the piece of paper. His daughter-in-law Paula Carson-Charette contacted officials with MSAD 27 in Fort Kent about the possibility of an honorary diploma. At the same time, she nominated her father-in-law for the Construction Hall of Fame, with the hopes that she could combine the two honors into one special evening. Ernest Charette is a well-known and highly-respected St. John Valley master craftsman, who worked more than seven decades in the building materials trade. He is credited with building a number of homes in the St. John Valley, as well as the bridge over Michaud Brook in Soldier Pond. He also designed and built the first and only private water system in Fort Kent that gravity fed water to a number of homes on Highland Avenue in Fort Kent.



33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769

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Upcoming Continuing Education Offerings...

Call 768-2768 for more details or to register.

Unleash Your iPod

Effectively use iTunes to manage music, podcasts and videos on your computer and on your iPod. Store and organize your digital media, create and share playlists, burn a CD or DVD. Find out which iPod accessories are really worth buying! Pre-requisite: Basic keyboard and mouse skills and familiarity with Windows.

CMP-850 ♦ Cost: \$39 ♦ .3 CEUs
Saturday, February 12 ♦ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Mastering Your BlackBerry

In this hands on course you will learn how to get the most out of your BlackBerry. Topics will include: customizing your device; phone, contacts and calendar shortcuts and tips; managing messages and attachments; getting the most out of the internet; and troubleshooting. Please bring your fully charged BlackBerry to class.

CMP-900 ♦ Cost: \$39 ♦ .3 CEUs
Tuesday, March 1 ♦ 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Microsoft Outlook 2007

Looking to do more than just e-mail with MS Outlook? Learn everything you need to know to use Outlook as a daily organizer and communication tool through e-mail to planning/scheduling features and customizing the interface itself. Other topics include distribution lists, filtering, creating rules, organizing contacts, tasks, notes, calendar scheduling, and more.

CSA-640 ♦ Cost: \$39 ♦ .3 CEUs
Wednesday, February 16 ♦ 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Digital Imaging

You'll learn how to edit your photos including cropping, resizing, adjusting colors and adding special effects. You will also learn how to store the files, print at the highest possible quality, email digital photos to friends and family and use them to create electronic photo albums or use with websites.

CMP-610 ♦ Cost \$69 ♦ .6 CEUs
Saturdays, March 5 & 12 ♦ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Adult First Aid with CPR & AED

This course provides first responders with training in basic first aid procedures—including the first aid skills recommended by OSHA—in a format that can be delivered in a single day. It also includes modules in CPR, AED, and environmental emergencies.

HLT-615 ♦ Cost \$99 – includes text ♦ .6 CEUs
Monday & Wednesday, March 7 & 9 ♦ 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Notary Course

This class is designed to assist you in applying for a Notary Public commission in Maine. Discussion will include powers and duties, qualifications, and procedures of a Notary Public, including performing civil wedding ceremonies. You will receive an INM student workbook, guidebook from the Secretary of State's office and a Notary application. Time will be allotted to complete the application that will be forwarded to the Secretary of State's office.

BNI-600 ♦ Cost \$49 ♦ .8 CEUs
Friday, March 18 ♦ 8:00 am – 4:30 pm