

'Awesome April' Activities Planned

NMCC is preparing for an "Awesome April" as the campus invites residents of Aroostook County to join in a month-long series of events to celebrate Community College Month.

More than a dozen activities are planned for "Celebrating Community College Month: An Awesome April" on the NMCC campus, including a community barbecue to launch the 30th anniversary Sinawik home constructed by students and faculty in several of the College trade programs, and a "wire cutting" ceremony to premiere a new wireless computer network on campus that will be available to students and community groups that host events on campus.

"The month of activity reflects the very essence and vitality of the College and the surrounding community," said Jason Parent, NMCC director of development and college relations. "Students, faculty, staff, community friends and many others have scheduled events to showcase the campus community and the teaching and learning that happens here everyday."

Among the April activities is a kickoff for a new literacy initiative in Aroostook County, co-sponsored by students in the NMCC early childhood education program and Howell House at Bowdoin College.

The "In Their Hands" project will involve a newly formed student group of early childhood education majors, who will use funds donated by students from Bowdoin

cont. on page 10

NMCC & Kiwanis Invite Public to Celebrate 30th Sinawik Home

Officials with Northern Maine Community College and the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club are inviting The County community to join in a celebration 30 years in the making.

For three decades, the College and Sinawik (Kiwanis spelled backward), a non-profit organization founded by the Presque Isle civic organization, have partnered to build a home each year that is contracted by, and sold to, an Aroostook County family.

With work on the 30th anniversary home nearing completion in the residential construction lab at NMCC, the College and Kiwanis club are hosting a community open house celebration on Tuesday, April 24, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Mailman Trades Building.

"This is a significant milestone for the College, Kiwanis and the communities we serve. For 30 years our faculty and students have done outstanding work on homes that are now found in communities throughout Aroostook County. We want to celebrate this achievement with the community," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

The event, complete with tours of the new home, an indoor barbecue and live band, will include presentations by College and Kiwanis officials on the history of the program, and a video featuring interviews



NMCC residential construction instructor Guy Jackson (left) works with Chanel Gagnon, a senior in the program.

with students and faculty members who have worked on Sinawik number 30.

The partnership between NMCC and Kiwanis was forged in 1976 to provide students in several trade programs at then Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute with a "real-life" practical experience, and as a way for Kiwanis to raise scholarship funds to invest in the local community. Among the scholarships given by Sinawik each year are five awards to NMCC trade and technical occupation students who work on constructing the home.

"Sinawik is a unique collaboration and one that produces wonderful benefits to all

cont. on page 3

INSIDE

- Page 2 Rural Pediatric Education Center a Step Closer
NMCC Student Honored
- Page 3 Volleyball Tournament to Raise Funds for Maine
Veterans' Home
- Page 4 NMCC & HRH Partner to Bring Nursing Educaiton
to Southern Aroostook
- Page 5 ECE Students Launch Literacy Project
ABG Inducts New Members

CAMPAIGN NEWS

- Page 6 Machias Savings Bank Contributes to Campaign
- Page 7 McCain Foods Pledges \$25,000 to Campaign
- Page 8 Tools 'N Trades Conference; NMCC Job Fair
- Page 9 Natural Balance Hoof Care Clinic to Be Held
Foundation Board Member Profile
- Page 11 April Activities Calendar
- Page 12 Continuing Education Offerings

NMCC Rural Pediatric Education Resource Center a Step Closer to Reality Thanks to State Grant for More Than \$12,000

The dream of establishing a resource center on the NMCC campus for area medical and emergency care professionals in Aroostook County who treat pediatric patients is a step closer to reality thanks to a \$12,684 grant from the Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership – a division of the Maine Department of Public Safety.

The funding to purchase equipment for a local pediatric repository, to improve curriculum through public education, and for regional continuing education in pediatric topics was awarded to NMCC to help meet a need expressed by area hospitals and emergency medical service organizations.

“Our vision is to become the information, equipment, and education center for pediatric care in this area,” said Daryl Boucher, coordinator of the NMCC emergency medical services program and a nursing faculty member. “The Rural Pediatric Education Resource Center will provide area hospitals and EMS providers a local resource and expertise in helping develop pediatric programs for their organizations.”



Daryl Boucher (left), nursing instructor and EMS coordinator at NMCC, shows students Jordan Baker and Tina Saucier some of the new pediatric equipment which the College was recently able to purchase thanks to a grant from the Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership—a division of the Maine Department of Public Safety.

The grant allowed NMCC to purchase pediatric training equipment that will be available to assist in the education of EMS providers at all levels, as well as hospital emergency department and pediatric personnel. The equipment, which is housed on campus, will also be used by students in the EMS, nursing, and other allied health programs.

According to Boucher, the material obtained through the grant is the first substantial purchase of pediatric training equipment in Aroostook County in several years. Among the items recently received by the College are a cardiac monitor, rhythm generator, laryngoscope blades, and replacement accessories.

The equipment purchase accounts for half of the grant award. The remaining funds will be used to offer educational programming for area EMS personnel and healthcare providers, NMCC students, and the public in general.

Under Boucher’s direction, NMCC will plan, develop, and administer 12 educational sessions in pediatric topics to be held throughout the region. Funding from the grant will support educational materials, lesson plan development, instructor time, and travel expense.

The courses, held monthly, will cover various topics in pediatric emergency care and will be provided in a number of different communities throughout Aroostook County.

“Many of the first responders and emergency medical technicians in north-

cont. on page 10



Michaele Black is congratulated by Maine Community College President John Fitzsimmons (left) and Northern Maine Community College President Tim Crowley after the ceremony in Augusta at which she was named to the All-Maine Academic Team.

NMCC Student Honored

Michaele C. Black, a senior in the NMCC liberal studies program, has been named to the All-Maine Academic Team.

Dennis King, Chair of the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees, praised the accomplishments of Black and the other 10 community college students who were named to the team at a recent ceremony in Augusta. The All-Maine Academic program recognizes the scholarly achievements and leadership qualities of two-year college students and is sponsored in part by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges.

“These eleven students are being recognized for their high academic

achievement and their contributions to their communities. Individually, and collectively, they are making their college, their community and our state a better place,” said King, addressing the crowd, which included students’ family members, college faculty and staff, and several legislators.

At the ceremony, each of the students received a \$500 scholarship from KeyBank. King and MCCS President John Fitzsimmons both gave remarks recognizing the students’ achievements.

“It was an honor to be nominated for this scholarship and recognition,” said Black. “Every little bit helps when it comes to financing one’s education. The sheer fact that the NMCC community deemed me eligible to represent the school made me blush – I was so thankful.”

cont. on page 10

Sinawik Celebration, *from page 1*

parties involved. The homes are well built, good quality homes,” said Diane Green, president of the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club. “There is no better way for the students in the involved trade programs to get practical hands on experience in their chosen field of study than to build the ‘real thing.’ I have no doubt that being involved on a Sinawik home project makes them a more attractive candidate to a potential employer.”

Work on this year’s Sinawik house began over a year ago when Rino and Susan Marquis were selected as the future homeowners. The Marquis, who now reside in Caribou but will be locating the home on 1.28 acres of lakeshore property along Long Lake in Sinclair, sat down with Roger Crouse, NMCC computer aided drafting instructor, to draw up plans for their home.

Crouse, the longest serving faculty member on the Sinawik project, has worked on plans for 28 of the 30 homes. He, along with a senior student in his program, are the first contacts with the College for every homeowner selected by Sinawik.

“This is a highly visible project that reflects the skills and learning of NMCC students in the building trades,” said Crouse.

The plans are then turned over to faculty and students in four programs: residential construction, plumbing and heating, electrical construction and maintenance, and welding and metal fabrication, all of whom are responsible for separate, yet interconnected, parts of the construction project.

For 26 of the last 30 years, a key person in that equation has been Guy Jackson, residential construction instructor.

“Working on these homes, and then seeing them throughout the community is so rewarding for our students and for the faculty who work on them. Ten years from now, our students will be able to drive by this home and tell their children, ‘I built this house while I was in college,’” said Jackson. “It’s a great hands-on experience that involves the instructors from each of these programs and this year involved more than 50 students. Among the most important lessons the students learn is the importance of working with the customer’s preference. It is a valuable lesson for all of them who will go out into the workforce and have to first listen to what it is the person they are completing a job for wants to have done.”

The Marquis have watched the home go from a first draft presented to them on



NMCC electrical construction and maintenance instructor Charles Kelley observes Jan Perreault, a student in his program, as he works on a light switch in the 30th home built by the College for the Sinawik project.

paper by Crouse, to a nearly complete 1,300 square foot ranch style home.

“We are very excited about this house and have been enjoying watching the building process. We have nothing but praise for the faculty and students who have been working on our home. Everyone has been so accommodating and easy to work with and the quality of work has been outstanding,” said Rino Marquis. “We are looking forward to the open house at NMCC, and we really can’t wait until it is moved to the site and we can move in.”

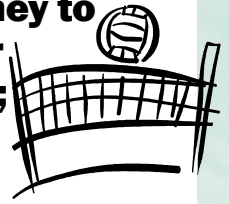
It is that kind of enthusiasm and good will, along with celebration of the construction of the 30th Sinawik home, that College and Kiwanis officials want to share with the community at the open house.

“The benefits to the community through this project are multiplied many times over from the economic, educational, philanthropic, and personal perspectives. Anything this important is worth preserving and celebrating,” said Dan Lee, who chairs the Sinawik project.

Several sponsors are joining with NMCC and Kiwanis to sponsor the celebration, including Aroostook County Electrical Supply, Aroostook Music, Maine Potato Growers, Pytlak Construction, Redlon and Johnson, and WAGM-TV.

For more information on the Sinawik celebration, contact NMCC at 768-2809.

Volleyball Tourney to Raise Funds for Veterans Home; Teams Sought



Members of the NMCC Student Senate are looking to the community for participation as they prepare to host their fourth annual “Support Maine Veterans” Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, April 21, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the college gymnasium. The tournament is held each year to raise money for the Maine Veterans’ Home in Caribou.

While students and employees at the college will make up some of the teams in the tournament, the group is turning to local businesses, organizations and community members who want to join in. All players will receive a tournament t-shirt.

Each team of six to eight players is expected to raise at least \$100 in order to enter the tournament. Teams with one or more players who have competed on a volleyball team will play in a competitive bracket, while those who are playing just for fun will participate in a recreational bracket.

Companies or organizations that cannot form a group of their own but wish to support the event may opt to either pledge a donation to one of the competing teams or form an “honorary” team. According to Student Senate advisor Dennis Albert, teams donating \$100 but not playing will be listed as honorary teams supporting the effort. “Everybody’s participation, whether it is physical or monetary, will be greatly appreciated,” said Albert.

Approximately \$1100 was raised during last year’s tournament, and the Senate’s goal is to raise that number to \$1500 this year.

All proceeds will be donated to the Caribou Veterans’ Home activity fund. Past proceeds were used to install a shuffle board court, to help purchase birthday and Christmas gifts, to help pay for community activities such as attendance at events at the Caribou Performing Arts Center, and to purchase personal needs items for veterans with financial need.

Anyone interested in forming a team to compete in the April 21 tournament should contact Dennis Albert at 768-2757 to receive a registration form and pledge sheets. Teams must register by Monday, April 9.

NMCC and HRH Partner to Provide Nursing Education in Southern Aroostook

As the population of the community and state ages, demands on local healthcare systems are also on the rise. At the same time, many area nurses are in that rising age group and are looking toward retirement in the near future...which has led many to wonder, "Who will take care of us?"

As part of its continuing efforts to meet local nursing demands, NMCC has taken advantage of distance technology and partnered with Houlton Regional Hospital to educate a class of seven associate degree nursing students in Houlton. Similarly, the College is using this technology and health care facilities in the Calais/Machias area to educate and train up to 16 students in Washington County.

"It is a challenge for us to meet the growing needs of area health care providers, since we must limit our nursing class size to eight students per instructor—the maximum allowed by Maine's Rules and Regulations. This regulation addresses the need to ensure safety standards at clinical sites," explained Betty Kent-Conant, nursing and allied health department chair at the College. "We can only accommodate 32 to 40 students in a class at our Presque Isle campus. Both classroom size and the ability of central Aroostook health care providers to accommodate all of our students during our clinical site rotations limit our ability to add students at the Presque Isle campus. By utilizing distance education, not only can we add students to the program, but we can do so at locations closer to home, a benefit to students as well as local health care facilities in those areas, since they are able to participate in the training of, and perhaps have an advantage in the hiring of, potential future nurses for their facility."

As is often the case with students in the College's nursing program, several of the Houlton students are "non-traditional" and have families and/or jobs to balance with College work. "By training here, I not only save the cost of travel but have two hours more each day to spend with my



NMCC nursing students who are enrolled in the Houlton section of the program and are currently performing clinical rotations at Houlton Regional Hospital are, kneeling from left: Shelli Adams of Oakfield and Amy Savage of Patten; standing from left, Nicole Bennett and Alison Willette, both of Linneus; nursing instructor Deb Folsom; and Mark Goodale and Jillian Miller, both of Littleton.

family and to study," said Mark Goodale of Littleton, a nursing student enrolled in the Houlton program who is also working full-time in security at HRH. "I could not have taken this course if I had to travel to Presque Isle every day," echoed Jane Moody of New Limerick, who also has a family and other obligations.

Goodale, Moody, and five other southern Aroostook residents take courses at the Houlton Higher Education Center which are interactive over a web-com system with courses originating at the Presque Isle campus. An NMCC nursing instructor is on hand in the Houlton classroom to support and supplement nursing content and facilitate the local learning experience. In addition to her classroom work, instructor Deborah Folsom, RN, MSN, AHN-BC, also provides the clinical oversight of the students at HRH and other community sites which support meeting the clinical educational objectives of the program. Shelli Adams, a student from Oakfield, says Folsom "...is dedicated to nursing and is always available to help us, even if it means staying late."

The southern Aroostook students are in their first year of an extensive two-year nursing degree program. After successfully completing the program, they will earn

their associate in science degree and be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN national licensure exam. Upon successful completion of the exam, they then are able to apply for licensure in Maine and/or any other state.

As part of their educational experience, the students must train in a variety of clinical settings.

Most recently, the students completed a rotation on the labor, delivery and postpartum (LDRP) unit at HRH, which proved to be a positive experience for both the students and the LDRP nurses. On the first day on the unit, they were able to observe a C-Section, nurses caring for a baby with respiratory distress, and a mother who hemorrhaged after birth. Since the last two events are a rare occurrence, it was an ideal experience for them.

"Even though I have worked in the E.D. here for a long time, I never realized all that could happen in obstetrics," said Adams, who also works 36 hours a week as ward clerk in the hospital's emergency department.

The students, under Folsom's direct supervision, assessed patients, participated in care planning, and performed basic nursing care. In addition to obstetrical patients and babies, the LDRP unit also often houses patients who have had other types of surgery, which allowed the students to also learn their specialized care.

"I appreciate the nurses here sharing their past experiences with us and am impressed that they work together so well," said Moody.

"The experienced staff members here at the hospital are willing to share their expertise, and this enhances the students' learning," explained Folsom.

"The students were very helpful with anything asked of them and have an avid interest in learning new skills," said Linda Stewart, RNC, one of the nurses in the unit. According to Stewart, having the students and instructor on the unit and hearing their discussions also acted as a refresher to staff.

Now that the students have completed their LDRP experience, they have moved on to a rotation on the medical/surgical/pediatrics unit at the hospital.

Early Childhood Education Students Launch "In Their Hands" Literacy Program

A newly formed student group at the College is taking on a project to create a unique literacy initiative for children in Aroostook County that extends beyond putting books into the hands of children.

The *In Their Hands* project, an initiative of the NMCC Early Childhood Education Student Organization, a group of twenty students working under the direction of instructor Heidi Broad-Smith, is designed to engage children, their parents, and local care providers by providing books complete with accompanying material, including related activity ideas.

"Lesson plans and activities will be prepared by our students to go along with the selected texts. Props or manipulatives to accompany the books and lessons will also be provided," said Broad-Smith. "The thinking is that our students will create book bags containing the book, lesson plans for the teacher, and all the required material to carry out the lesson plans."

The bags will be given to the dozen child care facilities and educational agencies around The County where NMCC students are currently placed for the hands-on component of their coursework. They will be available on-site for use by the teachers and child care workers, and, in many places, be available for parents to sign-out and use at home with their children.

According to Broad-Smith, the donated items will also serve as a "thank you" to the agencies that provide support to the ECE program by opening their site for NMCC student placement. The book bags will be especially meaningful as the College students will themselves create the lessons plans and accompanying activities.

"I wanted to link all parts of the ECE curriculum here at NMCC by having every student have some part in the creation of the lesson plans. Through this project, the students will have real ownership of the plans and still be in a position to share their work with 'real kids' and the supporting sites," said Broad-Smith.

The NMCC students have already selected the books and are currently developing the lesson plans and activity guides that will complete the book bags. Upon completion, the material will be delivered to the childcare and educational facilities.



Stephen Smith of Blaine (left), a junior at Bowdoin College, presents a check for \$433.75 to NMCC early childhood education program students (left to right) Christy Bartlett of Presque Isle, Christina Merrill of Cary Plantation, and Suqi Yu of Presque Isle. The money raised by Bowdoin students who reside in Howell House, a campus residence facility, will be used to launch the In Their Hands project, a new literacy initiative coordinated by NMCC ECE students.

"Our plans are to bring the books and materials to each center and read the book and then do the projects with the children at the site. We will then leave the book bag behind at the center for future use," said Charity Keenan, an ECE student participating in the project. "We are hoping the activities get children excited about reading by getting them involved in the story."

cont. on page 9



Eight Northern Maine Community College students were officially welcomed into the campus chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma, the honor society for business students in two-year colleges, during a ceremony on March 29. New members inducted were (left to right): Sandra Albaugh, Kristina Kenneson, Christopher Grass, Philip Gray, and Tracy Johnson. Other new members who were unable to attend the ceremony are: Ben MacDonald, Angela Howe, and Jessica LeVasseur.

ABG Inducts New Members

NMCC's chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma has added eight new members to the ranks of the International Business Honor Society.

"It is always a pleasure to induct new members, recognizing that each of them has earned academic distinction and will pledge to support their college, their community and the international goals and principles of Alpha Beta Gamma - scholarship, leadership, and cooperation," said instructor Pam Crawford, who serves as NMCC ABG faculty co-advisor along with fellow instructor Dan Hotham.

As part of the induction ceremony, attendees heard from guest speaker Scott Carlin, a 1980 graduate of NMVTI, a forerunner of NMCC. Carlin, of Mapleton, is the owner of Star City, Mars Hill and Hillside IGA stores in Central Aroostook.

In giving advice to the inductees, Carlin reminded them of the power of positive thinking. "Life is a roller coaster. There are inevitably unexpected ups and downs. Always be prepared for the deep dips. With positive thinking, you can ride them out." Carlin concluded his remarks by reminding the audience to "keep your priorities straight - family first, job second. Changes will always affect our lives, but thinking positively in addressing them will help ensure your ultimate success."



CAMPAIGN NEWS

Machias Savings Bank Makes \$12,500 Contribution to NMCC's Campaign for The County's College

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP TEAM



Paul Bouchard
Fort Kent



Scott Carlin
Mapleton



Robert Clark
Fort Fairfield



Gregg Collins
Caribou



Kris Doody
Caribou



Carl Flora
Presque Isle



Brian Hamel
Presque Isle



Jon Prescott
Patten



Bruce Sandstrom
Presque Isle



Connie Sandstrom
Presque Isle



Hal Stewart II
Presque Isle



Jane Towle
Presque Isle

Machias Savings Bank, a financial services institution with a branch network of eleven locations in four Maine counties, including Aroostook, has made a \$12,500 contribution to the recently announced major gifts campaign at Northern Maine Community College.

The Campaign for the County's College, established to raise \$2 million over the next year to both support student scholarships and instructional technology, as well as to assist the College in new and ongoing efforts to respond promptly to community needs, is named to reflect both the impact of the campus in the region as well as how the College community mirrors the aspirations of Aroostook and its people.

“As a community bank, we have a valued interest and a sound commitment to the economic development of Aroostook County. We are proud to support Northern Maine Community College and their efforts to serve the educational needs of this region,” said Chris Fitzpatrick, regional vice president for Machias Savings Bank.

Fitzpatrick, who is based in the Houlton branch, is well aware of NMCC's role in regional education and economic development initiatives. The community leader serves as a member of the College general advisory council.

The contribution by Machias Savings Bank will establish an endowed scholarship fund with the NMCC Foundation to benefit deserving students from Aroostook, Penobscot, Washington, or Hancock County enrolled in a business-related field of study at the institution annually. The

fund will be used to provide scholarships and/or awards to students to fund tuition, books, tools and equipment.

“We are extremely pleased that Machias Savings Bank has joined the Campaign for the County's College. The commitment of the bank, not only to NMCC but to the economic development of Aroostook County, as evidenced by this gift, is commendable,” said Brian Hamel, campaign tri-chair.

In addition to raising scholarship dollars through the Accessing Opportunity Fund, money raised can be allocated to the Investing in Innovation Fund, a technology endowment fund that will ensure the college keeps pace with changing instructional technology, and the College and Community Advancement Fund, which provides an immediate source of funding, allowing NMCC to respond promptly to evolving community needs.

Machias Savings Bank was established in 1869. In addition to an Aroostook County presence in Houlton, the bank has ten branches in Washington, Hancock and Penobscot counties that employ 200 people.



From left, Chris Fitzpatrick, regional vice president for Machias Savings Bank, presents a check to Tim Crowley, president of Northern Maine Community College; Ray Gauvin, chair of the NMCC Foundation; and Brian Hamel, tri-chair of the Campaign for the County's College.

McCain pledges \$25,000 to Campaign for the County's College

McCain Foods USA, a leader in the frozen food market and a leading employer in Northern Maine, as well as a major force in the economy of Aroostook has stepped up as a lead gift contributor to the *Campaign for the County's College*.

The \$25,000 pledge by McCain to the first-ever major gifts campaign conducted jointly by NMCC and the NMCC Foundation will support the "Investing in Innovation" technology endowment fund.

Frank van Schaayk, CEO of McCain Foods USA said, "We value education and life long learning, and this pledge supports those values as well as McCain's tradition of supporting our local communities."

The corporate contribution from McCain is the latest development in a longstanding relationship between the company and NMCC, which in the past has included College personnel working collaboratively with various departments at the Easton potato processing plant to assist with employee training and continuing education.

New areas for partnership, including possible internships for NMCC students at McCain's central Aroostook facility and additional workforce development opportunities for McCain employees are currently being developed by officials from both institutions.

"The relationship that has existed and continues to flourish between NMCC

and McCain underscores Northern Maine Community College's role as a leading partner in the economic development of Aroostook County. This investment in the County's College by McCain is indicative of the impact NMCC has on meeting the needs of regional employers," said Brian Hamel, tri-chair for the fundraising campaign and former chair of the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees. "We could not be more pleased with McCain's willingness to join in this effort to help strengthen our College."

The Campaign for the County's College was established to raise \$2 million over the next year to both support student scholarships and instructional technology, as well as to assist NMCC in new and ongoing efforts to respond promptly to community needs.

McCain is firmly rooted in northern Maine and New Brunswick. The company began 50 years ago in Florenceville, New Brunswick, as a small Canadian processing plant with 30 employees and has since grown to become the world's largest privately owned manufacturer of frozen food products.

McCain Foods USA now has eleven production plants with a USA corporate office located in Lisle, Illinois.

McCain Foods Limited has more than 55 production facilities on six continents supported by more than 20,000 people.



McCain Easton plant officials (left to right) Dave McKenney, engineering manager; Al Lamarre, human resource manager; and Dan Paradis, plant manager present McCain Foods USA's corporate gift to Northern Maine Community College's *Campaign for the County's College*. Accepting the gift on behalf of the Campaign are Brian Hamel and Robert Clark, two of the three tri-chairs for the campaign; and Raynold Gauvin, NMCC Foundation board president.

A Message from the Campaign Coordinator...

The *Campaign for the County's College* was announced to the public on February 28. (See the March newsletter for the full story!) With a base of almost \$112,000 in gifts and pledges from the College family (employees, foundation board members, and general advisory council members), the Foundation has set the Campaign goal at \$2,000,000.

For over six months, a hard-working, energetic Leadership Team has been laying the groundwork for the campaign announcement. Their belief in the college, their willingness to share their positive message with others, and their pride in a job well done have created great momentum as corporate and individual gifts and pledges are already coming in. Our job now is to keep that momentum rolling.

Members of the College family have been receiving a monthly Campaign Bulletin, keeping them up to date with Campaign news. Now that we have transitioned to the public phase of the campaign, we will keep folks informed in the monthly edition of *Toward Excellence*.

I want to once again thank the many campus and community leaders who made the family campaign such a successful effort. They include the campus team leaders who participated themselves and who made sure that every College employee had a chance for a face to face meeting to learn about the campaign; the advisory council and Foundation team leaders who presented the Case for Support to their fellow members and encouraged their participation; the chairs of the Foundation and the Advisory Council who serve actively on the campaign oversight committee; the College Management Team who achieved 100% participation and who provide day to day guidance as they serve on the oversight committee; the community leaders who helped to identify and evaluate prospective donors; the Leadership Team; and the four Campaign Chairs.

A special thank you to Jason Parent and Karen Gonya in the College Development Office for their creativity in designing campaign materials and for their commitment to making sure that the campaign message is well communicated and participants well recognized.

We have made a good start and we are confident that, with your help, we can get there from here.

To learn more about the campaign visit us on the NMCC web site at www.nmcc.edu.

-Sonja Fongemie

Nursing, from page 4

In addition to serving as a clinical site for the Houlton cohort of nursing students, HRH continues to collaborate with the College in other ways that ultimately benefit both institutions and help to provide needed training in the County.

Two of the hospital's LDRP nurses, Barbara Wright, RNC and Kathy Blanchette, RNC, recently traveled to the Presque Isle campus to teach at a nursing maternal/child seminar. Also, a senior nursing student, Jen McGuire of Houlton, has been performing a 60-hour preceptorship in the LDRP unit at night, with Gina Vargas, RN, serving as her preceptor. "It has also been a learning experience for me. Jen tracks all her experiences, keeping a log of what she has done. She has attended several deliveries, a C-Section, and helped with breastfeeding and IV insertion," said Vargas.

"We are very pleased to partner with Houlton Regional Hospital and the Houlton Higher Education Center to once again bring nursing education to the southern Aroostook community," said Timothy Crowley, NMCC president. "Our original pilot program for providing distance education in nursing was completed in Houlton just a few years ago, and it is exciting to be able to bring our program back to that community. We never would have been able to do this, though, without additional state funding. That funding has allowed us to increase our capacity and to expand into southern Aroostook."

According to the Crowley, the College is making the most of its resources to meet Aroostook County's growing needs in health care. "By partnering both with other colleges and with private businesses, we are stretching our resources as far as possible; however, the reality is that we are just meeting the tip of the ice berg in terms of need. The only way for us to deal with the shortages in health care, which will only continue to increase in coming years due to the aging population of today's healthcare professionals, is to increase our capacity," said Crowley.

With the appropriate funding, the College hopes to renovate a building on campus to house an Allied Health Center, which would provide space to expand the nursing program as well as to provide other allied health programs as needed in the region.

Tools 'N Trades Conference to Be Held

A hands-on, day-long event designed to encourage girls to consider careers in fields traditionally dominated by men will bring together nearly 100 participants from schools throughout Aroostook County on April 25 on the NMCC campus.

The fourth annual TNT (Tools 'N Trades) conference will feature sessions ranging from carpentry and metal fabrication to firefighting and bridge building, all providing an opportunity for the girls to experience some aspect of the profession through a practical exercise.

"We want to give girls a hands-on workshop experience to spark their interest and/or raise awareness about a career field that they may not have previously considered, as well as provide female role models - women who can lead by example, having

already succeeded in pursuing work that traditionally is viewed as 'man's work,'" said Suzanne Senechal-Jandreau, regional manager of the Central Aroostook office of Women, Work and Community, a state-wide organization committed to improving the economic lives of Maine women and their families.

WWC, NMCC, the Maine Department of Transportation, Women Unlimited, the Maine Career Center, local contractors, local school representatives, and other interested community partners comprise the Aroostook Coalition for Women and Girls in Trades and Technology, the sponsors of TNT.

The conference is a free, one-day event for girls in grades 8 through 12. Funding

cont. on page 9

Job Fair

Three hundred students and community members were on hand to connect with the nearly 50 businesses represented at the 10th Annual Job Fair hosted at Northern Maine Community College on March 8.

"What began initially as an opportunity to connect our seniors with employers as they prepared to graduate, has grown over the years to encompass community members as well as first-year students looking for part-time or summer employment," said Ruth White, coordinator of the event. "While the Job Fair was originally geared more toward business students, it now features job opportunities for students from most all of our programs...from business, to the trades, to our allied health and early childhood education programs."

More than just finding a job, this event provides students and community members with both the opportunity to network with area employers and to practice their job interviewing skills, according to White, which ultimately better prepares them for the job hunting process.



Natural Balance Hoof Care Clinic to Be Held

An internationally renowned expert and pioneer in the study of wild horse hoof form and function will lead a three day clinic at NMCC that is expected to draw horse owners, farriers, and veterinarians from throughout Maine and beyond to Aroostook County.

Gene Ovnicek, a certified master farrier with 40 years experience, will lead the Natural Balance Hoof Care Clinic, which will be held both on the NMCC campus and at the Horse-Talk Equestrian Center in Caribou on April 28, 29 and 30.

The workshop will cover various topics, beginning with a day-long session on Saturday, April 28, which is open to the public and will focus on hoof form and how it relates to hoof function.

The clinic will continue on Sunday, April 29, and Monday, April 30, with various demonstrations and hands-on training exercises specifically designed for farriers and veterinarians at the Caribou equestrian center.

Ovnicek will share both his experience as a farrier and information from other scientific research, which he has combined to develop a basis for treating and preventing equine lameness.

In addition to his research projects, teaching, and his position as president and chief technician of Equine Digit Support System, Inc., Ovnicek operates a complete farrier practice ranging from performance horses to lameness management and consultation.

Efforts to bring the Natural Balance Hoof Care Clinic and Ovnicek to Aroostook County were initiated by Robert Solman, the former president of Solman Beverage Distributors of Caribou. The owner of a team of Clydsdales, Solman learned of the Natural Balance principles when he attended a Natural Balance clinic in Phoenix, Arizona.

Registration for the three-day clinic is \$250 per person in advance and \$300 at the door and includes lunch on all three days. Cost for attending the Saturday session only is \$25 per person or \$40 for a couple in advance and \$30 per person or \$50 for a couple at the door.

For more information on the upcoming clinic, or a farrier class being offered in May at the College, contact the continuing education division of the College at 768-2768.

In Their Hands, from page 1

Keenan and her fellow classmates are excited about the opportunity to both give back to the community and work on a project that will have impact in childcare centers throughout the region.

"I am excited about it," said Kimberly Jandreau. "This is a great opportunity for all of us involved in the ECE program to take what we learn and use it to benefit others. I hope the children will look at books more often and that teachers and parents will be encouraged to read to their children more."

The concept for the project is the result of a brainstorming session between Broad-Smith and her son Stephen Smith, a junior at Bowdoin College in Brunswick. The two were following up on a discussion and assignment centering on social justice that emanated from a class of Stephen's taught by Bowdoin Professor Doris Santoro-Gomez.

"Our thoughts centered on literacy and creating an on-going program to help the children and teachers at the site placements," said Stephen Smith. "Success depends on the ability to read from an

early age. *In Their Hands* is dedicated to providing all students an avenue to succeed in reading, to succeed in life-long learning, and to be excited about reading."

Stephen enlisted the help of his housemates at Bowdoin's Howell House, a campus residential facility. The students raised \$433.75 for the project and presented the money to the ECE Student Organization to purchase the books for *In Their Hands*.

ECE students are working with the generous donation they have received to purchase the books and get the new program off the ground.

"The students will walk away with an understanding that a sense of collegiality needs to exist in the field of child care and education. The whole idea of 'it takes a village,' encompasses not just the schools, but the care and education that children receive prior to ever walking through the doors of formal schooling. The connections or network needs to exist between care providers as well. The NMCC campus can serve as a great central hub for this kind of networking opportunity for students in the field," said Broad-Smith.

A Look at the Foundation Board..

Connie Sandstrom, a native of Aroostook County and resident of Presque Isle, is executive director of Aroostook County Action Program.

She started working for ACAP in 1988 as assistant director, and in 1995 was appointed to her current position.

She earned a B.A. in medical technology and a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Maine. She is a registered medical technologist and a certified senior professional in human resources.

In addition to serving on the Foundation board, Connie is serving on the Leadership Team for the *Campaign for the County's College*.

Connie is also a member and past president of Presque Isle Kiwanis, chair of Eastern Maine HomeCare Board, treasurer of Aroostook Regional Transportation Systems Board, member and past president of Maine Community Action Association, and a member of Mark and Emily Turner Foundation, the Local Workforce Investment Board, and Maine Health Access Foundation Community Advisory Committee. She chairs the Loring Job Corps Community Relations Council and is a member of the Northern Maine Empowerment Council. She was a charter member of the UMPI Board of Visitors and is a graduate of Leadership Maine, Alpha Class.



Tools 'N Trade, from page 8

is through monies provided by Louisiana Pacific and the Maine Department of Transportation. Prizes are donated by local contractors, educational institutions and other organizations.

Aside from participating in two workshop sessions, girls will be treated to a luncheon and both a fashion show and a panel discussion featuring women employed in non-traditional fields.

"We are pleased to join with other members of the Coalition to make this event possible. As a post-secondary education institution and a vital resource for employers in this region, we want to showcase to students and members of the community what educational and career options are available to them," said Jason Parent, NMCC director of development and college relations.

Student Honored, *from page 2*

In addition to her strong academic record, which includes being named to the NMCC dean's list every semester, Black is very involved both on campus and in the community.

She is the current president of the NMCC Student Senate, a resident assistant, and chair of the NMCC campus organizations committee. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges designed to recognize academic excellence, leadership, and community service, and performs with the Northern Maine Chamber Orchestra.

Each of the Maine team members has also been selected by their colleges to compete for a spot on the All-USA Academic Team, which is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges and USA Today. The All-Maine Academic Team program is co-sponsored by KeyBank, Bangor Daily News, Creative Awards of Scarborough, and the MCCS.

EMS Grant, *from page 2*

ern Maine work for volunteer services, and find it difficult to attend full day educational sessions outside their service coverage area. Service directors expressed concern over being able to provide coverage to the small communities during the time these providers were away taking a course, so we felt it important and necessary to take the classes to them," said Boucher. "It is our hope that by the end of the grant contract year, every licensed provider in Aroostook County will have attended at least one three hour pediatric continuing education session."

A third funding component in the grant is designed to support additional public education on pediatric care issues. The money will be used to enhance pediatric teaching projects and community health and safety fairs undertaken by NMCC students each semester. The grant will allow for improved participation by children, and allow more NMCC students to participate, thereby increasing the number of available topics and sessions.

NMCC has been a provider of high quality EMS, nursing and healthcare education in northern Maine for over two decades. For the past eight years, through various educational initiatives, the College has focused on improving the care provided to the children of Aroostook County.

April Activities, *from page 1*

College to purchase quality children's literature and present them to area childcare and education centers. Before handing over the books, the students will develop lesson plans and literacy activities incorporating the literature for staff at the facilities to use with the children.

The first week of April will mark the final week of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, offered annually to area residents by senior accounting students. The program will be offered on April 3 & 4, beginning at 1:00 p.m. daily.

Beginning on April 3, students in the residential construction program will hold their annual silent auction in the Christie lobby. The quality hand-crafted wood products that range from birdhouses and outdoor furniture to decorative shelving units and coffee tables are made by the students. Proceeds from the auction are used to purchase tools for graduating seniors in the residential construction program. The public is encouraged and invited to view and bid on the items on April 3, 4 and 5.

"Brain Injury 101", co-sponsored by The Aroostook Medical Center and NMCC, is planned for Wednesday, April 4, at 5:00 p.m. in the Edmunds conference center at the College. The evening, which includes dinner, will feature medical professionals, brain injury survivors and family members of brain injury survivors discussing common brain injuries; their impact on cognitive, physical, emotional, and social function; and how the injuries are treated. For more information or to register, contact TAMC at 768-4169.

The first week of April will conclude with a graduation ceremony on Friday,

April 6, at 11:30 a.m. in the Reed Commons for students enrolled in the current Commercial Driving Academy at NMCC.

Following a quiet second week of April due to College spring break week, activity will resume with several events the week of April 16, including a "wire cutting" open to the public and planned for Friday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the Edmunds conference center.

The unique event will signal the "opening" of NMCC's new wireless network and will feature a symbolic cutting of the wire currently needed to connect computers to the college network. Joining NMCC officials in the ceremony will be officials from Katahdin Trust Company who, through the Campaign for the County's College, donated the funds to make the wireless project possible.

On Saturday, April 21, the NMCC Student Senate will host its annual "Support Maine Veterans" volleyball tournament. Proceeds from the event, which will be held in the college gymnasium from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m., will be donated to the activity fund at the Maine Veterans' Home in Caribou. Individuals and teams interested in participating should contact Dennis Albert at 768-2757.

The final week of April will feature a community celebration and barbecue co-hosted by NMCC and the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club (*see the related story on page 1*). The barbecue, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, April 24, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the residential construction lab of the Mailman Building.

The following day, Wednesday, April 25, NMCC will partner with Women, Work and Community, the Maine Depart-

Thursday, April 28 • Administrative Professionals' Conference



Isn't it time for a career development opportunity for some of the most valuable people in the organization?

Keynote Presentation

Living, Loving, Working and Being Well - Linda Rowe

Workshops will include:

Digital Photo Techniques

Indispensable Tips for MS Office Users

Health Benefits of Chocolate

Facials - Bath & Body Works

Massage & New Hair Care Products - The Total Look

Aromatherapy & Papaya Paraffin Hand Treatment - Jill Kalata

Conference perks include:

A 4-course meal for lunch with decadent desserts

Gifts bags for everyone

Chances to win valuable door prizes

Cost: \$89 person (*discounts for 4 or more from one organization*)

Thursday, April 28 ♦ 9:00am to 4:00pm

Call today for details!
768-2845

ment of Transportation and Louisiana Pacific to host the annual Tools 'n Trades conference on campus (see the story on page 8).

On Thursday, April 26, the NMCC continuing education division and Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce will celebrate Administrative Professionals week with a day-long conference dedicated to the individuals who truly make offices throughout Aroostook County run smoothly.

The conference will feature both professional development and personal enrichment workshops. In addition, participants will be treated to a four-course meal, gift bags and afternoon tea and cakes from Heidi's Tea Shop. For more information or to register for the event, contact the NMCC continuing education division at 760-1155.

A three-day clinic exploring natural balance hoof care for horse owners, veterinarians and farriers will round out the month of activity on April 28, 29 and 30. For more information or to register, contact the continuing education division at 760-1155.

Many other campus activities are scheduled to coincide with Community College Month, including several recognition events to honor individual students and numerous student groups.



*Celebrating Community College Month
An Awesome April!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Kickoff of Early Childhood Education's In Their Hands Program 12:30 p.m. Martin Building Room 212	VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program Final Week April 3 - 5 1:00 p.m. daily Christie Building Lobby	Brain Injury 101: A Workshop sponsored by NMCC and TAMC 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Edmunds Conference Center	TRIO/ISS Student Lunch with the President 12:00 noon Edmunds Conf. Center Athletic Awards Banquet 6:30 p.m. Keegan Room	NMCC Commercial Driving Academy Graduation 11:30 a.m. Reed Commons - Keegan Room	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				Residential Construction Silent Auction - Christie Lobby		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
NMCC Observes National Alcohol Awareness Month with "Mocktails at Monte Carlo" Chem-Free Event on Thursday, April 19	-Patriot's Day- No Classes	Fiber Optic Training (Day 1 of 3) 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Martin Room 209	President's Scholar Luncheon 12:00 noon Edmunds Conference Center	Mocktails at Monte Carlo A Casino-Night Event 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	"Wire Cutting" Ceremony To Launch NMCC's new wireless network 10:00 a.m. Edmunds Conference Center	Support Maine Veterans Volleyball Tournament 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. College Gymnasium Sponsored by Student Senate Advanced Airways Lab Workshop FMI: 768-1155
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		-30th Anniversary Sinawik Community Celebration 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Residential Construction Lab PTK Induction 7:00 p.m. - Edmunds	-Tools and Trades Conference 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. -MCCS Student of the Year Luncheon Senator Inn - Augusta	-Administrative Professionals Conference 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Edmunds Conf. Center -Senior Awards Ceremony 7:00 p.m. Edmunds Conf. Center		Senior Banquet 6:00 p.m. Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center Natural Balance Hoof Care Clinic Runs April 28-30 FMI: Call Continuing Education at 768-1155
29	30					
	-Early College for ME Scholar Lunch 12:00 noon Keegan Room					

Toward Excellence

Continuing Education offerings...

How to Open and Operate an eBay Store

You can open an eBay store and reach millions of buyers via the eBay marketplace. This course will show you step-by-step how to create a store, the tools available to enhance your sales, inventory control and the pros and cons of various payment methods. Prerequisite: Experience as eBay seller and a current eBay account.

BNI 750 ♦ Cost: \$99 ♦ .9 CEUs
Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 24 – May 1 ♦ 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Basic Microsoft Access

Learn how to use Microsoft's powerful and award-winning database to store, locate, and print just about any type of important information. You will learn how to create tables, relationships, custom data entry forms, queries, reports, mailing labels, and macros. You'll also learn how to merge the data in your Access tables with Microsoft Word for letters.

CSA 642 ♦ Cost: \$89 – text additional ♦ .9 CEUs
Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 10 – April 17 ♦ 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Tuning Up Your Computer

Covers routine maintenance practices for computer systems that will help ensure continued operation and extended PC life. Course includes common preventative maintenance techniques such as cleaning screens, keyboards, mouse, floppy drives & hard drive care, and vacuuming system units. Other topics include environmental concerns (temperature, moisture, and air quality), electrical power source conditions, and maintaining your software for maximum performance.

CMP 825 ♦ Cost: \$39 – no text ♦ .3 CEUs
Wednesday, April 25 ♦ 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Basic Word Processing for Seniors

This course will explain how to open and create word processing documents, enhancing them with fonts, type sizes and styles. Learn to edit text with cut, copy and paste commands and how to spell check. You will print your document and/or save it within the computer so you will be able to retrieve it later.

SEN 610 ♦ Cost: \$45 – text additional ♦ .3 CEUs
Wednesday, April 11 ♦ 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Notary Course

This class is designed to assist you in applying for a Notary Public commission in Maine. Discussion will include history, enabling legislation, powers and duties, qualifications, 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. The Notary application will be completed in class and forwarded to the Secretary of State's office.

BNI 600 ♦ Cost \$49 ♦ .8 CEUs
Friday, April 20 ♦ 8:00am – 5:00pm

CRMA Recertification

This 8 hour course offers a complete review and update on the state regulations for the administration of medications. Participants must have a current CRMA 40 certificate to register for this course. Enrollment is limited to 15 participants.

HLT 710 ♦ Cost: \$99 ♦ .8 CEUs
Friday, April 13 ♦ 8:00am – 5:00pm

Administrative Professionals' Conference

See details on this exciting conference on page 10.

Cost: \$89 ♦ Thursday, April 28 ♦ 9:00am – 4:00pm



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