



Medical Coding to Begin in Fall

In response to a need articulated by the healthcare community in Aroostook County, NMCC will this fall begin offering a new certificate program in medical coding, one of the fastest growing occupations in healthcare in the state of Maine.

Medical coding professionals review medical documentation provided by physicians and other healthcare professionals and translate the information into standardized numerical codes. The universally recognized coding system is then used by third-party payers, such as insurance companies, to justify services provided and to facilitate reimbursement. The coded data is also used to facilitate statistical classification and research, as well as to examine utilization patterns.

“Recruiting and retaining qualified certified coders in a rural community hospital is an ongoing challenge for The Aroostook Medical Center. In addition to being the basis for diagnosis and procedural statistics, coding has become what drives our reimbursement. We are enthusiastic about the new medical coding program that NMCC is offering,” said Paulette Bell, TAMC’s senior manager for health information services/central registration. Bell was among a number of area professionals who met with NMCC officials a year ago to discuss the possibility of offering a program locally.

The NMCC certificate program will prepare students to sit for the coding certification examination. Upon successful completion of the examination, the candidate is eligible to become a certified professional coder (CPC).

cont. on page 4

Senator Susan Collins and Student Joey Cyr to Speak at Commencement

U.S. Senator Susan Collins will address the 44th graduating class of Northern Maine Community College during commencement exercises on Saturday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the College gymnasium. Collins, a native of Caribou, will speak before the 210 graduates, their guests, and NMCC faculty and staff.

The visit to the Presque Isle campus will be especially significant for Collins, as she joins the College community in celebrating the recent news that its precision metals manufacturing program has earned accreditation through the National Institute for Metalworking Skills. Maine’s junior senator was instrumental in securing federal dollars to establish the high-tech program at NMCC in 2003.

“We are so pleased that Senator Collins will join us at commencement,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. “She has been a strong supporter of the College and a great friend of higher education. Our institution and, more importantly, our students and faculty have benefited from her advocacy and efforts.”

Collins, the 15th woman in history to be elected to the United States Senate,



Senator Susan Collins will be the featured speaker at the College’s 44th Commencement exercises.

is serving her second term in Washington. She is currently the ranking member and a former chair of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security and is the Senate’s chief oversight committee.

In addition, Collins serves on the Armed Services Committee and is a member of the Special Committee on Aging. She previously served for six years

on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

In the area of education, Collins has championed legislation relating to both K through 12 and post-secondary. As one of the architects of landmark education reform legislation, she led the successful charge to triple funding for early reading initiatives.

She also authored the law providing a \$250 tax deduction for teachers who spend their own money on classroom supplies and recently successfully sought an extension of this law. Her goal of expanding access to higher education for all students led her to co-author the 1998 Higher Education Act

cont. on page 4

INSIDE

- Page 2 Precision Metals Program Accredited & Scholarships to Be Offered
- Walker Shares Experiences with Seniors
- Page 3 NMCC Partners with Louisiana Pacific & Maine Quality Centers for Training
- Page 4 College Faculty Bring More than 100 Years of Experience to Sinawik Project
- Page 5 NMCC Hosts Educational Summit

CAMPAIGN NEWS

- Page 6 UIG Pledges \$12,500 to Campaign
- Berry-Thompkins Joins College/Foundation Team
- Page 7 Katahdin Gift Brings Wireless Network to Campus
- Page 8 Sinawik #30 Celebration Photos
- Page 9 Students Recognized as President’s Scholars
- Page 10 2007 Student Honors & Awards

Walker Shares Her Experiences

She has one of the most recognizable faces and voices in Aroostook County, but it's the story behind the success of Caribou's Betty Walker, and the role that her NMCC played in changing her life,



Betty Walker speaks to office administration seniors.

that has made her star shine the brightest in the eyes of two decades of students following in her footsteps.

Last week, Walker, as she has for the past 20 years, stood before students in the office administration programs as the keynote speaker in a senior seminar. The annual tradition featured personal and professional stories shared by Walker to inspire and provide valuable information to the soon-to-be graduates before they head out into the professional world.

"I appreciate and consider it a privilege to be invited each year to speak to students. My goal is to be an encouragement to them," said Walker. "The message I hope to leave behind for students is to always do your best no matter what you do. Whether you end up as a manager of a department somewhere or you end up scrubbing toilets – always do your best."

Toward that end, Walker relates several stories of challenges and opportunities she has faced and embraced in her personal and professional career and passes along numerous "pearls of wisdom" to the next generation of NMCC business department graduates, including one of her favorite sayings: "Every job is a self portrait of those who do it. So autograph your work with quality. Quality only happens when you care enough to do your very best."

It's a mantra Walker has embodied in her work at Cary Medical Center for

Precision Metals Program Earns National Accreditation; Scholarships to Be Offered

The only developer of American National Standards for the nation's metalworking industry has given its seal of approval to NMCC's precision metals manufacturing program, a designation which demonstrates that the program meets national industry standards.

After months of preparation and rigorous examination and review, NMCC officials were notified by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) that the College program has met the organization's stringent quality standards and has been awarded accreditation.

NMCC is one of only 125 schools nationwide to earn the prestigious honor which represents industry's mark of approval.

"This is a significant accomplishment for the program and the entire College campus," said NMCC President

Timothy Crowley. "Accreditation through NIMS conveys an important message about the quality of the school and program to future students, their parents, state and federal partners, foundations, industry, and the local community."

In celebration of receiving national accreditation, Crowley announced the College will award students in the fall 2007 entering class – both in the precision metals manufacturing associate degree program and machine tool technology certificate program – a \$1,000 scholarship applicable toward tuition and fees for any precision metals class.

Students accepted into either program and enrolled full-time will be eligible for the scholarship which will cover the cost of tuition and some fees for up

to six credit hours of classes. Scholarships will be distributed in the amount of \$500 per semester and are renewable for up to two years (total of \$2,000) for students maintaining a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Applicants for fall semester enrollment in both programs are currently being accepted.

NIMS establishes national industry skill standards in metalworking. NMCC students will be able to take performance examinations following their training to qualify for NIMS credentials. Workers with NIMS credentials are highly desired

by manufacturers in the metalworking industry.

As a NIMS accredited training program, NMCC will receive benefits including exam fee discounts, exam fee waivers for trainers, and the ability to use the certified status to recruit



Thanks to funding from a grant from the Department of Labor, students in the precision metals manufacturing program are able to train on equipment that is cutting edge in the field.

students into the program.

"The accreditation speaks directly to the quality of the program and the support received throughout the campus and business community. This is a significant accomplishment as we are one of the youngest programs of this type within the Maine Community College System. This accreditation reaffirms to prospective students and their parents that the education and training they will receive is top notch," said Dean Duplessis, NMCC precision metals manufacturing instructor and coordinator of College efforts to gain NIMS accreditation.

Accreditation involved a three-step process, beginning with registration of the program, which NMCC completed in May 2006.

NMCC and Maine Quality Centers Enter Training Partnership Agreement with Louisiana Pacific's Houlton facility

The growing workforce at Louisiana Pacific's Houlton facility will receive essential training through an agreement signed on May 1 by company representatives and the leaders of Northern Maine Community College and the Maine Quality Centers program.

The agreement made official at a luncheon at the Houlton Higher Education Center, with local, regional and state leaders present, calls for NMCC, in collaboration with the Maine Quality Centers, to provide education and training for as many as 45 LP employees over an eight month period, beginning in July. The contract work represents an \$80,000 value toward the workforce development and expansion of the southern Aroostook facility.

"By joining hands with NMCC and the Maine Quality Centers, LP will be able to provide the highest quality training to our new hires. Their success will insure the viability of our facility for decades to come," said Skip Cleary, LP Houlton Plant Manager.

The understanding forges a partnership between LP and NMCC, whereby the continuing education division of the College will facilitate training for company employees in various areas, such as forklift operation, aerial lift training, reverse osmosis water filtration, substation usage software, and other topics including safety practices, fire protection, and first aid/CPR.

Joining in the Houlton signing ceremony to congratulate LP, NMCC and the Maine Quality Centers was Maine Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman.

"Like many businesses competing in a global economy, Louisiana Pacific recognizes the importance of having a skilled workforce," said Maine Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman. "Using the resources of the Career Center, the company was able to find workers for the new jobs being created, and this partnership is helping those employees get the training they need to succeed in their new jobs."

The partnership agreement comes nine months after LP broke ground on its Houlton Ori-



Maine Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman looks on while LP Houlton Plant Manager Skip Cleary, Maine Quality Centers State Director James McGowan, and Northern Maine Community College President Tim Crowley sign the training partnership agreement during a media luncheon in Houlton on May 1.

ented Strand Lumber (OSL) facility, which is scheduled to begin production later this year.

OSL, an engineered wood product manufactured using strand technology, meets home construction demands for alternative engineered products in lumber applications. The southern Aroostook plant will be LP's first OSL manufacturing facility and will be one of the few producers of OSL in North America.

"We are pleased to be able to provide this education and training to Louisiana Pacific as they bring their new state-of-the-art facility on line. For many years NMCC has worked with businesses and organizations throughout northern Maine to meet the continuing education needs of regional employers. As an institution, we will always strive to meet the workforce development

needs of the County. This new partnership with LP represents our expanded role as a key partner in the effort to attract new business ventures to the region," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

A key partner in NMCC workforce development efforts over the past decade has been the Maine Quality Centers program, an economic development initiative of the Maine Community College System. The Quality Centers provide job-specific training for new and expanding businesses, and new employment and career advancement opportunities for Maine people. The customized training is provided at no cost to either the businesses or the trainees.

"We are pleased to assist NMCC in providing this training to an expanding business in Aroostook County. This project is an investment in the continued economic development of both the County's businesses and workforce," said James McGowan, state director of the Maine Quality Centers.

LP's Houlton facility opened in 1982 and served as the flagship site for the company's Oriented Strand Board (OSB) manufacturing. According to LP officials, the \$100 million conversion from OSB to



"Like many businesses competing in a global economy, Louisiana Pacific recognizes the importance of having a skilled workforce."

- Commissioner Laura Fortman

Speakers, from page 1

and to support increases in Pell Grants and other student financial aid.

Also speaking during the commencement ceremony will be Joey Cyr of Van Buren, a graduating senior in the college's automotive technology program. Cyr was elected by his classmates to be this year's senior speaker.

The 22-year-old son of Charles and Judy Cyr is a 2002 graduate of Van Buren District Secondary School. Immediately after graduating from high school, Cyr enlisted in the U.S. Army earning the rank of corporal and serving overseas for two years in Korea and one year at Fort Bragg, North Carolina before being honorably discharged in 2005.

During his two-years at NMCC, Cyr earned the respect of both his fellow students and the College faculty. He was selected by automotive technology instructor Dan Boyd as a student intern for the program this academic year.

"I was very fortunate to be able to come back home after serving my Country and to have Northern Maine Community College as a resource to pursue my education and career dreams. All people in this region are fortunate to have this College in their backyard. I know the faculty, staff and students here have made a big difference in my life," said Cyr.



Senior Joey Cyr will speak on behalf of his classmates at graduation.

Training, from page 3

OSL will ensure Houlton plays a key role in LP's future.

Since the Maine Quality Centers program was established by the Maine Legislature in 1994, 198 expanding Maine businesses have been served, creating 10,729 new jobs statewide. In Aroostook County, since the program was initiated in 1997, 22 businesses have benefited from training partnership agreements, totaling an investment of more than \$1.7 million dollars in the region's economy and just over 1,100 new hires.

Over 100 Years of Combined Experience Involved in 30th Annual Sinawik House

It's rare that a crew of tradesmen with its members having 18 to 28 years of experience in their craft collaborate on a single building project. However, the buyers of this year's Sinawik house, Rino and Susan Marquis, are fortunate enough to have this group of experts overseeing the construction of their new home.

Sinawik is the result of a partnership between Kiwanis and Northern Maine Community College that began in 1976. The founders of the non-profit organization wanted it to provide benefits and enrichment to both the community and the College, and it has done exactly that for three decades. In honor of this long-standing partnership, NMCC hosted a celebration on April 24 (see page 8).

According to Dan Lee, chairperson of the Sinawik board, "the Sinawik house is [an all-around] win situation. Sinawik donates scholarships to NMCC students as well as annual funds for Kiwanis programs. The home owners get a break on materials by using NMCC's purchasing power, and the labor is essentially free since it is

supplied by the students. This is a quality home at a substantial discount. The College also gets real world experience for the students."

The Marquis won't have to sacrifice the quality of their home for free labor, though. Roger Crouse, the college's computer aided drafting instructor, has been involved in 28 Sinawik houses and carefully selects one student each year to act as a sort of apprentice during the design of the house. They work closely with the buyer to be sure they are satisfied.

Guy Jackson, residential construction instructor, has served as the general contractor of the project for 26 years. He oversees essentially every aspect of the process from the blueprinting stage to purchasing materials to the final touches on the house itself.

Alan St. Peter, plumbing and heating instructor, has 18 Sinawik houses under his belt. He guides his first year students on installing the plumbing fixtures in the home, while his seniors work on installing the heating system.

cont. on page 9

Medical Coding, from page 1

Program graduates will be prepared to work in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics, physician offices, long-term care facilities and home health agencies. Employment opportunities are also found in nontraditional healthcare areas such as insurance companies, government agencies, computer software companies, as well as consulting firms.

"We recognize not only the great need for allied health professionals in this region, but also the great demand for support personnel, including medical coders. We are pleased to offer this program in direct response to the needs of area healthcare providers," said Alan Panches, NMCC vice president and academic dean.

"Hospitals and employers in Aroostook County are currently limited to a small pool of candidates and have had either to hire candidates and invest resources in training, recruit nationally, or utilize coders from consulting firms," said Dwight Clayton, chair of the NMCC business technology department, which will deliver the certificate program.

According to a 2003 national survey conducted by the American Association

of Professional Coders, the average salary of a medical coder without credentials is \$33,096 annually, or \$15.92 an hour, while the average salary of one with credentials, such as the certified professional coder, is \$39,046 annually, or \$18.75 an hour.

Titles commonly held by medical coding professionals include billing specialist, patient account specialist, electronic claims processor, billing coordinator, billing auditor, coding specialist, inpatient hospital coder, emergency room medical coder, outpatient coder, and managed care organization coder.

The medical coding program is the second new program in a healthcare related field added to the NMCC curriculum for the fall. Earlier this year, the Maine Community College System approved a new associate degree program in medical assisting for NMCC.

Applications for admission into the medical coding certificate program and medical assisting associate degree program for the 2007 fall semester are currently being accepted by College. For more information or to apply, contact the NMCC admissions office at 768-2785.

Aroostook Partnership for Progress, NMCC, UMPI, and UMFK Host County-wide Educational Summit

Educators and business representatives from throughout Northern Maine were at NMCC on May 2 for a first-of-its-kind, County-wide gathering to discuss how to best prepare students for college, careers, and civic participation.

The Aroostook County Educational Summit, a collaborative effort of the Aroostook Partnership for Progress, Northern Maine Community College, the University of Maine at Presque Isle, and the University of Maine at Fort Kent, was a day-long event designed to engage the County educational and business commu-

nities in a meaningful dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing both.

Participants included secondary teachers and administrators, post-secondary teachers and administrators, and business leaders.

“We all have a vested interest in preparing young people to be successful,” said Elizabeth Crawford, NMCC Tech Prep coordinator and lead organizer for the summit. “This is an opportunity to share information about how our activities and concerns align and to identify steps we should take together as a community

to prepare students for life-long success. Several groups have had similar discussions on a smaller scope – it just makes sense to get all the players together.”

The summit featured a panel discussion on the most important challenges facing County education and business entities in the next five to eight years, as well as small group forums focusing on academic processes and the habits of work, as well as on subject-matter centered topics including English/language arts, mathematics, and science.



The summit featured a panel discussion on the most important challenges facing County education and business entities in the next five to eight years. Participating on the panel were, from left: Timothy Crowley, NMCC president; Donald Zillman, UMPI president; Roger Shaw, superintendent of SAD 42 in Mars Hill; Rachel Albert, UMFK vice president for academic affairs; Lynn Lombard, vice president of human resources for MMG Insurance Company; Nina LoBalbo, human resource director for J.M. Huber’s Easton plant; and Tom Umphrey, vice president of human resources at The Aroostook Medical Center.

Precision Metals Program Accredited; Scholarships Offered, *from page 2*

The second phase required the College to complete a self-study, with the College rating its program against NIMS quality measures, including administrative support, instructional quality and capacity, curriculum, equipment and tooling, advisory council roles, safety, and the integration of the national standards.

The self-study began in September 2006 and was lead by the program’s advisory committee. A thorough evaluation of the program was completed and the self-study was submitted to NIMS for review in January 2007.

The third step, the on-site audit, involved a three-person team comprised of industry and education personnel who visited NMCC in March. The team interviewed administrative and corporate personnel, instructors, students, advisory council members, and industry leaders. They also inspected the facility and equipment and analyzed safety practices.



Precision metals manufacturing instructor Dean Duplessis speaks with a group of students in the CNC lab.

Leading the audit team was Martin Arsenault, president/CEO of Howard Tool Company in Bangor. Team members included Lynn McNeal, director of the Caribou Applied Technology Center, and Tom Campbell, machine shop supervisor at J.M. Huber’s Easton plant.

In addition to these three steps, instructors in the College program are required to earn NIMS credentials in the modules they instruct. Students must have also earned credentials in the modules for which accreditation is sought. Both requirements must be met prior to accreditation. NMCC precision metals manufacturing 2006 graduates earned NIMS credentials in three different areas.

The NIMS accreditation is for a five-year period and is renewable subject to further review and audit.

NMCC will officially receive the award from a national officer of NIMS at an accreditation ceremony being planned for next fall when the first students begin in the newly accredited program.

For more information on the precision metals manufacturing and machine tool technology programs, and the scholarships offered for the fall semester, contact the NMCC admissions office at 768-2785.



Berry-Thompkins Joins College & Foundation Team

Angela Berry-Thompkins has joined the College as the new foundation and institutional advancement assistant.

Berry-Thompkins has a diverse marketing and financial services background.

Most recently she served as the branch manager for Key Bank's Presque Isle North Street and Aroostook Centre Mall



branches, and she previously held the role of assistant branch manager for Gorham Savings Bank in Portland. She also brings the experience of a ten year career with MBNA America/Bank of America, where she was a marketing manager in both Maine and Maryland.

"After living and working out of state and in southern Maine for a number of years, I am thrilled to be back home in Aroostook County, and am proud to be working for such a dynamic and innovative college. The pride that the students, alumni, faculty, and staff have in college programs and achievements is palpable, and I look forward to contributing to their continued successes."

cont. on page 9

Accepting UIG's gift were (from left) Alan Punches, NMCC vice president; Raynold Gauvin, NMCC Foundation president; Brian Hamel and Robert Clark, tri-chairs for the Campaign for the County's College; and representing UIG, Scott Kent of Thibodeau's Insurance in Fort Kent.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

UIG pledges \$12,500 to Campaign for the County's College

A statewide network of independent insurance agencies, which includes six locations in Aroostook County, has pledged \$12,500 to support students, faculty and programs at NMCC.

The United Insurance Group (UIG) is the latest in a growing list of businesses and organizations contributing to the *Campaign for the County's College*, the first-ever major gifts campaign conducted by NMCC and the NMCC Foundation, with a goal of raising \$2 million by February 2008.

"We (our member agencies) are true believers in continuing education and are proud to be part of enhancing the opportunities of the youth and adults in Aroostook County who are creating a brighter future for themselves," said Chris Condon, UIG chief operating officer. "We are pleased to support Northern Maine Community College in its mission to serve the educational, employment training and economic development needs of the region the College serves."

UIG's gift to the *Campaign for the County's College* will be split evenly to support both the Accessing Opportunity Fund and the Investing in Innovation Fund. The former is an endowed fund to support student scholarships. The latter will allow the college to create an endowment to purchase technology and instructional equipment for the various college programs.

In addition to these two funds, the third campaign initiative the "College and Community Advancement Fund" is set up to provide an immediate source of funding, allowing NMCC to launch new curricula and respond promptly to evolving community needs.

"We are pleased that the United Insurance Group has joined in support of the Campaign for the County's College. Future generations of students attending NMCC will certainly benefit from this gift," said Robert Clark, tri-chair for the Campaign for the County's College.

The United Insurance Group is a statewide organization of independent insurance professionals who have combined their resources to provide comprehensive business and personal insurance.

Founded in August of 1976, UIG has become one of the largest independent agencies in Maine. Its origin in 36 locations has been consolidated into a network of key locations from Falmouth to Fort Kent.

Aroostook County locations are Thibodeau's Insurance in Fort Kent, Ezzy's Insurance in Madawaska and Van Buren, Haines Insurance in Limestone, H.O. Perry Insurance in Fort Fairfield, and the Hayden/Perry Insurance Agency in Presque Isle.



NMCC and Katahdin Trust Company Officials Launch New College Wireless Network

With wire cutters in hand, the presidents of Northern Maine Community College and Katahdin Trust Company recently ushered in a new era in technology on the NMCC campus at a unique event in the Edmunds conference center at the College.

The “wire cutting” ceremony, launching NMCC’s new wireless computer network, was led by Timothy Crowley, NMCC president, and Jon Prescott, president and CEO of Katahdin Trust Company, which donated \$25,000 to the *Campaign for the County’s College* to purchase the new technology.

Funds provided by Katahdin Trust, a lead contributor to the first-ever major gifts campaign undertaken by NMCC, allowed the College to establish the infrastructure for a campus-wide wireless network and to purchase and install wireless access points in the Edmunds and Christie Building complex. The facility houses NMCC’s primary classroom, public meeting, and administrative office space, as well as the College library and learning center.

The initial infrastructure will allow NMCC to, in time, build on the backbone and expand wireless access across the entire campus. It will further ensure that the College can maintain a secure, manageable network at a greatly reduced cost.

“Katahdin Trust Company’s gift to the Campaign for the County’s College will have a significant and positive impact on our campus community. Users of this new technological infrastructure will be provided the opportunity to take advantage of the latest technology, mobility, the Internet, and access to College resources through a safe and secure network,” said Crowley. “This is an important development for NMCC, and we thank our friends at Katahdin Trust and our employees who made this day possible.”

Students, faculty, and staff will be the first beneficiaries of the system; however, in



Participating in the unique “wire cutting” ceremony to launch the new wireless network at Northern Maine Community College were (left to right) Robert Clark, tri-chair of the Campaign for the County’s College; Raynold Gauvin, chair of the NMCC Foundation Board; Timothy Crowley, NMCC president; Jon Prescott, president and CEO of Katahdin Trust Company; and Vicki Smith, senior vice president for marketing at Katahdin Trust Company.

the coming weeks the wireless network will be made available to business and industry representatives and community members who visit or hold events on the college campus in the facilities where the wireless technology is activated.

That connection with the community, coupled with the strong ties that exist between NMCC and Katahdin Trust Company, were two primary reasons why the Northern Maine financial institution elected to direct their gift to the wireless network initiative.

“Many of our employees have attended this fine institution which has served as our region’s source of affordable, accessible postsecondary education opportunities, workforce training, and continuing education for more than 40 years. We are pleased to pledge our support for this very important initiative,” said Prescott.

In addition to the corporate donation of \$25,000, Katahdin Trust Company, last week, invited their 150 employees to consider joining the bank in assisting NMCC by investing in the College’s future. Employees were given the opportunity to give to the Campaign for the County’s College through payroll deduction or make a direct gift to the institution. As an incentive, Katahdin officials announced the company will match dollar for dollar all employee contributions up to a total of \$1,000 per

employee.

“Higher education and economic development are critical to a community’s viability, and we are pleased to support Northern Maine Community College, which has been and continues to be a vital partner in the economic development of our market area,” said Prescott.

Katahdin Trust Company, the largest community bank in northern Maine, provides banking services to individuals and businesses from 14 offices located in Ashland, Caribou, Eagle Lake, Easton, Fort Fairfield, Houlton, Island Falls, Limestone, Mars Hill, Oakfield, Patten, Presque Isle, Van Buren and Washburn, online at www.katahdintrust.com, and operates a loan production office, Maine Financial Group, in Scarborough.

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.



Shawn Lahey, from the College’s IT department, installs one of the wireless access points on campus, made possible through the donation from Katahdin Trust Company.

Sinawik #30 Celebration

Former NMCC President Harold Mailman (left) and former instructor Harold Quass (right) were among the more than 300 guests on hand for the Sinawik Number 30 celebration. They are joined by welding instructor Sonny Michaud.



Above: Rino Marquis (center), the owner of Sinawik House Number 30, tours visitors at the barbecue and open house on April 24.



As part of the ceremony Harold Mailman, along with instructor Dennis Albert, unveiled a new sign that will be placed by the roadside of the 30th home and future homes as they are moved on site. Mailman was the head of then Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute from 1969 through 1979 - the period of time when the Sinawik project began. The Mailman Trades Building at NMCC bears his name.



Above: Residential construction senior Woody Simpson goes over blueprints of the home with visitors.



Right: NMCC dining service employees Margaret Stetson (left) and Jane Parker take a moment to pose with the house cake they made for the celebration.



Five NMCC students were presented scholarship checks from the Kiwanis Club. Presenting the checks on behalf of Kiwanis were Sinawik President Dan Lee (far left) and Kiwanis President Diane Greene (far right). Receiving checks were Emily Goodine, Brandon Berube, Christopher Anderson, Ryan Tierney, and (absent from photo) John Kennedy.



As part of the Sinawik Number 30 celebration, Sinawik President Dan Lee (right) presented the "Business of the Year" award, recently presented to Sinawik by the P.I. Chamber of Commerce, to the trade programs at the College which have constructed the homes for three decades. Accepting the award on behalf of the NMCC was instructor Roger Crouse.

18 Students Named President's Scholars

Eighteen NMCC students were honored at the annual President's Scholars Luncheon on April 18. These students have earned the distinction of obtaining a perfect 4.0 semester during either, or both, of the Spring or Fall 2006 semesters.

"Life takes you on all kinds of different journeys. It is hard to predict what the future will bring for each of you, but what you have gotten here is a strong foundation," NMCC President Tim Crowley told the students, many of whom were joined by family members or friends for the noon event.

"Continue your education. Pursue your gift for learning and your gift for leadership," he encouraged. "Most of all be an example for others."

Several College faculty members and administrators also took a moment

to stand and speak of either individual students accomplishments or the impact that this group has had collectively in their classrooms and across campus.

That sentiment of appreciation and recognition was also reflected back to College employees, particularly faculty members, by several students...all of whom were invited to speak if they so desired.

"These are some of the best teachers I've ever had, and I'm grateful to have studied under them," said Benjamin Duplessis.

"Without the teachers here, I never would have gone back to school," echoed Monika Day, an accounting student who plans to continue on toward her four year degree at Husson College.

"The faculty are great, but it's not just faculty, support staff are great, too," Chris Putnam was quick to point out.



Students who were recognized as President's Scholars for having achieved a perfect 4.0 semester were, seated from left: Angela Howe, medical office administration; Michael Black, liberal studies; Monika Day, accounting information systems; Jennifer Knowles, liberal studies; and Jennifer Kiser, medical office administration. Standing, from left: Frank Hafford, electrical construction and maintenance; Henry Rauschnot, plumbing and heating; Trevor Pettengill, welding and metal fabrication; Christopher Putnam, computer information systems; and Benjamin Duplessis, precision metals manufacturing. Joining the students is NMCC President Tim Crowley. Absent from photo: Emily Baron, accounting information systems; Helen Fox, medical office administration; Coleby Lamoreau, electrical construction and maintenance; Jolene Paul, legal office administration; Mitchell Pruet, automotive body repair; Karen "Woody" Simpson, residential construction; Aimee Wilkins, accounting information systems; and Brian Wood, business administration.

Team, from page 6

Berry-Thompkins' responsibilities include serving as the primary staff member for the NMCC Foundation, a role which includes fundraising, coordination of Foundation activity and management of information. She will be actively involved in NMCC's *Campaign for the County's College*, which runs through February 2008 with a goal of raising \$2 million to support student scholarships, instructional technology, and community development needs.

"We are so pleased that Angela has joined the College community and the NMCC Foundation. Her previous experience and positive energy are wonderful assets to both organizations," said Jason Parent, director of development and college relations. "Angela joins our college marketing expert Karen Gonya, who is highly regarded and has been instrumental in publicizing NMCC and in many other areas critical to institutional advancement for nearly 15 years. I could not be more pleased with our team!"

Berry-Thompkins is actively involved in her community. She was the volunteer leader of the United Way Campaign for Key Bank's Aroostook County branches and has been an active volunteer for the American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and the Make-A-Wish Foundations of Maine and the Mid-Atlantic.

The Monticello native is a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy. She, her husband Raymond, and their son Isaac reside in Presque Isle.

Sinawik, from page 4

Welding and metal fabrication instructor Dennis Albert has also been involved in 28 of 30 homes, working with students to install the ductwork throughout the house.

Brian McDougal, chair of the trade and technical department, has 28 years of experience with the Sinawik project in the electrical field. He was the electrical instructor for much of his career and continues to teach several classes in addition to his duties as department chair.

The "rookie" of the team is Chuck Kelley, the current electrical construction and maintenance instructor. Although he has been an instructor at the College for more than 10 years, it has only been for the past two years that he has been leading the electrical construction program and working with those students on installing the wiring in the Sinawik house.

Fight Cancer! Have Fun! Join Us!

Relay for Life of Aroostook County
Friday, June 1 - Saturday, June 2
at Northern Maine Community College



Want to form a team take part? Make a pledge to support an existing team?
 Pay for a luminaria bag in memory or honor of someone who has had cancer?

Visit www.acsevents.org/relay/mearoostook to learn more.

Student Honors & Awards 2007



Achievement Award winners from the Arts & Sciences Department: Nichole Engstrom, early childhood education; Michaele Black, liberal studies; and Tammy Deschesne, paraeducation.



Achievement Award winners from the Business Technology Department: Emily Baron, accounting information systems; Christopher Putnam, computer information systems; Eric Maynard, information technology; Diana Doody, legal office administration; and Jennifer Kiser, medical office administration.



Achievement Award winners from the Nursing & Allied Health Department: Krista Watters, nursing; and (absent from photo) Paul Breton, emergency medical services.



Achievement Award winners from the Trade & Technical Occupations Department: Ryan Ashby, automotive body repair; Joey Cyr, automotive technology; Meagan Johndro, computer-aided drafting; Jeremy Haines, computer electronics; Frank Hafford, electrical construction and maintenance; Emily Goodine, plumbing and heating; Karen "Woody" Simpson, residential construction; and Patrick Beaulieu and Benjamin Hebert, welding and metal fabrication.



Dean of Students William Egeler recognizes Michaele Black both for being named NMCC's **Student of the Year** for 2007, and also for being named to **Maine's All-Academic Team** earlier this year.

Jan Grieco was selected this year's **Instructor of the Year** by student vote. Making the announcement was Student Senate advisor Dennis Albert.





Facion Spirit Award Winners: Maegen Bulley, Louise Hamlin, Joshua Poisson, Ian Simmons, and (absent from photo) Kirk Voisine



Award of Excellence Recipients: Kim Hammond and Kaci Murchison

Who's Who Among Students in America's Junior Colleges:

Seated, from left: Amy Jackson, Ellen Duplessis, Diane Shaw, Kathryn Harris, Emily Baron, Krista Watters, Kaci Murchison, Michael Black. Standing, from left: Michael Ireland, Aimee Wilkins, Benjamin Duplessis, Frank Hafford, Deborah Lagasse, Karen "Woody" Simpson, Aaron Boyd, Eric Maynard, Chanel Gagnon, Christopher Putnam, Diana Doody. Absent from photo: Jolene Black, June Blakely, Nicholas Fitzpatrick, Joshua Gonsioroski, Jill Greenlaw, Meagan Johndro, Sherry Pelletier, Amanda Pooler, Sarah Scott, Cecilia Wiggins.



Peer Mentoring Awards:

Seated, from left: Tammy Deschesne, Michael Black, Nicole Hopkins, Kim Hammond, Emily Goodine, Mallory McKeil. Standing, from left: Maegen Bulley, Tyler Michaud, Joey Cyr, Benjamin Hebert, Stas' Ginish, Brent Stewart, Trevor Pettengill, Kristina Kenneson. Absent from photo: Jason Black, Nathan Gardiner, Christopher Grass, Philip Gray, Matthew Harrington, Bernard McManus, Christine Smith, Kirk Voisine.

Toward Excellence

Walker, from page 2

the past two decades. She began at Cary in 1986 as a secretary of rehabilitation services, and has worked her way up the ranks to her current position coordinating the hospital's volunteer program and as a staff member for the Seniority Program. Earlier this year, Walker was tapped with the new responsibility of patient representative.

In Walker's presentation to the NMCC students entitled "Keys to Personal Success," she covers topics such as integrity, communication skills, confidentiality, interpersonal skills, and the importance of having a good sense of humor. She also shares how important attitude is to an individual's success in the working world and in their personal lives.

Two individuals Walker credits in part for her success, are NMCC instructors Ann Osgood and Paula York who have 27 and 26 years of service respectively on the Presque Isle campus. The esteem with which Walker holds Osgood and York is reciprocated by the two instructors, who have invited their former student back to speak to a new crop each of the last 20 years.

"When she presents her motivational talk, she encourages and inspires those in the audience. Many of them hear of her accomplishments and successes and realize they too can overcome obstacles they are presently facing. Her message instills 'hope,'" said Osgood.

"Betty paints a realistic picture of her personal and professional life. She gives credit for her 'victories' to her daughters, her friends, to her church family, and to the NMCC community. She never boasts that it was an easy journey," said York.

Walker not only gives back to NMCC each year by inspiring senior office administration students, she also serves as the chairperson of the office administration advisory board.

Walker's tradition of imparting wisdom on the NMCC student body actually began at her graduation from the College in 1986 when she was selected as that



Betty Walker (center) credits instructors Ann Osgood (left) and Paul York in part for her success. She returns to the campus annually to speak to seniors in the office administration programs and also serves on the advisory committee for those programs.

year's student speaker for commencement. "Her speech actually preceded Senator Bill Cohen's address to the graduates that year. I remember the Senator starting his remarks by saying "she is a hard act to follow," said Osgood.

"If I have been an encouragement to the students, then I have been a success," said Walker.



Development Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #54
Presque Isle, ME 04769