

Spring Semester Underway

NMCC's Spring 2008 semester got underway on Monday, January 14. In addition to welcoming back faculty and returning students, College staff welcomed more than 100 new students to campus.

"This is an exciting time for people to be getting started," said William Egeler, NMCC dean of students. "Students who are earning associate or bachelor's degrees and plan to stay in Maine to work could be eligible for thousands of dollars in tax credits over the next 10 years for students loans starting in January 2008 and beyond. Hopefully as people consider their needs for training and additional education, the *Opportunity Maine* program will help them choose to stay in Maine."

As people returned to campus, one major change that greeted them was the new Academic Success Center, which will be a valuable resource for students who may need academic assistance in a given area. *See the full story on page 3.*

To accommodate the necessary changes in order to establish the new Academic Success Center, the Husson office has been relocated to the second floor of the Christie Building (in the former copy center). The copy center has been moved to the former Husson space to allow for the presence of student workers to welcome and facilitate the signing in process for the Academic Success Center.

Students are encouraged to stop by the center and find out more about the resources available to them.

Campaign Reaches \$2 Million Goal Early with Establishment of Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship fund established to honor the memory and legacy of a well-known and highly respected County business and community leader has pushed the first ever major gifts campaign at Northern Maine Community College over its \$2 million goal – two months ahead of the official close of the year-long fundraising effort.

Officials with NMCC and the NMCC Foundation have announced the *Campaign for the County's College* has received just over \$70,000 in gifts to establish the Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. Hunt, of Fort Fairfield, passed away unexpectedly on June 28, 2007 at the age of 63.

One of the founders of the statewide United Insurance Group (UIG), Hunt established and successfully operated a number of businesses in The County and beyond, including acquiring, in recent years, the Harry's family of businesses comprised of Top of Maine Insurance Co., Harry's Honda and Harry's Motor Sports in Presque Isle.

"Bringing together a tribute to my father in the form of scholarships for Aroostook County students who wish to pursue degrees from NMCC is the most appropriate way I can imagine to honor my father and his beloved County," said Melony LeShane, Hunt's daughter. "The County's College is all about creating opportunities for students to excel in areas of study that will provide not only



Chris Condon (left) of United Insurance Group (UIG) presents NMCC President Tim Crowley with a contribution of over \$70,000 made in memory of Peter G. Hunt Sr. Of the monies donated in Hunt's memory, \$60,000 came from UIG.

meaningful employment opportunities for the student – but support the County's workforce needs. Out-migration, loss of agricultural opportunities, an aging population...all of these issues are addressed and positively impacted daily at NMCC with its focus on doing what's right for the community, its students, and the County's economic development. My father dedicated his life to the same pursuits."

The Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund was initially established by UIG at the time of Hunt's passing.

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NMCC Partners with Adult Ed Programs County-wide for College Transition Program

With funding provided by a State grant, NMCC is partnering with the Adult Education centers across Aroostook County to provide a College Transition program to County residents, offering classes to prepare individuals for college at a substantially reduced price.

"Ofentimes an individual may be thinking about going to college, but is not really sure if he or she is ready," said William Egeler, NMCC dean of students. "This program is a really low cost way for these people to brush up on academic areas in which they may need some help as well as the non-academic things that often trip up the unsuspecting student. For many people, the difficulty transitioning into college is not the academics, but the other more subtle issues such as navigating the financial aid process, time management and study skills. This program will walk the participant through all of these issues and more."

While these college transition courses will be offered through adult ed centers across The County, those in the central Aroostook region will be held at Northern Maine Community College. Four 1-credit classes will be offered

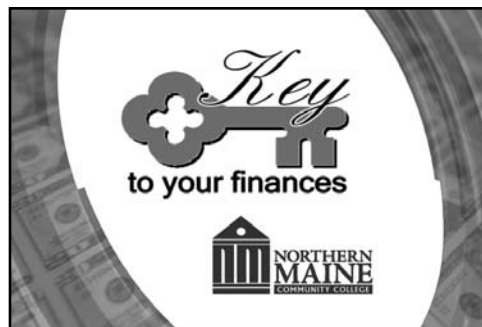
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NMCC and KeyBank Partner for New Weekly Televised Educational Series

The results of an innovative, new partnership between Northern Maine Community College and KeyBank designed to provide valuable advice on how to better manage personal finances and to pass along financial management tips to the Aroostook County community will premiere on television this month.

Key to Your Finances, a weekly series that will be broadcast on WAGM-TV CBS 8 and Fox 8 beginning January 21, will continue through the end of the year. The informational segments are produced primarily on the NMCC campus by faculty and students in the College business technology department. The segments will, once monthly, also feature personnel from KeyBank, sponsors of the project.

Each 90 second spot will focus on information the average consumer can use to help manage their money, to better plan for the future, and to empower themselves to make decisions where their finances are concerned by providing relevant and current information on key topics.



"This exciting venture will provide students in our business technology programs the opportunity to present the information they are learning in the classroom

in a very public forum. As a community college, the *Key to Your Finances* segment further serves as a valuable outreach tool that allows us to reach community members and share important information to assist them in managing their finances," said Dwight Clayton, chair of the business technology department. "In addition to the increased visibility this will provide, it will enhance the overall experience of students in our affected programs."

Topics that will be covered in broadcasts include managing debt, maximizing your credit score, planning for retirement, purchasing and refinancing a home, planning for the cost of higher education, avoiding identity theft, and maintaining a household budget, among many others.

Segments featuring NMCC faculty, students and on occasion alumni,

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New Student Orientation January 10, 2008

During orientation, the incoming students not only take care of a lot of 'housekeeping' details, such as getting their student ID, registering their vehicle, making sure they are compliant with immunization requirements, learning how to access the College Portal, and more, they also learn about many important College policies. In addition to all of the tasks completed and information shared, there is an even more critical reason for new students to attend orientation, according to NMCC Dean of Students William Egeler. "They start relationship building, both with staff and with their fellow classmates. There will be a friendly face that they recognize as they walk down the hall or enter their first class."

Academic Success Center Opens Doors and Opportunity with Start of Semester

Students returning to campus after the semester break are being greeted with a new high-tech center and service designed to provide them with the tools they need to succeed in the classroom.

The Academic Success Center is a project that has been in the works at NMCC for nearly a year. A first-of-its-kind in the Maine Community College System to use an electronic referencing and registration process, the initiative was launched to ensure students have as convenient access as possible to the wide array of comprehensive tutoring and supplemental instruction programs offered on campus.

“The primary reason we have worked to create this new center is to enhance student persistence and retention,” said William Egeler, NMCC dean of students. “The work completed to this point and the efforts that continue will create a more student-centered approach that will provide us with the data we need for continuous quality improvement.”

One of the benefits realized will be a more immediate and efficient processing of information. “The key to the Academic Success Center is the communication that is facilitated between faculty and students and the center itself,” said Dan Hotham, a veteran faculty member who led the task force of faculty and staff members charged with the center’s creation. “The new center is designed to assist all students either individually or in groups and to work in conjunction with faculty to provide services and strategies to personalize, fortify and enhance classroom instruction in order to promote academic success,” said Hotham.

Integral to the operations of the center is the new technology-driven system that follows the student through the process. It begins when an instructor or College counselor completes an electronic form which details the areas in which a student is in need of assistance. The record then becomes part of a database accessed by center tutors.

When the student visits the Academic Success Center for assistance,



Above: NMCC student Denise Sock uses her student ID to sign in to the newly created Academic Success Center on the NMCC campus. The high-tech center is located just off the Christie lobby.



Right: Joyce Campbell, administrative secretary to the vice president, shows Emery Lincoln, an incoming residential construction student from Houlton, how to use the touch-screen technology to sign in.

he or she signs in by swiping his or her College ID card and the information specific to that student appears on a touch screen monitor. The student is then provided with the assistance in the areas identified. Students can also visit the center for tutoring or supplemental instruction without a faculty reference and log-in using the same technology.

Services offered by staff in the center include feedback on writing assignments, review for exams, help with homework assignments and sessions that focus on improving study skills.

“After students receive the assistance for which they visited the center, the tutors report the information back electronically to the faculty member who recommended the supplemental instruction. This really helps us close the communication loop. It is a clear method of both identifying who is using the center and if the assistance they received was effective,” said Hotham.

The Academic Success Center also houses a new PLATO Learning Center. The computer stations, set up in a central location, allow students to log-in to complete specific exercises in a select subject area. Upon completion of the work, the student receives immediate feedback.

Among the other areas that have seen improvements or changes as a result of the task force’s work are: a revision to what was previously known as the learning center’s mission, a renovation of the physical space, the creation of a visible administrative space, new signage, and the establishment of a formal training program for all tutors.

The work of the task force will continue in the spring semester as the group examines recommendations for future staffing for the facility, looks to strengthen ties between the center and faculty, and develops a comprehensive assessment plan.

Public Comment Sought as NMCC Prepares to Undergo Accreditation Review

As NMCC prepares to undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit later this winter, the organization that will review the institution for re-accreditation is inviting the public to submit comments regarding the College.

On March 2-5, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will send a team of reviewers to NMCC from institutions in the northeast similar to the Aroostook County campus.

Visiting team members, led by Dr. Katherine Eneguess, president of New Hampshire Community Technical College in Berlin, New Hampshire, will examine eleven standards, including mission and purpose; academic programs; faculty; students; human, physical and fiscal support for the institution; integrity; and public disclosure.

NMCC has submitted to CIHE a 100-page document which thoroughly examines each of these areas.

Completion of the comprehensive report marks the end of a year-long effort which began last January with the naming of faculty members Betty Kent-Conant, chair of the nursing and allied health department, and Ron Fitzgerald, chair of the arts and sciences department, as self-study co-chairs.

"The process for preparing for an accreditation site visit requires a great deal of work prior to the visit. It includes the development of a self-study document, a narrative addressing the standards for which the college must be accountable, which must give any reader a written comprehensive review of the college. The process used in this preparation involved most of the personnel of the college - administration, faculty, staff, and students - who were assigned to committees which were co-chaired by members from all parts of the campus family," said Kent-Conant.

Each committee was responsible for one of the eleven standards. They were

NMCC Accounting Students to Provide Free Tax Assistance

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

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

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

"Students get to supplement their course work by doing real taxes for real people," said Scott. "The best reinforcement you can get is to put your skills to the test in the 'real' world. Businesses also recognize the value of both the training and the experience that this program provides our students, both in tax preparation and in developing customer service skills. This gives our students an advantage as they enter the job market,

charged with addressing a description, appraisal, and projection for each.

"The accreditation process forces institutions to take a look at what they are doing, how well they are doing it and what they can do to make it better. If we don't take a look at what we are doing and how well we are doing it, I think that it is impossible to improve. This process also makes one realize the many excellent things the institution is doing and how they are benefiting the students and communities we serve," said Fitzgerald.

With the self study document complete, NMCC officials are now turning their attention to preparing for the March visit.

"We are looking forward to hosting the visiting team on campus so that they can verify that the information in our self

whether they enter directly after graduation or after going on to obtain a four-year accounting degree."

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

The VITA program will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Although VITA will begin on February 5, that first week of assistance will only be for senior citizens who are on social security and/or pensions. Others will not be able to be assisted until the week of February 11. The tax software that addresses the late changes in the AMT tax laws will not be available prior to February 11, so the students CANNOT process most returns until AFTER that date.

There are no scheduled appointments, rather individuals must come, sign in, and be helped on a first-come, first-serve basis. For shorter wait times, Scott encourages people who can do so to wait a few weeks before coming in for assistance.

The VITA program will not be offered during semester breaks, which are scheduled for the weeks of February 18-22 and March 31-April 4.

study is in fact accurate and that the College is making a positive impact on our students as well as in Aroostook County and the State of Maine," said Fitzgerald. "The visiting team will act as consultants to the College and give suggestions as to how our College can improve and continue to move forward as an outstanding comprehensive community college."

In advance of the visit, and in preparation for the review, NEASC is inviting members of the public to submit comments that address substantive matters to the quality of the institution to: Public Comment on Northern Maine Community College, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, 209 Burlington Road, Bedford, MA 01730-1433. Comments can be e-mailed to cihe@neasc.org.

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Dean's List - High Honors

3.85 - 4.0 Grade Point Average

Jenise L. Albert	Amber R. Libby
Kyle J. Chasse	Robb M.A. MacGougan
*Melinda S. Clark	*Teena E. McCarthy
*Whitney L. Dick	Brian J. Nadeau
*Lisa A. Dickinson	*Joshua M. Parent
Claire M. Dow	Lindsey D. Parker
Alicia R. Doyle	*Mitchell S. Pruett
James D. Estey	Daniel J. Robertson
*Erin E. Farley	Ryan G. Sanders
*Helen M. Fox	*Trudi J. Smith
Shelley M. Fulton	*Janet Tang
*Marina Grivois	Jodi L. Tash
*Louise A. Hamlin	Damien L. Tetlow
*Angela L. Howe	*Heidi S. Warman
Kemuel J. LaChance	*Suqi Yu
Coleby R. Lamoreau	

**Achieved a perfect 4.0 semester*

Students Recognized for Academic Achievement for the Fall Semester

NMCC Vice President and Academic Dean Alan Punches has announced the Dean's List for the College's 2007 fall semester. One hundred seventy-eight full-time students achieved a 3.20 average or better; thirty-one of these students were named to high honors with a grade point average of 3.85 or better. Fifteen students had the distinction of earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of these students," said Punches. "In many cases, they are working, meeting family obligations, and engaged in community activities--but still they distinguish themselves in their studies. We commend them."

Dean's List - Honors

3.20 - 3.84 Grade Point Average

Peter P. Albert	Melissa L. Duchardt	Andrew J. McCluskey	Henry A. Rauschnot
Kyle D. Allen	Nicholas P. Dumond	Megan McHatten	Wendy L. Riopelle
Douglas W. Bailey	Elena R. Dumond	Mallory L. McKeil	Misty L. Robinson
Jessica R. Ballard	James D. DuVal	Abby R. McLaughlin	Niklas H. Roble
Nicole M. Baxter	Tonya D. DuVal	Cindy D. McLaughlin	Lindsey A. Rockwell
Patrick D. Beaulieu	James W. Elliott	Kelley L. McLaughlin	Joshua S. Rolland
Nicole M. Bechard	Becky L. Ford	Misty A. McMinn	Wendy L. Samaroo
William A. Belanger	Holly C. Fulton	Matthew R. McPherson	Amilio C. Samaroo
Christopher J. Bissonnette	George A. Glew	Christina M. Merrill	Ashley L. Sarasin
Joshua J. Bolster	Mark J. Goodale	Joshua J. Michaud	Casey M. Savage
Jessica A. Bolstridge	Joshua P. Goodale	Jillian A. Miller	Janice E. Scott
Justin J. Boucher	Benjamin J.T. Gowen	Samantha A. Montgomery	Christopher T. Sides
Jeremy W. Boutilier	Jacob T. Graham	Jane M. Moody	Stephanie A. Simon
Stephen R. Bowers	Shane B. Grindle	Michael J. Mooreside	Seth T. Sjolander
Beau G. Brackett	Chad D. Guerrette	Kyle C. Nunley	William H. Skelton
Timothy K. Brewer	Heather C. Hafford	Jerica L. O'Bar	Paul E. Soucy
Adam D. Brown	Curtis W. Harrison	Kay D. O'Clair	Kurt J. Soucy
Nicholas J. Bryant	Laurie G. Hartley	Timothy J. O'Neill	Allen F. Spinney
Randy D. Caron	Amber L. Hill	Ashlee M. Ouellette	Erik S. St. Peter
Ashley M. Cash	Anthony T. Huston	Charles R. Ouellette	Christina A. Stadig
Daniel D. Chute	Shane K. Ireland	Marci L. Page	Lindsay A. Stewart
Derek A. Clair	Lucas W. Ireland	Rebecca L. Palmer-Bugbee	Damon L. Stone
Alicia D. Collins	Elizabeth M. Jalbert	Mitchell F. Panati	Seth H. Swanson
Aaron J. Conroy	Lucas W. Jarrett	Devin M. Parent	Matthew J. Tribou
Paige L. Corbin	Lynn C. Jewell	Jamie-Lyn S. Pelkey	Kruger B. Tyler
Ryan L. Corrigan	Janna R. Johnson	Mathew S. Pelletier	Robert D. Underwood
Shawn D. Cote	Charity D. Keenan	Jessica J. Pettegrow	Shauna S. Vaillancourt
Erica J. Cyr	Brock M. Kingsbury	Joel M. Pickens	Nathaniel E. Webster
Mary A. Daly	Colby R. Lauritsen	Katherine E. Pictou	Keilee J. West
Kyle T. Damboise	Shawn T. Lay	Andrew L. Poland	David R. Whitman
Brandon J. Davenport	Kenny R. LeTourneau	Jeremy E. Poulin	Duane A. Whittle
James A. Day	Nicholas A. Libby	Lucas R. Powell	Katherine M. Wilcox
Tamara E. Dayringer	Rafe J. Longver	Shannon M. Powell	Alison M. Willette
Gretchen L. DeLong	Clarence H. MacPherson	Meggan M. Pratt	Brandy L. Willette
Travis E. DeWitt	Eric P. Mailman	Andrea J. Pratt	Robert J. Williams
Daniel P. Dionne	Joane S. MainGrette	Dustin G. Punches	Charles C. Zappone
Jacob H. Doucette	Jeremy M. McCluskey	Alexander S. Purvis	



Caron's Lawn and Property Maintenance Donates \$10,000 to Establish Business Technology Scholarship Fund

A new scholarship fund for Aroostook County students enrolled in a business technology program at NMCC will be established by Presque Isle-based Caron's Lawn and Property Maintenance with a \$10,000 donation to the institution's major gifts campaign.

The pledge to the "Accessing Opportunity" fund of the *Campaign for the County's College* is designed to provide scholarships and awards to deserving NMCC students to ensure affordable access to education for those who seek an opportunity to build a career in Aroostook County.

"All three of my sons are alumni of NMCC, and we thought this donation would be a fitting way to give back to the College that provided them with the knowledge to make us the successful business that we are today," said owner Dave Caron, Sr. "I thank God for blessing us, thank the people of greater Aroostook County for being great customers, and our employees for working so hard to grow this family operated business. Without all of them, this donation to establish the scholarship fund would not be possible."

"It's very rewarding to see a successful County business establish a scholarship fund that will help NMCC students obtain the training and education they need to be successful in their own business,"

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CAMPAIGN NEWS

TD Banknorth Announces \$100,000 Contribution to Campaign to Expand Allied Health Programs in St. John Valley

A \$100,000 gift from TD Banknorth made through the TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation to NMCC will provide for increased access to healthcare education for residents of northernmost Maine.

The announcement of the gift to NMCC's *Campaign for the County's College* was made by

Larry Wold, president of TD Banknorth in Maine, at a December 28 luncheon on the Presque Isle College campus. The donation is part of a \$200,000 TD Banknorth gift announced earlier in the month to support rural initiatives being undertaken by the Maine Community College System.

Wold joined NMCC President Timothy Crowley in announcing the funds will be used to expand NMCC allied health offerings, most immediately the associate degree in nursing program, to the St. John Valley.

"Through this initiative, Northern Maine Community College is working to fill two vital needs in northern Aroostook County - access to both healthcare and health education opportunities for people in the region," said Wold. "We are very pleased to be able to assist with this effort, which will make a real difference in the lives of countless people."

The funding will bring NMCC's nursing program to the St. John Valley.



Officials with TD Banknorth announced a \$100,000 gift to Northern Maine Community College's Campaign for the County's College, which will support expansion of NMCC's allied health programs in the St. John Valley. Participating in the presentation from the bank are, from left: from the Presque Isle branch, Michael Kelley, Jr., vice president, and Michael Kelley, Sr., executive vice president; as well as Larry Wold, president of TD Banknorth in Maine. On hand to accept the gift are, from left: Timothy Crowley, NMCC president; Brian Hamel and Kris Doody, campaign tri-chairs; and Raynold Gauvin, chair of the NMCC Foundation.

The announcement follows a ten month long concentrated effort by the College, St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative, and representatives of both the allied health and education communities in the Valley to meet a need expressed by the stakeholders.

"Our efforts to provide access to higher education and to meet a critical workforce development need that will allow for area residents to fill local jobs has received a tremendous boost today. The impact of this generous gift will be felt for years to come," said Crowley. "The TD Banknorth gift will allow NMCC to expand the work it is doing to respond to the critical need for nurses in Aroostook County. The collaboration amongst the healthcare community, business and education will provide for access to education that will lead to rewarding careers."

Results of a survey conducted last summer by the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collabora-

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Campaign Goal Reached, *from page 1*

Since then, donations were made to the fund by family members, friends and business acquaintances in his memory.

Contributions totaling \$70,690, including a \$60,000 donation from UIG, were recently presented to the NMCC Foundation to create an endowed fund to provide scholarships and/or awards to fund tuition, books, tools and equipment. The Hunt scholarship will be awarded annually to NMCC students who are residents of Maine and are pursuing a degree in business, nursing or the trades.

“United Insurance Group and its member agencies are proud to play a part in the assembly of this scholarship in the memory of our company’s founder. Mr. Hunt throughout his career maintained a close tie and deep love for Aroostook County so we find it befitting to memorialize him through Northern Maine Community College,” said Chris Condon, UIG chief operating officer.

The Hunt scholarship falls under the Accessing Opportunity Fund of the campaign, which is designed to provide scholarships and awards to deserving students to ensure affordable access to education for those who seek an opportunity to build a career in the County.

“Peter’s life work was centered on creating opportunity for people to live, work and do business in Northern Maine

– and he did it with a tremendous passion and determination,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley of Hunt, a man he came to know well through the College Foundation Board on which the businessman served. “Certainly that mission will be accomplished through the lives of generations of future students who attend NMCC and benefit from the Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. As a Foundation board member, Peter always kept opportunities for County residents at the fore of his work with the College – this is truly a fitting legacy to a champion of both higher education and The County.”

The collective gifts in memory of Hunt to establish the scholarship fund mark a significant milestone for the campaign. The total raised for the year-long effort, which publicly began at the end of February 2007, has now topped the \$2 million goal and campaign volunteers are expecting it continue to grow.

“We are very appreciative of all the donors who have made the contribution in Peter Hunt’s memory possible. As pleased as we are to have reached goal ahead of schedule, it doesn’t mean we are stopping. We still have a significant amount of momentum out there, and there are many still considering making contributions to the campaign,” said

Brian Hamel, who serves as campaign tri-chair along with Robert Clark and Kris Doody. Floyd Harding, who in August announced his gift of \$1 million, served as honorary chair.

Three funds were established during the campaign to raise money for student scholarships, instructional technology and to help the College meet emerging and immediate community needs throughout the region.

“Our donors and the entire County community have reinforced what those of us working intimately on this campaign know about ‘The County’s College,’” said Doody. “NMCC is making a significant and positive difference in the lives of so many residents of Northern Maine and in turn to the economy of the entire region. I am thrilled that we have achieved our goal and am looking forward to the final months of this campaign!”

“Peter worked tirelessly to ensure that opportunities were available here in Aroostook County for people who are fortunate enough to call this wonderful place home. Through his numerous successful business ventures he provided opportunity for many,” said Clark. “That legacy will certainly continue as the scholarship fund in his memory will ensure access to opportunity for so many future generations of people who share Peter’s love of The County. It is most fitting a scholarship fund established in his name be the gift that puts the *Campaign for the County’s College* over goal.”

In addition to his role as a founder of UIG, Hunt served as chairman and CEO of the collaborative group of Maine independent insurance agencies until his retirement in 1995. He then formed U.V., Inc., a commercial insurance agency and consulted with many insurance companies within the Maine marketplace.

In addition to his service on the Foundation board, Hunt was involved in several civic organizations, among them the Patriot Mutual Education Foundation Investors Council, Aroostook Partnership for Progress, Community General Hospital, Fort Fairfield Housing Authority and the Fort Fairfield Community Development Board.



Maine Community College System President John Fitzsimmons (seated, left to right) and NMCC President Timothy Crowley met recently with Chris Condon, chief operating officer of the United Insurance Group, and Jane Hunt, wife of the late Peter G. Hunt Sr., to officially establish the Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund at NMCC. The just over \$70,000 in donations received to establish the fund have pushed NMCC’s Campaign for the County’s College over the \$2 million mark. Also marking the milestone were (standing, left to right) Raynold Gauvin, NMCC Foundation Board chairperson; Sandra Gauvin, NMCC Foundation Board secretary; Jane Towle and Gregg Collins, members of the campaign leadership team; Brian Hamel, Kris Doody and Robert Clark, tri-chairs for the Campaign for the County’s College; and Melony LeShane, Peter Hunt, Jr.; and Robert Hunt, children of Jane and the late Peter Hunt.

Banknorth Gift, *from page 6*

tive amongst healthcare organizations in the Valley showed a high need for associate degree level nursing and other allied health program offerings in the northern region.

The survey responses were confirmed, on a larger scale, during a statewide listening tour of rural Maine conducted by Maine Community College System President John Fitzsimmons between July and November of 2007. The findings of the tour and a related \$6.2 million investment in programs and services to rural Maine by MCCS were announced in Augusta on December 19.

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

TD Banknorth Inc. is a leading banking and financial services company headquartered in Portland, Maine, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of TD Bank Financial Group headquartered in Toronto, Canada. Aroostook County TD Banknorth banking centers are located in Fort Kent, Caribou, Presque Isle and Houlton.

The TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation is the charitable giving arm of TD Banknorth, making over \$22 million in charitable donations since its inception in 2002. The efforts of the Foundation are focused on the areas of economic empowerment, youth development and community support.

In appreciation and recognition of the private contribution, it was announced by Crowley that the MCCS would provide an additional \$5,000 in scholarship money for the first cohort of students enrolling in the NMCC nursing program offered in the St. John Valley.

"As the demand for healthcare workers – and registered nurses in particular – continues to grow both here in the Valley and nationwide, it is imperative that we capitalize on this opportunity to educate and train this important part of our workforce locally," said Peter Caron,

Caron's Gift, *from page 6*



Presenting a \$10,000 gift to the Campaign for the County's College on behalf of the Caron's family of businesses are (left to right) Matt Leavitt, owner and supervisor of Groundbreakers Group Inc.; Chad Caron, owner and manager of Caron's Equipment Sales and Service Inc.; Dave Caron, Jr., owner and vice president; Scott Caron, owner and president; and Dave Caron, Sr. owner. Accepting the gift are Timothy Crowley, NMCC president; Robert Clark, tri-chair for the Campaign for the County's College; Raynold Gauvin, chair of the NMCC Foundation Board of Directors; and Sandra Gauvin, secretary of the NMCC Foundation Board.

said Robert Clark, tri-chair for the Campaign for the County's College. "Caron's Lawn and Property Maintenance is a true Aroostook County success story. We are pleased that so many County businesses are recognizing the wonderful work of

on behalf of the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative.

The delivery method of the NMCC nursing program will be similar to how the College currently offers its program in southern Aroostook at the Houlton Higher Education Center. Participants will take classes through a combination of distance education technology and local course and clinical offerings.

NMCC will partner to deliver the program with local healthcare facilities in the Valley, most of which have been represented in the group working to bring the offering to the region.

"By working collaboratively with the education and healthcare communities we have arrived at a delivery method to serve this region," said Crowley.

The TD Banknorth gift is among the three single largest received by the *Campaign for the County's College*. It matches a \$100,000 gift from the Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation and is second only to the \$1 million donation made by Floyd Harding.

Northern Maine Community College by pledging their financial support to the institution."

The intention of the major gifts campaign is to both support student scholarships and instructional technology, as well as to assist NMCC in new and ongoing efforts to respond promptly to ongoing needs.

In addition to the Accessing Opportunity Fund for scholarships, money raised can be allocated in two other areas, 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 launch new curricula and respond promptly to evolving community needs.

Caron's Lawn and Property Maintenance does year round service work for national, state, county, and local municipal organizations. The company also does work for numerous area businesses and hundreds of residential customers.

In addition to the lawn and property maintenance operation, the Caron's family of businesses also includes Groundbreakers Group, Inc. and Caron's Equipment Sales and Service, Inc.

Students' Work Benefits Literacy Volunteers of Aroostook

An Aroostook County non-profit organization with a mission to help adults improve their literacy skills will start the New Year with additional tools to increase community awareness of the program thanks to the efforts of two NMCC students.

Jo-Ellen Kelley of Limestone and Shannon Espling of Caribou spent three months both examining how best to get the word out about the work of the Literacy Volunteers of Aroostook County and developing materials that will help the organization reach more area residents in need of its services.

The project is the result of a hands-on assignment for their NMCC marketing class instructed by College faculty member Pam Crawford.

"I encourage students to select project topics that have the potential to have a positive impact on area profit and non-profit organizations. It provides the students the opportunity to engage in real-life work that can ultimately make a difference," said Crawford.

Kelley and Espling's work began with the development and conducting of a survey to gather valuable information on the level of awareness County residents had of LVOAC. The survey, which found that 68 percent of respondents were aware of the program, was



Members of the Literacy Volunteers of Aroostook County Board of Directors were recently presented with a marketing plan developed by students Jo-Ellen Kelley and Shannon Espling as part of an assignment for a marketing class. Hearing the presentation were (left to right) Linda Richardson, secretary/treasurer; Dottie Martin, board member; Dan Richardson, president; Teri Morse, board member; Kelley; and Ken Hensler, board member.

compiled and presented to the organization's board.

The survey was followed by the production of an audio CD developed by the duo and distributed to Maine Career Centers in Aroostook County located in Madawaska, Presque Isle and Houlton. The CD's are designed for non-readers as a means of providing information about the program.

Kelley and Espling also got the word out about LVOAC by distributing brochures and bookmarks to libraries and adult education centers throughout the region. They sent public service announcements to local radio stations and to several print publications.

For Kelley, the project held special significance as she is not only an NMCC student, but was hired in March of 2005 to start up Literacy Volunteers of Aroostook County, and has since worked part time as the executive director of the organization.

"The value of this project is that it taught me how to effectively use various advertising techniques. It also made me look at the organization not as an employee (or business owner and I sometimes do) but as a marketing firm trying to provide an effective marketing plan to increase the awareness of a service organization. I understand the importance of positioning and learned strategies on ways to create the perception you want the consumer to have about your service or organization," said Kelley. "Through this hands-on assignment, I received practical experience and developed skills that I will continue to use in my professional life."

The impact of their assignment hit home during the annual Presque Isle Holiday Light Parade, when both Kelley and Espling braved the near zero temperatures to help hand out more than 1,000 books to children along the route. Inside each book distributed was a bookmark detailing the services of LVOAC.

"As cold as it was, it was fun handing out books to the kids and seeing the excitement in their faces and the appreciation shown by the parents," said Espling. "As a result of this project I truly feel that we have accomplished a good deal more than a good grade in class. We have made people more aware of LVOAC. We even met a few people who needed these services and gave them information. Together, Jo-Ellen and I have come up with some fantastic ideas that we believe will make a world of difference to those who have difficulty reading."

The work produced by Kelley and Espling was officially presented to an appreciative Literacy Volunteers of Aroostook Board of Directors on December 18.

College Transition, *from page 2*

beginning in the Spring 2008 semester: reading, writing, basic math and college algebra.

"The academic classes are developmental in nature, with students completing preparatory work that could otherwise be expensive," explained Egeler. "There is both a technological component, with students doing some work on-line, as well as the support of having an instructor present. Students can work at their own pace, going as fast as they are comfortable and completing the course early or going at a slower pace and taking the entire

semester."

Individuals interested in learning more about the college transition courses being offered at NMCC participated in an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 16. Additional information is available by calling the SAD #1 Adult Education office at 764-4776.

Residents of southern and northern Aroostook who would like to learn more about college transition courses being offered in their communities should contact their local adult education office.

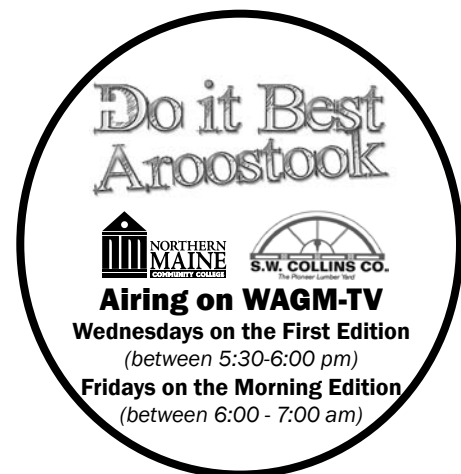
NEASC, from page 4

Written, signed comments must be received by March 5, 2008. The Commission cannot guarantee that letters received after that date will be considered. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the submission. Comments will not be treated as confidential.

NEASC is one of eight accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 200 institutions in the six-state New England Region.

NMCC has been accredited by NEASC since 1975, first through the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions and now through the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. The College gained candidacy status under CIHE in April 2001 after a successful site visit the previous fall.

A second site team visited the College in March of 2003 to assess the institution's readiness to move to full accreditation. After a favorable visit, full accreditation status was granted later that year. The March 2008 visit marks the College's first full evaluation since achieving NEASC accreditation under CIHE five years ago.



College Launches New Ad Campaign

When American Idol premiered Tuesday night, January 15, on WAGM Fox 8, so did the first in a series of three new television ads featuring NMCC students.

In each ad, student testimonials, which show each student working in his or her class/lab or other collegiate environment, are used to reinforce one key message. The three themes are: quality, value and options.

The quality spot features the reputation of the College's programs, the technology used in the classroom, and the level of preparedness for entering a chosen career field.

The opportunities and savings available for students with financial need and for Canadian students, as well as the affordable (in both money and time) start

to a new career are highlighted in the value spot.

The options ad delivers the message that students can come to NMCC to gain the skills to enter directly into a career, to get an affordable start to a four year degree, or to simply have a starting place while they explore and decide which program or career is right for them.

"We're really excited about this ad campaign," said Karen Gonya, associate director of development and college relations. "Not only are these professional, quality ads for which we can be proud, but they also showcase our students. Both the ads and theses students really drive home the message of our current marketing campaign...**You can get there from here.**"

Key to Your Finances, from page 2

will air each Monday during NewsSource 8 broadcasts. *Key to Your Finances* can be seen on WAGM CBS 8 between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. on the Morning Edition, and again between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. during the first edition. The broadcast can also be viewed on WAGM Fox 8 between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m., and again between 10:00 and 10:30 p.m.

"KeyBank is very excited to enter into this joint venture with Northern Maine Community College to deliver a weekly educational series on personal finance and financial management.

Bringing the expertise and experience of both the KeyBank and NMCC teams together will enable the television segments to provide informative and helpful tips to assist consumers and businesses with their finances. We look forward to this ongoing educational series making a difference for all consumers," said Cheri Doak, district retail leader, senior vice president, KeyBank.

Segment topics will regularly reflect issues that resonate with viewers in current context. One example is an upcoming series on tax tips that will be presented by accounting students participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance



NMCC Accounting Information Systems Instructor Nancy Cowett gives tips on getting out of debt in the first segment of *Key to Your Finances*.

program offered annually on the campus.

"This series is very timely in light of unprecedented high consumer debt as well as an economy that is on the brink of a recession," said Steven Gagnon, senior vice president and district business leader for KeyBank. "At this critical juncture it is more important than ever that business owners, as well as consumers, be educated on all aspects of conserving cash and investing for the future."

Key to Your Finances segments will air through the end of April. The series will resume in the fall and conclude in December.

Free Ski Night at Big Rock

NMCC once again partnered with Cary Medical Center and Pines Health Services to sponsor a free ski night as part of Big Rock's corporate sponsor program. The event, held on January 16, was a success, with hundreds of people attending.

Thanks to the sponsorship, community members were able to get free lift tickets, and beginners could take part in free group lessons. There was a minimal equipment rental fee of only \$10. In addition, staff from NMCC and Cary were on hand to give out free healthy snacks, including bananas, crackers and bottled water.

In addition, employees of NMCC, Cary and Pines, as well as NMCC students, could sign up to win a free door prize. *Congratulations to the following:*

Below: President Tim Crowley made a few trips down the hill before coming in to warm up, getting a banana (one of the free snacks being given out by NMCC and Cary during the evening) and chatting with adjunct instructor Tim Lowell.



Above: Nursing/EMS instructor Daryl Boucher and his family made it a family fun night, with his daughters Hilary and Hana skiing with him... and his wife Stacy cheering them on. Kudos to Hana for making her first trip down the big hill!!

Grand Prize Gifts (from Cary)

- Tim Lowell - Mojos gift certificate
- Stacy Boucher - Ski Shop gift certificate

NMCC Apparel/Gifts

- Daniel Duplessis - hooded sweatshirt
- Kim Plavnick - Lycra turtleneck
- Tammy Michaud - hat
- Danielle Haney - travel mug

Cary Apparel/Gifts

- Rob Aquino - lunch tote
- Daryl Boucher - sweatshirt
- A.J. Perry - headband & gloves
- Stacy Ramsey - backpack

Course to Update Electricians on Electrical Code Changes

In an effort to keep up with the advances in the electrical industry, the National Electrical Code is often updated to meet industry needs. With these changes come new questions as to what the rules mean and how they can be applied. Northern Maine Community College is offering a 2008 National Electrical Code Update course for all electricians and associates regarding these important changes.

The course will provide the necessary 15 hours of continuing education required for license renewal in the State of Maine. Teaching the course will be Brian McDougal, who has been an electrical instructor at the College for more than 27 years and currently serves as chair of NMCC's trade and technical occupations department. McDougal is a master electrician and licensed professional engineer. He serves as a member of the Electricians' Examining Board

for the State of Maine, is a member and past president of the Electrical Associates of Aroostook, and maintains membership in the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI).

The 2008 National Electrical Code Update course will be offered on Monday evenings, from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m., on January 28 – February 11. The cost of the course includes an IAEI Analysis of Change book, and all paid-up members of the Electrical Associates of Aroostook are eligible for a ten percent discount on tuition cost for the course. Participants

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must bring their own copy of the 2008 codebook, along with a calculator and a notebook.

For more information or to register for this or other courses through the College's continuing education division, please call 768-2845 or 760-1155.

Toward Excellence

Continuing Education offerings...

Computers for Beginners

This workshop is designed for people who are using computers for the first time. The following will be covered: the "must know" components of a PC, their names and what they mean and do; the Windows operating system—how to work with it to run the applications you want to install and use; and Microsoft Office Suite – a brief overview of the world's most popular word processor to create and save documents and the Excel spreadsheet program to create and save a financial statement/budget.

CSA 600 ♦ Cost: \$39 ♦ .3 CEUs
Wednesday, January 30 ♦ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Basic Excel

Discover shortcuts and tricks for setting up fully formatted worksheets quickly and efficiently. Learn the secrets behind writing powerful formulas, using functions, sorting and analyzing data, and creating custom charts.

CSA 632 ♦ Cost: \$79 – text additional ♦ .6 CEUs
Tuesday & Thursday, February 12 & 14 ♦ 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Excel Charts Made Easy

Learn how to create charts in Excel. This course is for the Excel user who wants to learn in depth knowledge of charts. Requires knowledge of Windows and Excel.

CMP 870 ♦ Cost: \$49 - no text ♦ .3 CEUs
Tuesday, March 4 ♦ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

CRMA Certification

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

HLT 705 ♦ Cost: \$299 ♦ 4.0 CEUs
Fridays, February 1 – 29 ♦ 8:00am – 5:00pm



Development Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Digital Photography: Computerized Photography

This course teaches the basic techniques on effective use of a digital camera. We will also be demonstrating many of the exciting things you can do with an electronic picture, such as e-mailing it to family members, adding a colorful background, and inserting one picture over another. If you have recently invested in a digital camera (please bring your camera along) or are thinking about making a purchase, this hands-on workshop is for you.

CMP 610 ♦ Cost: \$39 – no text ♦ .3 CEUs
Wednesday, January 23 ♦ 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Notary Course

A Notary Public is a sworn public official with the powers to perform a number of official acts. 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. Time will be allotted at the end of the day to complete the Notary application that will be forwarded to the Secretary of State's office.

BNI 600 ♦ Cost \$49 ♦ .8 CEUs
Friday, February 29 ♦ 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Yoga: Beginner Level I & II Yoga Class

In these classes, we'll explore the foundations of breath, alignment and meditation with "beginners mind" so that the mind, body and breath can be in harmony which promotes health on all levels. We will learn and review foundational postures as well as experiment with more intermediate postures. All levels of experience are welcome. Please wear comfortable clothing - not baggy or restrictive. Bring a yoga sticky mat AND a blanket. Blocks and straps will be provided. Release signature required.

BNI 685 ♦ Cost: \$65
Tuesdays, January 15 – March 4 ♦ 5:30pm – 7:00pm

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