

## NMCC Celebrates Community College Month

A month-long series of special events is underway at Northern Maine Community College as the campus celebrates Community College Month in April.

More than two dozen activities are taking place, and, while some are geared for the campus community, a number of them are free and open to the public. "The month of activity reflects the very essence and vitality of the College and the surrounding community," said Karen Gonya, NMCC associate director of development and college relations. "Students, faculty, staff, community friends and many others have scheduled events to showcase the campus community and the teaching and learning that happens here everyday."

The month's activities kicked-off in Madawaska, with state officials, Aroostook County business and community leaders, and NMCC officials gathering on April 3 to announce the first Maine Quality Centers training project undertaken through the statewide Maine Community College System Rural Initiative. (*see related story*)

A *Celebration of Literature* will take place throughout the month in honor of both National Community College Month and National Poetry Month, with a reading series featuring both guest writers as well as students from the College. The series will take place on April 10, 17 and 24, at noon in the College's library. Each day will feature a specific genre

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## Madawaska Fudge Business First Maine Quality Centers Project Under MCCS Rural Initiative

A new St. John Valley company has the "sweet" designation of being the first small business in Maine to benefit from free, customized workforce training under the Maine Quality Centers since the program was expanded under the Maine Community College System Rural Initiative launched last December.

Mom's Fudge, a family-owned business in Madawaska, produces three flavors of gourmet fudge. The company has grown exponentially in just six months, adding to their workforce and expanding into a new production facility that houses three large fudge cookers.

To celebrate the company's success and mark the signing of the agreement with the Maine Quality Centers, business and community leaders and representatives of NMCC joined with Mom's Fudge officials in Madawaska on April 3 to launch a new project that will assist the company in training six new employees. The workforce expansion will help the emerging business work with Pine State Trading Company to supply convenience stores throughout New England with the Madawaska-made fudge.

"We are so happy that the Maine Quality Centers and NMCC are working with us to help train our employees. It is nice to see an organization working with the people of Northern Maine so that we



Signing the agreement establishing Mom's Fudge as the first small business in Maine to benefit from the MCCS Rural Initiative were, from left: Timothy Crowley, president of Northern Maine Community College; Chad Carter, vice president of Mom's Fudge; "mom" herself, Jane Carter, who co-founded the business with her husband, Jerry; and James McGowan, state director for Maine Quality Centers.

can bring jobs to the area," said Mom's Fudge co-founder Jerry Carter.

Company president and co-founder Jane Carter agrees and sees the partnership as beneficial to both the business and the local economy. "We are so glad that this program is available to us. It will help us help the area."

The Maine Quality Centers has worked since 1994 as an economic development initiative of MCCS and has been a partner in NMCC workforce development efforts. The program provides job-specific workforce training for new and expanding businesses, and new employment and career advancement opportunities

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## NMCC and Kiwanis Invite Community to Barbecue/Open House for Sinawik House

Rowell and Sandy McHatten of Mapleton are asking the community to come visit their new retirement home and share a bite to eat. It's an open house with a twist, as the McHatten's soon-to-be-completed 1,248 square foot modular ranch-style home sits in two pieces inside the residential construction lab at NMCC.

It is there where more than four dozen students and their instructors in five trade programs have spent the past six months making the dream home become reality, and at the same time getting a hands-on learning experience unlike any other.

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

With work on the 31st home nearing completion, the College and Kiwanis Club are hosting a community open house and barbecue on Tuesday, April 29, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Mailman Trades Building, where the work of the students and the importance of the partnership between NMCC and Kiwanis will be recognized.

"This project has been a win-win for both the College and Kiwanis Club," said Guy Jackson, residential construction instructor, who has been key to the project for the past 27 years. "Over the years, hundreds of students have had the opportunity to work directly on the construction of a house that is placed in the local community and becomes a home for an area family. It has been an excellent teaching tool and great source of pride for both our students and for us as faculty. We are looking forward to welcoming the community as they join us to celebrate the construction of the latest home."

The partnership between NMCC and Kiwanis was forged in 1976 to provide students with a "real-life" practical experience, and as a way for Kiwanis to raise scholarship funds to invest in the local community.

The April 29 event will include tours of the new home and an indoor barbecue, as well as the presentation of scholarships from Kiwanis to five students enrolled in the College programs that work on the structure.

"Each year, the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club becomes so excited about the start of a new Sinawik house. We always wonder how the students will out do the magnificent work they did the previous year, but they always do! It is so gratifying to see the students gain the valuable hands on experience while at the same time giving back to the community," said Carolyn Dorsey, president of the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club. "It is a model that has been catching the eye of other Kiwanis clubs around the country and I am extremely proud that it is the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club and Northern Maine Community College leading the way."

Although each of the Sinawik projects built for the past three decades



Residential construction instructor Guy Jackson (left) provides guidance to senior Brandon Smith as he does some of the finish work around a window on house #31.

have been approximately the same size, due largely to the space available to construct them, each has been unique according to Roger Crouse, NMCC's computer-aided drafting instructor, who has designed 29 of the 31 homes.

"The house plan is a unique example of how we are able to adapt the modular home design to meet the customer's desires. In the case of Sinawik 31, a home office area provides

*cont. on page 10*

## Grand Opening of St. John Valley Center April 17 Open Houses Planned for both Madawaska and Houlton during Community College Month

The official opening of NMCC's St. John Valley Center and open houses at both the Madawaska site and in Southern Aroostook at the Houlton Higher Education Center are planned as part of the College's celebration of National Community College Month.

On Thursday, April 17, NMCC, in partnership with the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative, will host the official opening and ribbon cutting for the NMCC St. John Valley Center at Madawaska High School. The ceremony will take place as part of an open house for the public in the main corridor of Madawaska High School, just outside the adult education office, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The event is set to celebrate with the local communities the work of NMCC in recent months in the St. John Valley. In addition to establishing the center and hiring a part-time staff member to coordinate activity for the

College in the Valley, NMCC recently announced it is expanding its nursing program into the region, and earlier this month signed the first Maine Quality Centers training program under the MCCS Rural Initiative with Madawaska-based Mom's Fudge.

On Monday, April 28, NMCC in partnership with the University of Maine at Presque Isle, will host an open house for Southern Aroostook residents at the Houlton Higher Education Center on Military Street in Houlton. The joint event will take place between 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The center first opened its doors seven years ago. In addition to NMCC and UMPI, the facility is home to SAD 29 and SAD 70 adult education, the Carleton Project, and Women Work and Community.

For more information on one or both events, contact the college relations office at 768-2809.

**A Celebration of Literature to Take Place at NMCC**

A *Celebration of Literature* will be take place at NMCC in April, in honor of both National Community College Month and National Poetry Month. Three noon-time sessions will feature readings from both a guest writer as well as students from the College.

“Although the month is intended to celebrate poetry, we wanted to broaden our approach to a celebration of literature and reading in order to better meet the diverse interests of our students,” said Jan Grieco, NMCC instructor and one of the coordinators of the reading series. “Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for our students, but we’re hoping members of the surrounding communities will join us.”

The reading series will take place on three consecutive Thursdays, April 10 – April 24, at noon in the library. Each day will feature a specific genre of writing. Students from the creative writing class will each read briefly from their own original work, followed by a guest writer who will read from her own published work and answer questions about her work, her experiences as a writer, or other areas of interest.

Honoring the intent of the month, the April 10 session will feature poetry. The guest reader will be Anne Britting



Oleson, a writer who has worked in secondary education for twenty years. She recently earned an MFA from the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine. Her work has appeared in journals nationwide, and her chapbook, *The Church of St. Materiana*, was published in 2007 by Moon Pie Press. She has given readings in New York City as well as in venues across Maine. She is a founding member of Simply Not Done, an all-women reading, writing and teaching collective.

The guest reader for the April 17 event will be Kasey Grieco. Grieco writes fiction and non-fiction, and has taught English, literature, and writing at Emerson College, NMCC, and UMPI. She lives in Westmanland,

Maine, with her husband, son, and dog. Her work has appeared in *Portland Magazine*, *The MacGuffin*, and *Echoes*. Readings

from Grieco and the students will focus on fiction.

Wrapping up the series on April 24 will be Rebecca Bearden Welsh, who will be addressing the genre of creative non-fiction. Bearden Welsh, who lives in Rumford and Boothbay, holds an MFA in creative nonfiction from the University of



Southern Maine’s Stonecoast program and is an associate of Amherst Writers and Artists. Her Boothbay-based summer workshop, the Willow Brook Farm Writing Series, is in its fourth season, and she is the founder of the Pannacook Writers’ Guild in Rumford. Her essays and poetry have been published in *Echoes* and *The Notes*.

The series celebrating literature has been made possible through a grant from the Maine Writers’ and Publishers’ Alliance located in Portland that serves writers and publishers throughout the State.

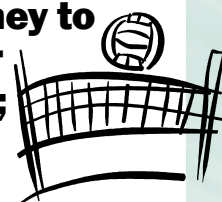
Just as exciting to Grieco as the series is the fact that each writer will be visiting her creative writing class in order to critique her students’ work, to share with them both the process of being a professional writer and where inspiration comes from, and to answer questions about being a writer.

“This is such a terrific opportunity for my students,” said Grieco. “What we don’t always make clear to students is that writing is a chronicle of our human experience. Many of my students are preparing for careers in the trades or business that are not traditionally associated with literature, which oftentimes has led those students to believe that there is no role for them. This is an opportunity to broaden their outlook and help them see that literature is for



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**Volleyball Tourney to Raise Funds for Veterans Home; Teams Sought**



Members of the NMCC Student Senate are looking to the community for participation as they prepare to host their annual “Support Maine Veterans” Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, April 19, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the gymnasium. The tournament is held each year to raise money for the Maine Veterans’ Home.

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

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

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

Approximately \$1000 was raised during last year’s tournament, and the Senate’s goal is to raise that number to \$1500 this year.

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

Anyone interested in forming a team to compete in the tournament should contact Albert at 768-2757.

## April Activities, *from page 1*

of writing: poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Community members are invited to come to the College and hear original work by both experienced, published writers and talented beginners. (*For more details on the visiting writers, see page 3.*)

The NMCC Student Senate is sponsoring a show by entertainer Ronny Romm, featuring demonstrations of E.S.P. and hypnosis. It is free and open to the public on Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the College gymnasium. (*For more details, see page 6.*)

Area residents have four opportunities left to take advantage of the College's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, offered annually by accounting students. The popular program's last sessions for this tax season are April 8, 9, 10 & 15, beginning at 1:00 p.m. daily in the Edmunds Conference Center.

April 16 is Fire Safety Awareness Day. Sponsored by the State Fire Marshall's Office and the Presque Isle Fire Department, a series of day-long events will include safety awareness and educational displays, as well as demonstrations in the Christie Building lobby in the morning between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Two educational sessions on residential fire sprinkler usage, with the inventor of a common type of sprinkler systems serving as the presenter, will take place at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Members of the public are invited to come and help the College celebrate the grand opening of its new St. John Valley off-campus center on Thursday, April 17. Those interested in learning more about classes and training available from NMCC in the St. John Valley are encouraged to stop by the new center, located in Madawaska High School, anytime between 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

On Saturday, April 19, the Student Senate will host its annual "Support Maine Veterans" volleyball tournament. Proceeds from the event, which will be held in the gym beginning at 9:00 a.m., will be donated to the activity fund at the Maine Veterans' Home in Caribou. Individuals and teams interested in participating should contact Dennis Albert at 768-2757.

Members of the NMCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, are planning to host an Environmental Fair in honor of Earth Day on Tuesday, April 22. They are seeking area businesses that sell products and provide services that are environmentally friendly to participate in the fair. Anyone interested in participating in the Environmental Fair or wanting more information should contact Lori Googins at 768-2782.

On Friday, April 25, the continuing education division will celebrate Administrative Professionals week with a day-long conference dedicated to the individuals who make offices throughout Aroostook County run smoothly. The conference will feature both professional development and personal enrichment workshops. For more information or to register, contact the division at 760-1155.

College officials will celebrate the off-campus center in Houlton on Monday, April 28. NMCC and UMPI will jointly host an open house at the Houlton Higher Education Center from 4:00-6:00 p.m. for those interested in learning more about higher education opportunities in the southern Aroostook area.

The final week of April will feature a community barbecue co-hosted by NMCC and the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club. The event will celebrate the near completion of the 31st home constructed by trade students and faculty through the Sinawik project. The barbecue, which is

free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, April 29, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the residential construction lab of the Mailman Building.

April 29 also marks the kick-off of the three-day silent auction held annually by students in the residential construction program. The quality hand-crafted wood products are made by the students. Proceeds from the auction are used to purchase tools for graduating seniors in the residential construction program. The public is encouraged and invited to view the items and place bids at the community barbecue in the residential construction lab on April 29, or in the Christie lobby on April 30 and May 1.

The month concludes with the annual Totally Trades conference hosted on campus through a collaboration between NMCC; Women, Work and Community; the Maine Department of Transportation; and Louisiana Pacific. The day-long event, designed to encourage eighth grade and high school girls to pursue careers in the trade and technology areas, includes several hands-on workshops ranging from highway construction and heavy equipment operation to metal fabrication and plumbing and heating.

Many other campus activities are scheduled to coincide with Community College Month. See the complete schedule on page 11.

For more information on April events, contact the college relations office at 768-2809.

## Friday, April 25 • *Administrative Professionals' Conference*



*Looking for a way to recognize your secretaries, administrative assistants and professional staff on Administrative Professionals' Day (formerly Secretaries' Day)?*

How about a day long conference dedicated to rewarding, refocusing and energizing the professionals in the office who work hard all year long. This will be a day filled with specialized workshops and mini sessions, great food and lots of fun. Conference includes materials, desk reference supplies, fabulous 4 course meal and sumptuous desserts and special gifts for everyone.

Cost: \$99 person (*discounts for 4 or more from one organization*)  
Friday, April 25 ♦ 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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

**Call  
today for details!  
760-1155**

## Campus/Community Safety Day to be Held

State and local public safety officials are planning a full day of events designed to better educate the community on how to stay safe. Coordinated by the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office, along with the Presque Isle Fire Department and the Presque Isle Police Department, Safety Day will be held at NMCC on Wednesday, April 16.

Informational safety exhibits will be held in the lobby of the Christie Building by representatives of all three agencies from 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon. The safety fair and all events are open to both the NMCC campus community and members of the general public.

Members of the PIFD will offer two hands-on workshops teaching participants how to use a fire extinguisher in an outdoor area on campus adjacent to the Christie and Edmunds buildings. The sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Following the morning sessions, representatives of the company No Burn will conduct a live burn demonstration on campus. No Burn is a manufacturer of spray coatings that include a highly advanced line of non-toxic, non-carcinogenic, green fire retardants and fire reactants that render a vast array of materials incapable of burning, as well as inhibiting the growth of black toxic mold. The exercise, using both a small structure treated with the No Burn spray and one not treated, will show the difference the product can make on how a fire spreads and the level of damage caused.

The live burn demonstration will be followed at 1:00 p.m. with an informational seminar on the design, fabrication, installation and costs of residential sprinklers. An identical session will be held at 6:00 p.m. Both will be held in the Edmunds Conference Center at NMCC.

"Residential sprinklers are a valuable resource that many have heard of but know little about. Studies have shown that the use of residential sprinkler systems can reduce the chance of dying in a fire by 69 percent. If this seminar, and the information provided can save just one life, it is worth the effort," said Tim Lowell, senior fire investigator. Lowell

## Exhibit Features Chinese Artwork Scrolls

A one-of-a-kind collection of Chinese artwork scrolls is on display at NMCC throughout the month of April as part of the campus-wide celebration of National Community College Month. The exhibit is available for public viewing in the main corridor of the Edmunds Building.

The collection belongs to Dr. Kenneth Petress, professor emeritus of communication at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, who acquired the scrolls during his time spent living and teaching in China. Petress spent his formative years in China but left in 1949 to spend time in the Philippines, Thailand, and the United States.

"These works have been gifts from the artists or the families of artists," said Petress. "When I received the gifts, I promised I would not sell the work for money and that I would make every effort to give others the opportunity to view the scrolls. This exhibit is part of the way in which I am keeping that promise."

has been working with Greg Day, fire inspector, and public safety officials in the Star City to coordinate the series of activities.

The keynote speaker for the residential sprinkler seminar is Franz Haase, the managing director of Kwench Systems International. Hasse holds three patents on technology based on combining potable water systems and fire sprinkler into a single unified multi-purpose system. The inventor has over 40 years of experience in the fire protection and plumbing industries and is experienced in all aspects of fire suppression systems including design, installation, fabrication and corporate management.

Joining Hasse as a presenter for the afternoon and evening seminar will be Eric Ellis, a fire protection engineer with the Maine Fire Marshal's Office. Ellis will discuss code requirements, installation, and costs associated with the systems. Also participating in the sessions will be representatives from Maine Fire Protection, Eastern Sprinkler Company and Fire Protection Services, all of which offer products and services in fire suppression in Aroostook County.



Students Denise Sock (left) and Shannon Smart look at the collection of Chinese art scrolls on display in the Edmunds Conference Center at NMCC. The exhibit will be on display through April.

Most of the scrolls were done by an artist or a relative of someone personally known to Petress, and date from the late 1800's to the late 1900's. The oldest, a full color depiction of a Chinese girl, was created in 1870.

Petress' personal favorite is that of a lily pond, created for him in about an hour by a young lady who sought to describe her home province and hand-lettered an invitation to visit on the surface of her painting.

Each of the twelve scrolls bear similar markings -- the red signature of the artist and the signature of the guild to which he or she belonged, as well as vertical black lettering which is usually the first few lines of a poem, novel, or other literary work.

"What many don't realize, is that Chinese art is a depiction of another form of art," said Petress. "The scroll was not the painting. Each painting was carefully attached to the paper or silk-covered scroll by a second skilled artist/craftsman who identified his work by the color of the string used to wrap the scroll. It was the personal signature of the artist."

Over the years Petress has exhibited the works at UMPI, as well as in the community at such venues as the public library and local high schools.

## NMCC Student Named to 2008 All-Maine Academic Team

NMCC student Steven Pierson of Presque Isle is among 13 students attending community colleges across Maine named to the 2008 All-Maine Academic Team.

The honor, which recognizes the academic achievements and leadership qualities of two-year college students, is sponsored in part by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges. Pierson, 33, was presented the award at a ceremony in Augusta on March 25.

"Receiving the All Maine Academic Award was one of the most rewarding experiences in my time attending college. As a non-traditional student, a single father of two children, with an autistic son, it made it even more rewarding. I have worked very hard, and receiving the award has brought out a belief in myself that I have never had before," said Pierson of the honor. "It was also an honor to represent Northern Maine Community College. I was very proud to be one of the 13 selected for this award out of 14,000 students currently attending Maine Community Colleges."

"Being named to the All-Maine Academic Team is a great honor for the students in the community college system.

As academic advisor for our chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, I have seen Steve Pierson grow as a student and become a role model for his fellow students. He has become a leader on our campus," said instructor Lori Googins.

"Steven is one of those individuals

who has overcome a wide variety of issues and has made many positive advances by focusing on and excelling in his academics. He has also given freely of his time in support of his classmates through his service to Phi Theta Kappa and other student support initiatives. He is well deserving of this honor," said Bill Egeler, dean of students.

Pierson is a senior in the automotive technology program. He is the current president of Phi Theta Kappa, treasurer of the Student Senate, and vice president



NMCC officials join in congratulating student Steven Pierson for being named to the 2008 All-Maine Academic Team. Traveling to Augusta for the ceremony were (left to right) Alan Punches, vice president and academic dean; President Timothy Crowley; Lori Googins, NMCC Phi Theta Kappa advisor; Pierson; and William Egeler, dean of students.

for the automotive technology club. In addition, Pierson has worked on the "Support Maine Veterans" volleyball tournament hosted annually at NMCC and has served as a volunteer for Red Cross Blood Drives.

"Everyone at NMCC has done an excellent job in making my educational experience a great one. I could not have asked for more from them. The faculty and staff have supported me through my whole educational experience. Whenever I needed a helping hand I was never turned away. For a student, that is the best learning experience anyone can have. The instructors not only enjoy what they teach, but show how much they want each of their students to succeed and do well," said Pierson.

In addition to the honor, Pierson and the twelve other students from throughout Maine were each awarded a \$500 scholarship from Camden National Bank.

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



## Community Invited to April 10 Show Featuring Hypnotist Ronny Romm

The NMCC Student Senate is sponsoring an evening of demonstrations of E.S.P. and hypnosis by entertainer Ronny Romm, that is free and open to the public, on Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the NMCC gymnasium.

The entertainer has performed for colleges, conventions, cruises, clubs and resorts around the country.

"His performance is just amazing," said Dennis Albert, Student Senate advisor. "He not only puts on a great show, he really leaves audience members believing in the unbelievable. He is known for having audiences falling off their seats in laughter and the next minute they're

scratching their heads in total amazement."

Among the aspects of Romm's show that has amazed audiences is his ability to reveal, with startling accuracy, names and numbers known only to the members of the audience. Even innermost thoughts and personal questions are revealed and answered, according to Comedians USA.

He draws his audience into a humorous demonstration of what hypnotism and the human mind can do.

"This is really an audience participation show," said Albert. "Ronny Romm's unique style and total command of the stage, leads everyone into his world of mystery and fun. His program is both exciting and unforgettable. Above all, it is a completely entertaining event."

## Renovation work begins at NMCC on MMG Insurance classroom

Renovation work has begun on a classroom that, once complete, will provide students enrolled in business programs with a work environment that models one of the County's successful businesses.

Through a \$50,000 gift made last year by MMG Insurance to the recently completed *Campaign for the County's College*, room 208 of the Christie Building is receiving a facelift, one that will greet new and returning students at the start of the academic year this coming fall.

"The renovation project will provide an active learning environment for classroom instruction. The modernization of this space will include wireless access and the implementation of notebook computers to engage students in applied learning of the course content," said Dwight Clayton, chair of the NMCC business technology department. "The classroom design is based on a business training facility at MMG Insurance. This project also includes the renovation of an adjacent storage room which will be transformed to simulate a business conference room. This smaller classroom will be used for instruction of smaller classes simulating conference meetings within the business environment."

The MMG classroom will not only be the latest enhancement to the teaching and learning environment at NMCC, but will also bolster an already strong and beneficial relationship between the company and College.

"NMCC has been very important to MMG. Not only are graduates from its various programs represented in many areas of the company, we have also partnered with the College for specific skill set training for our employees. Our involvement in the capital campaign at the \$50,000 level was in support of the resource that NMCC provides to MMG as well as the similar impact it has on other area employers," said Larry Shaw, MMG Insurance president and CEO.

Preliminary work on the project began last fall when business faculty, along with personnel in the information technology and facilities department,



Work has begun on renovating the future MMG Insurance Classroom at NMCC, which will transform Christie 208 into a modern business environment similar to what is found at MMG. The project is expected to be completed this summer. Removing the old furnishings and preparing the room for the renovation work are (left to right) NMCC employees Robert Smith, Steve Caron and Barry Ingraham.

visited the newly constructed addition at MMG to see what aspects of the work environment at the new facility could be replicated in the classroom environment.

"Following the visit we came together again as a group to discuss the needs of the faculty and how we could incorporate those needs with some of the design and space allocation features we saw at MMG," said Barry Ingraham, director of facilities and information technology. "We essentially were looking to create a more modern work environment."

To achieve this, NMCC entered into a contract with Mark Carter of North Peak Architecture – the same Presque Isle architect and firm used by MMG for their construction and renovation project. Final designs were approved and work gutting the room began on March 27. With the exception of the mechanicals, flooring and ceiling – which will be contracted out, all demolition and renovation work will be completed by NMCC staff.

"Our decision to contribute to the construction of a classroom that resembles a modern office was based upon the need to prepare future graduates of NMCC for this evolving environment. We are in hopes that our donation will assist in the development of skills in areas from team collaboration to working with multi-media. MMG is pleased to support NMCC in this manner and we look

forward to the benefits it will provide to the County's workforce," said Shaw.

"What the generosity of MMG Insurance provides for will have a profound impact on our students, the way they learn, the way our faculty teach, and, of course, ultimately on the numerous Aroostook County businesses that rely on our institution to provide the most technologically proficient, well educated and capable workforce," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "We are so excited to see the results of the major gifts campaign having such a positive impact on the College community."

A new heating and ventilation system will be installed in the room and insulation will be added. Funds for these aspects of the project will be paid for through part of the higher education bond passed by Maine voters last fall.

### Writing Series, *from page 3*

everyone. The hands-on work students are engaged in experimenting with form has helped make literature much more accessible to them."

Grieco's creative writing class is taking part in the series as part of a capstone project for the course. They are also working to produce an on-line literary magazine featuring their work. "Collectively, the two projects are giving all these students a voice," explained Grieco. "It's exciting watching students who would potentially not have anything in common come together with a common voice and a common understanding."

In addition to the benefits to her students, Grieco believes that other students and members of the public can also benefit from this opportunity.

"As a member of Maine Writers' and Publishers' Alliance, I have often heard concerns about the lack of literary opportunities and events in Aroostook County," said Grieco. "This event provides an opportunity for those who love literature to hear original work by both experienced, published writers and talented beginners. It should prove to be an exciting combination."

## County Coalition Plans Conference to Engage Girls in Trade Professions

A hands-on, day-long event designed to encourage girls to consider careers in fields traditionally dominated by men will bring together 100 participants from schools throughout Aroostook County on April 30 on the NMCC campus.

Under a new name, this year's Totally Trades day, which had been called the TNT (Tools 'N Trades) conference since it was first launched in 2004, will feature sessions ranging from carpentry and metal fabrication to firefighting and bridge building, all providing an opportunity for the girls to experience some aspect of the profession through a practical exercise.

"We want to give girls a hands-on workshop experience to spark their interest and/or raise awareness about a career field that they may not have previously considered, as well as provide female role models - women who can lead by example, having already succeeded in pursuing work that traditionally is viewed as 'man's work,'" said Suzanne Senechal-Jandreau, regional manager of the Central Aroostook office of Women, Work and Community, a statewide organization committed to improving the economic lives of Maine women and their families.

WWC, NMCC, the Maine Department of Transportation, Women Unlimited, the Maine Career Center, local contractors, local school representatives, and other community partners comprise the Aroostook Coalition for Women and Girls in Trades and Technology, the sponsors of Totally Trades. It is one of several local coalitions, united through a statewide Women in Trades and Technology (WITT) coalition, whose focus is to raise awareness of and provide support and opportunity for women and girls who pursue non-traditional careers in trades and technology fields.

The conference is a free, one-day event for girls in grades 8 through 12. Funding for the activity is made possible through monies provided by Louisiana Pacific and the Maine Department of Transportation.

Aside from participating in two workshop sessions, participants will be

## Mom's Fudge, from page 1

ties for Maine people. In all, the program has helped over 200 businesses, creating over 11,000 new jobs statewide.

Until now, the Maine Quality Centers targeted its services to businesses adding eight or more new employees. The rural initiative recently undertaken by MCCS expanded eligibility guidelines to enable small businesses in rural Maine to participate.

"Of the 140,000 small businesses in Maine, 90 percent employ five or fewer workers, many of them in rural Maine," said MCCS President John Fitzsimmons. "This shift in our guidelines will mean greater access to workforce training for promising rural businesses like Mom's Fudge and more skilled employment opportunities for Maine workers in all parts of the state."

The understanding forges a partnership between Mom's Fudge and NMCC, under which the College's continuing education division will develop training for company employees valued at \$12,400 in

treated to a luncheon and fashion show featuring women currently employed in non-traditional fields. A panel discussion, featuring several women working in trade and technical occupations, will round out the day.

The conference is generously supported by the NMCC campus community, which serves as a host site for the event. "We are so pleased to help make this important event possible. As a post-secondary education institution and a vital resource for employers in this region, we want to do everything possible to showcase to students and members of the community what educational and career options are available to them," said Jason Parent, NMCC director of development and college relations.

Individuals seeking more information on the Totally Trades conference, or interested in participating should contact Senechal-Jandreau at 764-0050.



Jerry Carter, co-founder of Mom's Fudge, gave tours of the facility and demonstrated the fudge making process during the April 3 event.

areas identified as critical to continued growth. Six new employees will attend one or more training sessions: cooking process, cutting and cooling process, packaging and labeling, first aid/CPR, ergonomics, and ServSafe training.

"Maine Quality Centers is happy to partner with Northern Maine Community College and Mom's Fudge on the first project under our Rural Initiative. By making it

easier to provide training to businesses whose expected growth may be less than 8 full-time positions, we hope to increase our services to rural areas throughout Maine and further strengthen our State's economy. Small, home grown businesses are too often overlooked in economic development but they make a real difference not only to our economy, but to our communities. Small projects can have big impacts and I wish 'Mom' and her employees every success in this endeavor," said James McGowan, state director of the Maine Quality Centers.

Mom's Fudge first producing peanut butter, maple and chocolate fudge in October of 2007 and immediately began selling the product in neighborhood stores and at various Paradis' Shop n' Save stores in Aroostook County.

"We are committed to working with businesses and communities throughout Aroostook County to meet the workforce and economic development needs of the region," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "We have spent a significant amount of time over the past year listening to the people of the St. John Valley and working to introduce programs and course offerings that are needed here. Time and again we have heard about the importance of diversifying the economic and employment sector. This partnership with Mom's Fudge will help the new business to expand its workforce and employ people in the Valley in a new industry."



## Megan's Fund Provides Needed Pediatric Equipment

Hospital emergency rooms and first responders across Aroostook County are the recipients of more than \$10,000 worth of needed pediatric emergency care equipment provided through a local fund established by a Bridgewater mother.

On March 7, the Megan Bradstreet Fund, created by Wendy Bradstreet and her family, friends, area emergency medical technicians, and Bradstreet's work family at NMCC, presented all four County hospitals and four area ambulance services with tools to help care for their youngest patients.

The equipment purchase by Megan's Fund was made possible through money raised by the P.I. Rotary Club during their annual golf tournament.

"The combination of Megan's Fund and the Presque Isle Rotary Club's golf tournament has been a perfect match," said Joe Clukey, president of the Presque Isle Rotary Club. "We have been able to provide Wendy with a vehicle to spread the word about Megan and raise money for this important cause. What Wendy Bradstreet and her family have done in the face of this tragedy truly defines the Rotary motto of Service above Self. We are proud to be associated with the Megan Fund."

Clukey and a few fellow Rotarians joined Bradstreet in presenting the medical tools to representatives of the organizations that had gathered at NMCC for a meeting held to discuss pediatric care issues in the County.

"This is an important donation because it helps meet a specific need for pediatric patients," said Bradstreet. "Although there are some services that have some of the equipment, not all emergency vehicles are equipped with pediatric equipment, therefore, if an ambulance is out on call for one patient and a call comes in for a pediatric case, there is no guarantee that the vehicle left to make the pediatric call will be the one equipped with the essentials."

The materials include eight EZ-IO drills which are used for emergency



**Area emergency responders receive needed supplies** - (left to right) Joe Clukey, Presque Isle Rotary Club president; Steve St. Pierre, Presque Isle Rotarian and Rotary Golf Tournament organizer; Tim Crowley, Northern Maine Community College president and Presque Isle Rotarian; Larry LaPlante, Presque Isle Rotarian and Rotary Golf Tournament organizer; Daryl Boucher, coordinator of the EMS program at NMCC; and Wendy Bradstreet, founder of the Megan Bradstreet Fund, present pediatric emergency equipment and supplies, donated through Megan's Fund, to Jane Rioux, Northern Maine Medical Center ED/ICU/Oncology nurse manager; Dr. Teodor Butiu, NMCC pediatrician; Gary Gardiner, assistant director of Fort Kent-based Ambulance Services, Inc.; Karen Woodall, nurse manager at Cary Medical Center; Tim Guerrette, firefighter and paramedic with Caribou Fire and Ambulance; Jim Flavin, a registered nurse at Cary Medical Center; Cristi Quirion, ED nurse manager at The Aroostook Medical Center; Jim McKenney, senior manager for Crown Ambulance; and Pat Long, director of services for the Ashland Ambulance Department.

access to give fluids and medications when intravenous applications cannot be quickly or easily established. The drill is particularly useful for pediatric trauma patients which, according to Daryl Boucher, program coordinator for NMCC's emergency medical services program, "are particularly difficult to start an IV with."

"Because the volume of pediatric patients encountered is low, and because this isn't a state mandated piece of equipment, many ambulance services simply could not budget or afford to purchase these devices. From a provider standpoint, nothing is more frustrating than needing IV access to give medication in an emergency situation, and not being able to start one. This device will assure that most emergency providers in Aroostook County now have this ability," said Boucher.

The EZ-IO drills were presented to representatives from Northern Maine Medical Center in Fort Kent, Cary Medical Center in Caribou, The Aroostook Medical Center in Presque Isle, and Houlton Regional Hospital. Four emergency response agencies also received the equipment: the Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department, the Ashland Ambulance Department, Fort Kent-based Ambulance Services, Inc.,

and Presque Isle-based Crown Air.

In addition to the drills and related supplies, other pediatric emergency supplies were presented to several emergency responders. These included a pediatric life blanket, which is used to keep children warm and to secure them during transport, and Broslow bags, which are kits containing medication and life-saving equipment that allow for rapid initiation of lifesaving measures based on a child's weight.

Megan's Fund also purchased an EZ-IO trainer unit and donated it to NMCC so the College could lead training sessions on how to use the new equipment.

The Megan Bradstreet Fund is named in honor and memory of Wendy Bradstreet's five-year-old daughter Megan, who died as a result of injuries she sustained after being hit by a car within sight of the family's home on U.S. Route 1 in Bridgewater in July 2005. Within weeks of her daughter's death, Wendy Bradstreet, with the encouragement of the Crown Ambulance paramedic crew that first took care of Megan, made it her mission to make sure other critically injured County children have more immediate access to an expert pediatric transport crew.

## Sinawik House, from page 2

space for the owner to set up a computer and desk for business and personal use. The bathroom incorporates a solar light tube as well as an easily accessible shower. Plans were also provided to the owner so that they will be able to add a breezeway and garage once the house is placed on the foundation," said Crouse.

Sinawik number 31 will be the "greenest" home completed through the NMCC-Kiwanis partnership. Among the features of the structure is radiant floor heating and window placement which has been designed to take advantage of passive solar gain. As is always the case, extra care has been taken during construction to seal all penetrations in air and vapor barriers.

Constructing an energy efficient home was the goal of owner Rowell McHatten who plans, once the foundation is laid and the structure placed on-site in Castle Hill, to install a state-of-the-art heating system that will attach to solar panels he will place on the roof that will heat the water for his new home.

"We wanted to make sure our home was as energy efficient as possible and the NMCC faculty and students that have been working on the home have gone to great lengths to help make this happen," said Rowell McHatten. "I'm very appreciative of the work they have done. It is top quality."

It was Sandy McHatten, a 2003 graduate of NMCC's nursing program, who let her husband know about the Sinawik home building initiative. She had learned about it while attending the College after the couple moved home to the County in 2000 to take care of Rowell's dad after living in Connecticut for 30 years, where they raised four girls.

While the majority of the work is completed by seniors and first year students in residential construction, seniors from computer-aided drafting, plumbing and heating, electrical construction and maintenance, and welding and metal fabrication are also part of the project.

The public is invited and encouraged to visit the Sinawik open house at NMCC on Tuesday, April 29, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

## Students Take Field Trip to Cary Medical Center

Eighteen students in NMCC's medical office administration program traveled to Cary Medical Center on March 11 to hear a panel of professionals speak about their chosen profession, as well as to tour the facility.

"This was an excellent opportunity for these students to gain some first hand perspectives from people already working in the field into which these students will be entering later this spring when they graduate," said Ann Osgood, one of the lead instructors for the medical office administration program. "They get to see all aspects of office administration from the eyes of an employee actually doing the job."

The Cary professionals shared details about their respective responsibilities, as well as the most and least favorite aspects of their jobs. Sharing insights were: Erica Cavagnaro, secretary and CNA in the specialty clinics; Candace Johnson, executive assistant to the chief financial officer; Peg McAfee, executive assistant to the chief executive officer/chief operating officer; Doris St. Hilaire, administrative assistant to the chief nursing officer; Susan Skidgel, unit secretary and CNA in ICU; and Becky West, medical staff services manager. The students then saw panel members in a work environment as they toured the facilities after the session.

"This was a great networking opportunity for them, helping them make connections that can sometimes lead to a job," said Osgood. "This was also the first time some of the students had ever been to Cary, and having a chance to see

the facilities and know something about the hospital can also be advantageous as they enter the job search process."

Student Holly Fulton found the experience very helpful. "In listening to the panel members, I like how they don't have just one specific thing that they do, but instead have a variety of tasks associated with their area that they perform. This visit helped me better understand the role I can play some day working in a hospital environment." Fulton, who graduates in May and has already applied for a position at Cary Medical Center, hopes that day may be soon.

Paula York, who shares teaching duties with Osgood in the medical office administration program, gave accolades to both the students and the hospital.

"Over the years, we have consistently had feedback from the individuals we work with during visits such as these about how knowledgeable our students are," said York. "Panel members have told us how impressed they are with the questions our students ask...questions which are both intelligent and show a good understanding of medical jargon."

York describes the hospital as welcoming, warm and inviting. "The entire facility is customer friendly. The panel of professionals who speak to our students is always very welcoming, informative and encouraging...and that really means a lot," she said.

Osgood and York have taken field trips to both Cary Medical Center and The Aroostook Medical Center annually for a number of years.



NMCC students who traveled to Cary Medical Center to learn more about the medical office profession were: seated, from left Lisa Hardy, Lisa Dickinson, Holly Fulton, Jenny Blackstone, Michele Gauvin, and Christina Merrill; and standing from left, Denise Sock, Jamie-Lyn Pelkey, Ashley Corriveau, Jessica Chambers, Helen Fox, Starr Flewelling, Claire Dow, Brandy Willette, Nicole Bechard, Katie Sargent, Lindsey Parker, and Whitney Dick. Joining them are NMCC instructor Paula York; Betty Walker, coordinator of volunteer services, patient representative and Seniority at Cary Medical Center and an NMCC alum, who helped to coordinate the visit on behalf of the hospital; and NMCC instructor Ann Osgood.

## Record Numbers Take Advantage of NMCC's Community Job Fair



Approximately 450 students and community members attended the Job Fair held at NMCC on March 13. According to organizer Ruth White, 59 percent of attendees were NMCC students, while the remaining 41 percent were community members. "We had about 125 attend last year, so our goal for this year was 200," said White. "I think we were a lot more successful this year in getting the word out to the surrounding communities that this event was open to the public, and not just intended for our students. Also, the fact that we were having our largest Job Fair ever, with 52 businesses and organizations participating—most of whom are hiring now, coupled with the unfortunate recent lay-offs in the area, really made a difference in this year's attendance."



Supervisory Border Patrol Agent John Bonner (left) explains the opportunities available through U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to David Cook of Ashland.



Teena McCarthy (left) of Woodstock, N.B. speaks to Robin Holmes (center), senior volunteer manager for Hospice of Aroostook, and Kathy Bosse (right), human resources generalist for Visiting Nurses of Aroostook, about job opportunities in the nursing field. McCarthy, currently a liberal arts student at NMCC, has been accepted into the College's nursing program for the fall.



Representatives from DFAS were on hand to talk to students and community members about job opportunities there.



Frank Pytlak (right) chats with student Ryan Dostie during the Job Fair.



# National Community College Month

## APRIL 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>March 31</b> CCEMPT Training Session Begins	<b>1</b> Chinese Scroll Exhibit <i>All Month in the Edmunds Hallway</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Maine Quality Centers Signing - Mom's Fudge <i>10 am - Madawaska</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<span style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">SPRING BREAK - NO CLASSES</span>						
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Farewell Party for Peggy O'Kane <i>2 pm - Library</i>	<b>8</b> VITA Program <i>1-4 pm - Edmunds C.C.</i>	<b>9</b> Business Technology Dept. Reception <i>2 pm - CHR 206</i>  VITA Program <i>1-4 pm - Edmunds C.C.</i>	<b>10</b> Reading Series <i>12-1 pm - Library</i> VITA Program <i>1-4 pm - Edmunds C.C.</i> Ronny Romm Show <i>6:30 pm - Gym</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> CCEMPT Training Session Ends
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Commercial Driving Academy - New Class Begins	<b>15</b> Arts & Sciences Dept. Reception <i>3 pm - Life Sciences Lab</i>  VITA Program <i>1-4 pm - Edmunds C.C.</i>	<b>16</b> Fire Safety Awareness Day <i>8-11 am - Christie lobby; 1 pm &amp; 6 pm - Edmunds Conf. Center</i>	<b>17</b> Reading Series <i>12-1 pm - Library</i> Grand Opening - St. John Valley Center <i>4-6 pm</i>  Mocktails at Monte Carlo - <i>6 pm - Gym</i>	<b>18</b> Academic Success Center Open House <i>8:00-10:30 am</i>	<b>19</b> Support Maine Veterans Volleyball Tournament <i>9 am - Gym</i>
<span style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Vote for Senior Speaker - Student Services Office</span>						
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Patriot's Day - College Closed	<b>22</b> Environmental Fair <i>3-6 pm - Gym</i>	<b>23</b> Student of the Year Luncheon <i>Augusta</i>  Nursing & Allied Health Dept. Reception <i>3 pm - Nursing Wing</i>	<b>24</b> Reading Series <i>12-1 pm - Library</i> Early College for ME Senior Recog. Lunch <i>12-1 pm - Keegan Rm.</i>	<b>25</b> Admin. Professionals Conference <i>9am - 4pm - E.C.C.</i>	<b>26</b>
<span style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Vote for Teacher of the Year - IT Office</span>						
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> President's Scholar Luncheon <i>12 - 1 pm - Keegan Rm.</i>  Open House - Houlton Center <i>4-6 pm</i>	<b>29</b>  Sinawik Luncheon <i>11:30 am - 1:30 pm - Residential Const. Lab</i>	<b>30</b> Totally Trades <i>8:30 am - 1:30 pm - Edmunds Conf. Ctr. &amp; select trade labs</i>	<b>May 1</b> Student Honors & Awards Ceremony <i>7 pm - Edmunds C.C.</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Senior Banquet <i>6 pm - Presque Isle Inn &amp; Convention Center</i>
<span style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Residential Construction Silent Auction</span>						

# Toward Excellence

## Continuing Education offerings...

### Basic Microsoft Word

This class is for the student whose goal is become proficient using Microsoft Word to create business letters, data files or maybe write a book. You will learn how to create documents and then enhance them by using such features as fonts and type sizes. You will learn how to edit your text by using the cut, copy and paste commands. You will also use other resources Microsoft Word offers such as spell check. Finally, you will print your document and/or save it within your computer to be retrieved at a later date.

CMP 622 ♦ Cost: \$99 – text additional ♦ .9 CEUs  
Tuesday & Thursdays, April 29 – May 6 ♦ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

### Tuning Up Your Computer

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

CMP 825 ♦ Cost: \$39 – no text ♦ .3 CEUs  
Wednesday, April 23 ♦ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

### QuickBooks

QuickBooks is designed for the small to midsized business owner who enjoys Quicken's ease of use but prefers a more traditional approach to accounting. Learn how this well-designed program can make it a snap to set up a chart of accounts, reconcile your checking account, create and print invoices, receipts, and statements, track your payables, inventory, and receivables, create estimates, and generate reports.

CMP 670 ♦ Cost: \$129 ♦ 1.2 CEUs  
Mondays, April 28 – May 19 ♦ 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### Digital Photography: Using Digital Cameras

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. *Discover the possibilities of computerized photography!*

CMP 610 ♦ Cost: \$39 – no text ♦ .3 CEUs  
Saturday, April 12 ♦ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Administrative Professionals Conference

*Looking for a way to recognize your secretaries, administrative assistants and professional staff on Administrative Professionals' Day (formerly Secretaries' Day)?* How about a day long conference dedicated to rewarding, refocusing and energizing the professionals in the office who work hard all year long. This will be a day filled with specialized workshops and mini sessions, great food and lots of fun. Conference includes materials, desk reference supplies, fabulous 4 course meal and sumptuous desserts and special gifts for everyone.

Cost: \$99 person (*discounts for 4 or more from one organization*)  
Friday, April 25 ♦ 9:00 am – 4:00 pm



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