

Fall Semester Gets Underway

Students and faculty returned to campus as the fall semester got underway on Tuesday, September 5. In a departure from the traditional academic schedule, classes began two weeks later than usual...the first of several changes in a revised calendar to better meet student, faculty and administrative needs.

"This is always an exciting time of year," said NMCC President Tim Crowley. "The students are the reason we are here, and it brings a whole other level of energy to campus having both the students and the faculty back." While student enrollment numbers are not yet available since the add/drop period is still on-going, numbers of first-year students are up over last year, according to Crowley.

Three new full-time faculty members have joined the College campus and will be helping to prepare students as they work toward entering their chosen careers or continuing on to a four-year degree.

Jan Grieco joins the arts and sciences department, where she will be teaching English and communications courses, particularly English Composition. "Jan is both an experienced writer and teacher," said Ron Fitzgerald, arts and sciences department chair. "She is a great addition to our team of instructors, and I look forward to working with her."

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NMCC Holds Gala Event to Recognize Floyd & Jean Harding

A Presque Isle couple whose contributions to the city, surrounding region and state have had a profound impact on area residents were honored at a gala dinner at Northern Maine Community College on Saturday, August 26.

"He has had the respect of people far and wide, from the office of President to everyday people," Governor John Baldacci told the group of more than 100 political leaders, family and friends who had gathered for



the dinner honoring Floyd and the late Jean Harding.

Floyd Harding, an attorney who was elected to three terms in the Maine State Senate, beginning in 1964, served as both majority and minority leader in the chamber. He has long been known as a leader and activist in the Democratic Party, having served as chair of both the Presque Isle and Aroostook County Democratic



Floyd Harding (left) is greeted by Governor John Baldacci during the gala held in Floyd and his late wife Jean's honor on Saturday, August 26, at Northern Maine Community College.

Committees and as an active advisor and campaigner for numerous elected officials in the party.

Governor Baldacci went on to describe Jean Harding, to whom he referred as a second mother, as a "lady before her time." According to the Governor, "She was a powerhouse on the City Council,

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I am so pleased with what Floyd and Jean are doing for the people of Aroostook County.

- Senator John Martin

See the rest of the story and a photo gallery of the Harding Gala on page 4.

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A LOOK AHEAD...

Look for details in next month's edition about:

- An exciting new agreement between NMCC and Husson College
- Breakfast of Champions on October 12
- Heroes Breakfast on November 16

and much more!

Machine Tool Technology Certificate Program Offered



Above, NMCC instructor Dean Duplessis, far left, works with students in the CNC lab. Duplessis developed the new machine tool technology program, which is a one-year alternative to the associate degree precision metals manufacturing program which he teaches. Duplessis will serve as lead instructor for both programs.

NMCC is offering a new one-year, certificate level program in machine tool technology this fall designed to introduce the career option to students and help fill existing and anticipated vacancies.

“The machine tool technology certificate program will provide students with the opportunity to develop and improve their skills and knowledge of conventional and computer numerical control machining. Students enrolled in the program will receive training on the latest equipment used in the industry,” said Dean Duplessis, the instructor who developed and will teach the program.

“In addition to those students entering the College out of high school, the program will be of particular benefit to individuals who are already employed and may find the certificate increases their opportunity for promotion, or individuals who are looking for a career change and want to explore whether or not this is a good fit for them.”

The greatest benefactor, however, will be the metal manufacturing industry, which has a projected shortage of workers on both the state and national level. Results of a state-wide study released by the Maine Metal Products Association show that employers estimate just over

200 job vacancies will exist in the state over the next year. The projected number in the next two through six years will grow to over 450. Nationally, a recent report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics lists machinists as one of the top five professions projected to face a severe labor shortage through the year 2012.

“I think the certificate level program has the potential of becoming a catalyst. As we continue to move forward with our efforts to gain accreditation through the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, students will earn credentials recognized nationally through a network of over 6,000 companies,” said Duplessis.

The certificate program bears many similarities to the precision metals associate degree offering in that both offer instruction in all aspects of conventional machining. However, it will provide the student with introductory instruction in computer numerical control or CNC programming, setup and operations, whereas the associate level program continues with advanced CNC applications congruent with most modern machining companies.

Upon completion of the certificate program, a student may return for an additional year, take additional classes, and earn their associate degree.



New Course Spotlights County

Discover Aroostook will be offered in both the fall and spring semesters, beginning this September, with seasonally appropriate field experience opportunities that introduce students to The County through many unique, hands-on learning activities.

“The primary goal of Discover Aroostook is to introduce students to non-competitive skills which enable them to better understand and appreciate the outdoor environment in Aroostook County. Students will learn basic skills pertaining to fall, winter and spring activities and become acquainted with outdoor recreation areas as well as the history of the region and people who live here,” said William Egeler, dean of students. “We want to challenge the myth held by some students who attend the College, both from within and outside of Aroostook County, that there is nothing

to do here.”

A 2004 report prepared by economists Charles Colgan and Bruce Andrews revealed factors influencing student decisions to live in Aroostook County after graduation. “Not surprisingly, the report cites that students who chose to live in Aroostook County after graduation listed a preference for the recreation and culture in Aroostook County as the most significant reasons for staying in the County behind only closeness to family and cost of living,” said Egeler.

Field trips will follow classroom lectures, assigned readings or some other introductory activities to help students gain as much understanding about what they experience. In addition, students will be required to keep updated entries in a reflective journal and document, through photography and videography, their experience for a final semester public presentation on their learning experience.



Discover Aroostook has garnered the support of the Maine Community Foundation, which has awarded the College nearly \$15,000 through three separate funds to support the initiative. A lion's share of the funding was awarded by the Lighthouse Fund, which has been established by Raynold and Sandra Gauvin to assist in community efforts to enhance the work ethic and quality of life in the region. Above, from left, Dean of Students Bill Egeler and President Tim Crowley receive funding from Ray Gauvin on behalf of the Lighthouse Fund, Dick Engels on behalf of the Aroostook County Fund and Pam Scheppele on behalf of the Saxifrage Fund.

NMCC Launches New Marketing Campaign

“You can get there from here”, a message that more than four decades of NMCC students have themselves realized and come to appreciate, is the new catchphrase the College has adopted to both attract a new generation of students and define the unique role the institution plays in the region moving forward.

The new slogan, which will adorn campus printed materials and be prominently featured in advertising, is the result of an extensive planning process which has involved the input of students, faculty, staff, administrators and community representatives.

“Inspiration for the phrase came from the students, businesses and communities we serve,” said Jason Parent, director of development and college relations. “The slogan captures both universally and personally, what individuals and organizations look to the college for. Although the destination of where these constituencies are headed and eventually end up varies from person to person, the common denominator is that our role is to help get students ‘there’. Whether ‘there’ is earning a degree, diploma or certificate used to seek future employment or a better career opportunity, or

‘there’ is a four-year college where an NMCC student transfers credit, the students, faculty and staff ‘here’ at NMCC help you to get ‘there’.”

Along with the slogan comes a new look, which incorporates vibrant photos taken in the various academic and program areas on the campus, accompanied by text reflective of interviews conducted with students, faculty and staff over the past few months. The material was developed following a campus-wide dialogue which began in early March with several meetings, followed by focus groups and an on-line survey.

“Everyone on campus and many of our community friends had the opportunity to be involved in this process,” said President Timothy Crowley. “As a result, we have a new marketing campaign that is reflective of who and what we are as an institution and community of higher learning. As we encourage students from Aroostook County and beyond to continue their education with us, and further our development efforts with individuals, businesses and organizations throughout Northern Maine, we do so with an image that is consistent with the greatest assets of our College.”



Work leading to the development of a new NMCC brand was led by a newly formed campus marketing committee, which includes representation from each of the College’s four academic departments, student and administrative areas, and the continuing education division. Coordinating the group’s work was the NMCC development and college relations office team of Jason Parent and Karen Gonya.

Following review of the proposals received by the college, the marketing committee identified Heidesign, a Fort Kent-based business owned and operated by Heidi Carter, to visit the campus and present creative concepts before the group.

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NMCC and MDOT Sign Agreement

NMCC students and graduates will benefit from a signed training partnership agreement between the College and the Maine Department of Transportation.

The agreement provides for supervised, paid internship opportunities for NMCC students and gives graduates of the College a foot in the door for possible future employment with the state department responsible for overseeing Maine’s transportation infrastructure. Although targeted specifically for students enrolled in the diesel hydraulics program, the agreement allows both partners to extend the internship offering to students in other pertinent programs offered by NMCC.

“Northern Maine Community College is the primary training/educational institution in the region that delivers training in specialized skills required by the Maine Department of Transportation,” said Galen Costigan, regional manager for the northern region of the

MDOT. “We are pleased to work cooperatively with the College to provide this valuable opportunity for students and at the same time assist the College in its commitment to identifying and promoting on-the-job work experiences for its students, particularly those experiences which count toward industry certification and/or those which position the student either for initial hire or for promotion within the organization of its partners.”

In addition to internships, MDOT has agreed to extend to students who successfully complete the hands-on learning experience within the department and who graduate from NMCC the opportunity to apply for and interview for any open position for which they are qualified, consistent with the terms of existing applicable collective



Participating in the recent signing ceremony held at NMCC were President Timothy Crowley, Vice President Alan Panches, Trade and Technical Occupations Department Chair Brian McDougal and NMCC Diesel Hydraulics Instructor Robert Rice. Representing the MDOT at the event were Regional Manager Galen Costigan, Equipment Service Manager Richard Moir and Northern Region Human Resource Specialist Robert McGorty.

bargaining agreements.

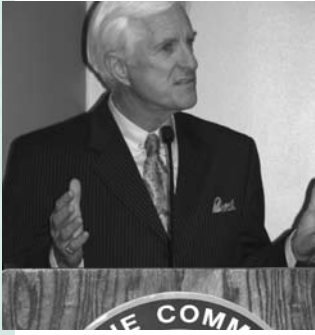
The agreement also stipulates that the College and MDOT will work together to identify specific training needs for all Department of Transportation employees and the MDOT will contract to develop and offer the training through the continuing education division of NMCC wherever appropriate and as needed.

Harding Gala, *from page 1*

which wasn't an easy thing for a woman then." Among the crowning achievements of her 18-year tenure on the Presque Isle City Council was her work to secure funds to construct the Presque Isle bike path during the Jimmy Carter administration. She was also deeply involved in efforts to secure funds for and to build the Presque Isle Homeless Shelter and was a driving force behind the establishment of the animal shelter in Presque Isle.

The Governor proclaimed Saturday, August 26 to be Floyd and Jean Harding Day throughout the State of Maine.

"Working individually or as a partnership, they [the Hardings] have brought us a history of service, preparing us for a better tomorrow," said Dana



Connors, president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. "Jean didn't have to be asked to do something, she just did it...and if asked, she took it on with pride," said Connors, who was the Presque Isle City Manager for 12 of the 18 years during which Jean served on the City Council.

Congressman Mike Michaud spoke to the group by phone, thanking Floyd and his family for all of their community service over the years. "You have set the example for everyone holding public office," said Michaud.

Tim Crowley, president of Northern Maine Community College, recognized each of the "founders" of the college, a committee of ten of which Floyd Harding was one of the leaders. "They had a vision...they saw a need. College is important in economic development and in helping people to improve their lives, but, more than that, education is key for the citizens of this country for our children to have the future we want for them. Floyd and his colleagues knew that, and we know that."



During his remarks, Floyd reminisced about how he, Joe Freeman, Ken Colbath and the other founders had worked with Senator Ed Muskie to persuade President John F. Kennedy to let the city of Presque Isle acquire the SNARK Missile Base in Presque Isle once it was closed. According to Harding, Kennedy promised to release whatever property they wanted for \$1 as long as they had a purpose for which the

general public would benefit. They asked for the landing strips and surrounding land in order to establish a regional airport. They asked for the area including some large hangers and storage facilities in order to establish an industrial park. Lastly, they asked for the central part of the base, housing facilities such as the automotive repair building and the plumbing shop, to be turned over to the city to establish "vocational" education in Aroostook County.

After helping the City to obtain the property, Floyd and his colleagues then went to work to try to get funding for the college. As a result of the civic group's efforts and those of area legislators, led by Representatives Harold Stewart and Senator E. Perrin Edmunds, a bill was passed in 1961 to establish the Northeastern Maine Vocational Institute, a forerunner of NMCC.

"Considering the role which Floyd Harding has played in the establishment of this institution and importance which Jean Harding placed on education, it is particularly appropriate that the newly established Floyd and Jean Harding Scholarship will help people in generations to come to obtain an education at NMCC," said Crowley.

"Philanthropy is something I believe in," said Floyd's son, Dwight Harding. "This is why I am so proud of this scholarship. This act of philanthropy will change the lives of those who receive scholarship

An Evening to Remember...



funds...and their children...and their children's children. It is something worth doing, and I am glad he [my father] did this."

Alan Harding, another of Floyd's sons, described his father as a founder. He founded Harding Law Offices, as well as helping to found NMCC, the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club, and The Aroostook Medical Center's current location. A founder, according to Alan, shows hope for the future. With the creation of the Floyd and Jean Harding Scholarship, his father "leaves us with the hope that people won't be judged by their ability to pay, but by their ability to achieve."

"I am so pleased with what Floyd and



Jean are doing for the people of Aroostook County," said Senator John Martin, who served as master of ceremonies for the evening's event, regarding the establishment of the scholarship.

Representative Jeremy Fischer of Presque Isle presented a legislative sentiment to Floyd highlighting Jean's accomplishments. He noted that on February 1, 2006 there was a standing ovation in honor of Jean Harding in the Maine State Legislature.

"I have been so touched...I am so humbled and so grateful," Floyd Harding told the group regarding their comments and their presence at what also served as his 83rd birthday party.



We greatly appreciate the support of our sponsors. This year's sponsors included:

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NMCC Precision Metals Program
PGA Tour Commissioner's Office
TD Banknorth

Foundation Partners with Banknorth for Most Successful Golf Tournament to Date

The Northern Maine Community College Foundation held its annual golf tournament on August 10 at Aroostook Valley Country Club. The Foundation partnered with TD Banknorth this year and had their most successful tournament to date. The tournament's name was changed to the *TD Banknorth Tournament to Benefit the Northern Maine Community College Foundation*. The play format stayed the same – a three-person scramble.

An exciting addition to the tournament was a post-tournament dinner and auction. Thanks to the generosity of several businesses and individuals, there was both a "silent" auction as well as a "live" one, featuring donated items such as a new Kawasaki ATV, PGA Tournament passes, items autographed by professional golfers, and box seat tickets to Celtics, Bruins, and Red Sox sporting events.

The tournament and auction raised an unprecedented amount for the Founda-

tion due to the generosity of sponsors and players, more than doubling last year's funds. All of the net proceeds of the tournament came to the foundation, with a portion being put into the TD Banknorth Scholarship Fund.

Two Foundation board members were key in making this year's event a success. Michael Kelley, Sr. and Peter Hunt were instrumental in getting the partnership organized, as well as securing sponsors and auction items. Kudos as well to Ray Hews and the staff of TD Banknorth for all their work.

The Foundation thanks the volunteers who worked at the tournament, as well as the NMCC employees who played in the tournament. In addition to the TD Banknorth employees, NMCC's own Tom Richard and Wendy Bradstreet were of great assistance, taking time out of their busy schedules to spend their day working at the tournament.

Newsletter Gets A New Look

As the college strives to update materials as part of its new marketing efforts (see related story on page 3), one area that was looked at closely this summer was the weekly college newsletter. "This publication is not only a great source of information for our on-campus constituents, but it is also a great avenue for promoting the college with our off-campus friends," said Jason Parent, director of development and college relations.

While in previous years a four-page newsletter was distributed to about 300 on-campus and 500 off-campus people weekly, this year there will be a change to that format. A two-page weekly bulletin will now be distributed on campus highlighting quick details of upcoming activities, the lunch menu and other information of interest to employees and students.

Supplementing that weekly bulletin will be an expanded monthly publication, of which this is the first edition. It will be distributed both on- and off-campus. "We have expanded our mailing list to about

1,000 individuals," said Parent. Among those on the list are members of each of the college's program advisory committees, members of the General Advisory Council, Foundation Board members, area media, and all of the guidance counselors, town managers and legislators in Aroostook County.

The college welcomes feedback and submissions to either the weekly or monthly newsletter. Information can be sent to the contact details listed below.

Toward Excellence is a publication of the NMCC Development/College Relations Office.

Editors: Jason Parent & Karen Gonya

Information may be submitted for possible publication by calling the development office at 768-2809 or e-mailing info@nmcc.edu. Items may also be mailed to: NMCC Development Office, 33 Edgemont Drive, Presque Isle, ME 04769.

Northern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 768-2791.

Semester Begins, from page 1



Grieco was previously an adjunct instructor at Southern Maine Community College and the University of New England. She also taught creative writing and a writer's workshop for gifted children through the University School Festival of Creative Youth. She has been a freelance writer, having had articles published on websites and in magazines. Grieco is an experienced journalist, working as a reporter and/or editor for papers in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Grieco earned her baccalaureate degree from Vermont College in Montpelier and went on to earn her master's in fine arts degree in creative writing from the University of Southern Maine in 2004. She and her husband relocated to Presque Isle earlier this summer.

Also joining the arts and sciences department this fall is Heidi Broad-Smith, who will be the lead instructor in the early childhood education program. "Heidi has been an adjunct instructor for the program for a number of years, teaching day and evening classes in Presque

Marketing, from page 3

With a complete family of new publications nearly complete, work on the new marketing campaign now shifts to NMCC's web presence and developing an advertising campaign featuring the new slogan and images. Subcontractors working through Heidesign will work closely with Gonya in the development office and NMCC's information technology staff to complete the projects.

"Our slogan, 'You can get there from here,' came about from my findings of how diverse the NMCC student body is," said Carter. "The College has students straight out of high school, mothers who are now able to think of a career, and individuals who are looking for a change. All of the students I met seemed to be going somewhere in life, and it amazes me how many different options NMCC provides—from a great education, with many of the

Isle as well as at our Houlton center," said Fitzgerald. "She brings to the position not only an experience with the program, but comprehensive knowledge of credentialing requirements for both teachers and childcare providers, experience working with children with special needs, and a background in curriculum development. I think she is an excellent fit for the program."

In addition to her work as an adjunct instructor for the College, Broad-Smith taught for several years in the Bridgewater School Department and has worked with special needs children through the Circle of Learning. Broad-Smith earned her bachelor of science in education from UMPI in 1987 and her masters degree in educational leadership from the University of Maine in 1995.

In an effort to keep up with the continuing demand for nurses, NMCC continues to look for creative ways to expand its course offerings to other communities. As part of this effort, the College will offer a section of nursing in Houlton this year.

programs providing certifications and opportunities for licenses; to utilizing the possibilities of the community's non-profit needs for hands-on education; to continuing education; and the doors opened through programs like Advantage U where the students can go on to attain their baccalaureate degrees at other Maine schools. What also impresses me is that not only are the faculty and staff utilized in the success of the student body, but also that the working community does through the input they have on College advisory boards. That being said, what first impressed me the most about the College was that no matter where a student was going in life, many doors are opened for them at NMCC and they all certainly have the opportunity 'to get there from here'."



This cohort of eight students will take classes at the Houlton Higher Education Center via video conferencing originating from the Presque Isle campus. They will then have clinical experiences in health care settings in the Houlton area, including Houlton Regional Hospital. Joining the nursing and allied health department faculty to coordinate both the clinical experiences and day to day instruction of these Houlton students is Deborah Folsom of Smyrna Mills.

"Deborah was the full-time faculty member for our Houlton site when we were able to offer a cohort there in 2002-2004. Thanks in a large part to her efforts, this pilot session was a great success. We have gone on to use that same model in Washington County, where we currently have 11 nursing students taking our courses. It is exciting to me that we are going to be able to once again offer this service in Houlton, and who better to lead the effort than Deborah...who played such a key role in making this distance learning concept a success," said Betty Kent-Conant, nursing and allied health department chair.

For the past two years, Folsom has been working as a staff Registered Nurse for Company Doc Occupational Health Office in Houlton. She has also worked at Good Samaritan Hospital and Nyack Hospital in New York.



Folsom became an RN in 1982. She went on to earn her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Dominican College of Blauvelt and her master of science in nursing from College of New Rochelle.

"With the addition of these faculty members, we are in good shape as we start the semester," said Crowley. "It promises to be an exciting year for the College, with several new initiatives on the horizon. We look forward to sharing these with the community in the months to come."

This month's Continuing Education offerings...

Building and Maintaining a Web Page for Your Business

Many small business owners can build their own page and keep it current if they have the skills to tackle the job. This basic course directs you to resources which will help you produce and maintain a professional web presence. Create a page in class, and learn how to send it into cyberspace.

CMP 815 ♦ Cost: \$89 – text additional ♦ .9 CEUs
Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 5, 7 & 12 ♦ 5:00–8:00 pm

Intermediate Microsoft Word

Take advantage of Word's WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) editing capabilities to create flyers, newsletters and other heavily formatted documents. Set up columns and tables within your documents; insert, reposition, edit and resize graphic images; draw lines; surround your text or graphics with borders; achieve dramatic effects by varying the size, appearance, and orientation of your text, and more.

CMP 623 ♦ Cost: \$99 – text additional ♦ .9 CEUs
Mondays & Wednesdays, Sept. 18, 20 & 25 ♦ 5:00–8:00 pm

Computer courses to look for in October...

Excel Charts Made Easy
QuickBooks

Microsoft PowerPoint
Computers for Beginners

Global Positioning System

Topics include navigational waypoints, latitudes and longitudes, physical features and their attributes, satellite tracking and positions, distance and bearing, mask angles, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinators, and Selective Availability (SA) concepts. Bring your GPS to class.

BNI 745 ♦ Cost: \$89 - no text ♦ .9 CEUs
Tuesdays & Thursday, Sept. 12, 14 & 19 ♦ 6:00–9:00 pm

Look for these and other non-credit courses on-line at www.nmcc.edu or call 768-2845 for details.



Development Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Digital Photography (Using Digital Cameras)

Learn the basic techniques on effective use of a digital camera. We will 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
Saturday, Sept. 23 ♦ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Professional Bartending & Mixology

Learn to identify a variety of brand names, how to mix hundreds of drinks and how to effectively handle every type of patron. This is a hands-on course that includes practice workshops and speed building. Participants will be certified in the TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures by Servers of Alcohol) program, the leading server-training program in the nation.

MIX 600 ♦ Cost \$350 – includes text and bar kit ♦ 3.6 CEUs
Sept. 26 – Oct. 28 ♦ Tuesdays, 6–9 pm & Saturdays, 8:30 am–12:30 pm

Medical Terminology/Basic Anatomy

This course teaches medical terminology from an anatomical approach. Root terms are divided by each body system. Work associations are provided as a learning tool along with multiple graphics, study tips and unusual facts regarding each term. This course meets the prerequisite requirement for the Entry Level Medical Coding, Advanced Medical Coding/Certification Preparation, and the Medical Transcription course.

HLT 650 ♦ \$299 – text additional ♦ 3.0 CEUs
Tuesdays, September 19 – November 21 ♦ 5:30–8:30 pm

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