

## NMCC Earns Continued Accreditation through NEASC College commended for developing mission as a comprehensive community college

Following a comprehensive evaluation that culminated with a formal review visit a year ago, NMCC has been approved for continued accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE). Notification to the institution included positive commendation in several areas.

“Northern Maine Community College is continued in accreditation because the Commission finds the institution to be substantially in compliance with the Standards for Accreditation. We commend the institution for its continued progress in developing its mission as a comprehensive community college, especially in the expansion and promotion of the liberal arts,” wrote CIHE Chair Elsa Nunez.

The positive report follows a two-year process that began in early 2007 with the naming of faculty members Betty Kent-Conant, chair of the nursing and allied health department, and Ron Fitzgerald, chair of the arts and sciences department, to co-chair work on a 100-page self study. The report examined eleven areas or standards identified by CIHE, including mission and purpose; academic programs; faculty; students; human, physical and fiscal support for the institution; integrity; and public disclosure.

“The process used in this preparation involved most of the personnel of the college -

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## NMCC and UMFK Officials Sign Articulation Agreements to Facilitate Student Transition

Officials with Northern Maine Community College and the University of Maine at Fort Kent signed the most comprehensive articulation agreement between the two northernmost institutions of higher education in the state on April 8.

Citing the moment as significant to further advancing access to quality, affordable higher education opportunities for residents of the region, the agreement signed by NMCC President Timothy Crowley and UMFK President Richard W. Cost, provides seamless transition for students who successfully complete NMCC’s Associate in Arts degree in liberal studies to any of the academic programs offered at UMFK. Specifically, it stipulates that NMCC liberal studies graduates will have completed all general education course equivalency requirements at UMFK.

“Students are the true beneficiaries of this agreement. This opens wider the door of opportunity for NMCC students looking to transfer from the College to continue their education and earn a baccalaureate degree,” said Crowley. “We are pleased to join with our colleagues and friends at UMFK – as we have so many times in the past – to work collaboratively to encourage more residents of Aroostook County to take



NMCC and UMFK leaders recently signed four articulation agreements to ease student transfer between the two institutions. Joining in the signing ceremony at NMCC were (left to right) Alan Punches, NMCC vice president; Timothy Crowley, NMCC President; Richard Cost, UMFK president; and Rachel Albert, UMFK vice president for academic affairs.

advantage of the wonderful higher education opportunities available in our own backyard.”

Representatives of both institutions have been working for months to align the respective course requirements and set the framework for the agreement.

“Education benefits both the individual and society. Economic policy studies are unanimous in indicating it is increasingly important that more citizens of Maine complete a bachelor’s degree. These agreements will make it easier for students to begin that transition the day they begin classes at NMCC,” said Dr. Cost.

The liberal studies transfer agreement is one of four developed and signed by the

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## NMCC Students Recognized Among Top in State and Nation; Zappone to be Featured in National Newspaper

NMCC students Charles Zappone and the late Katherine Pictou are among 14 students statewide named to the 2009 All-Maine Academic Team. Individuals are nominated and selected by their colleges in recognition of their academic achievements and leadership qualities. Each student receives a \$500 scholarship from Camden National Bank.

Zappone was also named Maine's New Century Scholar for achieving the highest Maine score on the All-USA Academic Team application. He represented Maine at the American Association of Community Colleges' annual convention in Phoenix, Arizona early this month, where he received a \$2,000 scholarship. He was named one of 50 Coca-Cola National Bronze Scholars and also received a \$1,000 scholarship, as well as will appear in an April edition of *USA Today*.



"I feel very honored to receive these awards. I share this recognition with the faculty here at NMCC. They are incredible. They go out of their way to teach, lead and inspire," said Zappone. "I chose the community college, in part because it is exactly that: 'community'. NMCC is a school both made up of community and involved in the betterment of that community, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

The 38-year-old father of two will graduate with an associate degree in nursing this May. He has excelled both in and out of the classroom. He serves as president of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, as a member of the Student Nurses Association and has volunteered to assist with several projects on campus.

Zappone also serves as a volunteer trainer with the County Patriots Young Marines and is a Maine Hunter Safety Course first-aid instructor. The U.S. Military Veteran joined the armed services in 1994 and served two tours in Bosnia as an armament supervisor.

"Charles consistently demonstrates the ability to manage his time, work deadlines, and recognizes the importance

of a strong work ethic, persistence and intellectual integrity. He is an outstanding student and role model," said Kim Esquibel, level II nursing instructor.

He will begin work as a registered nurse in the acute care unit at Cary Medical Center in June, and hopes to earn a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

Zappone was honored along with Katherine Pictou recently at the 2009 All-Maine Academic Team ceremony in Augusta. The event was especially moving for the members of both the Pictou and NMCC family, as the honor was bestowed on Katherine Pictou posthumously. The 27-year-old mother of two from Presque Isle passed away unexpectedly on January 11, 2009, just days after learning of her selection to the All-Maine Academic Team. Pictou's parents Shannon and Sandra Pictou and her ten-year-old daughter and six-year-old son were on hand to accept the award on her behalf.



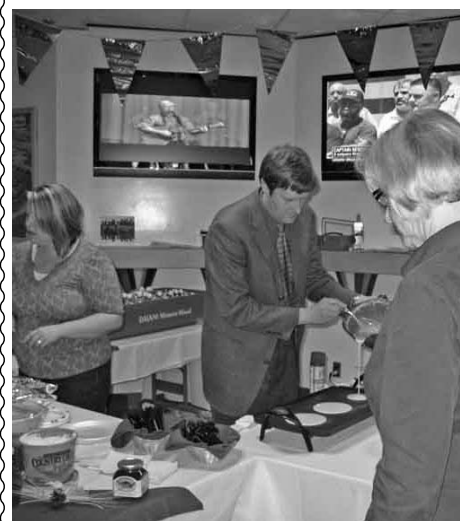
Pictou was set to graduate this May with an associate degree in business administration. She was very active on campus, serving as treasurer of both the NMCC Student Senate and Phi Theta Kappa honor society. As a student representative to the NMCC Foundation, she spoke movingly at the Foundation's annual dinner about how important it was for her to demonstrate to her children the importance of education by returning to college and earning her degree.

Pictou was also very involved in her local community, having volunteered for the Battered Women's Project, as a community clean-up volunteer, and with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

The All-Maine Academic Team is a division of the All-USA Community College Academic Team, sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, *USA Today*, and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. The Maine program is co-sponsored by Camden National Bank, Bangor Daily News, Creative Awards of Scarborough, and the Maine Community College System.



Natanya Pictou (left) and her brother Austin Pictou (front) accepted the All-Maine Academic Team award and medal on behalf of their mother Katherine Pictou, an NMCC student who passed away unexpectedly in January. Charles Zappone also received the All-Maine Academic Honor and represented NMCC at the ceremony in Augusta.



An Aroostook County Food Festival was held in the Christie lobby on Monday, April 13, to raise funds for the NMCC Foundation. Above, Jason Parent makes fresh hot ployes for Joyce Campbell (right) as well as many others throughout the day. NMCC student Shannon Smart (left) helped coordinate and staff the event.



## NMCC and Presque Isle Kiwanis Invite Community to Barbecue and Open House

Presque Isle's Kevin and Holly Tompkins and their two young children, six-year-old Avery and seven-month-old Sadie, are inviting the Aroostook County community to come visit their new home and share a bite to eat. It's an open house with a twist, as the Tompkins' 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 and technical occupations programs have spent the past six months making the family's home become reality, and at the same time getting a hands-on learning experience unlike any other.

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

This year's home, however, holds special significance for the Tompkins family

— and Kevin Tompkins in particular. Taking ownership of a Sinawik House brings the soon-to-be new homeowner, who owns Tompkins Plumbing and Heating, full circle. He is a 1994 graduate of Northern Maine Technical College (a forerunner of NMCC), and as a student worked on Sinawik house #17.

"It means a great deal to our family to be taking ownership of a Sinawik home and it meant a great deal for me as a plumbing and heating student to work on building one 15 years ago. Work on that project and all that I learned at the College have helped me become a successful plumber and business owner," said Tompkins. "I think it's a great project. I'm anxious for the house to be finished. It's well-built, well-designed and will make a great home for our family."

With work on the 32nd home nearing completion, the College and Kiwanis Club are hosting a community open house celebration and barbecue on Tuesday, April 28, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Mailman Trades Building, where the



NMCC residential construction instructor Guy Jackson (front) provides guidance to student Brian Nadeau of Connor as he completes some finish work around a window on Sinawik House 32.

work of the students and the importance of the partnership between NMCC and Kiwanis on the home building project will be recognized.

"This project has been a win-win for both the College and Kiwanis Club," said Guy Jackson, NMCC's residential construction instructor, who has been key to the project for the past 28 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 Sinawik Home."

The annual event includes 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 NMCC 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 Janet

## A Creative Writers Reading Series to Take Place at NMCC in April

A Creative Writers Reading Series will take place at NMCC in April in honor of both National Community College Month and National Poetry Month. Three noon-time sessions will be held featuring 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 coordinator of the reading series. "Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for our students, but we're really hoping members of the surrounding communities will join us."

The reading series will take place on three consecutive Thursdays, April 9 – April 24, at noon in the College's library. Students from the College's creative writing class will each read briefly from their own original work, followed by a guest writer from a specific genre—fiction, non-fiction or poetry—who will read from

his or her own published work and then answer questions about the work, experiences as a writer, or other areas of interest from audience members.

"Generally, people think of creative writing either as fluffy and unimportant or incredibly easy. The students who take this class and who are part of this series come away with a solid understanding of the amount of work it takes to create really good writing," said Grieco. "They also develop a new appreciation of how literature serves as another way of preserving history, with a focus on the human experience. That, after all, is what creative writing really is about."

Grieco herself will kick-off the first session in the series, featuring fiction writing, on April 9. Grieco is a former journalist who earned an MFA in fiction from the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast program, and is a member of the Board of Directors for Maine Writers' and Publishers' Alliance. Her nonfiction work has been

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## Metal Manufacturer Donates Equipment

A leading central Maine precision metals manufacturer is supporting its future growth through a donation of needed equipment to NMCC's precision metals manufacturing program.

Officials with Mid-State Machine, a Winslow-based computer numerical controlled manufacturing facility, recently visited the precision metals manufacturing lab on the NMCC campus to present instructor Dean Duplessis and his students with new technology valued at \$6,000. The gift came both to support the program and also in recognition of the well-established reputation it has garnered within the industry and within the education and training community.

"We are very impressed with the quality of the precision metals manufacturing program at Northern Maine Community College. We feel it ranks as one of the very top programs in the state and throughout New England," said Pete McAllister, human resource manager for Mid-State Machine, visited NMCC to meet with Duplessis and his students and to present the new equipment. "The attention to detail by instructor Dean Duplessis in his program, his students and the facilities is outstanding. From Mid-State Machine's perspective, his curriculum, instruction methods and expectations of his students fit our business model perfectly."

The company donated three electronic height gauges capable of measuring parts up to 24 inches in height and to an accuracy of .0005 inches – or the equivalent of one-sixth the width of a human hair. According to Duplessis, the gauges, which are used for presetting tools for the computer numerical controlled (CNC) machines in his lab, are necessary both in his classroom and within the industry to assure quality control. Students currently enrolled in both the associate degree precision metals manufacturing program and the machine tool technology certificate program previously had access to only two such tools, which often proves challenging.

"Students in both the precision metals and machine tool programs are required to perform full inspections of parts they produce to assure the standards of quality are adhered to. The additional height gauges will reduce wait time for measuring

## NMCC to Host Forum to Mark Earth Day; Campus to Launch Local "Green Generation Campaign"

NMCC is inviting the public to attend a noontime Earth Day (April 22) session in the E. Perrin Edmunds Library on the Presque Isle campus to learn more about creating a greener planet, as well as kick-off a local campaign for a global initiative.

The event will feature two speakers, Wayne Kilcollins, NMCC wind power technology instructor, who will speak on the benefits of wind energy, and Pamela Buck, NMCC computer-aided drafting instructor, who will present on green building design and technology.

"We are fortunate to have very accomplished faculty members here at NMCC who possess expertise on a wide array of topics," said Gail Roy, NMCC assistant dean of learning resources and coordinator of the Earth Day event. "The information that these two faculty members have concerning green energy and conservation is impressive and we look forward to this opportunity for them to share it with the community."

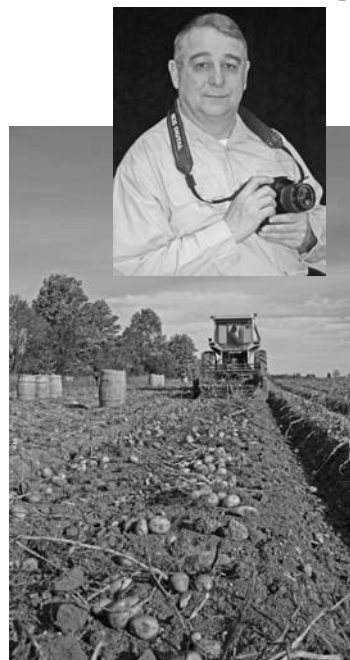
Roy will have an exhibit of material and information contained in the library's collection consistent with the Earth Day theme. The City of Presque Isle will also have a display with information and handouts about local recycling.

Attendees will be called into action to take a pledge to do their part to be more environmentally conscious by signing "The Green Generation Manifesto." The document commits individuals to being active citizens, transforming their immediate environment, staying informed and informing others on issues concerning the environment and consuming wisely.

Earth Day Network's "Green Generation" campaign is a year-long initiative that is being launched nationally on Earth Day 2009 and will culminate on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2010.

"Attending the Earth Day event at NMCC, and using the College library as a resource is an effective way to learn more about creating a greener planet and to commit to taking action," said Roy. "Whether you search for information online or use the sources in the library, you'll find new books, journals and magazine articles, and some great sites where you can learn more about the issues and find ways to help solve the problems we all face. Today, each of us has an increased awareness of his or her carbon footprint and the importance of reducing waste, saving energy and creating cleaner, more efficient ways to live on earth."

## Aroostook County Photography Exhibit on Display



This photo of a familiar fall site in Aroostook County is among those that is on display this month.

A collection of photographs that capture the beauty and vitality Aroostook County will be on exhibit at NMCC throughout the month of April. The official opening of "From My Backyard" Maine Photography, presented by photographer Ray Burby of Caribou, coincided with the 150th Birthday Party for the City of Presque Isle on April 4. The exhibit will be on display throughout the month in the Edmunds library and conference center.

Featuring more than three dozen photos from throughout the region, the exhibit – Burby's first – includes the people, places, flora and fauna and other things that Aroostook County is known for. Images include Aroostook sunsets, aerial photos, wildlife and photos taken at the Can-Am Sled Dog Races in Fort Kent and Balloon Festival in Presque Isle.

Born and raised in Caribou, Burby's love of photography began when he was about 12 years old. Burby spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1994 and moving back to Caribou with his wife JoAnn. While in the military he practiced his photography in places as far away as Thule Greenland and Lisbon Portugal.

He has had many photos published in *ECHOES* magazine during the past few years and even has photos on the State of Maine website.

The exhibit can be viewed throughout April on Mondays through Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## NMCC Student Earns Celebrity Status after Appearance on National TV Show

NMCC senior Tyler Pelletier of Millinocket has been getting a lot of attention lately. The 20 year old diesel hydraulics student made his TV debut on Discovery Channel's nationally televised weekly series "American Loggers."

Pelletier, a third generation member of the Millinocket-based Gerald Pelletier forest harvesting and logging operation which is chronicled on the program, has earned a newfound celebrity status on the NMCC campus since a recent episode followed him working on a road crew for his family business hauling gravel in the famed North Maine Woods.

"I didn't want to be on camera and didn't think much of it at the time. I actually tried to run from it as much as I could, but they really wanted to focus on the younger generation, so I let them come along with me," said Pelletier. "Since that show first aired early last month, people – especially here on campus – have come up to me and said 'hey, I saw you on TV!' or 'nice job'. I get teased a bit, but I just brush it off."

Pelletier is much more at home in the diesel hydraulics lab at NMCC working under the tutelage of instructor Robert Rice on the engine of a large piece of machinery than on the silver screen, but he's taking the new experience in stride.

"If the camera crew comes along it can take us twice as long to get a job done. They have you wait until they set up the equipment and often ask you to do things all over again so they can get the right shot," said Pelletier.

During a recent College break cameras again followed him for an episode of "Loggers." This time the crew traveled to the St. John Valley, where Pelletier and some of his uncles and cousins attended a customer appreciation event thrown by Fort Kent-based Daigle and Houghton, a heavy equipment sales and service business. Segments were taped at the Slybrook ATV Club in Soldier Pond, where the group ate, as well as at the Northern Door Inn in Fort Kent, where they spent the night. A crew even jumped on a snowmobile and filmed the Pelletiers out on the trails for a ride.

The weekend outing was a departure from the material aired on "Loggers" to this point, which has focused on the long

days and hard work put in by the Pelletiers and their crew. Although he doesn't seek out the opportunity to be featured, Pelletier is quick to acknowledge the benefits of having cameras capture what his family does and the national showcase it provides for the wood harvesting industry, as well as for the beautiful Katahdin Forest and North Maine Woods regions.

"In the past we've had some negative press about what we do. It's nice to see positive press and show what we do and how a small town and family pull together to get the job done. It's given us the opportunity to take more pride in what we do. There would be no way that the company would be where it is today without my grandfather Gerald, and this show lets us show that to the country," said Pelletier.

Whether the opportunity to be showcased on national television will continue into the future for Tyler Pelletier and his family will be determined by other families across the country. An initial ten episodes of "American Loggers" has been ordered by the Discovery Channel and the show's



Tyler Pelletier (left) of Millinocket works on a diesel engine with his classmate Andrew Brown of Warren, New Hampshire in the diesel hydraulics technology program at NMCC recently. Pelletier has become a celebrity of sorts on campus since his recent appearance on the Discovery Channel series "American Loggers," which follows his family's logging business.

ratings will determine whether more will be produced.

The future is also on Pelletier's mind as he prepares for graduation from NMCC in a month. He plans to return to the family business to work for the summer, but is uncertain where his degree and life will take him in the fall.

"It's a big job working for the family business. It's a possibility that I will stay working in the woods, but I'd like to keep my options open and see where my future takes me."

### **Sinawik**, from page 3

Kelle, 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."

The project begins anew each year before the previous Sinawik house has rolled out of the residential construction lab and is placed on the homeowner's lot. Floor plans are developed by through the computer-aided drafting program and approved by the customer.

Once the plans are handed over, framing work on the walls, doors, windows and roof is completed by the first-year students in Jackson's program. Students from the plumbing and heating program, instructed by Al St. Peter; the electrical construction and maintenance program, instructed by Charles Kelley; and the metal fabrication

program, instructed by Dennis Albert, the do the "rough-in" work.

Once the plumbing and heating conduits are installed, the wiring laid and required ductwork is in, the structure is inspected. After the inspection the senior residential construction students come in and do the finish work, installing windows, doors and cabinets and completing the interior trim.

Sinawik 32 features three bedrooms, two full baths, a kitchen/dining area and living room. A foundation for the raised ranch will be poured in the coming weeks at 267 Houlton Road. The family plans to add a two door garage and breezeway to attach the home and garage.

The public is invited and encouraged to visit the Sinawik open house at NMCC on Tuesday, April 28, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. For more information on the project or the open house, contact the college relations office at 768-2809.





## Great Entertainment

Entertainment for the 150th Birthday Party was provided, clockwise from top left, Wednesday Evening Fiddlers, the Presque Isle Middle School Jazz Band, The Maine Event Barbershop Group, and the Gallagher Brothers.



## Cultural Artists Pavilion

Nearly a dozen artisans and crafters provided demonstrations and sold items in the NMCC library during the 150th Birthday Party activities hosted at the College. The Micmac Ladies Drumming Group, "Mawi-taneg epit-jig," also performed as part of the festivities.







## The Speakers

Clockwise from top, NMCC President Tim Crowley greeted guests; Council Chair Ed Nickerson presented greetings and a proclamation from the City of Presque Isle; Rep. Patricia Sutherland presented a proclamation from the Maine State Legislature; and Rep. Mike Willette read a message from Governor Baldacci. Greetings were also given from Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins and Congressman Michael Chaudoin via video.

## The Cake

A three-foot high star cake was made by the Sodexo Food Services staff at Colby College.

## The Quiz

Lots of event goers tested their knowledge on the history of Presque Isle by taking an electronic quiz. Winning the contest, with 9 out of 11 questions right in just under four minutes was Marilyn Nadeau (center). With her is Kim Smith, chair of the Sesquicentennial Committee, and Carol Bell, president of the Presque Isle Historical Society.



## Great Food & Fun

Food booths specialized in old time favorites, such as lemonade and root beer, candy apples, pie, ice cream, hot dogs and chips. There was also an entire area dedicated to children & family activities, such as "picking potatoes," planting seeds, playing checkers, decorating fabric lunch bags, stringing beads for jewelry, making wooden spoon dolls, and playing jacks.



## Accreditation, from page 1

administration, faculty, staff, and students - who were assigned to committees which were co-chaired by members from all parts of the campus family," said Kent-Conant. "The work reflected a variety of perspectives and has heightened an awareness of how employees experience their daily work meeting the standards for accreditation on a daily basis."

Last March, NMCC welcomed a visiting team of administrators and faculty from institutions from throughout New England. The team was led by Dr. Katherine Eneguess, president of New Hampshire Community Technical College in Berlin.

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

Student and community service were among the two areas noted by the commission as particular strengths of the campus community. In the visiting team analysis and in the letter to the College by CIHE, work in these areas was commended.

"We take favorable note of the College's success in developing learning partnerships with other colleges and universities in the region. The College has established an effective academic success center, and faculty and staff are clearly committed to student success. The College is equally committed to service to the region and the regard in which the institution is held in the region is evidenced in a concrete way by the College's success in fundraising," wrote Nunez in her letter on behalf of CIHE.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is one of eight accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 200 institutions in the New England Region.

NMCC has been accredited by NEASC since 1975, first through the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions and now through the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

## NMCC to Host Northern Maine Pain Symposium

A day-long symposium for health care workers, educators, students and area residents focusing on pain and pain management will be offered at NMCC on Thursday, April 16, in the Edmunds Conference Center.

The fourth annual Northern Maine Pain Symposium will bring together medical professionals and those preparing to enter the field from throughout the region, as well as patients and family members of individuals who live with pain. The conference is a program of the Maine Hospice Council and Center for End-of-Life Care and sponsored by Endo Pharmaceuticals.

Centered on the theme of "Leadership and Quality in Pain Management: What is Your Responsibility?" the conference will feature experts in the area of pain management. Topics will include the importance of role models in health care, caring for the child at the end of life, chronic pain

management, assessing and managing pain in the older population, and pain management and quality of life for Veterans. The day will conclude with a panel discussion about the importance of making a commitment to quality.

Among the presenters will be Dr. Craig Hurwitz, who serves as the director of clinical development at Reata Pharmaceuticals in Dallas, Texas. Hurwitz was previously the director of the Maine Children's Cancer Program at Portland-based Maine Medical Center. Dr. Ira Mandel, who serves as the medical director of Kno-Wal-Lin Hospice and medical director at Health Connections, a program for the PenBay Department of Occupational Health in Camden, will also lead one of the sessions. Other portions will be lead by Larry Hills, a nurse practitioner for Kno-Wal-Lin Hospice in Camden; Katielynn Spaziano, the hospice and palliative care nurse at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta; Mark McKenna, the administrator for the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou; and Kandyce Powell, executive director of the Maine Hospice Council and Maine Center for End-of-Life Care.

Among the participants at the conference will be NMCC and UMFK nursing students. The NMCC senior nursing students have been fund-raising over the past several months to help defray the cost of registration so all students can participate and take advantage of the expertise shared by the accomplished professionals in the field of pain management.

"It is important that the graduate nurses understand pain and the importance of treating the pain to enhance healing, improve the quality of life, or ease one's suffering as they approach the end of life. The nurse is taught to be an advocate, and is often the one providing the pain management," said Janet Durgin, NMCC adjunct nursing instructor and one of the conference organizers. "Our students will gain a wealth of information by attending this symposium."

The symposium will begin with registration and continental breakfast on April 16 at 8:30 a.m. and run through 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$79, and \$35 for students. Seating is limited and participants are encouraged to register in advance by going to [www.maineospicecouncil.org](http://www.maineospicecouncil.org) or calling 1-800-438-5963.

## Donation, from page 4

equipment and provide students increased efficiency in the lab," said Duplessis.

Even in the current economic downturn, highly skilled and trained machinists across Maine remain in great demand. A shortage of skilled workers in the profession, coupled with continued growth and product demand in the industry, have led companies like Mid-State Machine to develop unique partnerships with education and training facilities like NMCC.

"Mid-State feels strongly that partnering with NMCC is essential to supporting our company and industry's growth by providing the skilled talent that is needed to sustain and grow our business, as well as meet the challenges in today's marketplace," said McAllister.



Precision metals manufacturing students Robert Poliero and Matthew Dewitt show NMCC President Tim Crowley how the donated gauges work.



## Agreement, from page 1

College and University leaders. Others focus on NMCC student entry into the UMFK baccalaureate elementary education, business and nursing programs.

“UMFK wants to further enhance the student transferability into a variety of majors. Articulation agreements and good advising will facilitate ease in the transition process, help to clarify expectations, and remove barriers for students wishing to further their education. It clearly spells out for community college students how they can earn credits at a four-year institution,” said Dr. Rachel E. Albert, UMFK vice president for academic affairs and academic dean. “Over the years, we’ve enjoyed a strong and successful relationship with NMCC with student transition into the nursing major and now students will be afforded the same opportunity in other majors as well,” Dr. Albert added.

In the first of three program specific agreements, Albert and her counterpart Alan Punches, NMCC vice president and academic dean, working with faculty at their respective campuses, crafted the initial transfer protocol between the two institutions focused on elementary education. Under it, students successfully completing the associate of arts in liberal studies and

three sophomore-level education courses will be accepted as juniors at UMFK.

Moving forward, graduates of NMCC’s Associate in Applied Science in business administration will be assured that courses successfully completed as part of their required curriculum will be articulated into the Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree program at UMFK. The new agreement allows a seamless transition for NMCC students into their choice of the specialized and focused offerings available in business management at the University.

The final agreement signed by the higher education officials re-visited one forged a decade ago between the Associate in Science degree nursing program at NMCC and the Bachelor of Science in nursing degree at UMFK. Since that initial agreement, registered nurses completing their associate degree through the Presque Isle College have been able to transfer with ease to the Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program offered through the Fort Kent campus.

“As NMCC prepares to offer our nursing program in the St. John Valley this coming fall, Dr. Albert and I felt it would be appropriate to revisit our existing agree-

ment to assure that those students completing our program who wish to continue the BSN program at UMFK could do so seamlessly. As some curricular changes had occurred in both programs since the last agreement, we worked with faculty from both institutions to identify the changes, and to incorporate these into the agreement to smooth the transition for our shared students,” said Dr. Punches. “All of the transfer agreements we have signed here this morning evince the long-standing commitment of our two institutions to collaborate to place the needs of our students and the needs of the region in the forefront. As the cost of higher education continues to rise, students can ill afford missteps that may prolong their time in school. These agreements help remove many of those curricular, administrative hurdles.”

All four agreements require NMCC students to earn a minimum grade of “C” to be eligible for automatic course transfer. In addition to facilitating the academic transition from NMCC to UMFK, the agreements also provide a financial incentive as the UMFK application fees for NMCC transfer students will be waived.

## Reading Series, from page 3



published in *Port City Life*, *Portland Magazine*, *Travel Holiday* and other regional magazines, and her fiction has been published in *iris*, *Cracked Lenses* and excerpted in *Portland Magazine*. In 2005 she was recognized as one of New England’s most significant emerging writers by PEN New England. As a faculty member at NMCC, she teaches English Composition, Creative Writing and Mass Communications. She has recently completed her first novel, and lives in Perham with her husband and a pair of speckled German shorthair pointers.

The April 16 reading will feature Michael Macklin, a carpenter and a poet. He is an associate editor of *The Cafe Review*, a journal of poetry and art, and his own poetry has appeared in a number of journals and anthologies including *Rattle*, *Animus*, *Off the Coast*, *The Other Side of Sorrow*, and *The Best of Moon Pie Press, Volume 1*. His chapbook, *Driftland*, was published

by Moon Pie Press. In the last year, he has presented his work at the Belfast Poetry



Festival (collaborating with Artist Cathy Melio) and was part of a group of poets that just produced *The Police Poetry Calendar* that includes poems by Portland, Maine Police

Officers. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Vermont College.

Wrapping up the reading series on April 23 will be Shonna Milliken Humphrey, who specializes in non-fiction writing. She is the executive director of the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, Maine’s only statewide organization for writers and the literary arts.

Her nonfiction has appeared in local publications, as well as included in national anthologies. She holds a MFA in Nonfiction Writing and



Literature from Bennington College. She is a native of Aroostook County and her work reflects that background.

Just as exciting to Grieco as the reading series is the fact that each of the featured writers will also be visiting her creative writing class after the public event 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 professional writer.

“This is such a terrific opportunity for my students to have their voices heard,” Grieco said. “It’s also a wonderful opportunity for other students at the College and members of the public who love literature to hear original work by both experienced, published writers and talented beginners. It should prove to be an exciting combination.”

Members of the campus and local communities are encouraged to attend the series, which begins this Thursday, April 9, at noon in the NMCC library.

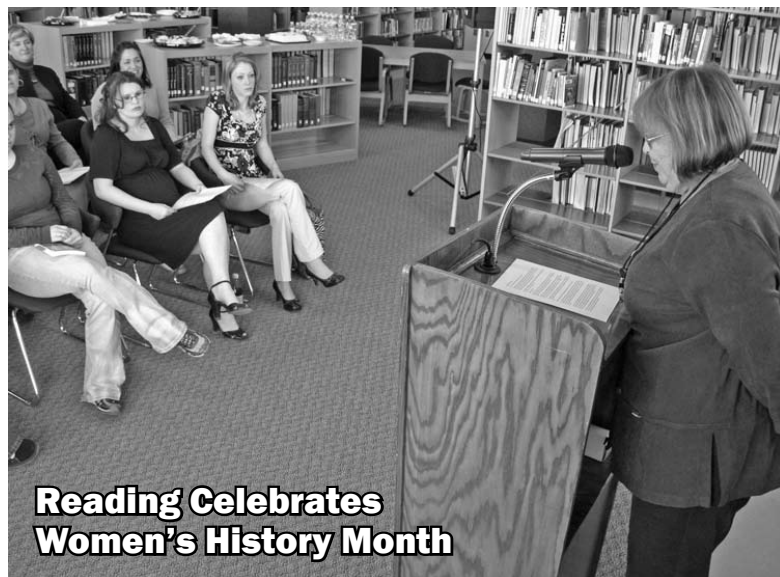
# Toward Excellence

## Campus Happenings...



**NMCC Student Nurses Donate to "Keep The County Warm" Fund**

Stephen Farnham (left), executive director of the Aroostook Agency on Aging is presented a \$100 check from Kirsten Dobson, NMCC nursing student and president of the NMCC Student Nurses Association, and Paula Flora, nursing instructor and SNA advisor. The Student Nurses Association voted to contribute funds from a recent fundraiser to the "Keep The County Warm" fund, with the contribution directed toward senior citizens in need of heating assistance.



**Reading Celebrates Women's History Month**

NMCC English instructor Jan Grieco speaks during a recent reading she coordinated with Gail Roy, assistant dean of learning resources, in honor of Women's History Month. Works by and about Native American and Maine women were featured during the public reading. Several students presented readings by prominent authors with a Maine connection, and the event concluded with the presentation of more than a dozen books written by Native American authors and donated in memory of Katherine Pictou, a student who passed away unexpectedly just before the start of the semester.



**TRiO Luncheon with the President**

NMCC students Meggan Pratt, Tamara DeOliveira, Katherine Wilcox, Mary Willard, and Wendy Genthner were just a few of those who gathered on March 17 to have lunch with NMCC President Tim Crowley. About 75 TRiO students attended the luncheon. The featured speaker for the event was NMCC alum Alyssa Murchison. Alyssa, who is now working on her bachelor's degree at Husson University, spoke to the group about how TRiO has made a difference in her life.



**St. Patrick's Day Celebrated**

As part of several special St. Patrick's Day activities on campus, students and employees gathered in the Christie lobby to take part in a live internet phone conversation with NMCC student Lucas Ireland, who is studying abroad this semester in Ireland. Above, student Jake Graham gets a turn saying hello to Luke and ask about the St. Patrick's Day happenings there. Luke is attending the Cork Institute of Technology this semester. He is one of two Maine Community College students selected as a recipient of this year's George Mitchell Peace Scholarship.

Caleb Hobbs (right), of Presque Isle, won the hand-made Cedar chest being raffled off by NMCC's residential construction students. The drawing was held at Presque Isle's 150th Birthday Party hosted at the College on April 4. With Hobbs is Nathan Gardiner, who built the chest.



**Cedar Chest Raffle**





## Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony

Several NMCC students were inducted into the campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for students in two year colleges, during a ceremony on March 27. Among those officially welcomed to the organization were, from left: Holly Nadeau, Shannon Jurist, Courtney Cyr, Gail Thibault, Morgan Burrige, Amy Blanchard, Jennifer Holcombe, Charlotte Grass, and Amanda LeJeune. Absent from photo: Lyse Dionee, Robert Gagnon, Nicholas Norton, Vincent Pelletier, and Stacey Theriault. To be invited to join PTK, a student must achieve a 3.5 or better cumulative grade point average while matriculating in a program of study.



## Student Honored

NMCC liberal studies student Glenn Capps (left) and his partner Tony Burgess were presented the Economic Development Award at the Presque Isle Chamber's Annual Recognition Dinner in February, which was held at the College. Glenn and Tony have made significant investments in Presque Isle, including the purchase of the R.W. Wight building on State Street which is the new home of the Wintergreen Art Studio. Joining them in accepting the award is their son, Dylan.



## A Generous Gift

NMCC nursing senior Wendy Samaroo (left) accepts a check on behalf of her class from Susan Dugal, NMCC medical assisting instructor on behalf of County Health Education Resource (CHER). The student nurses had requested funding from CHER to help pay for their conference fees for attending the Northern Maine Pain Symposium being held at NMCC on April 16. The organization generously provided \$250 to help pay their expenses.

## Red Cross Heroes Breakfast



Recognized as "heroes" during the 11th Annual Real Heroes Breakfast hosted at NMCC were, standing from left: Robert Defarges of Madawaska/Caribou, Michael Murphy of Glenburn, Kevin Mordasky of Stafford Springs, CT, Tom Stevens of East Holden and Donald McCubbin of Glenburn, recipients of the Neighborhood Friend Award; Joyce Findlen, Vern Ouellette, and Darren Woods from the Aroostook County Emergency Management Agency, recipients of the Extra Mile Award. Sitting from left are: David Guiggey of Mars Hill, recipient of the Valor Award; Molly White of Presque Isle, recipient of the Red Spirit Award; Madelyn Buzza of Mapleton, recipient of the Clara Barton Award; Kylie Daigle of Fort Kent/Madawaska, recipient of the Every Day Bravery Award; and Devin Cray of Presque Isle, recipient of the Young Courage Award.



Outstanding Community Humanitarian recognitions were presented to, from left: Henry Akley of Presque Isle, Glenn Heidorn of Caribou; Tiffany Martin of Presque Isle; and Matthew Sullivan and Brian Buck, Jr., both of Presque Isle. Absent from photo: Frank Patene of Connor Township and Isaac Ashby of Mapleton.



Outstanding Community Service recognitions were presented to: front, from left: Michelle Jalbert and Vicki Page of Limestone; Dixie Shaw of Caribou; Back, from left: Staff Sgt. Gary Jandreau, Father Jim Nadeau and Norma Jean Landry, all of Fort Kent; and Romeo Bouchard of Caribou. Absent: members of the Island Falls Emergency Management Agency and Fire/Ambulance Dept., and Patti and John Voisine of St. Francis.



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## Celebrating Community College Month

# An Awesome April!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>NMCC Spring Break Week</b> →			1	2	3	4
				Red Cross Heroes Breakfast Edmunds Conf. Center 7:30 a.m.		Presque Isle's 150th Birthday Party 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Edmunds & Christie Bld.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
National Women's Nutrition Week & Explore Your Career Options Week	NMCC Foundation New Scholarships Tea Edmunds Conf. Center 2:00 p.m.	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Edmunds Building 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	VITA 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Signing Ceremony for Articulation Agreements with UMFK Edmunds Conf. Center 11:00 a.m.	VITA 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. NMCC Hosts "Mission Transitions" Conference Edmunds Conf. Center 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Creative Writers Reading Series Edmunds Library 12:00 noon	Presentation of newly donated equipment to the Precision Metal Manufacturing Program PMM - CNC Lab 9:30 a.m.	Support Maine Veterans Volleyball Tournament 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. College Gymnasium Sponsored by Student Senate
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
National Library Week	Aroostook County Food Festival to benefit the NMCC Foundation 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Christie Lobby	VITA 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. State of the Community College System Address by President Fitzsimmons State Legislature-Augusta	VITA 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. President's Scholar Luncheon 12:00 noon Keegan Room (Reed)	Northern Maine Pain Symposium Edmunds Conf. Center 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Creative Writers Reading Series Thursday Edmunds Library 12:00 noon	Presque Isle Kiwanis Home and Garden Show Presque Isle Forum 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Week of the Young Child Home and Garden Show Presque Isle Forum 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Patriot's Day No Classes	Ice Cream Social Sponsored by Husson University 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Christie Lobby	Earth Day Celebration Edmunds Library 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.	Creative Writers Reading Series Edmunds Library 12:00 noon	Student Senate Vote for Teacher of the Year	
26	27	28	29	30		
	Wii Campus Bowling Tournament 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Library and Christie Lobby	Sinawik House Celebration and BBQ 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Res. Construction Lab	Totally Trades Conference Edmunds Conf. Center 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Early College for ME Senior Recognition Luncheon 12:00 noon Keegan Room	<b>Residential Construction Silent Auction</b>	