

Fall 2006

Greetings alumni and friends! The fall semester is nearing its end, but lots of exciting things have taken place. Keep reading for the latest news and updates!

## NRCC continues re-affirmation process; QEP to be developed

NRCC is now completing the steps required for re-affirmation of its accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). As part of the process, colleges are required to submit a quality enhancement plan (QEP) that they have developed.

What is a quality enhancement plan? A QEP is a carefully designed and focused college initiative to improve student learning. The selection of NRCC's QEP topic is an important decision the college will make together as faculty, staff, and students pursue one clear objective: to enhance student learning at our institution.

A QEP is a course of action for institutional improvement that addresses one or more issues contributing to quality enhancement of student learning. SACS has noted that "student learning is at the heart of the mission of all institutions of higher learning. Developing a QEP as a part of the reaffirmation process is an opportunity and an impetus for the institution to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue or issues the institution considers important to improving student learning."

The QEP must emerge from the institution's current planning and evaluation processes and must be compatible with the college's strategic plan. The QEP should not be seen as an "add-on" but rather it should become an integral part of the institution and its activities.

An effective QEP must be thoroughly focused. While important to the entire institution, it may focus on a specific discipline, group of students, etc.

NRCC has formed two committees to develop the

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### Annual scholarship brunch held



The NRCC Educational Foundation recently held its annual brunch for scholarship recipients and donors. Over 125 NRCC students have received scholarships of \$1,000 this year under the Foundation's endowed scholarship program. Shown here from left are Trisha Gibson - Simmons Family Scholarship recipient, L. T. Simmons, and Priscilla Donohue - Carilion St. Albans R. N. Scholarship recipient.

### Calendar of Events

12/11	Last day of fall classes
12/12	Exams begin
12/18	Exams end
12/19-12/21	Faculty inservice
12/22-1/2	Winter Break (college closed)
1/3	College reopens
1/15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (college closed)
1/22	First day of Spring semester

## Veteran's Day ceremony held

NRCC hosted its annual Veteran's Day ceremony on Friday, November 10. Dallas Cox, a retired Army colonel from Dublin, delivered the keynote address. His remarks focused on the story of Julius Long, a Pulaski resident who was a P.O.W. during the Vietnam conflict.



Area veterans and military recruiters participated in the early morning flag ceremony which started the NRCC Veteran's Day program. Pictured in the presentation of the flag are USMC recruiter Chris Kurlus and Korean War Veteran Claude Newman.



Children from the Early Learning Center led the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the ceremony. Pictured from left: Grayson Deu, Jenna Shelburne, Addison Levy.

## Faculty Profile: Harriette Roadman

Harriette Roadman, who teaches math at NRCC, is a multi-faceted woman with many talents. Not only is she a wife, mother, teacher and electrical engineer, but she is also a professional weaver. Weaving is her passion, which she has been pursuing for over 25 years.

Roadman, who learned how to sew as a child, developed a curiosity about fabrics and their origins. In 1979, her weaving career began when her husband, Ron, bought her a loom. Soon after, the Roadmans were off to Norway for Ron's post-doctoral work. Fortunately for Roadman, her Norwegian neighbor turned out to be a professional weaver. She agreed to teach her weaving in exchange for Roadman's assistance in her studio. The highlight of her experience was learning the special Scandinavian technique of Finn Weave, where two



layers of fabric are interwoven to create a design.

When it was time for the Roadmans to leave Norway, they settled in Pittsburgh where Ron began working as an engineer. During this time, Roadman taught math, full and part-time, at both community and four-year colleges. She also joined a weaver's guild and was able to work with a master weaver in Pittsburgh learning damask weaving on a special loom called a drawloom.

Roadman, who earned her bachelor's in mathematics at Utah State and her master's in electrical engineering at Colorado State, moved to the New River Valley in 2005 to begin teaching at NRCC.

While many people seem to be drawn to either the sciences or the arts, Harriette Roadman embraces both. In fact, she sees many similarities between mathematics and weaving. So whether she is teaching calculus at NRCC or weaving a blanket at one of her three looms, she feels equally at home.

## Streff joins NRCC

Dr. Frederick "Fritz" Streff has been named director of institutional effectiveness and research at NRCC. In this position,



**Fritz Streff**

he oversees the college's institutional effectiveness program while working with the faculty in designing and implementing assessment plans. He also coordinates and monitors compliance with federal and state higher education data reporting requirements.

Streff spent 17 years at the University of Michigan where he worked as a research scientist at the college's Transportation Research Institute.

In 2004, Streff moved to the New River Valley to manage his family's farm in Draper and to work at Wytheville Community College as an institutional research analyst.

Streff holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Kansas and master's and doctoral degrees in industrial psychology from Virginia Tech.

Streff and his wife, Frances, have an eight year old daughter, Elisabeth Ellen.

### FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE (due February 15)

The NRCC Educational Foundation offers over 125 scholarships per year to qualified students. These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, with selection criteria including financial need and academic performance.

The application deadline is February 15 for scholarships during the 2007-2008 academic year. If you know of students or potential students who might be interested in applying, please encourage them to contact the Financial Aid Office (674-3615) or the Office of Planning and Advancement (674-3617).

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QEP. The first committee will take input from faculty, staff, alumni, and the community, along with data collected in a student survey. The second committee will develop the plan once a topic has been selected.

Alumni and others interested in NRCC's future direction are invited to send suggestions for potential QEP topics to the college. Anyone wishing to give suggestions is invited to contact Dr. Mark Rowh at [nrrowhm@nr.edu](mailto:nrrowhm@nr.edu), or by calling (540) 674-3617.

## NRCC alum receives educator award



Doug Thompson (right), welding instructor at Floyd County High School (FCHS), has received the American Welding Society's Section Educator Award. The award is in recognition of high quality instructional performance devoted to the promotion and expansion of welding skills and knowledge.

Thompson, who has taught for five years at FCHS, currently has 27 high school students in the dual enrollment program offered in cooperation with NRCC. The students earn high school and college credit when they successfully complete the course. Presenting the plaque at left is Ted Alberts, professor of welding at NRCC and section director of the American Welding Society. Thompson is a 1987 graduate of the machine technology program at NRCC.

**Spring semester starts Jan. 22**

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## Jonathan Mooney speaks at NRCC

Jonathan Mooney, international lecturer and author of Learning Outside the Lines, visited NRCC this fall to share his personal struggle with learning as well as his educational mission for those who learn differently.

Despite the fact that Mooney did not learn to read until he was 12 years old, he eventually graduated from Brown University with honors. His presentation at NRCC chronicled his difficult educational journey from academic failure to Ivy League graduate through his message of personal empowerment, academic success, and educational revolution for those who think and learn differently.

Mooney, currently the executive director of Project Eye-To-Eye, a nationally acclaimed program for children with LD/ADHD, came to the New River Valley as part of a collaborative effort among the area's colleges and universities. In addition to speaking at NRCC, he also spoke on the campuses of Radford University and Virginia Tech.

### What have you been up to?

Attention alumni: NRCC would like to hear from you. Not only do we want to make sure that we have current contact information, we'd also love to know what you have been up to.

Any information regarding your current job, job promotions, awards or your personal information, including marriage and births or adoptions of children, would be welcome.

Just go to the NRCC alumni website and input any news in the comment box on the bottom of the "Update Your Address" page. This page can be found in the column on the right side of the alumni website. Be sure to include your name, current contact information, and the year you graduated from NRCC.

[nr.edu/alumni](http://nr.edu/alumni)

### Year-end Giving Opportunities

The end of the calendar year, especially, marks the time when many people think about making charitable gifts. If you itemize on your income tax returns, you're able to deduct qualifying charitable contributions during the past year.

We hope that you will consider making NRCC a part of your end of the year giving. The NRCC Educational Foundation's Director's Campaign is now under way, where you may direct any gifts given toward scholarships, textbooks, or any other need of the college.

You can give online via our website, or by contacting Mark Rowh by phone at 674-3617 or by e-mail at [nrowhm@nr.edu](mailto:nrowhm@nr.edu).

### Phi Theta Kappa honor society welcomes 44 students

NRCC has inducted 44 students into Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society for community college students. Membership is offered to those who achieve academic excellence (a grade point average of 3.2 and above) and who are enrolled in an associate degree program.

The following new members were inducted:  
Floyd County: Amanda Noakes and Alexander Wirt; Giles County: Marcia Boothe, Brittany Moye, Amanda Newman, Heather Vittum, and Natasha Whitlow; Montgomery County: Shelia Basham, Daniel Burgess, Trent Copeland, Janet Cox, Jacqueline Frank, Caitlin Jackson, April Jarrell, Linda Jessie, Angelee King, Jeremy Leblanc, Khemry Min, Shelby Mitchem, Dina Mitry, Doris Purcell, Kara Rogers, Tessa Sarvay, Jennifer Simonetti, Shannon Townley, Everett Turner, and Jarred Walters; Pulaski County: Amanda Allen, Karen Graham, Krystal Hamblin, Timothy Hancock, Jessica Miller, Jeffery Stanley, Susanne Stanley, Carrie Webb, and Joshua Willis; Radford City: Everett Agee, Angelin Barker, Tabitha Moysan, Jessica Smith, and Brandon Thompson; Clare Kiracofe of Salem, Kevin Sutton of Chesapeake, and Jacob Zervakis of Midlothian.