

Fall 2007

Greetings alumni and friends! The summer sessions have ended and the fall semester has just begun. Exciting events are taking place, so keep reading for the latest news and updates.

## NRCC Opens New Site at New River Valley Mall

New River Community College opened its doors to over 800 students at the new off-campus site at the New River Valley Mall in Christiansburg on Wednesday, August 22.

The college has renovated the former Regal Cinema space to provide 14 state-of-the-art classrooms. Over 80 classes are being offered in areas ranging from biology and history to mathematics and psychology as well as computer aided drafting and design classes.

The mall site is home to NRCC's new IT game design specialization and game technology and animation specialization (CAD). These offerings are geared for students who are interested in the rapidly growing field of game technology.

Mike Poldiak, general manager for the New River Valley Mall, has indicated that as far as he knows, NRCC's site is up to four times larger than other educational sites located in shopping malls. Poldiak believes that the NRCC mall site can be used as a

See Mall, page 4

### NRCC Supporter Mary Jane Dudley Passes Away

Mary Jane Dudley, a longtime friend to NRCC, passed away on August 3, 2007 at the age of 79. Dudley was a graduate of Radford University and a retired employee of Hercules, Inc. She was a life-long member of Dublin United Methodist Church, where she was a trustee.

Dudley was the first woman appointed to the NRCC Board and also served on the NRCC Educational Foundation Board. She was a strong supporter of the foundation's endowed scholarship program.



### Calendar of Events

9/21	POW/MIA ceremony
9/24-28	Deaf Awareness week
9/28	Fall Bash pizza party
10/10	NRCC Educational Foundation Scholarship Brunch
10/10-10/12	Faculty research days (no classes)
10/13	NRCC Fiddle, Banjo and Dance Club Jamboree
10/22-10/26	Alcohol Awareness week
10/29	Last day to withdraw from classes
11/9	Veterans' Day ceremony
11/10	NRCC Fiddle, Banjo and Dance Club Jamboree
11/19-11/21	Faculty inservice (no classes)
11/22-11/23	Thanksgiving break (college closed)
11/27	Spring registration begins
11/28	Red Cross blood drive

## NRCC Students Compete in National SkillsUSA Event

NRCC computer aided drafting and design students Lauren Ratcliff of Pembroke and Kristy Sloan of Newport, along with 3D animation specialization students Eddie Akers of Dublin and Joe Hudson of Radford, as well as SkillsUSA advisor and CADD instructor Jeff Levy, attended the National Leadership and Skills Conference hosted by SkillsUSA in Kansas City. This five-day competition consisted of 87 different trade, technical and leadership fields including computer aided design and animation.

Lauren Ratcliff, a returning national competitor in technical CAD/drafting, finished thirteenth. Kristy Sloan, a 2007 NRCC graduate and employee of Moog Components Group, finished in the top half of the architectural CAD/drafting competition. Eddie Akers and Joe Hudson, two animation students and first time national competitors, finished tenth in 3D animation and visualization.

Akers says of the SkillsUSA Competition, "It was very motivational for me to see the devotion and skill level of the other students who participated in this competition. It made me want to work even harder to achieve my goals in the animation field."

Among those providing financial support for the trip were Celanese Acetate, Giles County Board of Supervisors, Montgomery Regional Hospital, Patrick Enterprises, Volvo GM Heavy Truck Corporation, NRCC and the participating students.



From left: Akers, Ratcliff, Sloan and Hudson

## College announces hires and promotions

The following individuals have joined NRCC recently as full-time or part-time faculty or staff members. Some are familiar faces to the NRCC family, while others are new to the college.

### Full-Time:

**Kim Brewer** - Interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**Peggy Dunn** - Career Pathways Coordinator

**Heidi Morehead** - Assistant Professor, Sociology

### Part-Time:

**Tammy Akers** - Teacher, Early Learning Center

**Sheila Basham** - Administrative Assistant, NRV Mall Site

**Sabrina Cox** - Library Assistant

**Lori Graham** - Administrative Assistant, Office of the Vice President for Finance and Technology

**Andrew Meeks** - Web Developer

**Odessa Shupe** - Printing Technician, Word Processing Center

**Teena Vernon** - Project Developer, Workforce Development

## Alumni Tidbits

**Catherine Bond** ('96, drafting and design with a specialization in architecture) graduated cum laude from Virginia Tech in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in architecture. She is currently employed with Carl Abbott, Architect & Planner in Sarasota, Florida.

**Torii Deaner** ('05, computer aided drafting and design) is employed by Harrington Corporation in Lynchburg as a mechanical drafter.

**Karen O'Connor** ('80, secretarial science) is employed as an executive secretary to the chief operating officer of Marion Physician Associates in Ocala, Florida.

Have an update or recent news?  
Send your tidbit to [nrrowhm@nr.edu](mailto:nrrowhm@nr.edu) to be used in future newsletters.

## Alumni Profile: Dan Cook ('90, '02)

Dan Cook, an NRCC graduate from 1990 and 2002, loves to learn. Cook spent most of his time during the late '80's through 2002 earning a variety of college degrees.

He first enrolled at New River Community College in 1988. He graduated in 1990 with an instrumentation technology degree, but continued to take night classes at NRCC. He also began working for a local research company. After three years at the research company, he was laid off. It was then that Cook enrolled in Bluefield State College to obtain an associate degree in electrical engineering technology. Before graduating from Bluefield State, he was hired by Virginia Tech as an uplink operator and later began working in information technology at Tech.

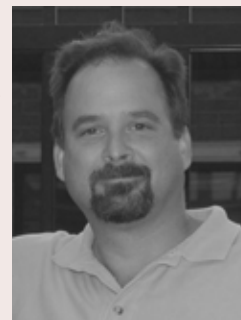
Feeling like he had really found his "niche," Cook decided to return to college. In 1996, he enrolled in Bluefield College and earned a bachelor's degree in organizational management and development. Then in 1999, Cook came back to NRCC, eventually earning a third associate degree, this time in information systems technology. Finally, to round out his educational resume, he graduated from Averett University with an M.B.A. in 2007.

Cook says of his time at NRCC, "Of all the colleges and universities I have attended, I enjoyed NRCC the most. I enjoyed the personal one-on-one approach that was afforded to the students. I enjoyed the close knit student body as well as the friendliness of the faculty who were not afraid to engage the students."

As a student, Cook was actively involved in many activities. He was a senator for the Student Government Association and was active in Phi Theta Kappa. He also served as an NRCC Ambassador.

Cook has been employed at Virginia Tech for over 13 years. Presently, he is working as a computer systems engineer. He is responsible for a number of Unix/Linux servers which perform various functions (CDR polling, databases, web servers, file servers, etc.) In addition, he supervises the departmental help desk.

A lifelong resident of Giles County, except for a four-year stint in the army, Cook lives in Newport with his wife and son. He enjoys traveling, photography, playing with computers and spending time with his family.



Dan Cook

## Fourteen NRCC Students Graduate from Practical Nursing Program

Fourteen NRCC students have completed requirements for the practical nursing program at the college. They received their diplomas during the college's May commencement ceremonies, and in July participated in a pinning ceremony after completing their summer term requirements.

Practical nursing graduates include: from Pulaski County, Heather Burns, Shelly Glavas, Shannon Jones, Mallory McMillan, Cynthia Phillips, Sharon Quesenberry, Sarah Williams, and Nikki Woodyard; from Montgomery County, Leanna Shrewsbury, Kimberly Smith and Barbara Williams; from Radford, Sarah Harless and Elizabeth Sadler; and from Floyd, Amanda Dulaney.

NRCC's one-year certificate program prepares students to qualify as contributing members of a health team, rendering patient care in a variety of health service facilities. These

students are eligible to take the Virginia Board of Nursing examination leading to licensing as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).



Seated front row from left: Elizabeth Sadler, Sarah Williams, Leanna Shrewsbury, Shannon Jones; second row from left: Mia Copeland-associate professor of practical nursing, Cyndi Phillips, Barbara Williams, Amanda Dulaney, Nikki Woodyard, LaRue Ridenhour, associate professor of practical nursing; back row from left: Kim Smith, Sarah Harless, Mallory McMillan, Shelly Glavas, Sharon Quesenberry. (Not pictured: Heather Burns)

**Spring Registration Begins Nov. 27**

**3**

## Two NRCC Students Receive National Scholarships

Kara Rogers, a student at NRCC, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Through the Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges



**Kara Rogers**

Scholarship Program, the Foundation awards 400 scholarships annually to students attending higher-education institutions granting two-year degrees.

Rogers, who received the award based on academic success and community service within the past year, is studying graphic design communications, which is a specialization of NRCC's marketing program.

Another NRCC student, Daniel Burgess, is one of 30 two-year college students in America to receive a \$1,000 Phi Theta Kappa "Leader's of Promise Scholarship."



**Daniel Burgess**

Burgess, a second-year NRCC student, is completing a double major in information technology and computer graphics and web design specialization. Also a recipient of an Educational Foundation Scholarship, he maintains a 4.0 GPA while working a full-time job and actively participating in NRCC's Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Mall, from page 1

model for other malls that would like to incorporate a college site into their facility.

Along with almost 28,000 square feet on the main level, the college plans to use the 4,000 plus square feet on the second floor for its work force development program. A food court is expected to open next door to NRCC's new entrance in mid-October.

## Students and Faculty Participate in National Leadership Conference



*Pictured from Left: Ray Wurzburger, Katey Handley, Chris Blankenship, Sheena Pickett, Andrew Pierce, Kara Rogers, and Jutta Green*

Five members of NRCC's Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) business club traveled to Chicago this summer with NRCC professor Dr. Jutta Green and associate professor Ray Wurzburger for the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference. The conference consisted of dynamic workshops, student competitions and peer networking opportunities. NRCC marketing major Kara Rogers, who placed third in the nation in "Marketing Concepts" says, "It's a good thing I have a digital camera because I took about 200 pictures from the time we entered Chicago until the time we left. We were only there for five days, but we packed a lot of activities into that time."

The keynote speaker for the conference was former world-class runner and three-time NCAA All-American track and cross country runner Eddie Slowikowski. The PBL trip was made possible in part by a donation from Roger Woody of Showcase Homebuilders.

## College Board Officers Announced

Larry Linkous of Blacksburg has been re-elected chair of the NRCC Local Board. He will serve in this capacity through the 2007-2008 academic year. Linda Petrie of Floyd County was elected vice chair for the same time period. NRCC's Local Board includes 12 community leaders from around the New River Valley. Members are appointed by their political jurisdictions for terms of four years.