

Les and Joyce Pugh Honored

Les and Joyce Pugh of Floyd have been honored by NRCC and the Virginia Community College System as recipients of the 2009 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. At an awards luncheon held in Richmond, keynote speaker Dr. John Casteen, president of the University of Virginia, saluted the Pughs and other recipients for their support of higher education.



Les & Joyce Pugh

The Pughs have been strong supporters of the college since its founding in 1969. Les Pugh served on the initial College Board and was also a founding member of the NRCC Educational Foundation Board of

see PUGH on page 4

NRCC Student Named to All-USA Academic Team

NRCC student Diane Belcher has been named to the All-USA First Academic Team. Belcher is one of 20 community college students in the nation to receive this honor. She has also been named Virginia's New Century Scholar.

To be eligible for the All-USA First Team, a student must post a minimum 3.25 cumulative grade point average and be eligible to graduate with an associate degree. The award recognizes college students who not only excel in the classroom but also extend their abilities to benefit society. With this recognition, Belcher received a \$2,500 stipend, obelisk, and medallion. She has also been featured in *USA Today* as well as AACC's *Community College Times* and *Community College Journal*.

As a New Century Scholar, Belcher received the highest All-USA Academic Team score in Virginia. She received a \$2,000 stipend from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, as well as a plaque and pin.

Both of these programs are sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa in partnership with the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and *USA Today*. Phi Theta Kappa is a two-year college honor society. Belcher was presented with the

see ALL-USA on page 4

Calendar of Events

6/24	First summer session ends
6/25	Second summer session begins
7/30	Summer classes end
8/17-21	Faculty inservice
8/24	Fall semester begins
9/7	Labor Day (college closed)
10/14	Foundation scholarship brunch
10/14-16	Fall break

Check us out on the web at www2.nr.edu/alumni

Covey Joins Advancement Staff

Angie Covey, who has been serving in the college's workforce development area, has taken on the new role of associate vice president for advancement. Working with Dr. Mark Rowh, Dr. Jack Lewis and the NRCC Educational Foundation, she will help the college expand efforts in private fundraising in support of NRCC's mission.

"During Angie's time in workforce development, she has developed close working relationships with business leaders throughout the college's service area, and has proven to be an outstanding advocate for the college," said Lewis. "With her in-depth knowledge of both NRCC and the community, along with her high level of energy and enthusiasm, Angie will bring much to this new role."



Angie Covey

NRCC Nursing Graduates Rank High in State

NRCC's nursing graduates have achieved excellence on the 2008 national RN licensure examination, placing the program's pass rate in the top 15 percent for all professional nursing programs in Virginia. NCLEX-RN is the national exam taken by nursing graduates from approved nursing programs to become registered nurses.

Four local hospitals provide support for the nursing program, including Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, Giles Memorial Hospital, Montgomery Regional Hospital, and Pulaski Community Hospital.

PBL State Competition Held

NRCC business students successfully competed in several categories at the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) state leadership conference.

Placing second for NRCC were Shane Bassett (accounting for professionals) and Brittney Early, Brandey Sutphin, and Gary Williams (business ethics).

Earning third place awards were Crystal Davis and Andrea Hammond (human resource management), Brandey Sutphin (public speaking); and Rikki Brown in two categories (job interview; management concepts).

The chapter was also recognized as the third place winner in the amount of funds raised for Project ASK, the state's community service project. Project ASK is an organization promoting the prevention and cure of childhood cancer.

In addition to the current NRCC students who received awards, several former students were also recognized as members of their university teams: Andrew Pierce, Kara Rogers, Katey Handley, and Sheena Pickett. Rogers, a rising senior at Radford University, was also elected the state president for Phi Beta Lambda.

First and second place winners will be eligible to compete at the national conference in California next month.



COMMUNICATIONS TOWER — Work is nearly complete on a new communications tower at Bald Knob in Giles County near Mountain Lake. The project will enhance the college's capabilities for serving students enrolled in Giles County, the NRV mall site, and other locations while supporting other regional needs.

Students Earn Recognition

A team of NRCC information technology programming students participated in Programming Contest 2009 at Radford University this spring, placing first. The team was made up of Dave Payne, Carmel Stowers and James St. Clair. The prize was a \$1,000 scholarship for each to attend Radford University. Dr. Rukmini Sriranganathan was the advisor for the group.

Also, Ryan Baxter, a dual enrollment high school student at Radford High School, won the Skills USA state championship in precision machining. He will compete for a national championship in Kansas City in June.

Did You Know?

NRCC has recently been mentioned in several national publications. The *New York Times* ran an article in April discussing ways malls are taking steps to attract customers. NRCC was referenced as one of the first colleges in the nation to offer classes inside a mall.

Diane Belcher's award was reported in *USA Today* (see p. 1) and NRCC's Middle College program was featured in *Inside Higher Ed*.

Alumni Tidbits

Kathreja Anne Mills ('98 police science) attended Loyola University in New Orleans from 2002 to 2003 with a concentration in criminal justice and theology. Currently, she is the communications manager at Jesuit Secondary Education Association in Washington D.C. and is involved in the start up of a website design business. She lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Amanda R. Shumaker ('07 education) has been accepted into Radford University's elementary education program.

Paula Edwards Weiss ('02 general studies) is working as an instructional specialist at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon where she oversees laboratories for the physical sciences. After graduating from NRCC, Paula earned degrees at Radford University and Virginia Tech, majoring in chemistry.

Alumni Profile: Andrew Meeks ('08)

Andrew Meeks, a 2008 information technology graduate of NRCC, has a diverse academic background. He began his post-secondary academic career in 2000 when he enrolled in Virginia Tech's computer science program. Meeks had enjoyed designing web pages in his journalism classes at Grayson County High School. After his first semester at Tech, he decided that the computer science program was not quite what he was looking for and transferred into wildlife science.

Over the next three years, Meeks worked for the Virginia Tech Forestry Department as a web developer while earning his bachelor's degree. In 2004, he graduated with a major in wildlife science and a minor in biology. In 2005, after funding for his web designing job was cut, he went to work at Automated Creations at Tech's Corporate Research Center where he worked as a computer trouble shooter.

Still keeping his hand in wildlife science, Meeks spent several springs planting trees throughout southwest Virginia and in the summer of 2006, he worked in stream sampling throughout the Shenandoah National Park. "I believe that I have seen every stream in that park," says Meeks.

After two summers of working on wildlife projects, Meeks felt drawn back to computer work. He enrolled in NRCC's information technology program to concentrate on computer programming.

"I always come back to computers. It's what I am most comfortable with," says Meeks. "And from the start, I was struck by how much New River instructors wanted the students to succeed. At NRCC, you have instructors who really care plus top-notch facilities."

In fall 2007, Meeks began working as a web developer in NRCC's Innovative Technology Center. He also began pursuing a master's degree in information technology at Virginia Tech.

"I am taking all distance education classes and have found that my previous NRCC IT classes have proven to be a strong foundation," he says.

Along with his academic pursuits, Meeks enjoys a variety of hobbies including running, gardening, farming and playing the bagpipes. Since coming to NRCC, he has performed at several NRCC functions.



Andrew Meeks

Summer Youth Theater Camp to be Held

NRCC will host its fifth annual youth theater camp for children ages seven to 11 this summer.

The two-week day camp will be held July 20 through July 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The deadline to register is June 15, and the cost is \$225.

Sandra Palmer Moye, assistant professor of English, will be the camp director. The theater camp will focus on creative play using relaxation, concentration, imagination, invention, script writing, performance, and set design and construction. Moye says the skills used in acting will help build skills in problem solving, analyzing, planning, organizing and listening.

Snacks and drinks will be provided; participants are asked to pack their lunches.

The 10-day camp will end with a performance for family and friends of camp participants.

Details and registration forms are available from Moye at 674-3600, ext. 4443 or smoye@nr.edu.

from PUGH on page 1

Directors, with his service including serving several years as president in the 1980s as well as his current position as a board member.

Joyce Pugh has also been long-time advocate of the college. She has served on the NRCC College Board, and along with her husband is a charter member of the NRCC Educational Foundation. In addition to the couple's leadership roles at the college, they have been generous in donating a number of endowed scholarships which have benefited many deserving NRCC students.



Pictured from left: Dr. John Casteen, president of UVA, Les Pugh, and Dr. Glenn DuBois, VCCS chancellor



Pictured from left: Rod Risley, executive director of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Diane Belcher and Dr. Jack Lewis, NRCC president

from ALL-USA on page 1

award during the American Association of Community Colleges Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. She was accompanied by NRCC president, Dr. Jack Lewis; his wife, Dr. Mary Ann Lewis; and Brian Clark, NRCC's Phi Theta Kappa advisor.

Belcher is a human services major at NRCC with plans to transfer to Bluefield College in the fall. As well as being a full-time student and member of Phi Theta Kappa, she works part-time in NRCC's Office of Workforce Development. Belcher also plays an active role in the Human Services and Early Childhood Development Club where she has organized campus activities to benefit the community. She spearheaded foster child "Luggage of Love" campaign 2008 which collected over 580 pieces of luggage and funds that were distributed among five local departments of Social Services.

Belcher has also been a leader in her community as an elected member of the Floyd County Board of Supervisors from 1998 to 2008. She lives in Floyd with her husband, Dean, and children, Rachel and Sam.