RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY ATTRACTS HUNDREDS TO NEW EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Education and Training Center in Ghent on Oct. 29 attracted hundreds of people from around the region representing government, education, business and industry.

President Spring presided at the ceremony. After the posting of the colors by the Woodrow Wilson High School JROTC, Rick Lilly of Glen Morgan sang the National Anthem.

Spring opened the program with remarks which he prefaced by playing the familiar theme from “Mission Impossible.” He then spoke of the “impossible mission” team that had worked together to make the training facility a reality, giving special recognition to Bill Loope, Lisa Hatcher and the staff of the Workforce Education Department.

(Continued on Page 2)
Spring announced that the Higher Education Policy Commission has approved the purchase of the building by New River with $3.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds made available by Governor Manchin. An earlier grant from the West Virginia Community and Technical College System made it possible for New River to lease the building until funds for the purchase could be raised. Congressman Rahall is also working to secure an additional $600,000 in federal funds for the project.

In his keynote address, Congressman Rahall spoke of the importance of the weatherization and green building training that is a centerpiece of the new facility.

“Here, New River will be training workers who will be employed statewide in understanding that building is more than just about hammers and nails,” he said. “Building energy efficient homes and offices involves science, art and technical expertise that traditionally had been passed down from generation to generation. Today we bring the best of the best to the table to blend all three and produce a highly skilled workforce using advanced technologies.”

Also singing the praises of the new facility were Senators Mike Green and Richard Browning, both of whom were instrumental behind the scenes in helping secure funding for the building. Tom Hughes, president and CEO of HSC Industrial, spoke of the need for the kind of technical training that can now be offered by New River to assist companies like his in finding highly skilled employees.

Following the ceremony, the visitors got a sneak preview of the Advanced Energy and Technology Expo which featured a broad spectrum of vendors including Frontier Communications, Appalachian Power, CASE West Virginia, Amtek Corporation and the West Virginia Division of Energy.

WJLS radio broadcast live from the Expo for two hours on Saturday afternoon. DJ (and New River adjunct instructor) Bill O’Brien interviewed Dr. Spring, Lisa Hatcher and several of the vendors. The Expo was scheduled on Saturday to coincide with Weatherization Day, which Governor Manchin proclaimed for Oct. 30.
In recent months two New River students have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help a person in a crisis. At the October Board of Governors meeting, Nadine Hambrick of Renick, a student on the Greenbrier Valley Campus, was awarded the first Good Samaritan Award given by the college.

Hambrick, a criminal justice and law enforcement major, was nominated for the award by Ann Tate Bell of Lewisburg for the prompt and compassionate way in which Hambrick assisted Bell after she was seriously injured in a fall.

On May 27 of this year, Bell was leaving a volunteer shift at the North House Museum when she fell and severely cut her leg. She was losing blood rapidly when Hambrick approached and asked if she could assist her. Hambrick had recently completed a first aid class and, not wanting to leave Bell alone, she fashioned a tourniquet from her shirt and stayed with her until an ambulance arrived. Bell received four units of blood at the hospital and later stated that Hambrick’s quick action probably saved her life.

“She was comforting and kind in her desire to assist someone in distress,” Bell said. “Her prompt, thoughtful response showed an excellent application of her newly acquired skills. Her act of compassion was my good fortune.”

Last summer Beckley Campus student Steven Gaither intervened in a situation that did not have such a happy outcome. He was visiting his brother-in-law when a scuffle broke out between his brother-in-law and another man. When Gaither tried to break it up, he realized the other man had a knife.

He wrestled with the attacker and received cuts on the arm and stab wounds in the stomach that required 42 staples to repair. Sadly, his brother-in-law was killed in the incident. Others on the scene were able to restrain the assailant until the police arrived.

Gaither said that throughout the ordeal his thoughts turned to his daughters, ages 10 and 3, and how much he wanted to stay alive for them. He missed the second session of summer school due to the incident, but he is now back in school pursuing a degree in business. He would like to one day open his own business and be a role model for his daughters to encourage them to attend college.
**Dr. Allen B. Withers** has been named to the new position of vice president of student services. He is responsible for administering all aspects of student life including counseling, student government and enrollment services. He began his duties on Nov. 1.

Withers comes to New River from Alderson-Broaddus College, where he was vice president of student services and enrollment management. His career in student affairs spans 21 years and three institutions. His experience includes management of residence life, orientation, financial aid and student affairs.

We are very pleased to have someone with Dr. Withers’ background and experience join our dynamic organization. “With multiple campuses and a growing student enrollment, the challenges and opportunities to expand services is exciting,” said President Ted Spring.

Withers earned a bachelor’s degree in technical writing from Alderson-Broaddus and a master’s in arts administration from the University of Illinois at Springfield. He did post-graduate work in college student personnel at Marshall University and went on to earn a doctorate in higher education administration from Kent State University in Ohio.

Prior to his career in higher education administration, he was development coordinator for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. He joined Mount Union College in Alliance, OH, as assistant director of residence life and orientation/residence director in 1989. In 1993, he moved to Georgia to become associate dean of students and director of residence life at Young Harris College. He returned to West Virginia and was named associate dean of students and director of financial aid at Alderson Broaddus in 1999. He was promoted to vice president for student services in 2002.

Withers is married to Mary Cresent Reynolds Withers, a middle and high school music and theater teacher. They have two sons, Patrick, 13, and Alex, 8.

**Ralph M. Winter** has been appointed a visiting instructor of education on the Beckley Campus. He has extensive experience as a teacher and elementary and middle school principal. He also has served as education coordinator and assistant director of Raleigh County Head Start. Most recently he worked as an interventionist in reading and math for grades K-5 at the Raleigh County Board of Education and as an adjunct instructor at New River.

Winter earned a bachelor’s degree from Marshall University with a triple major in elementary education, health and physical education and social studies. He earned a master’s in elementary education from the Marshall University Graduate College.

**Tina Bryant** has joined the staff of the Nicholas County Campus as an administrative assistant. She will provide administrative support for the Allied Health Division, which is headquartered at the Allied Health Education Center in Northside Plaza Shopping Center.

Bryant has worked for the college as a part-time assistant in the Financial Aid Office since 2009. She previously worked as an outreach assistant for the Northern West Virginia Rural Health Education Partnerships. She is a graduate of Calhoun County High School and Glenville State College.
PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED

Barbara J. Stewart has been promoted to supervisor of student accounting service. She is responsible for student accounting services at all campuses and is based in Beckley. She joined New River in 2009 as finance and grants accountant. She holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Marshall University.

Lisa H. DeLilly has been promoted to office administrator in the Office of Institutional Advancement. In this new position, DeLilly will provide research and administrative support for the college’s fundraising initiatives. She will serve as senior liaison and coordinator of the activities of the Foundation advisory boards on each campus and will manage donor relations, donor records and financial services.

DeLilly joined New River in 2006 as administrative secretary senior for Academic Services, Assessment and Workforce Development. She holds a regent's bachelor of arts degree with a concentration in business from Concord University.

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM REACCREDITED

The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses has approved continuation of full accreditation for the Practical Nursing Program. The board voted unanimously to continue accreditation until October of 2013.

Joyce Egnor, RN, MSN, director of the program, said that during the accreditation visit the executive director of the licensing board was particularly impressed with the pre-clinical classes being offered via the interactive video network.

The nursing program is based on the Nicholas County Campus and has cohorts in Clay County and Pocahontas County/Greenbrier Valley. New River’s is the first practical nursing program in West Virginia to use IVN technology to reach students in multiple locations.

New River also partners with vocational programs in Greenbrier, McDowell and Summers counties to offer college credit for practical nursing programs offered through their vocational centers.

“With support from a state grant, New River has greatly expanded its nursing program over the past two years to help meet the growing demand for well trained professional health care workers in our region. This reaccreditation confirms that we have maintained the quality and integrity of our program even as we have made this training available to students in some of the state’s most rural counties,” said President Ted D. Spring.
MEET A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. John Mark Walkup, professor of music on the Nicholas County Campus, was elected by his peers to serve as the faculty representative on the Board of Governors. Walkup is now in his twentieth year in higher education, having spent the first 10 years of his career on the music faculty at Glenville State College.

In addition to his teaching duties, Walkup is the chair of New River’s Division of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences. He previously served as assistant dean of the Raleigh County Campus. Last year, he was selected as a Chancellor’s Leadership Fellow. He is active on a number of college committees and has served on a number of search committees.

“I love my career with New River,” he says. A gifted pianist, Walkup has a private piano studio and has performed in various solo and chamber venues across the state, from The Greenbrier to the Cultural Center in Charleston. He has also performed at Georgia State University and St. Ambrose University.

A Summersville resident, Walkup is an active member of the Nicholas, Fayette and Raleigh County communities. He and his wife, Angela, are the proud parents of Wesley, 12; Kathleen, 6; and Johnny, 4.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETS ON GREENBRIER VALLEY CAMPUS

The Greenbrier Valley Campus hosted the Board of Governors for its meeting on Oct. 7.

- The board approved a resolution creating the New River Good Samaritan Award and presented the first award to Nadine Hambrick (see story on page 3).
- The board approved the August financial report presented by Steve Benson, vice president for finance and administration.
- President Spring presented an update on the proposed agreement with the Greenbrier County Commission on the use of the pool at the Greenbrier Valley Campus. Board member Ted Knight raised concerns about provisions missing from the lease that would protect the college. Spring asked Knight to review the lease and see if there were additional details that would need to be added, and he agreed to do so.
- Leah Taylor presented information concerning a one-time salary enhancement for the president. The board approved a one-time salary enhancement in the amount of 4 percent to be effective November 1, 2010.

NEXT TIME IN TRANSITIONS:
HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS AT NEW RIVER!
IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO BELLIOIT@NEWRIVER.EDU
RECRUITER HAD FUN ON EXHAUSTING “ROADRUNNER TOUR”

The high schools might refer to it as College Days, but for student recruiters who have to run the gauntlet from high school to high school during October, it’s the Roadrunner Tour.

College Days events are held at high schools and other locations so that high school juniors and seniors can learn about their college options.

Despite the craziness of attending those events across New River’s nine-county service area, student recruiter Melanie Slone said she loves the College Days experience.

“It’s a blast to meet all the students, and some of the parents come as well. It is a great way to network and tell the kids what they need to do in order to apply to college,” Slone says. “I tell them to be sure to look for a college that is nationally accredited, and I tell them that New River is a great place to start. Anyone can go to college who wants to go.”

She is most often asked about whether New River offers programs in which the students are interested.

“There’s a lot of interest in nursing and allied health,” she says.

She is always pleased to find out how many of the students have a personal connection to the college. Often they have a father, a mother, or an aunt attending classes here.

The events are also a great way to connect with high school counselors, some of whom invite Slone to their schools to do presentations to their students. In those presentations, she tries to help them understand credit hours, applying for financial aid and other aspects of college life.

“The best part of my job is when a student says, ‘Thank you. I didn’t know that’,” Slone says. “What I’m doing changes people’s lives.”

SGA officers from all campuses convened in Beckley for a meeting with student program advisors and administrators on Oct. 22. Pictured are (front row, L-R) Wanda Johnson, Denise Harvey, Cindy Smith, Eva March, Pam Lanham, Martha Baisden, Tracy Evans; (back row, L-R) Dr. Harry Faulk, Dr. Allen Withers, Carol Harris, Dr. Ted Spring, Kayleigh Oates, Brian Testerman, Cindy Dalton, Matthew Smith and Daniel Hamrick.
Many employees know that the New River Foundation provides scholarships to assist students who otherwise might not be able to attend New River. But there are other ways that the Foundation reaches out to students in need. For example Michelle Bennett, a student on the Beckley Campus, lost her home in a tragic fire during the first week of September.

Fortunately, she and her young children were able to escape the house safely with only smoke inhalation injuries, but they have few resources with which to start over.

Beckley Campus Dean Carolyn Sizemore was impressed that despite her injuries and the loss of her home, Bennett continued to attend her classes. The honor student has a 3.80 grade point average.

“She was very courageous—a real trooper,” Sizemore noted.

Sizemore brought Bennett’s situation to the attention of the Foundation and asked if they could provide some assistance.

The Beckley Campus Advisory Committee reviewed the situation and recommended that the Foundation purchase a WalMart gift card in the amount of $750 to help the family purchase needed items. The Advisory Committee presented the card to Michelle at its meeting on Oct. 21.

Your investment in the Home Run Campaign will help ensure that whenever a New River student needs a helping hand, the Foundation will be there to support them.

Correction: In the story about Cardiac Awareness Day in the last issue of Transitions, Dr. Elizabeth Nelson was erroneously identified as Dr. Elizabeth Wilson. Dr. Nelson was the chair of the event, not the keynote speaker, and she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.