DEAN CAROLYN SIZEMORE HONORED AS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR FOR 2010

Carolyn Sizemore, dean of the Beckley Campus, was honored as New River’s Outstanding Contributor for 2010 at the WV Community College Association/WV Association of Developmental Educators Conference in Martinsburg earlier this month.

In his comments at the awards banquet, President Spring commended Sizemore’s leadership during the consolidation of the Beckley and Raleigh County Campuses during the late spring and summer.

“Change is inevitable, and in many cases desirable, but it always stressful for those going through it. Carolyn’s leadership has helped steer the campuses through a challenging year of enrollment growth and re-location,” he commented.

He also noted that Sizemore has overseen record-setting enrollment growth, expansion of course offerings and facilities, development of a Weekend College and has even taught classes as needed.

Finally, he credited her work as project coordinator of the $2 million Title III grant.

“This project is making a huge difference in our ability to offer innovative classes to students throughout our nine counties. Dean Sizemore and her team are doing an outstanding job of accomplishing each year’s goals.”

Congratulating Dean Carolyn Sizemore on her selection at New River’s Outstanding Contributor for 2010 are (L-R) Jim Skidmore, chancellor of the West Virginia Community and Technical College System, Dr. Peter Checkovich, president of host Blue Ridge CTC, and President Ted D. Spring.

Happy Thanksgiving!
WELCOME TO NEW RIVER

Crystal Mabry Houchins joined the Office of Enrollment Services as a student recruiter on Nov. 1. Her office is located in Beckley, but she will travel extensively across New River’s nine-county service region to share information about the college with high school students and counselors and adult learners preparing to return to school. A resident of Bluefield, Houchins previously was a recruiter/account executive for The CSI Companies in Charlotte, N.C. She is a graduate of Radford University in Radford, Va., where she received a bachelor’s degree in biology.

Rachel Kelly is the new program coordinator on the Greenbrier Valley Campus. She will oversee the Learning Resource Center, assist students who need tutoring services and work with faculty to identify students who need extra help. She will also proctor exams, advise students, administer college entrance tests and confirm and accommodate ADA needs for students. She began her duties on November 1. She has been associated with New River for the past nine years, most recently as an adjunct instructor teaching Developmental English and Life Management Skills in the Prep 4 College Success program. She graduated magna cum laude from Bluefield State College with a bachelor’s degree in humanities with an English specialization.

FACULTY NOTES

Dr. Willis J. Nordlund, professor of business on the Beckley Campus, has published an article in the Labor Law Journal chronicling the history and questioning the future efficacy of work stoppages in the United States. Nordlund argues that the power of unions to effect change through work stoppages has been in decline for the past 30 years. He concludes that while a number of factors have weakened unions and their ability to engage in work stoppages, it was a series of five U.S. Supreme Court opinions handed down between the late 1930s and the 1980s that have most restricted union formation and the right to strike. Of these, he says the one with the greatest impact gave employers the right to permanently replace striking workers. He notes that only two countries—South Africa and the United States—are the only ones that permit permanent striker replacement.

Nordlund also argues that supporters of workers’ rights are losing the window of opportunity to pass meaningful labor law reform presented by the election of President Obama.

“This missed opportunity to change American labor law will haunt the American worker and the American labor movement for a generation,” Nordlund writes. “The next opportunity is not on the horizon, but it is certainly many decades in the future.”

Finally, Nordlund suggests that the time may have arrived for American labor unions to consider forming a labor party to advocate for workers.

WVCCA/WVDE Conference--New River was well represented on the program at the recent conference in Martinsburg. Presenters included Dr. Lucie Refslund, whose session was entitled “How Long Will it Take to Double Your Money.” Dr. David Ayersman spoke on “Creating an Infrastructure for Advanced Teaching, Learning and Student Services.” Dr. John Dynak led a roundtable on custom animation. Libby Belcher co-moderated a roundtable entitled “Preparing Women for Transformation in Higher Education Roles.” Dr. Michael Curry made a presentation on “The Why Trumps the What: Academic and Career Advising.”
Cindy Dalton, Jamie Dalton, and Josh Vance demonstrate that the spirit of Halloween was alive in the Beckley Campus Office of Admissions. Spearheading the festive project were the Daltons, along with Phillip Dues, the SGA and student workers. “My team is amazing, and the SGA is always doing something special for our students and staff. What a ‘treat’ it is! Special thanks for all of your hard work. It looked amazing,” commented Tracy Evans, director of enrollment services.
(Photo courtesy of Tracy Evans)

Ahoy! A pirate named Peaches? Yes, on the Nicholas County Campus, Peaches Stephenson discovered her inner pirate during the Halloween festivities.
(Photo courtesy of Mary Igo)

The Story Hour goblins from the Greenbrier County Public Library made their annual visit to the Greenbrier Valley Campus to show off their Halloween finery.
(Photo courtesy of Nathan England)
MEET A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Donna Feijo, a financial aid counselor on the Beckley Campus, is the elected classified staff representative on the Board of Governors. The Mabscott resident says that looking out for the needs of the classified staff is one of the most rewarding aspects of being on the board.

“If something comes up that needs to be addressed for the classified staff, that’s where I play a role. We need to recognize the valuable asset that the classified staff is to our organization.

Feijo joined New River as a student recruiter after working as director of admissions at Valley College and as the coordinator of the call centers at Mountain State University. She also has taught at the federal prison at Beaver.

She transferred to the Financial Aid office earlier this year and says that one of her main goals is to make the office very customer friendly.

“We’re trying to reduce the intimidation factor,” she explains. “One way to do that is to educate students so they understand what they are going through.”

Feijo has been married for 25 years to the “love of her life,” Tim. Her daughter Emma Rose, a New River graduate, is pursuing a degree at Concord. Her son, Emmett, and his family live in Concord, NC.

She attends Cross Point Church located on Crescent Road in Beckley. In her spare time she teaches computer classes at New River and enjoys spending time with her family and “playing the grandma role” to her grandsons Emmett Jr., Colby and Maddox.

In Memoriam: Jamie Tinney

Jamie Tinney, a student on the Nicholas County Campus, died at Summersville Regional Medical Center on Friday, Nov. 19, after a short battle with cancer. He was diagnosed six months ago with sarcoma, a rare type of cancer that began in his right arm and spread. Doctors amputated his arm three weeks ago hoping to stop the spread, but were unsuccessful.

According to the Charleston Daily Mail, Jamie was a 2010 graduate of Richwood High School. His cousin, Jack Tinney, also a firefighter, said he had been studying criminal justice at New River with plans to become a U. S. Marshal. The Marshal Service deputized Jamie at 8 a.m. on Friday, and he died a few hours later.
President Spring demonstrated his hidden baking talents at the Fourth Annual Top Chef Delta Style fundraiser earlier this month. Spring’s carrot cake came in second in the competition, which features men in the community who are invited to prepare their signature dish. The winners were selected by vote of the attendees at the event, who sampled the various goodies and voted by putting a coin in the cup of their favorite dish. Spring attributes his baking prowess to his grandmother, who was a professional chef in his home state of New York.

Lisa DeLilly of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presents “Top Chef Spring” with the trophy he received for baking a yummy carrot cake at the organization’s fundraiser.

GUEST LECTURERS ENLIVEN CLASSROOMS

(Photo at left) Students in Katherine Dailer’s Ecology 101 class on the Greenbrier Valley Campus welcomed a number of feathered visitors when Ron and Wendy Perrone from the Three Rivers Avian Center made a presentation on Nov. 12. In addition to the great horned owl pictured with Wendy, the couple also brought along a peregrine falcon, a red-tailed hawk, a broad-winged hawk, a screech owl and a barn owl.

(Photo at right) Keith Spangler of the Summersville Convention and Visitors Bureau recently spoke on tourism and the new Civil War Trail Signs project to Gary Wilcox’s Introduction to Business class on the Nicholas County Campus. “Every dollar spent in Nicholas County turns over 14 times in our community including lodging, gas, groceries, outdoor gear and more,” Spangler told the students. (Photo courtesy of Gary Wilcox)
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE A 20-YEAR DREAM

Laura McGraw, a student on the Beckley is pursuing a 20-year-old dream thanks in part to a Carter Family Foundation Scholarship awarded to her by the New River Community and Technical College Foundation.

A resident of Fayetteville, McGraw is majoring in criminal justice. She is the mother of four and grandmother of six. She says that she has dreamed of a career in corrections for the past 20 years, but her first attempt at getting a degree was sidetracked by working three jobs while she was in school, and then by raising three kids.

“Now I am investing in myself,” she says, and she is thrilled with her experience at New River.

“I have loved all my teachers,” she comments. “I have not had a bad teacher, and they all bend over backwards to help you.”

She was astounded to learn that free tutoring services were available to her, and is grateful to Joseph Connard for all his assistance.

“I couldn’t believe it is free,” she says. “A lot of people don’t know about this wonderful service.”

She notes that Dr. Shirley Davis offered to tutor her in math, even though she is not a student in her class.

“That's just how everyone is here,” she says. “They want me to succeed.”

McGraw says there are many options in the field of criminal justice. She is considering becoming a counselor at a domestic violence center or a probation offer for sexual offenders.

In response to receiving the scholarship, she says she is overwhelmed that a family would donate the funds to set up a scholarship so she can continue her education.

“It came at a time when I really needed it,” she said. “It met needs, not wants.”

YOU can make a difference in the lives of New River students. Your donation to the Home Run Campaign will fund scholarships, upgraded facilities and advanced technology to insure that our students have every opportunity to get a first-class education.