CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Ninety-six of the almost 200 candidates for graduation received degrees and certificates at New River’s Seventh Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 16. Many thanks to all the faculty and staff who volunteered their time to help assure that graduation ran smoothly. See pages 3 and 4 for highlights from the big day.
BATTER UP!
HOME RUN SEASON HAS BEGUN

New River has launched a three year, $6-$7 million major gifts campaign to support capital projects, technology upgrades and scholarships that will significantly impact the quality of programs and services we offer our students.

The first phase of the campaign is the internal, or “family,” campaign. During this phase members of the college faculty and staff are being asked by co-workers to make an investment in New River by pledging to support the college at whatever monetary level they feel comfortable giving.

The internal campaign has been dubbed “The Home Run Campaign” and features a baseball theme. Expect lots of baseball puns and props! This phase of the campaign is critically important, not so much in terms of dollars pledged by employees, but by the breadth of support that is demonstrated by the college family. As we move into the public phase of the campaign, potential donors will want to know how much support the campaign has within the college, and our goal is to answer that question: “100 percent of our employees have donated or made a pledge to the campaign.”

You’ll be hearing a lot about the Home Run Campaign in the coming weeks. Please step up to the plate and hit one home for New River!

MEET THE HOME TEAM

The major gifts campaign is a massive undertaking. Overall direction of the campaign is in the capable hands of Bill Loope, vice president of institutional advancement and workforce education, and his outstanding staff. Chris Anderson, a consultant with the Clements Group is providing guidance on the project. A Campaign Management Committee chaired by Libby Belcher is meeting monthly to monitor progress and troubleshoot any problems that arise.

A dedicated corps of co-chairs and vice chairs have been recruited to carry out the Home Run Campaign. The picture above was taken at the first meeting of the campaign co-chairs. Pictured are (Front, L-R) Chris Anderson, Karen Tully, Libby Belcher, Brigette Neil, Sharon Evans (Back, L-R) Bill Loope, Dr. Spring, Lisa DeLilly, Dr. Harry Faulk, Renae McGinnis and Roger Griffith.

In addition to those pictured, Karen Carter-Harvey, Bryan Seldomridge and Joycie Wawiye are also serving as co-chairs. Mary Igo, Susie Atkins, Lori Midkiff, Steve Garlow, Melinda Ford and Melanie Slone have signed on as vice chairs to assist with the campaign among classified staff.

The Home Run Campaign Update is a “newsletter within a newsletter” that will be a regular feature of Transitions throughout the capital campaign. It will keep you updated on campaign progress and give you a glimpse of the special people who are creating a bright future for New River and its students.
Rondah Lowe of Hinton, student representative on the Board of Governors and West Virginia’s 2010 New Century Scholar, inspired her classmates with a challenge to do something meaningful with their lives. Photo by Rick Barbero

Father and son Jack Lilly Jr. (left) and Jack Lilly III of Beckley earned degrees in computer science. Photo by Mike Williams

President Spring presented a framed medallion of the New River seal to commencement speaker Senator Bob Plymale. Photo by Rick Barbero

Dr. John Mullens, president of the Faculty Senate, brought greetings and words of wisdom to the graduates. Photo by Rick Barbero

AT LEFT
Among the many faculty and staff who volunteered their time to help assure that graduation ran smoothly were (L-R) Rita Holcomb, Mercer County Campus; Brigette Neil, Nicholas County Campus; Heike Soeffker-Culicerto and Barbara Stewart, Business Office; and Janie Smith, Beckley Campus. Photo by Barbara Elliott
A happy quartet from the Nicholas County Campus: (L-R) Kathy and Kenneth Scott of Summersville; Samantha Artrip of Mount Nebo; and Melissa Russell of Fenwick. Ken Scott served as Nicholas Campus SGA president this year, and Kathy was vice president.

Photo by Barbara Elliott

Dr. David Perkins, New River's first president, was proclaimed "President Emeritus" by the Board of Governors, and Dr. Spring presented him with a medallion of the New River Seal.

Photo by Rick Barbero

Beckley Campus SGA President John Wood (left) takes a moment for a photo op with classmates (L-R) Jamie Dalton, Ryan Withrow and Consuela Phillips.

Photo by Barbara Elliott

Craig Payne of Dawson and Heather Logsdon of White Sulphur Springs received Associate of Fine Arts degrees in Studio Arts. The first three A.F.A. degrees were awarded this year from the Fine Arts Program on the Greenbrier Valley Campus. Work by the three graduates is featured in a show currently on display at the GVC.

Photo by Barbara Elliott
WELCOME TO NEW RIVER

Twana L. Jackson is the new director of purchasing. She is headquartered in the business office in Beckley. She comes to New River from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, where she was a purchasing assistant in the business office. She had previously worked as an associate buyer/planner for West Virginia Power and Allegheny Power. She attended Bluefield State College, where she earned an associate’s degree in General Education and a Board of Regents bachelor’s degree in Business with a management emphasis. She earned her master’s degree in Strategic Leadership from Mountain State University in 2008.

Amanda Baker has joined the Human Resources staff as a human resources representative based in Beckley. She previously worked as a senior recruiter for Lab Support, an international professional staffing provider specializing in placing scientific and technical professionals into laboratory and manufacturing environments. She earned her bachelor’s of science degree in Biology from Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC.

Donna Feijo has joined the Financial Aid staff as a financial aid counselor for the Beckley Campus. She had previously been a recruiter in the Office of Enrollment Services. She also has just completed her first year as the classified staff representative on New River’s Board of Governors.

How do I get the New River logo to show up on my phone?
If you have either the 7945 or the 7965 model of phone (not the grayscale 7942) then you can add the New River logo as the background screen. Please follow these steps:

Press the SETTINGS button on your phone.
Press the SELECT key to choose User Preferences.
Press the down arrow once, then press the SELECT key to choose Background Images.
Press the right arrow once and then press the SELECT key to choose the New River logo.
Press the SAVE button and then the EXIT button twice and you’re done.
A record 63 students from New River Community and Technical College were inducted into the Beta Zeta Delta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honorary society in ceremonies held on the Raleigh County Campus in Beaver on Sunday, May 2. The guest speaker was Bill Loope, vice president of institutional advancement and workforce education.

Dr. Lucie Refsland, professor of mathematics and faculty co-sponsor, presided over the ceremony with assistance from Chapter President Lynn Slater of Lewisburg. Tim Hofmann of Lewisburg, faculty co-sponsor and instructor of Biology, gave a brief history of the organization.

Officers elected for the 2010-11 academic year for the Beta Zeta Delta chapter are Vonda Lockhart of White Sulphur Springs, president; Cynthia Smith, Rupert, vice president; Geneva Highlander, Alderson, secretary; and Jessica Nelson, Crab Orchard, treasurer.

The Nicholas County Campus SGA celebrated the end of the school year with an awesome 80’s dance. (Far Left) See if you can spot the non-New River Student in this crowd! (Left) The SGA honored faculty advisor Dr. Lisa Brewer, Brigette Neil and Mary Igo for their many contributions to the organization this year.

Photos courtesy of Kathy Scott
BECKLEY CAMPUS CONSOLIDATION OFFERS BENEFITS

Although the decision to move all New River operations from the Higher Education Center to the Beckley Campus has created some uncertainty and stress in recent weeks, President Spring says the consolidation of the campus is ultimately a positive step for the college.

“We were in a very difficult situation with not being allowed to schedule our classes at the HEC because we were not able to sign our contract until we had our FY 11 budget approved by the Board of Governors. Before we could accomplish that, we were evicted,” he explained. “Although we were offered space for limited classes and a small administrative office, we would have no faculty offices, so it makes more sense to consolidate everything.”

He noted that the move will enable the college to make more efficient use of the facilities, and the campus is being spruced up so that it will be more attractive and welcoming. In addition, students will no longer have to shuttle back and forth between the two campuses.

“The college will be better off financially as a result of this move, and I believe it will help build a spirit of community for everyone to be located in the same place until we can build our new campus,” Spring said.

NEW CLINICAL LAB FOR BECKLEY CAMPUS

Just before the semester ended, Anita Stapleton’s Medical Assisting students had a chance to try out all the new equipment in the clinical skills lab located in the Annex Building on the Beckley Campus. The lab has stations for practicing a number of procedures including checking blood pressure, drawing blood, administering medications and more. Dr. Faulk was surprised to find that his blood pressure was normal, even though it was the final week of classes.
**FACULTY ACADEMY**

The theme of the Faculty Academy on May 18 was “Sharing Best Practices for Distance Education.” The program featured a thought-provoking keynote address by W. Garner Campbell of Baylor University, who, appropriately enough, used technology to make his presentation from a distance.

The program opened with a roundtable discussion by Shirley Davis, Joycie Wawiye, Scott McClanahan and Karen Carter-Harvey, who shared their Angel tips. The program also included presentations by Ralph Payne, Nikki Swiger, Dr. David Ayersman, Dr. John Dynak, Dr. Lucie Refsland, Margie Vines, Anita Stapleton, Joyce Egnor, Karen Tully and Edwin Perez.

**HOKE WINS BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION**

Danielle Hoke of Maxwelton, a student on the Greenbrier Valley Campus, was chosen as the winner of the first-ever New River Business Plan Competition. Her plan for opening a coffee shop earned her a laptop computer and printer and recognition at the West Virginia Small Business Administration Awards Luncheon at Tamarack on Thursday, May 13. It was quite a week for Hoke, pictured here at the awards luncheon with President Spring. She got married the weekend before the awards ceremony and graduated from New River with an A.S. in Business the following Sunday. Congratulations Danielle!