



Spotlight on NFCC

A PUBLICATION FOR THE NORTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FAMILY

Around Campus

NFCC CLOSING FOR WINTER BREAK

The NFCC campus is closed Wednesday, Dec. 17 through Friday, Jan. 2 and re-opens Monday, Jan. 5.

SPRING TERM 2009

Registration for Spring Term 2009 resumes Jan. 5. Spring class schedule is available at www.nfcc.edu. Classes begin Jan. 7.

SPRING KICK-OFF MEETING JAN. 6

Attention Employees: The Spring Kick-Off meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 9 a.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Coffee and donuts will be served in the Art Gallery at 8:30 a.m. An agenda for the Spring Kick-Off meeting and the various departmental meetings will be sent out Jan. 5.

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The NFCC Board of Trustees meets Tuesday, Jan. 20 in the NFCC Student Center, Bldg. 9, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. Contact Cindy Gaylard at 850.973.1618 or email gaylardc@nfcc.edu.

Susan Taylor is FACC Professor of the Year

NFCC English instructor Susan Taylor has been awarded the 2008 Florida Association of Community College's Professor of the Year Award for Instructional Excellence. Taylor received the award at the 59th Annual FACC Convention in Orlando Nov. 20.

Taylor was one of three state finalists to compete for the prestigious award and competed against instructors from Lake-Sumter Community College and Broward College. Her presentation entitled "Excuse me, but I seem to have misplaced my modifier!" featured a classroom teaching scenario on correctly placing modifiers to ensure that audiences clearly and accurately understand written and verbal messages. The presentation, made to the FACC Faculty Commission, was critiqued based on

presence, speaking, auxiliary materials and communication of concepts.

Her teaching method for the presentation incorporated humorous examples and active participation allowing students to demonstrate the ability to identify and correct misplaced modifiers.

Taylor was nominated by the FACC chapter at NFCC earlier this year to compete for Professor of the Year and was selected by members of the FACC Faculty Commission at its spring conference to be among the top three finalists. Her presentation at the November convention sealed her victory in the



NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf presents Susan Taylor with a certificate of congratulations.

competition and according to Taylor she received much encouragement and support from her colleagues at NFCC.

"It is an honor to have been nominated by my colleagues, said Taylor. "I am thankful to the students, faculty, staff and administration who took time to offer letters of support. Additionally, my colleagues provided constructive criticism that helped me to hone these two presentations. Thanks to their expertise and feedback, I was able to represent the good work that is being accomplished here at NFCC," said Taylor.

NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf and college employees held a reception in the NFCC Art Gallery Dec. 1 to congratulate Taylor for her achievement.

"We at NFCC have always known of the excellent quality and high caliber of our instructors and now the rest of the state knows," said Grosskopf.

Business Club hosts food drive

The NFCC Business Club recently hosted a food drive to aid the efforts of the Madison County Consolidated Christian Ministries Food Bank.



Business Club President Dominique Reed of Suwannee County, above, coordinated the food drive along with club members Hugo Rosalio and Magaly Rosalio of Lafayette County. The drive lasted several weeks, during which food donations were made campus wide by faculty, staff and students.

Around Campus

GED PREP CLASSES BEGIN JAN. 7

NFCC's Adult Education Department offers Madison County residents free preparation classes for the national 8-hour General Educational Development (GED) exam. Classes begin Jan. 7. Flexible class schedules are available 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday or Tuesday evenings from 5-9 p.m. Adults of any age - including young adults who are at least sixteen years old and no longer enrolled in high school - are invited to take the qualifying exam for admission into the GED Prep course. Free basic skills and literacy classes may also be available for adult applicants who do not meet the minimum standards on the exam. To find out more about the GED and NFCC's free GED Prep classes, call (850) 973-9440. More information is also available on the NFCC website at www.nfcc.edu.

2009 COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

NFCC's Community Education Department is offering a variety of personal enrichment courses beginning January 2009. View the course listing at www.nfcc.edu (keyword: Community Education) or contact Suzie Godfrey at (850) 973-9453 or GodfreyS@nfcc.edu.



Andy Denmark

Local talent receives NFCC music scholarship

NFCC recently awarded Suwannee County student James Andy Denmark with a full ride music scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Denmark's love for music began at Suwannee High where he learned to play the trumpet. Later, he continued to pursue an education in music studying the drums under Percussion Instructor Carl Manna of Lake City, Fla. He has since been enrolled in NFCC's music program and performed with the Jazz Ensemble for two years, while studying and playing the drums and piano under NFCC Music Instructor Dr. Rebecca Burkart.

Denmark sees his future in music. He plans to major in Jazz at Florida State University and to then pursue a music related career.

"After college I plan on becoming a musical performer and perhaps a music instructor," said Denmark.

Denmark, a resident of Live Oak, is set to graduate from NFCC in May 2009.

NFCC Library receives FACC Exemplary Practice Award

Sheila Hiss, Director of Library and Learning Resources at NFCC, and NFCC's Marshall Hamilton Library staff have been awarded an Exemplary Practice Award by the Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC). The award was presented to Hiss at the 59th Annual FACC Convention in Orlando on Nov. 20.



NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf presents Library staff, left to right, Sheila Hiss, Kay Hogan and Lynn Wyche with a certificate of congratulations.

Hiss was among two presenters chosen from around the state by the FACC Learning Resource Commission to vie for the prestigious award. Her presentation centered on the library's Starbooks Internet Café and Patio and how the additions of the café in 2005 and the patio in 2008 benefit the NFCC Library and students of the college.

The Starbooks Internet Café was created in 2005 as a place within NFCC's Marshall Hamilton Library where students can stop in, socialize and enjoy a cup of coffee, hot tea or cocoa while having access to wireless internet. In August 2008 the Library introduced an outdoor area, the Starbooks Internet Patio, where students can enjoy outdoor seating and wireless internet service around the clock. This year the Library also added activities in the café such as a community jig-saw puzzle and in the spring plans to offer visitors access to Nintendo Wii and the popular game Guitar Hero.

In her FACC presentation, Hiss explained how the Starbooks Internet Café and Patio offer a relaxed atmosphere that welcomes students to the Library, how the Starbooks Café has acted as a focal point for campus collaboration, and how the café

and patio have been a great marketing and publicity tool for the library. The café has housed a telescope to help promote NFCC astronomy classes, been the location for book signings, concerts and other campus events and its walls offer a little art and history through the display of Native Floridian art prints.

"My staff has made all the difference in making the Starbooks Internet Café and Patio a success," said Hiss. "They are so great to work with and are always willing to go along with whatever idea I can imagine. I couldn't have done this without them."

NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf and college employees held a reception in the NFCC Art Gallery on Dec. 1 to congratulate Hiss and the NFCC Library staff for receiving the FACC Exemplary Practice Award.

"Service to students and the community is a top priority of the NFCC Library staff," said Grosskopf. "Sheila Hiss and the library staff are innovative and helpful and this award is confirmation of how well NFCC in general and the Library in particular serves its community."

NFCC student builds stronger career plan through education

Early Childhood Education student Sarah Baker has always known she wanted a career working with children. "It comes easy for me," the Lafayette High School 2007 graduate said of working with pre-school children.



Sarah Baker

While still in high school, Sarah began working at a day care about 25 hours a week. As a high school junior, she enrolled at NFCC and as a senior was dual enrolled at the college.

When Sarah graduated from LHS, she headed over to NFCC full-time where she expects to graduate in April 2009 with an Associate in Arts degree. Meanwhile, she is working about 30 hours a week at the Learning Corner in Mayo which fulfills her hourly requirement to graduate with an Early Childhood Professional Certificate (ECPC) in December.

"I've been working at a daycare for the past three years," Sarah, 19, said.

When she realized she couldn't move up in her chosen career without certification, she immediately signed up for NFCC's Early Childhood Education program. By getting her ECPC, she will have better opportunities for employment advancement while she continues to work toward a degree.

Sarah plans to continue her education and teach at the pre-kindergarten or kindergarten level. "I plan to transfer to Saint Leo University and get a teaching degree," Sarah said.

Working in education runs deep in her family. Her mother has been involved with day care work for years and her dad is a longtime Lafayette County school bus driver. Sarah hopes to one day teach in a small county like Lafayette County or perhaps another nearby small county.

Attending college for Sarah has been a great experience. "NFCC is nice, you don't get lost, you get to know some of the teachers," Sarah said of her college experience.

New Early Childhood Education classes begin Jan. 7. Call (850) 973-1629.

NFCC Drafting Program helping students and the community J.D. Coody designs plans for Lee City Hall addition

The Drafting Program at NFCC, which prepares students for jobs in architectural or mechanical drafting, recently assisted the Town of Lee by preparing building plans for Lee City Hall's new conference room addition. NFCC drafting student J.D. Coody created the plans and says he is excited to see his design become a reality.

"It helped me understand more about what I'm drawing," said Coody. "I'm glad they gave me the opportunity."

The conference room is currently under construction and according to Lee Town Manager Cheryl Archambault the roof of the building is framed and should be completed soon.

"NFCC saved the town lots of money," said Archambault. "We appreciate the college assisting us. The quality of work was very impressive and J.D. was a pleasure to work with."

Archambault contacted NFCC drafting instructor Lauri Newton last year about drawing the plans for the Lee City Hall addition and worked with Coody throughout the design process.

"J.D. is a wonderful example of the kind students we have coming through our drafting program," said NFCC drafting instructor Lauri Newton. "From the preliminary sketches to the finished product, it is very rewarding for me to see our students sense of accomplishment when we can visit the construction site of an actual project they designed in class."

Students in NFCC's drafting program visited the construction site in October and will be invited to the grand opening of the new conference hall upon its completion. The new addition will be used for meetings of the Lee Town Council and will be available for community and public meetings.

"The Lee Town Council was very excited to work with NFCC on this project," said Archambault. "I wonder if people realize how much the college provides beyond education and how much the college gives back to the community."

Coody, a resident of Pinetta and a Madison County High School graduate, plans to graduate from NFCC in May 2009. He is currently employed with and draws plans for Van's Cabinet Shop in Lake Park, Georgia. Of drafting he said, "it's fun and it never gets boring." Registration for the NFCC Drafting program re-opens Jan. 5. Classes begin Jan. 7. For information contact Lauri Newton, (850) 973-1633, or visit www.nfcc.edu (keyword drafting).



NFCC student J.D. Coody and instructor Lauri Newton.

Perry Elks Lodge awards vocational scholarship



The Perry Elks Lodge No. 1851 recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to NFCC student and Perry resident Wendy Johnson (not pictured). NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf, left, and Executive Director of the NFCC Foundation Gina Rutherford, right, accept the scholarship donation from Perry Elks Lodge members Roscoe Sheffield and Drew Taylor Nov. 17 at NFCC.

The Perry Elks started the NFCC Vocational Perry Scholarship Fund last year, with the intent of providing a local student with the needed support for achieving the educational requirements necessary to become a successful and contributing member of the Perry community.

Debbie Bass is keynote speaker at luncheon honoring Senator Helen Gordon Davis

NFCC's Displaced Homemaker Program Coordinator Debbie Bass was a keynote speaker at a recent luncheon held in Tampa, FL Oct. 16 honoring Florida senator and women rights activist Helen Gordon Davis. Davis has been a champion for women's rights since the early 70's.

After starting Florida's first women's center in 1971, Davis went on to lobby for the Displaced Homemaker Act and the Marriage License trust fund for spouse abuse centers. Through her continued dedication she encouraged legislature to allow pregnant students to remain in school and later provided support for maternity and paternity leave for state employees.

"Senator Davis, you could not have possibly known the far-reaching effects of the visionary legislation you sponsored in the mid-70's that established the Displaced Homemaker Program," said Bass during her address at the luncheon. "Now, over 30 years and thousands of women later, these programs are still serving women over 35 who have been through life-changing situations like divorce, separation, welfare dependence, or widowhood. Thanks to you, these women now have opportunities to reenter life more fully equipped to be primary breadwinners. The skills, education, and support they receive in our programs around the state enable them to move forward with confidence."

Davis was the first woman elected from Hillsborough County to the Florida House of Representatives in 1974. She was reelected for six consecutive terms. In 1988 she was elected to the Florida Senate.

For more information contact Debbie Bass at (850) 973-1664 or bassd@nfcc.edu.



Debbie Bass and Helen Gordon Davis



NFCC instructors gather for Faculty Retreat College instructors focus on developing an "objective-based syllabus"

The Institutional Effectiveness Committee at North Florida Community College hosted an NFCC Faculty Retreat workshop in November bringing college instructors together in a fun and creative environment for the sharing of ideas. The goal of the three-hour retreat was to create an objective-based syllabus that meets criteria established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the institution which governs accreditation of NFCC and other degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. College faculty, along with NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf and Acting Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Sharon Erle, gathered at the "Bacot Cabin" on the Withlacoochee River for the workshop entitled "What Students Need to Know: Designing the Objective-Based Syllabus." Attending the workshop are (standing left to right) Efrain Bonilla, Frances "Cissy" Adleburg, Kathleen Andersen, Susan Taylor, Teresa Stalvey, Marie Guest, Enid Kozlowski, Greg Molnar, Sharon Erle, Rebecca Burkart, John Grosskopf, Tony DeLia, Michael Stine, Glenn Bryce and Phillip Taylor; and (seated, left to right) Bonnie Littlefield, Jhan Reichert, David Paulk, Nancy White and Barbara McCauley. A second retreat is scheduled for February where NFCC faculty will discuss and gain a better understanding of matching assessments to learning outcomes on course outlines and syllabi. A report on the November retreat was presented to the NFCC District Board of Trustees Nov. 18 at NFCC.

Local artist donates watercolor to NFCC

Local artist Kay Cromartie of Metcalf, Ga., left, recently donated an original watercolor she had painted of NFCC's Wardlaw-Smith-Goza Conference Center to hang on permanent display in the Conference Center.

Cromartie, a retired high school art teacher, is the owner of Iron Rock Farm Studio and Gallery, where she enjoys raising and painting Tennessee Walking horses. She has both a bachelor's and master's degree in Art Education and paints in the medium of oil and watercolor.



Planetarium shows offer three dimensional journeys into space

NFCC's portable planetarium is great teaching tool

Planetarium shows available to area schools

The NFCC Science Department has an exciting new teaching tool that can take students on a three dimensional journey of the cosmos – an inflatable planetarium. Twenty-three feet in diameter, the inflatable and portable planetarium offers audiences a three dimensional visual experience where celestial bodies, astronomical phenomena and re-creations of the night sky can be displayed on the planetarium's domed ceiling.

From the outside, NFCC's planetarium is a large blue dome inflated by a high velocity fan. The planetarium is easily and quickly set-up and can comfortably seat about 20 to 25 people. A zippered opening on the side allows individuals to enter the planetarium.

Once inside a projector re-creates the night-sky and areas of the universe on the planetarium ceiling. Stars and planets are accurately positioned and the projector can be commanded to display different views of the heavens from different positions on Earth as well as different seasons or times of day. The projector can also play movie type planetarium shows.

Currently NFCC has three 40-minute shows including "Extreme Planets," "Black Holes" and "Ultimate Universe" and according to NFCC instructor Dr. Tony DeLia, the college's planetarium and shows

are portable and can be taken to area middle schools and high schools.

"The planetarium's primary role is to serve as a teaching tool that can be taken out into NFCC's district," said DeLia. "The planetarium can be set-up on the NFCC campus or taken to schools that have enough space, such as a gym or other large inside area."

The planetarium shows are state of the art CGI (computer-generated imagery) created by Clark Planetarium Productions. DeLia uses the presentations in his Introduction to Astronomy course which is being offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:45 a.m. beginning Jan. 7.

"The presentations are educational and interesting and the visual experience is fun," said DeLia.

For more information or to schedule a

planetarium presentation, contact Dr. Tony DeLia at (850) 973-1632 or email DeLiaA@nfcc.edu. To enroll in the Spring Term 2009 Introduction to Astronomy class, contact NFCC Enrollment Services at (850) 973-1622. More information is also available at www.nfcc.edu.



Dr. Tony DeLia, right, and an NFCC student stand outside the planetarium.



A scene from Clark Planetarium Productions' "Ultimate Universe"



Area educators attend NFCC Math Summit

Area educators attended NFCC's Math Summit in October. The summit, hosted by the NFCC Math Department, allowed area K-12 instructors and school personnel to network with NFCC instructors and discuss important topics in education. In addition to participating in discussion sessions on such topics as FCAT, Algebra Testing, Postsecondary Math Readiness Courses for High School Seniors and Mapping Algebra Skills, the visiting instructors also toured NFCC's newly renovated College Preparatory Building and math classrooms and enjoyed lunch at the college. NFCC sponsors a variety of educational summits each year to help share ideas and foster communication between educators in NFCC's six-county service area.

LEFT: NFCC math instructor Efrain Bonilla leads a discussion during the Math Summit at NFCC Oct. 24. Thirty middle and high school teachers from NFCC's six-county service area attended the educational summit.



Community Chorus shines in holiday concert Chorus invites new members to join this January

The Community Chorus of NFCC performed a holiday concert Dec. 7 at the NFCC Fine Arts Auditorium. Under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Burkart, NFCC music instructor, and Dr. Arnold Burkart, the group's harmonious voices joined together for such songs as "Let Joyful Anthems Rise," "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal," "Tis the Season to be Jolly," "Jingle all the Way," "Alleluia, Alleluia," and "Lullaby of the Shepherd."

"Cheers to the Community Chorus, Dr. Rebecca Burkart and Dr. Arnold Burkart for their beautiful Christmas concert," said concert patron Kathy Sale.

Members of the NFCC Community Chorus are of all ages and come from throughout NFCC's six-county service area of Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee and Taylor counties. New members are invited to join the chorus at the start of NFCC's spring term in January. The chorus is open to both novice and experienced singers. For more information, contact Dr. Rebecca Burkart at (850) 973-1643 or email Music@nfcc.edu.

Student talent featured in Fall Concert at NFCC

Music Department thanks community for support

NFCC proudly featured its music students in concert Dec. 4 at Van H. Priest Auditorium. The concert, entitled "History of Jazz: Part I," was the finale to the NFCC Music Department's fall classes and showcased the talents of the NFCC Jazz Ensemble and Sentinel Singers.

According to Dr. Rebecca Burkart, NFCC music instructor and concert director, the concert was well supported by the community. Donations were accepted at the door raising \$250 to help support music education at NFCC.

"We appreciate the donations and are extremely proud of our students," said Burkart.

The NFCC Music Department offers a variety of opportunities for students interested in music including participation in the NFCC Jazz Ensemble, Sentinel Singers, Community Chorus, private instruction and courses such as American Music Since 1865 and Humanities Music. New classes begin Jan. 7. Those interested in making future donations to support the NFCC Music Department, its programs and students should contact Burkart at (850) 973-1643 or the NFCC Foundation at 973-9423. More information is also available at www.nfcc.edu (keyword: Music).



NFCC celebrates peace and good will at AASU Kwanzaa luncheon

The African-American Student Union of NFCC held a Kwanzaa luncheon Dec. 3 in the NFCC Art Gallery.

Guest speaker was Rev. Albert Bivens of New Bethel AME Church in Bellville, Fla. During his address, Bivens encouraged students to become

polished, pointed and propelled - "Go out and be a positive force in someone's life. I wish you well. I wish you much success."

Highlights of the ceremony were the lighting of the candles by Jeremy Weatherspoon and Ashley Haynes and Tamshi la Tambiko also known as the Libation Statement given by Adria Haynes and Raymond Arnold. The Cultural Expression, also called Kumba, was delivered by Jasmine Richardson and Shontrece McIntyre.

NFCC students, faculty and staff gathered for the African-American celebration of traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. The celebration ended with the Karamu which means a feast.

Master of ceremonies was AASU president, Sophia Bruton. AASU members offered motivational and cultural expressions focusing on peace to all. AASU members Javonte Arnold and Anthony McCreary each delivered the Kushangilla, rejoicing through song.

Kwanzaa means "first fruit of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili. The holiday has gained tremendous acceptance since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. Kwanzaa is observed by more than 18 million people worldwide, reports the New York Times. It is celebrated from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1 and is meant to be neither political, nor religious.



Student Jeremy Weatherspoon participates in the Kwanzaa ceremony Dec. 3 at NFCC.

Christmas at the Mansion opens with holiday reception

NFCC, Friends of the Mansion and members of the community celebrated "Christmas Through the Ages" during a holiday reception at the Wardlaw-Smith-Goza Conference Center (The Mansion) Tuesday, Dec. 9. Guests to the Mansion were welcomed by NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf, WSG Coordinator Maria Greene and Director of the NFCC Foundation and Alumni Relations Gina Rutherford.

The evening reception offered visitors first glimpse at the Mansion's creative holiday décor and was a wonderful prelude to the Mansion's holiday open house Dec. 10-14.

This year's theme "Christmas Through the Ages" allowed décor sponsors to create a variety of unique and interesting holiday schemes. Coordinated by Jackie Johnson of Madison, Fla., each room focused on a different era or holiday idea. The main hallway, decorated by the Madison County Junior Auxiliary, was entitled "Ageless Florida" and creatively captured the holiday essence of our wonderful state. The Madison County Junior Auxiliary also hosted "Cookies with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Other downstairs rooms included "Fear Not, for I Bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy" by Penny Worden and Jenny Andrews; "1920's" by Madison County Community Bank; "Eduardian Period" by the Madison Garden Club; and "Williamsburg" by the Madison Woman's Club.

Atop the twinkling, garland wrapped staircase, visitors walked into "Dreams of Fairy Tale Fantasy" by Wendy Bartlam and Lydia Coody in the main upstairs hallway. Other upstairs rooms included "Early 1900's and Early Memories of Laurretta Bottemley" by The Madison Florist; "1960's" by Bali's Base Street Florist; "1950's" by Madison Antiques Market and Interiors; and "Spanning the Years" by Janet Moses & Company. The outside of the Mansion was decorated with wreaths by Margaret Lewis of Jasper, Fla. Lisa Flournoy assisted by artistically constructing theme boards for each room.

The WSG Conference Center, listed in the Historic American Buildings' Survey and the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1860. The historic two-story building facilitates meetings, exhibits, weddings, special events and is open to tours upon request. For more information, contact Maria Greene, Mansion coordinator, at (850) 973-9432 or email greenem@nfcc.edu.



NFCC employees, left to right, Lynn Wyche and Sheila Hiss and NFCC Board of Trustees member Dr. Bill Brothers and wife Janis Brothers Dec. 9 at the WSG Conference Center.



Welcoming guests to the Dec. 9 holiday reception at NFCC's Wardlaw-Smith-Goza conference Center are, left to right, NFCC Foundation Director Gina Rutherford, NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf and WSG Conference Center Coordinator Maria Greene.



(l-r) Mayor Myra Valentine, Madison County Chamber of Commerce director Ted Ensminger and Lucille Day Dec. 9 at the WSG Conference Center.



(l-r) Linda Gibson, NFCC Board of Trustees member, and Princess Akerman Dec. 9 at the WSG Conference Center.



Wendy Bartlam stands amid the "Dreams of Fairy Tale Fantasy" decorations which she helped create with Lydia Coody for the Mansion's upstairs hallway.



(l-r) NFCC instructors Bonnie Littlefield and Marie Guest enjoy the Dec. 9 holiday reception at the WSG Conference Center.