



Spotlight on NFCC

A PUBLICATION FOR THE NORTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FAMILY

Around Campus

ROCK THE VOTE SEPT. 15-18

NFCC's Student Government Association will host a "Rock the Vote" campaign Sept. 15-18 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Student Center. Students can meet with party representatives, discuss important issues and register to vote. Democratic Party representatives will be here Sept. 15 & 16; Republican Party representatives will be here Sept. 17 & 18. For information, contact Bobby O'Hara at 850.973.1623.

ARTIST SERIES 08-09 SEASON TO BEGIN

The 2008-09 Artist Series begins Sept. 30 with a performance by the St. Johns River City Band at Van H. Priest Auditorium, 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now, \$12 general or \$6 NFCC students and children age 12 and under. Season passes (\$45) are also available and include six outstanding shows. Call 850.973.1653, email ArtistSeries@nfcc.edu or visit www.nfcc.edu for more information.

Dr. Bill Brothers appointed to NFCC District Board of Trustees

NFCC alumnus Dr. Bill Brothers has been appointed to the NFCC District Board of Trustees.

Dr. Brothers, 44, was appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist Aug. 15 to fill an open position on the board. His appointment runs thru May 31, 2010.

"I am proud to have grown up in Madison and to have graduated from NFCC in 1984," Dr. Brothers said. "I attribute much of my success to NFCC and am most grateful for the community minded, caring faculty and staff who helped me and have helped many other rural students like me prepare for careers or to pursue higher education," he said. "I am equally proud to represent Suwannee County and the Suwannee County School Board as we provide educational opportunities for our constituents."



Dr. Bill Brothers

Dr. Brothers attended NFCC on a scholarship given in honor of his father, Shelby Ladell Brothers, an NFCC employee and horticulture teacher at the time of his death in 1971. The Ladell Brothers Outdoor Environmental Center at NFCC is named in honor of his father.

Dr. Brothers earned a bachelor's degree in 1986 from the University of Florida, received a Master of Agriculture degree from UF in 1991 and his doctorate in educational leadership from FAMU in 2002.

He began his teaching career in Suwannee County in 1987 and is currently director of personnel for Suwannee County District Schools.

Dr. Brothers and his wife, Janis Johnson Brothers, have two children. Mrs. Brothers is employed with Lake City Community College.



Susan Taylor receives Ultimate Teaching award

NFCC English instructor Susan Taylor, right, was presented with an "Ultimate Teaching Machine" certificate award by Dr. Sharon Erle, Acting Dean of Academic Affairs/CAO, on Aug. 28. The award is given in recognition of an instructor who is extraordinary in their dedication to students, teaching and the college.

"I chose Susan for her vision and dedication to the college preparatory program," said Erle. "She always steps up and jumps in full speed regardless of what she is asked to do."

With the certificate, Taylor also received a \$25 gift card.

NFCC is site for SREB regional meeting



Lou Miller at SREB training Sept. 9.

Educators, school personnel and state education leaders from six area districts including Madison, Gadsden and Hamilton counties gathered at NFCC Sept. 9-10 for a Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) meeting. According to Madison County Superintendent of Schools Lou Miller, the meeting is intended to share the SREB's key principles and offer ideas on incorporating those principles into area schools. "The overall purpose is to improve our schools," said Miller. "Madison was one of six districts chosen to partner with the Southern Regional Education Board and the Florida Department of Education for this training. We hope to put the SREB's key principles into practice to improve our schools." The SREB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that helps government and education leaders in its 16 member states work together to advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region.

Visit the NFCC website for more college news and events:
WWW.NFCC.EDU

Around Campus**CLUB EXPO****SEPT. 22-23**

Student clubs and organizations will set up in the Student Center Sept. 22-23 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. to share information and recruit new members during NFCC's 2008 Club Expo. For information, contact Bobbie O'Hara at 850.973.1623.

JOIN THE NFCC COMMUNITY CHORUS

Singing together relieves stress and most singers find that they look forward to singing in a group every week. What better reason to join the Community Chorus of NFCC. Rehearsals are Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Hardee Building (Bldg. #11). Please join NFCC's community chorus on Mondays and find out just how good it can be to sing in a choir. Membership is open to anyone who loves to sing, from college age to senior citizens, from local and surrounding areas. For more information contact Rebecca Burkart, NFCC music instructor, at 850.973.1643 or burkartr@nfcc.edu.

Employee Birthdays SEPTEMBER 2008

Tony Blanton	1
Jessica Webb	2
Marie Guest	13
Bill Hunter	21
Shirley Haynes	21
Sarah Newsome	22
Bob Spurlock	24
Edna Ealy	27
Kathy Hidy	28

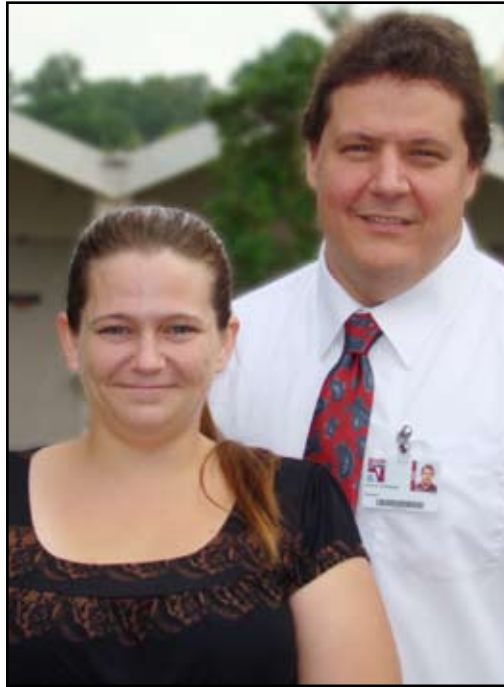
NFCC student Tonya Blanton gives inspiring presentation to college faculty and staff

At the start of each fall term, NFCC employees gather together for a college-wide meeting that offers campus updates, departmental reminders and introductions of new faculty and staff. Guest speakers are chosen each year to motivate and inspire college employees as they begin a new academic year. Past guests have ranged from Florida community college leaders to prominent judges and successful business owners.

This fall NFCC Acting President John Grosskopf introduced the 2008 guest speaker as one of "the most important speaker we've ever had" and as NFCC student Tonya Blanton delivered her presentation it quickly became clear why this was true. Blanton is a student success story, moving from the GED program to pursuing a career in teaching, and she wanted to thank NFCC and its employees for their role in her success.

"I am here to give testimony to the way this institution and its staff have changed my life forever," said Blanton in her opening remarks. "Thanks to all of the great examples of teachers, here at NFCC, my future is no longer a dead end. I am inspired to take what each of you have taught me and pass it on to my future students."

To fully understand Blanton's success story, it's necessary to look back at her past. In the second grade Blanton was diagnosed with a learning disability and told that she would not excel academically. Blanton struggled through



Tonya Blanton and John Grosskopf

school and dropped out during her eleventh grade year. After several unsuccessful attempts to get her GED, Blanton gave up on education. She took a job at a gas station. By this time Blanton was also married with two children. Struggling with limited career options and ultimately the realization that she could not help her daughter with third grade algebra homework, Blanton decided it was time to give education another try and enrolled in NFCC's GED program.

"I learned quickly that I needed to overcome my weaknesses to be able to compete in the workforce," said Blanton. "My instructors not only taught me basic education, they taught me to believe in myself. I completed the class in about five months and passed the GED test with almost 1,000 more points than I needed. There are no words in the English language to describe the feeling of walking across the NFCC stage with my

husband and kids there to cheer me on."

Blanton was NFCC's Adult Education Student of the Year in 2006 and was featured in the Florida Literacy Coalition publication "Success Factors in High Achieving Adult Learners." She enrolled in NFCC's Associate in Arts program in the fall of 2006 and soon will complete her degree. Blanton then plans to continue studies toward a bachelor's degree and pursue a career in teaching and education.

According to Blanton, it was NFCC instructors who pointed out her talent for teaching and encouraged her to continue her education, "I decided to go for it and enrolled the next fall."

"The instructors that I had that first year and every year following have taught me more than just the subject I signed up for," said Blanton. "Your labor has not only touched my life, but also the lives of my family and friends... now with my determination and all of your guidance, it has become clear that I can achieve my goals."

Blanton ended her presentation to a standing ovation and was a shining reminder of what is most important at NFCC – its students and the impact college employees can have in leading students toward success.

"Ms. Blanton's story reminds us, in a very compelling way, why we are here and what we are supposed to do," said Grosskopf. "It is easy to get distracted by all the other issues that we need to deal with, but at the end of the day our primary mission is to serve our students and serve them well."

Students help deliver books to Hamilton County

NFCC students from Jasper, left to right, Alyssa Blanton, Jana Oxendine, Ragan Adams, Tracy Atkinson and Kali Carter load up on college text books the first day of fall term Aug. 25. The group of students were helping deliver books to Hamilton County High School for its high school dual enrollment classes.



Taylor County twins new students this fall

NFCC students Krystal and Krystina Timmons, twin sisters from Perry, began classes at NFCC Aug. 25 with more than just their looks and wardrobes in common. Both are working toward an Associate in Arts degree and plan to continue their education in health care. This is their first term at NFCC. They said they like the friendly atmosphere on campus.



Bookstore offers books and more to students

Willie Miller, NFCC student and Madison resident, visits the NFCC Bookstore Aug. 25 to purchase items for fall classes. This is Miller's first year at NFCC and he is working toward an Associate in Arts degree.

Upcoming Community Education Courses

NFCC is offering a variety of Community Education courses this fall - learn yoga, update CPR skills, learn basic first aid, enjoy "Tuesday Night at the Opera", take basic, intermediate or advanced cake decorating. You can even satisfy traffic ticket requirements by taking a four-hour basic driver improvement course; DATA (four-hour First Time Driver Class) is also available. Other upcoming courses include computer classes for senior adults, gingerbread decorating classes for children, hunter safety, genealogy and over 250 online enrichment classes.

"We try to offer courses that the community will find interesting, fun, and informative," said Suzie Godfrey, NFCC Community Education coordinator. "We have several new classes this fall such as the Latin dancing class, the blue grass guitar class and the gingerbread decorating classes for kids. And we encourage the community to let us know the types of classes they would like to see offered in the future."

Contact Godfrey at (850) 973-9453, CommunityEd@nfcc.edu or visit www.nfcc.edu.

Now accepting reservations NFCC Children's Theater Nov. 4

The NFCC Children's Theater invites the public to a giant puppet musical of "Puss in Boots" by Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at Van H. Priest Auditorium.



This larger-than-life musical boasts a mix of jumbo nine-foot-tall body puppets, costumed characters, traditional puppetry, and children from the audience. The play lasts approximately one hour and is appropriate for children up to age 10 or grades K-3rd.

Two performances are being offered, one at 9:30 a.m. and one at 11 a.m. Reservations are required and being accepted now; seating is limited. Area schools, home schools, parents and members of the community should call (850) 973-1653 or email ArtistSeries@nfcc.edu to make reservations. Admission is \$2. Study guides are available at www.nfcc.edu (keyword Children's Theater).

Bits 'N Pieces has performed at NFCC for the past several years to rave reviews from children and educators. "It is rare that children can attend something of this magnitude so close to their school," said one patron.

The performance is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre

NFCC welcomes new employees



MATT LEGGETT **EMS Program Director**

Mac Leggett is NFCC's new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program Director. He coordinates NFCC's EMT and paramedic programs and helps recruit new

students into both programs.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to lead the college's EMT and paramedic programs," said Leggett. "We just held an EMT refresher course in September and I'm looking forward to EMT and paramedic classes getting started in January."

Leggett has worked in the EMS field for more than 20 years. Prior to joining the NFCC staff, he was the EMT Program Manager at South Florida Community College and worked as a paramedic and medical supervisor for the Polk County Department of Public Safety. He most recently worked as a paramedic for the Madison County EMS and as a flight paramedic for Tampa General Hospital. He has also worked as a firefighter.

Leggett has EMT certification from South Florida Community College, paramedic certification from Polk Community College and completed fire standards training at Ridge Vocational in Haines City, Fla.



DAVID PAULK **History Instructor**

NFCC welcomes David Paulk as a full time history instructor. Paulk, an adjunct instructor since January 2007, was appointed to a permanent position in

August. Paulk teaches history courses and Introduction to World Religions.

"My immediate goals for my job are to do the best job I can possibly do for the college and the students," said Paulk. "The people I work with are very professional, trustworthy, kind and likable. The students are respectful, eager to learn and curious about the world in which we live. The people are what make NFCC such a blessing to me."

Paulk has a bachelor's degree and a

master's degree in history from Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Ga. He also has a Masters of Public Administration from VSU and a Masters of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



LORI PLEASANT **Testing Specialist**

NFCC welcomes Lori Pleasant to the NFCC Testing Center as a part-time testing specialist. Pleasant began working at NFCC in August helping with

the evening operation of the center. She assists with CPT, TABE and other testing necessary for students enrolling in college programs.

"It is a wonderful feeling to know that what I am doing every day is helping students achieve their goals," said Pleasant.

Pleasant is looking forward to meeting new people and wants to learn as much as possible about her new job and testing at NFCC. Of her new position, Pleasant said "I am happy to be working with coworkers who say 'I love my job!' That makes such a big difference in feeling welcome into my new job."

Pleasant is a graduate of NFCC and has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management from Saint Leo University.



JHAN REICHERT **English Developmental Instructor**

NFCC welcomes new instructor Jhan Reichert to its faculty. Reichert teaches college preparatory classes in English and assists as an advisor in the college

preparatory program. She began teaching at NFCC this fall and is excited about the possibility of helping students.

"My goal is to help the students in my classes succeed," said Reichert. "I want to help students have a successful college experience and I want to encourage students to do well, to learn and to graduate."

Before joining the NFCC faculty, Reichert taught for 32 years in the Jefferson County school system. She is a 1973 graduate of NFJC and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Florida State University.

Reichert said that "the students have been very responsive and the faculty and staff have been very supportive."



EPP RICHARDSON **Instructional Coordinator, Public Safety Academy**

Epp Richardson, Instructional Coordinator for the NFCC Public Safety Academy, has been working at NFCC since

November as an OPS/temporary employee. In August he was appointed to a full-time position by the NFCC Board of Trustees.

"Working at the NFCC Public Safety Academy provides me an opportunity to give back to the community through training current and future law enforcement and correctional officers," said Richardson

Richardson has worked in law enforcement for nearly 20 years of which 15 years have been serving Madison County.

At NFCC, Richardson coordinates and instructs advanced and specialized courses for law enforcement and correction officers. He also assists with basic recruit courses and with NFCC's campus security.

Richardson says he will continue to work toward maintaining and advancing the quality of training and technology available to students.



MICHAEL STINE **Biology Instructor**

NFCC welcomes Michael Stine to its faculty. Stine joined the NFCC Science Department this fall teaching biology and is looking forward to "learning about the

NFCC community and the opportunities that I have working here."

Prior to joining the NFCC faculty, Stine was a professor at Louisiana State University for 17 years (1990-2007). He also has taught as an adjunct instructor at Thomas University in Thomasville, Ga. He has a bachelor's degree in forestry from Michigan State University and a master's degree in forestry from the University of Georgia. He received a doctorate degree from Michigan State University in plant breeding and genetics.

Stine said that he likes "the friendly atmosphere and the excellent facilities and colleagues [at NFCC]." In addition to teaching biology, he is also eager to get involved with the Ladell Brothers Outdoor Environmental Center, a 20-acre nature center located on the NFCC campus.