BECKLEY CAMPUS SGA PROVIDES FOOD FOR FAMILIES AND MEDIA FOLLOWING MINE EXPLOSION

It would be embarrassing if it were not so humbling. Hours after the West Virginia mine explosion Monday, scores of journalists from all over the country started arriving — in a very rural area with no communications or places to sleep closer than an hour’s drive away.

When the governor began giving press briefings at Marsh Fork Elementary School (this week happens to be spring break, so the children are out), journalists began getting comfortable at the site a few miles from the mine entrance, and we never left.

By Tuesday, a couple dozen satellite trucks filled the parking lot, and classrooms with tiny chairs and paintings on the walls were turned into newsrooms and bedrooms. And all of a sudden there was food — a lot of food. Pepperoni pizza. Pulled pork and beans. Fried chicken, potatoes and green beans. Cookies. Crackers. Doughnuts of all stripes.

Usually I lose a few pounds while covering stories like this. The deadlines are too tight, the access to food often limited. This time, I'll be going home a little rounder, and with a touched heart.

The food was cooked by residents and donated by businesses in this community. Some of it came by way of a local Red Cross, a Wal-Mart and a United Way, but even more was the home cooking of kind West Virginians who just wanted to take care of us. Imagine, here we are, an aggressive and hardcharging bunch of journalists in the middle of this devastated community, and it's THEY who are taking care of US!

The kindness hasn't been lost on any of us. By Thursday, two plastic jars — “school collection” and “community collection” — were put out, and by Friday both had a few hundred dollars. I feel like we owe this school and these people so much more.

When I asked interim principal Shelly Prince how folks could be so giving at a time like this, she said that many felt it was soothing to help others. This situation made them feel helpless, and helping others was doing something. She also said it gave people a chance to show the world what West Virginians are “really like.”

"Often on TV, we are not portrayed in such a good manner. We often are portrayed as ignorant and backward," she said. "But we are just ordinary people who live ordinary lives."

I have to disagree. These people are extraordinary.

--Peter Prengaman, Associated Press
**WELCOME TO NEW RIVER**

**Hope Adams** is the new administrative secretary senior for the Beckley/Raleigh County Campus. She will provide support to Campus Dean Carolyn Sizemore, who is headquartered at the Raleigh County Campus in Beaver. A resident of Beaver, Adams has most recently worked as an administrative secretary in the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Mountain State University. She had previously worked as administrative associate for the vice president for academic affairs at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

**Gregory C. Perry** has joined the college as visiting instructional specialist in the Office of Workforce Education. In that capacity, he will develop and implement training programs in weatherization and green job technologies. Perry has many years of experience as a general contractor and construction project manager. The Daniels resident operated his own company, GC Perry Construction Group Inc. of Beckley, from 2004-2009, building homes primarily in the Glade Springs and Beckley areas.

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION SPONSORING CAREER FAIR APRIL 30**

The Office of Workforce Education is excited to announce the first annual Career Fair on April 30.

Representatives from at least 20 businesses which are now hiring will be available to discuss employment opportunities throughout southeastern West Virginia. Among those present will be Raleigh General Hospital, The Resort at Glade Springs, Global Contact Services, Summers County Appalachian Regional Hospital, Med Express, the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine and others.

All students are welcome and encouraged to bring a resumé. The fair is scheduled from 10 am – noon in the annex building of the Beckley campus. No pre-registration is required. For more information, please contact Stephanie Gaiser at 929-6734.

**Walkup Offers Career Insights**

Dr. John Mark Walkup, professor of Music on the Nicholas County Campus, was invited to speak to seventh graders about the life of a college professor at the first-ever Career Day sponsored by Nicholas County Schools on April 13.

Walkup is pictured above with Jennifer Gatewood, a counselor in the school system, who coordinated the event with Marianne Taylor, executive director of the Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce. Walkup talked about his education and typical work day, answered student questions and presented a door prize of New River items to one lucky student.
NEW FACULTY SHARE IDEAS AND OBSERVATIONS AT LUNCHEON

New faculty members from all of New River’s campuses were invited to the Beckley Campus on April 8 for a luncheon and information sharing session with Dr. Spring and Dr. Faulk. Attending were (front row, L-R) JoAnna Perry, visiting instructor of Practical Nursing, Nicholas County Campus; Mary Walkup, instructor of Practical Nursing, Pocahontas County Cohort; Sherry Roper, instructor of Allied Health, Greenbrier Valley Campus; (middle row) Bryan Seldomridge, instructor of Accounting, Greenbrier Valley Campus, Donovan Rhodes, visiting instructor of Welding, Greenbrier Valley Campus; Margie Vines, Medical Assisting instructor, Mercer County Campus; Karen Carter-Harvey, visiting instructor of Psychology, Beckley/Raleigh County Campus; Anita Stapleton, Medical Assisting instructor, Beckley/Raleigh County Campus; (back row) Chris Fink, Business visiting instructor of Business, Greenbrier Valley Campus; and Shawn Garretson, Manufacturing and Industrial Systems instructor, Mercer County Campus.

TITLE III TRAINING CONTINUES

The Title III team hosted the second of three distance-learning training sessions for members of the second Title III faculty cohort on April 2 at the Raleigh County Campus.

Workshops offered in this training session included "Online Communication Tools," "Applying Instructional Design Principles to ANGEL," and a two-part workshop on using the college’s new learning management system, ANGEL.

In attendance were Beverly Maxwell, Chris Fink, D. Bruce Sneidman, JoAnna Perry, Joyce Egnor, Karen Tully, Mary Walkup, Sherry Roper, Tim Hofmann and Vanessa Bailey. The workshops were conducted by David Ayersman, chief information officer and Ralph Payne, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. David Ayersman (standing) conducts a training session for the second Title III cohort. His attentive students include (L-R) Beverly Maxwell, Vanessa Bailey, Karen Tully and JoAnna Perry.
NICHOLAS COUNTY CAMPUS MAST STUDENTS ATTEND STATE HEALTH EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Medical Assisting (MAST) students from the Nicholas County Campus attended the State Health Education Council meeting April 11 in South Charleston. The organization promotes health and wellness in West Virginia. The students joined MAST instructor Karen Tully and Allied Health Specialist Lisa Hatcher for a day of networking followed by a dinner.

“It was very nice and informative. Next year the NCC MAST students will participate in various projects through the organization to promote healthy lifestyles in our area,” Tully said.

“One of the upcoming projects has to do with promoting immunizations in WV. Patient education is a major element in their education in the MAST program on our campus,” she added.

NEW RIVER GROUP HOPS AT FINANCIAL AID CONFERENCE

(At left, L-R) Trish Harmon, director of Financial Aid, Donna Feijo, student recruiter, Nora Overath, financial aid counselor on the Greenbrier Valley Campus; and Stephanie Morris, financial aid manager on the Beckley Campus, pose in their poodle skirts at a sock hop held in conjunction with the West Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference earlier this month.

“Boats” Keene, financial aid counselor on the Nicholas County Campus, and Stephanie Gaiser, administrative associate in the Office of Workforce Education, also attended.

“It was a great review for some of us and a learning experience for all of us,” Harmon said. Many changes are coming to Financial Aid. It was also an opportunity for the New River staff to meet, get to know each other and brain storm, and we did have a little fun!!”

Photo courtesy of Trish Harmon

NICHOLAS COUNTY CAMPUS MAST STUDENTS ATTEND STATE HEALTH EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Nicholas County Campus MAST students (L-R) Bonnie Richmond, Samantha Altrip, Keisha Kathy Holley and Deborah Workman traveled to South Charleston for the State Health Education Council meeting. The five will graduate in May. (Photo courtesy of Karen Tully)