



From the Hawk's Nest is distributed on the first and third Friday of each month. We need your input! Please send your ideas for stories on upcoming events, reports on attendance at conferences, awards and honors received, photos or information on outstanding employees or students to Barbara Elliott, belliot@newriver.edu. **The deadline for submitting items for the next issue is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2014.**

Vol. 2, Issue No. 9

The Graduation Edition!



Five New River Employees in the Class of 2014

Five full-time employees of New River CTC were among the record 327 graduates who were awarded diplomas and certificates at the Eleventh Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 10. Congratulations to (l-r) Tonya Webb, administrative secretary on the Beckley Campus; Janie Smith executive secretary in the Office of Student Services; Ingrid Hudnall, supervisor of payroll accounting in

the Office of Finance; Herman "Boats" Keene, financial aid counselor on the Nicholas County Campus; and Lora Adkins, executive secretary in the Office of Academic Affairs.

The Summersville Arena and Conference Center was a wonderful venue for the ceremony, and thanks to the efforts of the many faculty, staff and student volunteers, the event was beautifully organized and ran smoothly.

During the ceremony, President Washington paid tribute to Nick Bassett, associate professor of business and computer science, who is retiring this month after a long and distinguished career on the faculty of New River CTC and Glenville State College. President Washington is pictured greeting Bassett in the faculty dressing room before the ceremony.



Writing Center Training Workshop

A training workshop on theories and current practices of the Writing Center was conducted on April 11 and 25 at the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg.

The training was designed and conducted by Dr. Deepak Pant, instructor of developmental reading and English. Participants included New River CTC tutors and Writing Center administrators from the Greenbrier Valley, Mercer County and Nicholas County campuses.



Dr. Deepak Pant

The goal of the training was to help participants connect their experiences with current Writing Center theories and practices and enhance their professional development. The Writing Center's key concepts and administrative and pedagogical issues were discussed during the sessions, as well as the Center's mission and objectives, code of ethics and tutoring policy, student flow at the Learning Centers and a need to launch a webpage to advertise the services to the campus community.

Welcome to New River



Walt M. Johnson joined New River CTC on May 12 as a Visiting Instructional Specialist of Welding. He will teach at both the Greenbrier Valley Campus and the Advanced Technology Center. He most recently worked as a mechanical piping superintendent at Environmental Air Systems in Greensboro, NC. He is a certified welding inspector for the American Welding Society and holds a number of qualifications and certifications in the field.

Student Services Staff Holds Retreat in Lewisburg

Staff from the recently expanded Office of Student Services convened at the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg on Thursday, March 15, for a day-long retreat.

After welcoming comments from GVC Dean Roger Griffith and VP for Student Services Allen Withers, the group enjoyed some team building exercises and received an overview and training on New Student Orientation from Tracy Evans, director of enrollment services. During the afternoon session they discussed plans for the 2014-15 year.



Attending the retreat from the Financial Aid staff were Trish Harmon, Stephanie Morris, Donna Feijo, Belinda Cox, "Boats" Keene, and Nora Overath. Representing the Student Success Centers were Peggy Epling, Joe Connard, Rachel Kelly, Sherry Shaffer and Dianna Putorek. Members of the Admissions staff in attendance were Tracy Evans, Staci Green, Melissa Craddock, Donna Polk, Megan Mohn, Martha Baisden, Karen Sparks, Heather Pickering and Rebecca Browning. Rounding out the team were Candace Stadler, director of career services; Wanda Johnson, program coordinator; Janie Smith, executive secretary; and Dr. Allen Withers.

Welcome Jayden Robert Smarr



Student recruiter **Amanda Smarr** and her husband, John, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Jayden Robert Smarr, on April 23. Mother and son are well and happy!

Farewell Nick Bassett

Nick Bassett (pictured at right with his wife, Beth) was honored by his many friends and colleagues at the Nicholas County Campus at a retirement luncheon on May 14.

Gerry Hough presided over the event and gave audience a chance to "roast" or "toast" Bassett, who tolerated a lot of good-natured kidding about his love of free food.

Adam Argabright and Nathan Moul spoke as previous students about how much of an influence Nick had on them. Boats Keene spoke on behalf of the staff, ribbing Bassett about always being first in line at campus cook-outs. Dr. John Mullens and Gerry Hough represented the faculty and presented him with a plaque.

The cake proclaimed it was "From Your One Friend at New River," a joking reference to an earlier event where the bakery omitted a critical letter and the cake boldly stated: "From Your Friend at New River." Trust us Nick, you have many more than one. Best wishes for a very happy retirement from your family at New River CTC.



Commencement KUDOS!

Barbara Stewart, supervisor of student accounting services, graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Charleston on May 4.

Let's hear it for the **Graduation Committee**, which worked for months to insure that the Eleventh Annual Commencement went off without a hitch. Committee members are Libby Belcher (chair), Dr. Amy DeSonia, Dr. Allen Withers, Dr. Carry DeAtley, Bruce Sneiderman, Donna Lewis, Tracy Evans, Mary Igo, Susie Atkins, Heike Soeffker-Culicerto, Lori Midkiff, Lora Adkins, Janie Smith and Barbara Elliott



Share the good news about what's going on at New River CTC. Send your articles, photos or Kudos to Barbara Elliott, belliot@newriver.edu. Many thanks to Dr. Deepak Pant, Staci Green, Heike Soeffker-Culicerto, Libby Belcher, Rick Barbero, Michael Meador and "Peaches" Stephenson for their contributions to this edition.

The deadline for the next issue is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28.



Keep Us Posted!

We encourage you to check the [New River Facebook page](#) for additional updates on student activities

and college events. We also encourage you to let us know about upcoming events so that we can share information across the College. Send information for the Facebook page to Michael Meador, mmeador@newriver.edu. Send items for the newsletter or for news releases to Barbara Elliott, bellott@newriver.edu.
