



Vol. 1, Issue No. 4

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, bellott@newriver.edu. The deadline for submitting items is the end of the day on Wednesday before the Friday of publication.

COLLEGE-WIDE MEETING SET FOR JAN. 8 IN BECKLEY



The entire College community will come together on Wednesday, Jan.8, for a required meeting and Faculty Institute at the Mountaineer Conference Center at the Country Inn and Suites located at 2120 Harper Road in Beckley.

The guest speaker will be Julie M. Smith, Ph.D. (pictured at left), co-founder of The Continuous Learning Group (CLG). A leader in behavior-based strategy execution and performance improvement, she has made major strides in continuous improvement, customer service, change leadership and leadership development. Assembling unprecedented talent and behavioral methodology, she has helped many Fortune 100 companies and government agencies achieve results by:

- Analyzing complex performance challenges and designing custom solutions for large-scale change;
- Mentoring executive leaders and coaching for leadership effectiveness and team-building;
- Developing and implementing feedback and performance measurement systems;
- Aligning organizations' training and performance measurement systems to their stated values, mission, goals and strategic business needs.

In another session, Dr. Allen Withers will conduct a session on our recently finalized Values Statement. Lunch will be provided, followed by breakout meetings for classified staff and faculty. Classified staff will be dismissed following their meeting, and faculty will remain to receive Blackboard training.

As everyone is expected to be in attendance, the College will be closed that day. Please make sure to notify anyone who will be impacted by your absence and put an appropriate message on your voice mail and e-mail.

Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m., and the first session will begin at 9. Transportation will be coordinated by the Campus Deans. Please contact your dean or supervisor if you have questions.

Faculty and Staff Complete Appreciative Advising Online Course

by Dr. Allen Withers

This fall, several New River faculty and staff members completed the eight-week online Appreciative Advising Course offered by the University of South Carolina. Those receiving certificates for completing this course were Dr. Carry DeAtley, Peggy Epling, Tracy Evans, Renae McGinnis, Libby Rogers, Dr. Carolyn Sizemore, Dr. Allen Withers, and Joycie Wawiye.

Appreciative Advising is an academic advising model being considered for adoption at New River. It is being used today at increasing numbers of both two-year and four-year institutions to increase student retention and success rates. In this approach, advisor and student success happens through a collaborative process of asking positive, open-ended questions that help students optimize their educational experiences and achieve their dreams, goals, and potentials. It is one of the most student-centered approaches to student development being used today. The six phases of the approach include:

Disarm: Make a positive first impression with the student, build rapport and create a safe, welcoming space.

Discover: Ask positive open-ended questions that help advisers learn about students' strengths, skills and abilities.

Dream: Inquire about students' hopes and dreams for their futures.

Design: Co-create a plan for making their dreams a reality.

Deliver: The student delivers on the plan created during the Design phase and the advisor is available to encourage and support students.

Don't Settle: Advisors and students alike need to set their own internal bars of expectations high.

The University of South Carolina offers this course each semester during the year. Faculty and staff interested in taking the course in the spring or summer of 2014 should contact Dr. Carry DeAtley or Dr. Allen Withers.

Congratulations!

James Froemel, student program advisor at the Mercer County Campus, and his wife, **Katie**, are proud parents of a gorgeous baby boy, **Noah James**, who arrived on Thanksgiving, weighing 6 lbs. 7 oz. Mom and baby Noah are doing well. **Big brother Jack**, as you can see from the picture, is a proud of his little brother!

--submitted by Tracy Evans



Peggy Epling has been promoted to the new position of Director of Student Success Centers. She joined New River in January of 2011 as student program advisor at the Mercer County Campus. In November of that year she was selected to coordinate the Center for Advanced Studies. Prior to joining for New River, she had been a student advisor and counselor at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Farewell

Melinda Ford, supervisor of student accounts at the Greenbrier Valley Campus, has left New River to accept a position at the Robert C. Byrd Clinic in Lewisburg. We wish her all the best in her new endeavor.

Meet the SGA

Mercer County Campus SGA

Posing for a group portrait are Mercer County Campus SGA members (back row, l-r) Jessica Peak (secretary), Dannielle McGraw (treasurer), Liz Stauffer (vice president), Dee Ashley (president); (back row) Roy Saunders and William Johnson Porterfield (parliamentarian).



KUDOS!

by GVC Dean Roger Griffith



Nathan England has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help develop the Fine Arts Program. During the summer months he held the first art academy for high school-aged students in our area. The students were able to learn new skills that opened doors of expression for them that had previously been unexplored.

A final show was held that included an evening reception for the display of the student work. The response from the students, parents and local Board of Education members was very positive about the student experience and was glowing about the instruction that was provided by Nathan. He is pictured above with proud participants in the summer academy.

Do you know someone who deserves kudos for going above and beyond for New River students? We'd like to share the good news. Please send your Kudos to Barbara Elliott, belliot@newriver.edu. You can either write a short article or just send her the facts and she will write it up. Thanks!



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, belliott@newriver.edu.

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