



SPOTLIGHT, an electronic newsletter to the friends and patrons of Northeast Community College, is published nine times a year. Please forward it to your colleagues and neighbors. You are all partners in our efforts to provide quality, affordable, close-to-home educational opportunities to students and training for area businesses, industries, and organizations. Northeast Community College serves residents of 20 counties in northeast Nebraska.

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NEW BOARD CHAIR RECEIVES GAVEL; NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN

Nanci Lingenfelter, Plainview, received the Board of Governors chairperson's gavel from outgoing leader **Keith Harvey**, Creighton, at the January meeting. New Board members **Dave Fauss**, representing District V (Madison County) and **John Davies**, Pilger, at-large member, also took the Oath of Office at that meeting. They replace **John Winkleblack**, Tilden, and **Marlin Meisinger**, Norfolk, respectively. Lingenfelter, Harvey, and **Clarence Schmitt**, Wisner, also took the Oath of Office following their November re-election to the Board.

NORTHEAST REACTS TO RECENT DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY, EMPLOYEE LAY-OFFS

As part of its mission, Northeast Community College has participated in one free workshop and plans another to assist those who have faced, or will face, a job termination because of the recent economic downturn. Career Services Director **Rose Ann Rogers**, Advisor **Vickie Davis**, and Counselor **Stephanie Brundieck**, PMSW, PLMH, participated in a Career Transition Workshop in December sponsored by Northeast, the Business Education Taskforce of the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, and Workforce Development. Rogers, Davis and Brundieck plan another workshop, a **Career Coaching Workshop**, on Monday, February 2, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Call (402)844-7246 or email lynda@northeast.edu to register.

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM RE-CERTIFIED

The automotive technology program at Northeast Community College has been re-certified by two of the industry's leading bodies responsible for maintaining quality training standards, the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Northeast's program was certified in brakes, electrical/electronic systems, engine performance, suspension and steering, automotive transmission and transaxle, engine repair, heating and air conditioning, and manual drive train and axles. Instructors in the program are **Roger Carnell**, **Alan Darnall**, **Calvin Lamprecht**, and **Bowdie Otte**.

NORTHEAST NURSING STUDENTS CONDUCT SNEEZE IN SLEEVE CAMPAIGN

Northeast nursing students **Heidi Stevens**, **Melissa Rietz**, and **Melissa Perez**, all of Norfolk, and **Mikayla Brown**, Columbus, conducted a Please Sneeze in Your Sleeve campaign before the fall semester ended. The campaign was designed to curb the spread of colds and flu by sneezing in a sleeve or inside a shirt rather than in to hands. They spoke to young adults at Northeast, some 600 8th graders during the Technology Academies of Northeast Nebraska (TANN) Career Day, and daycare center children (who received a "Henry's Happy Hands" coloring book). The project also included professionally-printed posters and use of a black light to show germs on hands. The nursing students also demonstrated the proper way to wash hands.

NORTHEAST CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION TIES BLANKETS

Also before the semester ended, Northeast Criminal Justice Association members tied 12 blankets and donated them to the Northeast Nebraska Child Advocacy Center. **Matthew McCarthy** and **Colleen Barnes** are criminal justice instructors.

HONORS LIST ANNOUNCED: STUDENTS COMPLETE STUDIES

Some 169 full-time (academic load of 12 credit hours or more) students were named to the President's Honor List at semester's end for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Another 99 part-time students (at least six credit hours) also made the President's List with their perfect 4.0. A total of 234 full-time students were named to the Deans' List for earning a grade point average of 3.75 or above while 35 part-time students were named to the Deans' List. According to the Registrar's Office, 104 students completed their course of studies and requirements for diplomas or degrees during the Fall 2008 Semester and are now eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 9.

NORTHEAST CLASSIFIED AND P/M STAFF BRIGHTEN HOLIDAYS

The Northeast Classified Staff, with **Doris Holmquist** as president, again sponsored a Casual Days cash collection box (those wearing jeans on select days donated cash to the box) and a Tree of Gifts before the Holidays to assist those in need. The Tree of Gifts contained tags and faculty/staff were asked to take a tag and purchase a gift. Some \$1,104 were raised in the Casual Days cash box and were used to buy gift cards from Wal-Mart or the Northeast Bookstore. In total, the classified staff assisted 12 New Beginnings families, 10 veterans, and six others (Northeast families) with the Tree of Gifts and Casual Days cash box. The Professional/Managerial Staff, with **Nancy Schultz** as president, also donated 38 blankets to the Salvation Army shortly before the Holiday break.

NORTHEAST FACULTY MEMBERS PUBLISH WORK, COMPLETE ART RESIDENCY

Northeast English instructor **Julie Ptacek-Wilkey** has had a poem published *In Other Words, An American Poetry Anthology* for the fourth consecutive year. Her poem, *The Shower Fountain*, was published after she was invited to submit two poems for the anthology. Another Northeast instructor, art instructor **Michael Lynch**, recently completed an artist-in-residency in Nebraska City at the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts. He was invited to participate as a visual artist after applying for a residency. He completed six paintings in six days while at the center. Ptacek-Wilkey has been on the Northeast faculty since 1997 while Lynch joined the faculty in 1995.

NORTHEAST FACULTY/STAFF HONORED WITH US BANK AWARDS

Four Northeast faculty and staff members were honored during the Spring Semester In-service with US Bank Awards. **Dr. Linda Boullion**, music department chair and director of vocal music activities, was presented the US Bank Teaching Excellence Award for Full-Time Faculty by **Troy Strom**, US Bank community bank president, while **Karen Loper**, English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor in the Adult Education Department, was presented the US Bank Teaching Excellence Award for Adjunct Faculty. Registration Specialist **Lauren Millikan** received the Great Performer-Classified Staff award while Director of Public Relations **Janelle Gerharter** received the Great Performer-Professional/Managerial Award. As is custom, the winners were nominated by Northeast staff members.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY PROGRAMS DRAWS NEAR-CAPACITY AUDIENCE

A stirring, one-man show entitled, *Dr. King's Dream*, brought a near-capacity audience of about 280 to its feet for a standing ovation after the Northeast observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day recently. **Warren C. Bowles** of Mixed Blood Theater presented the program that was funded with a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council. Two years ago, Mixed Blood Theatre's *Daughters of Africa* also drew a standing ovation. Mixed Blood Theatre is a multi-racial professional company in Minneapolis dedicated to the spirit of Dr. King's dream as it promotes cultural pluralism, individual equality, and artistic excellence. The program was sponsored by the Northeast Martin Luther King Jr./Black History Month workgroup.

VET TECH STUDENTS TO BE HONORED IN SPECIAL CEREMONIES

Several Northeast Community College veterinary technology students are to be honored tonight (Thursday, January 28) in the department's second annual White Coat Ceremony in the Cox Activities Center Theater. Freshmen students will be formally inducted in to the program and receive a monogrammed white coat in the ceremony. Those to receive white coats include: **Jessica Butterfield**, Plainview; **Randi Clause**, West Point; **Kelci Hogmire**, Burwell; **Jennifer Kaschke** and **Koni Koepke**, both of Pierce; **Heidi Kleinschmit**, Hartington; **Katrina Kusek**, Ord; **Lindsey Osborne**, Atkinson; **Kathryn Sayers**, Clarkson; **John Schieffer**, Crofton; **Valerie Sovereign** and **Kristin Voelker**, both of Battle Creek; **Mashala Thies**, Wisner; **Amanda Gabel**, Osceola; **Kristy Doffin**, Hoskins, and **Dakota Johnson** and **Carlie Schroeder**, both of Norfolk. They also took the Oath of the Veterinary Technician during the ceremony. These sophomore students will be pinned during the ceremony: **Nicole Brown**, Grand Island; **Katie Bruenning**, Hartington and Platte Center; **Sean Cihak**, Wagner S.D.; **Julie Fricke**, Schuyler; **Lauryn Hassler**, Crete; **Jennifer Heller**, Wisner; **Jennifer Hines**, Neligh; **Shayna Janssen** and **Whitney Saalfeld**, both of Columbus; **Chelsea Naprstek**, Creighton; **Kate Utech**, Plainview, and **Siobhan (Chevy) Marvin-Kriegler**, Prague. Vet tech instructors are **Dr. Mike Cooper, DVM**, **Shelli Keiser** and **Josh Schlote**.