Construction of the new Applied Technology Center at West Virginia Northern Community College in downtown Wheeling has provided a unique classroom experience for a group of current students.

Joseph M. Remias, program director/instructor, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating Technology, Industrial Maintenance Technology and/or Appliance Repair, is scheduled to occupy part of the center when the new building is opened sometime early next year. He says he’s excited about that but also wanted some of his students to have the opportunity to see an actual construction site.

“Students were able to see plumbing items such as No-Hub Band Couplings, Back Flow Preventers, Floor Drain refill valves, Fan Power VAV Boxes, Survey Instruments,” Remias explained. “Although these items are shown and talked about in the classroom, the field trip allowed students to see the actual installation.”

Remias said, along with the practical reasons, the students also “were able to see what the new classroom and lab will be like and how it is coming along. The students returning next fall are excited to be able to work in the new refrigeration lab and to use the new refrigeration trainers that cost $315,000.”

The group also toured the new large welding section which will have eight new state-of-the-art welders and exhaust system, Remias added, saying, “This will be quite an improvement over the four-section welding station being used now.

“I showed and explained to the students that the new lab ceiling will be all opened---no suspended ceiling. This will allow them to practice installing electrical conduit, water pipes and natural gas pipes for the purpose of installing the many types of refrigeration, air conditioning, heating, electrical and plumbing equipment on the market,” he said.

“These new improvements will give the students the opportunity to learn the newest and latest changes in the refrigeration, air conditioning, heating, electrical and plumbing trade,” Remias said, adding, “Thus WVNCC’s graduate students will be employable.”

Students attending the field trip were Thomas A. Bukosky, Justin C. Caprita, Frankie L. Kins, William A. Morris, Cole D. Grimm, Mark L. Latimer, Thomas R. Leach, Gregory F. Roman yak and Gregory A. Snyder.
Financial Aid Recertified
WVNCC has completed its 10-year recertification process and has received approval to continue participation in federal student aid programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. According to Alicia Frey, associate director of financial aid at WVNCC, to participate in the federal student aid programs, a school must have a current Program Participation Agreement signed by the school’s president and an authorized representative of the U.S. Secretary of Education. Under the PPA, Frey explained, the school agrees to comply with the laws, regulations and policies governing the programs. These federal student aid programs include Federal Pell Grant Program, Federal Direct Student Loan Program, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant.

Culinary Arts Class Put on Ice for a Day
A small group of students at West Virginia Northern Community College turned the school’s front plaza in downtown Wheeling into an outdoor ice sculpture studio November 27 and 29. Equipped with an arsenal of ice chisels, picks and a number of power tools, including electric chain saws and grinders, each student created a unique sculpture from a 300-pound block of ice. In just a few hours, the simple cubes were transformed into a variety of sculptures, including a mermaid, a candle and a penguin. Following the class, the students moved all the ice sculptures to the school’s front entrance, where they will stand until they eventually melt away.

“Mother Nature is the one that determines how long they’ll be here. ... So if it stays as cold as it is today, I’ve seen them last three or four days - I’ve seen them last two weeks,” said Chris Kefauver, assistant professor of culinary arts at West Virginia Northern Community College. Kefauver led Tuesday’s class and said ice sculpting is just one aspect of the “Garde Manger” course, which deals with the preparation of “cold items.” He also said the students seemed to be very enthusiastic about the ice sculpting.

“They got a good concept, they got good starts - they just need to finish getting their details into their work,” he added.

The students seemed to agree that the ice sculpting session was a lot of fun and very worthwhile. Amelia French of Wheeling said she really enjoyed the class while carving her block of ice into a figure of a penguin holding a star.

“This is the first time I’ve handled a power tool ... but the class is a lot of fun,” said French. Anthony Wheeler of Wheeling added, “I love cooking, and anything extra like this is pretty awesome.”

By SCOTT McCLOSKEY - Staff Writer
The Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register
Critical Thinking Workshop

Dennis Bills, academic program associate on the New Martinsville campus, presented a workshop on “Critical Thinking.” He indicated to those attending that the use of critical thinking skills will be useful during discussions in classes and in the preparation of various research papers. Bills explained that a critical thinking process includes being mindful of alternatives; indentifying the reasons, assumptions, and conclusions; utilizing credible sources, and developing a reasonable position when determining or challenging a belief or action. Those attending received handout material that could be used for reference after the workshop. This workshop was one of several presented this semester through the Tutoring Center.

Phi Theta Kappa Invites Students to Join

Mark Goldstein, standing, PTK advisor, New Martinsville campus, and Bryan Sells and Stephanie Minis, PTK members, served cake the afternoon of Nov. 15 as they talked with students about the benefits of becoming a Phi Theta Kappa member. An informational meeting was held via IP video on the following Friday so that interested students could learn how they can become more involved in Northern’s chapter.

Tobacco-Free Campus

The tobacco and smoke-free campus began college-wide on Thursday, Nov. 15. Staff and faculty wore shirts with the “Breathe Easy” logo to remind those who visited the campus that the College has taken this step to provide a healthier place for those who use College facilities. This was done in conjunction with the American Cancer Society’s Great American Smokeout which was started in 1976.

Modeling the tobacco-free campus shirts, from left, are Debbie Bennett, Ina Robinson, and Dr. Sherri Buerdsell.
A Frightening Good Time!

The staff and students got into the Halloween spirit by coming dressed in costume on Wednesday, Oct. 31. The halls and classrooms had an unusual array of visitors during the day. The Campus Activity Board (CAB) students held a costume judging contest so there were many who stopped by to be seen and get their photos taken for judging. Fred Goddard, maintenance, came as “Road Crew Worker”; Janet Corbitt dressed in “bear arms” was “The Right to Bear Arms” (very clever one!); Lisa Slie was a Leprechaun (whoever saw a six-foot leprechaun?); and Beth Brown, CAB member, received the most votes for the People’s Choice Award for her “Fifty Shades of Hay, the Popup Book” costume.

The campus also had its annual visit from the children attending daycare at The Little Red Schoolhouse. Children from the morning and afternoon groups were treated to lots of goodies from the staff. Each group even sang pumpkin songs before they left.

Veterans Day Video Presentation

Charles “Chuck” Clegg (video producer) meets with attendees.

The New Martinsville campus was honored Monday, Nov. 12, to have several local military veterans and their families attend the premier of the video produced by Charles “Chuck” Clegg to recognize and remember those who served the country. The video showcases individual veterans and the establishment and construction of the Veterans Memorial Building in New Martinsville. The audience included those who served from World War II to a soldier who recently returned from Afghanistan. Clegg has been working on this video project for several months and it includes photographs provided by veterans and family members. He incorporated them with photos taken of the Veterans Memorial Building and monuments, with a narration provided by Carmen Harmen, to create the documentary video. He noted that his hope is for other veterans and families to continue to provide him photos and stories so that this veterans project can continue and grow each year. His goal for the project is to preserve the history of those who served in various branches of the armed services and to remind people that many in local communities sacrificed their lives to provide the freedoms we enjoy.

Clegg was able to create the video and print his pictures for display thanks to the computer and other photo equipment housed at the New Martinsville campus. This equipment was provided through funds which West Virginia Sen. Larry Edgell acquired so that the history of the local area could be preserved.

Back row, from left, are Tim Haynes, Gary Woofter, George Woofter. Second row, from left, are Grace Woofter, Miranda Billiter, Tim Haynes and Mary Haynes, and in the front row is Maryssa Haynes.
Mike Koon Honored at WVCCA

Weirton Campus Dean Mike Koon has been cited as West Virginia Northern Community College’s outstanding contributor to community college education for 2012.

Koon, who also continues in his role as vice president of workforce development at Northern, received the award during the joint annual conference of the West Virginia Community College Association and the West Virginia Association for Developmental Education held Oct. 25-27 at Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center in Davis.

"During the past year Mike took the lead in a significant number of initiatives involving technical programs while also running the Weirton campus," Dr. Martin J. Olshinsky, Northern's president, said. "He is highly deserving of the recognition as our outstanding contributor to community college education."

Koon has been instrumental in formulating the pipefitter helper training program, the deckhand training classes and courses in welding. He also nurtured the college’s new Mechatronics program, already begun at Weirton and being readied for the Wheeling campus early next year. Mechatronics prepares students to be electrical and mechanical maintenance technicians. Koon’s vision for that course and assistance in the Steelworker for the Future program in partnership with Arcelor Mittal Steel Corp. in Weirton and with a new LPN to RN transition program for locally laid off LPNs has been received with much enthusiasm on the Weirton campus.

For the past decade, Koon’s workforce development work has included partnerships with such thriving companies as Williams Lea, the global leader in corporate information solutions, located in downtown Wheeling; Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, international law firm, located in center Wheeling; Cabela’s, leading outdoor outfitters, located at Ohio County’s growing retail center, The Highlands; CertainTeed, Marshall County wallboard manufacturing company; and table gaming classes for Wheeling Island Racetrack & Gaming Center and Mountaineer Race Track & Gaming Resort, Chester, W.Va.

Help for Hurricane Sandy Victims

Weirton faculty, staff, and students actively worked to gather relief supplies for victims of Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey. The initiative began when Frank DeCaria heard from his son who is a pharmacist living in New Jersey about the dire straits facing residents of the Arthur Brisbane Shelter in Wall, N.J. DeCaria sent a memo to faculty and staff notifying them of the situation and asking for donations that he could take to the shelter the week of Nov. 19. In addition to faculty and staff, students became involved, with both the Campus Activities Council and the Weirton Student Nurses taking a leadership role. Donated goods filled DeCaria's car and some items were given to the Weirton Cares drive to support the victims.

With some of the supplies are Clayton Weekly, Missy Wenner – Student Government Association; Barb Coburn, Tina Edwards, Frank DeCaria – faculty and staff; Angel Zajac, Jah-Mira Taylor, Jamie Pernell, Ellenor Schluter – nursing students.
Merry & Bright!

Once again WVNCC was a sponsor of the Weirton Christmas Parade. The College sponsored a float in the parade and Lisa Soly and members of Student Government walked beside the float giving candy to youngsters watching the parade. President Olshinsky represented the College in the official viewing stand and during the television broadcast of the parade on WTOV-TV9. Despite the cold weather, it was an enjoyable way to welcome in the Christmas Holiday Season.

Employees Honored by ESGR

Barbara Coburn, Tina Edwards and Lisa Soly were recognized by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for their outstanding support of the National Guard and Reserve. They were nominated for the award by Krista Johnson, a student and National Guard member, who cited them for helping her to navigate the processes necessary to enroll and for their support throughout the entire process. Krista came from South Carolina and faced a number of challenges getting enrolled. However, she was effusive in her praise for the support she received from Coburn, Edwards and Soly and indicated that she thought they went beyond normal expectations to help her. The three received framed certificates and a pin recognizing them as a Patriotic Employer from Ed Bowman, regional director of the ESGR. Holding their awards, in front from left, are Edwards, program assistant 1; Soly, counselor 1/transfer coordinator; and Coburn, program assistant 1. Looking on as they receive their awards as a Patriotic Employer, from left, are Johnson and Bowman.