Higher Education Day at the Legislature

Setting up the WVNCC display area the night before Higher Education Day, from left, are Jessica Roberts, J.P. Felekey and Sarah Blankenship.

Once again, staffers and students from West Virginia Northern participated in the annual Higher Education Day at the Legislature held this year on March 21 at the capitol building in Charleston. The event gives the state’s higher education institutions a forum to show off what they have to offer, and to meet and greet state legislators on their own turf. During the day, students and staff sit in on portions of the House and Senate proceedings while institution presidents are invited to a “photo op” meeting with Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin.

Janet Fike, vice president of student services, coordinated arrangements for this year’s table manned by the College and Ida Williams, student activities program coordinator, accompanied the students on their visit to the state’s capital. As is traditional, the Culinary Arts department provided food to be given out from the table. This year the offering was an assortment of delicious cookies.

The trip was completed with a visit to the WV Museum. From left are J.P. Felekey and Clayton Weeks with the iconic Big Boy.
Planning & Response Summit
Some 150 representatives from public and private higher education institutions attended the March 22 West Virginia Higher Education Campus Planning and Response Summit hosted by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. Three critical areas, including public health concerns, safety and security issues, and weather related events, were the focus of the Summit. Attending from West Virginia Northern were Steve Lippiello, vice president of administrative services/CFO; Peggy Carmichael, chief human resource officer; Lucy Kefauver, executive administrative assistant to the vice president of academic affairs; Shannon Payton, director of student activities; Crystal Harbert, English instructor; and Debbie Bennett, office administrator, New Martinsville campus.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin stated, “I applaud the state’s higher education community for taking a proactive approach to providing a safe learning environment for students across the state of West Virginia. It is critical that we, as a state, are prepared for all types of emergency situations and prior and proper planning are required to effectively and efficiently respond in times of need.”

Professionalism & Workplace Skills Workshops
Julie Horton, career services counselor, has announced that her department and the College’s Workforce Development department have teamed up to help students succeed in the workplace by offering a Professionalism and Workplace Skills workshop.

Attendees will learn customer service skills, phone etiquette, internet/email manners, and how to effectively deal with difficult clients and coworkers. The sessions are free, fun, and informative and light refreshments will be served.

Julie said the workshop will be conducted at the New Martinsville campus in room 110 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, and on the Weirton campus in room 209B-R from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, April 4. The workshops already were conducted on the Wheeling campus on March 27.

In addition, Julie said the month of April also will bring career events to all three WVNCC campuses. Whether starting a career as a new graduate, transferring to a four-year college, or looking for a summer job, these events are a great place to start, she pointed out. Professional dress is recommended, and job-seekers should bring plenty of current resumes. Those interested in meeting with college representatives are encouraged to bring copies of transcripts.

Dates and times for the 2013 Spring Career Fairs are as follows:
Wheeling campus, Career/Transfer Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, April 11, B&O Building auditorium. (There will be a Summer Job Fair in the auditorium from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30.) A Career Fair will be held on the New Martinsville campus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the lobby on Tuesday, April 9. There will be a Career Fair on the Weirton campus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the lobby on Thursday, April 18.

NCMPR in Chicago
From left, Eddie Kokosinski, Hilary Curto and Bob DeFrancis check out the infamous Cloud Gate sculpture, known to most as simply “the bean,” in Millenium Park, which lies in the heart of downtown Chicago, Illinois. Bob, Hilary and Eddie attended a three-day conference for the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations in March. The conference is a precursor to the Paragon Awards, held on the final night. Last year the Community Relations office brought home a Paragon Award for the College’s website.
2013 Friends Dinner

Some 150 persons attended the March 23 fund-raising dinner sponsored by the Wheeling Campus Friends of the College and the WVNCC Foundation Inc. The Friends selected Ohio County Commissioner Orphy Klempa as the person honored for community service. Orphy, a former member of the College’s Board of Governors, also is a WVNCC graduate and has been a long-time supporter of the College as well as serving on numerous other non-profit agency boards throughout the years.

Theme for the event, held in the lobby, dining room and multi-purpose room of the Education Center, was “New York, New York.” Keeping with the theme, Graphic Arts Designer Senior Hilary Curto created print materials incorporating the theme and she, Rana Spurlock, fundraising and development assistant, and other members of the dinner decorating committee followed the theme with striking table decorations and an assemblage of talent. Greeting the crowd were a strolling mime, guitarist, and a caricature artist and the evening’s program was opened with a high-kicking performance by Wheeling’s own Rockettes, the Toni Zeakes Dancers.

Of course, the Culinary Arts department chefs and students served their usual sumptuous meal which included a choice of Delmonico steak, lobster Newburg, or Vodka pasta all topped off with New York cheesecake and a choice of flavorful toppings. Greetings were given by Nick Zervos, president of the Friends board, and Dr. Mary Marockie, president of the Foundation board of trustees, and by President Olshinsky.

Rana said thanks to all the corporate sponsors, donors, and attendees more than $32,000 was raised, a figure that topped last year’s record-breaking total. Funds will be used for scholarships and other needs for Wheeling campus students.

1. Auctioned at the Friends-Foundation annual dinner were 10 baskets overflowing with items ranging from WVU paraphernalia to Vera Bradley accessories to a meal prepared and served in your home by Mark Glass, Northern’s newest instructor and chef. One of the baskets was provided by Fox Run, The Center for Children and Adolescents, and included the artwork created by student Ridge Mackey, center, who volunteered to draw the painting that was auctioned along with an assortment of art supplies. With Ridge are Nick Zervos, president of the Wheeling Campus Friends of the College, and Sally Anne Schneider, CEO of Fox Run.

2. Bob Rine, center, of Wheeling, retired Weirton Steel executive, attended the March 23 fund-raiser and met with Drs. Henry and Mary Marockie. She’s the president of the board of trustees of the WVNCC Foundation.

3. The Toni Zeakes Dancers await their 7 p.m. showtime start.

4. Orphy Klempa, the honoree at the dinner, and his wife, Mary Jo, at left, are greeted by Dianna and Dr. Martin J. Olshinsky, WVNCC president. All were being entertained by mime Zachary Michael. Those in attendance also enjoyed hearing “street musician” Jeremy McConnaughy on his guitar.
Mark Goldstein Receives College Teacher of the Year Award

At the recent West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference, held at Stonewall Resort State Park in Roanoke, Professor Mark Goldstein was sitting in the audience with his wife, Patti, and another fellow math teacher when he was shocked to hear this announcement:

"Since this is a math award, and this teacher teaches lots of algebra, let us call the teacher Professor X. The format of this is a "bigger than a breadbox" recitation, a game of 20 questions. Usually in 20 questions the goal is to guess the person quickly. Successive bisection is the strategy of choice. Here the goal is to play conversely, and reveal the person slowly. One thing about college teachers is that we are out there with the website called Rate My Professor. Here is a quote from there about Professor X:

"Prof. X is a tough teacher--he expects a lot--but very rewarding to work with. (He or she) is SUPER helpful in office hours and will really go out of (his or her) way to help you if you're sincere in wanting help. (He or she) really cares about (his or her) students and even though (he or she) teaches at a very high level, (his or her) classes are really worth taking. I recommend them 100%!"

"As you know, Rate My Professor cuts both ways. On the other hand, (Mr. or Ms. X) 'is a good professor, but is one of those individuals that know so much that sometimes (he or she) gets carried away. If you ask for help, though, (he or she) is very helpful and understanding.'

"Hey, we've all been there. So now here are some real facts: Professor X has a master's degree from WVU, dating from the late '70s. Professor X never takes an elevator but walks the steps anywhere he goes. He (it is a he) likes to play the guitar and sing. He teaches in the northern half of the state. Whether he is above or below the Mason-Dixon Line depends on where he is that day. He takes on long-term projects and commitments. Two in particular are advising the honorary Phi Theta Kappa, and organizing a statewide Great Teachers Summer Workshop.

"Here is a quote from a colleague: 'He has been one of the most loyal and supportive members of the state Advisory Council of Faculty--a rock, always enlightened, always ready to share new ideas and the innovative programs that Northern has established... but most importantly he has been the guiding force behind the West Virginia Great Teachers Seminar for more than two decades...'

"The 2013 College Teacher of the Year is from the New Martinsville campus of West Virginia Northern Community College: Mark Goldstein."

Please join his colleagues from throughout West Virginia Northern in congratulating Mark.
New Martinsville Campus Dean Larry Tackett said, “We are excited that Ina has been given this opportunity to utilize her skills in advising. This also will provide for a smooth transition for our students.” Ina can be reached at Lisa’s former extension, 8769. To make this transition more manageable, Larry has relocated his office to room 104 (former counselor office) so that Ina can be closer to the front desk. Larry’s extension remains the same, 8760.

Math 205 Mathematics for Teachers

The students in Mark Goldstein’s class continue their bulletin board displays showing a variety of ways that young students can relate to mathematical principles. The most recent ones were a bowl full of different species of fish (actually cute stickers!) that were counted and divided and shown in a graph form to display the variations in the numbers of each. The newest one is on geometry and shows hands and paper clips as a method to count the height of the bulletin board. Crayons placed at various angles were used to show how geometry can be seen in everyday objects. These bulletin boards are useful as the students prepare for their continued career in education. At the end of the semester, the class has an opportunity to vote on the top ones for the semester.

Welcome Ina as the Interim Counselor

Lisa Slie has moved on to another position outside of the College where she will be able to work in the field of her master’s degree. With her departure, Ina Robinson, program assistant 1, has accepted the appointment to serve as the interim counselor on the New Martinsville campus on a part-time basis. Ina will divide her time between her position at the Service Center and fulfilling the duties of advising new students.

History Alive! Presents Eleanor Roosevelt

Thanks to Student Activities department and the West Virginia Humanities Council, Patty Cooper of Parkersburg portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) at a recent Lunch and Learn. This portrayal gave the audience a view of her life in her role as the president’s wife.

Mrs. Roosevelt was a champion of social reform and human rights, traveled as a representative of the president, authored books, wrote newspaper columns, and visited troops during World War II. The founding of the homestead community of Arthurdale in Preston County in 1934 is a project for which she is well remembered in West Virginia. (http://www.wvhumanities.org/HA_Roosevelt.htm) Students, staff and community members enjoyed the presentation. Ms. Cooper also had a significant number of books and publications displayed and spent time following her presentation answering questions.
A Visit from Mrs. Roosevelt

Eleanor Roosevelt paid a visit to the Weirton campus on March 20 to participate in a political rally for her husband's re-election in the 1936 presidential campaign. Afterwards, she took questions from the press who were in attendance.

The presentation was part of the Women's History Month activities and the “press” were audience members. More than 45 persons including students, faculty, staff and community members attended the informative lunch-and-learn presentation and learned more about Eleanor Roosevelt, her husband, her family and the politics and social climate of the depression era.

Weirton campus adjunct history instructor Joe Brim meets Eleanor Roosevelt as portrayed by Patty Cooper of Parkersburg. The special History Alive! program was sponsored by the College and provided through the West Virginia Humanities Council.

Opportunity in Mechatronics

Weirton Campus Dean Mike Koon was involved this month in a typical WVNCC response to a request that required flexibility and a quick turn-around. On March 20 the Weirton campus hosted representatives of the Italian company Pietro and Fiorentini as it used the Mechatronics lab to conduct welding testing for positions with the company.

The company announced recently that it will build a facility in Weirton and will be operating out of the former Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corrugating Plant in Beech Bottom until the Weirton facility is constructed. The company fabricates components for the oil and gas industry including pressure vessels.

Mike explained the company needed a place to conduct testing for the initial hires and the College had to arrange the testing in less than a week because Giuliano Canale and his colleague were only in the country for a few days and had a busy schedule. Administrative Assistant Janice Dailey and the workforce welding instructor, Lloyd Van Horne, worked frantically with vendors to arrange for delivery of pipe and gases and to set up the facility for testing.

Everything was in order when they arrived, however, and the testing went extremely well, Mike added. Assistant Professor Frank DeCaria served as an ambassador, welcoming the gentlemen speaking in Italian and helping to acquaint them with the Italian culture in the Weirton area. The College and campus definitely made a favorable impression upon our guests and soon-to-be neighbors, Mike concluded.