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*This newsletter is a publication of*

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Students and employees are encouraged to submit information to be printed in the newsletter. **The deadline for submission for the next issue is April 10th.** Questions or comments should be directed to Cindy Moholland at 454-1032. Additional college information can be obtained by calling 454-1000.



# WCCC Compass

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A Quarterly Newsletter for the WCCC Community Winter, 2006

## New Program Approved for WCCC

At a meeting of the Maine Community College System in fall 2005, a new entrepreneurship program was approved for WCCC. Many of the courses in the program have been offered for a number of years, but this will be the first time that a student can earn an academic credential in entrepreneurship. Graduates of the one year program will earn a certificate from the college.

The entrepreneurship program is composed of a number of required business-related subjects and provides an opportunity for matriculated students to take electives to round out the curriculum.

Courses such as Introduction to Business, Entrepreneurship and New Venture Practice, Ethics, Advertising and Marketing, College Composition and Human Relations are required during the 33 credit hour program. Electives such as Finance, Supervisory Management, and International Business, and numerous others, are offered as well.

"This subject matter has been very popular with a number of area residents who have taken courses during both the day and evening, eager to learn new approaches and theories in the whole entrepreneurship attitude toward creating and developing their own businesses. It's very exciting for me and the other faculty who teach some of these courses to see our entrepreneurship offerings evolve to this level. We're confident that enrollment in the program, both full-time and part-time, will reflect the high level of interest we have seen in the community," said Rhonda French, lead instructor for the program and the faculty member who led the development of the new major. "We're always excited to be able to develop

a new program to meet the needs of the region and our citizens, and this will be an exceptionally popular program, I'm certain," she added.

### Successful Entrepreneur/ WCCC Grad Provides Insight to Students



Clayton Lank (left) explains his business to WCCC faculty member Dr. David Sousa

"I couldn't believe how interested the students were!" said one of the faculty attending a campus presentation by former WCCC student, Clayton Lank. "...and he did such an AWESOME job."

Clayton is a WCCC graduate from Lubec who came back and spoke to the entrepreneurship and new venture practice class in November about his business Quoddy Mist (see Quoddy Mist, <http://www.quoddy.com>). He talked for nearly an hour and a half. The students asked many questions and remarked how informative it was.

## From the President Bill Cassidy

We are well into our second semester of the academic year and the peak of our admission season here at the College. We see many of our technology programs fully subscribed and, in fact, developing waiting lists. We are encouraging potential students to apply as soon as possible and secure their position in their desired program to assure their admission.



Additionally, we are seeing increased enrollments in our liberal studies classes and Associate in Arts Liberal Studies Degree. We believe this is as a result of more people recognizing that they can obtain their initial liberal studies course work here at Washington County Community College at a reduced cost, curtailing their need to travel out of the area. The Liberal Studies Associate in Arts Degree can be articulated to our colleague institutions in the University of Maine System through a relatively new joint venture called AdvantageU. Of course, many other higher degree granting institutions within Maine will also transfer these

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## Students Experience Service Learning at WCCC

Rhonda French, supervisory management instructor, utilizes service learning techniques very effectively in her classes. Service learning is “the independent application of learned skills and theory to benefit the local community.” This teaching technique encompasses utilization of all those skills required by today’s managers: planning, implementation, teamwork, problem solving, conflict resolution, etc. In addition, this course emphasizes the value of community service.

“It’s so important to give something back to the community and reap the great satisfaction of personally making a difference,” said French. “A great part of the total college experience is learning to become a productive, participatory member of society. This approach instills those habits in our students.”

Students work in teams, completely independent of instructional direction. They select a project to benefit some segment of the local community. The team researches, plans and implements the project. Problems and conflicts arise that must be resolved by the group, reflecting real life management situations. Very successful projects have already been undertaken.



WCCC instructor Rhonda French

One team engaged in a clothing drive to solicit new and used clothing for area daycare centers. Another project group became involved in a major food drive, *Can You Fill the Canoe?* People dropped food products into canoes and kayaks strategically located at the college to benefit local food pantries. Another project team collected stuffed animals and delivered them to local police departments, ambulance services and hospitals for use in emergency situations involving children. Sixteen 30-gallon bags of toys were collected! One team initiated

a project to help PAWS by collecting cash donations and pet food and supplies. The members also enjoyed their visit to PAWS. Another group sold candygrams on campus, donating the proceeds to the college day care center to be used for Christmas gifts.

WCCC is very proud of its business department’s unique and realistic approaches to instruction by employing practical applications of learning with a community service emphasis. The supervisory management course is one of the key offerings within the college’s business studies department.

“Our students are thrilled to be able to apply theoretical knowledge to needs and issues right here close to home. It’s been really successful,” concluded French.

Anyone interested is more information about the business studies courses available at WCCC, either day or evening, is welcome to contact French at 454-1058 or the admissions office at 454-1049.

### From a Dream to Reality... through WCCC

Have you ever dreamed of a career change, but have never taken the steps to make that dream a reality? Janice Rice has made her dream a reality.

After working at several jobs throughout her life, Janice was ready for a career rather than just a job. She came to WCCC in the spring of 2000 with a goal of earning her associate in arts degree in liberal studies from WCCC and then to transfer those core courses to the University of Maine at Machias to obtain a baccalaureate degree and teaching certification, and that is just what she did.



Janice Rice provides instruction in a writing lab at Shead High School.

Janice’s goal when she began WCCC was to be a kindergarten teacher, but after her first course with WCCC English Instructor Barbara Barrett, Janice re-defined her goal. “When I took my first English course with Barbara Barrett, I found the subject exciting and interesting; something I had never

experienced in an English course before,” said Janice. “Barbara’s instruction and classroom techniques made the topic interesting. I reconnected with English, and it became my passion.”

Janice is now teaching 10th and 12th grade English, Public Speaking and Writing Lab at Shead High School in Eastport. While enrolled at WCCC, Janice took a variety of courses, including Introduction to Literature, Speech, Intermediate Algebra, Psychology and Fun with Shakespeare. She also got a head start on her studies at UMM and began taking 300 level courses at the Unobskey School.

After graduating from WCCC’s Liberal Studies program with honors in the spring of 2001, Janice transferred to UMM and earned her baccalaureate degree in English with a minor in secondary education and graduated summa cum laude. Janice said that “the coursework at WCCC gave me an excellent foundation to continue at UMM and successfully pass the praxis I exam.”

Janice was also very involved with the campus community while studying at WCCC. She was a member of the student senate and worked as a peer tutor. Janice has already set her next career goal. This winter, she began taking courses toward an Educational Leadership master’s degree program at the University of Maine and plans to obtain her principal certification. The faculty and staff at WCCC are very proud of Janice’s accomplishments and wish her all the best with her career in education.

### WCCC’s Sixth Annual Polar Bear Dip

The popular state-wide recognized annual Polar Bear Dip took place as scheduled on a very cold Friday, February 3rd at 1:30 p.m. from the Pleasant Point pier. This event has been a major fundraising effort sponsored by the WCCC Student Senate to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Bangor. Over the past five years the Polar Bear Dip has netted over \$90,000 for this worthy cause.

Many Washington County businesses and others pledge support for and participate in the dip. Various Passamaquoddy tribal departments also play key roles, and ambulance, police and public works departments ensure safety during the event. The National Guard donates invaluable assistance by providing tents and heaters.

Dippers acquire pledges of support from businesses, institutions and individuals. Dippers participate as individuals or as members of a team, and those raising over \$75 receive a 2006 WCCC Polar Bear Dip sweatshirt.

Over \$15,500 was raised this year easily reaching the overall goal of \$100,000.

### 2006 All-Maine Academic Team Nominees Honored



From left to right Barbara Barrett, WCCC English Instructor, Stephanie Ireland, Medical Assisting Student, Catherine Lee, Education Student and Bill Cassidy, President.

On Thursday, November 17, President Cassidy hosted a reception in honor of the finalists and semi-finalists in the 2006 All-Maine Academic Team competition. Students, faculty, staff, and family gathered to celebrate the success of these exemplary WCCC students.

The team, sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, USA TODAY, and the American Association of Community Colleges, recognizes students who excel academically and show intellectual rigor in their course of study, demonstrate academic/leadership/civic growth, and use their community college education to better themselves, their schools and their communities.

This year's semifinalists included Mary Ellen Boone, Robbinston; Sheila Cottrell, Baileyville; Stephanie Ireland, Baileyville; Catherine Lee, Eastport; Erin Lincoln, Calais; Bradley Phillips, Calais; and Charlene Roussel, Baileyville. From this group of distinguished scholar-citizens, the selection committee selected Catherine Lee and Stephanie Ireland as finalists to represent Washington County Community College on the 2006 All-Maine Academic Team. The finalists will be honored at a ceremony in Augusta, hosted by the Maine Community College System board of trustees, later in the spring.

**Congratulations to all of you!**

### 2006 All-Maine Academic Team Nominees Honored

In response to current industry needs, Washington County Community College's Boat School is providing modern technology instruction to its students. A new boat building technique has been introduced into the program this year. Commonly referred to as cold molded construction, this technique involves bending thin layers of cedar planking cold and securing them with epoxy glue.

The freshmen class at the Boat School, in Eastport Maine is employing this method to build one of two whitehall rowing boats this year. The other boat is being constructed using a more traditional plank-on-frame construction. The cold molded boatbuilding method involves applying the first strips that run fore and aft. The next two layers run diagonally to the centerline resulting in a very light but strong boat. This method contrasts with the traditional, plank-on-frame method of steaming ribs and bending them into place. Skills acquired from these instructional approaches are transferable to fiberglass technology as well.



Boatbuilding Student Dan Furrow applied epoxy glue during the cold mold boat building process

Students work in four-person teams constructing a fourteen-foot nine-inch rowing tender, a white hall that sports two rowing stations. They work from a set of plans and loft to a full-size pattern. Students can also avail themselves to courses in marine painting and repair and in fiberglass technology. The Boat School prepares students for a variety of positions in an aggressively expanding marine industry in Maine and elsewhere. This industry currently remains one of Maine's fastest growing segments of manufacturing in the state, and growth is projected into the future. High demand for skilled graduates currently exists and these jobs generally pay higher than average wages and benefits.

### From the President

credits into their respective offerings.

These are exciting times here at Washington County Community College as we continue to advance our technology programs while expanding in to new ventures within our liberal studies offerings. I hope that you will consider joining us in this wonderful institution—a great place to study, live and work!

### Entrepreneur...

During his presentation, he told the students, "I want you all to know that I have used EVERYTHING that I learned at WCCC in starting and running my business." Lank is a graduate of WCCC's computer support networking program.

A new entrepreneurship certificate program has been approved for the college and will be offered next year. Previously, a number of courses have been offered dealing with various topics related to entrepreneurship, but this is the first time that a credential will be offered in that major.

The Boat School is a branch of Washington County Community College, and is located at Deep Cove in Eastport, Maine. This breathtaking coastal down east setting provides a working waterfront with docks and floats, a 60 ton travelift, large meeting areas and an impressive marine library. Classes for the two-year program begin in late August. One year certificate programs in composite and wooden boatbuilding are also available. WCCC is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and financial aid is available to students who qualify. For more information contact WCCC at 207 454-1000 or access the website at [www.wccc.me.edu/boat-school](http://www.wccc.me.edu/boat-school).

## 2nd Annual Transfer Fair Held at WCCC

The TRIO program at WCCC, the Student Support Services program, hosted the 2nd annual Transfer Fair on December 7th, from 11am to 2pm. Representatives from the University of Maine at Presque Isle, the University of Maine at Fort Kent, the University of Maine at Machias, the University of Maine at Farmington, the University of Maine, the University of Southern Maine, the University of Maine at Augusta, Unity College, Colby College and the University of New England were on campus to speak to students about the transfer opportunities on their respective campuses.

With the advent of AdvantageU, the prospects for potential transfer students have increased dramatically. In response to this increase, TRIO is looking to provide students with the information they need in order to make informed decisions.

“By hosting a transfer fair at the WCCC campus, we are able to provide this service not only to those students planning to transfer in the fall, but also to those who hope to transfer in the future and to those students who are not yet considering a four year degree,” said transfer counselor Melissa Mitchell.

This year, the Transfer Fair was open to local high school students who wish to consider a two plus two option. Attending a community college for the first two years is a close-to-home, supportive and economical option for students who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree at another university

or college. Admissions counselors from both WCCC and the attending universities and colleges were on hand to discuss these opportunities and to answer many, many questions from students.

“The Transfer Fair was an exciting opportunity for WCCC students to recognize how valued they are by higher education institutions around the state of Maine,” said Veronica Delcourt, WCCC dean of academic and student affairs, when asked about her thoughts on the event. “By coming to our campus and presenting a wide array of opportunities, these institutions truly demonstrated their commitment to our students.”

Melissa Mitchell, the WCCC transfer counselor, encourages anyone with questions about transfer opportunities or the AdvantageU program to stop by her office. She is available at 454-1079 or [mmitchell@wccc.me.edu](mailto:mmitchell@wccc.me.edu).



*Washington County Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 454-1076.*

## And the winner is...

Catherine J.S. Lee, a WCCC senior majoring in education, was the winner of the “The WCCC Compass,” competition held in November. As you can tell from the new masthead for our newsletter, her winning entry, “The WCCC Compass” will grace our newsletter from now on. Thanks, Catherine, for participating and for providing a clear and meaningful rationale for your suggestion:

I like “The WCCC Compass” because it implies a number of things that relate to the school: the coastal/riverine location and the marine technology center; the notion of journeys, especially the educational journey; the notion of direction and guidance, well-provided by WCCC; the idea of charting or mapping, as in preparing for a career; and the hope that prospective students continue to find their way to WCCC.

Catherine was awarded a \$75 gift certificate to the WCCC bookstore. It will be very helpful for next semester!



*Cindy Moholland (right) of WCCC presents Catherine Lee with a gift certificate for the WCCC bookstore*

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