

NorthWest Arkansas Community College

THE WEEKLY INSIDER

January 28-February 1, 2008

NWACC spring enrollment tops 6,600

NWACC announces record enrollment; cites need for additional learning spaces

NWACC enrollment stood at 6,624 students on the 11th class day of the spring 2008 semester, Tuesday, Jan. 29, the college announced last week.

That's an all-time record enrollment here and represents a 13.8 percent increase over the number of students enrolled at NWACC one year ago (5,823).

NWACC added 801 students this spring to its Bentonville campus, numerous centers and online courses from one year ago. Each facility is bulging with students.

The 6,624 students taking classes at locations from Bella Vista to Fayetteville and online has increased by 2,023 since the spring 2004 semester. The 13.8 percent increase is the greatest one-year

Where NWACC students reside

Rogers1,304	Prairie Grove98	Pineville, Mo.17
Fayetteville1,275	Pea Ridge91	Cave Springs17
Springdale952	Gravette80	Hindsville16
Bentonville929	West Fork64	Holiday Island16
Bella Vista362	Garfield51	Little Rock16
Lowell206	Huntsville48	Greenland15
Siloam Springs201	Lincoln44	Other*321
Centerton166	Elkins42	Grand Total6,624
Farmington121	Eureka Springs34	* Other - count of other cities of student addresses with less than 40 registrations
Gentry108	Decatur30	

jump at NWACC over same time period.

Spring semester headcounts by year and the increases are presented below.

Year	Headcount	Pct. Increase
2004	4,601	3.7%
2005	5,171	12.4%
2006	5,330	3.1%
2007	5,823	8.0%
2008	6,624	13.8%

NWACC's spring 2008 enrollment sur-

passed its fall enrollment for a second straight year. NWACC enrolled 23 more students in spring 2007 and it did in fall 2006.

The college enrolled a record 6,470 students this past fall, or 154 fewer than were enrolled Tuesday.

The 11th class day report also indicates that students are carrying more **CONTINUED on Page 3**

Pat Kelly selected as Baum Stadium public address announcer

NWACC's own Pat Kelly is the new voice of the Razorback Baseball Hogs in Baum Stadium, starting on Feb. 22 when the Razorbacks host the Raiders of Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Pat promises to rev up the Baum Stadium crowd for all 32 home games this spring. Congratulations, Pat!

The University of Arkansas announced on Friday Pat's selection as public address announcer.

He is an avid baseball fan and an Arkansas alumnus who worked in the radio business for 13 years as a disc jockey, play-by-play man and host of area events in Hot Springs and then at KCWD-FM in Harrison.

"The opportunity to serve as the public address announcer at Baum Stadium is **CONTINUED on Page 2**



NWACC employees celebrated the selection of Pat Kelly, Organizational Development Webmaster.

NWACC instructor named Lowell firefighter of the year

NWACC EMT instructor Robert (Bobby) Steeps was awarded the "Chief Leroy Barker Firefighter of the Year" award by the City of Lowell.

Steeps also was recently promoted to Lieutenant at Lowell.

He came to NWACC about two years ago and teaches in the paramedic program while coordinating the clinical activities of the paramedic students.

"Bobby is a mentor for his students as well as a great resource," said Jamin Snarr, NWACC EMS programs director. "His strong background gives him an advantage when teaching medical and trauma instruction to the students."

Bobby is both a paramedic and an RN. He worked at Northwest Medical Center in the ER department, where he still **CONTINUED on Page 2**



Vickie Johnson and Danny Sheffield, NWACC Adult Education ESL Instructors, are participating in a state-wide workshop on "Literacy Strategies for Adults."

Johnson, Sheffield participating in workshop on literacy strategies

Vickie Johnson and Danny Sheffield, NWACC Adult Education ESL Instructors, are participating in a state-wide workshop "Literacy Strategies for Adults."

The 48-hour professional development training includes four 2-day sessions at the Arkansas Adult Literacy Resource Center in Little Rock.

The first session met January 31 and February 1. They will also attend sessions on February 28 and 29 and April 3, 4, 24 and 25.

The Literacy Strategies training focuses on the study of how to better serve students by knowing their learning styles and their readability levels as well as the readability levels of reading materials.

The workshop also includes many other helpful strategies and tactics to facilitate success for the student.

The class is being taught by Dr. Charlotte Robertson of UALR.

FIREFIGHTER

Continued from Page 1

does on a part-time basis.

He also was lead flight nurse for Air Evac Life Team No.4 in Springdale.

In his spare time, he works as a volunteer at the Lowell Fire Department where he responds to both EMS calls and fire calls.

"Bobby's outstanding performance has gained him favor in the administration's eyes at Lowell, where three weeks ago he was promoted to Lieutenant and later was given the "Chief Leroy Barker

Firefighter of the Year" award," Snarr said.

"Bobby's outstanding performance at NWACC is a true testament to his teaching abilities and compassion for others. We are proud of Bobby's accomplishments and congratulate him on his outstanding accomplishments in the community which we serve."



NWACC instructor Bobby Steeps with his awards.

About The Weekly Insider

The Weekly Insider is produced for the internal College Community and for those interested in the College by the NWACC Public Relations Department. Email items for publication to jhall@nwacc.edu.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES:

<http://www.nwacc.edu/presidentsoffice/PublicRelations.php>

STAY CURRENT DAILY:

http://www.nwacc.edu/presidentsoffice/CampusAnnouncements_000.php



One College Drive

Bentonville, AR 72712 [Exit 86 on I540]

1-479-636-9222 / 1-800-995-6922

NWACC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

PAT KELLY

Continued from Page 1

a dream come true," Kelly said. "I love the Razorbacks, and I am extremely excited to play even a small role in the truly special atmosphere at Baum Stadium."

Kelly holds two degrees from the University of Arkansas, receiving his bachelor's of science in education in 1993 and then a master's in education in 1999. He moved to Arkansas in 1980 and quickly developed a love for all things Razorback.

"We were impressed by Pat's background and enthusiasm for the position,"

Arkansas Associate Athletic Director for Marketing/Licensing Matt Shanklin said.

"In the end, the selection committee thought that his passion and experience would make him a great fit at Baum Stadium."

A native of Independence, Mo., Kelly currently works in computer technology and training at NorthWest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville and Rogers.

Kelly replaces Larry Shank who passed away in July of 2007 after serving as the Baum Stadium public address announcer for 19 seasons.

ENROLLMENT**Continued from Page 1**

credit hours than even before. A year ago, those 5,823 students were enrolled in a combined 46,970 credit hours, or 8 hours per student. This spring, those 6,624 students are enrolled in 56,166 hours, or 8.5 hours per student.

The total number of credit hours students are taking this spring is up by 9,196, or 19.6 percent. Most courses range from 3-4 credit hours.

NWACC is seeing increased student populations at each of its teaching centers.

At Burns Hall, 4,467 individual students take credit courses at the facility each week, up from 4,108 students a year ago.

This is the first spring semester for the Student Center, where 1,982 students take classes each week. The Student Center primarily houses math classes on the third floor. Those classes were relocated last summer from the Math and Technology Center (MAT) on Woods Lane. The MAT hosted 1,126 students last spring.

At other sites:

■ There are 652 individual students taking classes at the Washington County Center, up from 560 last year.

■ There are 511 individual students taking college credit classes at the Regional Technology Center, up from 494 last year.

■ There are 421 individual students taking credit classes at the Shewmaker

Center, up from 383 last year.

■ Utilization of NWACC's two classrooms at the Bella Vista Highlands Crossing is up to 82 from 32 last year.

■ Utilization of space made available to NWACC by Northwest Technical Center in Springdale is up to 44 from 32 last year.

■ NWACC has 1,544 individual students taking classes online.

College President Dr. Becky Paneitz said the non-stop escalating enrollment creates greater urgency for NWACC to quickly develop more classroom and learning environments.

"Each and every semester more students are choosing to either start or continue their education with us," she said. "We're delivering quality instruction that meets the wants and needs of northwest Arkansas."

"The word's out: we are accessible, we are affordable and we're convenient. As much as that's a result of northwest Arkansas' success, it's also a result of our focus on providing students a quality educational experience."

Paneitz also acknowledged and expressed her appreciation to Gov. Mike Beebe and the Arkansas General Assembly, which increased NWACC state support by 21 percent for the current biennium. That, she said, allowed NWACC to add more faculty to offer more class sections, and staff to support students.

College leaders are in the middle of a

\$16 million capital campaign to raise funds to increase the number of teaching facilities, such as classrooms.

NWACC expects to break ground this spring on the new Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development. That building is set for a fall 2009 opening and will create almost 40,000 square feet of teaching facilities and classrooms.

The college is remodeling parts of Burns Hall, which will create additional classroom, library and open computer lab space. The work is expected to be completed by next fall.

More general education classroom space also will become available at Burns Hall when the college relocates its nursing program to the NARTI-Highlands Oncology Center on S.E. Eagle Way, also planning for sometime in 2009.

Finally, NWACC is amid a process to tie everything – facilities and programming – together.

The college is conducting six focus group meetings in February throughout northwest Arkansas, asking residents in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville, Bella Vista and western Benton County how NWACC can best align its programs with the needs of the communities it serves.

Results will be incorporated into an updated facilities master plan for the main campus in Bentonville as well as for other locations in the NWACC service area.

NWACC presents computers to Youth Bridge's Junior Civic League TLP

NWACC donated eight Precision 340 Dell computers to Youth Bridge, Junior Civic League Transitional Living Program 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in the Trammel Student Union at the NWACC Student Center.

The donation was the second time NWACC has donated computers no longer used to a non profit organization. Its first donation was made four years ago to the Benton County Single Parent Scholarship program.

Students at NWACC receive computer instruction on the newest machines.

Those machines are then used by faculty and then staff over a series of years.

NWACC received permission to make the donation from the state.

Representatives of Youth Bridge were at NWACC to accept the computers as was NWACC graduate Audie Weatherford, who facilitated the donation on behalf of the TLC.

Youth Bridge helps at-risk youth and their families build brighter futures by providing supportive and empowering services. One of those services is the Fayetteville Junior Civic League's



Transitional Living Program (TLP) operated by Youth Bridge.

Youth Bridge's Fayetteville Junior Civic League's TLP is designed for young adults who are no longer eligible for state youth programs.

Burns Hall

Snow piled up in front of Burns Hall on Thursday, Jan. 31. Photograph by Gene Schneider.

**Financial aid fair Feb. 21**

NWACC will hold a financial aid fair 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in the Student Center.

Attendees are asked to bring their 2007 federal tax return for assistance in completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Computers to complete the FAFSA on line will be available from noon to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 479-619-4329. Refreshments will be served.

The NWACC Financial Aid Department also announced that scholarship applications are now available online at nwacc.edu. The deadline to apply is April 4.

NWACC Appreciation Luncheon

■ 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday, March 7, Embassy Suites in Rogers

The Northwest Arkansas Community College Appreciation Luncheon recognizes and honors the faculty and staff of the college for their hard work and dedication. This luncheon is co-hosted by the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and is open to the public.

Presenting Sponsor: Arvest

Gold Sponsors: CEI and Tyson

Silver Sponsors: McClelland Consulting, First Federal Bank and Toyota of NWA.

Tickets will be available to NWACC faculty and staff in February at the Student Information Center.

Fall 2008 Academic Calendar

- Start and end dates: 16 week—August 25 – December 10
- Finals December 11-17
- Grades due December 19 at noon
- Labor Day September 1
- Thanksgiving Break November 27-29 (Thursday-Saturday)

Spring '09 Academic Calendar

- Start and end dates: 16 week--January 12 – May 2
- Finals May 4-8
- Grades due May 11
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 19, 2009
- Spring Break will be in March, but is yet to be determined.
- One day added in for AQIP Conversation Day.

Summer '09 Academic Calendar

- Start and end dates 1st 5 week – May 26 – June 26
- 8 week – May 26 – July 17
- Weekend College – May 30 – July 18
- 2nd 5 week – July 1 –August 3
- Memorial Day May 25, 2009

Holidays

- All Service offices stay open to 6 p.m. the Friday before a start of the semester. But close at 4:30 for the following holidays:

July 3, 2008 (or day prior to 4th of July holiday) and 2009 close at 4:30

November 26 close at 4:30
Day prior to Christmas break close at 4:30

Spring Break close at 4:30 all week

Wellness Corner**Drop the pounds but don't pick up the germs**

We all go to the gym to get healthier, not get sick and the recent outbreaks of staph infection have brought about some fear in many health club members. Today we'll share some tips to try to keep you germ free and give you peace of mind.

Wipe down equipment before working out - Many gyms have a policy to wipe down equipment after use yet sadly many don't. Wipe down handle bars before you grab it even if it looks clean.

Sometimes sweat dries yet the germs remain.

Water bottle confusion - Many gyms sell bottled water but it is the same brand with the same size and shaped bottle. Often people will unknowingly sip or drink from someone else's container. Avoid confusion by marking your water bottle or tearing the outside paper.

Wash your hands - after your workout and your cool-down, be sure and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and

water BEFORE touching your face.

Remember, recent studies showed that two of the dirtiest, germ-infested items were cash, and cell phones; so while gyms can harbor germs and some common sense precautions should be taken; there is no reason for undue alarm.

SOURCE: Habitual Health. These health tips are brought to you by Wellness Works for health education purposes only. You should always consult your treating physician(s) for any medical advice or services you may need.

Colombian foundation leader focuses on integrity in globalization

By Eleanor Evans

The Benton County Daily Record

Globalization and greed don't have to go hand in hand.

That was the message German Casas tried to convey to Students in Free Enterprise members. Casas is the chief financial officer for Manufacturos Eliot, S. A., the second-largest clothing manufacturer in Latin America.

The company is headquartered in Bogota, Colombia.

But Casas spoke before SIFE to discuss his work as president of Fundacion Cuidarte (The "Caring for You" Foundation), a nonprofit organization that works with leaders on biblical values and principles in Colombia.

Liliana Martinez, a member of the foundation board, served as Casas' interpreter.

Casas stressed that although his com-

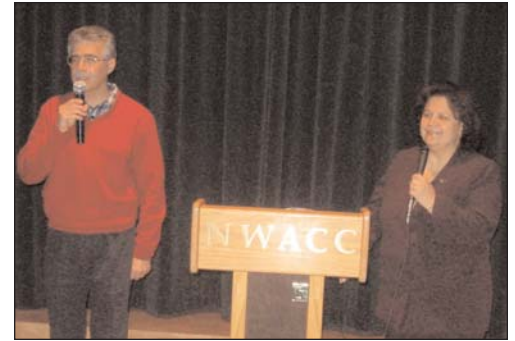
pany is successful, it makes an effort to maintain its integrity. "Each person is very, very important in the company. It doesn't matter if the person is in production or administration; the person is key," he said.

Casas expressed concerns that Colombia has acquired a negative reputation in recent years.

Casas' foundation is trying to change that reputation; focusing on honesty, loyalty and faithfulness.

"I tell my daughter, who is 20 years old, if God sends her a boyfriend, and he respects the driver, the person who opens the door or the person at the grocery store, (he's) going to respect her," Casas said.

He's carried that philosophy through his work. "If each one of us focuses on principles and builds integrity, there will be a transformation," he said. "It's our



German Casas (L) and Liliana Martinez.

duty to put these principles into practice. You and I can be part of the solution," he said.

"When you do something, ... make sure that (it) is not going to do harm to anybody, today or in the future," he said.

"Don't let a day go by without being a testimony: a testimony of honesty, a testimony of truth, a testimony of all these principles. Don't let a day go by without serving someone," he said.

Copyright © 2001-2008 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

All rights reserved.

Resisting refund anticipation loans

Making Sense: A community service article provided by CCOA

For some people, the anticipation of receiving a tax refund is so strong that they're willing to pay to expedite the process. Tax preparers have seized this opportunity to profit on consumers' impatience, and offer the refund anticipation loan (RAL).

Refund anticipation loan advertisements make it seem like a win-win situation for the consumer.

After having their taxes prepared by a professional, clients sign a form, pay a small fee, and walk away with a loan of up to \$5,000 against their upcoming refund.

But critics of the RAL say it is rarely a wise financial decision.

"What makes the RAL so impractical is it is extremely costly and only saves the filer about 10 days of waiting for a refund," said Mark Foster, Director of Education for Credit Counseling of Arkansas (CCOA). "For example, if you are expecting a refund of \$2,050, you may pay about \$250 in fees and interest

associated with the RAL.

"That means your net refund will be only \$1,800. You need to ask yourself: Is my 10-day advance worth the \$250? That's good money that could have been put into savings, paid down debt, or even financed a nice family outing."

The RAL is also notorious for its sky-high interest rates. The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) reports that the average annual percentage rate for an RAL can range from 40 to 1,700 percent.

This astounding figure is in the neighborhood of another get-cash-now/pay-later institution: the payday advance store.

RAL opponents also contend that dealers target their services to lower-income clients who live paycheck to paycheck, and therefore find the fast-cash offer too difficult to pass up.

They also point out that many lower-income people rely heavily on professional tax preparers to process paperwork for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

After utilizing the tax preparer's services to process the EITC, these consumers often opt for the RAL with the same company.

In fact, a report by National Consumer Law Center found that - during any given tax season - about 40 percent of the 12 million consumers who receive an RAL also received the EITC.

The good news for consumer advocacy groups is that refund anticipation loans may soon become obsolete.

With ongoing technological developments, experts predict that electronic filing will eventually be able to produce a refund in only a few days.

However, until that happens, many taxpayers will still opt for the immediate payout provided by the refund anticipation loan.

Just remember that when you resist the immediate gratification of the RAL, your patience will pay dividends.

Credit Counseling of Arkansas provides free financial seminars, free budget counseling, and a debt management program that can waive fees, lower interest rates, and stop collection calls. To take the first step toward financial fitness, call 1-800-889-4916 or visit www.ccoacares.com. CCOA is a non-profit organization in good standing with the Better Business Bureau and a member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

The Back Page



Members of the Bentonville/Bella Vista Noon Rotary and Bentonville Daybreak Rotary clubs are sponsoring a Rotaract Club at NWACC. A Rotaract is a college-level Rotary affiliate. Pictured on campus last week promoting Rotaract were (left) Rev. Rex Dickey, Pastor of the Bentonville United Methodist Church, Jean Anderson (morning club), Gene Schneider (noon club) and Howard Kerr, a retired Rotarian. Pictured right are Jane Lowe, an assistant manager at the Wingate XNA Motel, Kalene Griffith, Bentonville A&P Director, and Marisol Jackson, a Rotarian. Contact Jean Anderson or Gene Schneider for more information.

Employee Birthdays

January

- 30 Tami Scrivner
- 31 Sandy Tedder
- 31 Marshall McCall

February

- 2 Diana Johnson
- 2 Christopher Friend
- 4 Jim Hall
- 4 Sheila Smith
- 5 Gloria Chambers
- 6 Bobby Marion
- 7 Ernest Cannon
- 9 Linda Fast
- 9 Susan Verwey
- 9 Gerry Weatherford
- 13 Gloria Mallow
- 13 Audrey Burge
- 16 Steve Earney
- 16 Ricardo Alegria
- 16 Sarah Franklin
- 17 Leslie Hardaway
- 19 Michael Senkevech
- 20 Begi Quarti
- 20 Darcy Williams
- 21 Sharon Simmons
- 21 Pat Sheffield
- 21 Barbara McBride
- 22 Gulizar Baggson
- 24 Melissa Jordan
- 25 Lou Lo
- 26 Brenda Pittman
- 29 Stephen Blagg

NWACC employees are given a choice to have their birthdays announced in the newsletter. For more information, contact Jim Hall at jhall@nwacc.edu



Old Man Winter comes to the Shewmaker Center

Gene Schneider snapped this photo of the snowfall last Thursday night, Jan. 31.

Employee Free Classified Ads

FOR RENT OR SALE:

1300+ sq.ft brick home in Centerton, 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2-car grge/1 opener, fully-fenced yard, kitchen appliances, laundry room, 8 years old. Gene Schneider: 273-2495, 876-5139, 619-2258, 422-0489.

FOR SALE: Heavy duty dog pen, 10X10X6H with walk-in gate. Paid \$300.00 asking \$175.00. Less than 6 months old. Easy to assemble/disassemble. Contact Beth at 619-4291.

FREE CATS: Beautiful calico (grey, orange and white) female cat about a year old. Spayed and vaccinated.

Very loveable and would love to be a housecat. Young Siamese colored female. Also spayed and vaccinated. Very sweet. If you prefer a Tom, there is a nice yellow one. I will pay to have him neutered to go to a good home. Stray cats (and dogs) appear in our barn on a regular basis. Call or Email if you have questions (or have lost a pet). Lynn Stanberry Istanber@nwacc.edu or 986-6936.

FOR SALE: 50-inch Samsung HD Projection TV, \$475. 1080i/480p, about 4 years old. Call 619-4373.

VACATION: Whether it is

Branson or Paris, Maui or Aspen; \$425 for seven nights lodging. Contact Linda Drew at ext. 2255

FOR SALE: American Bulldog puppies, ABA or NKC registered. Excellent bloodlines. Shots/wormed \$350 West Fork 479-761-0014 or 841-3919.

FOR SALE: 1997 Isuzu Rodeo, 4-door, 4-wheel drive/manual transmission. \$2900 OBO. Contact Genny 619-4307.

FOR SALE: 2001 White Chevy Tahoe, 112K miles. \$9,000 OBO. Call Raul @ 479-544-6377.

Classified ads are free to College employees. Email your ad copy to jhall@nwacc.edu