



Alumni News

www.nwcc.commnet.edu/alumni.htm

NW-Alumni@nwcc.commnet.edu

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Welcome to the first edition of the NCCC Alumni Association Newsletter!

Our purpose is to keep you up to date on Alumni & campus news and events. Would you like to be featured in our newsletter? Let us know what you've been up to! Send your information and photos to: NW-Alumni@nwcc.commnet.edu For the constitution, bylaws, meeting minutes & more, visit the Alumni website (above). We are looking forward to an exciting year!

Alumni of the Year: Chris Hanley



The 2009 Alumni of the Year distinction was awarded to Chris Hanley, graduate of the NCCC class of 1978, for her work with the Mekele Blind School in Ethiopia. Chris was introduced by NCCC Professor Tom Hodgkin, and the award was presented by Holly Martin, Alumni

Association Chairperson, at the 2009 Commencement ceremony. *See page 2* for excerpts from Tom Hodgkin's introduction speech. *In the photo:* Students at the Mekele Blind School work in the large garden designed to improve the diet of the children and teach them something about horticulture.



Governor Rell Signs NCCC Nursing Program Bill

Governor M. Jodi Rell visited the College on June 26 to celebrate the signing of a bill that directs the state Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges to seek all available federal funds to start a nursing program here in Winsted.

"Like so many other states, Connecticut is already running short of nurses – and that shortfall is only projected to get worse," Governor Rell said at the Arts & Sciences building on campus.

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Alumni of the Year, Chris Hanley

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Below is an excerpt from Professor Tom Hodgkin's introduction speech: "During the last 3 years, Chris has arranged for a twice-weekly delivery of fresh vegetables and fruit; the construction of a \$14,000 clinic and library building supplied with over 400 Braille books; and the purchase of a \$2400 water pump to supply the school with clean water. To date, she has raised over \$75,000 mostly on her own, around her job as an Art teacher and her commitments as a mother of two high school girls. Every single penny she has raised has gone to the students of Mekele, with any administrative costs or travel expenses being borne by Chris herself and her team of volunteers. All of the work Chris has done in Ethiopia has grown out of a willingness to engage those who live in a different, compromised world; her deep respect for them; and her commitment to enable the education and opportunities she knows they deserve. I cannot think of a better example to hold for our graduates than Chris Hanley and the humanitarian work she does." For more photos and information about the Mekele Blind School, go to: www.mekeleblindschool.org.



Join our group on Facebook! Find out about events & meeting times, post to the discussion board, post photos, and reconnect with old friends! Join the group: "*Northwestern Connecticut Community College Alumni*". The Alumni group now has 91 members on Facebook. Check it out! You just might see some familiar faces! *Facebook*® is a registered trademark of Facebook, Inc.

Meet the Alumni Association Officers



Holly Martin, Chairperson, Class of 1999

Holly graduated from NCCC in 1999 with an Associate's degree in *Medical Assisting*. She earned her Bachelor's degree in General Studies with a focus on Allied Health and Human Services from the University of Connecticut. She is employed by NCCC as a medical lab assistant. She is also a hospice volunteer and a "Road to Recovery" driver for the American Cancer Society.



Pete Yanok, Vice Chairperson, Class of 1999

Pete graduated from NCCC in 1999 with an Associate's degree in *Therapeutic Recreation*. He also earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. He has worked for the past 10 years as a Youth Counselor at CT Junior Republic. Pete also worked for over 20 years as an Engineering Technician at Circuit-Wise in North Haven. He currently works as a mobile DJ, which he has been doing for 20 years.



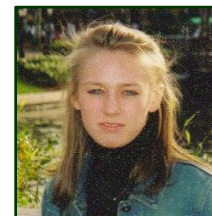
Sarah Marggraff, Secretary, Class of 2006

Sarah graduated from NCCC in 2006 with an Associate's degree in *Fine Art*. She graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's degree in General Studies in December of 2008 and is currently working on her Master's degree in Art Therapy at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven. She is employed in the Student Activities office at NCCC.



Cyndie Phillips, Treasurer, Class of 1996 & 1999

Cyndie received her Associate's degree in *Human Services* from NCCC in 1996 and in *Business Administration* in 1999. She is employed in the Cashier's Office at NCCC. Cyndie teaches Beginning Stained Glass at NCCC through the Continuing Education Department. She is also Treasurer for the Classified Staff and Union Steward.



Colette Papageorge, Public Relations, Class of 2003

Colette graduated from NCCC in 2003 with an Associate's degree in *Business Management*. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Administration from the University of North Florida in 2005. She joined the Alumni Association in 2007 and was elected Public Relations Officer at the 2008 General Session Meeting.

Not pictured: Kathy Chapman, College Liaison, NCCC Director of Student Activities

Notice of Alumni Meeting(s) & Officer Elections

The annual **General Meeting of the Alumni Association** will be held on **Wednesday, September 23rd at 6 p.m.** in the Student Activities office, GW 110. Officer elections will take place at the General Meeting. **Nominations will close on Friday, August 21st, 2009.** Voting may take place in person or by mail via the proxy ballot form that will be posted on the web and mailed to all members. **Nominees and voters must be paid active members.** Open seats are Vice Chair and Secretary. To submit your nomination, or for more information, contact NW-Alumni@nwcc.comnet.edu

NCCC Grads Give Back at the 7th Annual Relay for Life

On June 27 & 28, 2009. Winsted hosted the 7th Annual Northwest Hills Relay for Life at Regional High School to benefit the American Cancer Society's efforts in education, research and patient services. The American Cancer Society cites that in 2009 alone, more than 1.4 million people in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer and more than 559,000 people will die of the disease. From the Relay's inception, graduates from NCCC have notably contributed to its success. In its second year, Holly Martin and Lucy LaMere, (*both with degrees in Medical Assisting, 1999*) served as co-chairs with a record outcome far exceeding the donation goal. *Continued on page 4...*



\$500 Alumni Scholarship Awarded to Barbara Faulkner

The \$500 Alumni Association Scholarship was presented to NCCC graduate Barbara Faulkner of Torrington, CT. Barbara (pictured left) graduated from NCCC in May 2009 with her Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education. She will be moving on to the Bachelor of General Studies program at the University of Connecticut in the fall of 2009. The scholarship was presented by Holly Martin (pictured right), Alumni Chair, at the NCCC Awards Ceremony on May 27th, 2009. Printed below is Barbara's note of thanks to the Alumni Association.

Dear NCCC Alumni Association,

I would like to express my deep gratitude in being the recipient of the 2009 NCCC Alumni Association Scholarship. Your generous gift will certainly be of great use in defraying tuition costs when I attend the University of Connecticut this fall. I have been accepted into the Bachelor of General Studies Program at the UConn Torrington campus, and my focus will be on Human Development and Family Studies.

I hope to complete my Bachelor's degree in one year, needing only thirty credits to attain this next goal. Upon completion of my Bachelor's degree, I plan to apply to the University of Connecticut graduate program continuing my studies in Human Development and Family studies and receiving my Master's degree.

While at NCCC, I had the privilege of meeting many wonderful students, staff, and teachers. I have enjoyed the courses that I have taken, and I was sad to see my time here at an end. I have started a wonderful project as a result of one class that I took this semester, the Parent Leadership class, where we were challenged to write a mini-grant and start a community project. My project, "The Pass It on Project," collects and distributes gently used clothing, shoes, and infant/toddler items to families in need.

I have sent my application to become a member of the NCCC Alumni Association and look forward to giving back to the community that has given so much to me.

Sincerely,
Barbara Faulkner

Relay for Life

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Linda Dew (A.S. *Business Administration, 1969*) has served on both the Planning Committee and the Survivors Reception Committee. Linda lost her younger sister to ovarian cancer and her older sister is a breast cancer survivor. Linda relays because, "It is very important to have local events so that our local cancer survivors, their families and the families of cancer victims know that their community is supporting them."

This year Winsted was selected as one of the sites to host enrollment for the CPS-3 study (Cancer Prevention Study 3). The study, funded by the Relays, is extremely significant in its scope and its focus. The ACS Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance Research is recruiting 500,000 people in the U. S. and Puerto Rico to participate in the CPS-3 study. The focus of this long term study is to better understand the genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors that cause or prevent cancer. As Chair, Holly Martin trained a team that enrolled 150 participants through the process which included screening, data collection and collection of blood samples.

The Relay for Life achieves the most remarkable balance of celebration for the survivors of cancer; remembrance of loved ones lost; enthusiasm for making a difference; and just plain fun. Pete Yanok, (*Cert. Therapeutic Recreation, 1999*) and his wife Karen, volunteered DJ services for

the evening which helped to liven up the pace for the 20 hour relay around the track.

Karen Hunter (*AS Liberal Arts & Science, 2000*) served as Captain for the College Team which raised \$3350, ranking them 10th of 83 teams. "Who hasn't been touched by cancer? We were raising money for a good cause. Every donation counts...and it's a well-run fundraising event, which is family oriented and fun," says Hunter.

At last count, the Relay donations totaled \$133,000; thanks to the many volunteers and supporters. The commitment from NCCC alumni reflects well the Northwestern philosophy of giving back and making a difference. Well done grads!

Additional graduate volunteers: *Melissa Slocumb, Debbie Reynolds, Carol Stiles, Deb Kelly, Ruth Gonzalez, Jim Zilvitis*. Check out the Alumni website for more pictures.

Nursing Program

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"In fact, unless we do something about it by 2010 the shortfall could grow to as many as 22,000 nurses in Connecticut alone. With the state struggling to cope with the global recession, we simply cannot fund a new nursing program now – but by locating and securing the needed federal funding, we can make this program a reality while easing the burden on Connecticut's taxpayers and employers."

These dedicated professionals are always in demand, and it makes

perfect sense to locate this new program at NCCC, since the school already has a number of health care related programs. I know the Board of Trustees will work closely with our Congressional delegation and my office to get the federal money we need."

NCCC offers Associate degree courses in Allied Health Administration and Medical Assisting, as well as certificate programs in Health Career Pathways, Hospital Patient Care Technician and Medical Assisting. In cooperation with Naugatuck Valley Community College, NCCC also has a program in Physical Therapist Assisting. According to President Barbara Douglass, "Northwestern is well poised to house the sixth nursing program among Connecticut's 12 community colleges. The support of the community has been tremendous. We do not want to continue to make our outstanding students wait years to get into a program or go to nearby states because Connecticut's nursing programs do not have room to admit them."

"Its positive economic impact aside, a nursing program would certainly provide people in our area an avenue to pursue the type of well-paying career that keeps young people in the Northwest Corner and in our state," said state Representative John Rigby (R-63). "The Governor's visit to Winsted shows just how important this program is to Connecticut." The new law – substitute House Bill 6336, *An Act Concerning Nurses Pursuing Advanced Degrees* – is effective July 1.



To apply for active **membership to the NCCC Alumni Association**, please print the Alumni Registration Form at: www.nwcc.commnet.edu/alumni/htm, and send the form with your \$5.00 annual dues to:

Cyndie Phillips, Treasurer
Northwestern Connecticut Community College Alumni Association
Park Place East, Winsted, CT 06098