

TURN THE PAGE

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Wayne G. Basler Library Newsletter

May 2007



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When I Get Where I'm Goin'

This time of year brings a certain sense of excitement and sadness intertwined for me. It is always exciting to see another academic year successfully coming to a close, but by the same token, there is something bittersweet to seeing “endings” such as these on the horizon.

There's a Semisonic song (“Closing Time”), whose lyrics have always made a great impression on me. “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.” There's a lot to be said for this realization. It means that everything that we encounter in life is interconnected. What happens next hinges directly on what happened before. Randomness isn't so random in the grand scheme of things. What we do doesn't just affect ourselves, but it has an impact on others — often, and without us even knowing it, a profound impact.

For some people, these beginnings/endings/beginnings are full of promise and potential; for others, they're full of anxiety and alarm. Regardless of where Northeast State's newest group of soon-to-be-Alumni find themselves, though, all of these beginnings and endings and endings and beginnings pose a certain amount of change. Those changes are just part of the journey we call life.

And it really *is* a journey. Rarely do any of us make a trip without getting a little sidetracked, stopping to stretch, or interacting with others in various ways on the road we're taking. Sometimes there are potholes. Or unexpected traffic tie-ups. Maybe even an accident that we narrowly avoid. Even though these events don't appear on the “map” we have laid out before us, they will be there. Maybe we can find out about them in advance, but more likely, we will deal with them when we get to them. And hopefully, we will learn something from each — something that will assist us the next time we encounter a similar “unexpected” surprise.

Regardless of where you're going, what you experience while you're getting there helps to make you who you are. You've already “headed” Northeast. We've been here to help get you there — wherever “there” might be. When you get there, you'll know it's where you're supposed to be, and you'll look back on the journey to that point and see how far you've gone and how much you've learned along the way. Best of luck as you're traveling! Enjoy the scenery and don't forget where you started.

— Chrissie Peters, Librarian

Banner

A very significant Banner milestone was reached on Monday, April 9, 2007. The Returning Student Online Registration module was implemented on campus with little fanfare, as well as very few problems. Cohort 1a and 1b schools from all around Tennessee “went live” on the same day with mixed results. Hundreds of telephone calls were placed to the SCT support group that morning, requesting troubleshooting assistance; Northeast State barely had a handful of those calls.

As an indication of how well the registration process went for NSCC, we registered over 500 students that first day. The University of Memphis (with over four times the size of our student body), registered a little over 700 students. No other community college had the success which we experienced with our returning student online registrations. This truly is a testament to the abili-

ties and perseverance of certain individuals involved in this process — Dr. Jon Harr, Margaret Lester, Jennifer Starling, Kathy Coleman, Pat Sweeney, and Billy Benton. There have been others involved in this lengthy process, but the lion's share of the work was done by these individuals.

As with the modules which have been implemented before the Student module (Human Resources, Finance, and Financial Aid), the work doesn't end here. There is still a great deal to do in the coming months — much more student data needs to be entered and there will be a continuous fine-tuning process going on for quite some time. The largest hurdle has been cleared, however, and now it is a question of keeping the momentum going.

— Submitted by Duncan Parsons,
Dean of the Library



We're here to get you there

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Echoes

Echoes & Images, Volume 17, Spring 2007

(Available free of charge to all interested parties — ask at the Circulation Desk for your complimentary copy!)

The latest volume of *Echoes & Images* has a little bit of everything! The student literary/art magazine includes work from 20 individual creators in categories such as Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, and Visual Arts. Judges receive “blind submissions” — that is, the creators’ names do not appear on the submissions. Some students’ work appears in more than one category, indicating an interest and talent that crosses lots of lines.

Visual Arts entries among my favorites include “Untitled,” by Michael Skinner on page iv; Laura Anderson’s “Self Portrait,” which graces the cover; and “Lonesome Pine,” by Rachel Russell. My absolute favorite in this category is Roger Riddle’s “The Beauty of Nature.” At first glance, this color snapshot seems familiar enough — simplistic in that it is taken along a path in a wooded area in Autumn. Upon closer inspection, however, you are visually “pulled” into the vortex that appears at the end of the path in the center of the photo, creating the actual “feeling” of walking the path and focusing on it rather than on all of the other things that compose the scene.

While all of the Poetry was enjoyable, there was one piece that I identified with unabashedly. “The Office,” by Kimberly M. Coalson, describes the frustration and futility of being stuck in a job that you don’t like, don’t appreciate, and don’t want to be in — a place where each of us has likely been at some point in our adult lives. Reading it leaves you hoping that the author *does* escape this place and find some sense of fulfillment elsewhere.

The well-written Fiction and Non-Fiction span Appalachia and beyond, identifying places familiar and foreign, exotic and endearing. Topics range from the nerve-racking first meeting of a significant other’s family (and knowing that it hasn’t gone well and doesn’t bode well for the future), to facing death on a diving expedition, to finding strength in the midst of grief to transcend that sadness and celebrate the life that was there. Individual pieces contain individual lessons — how to “steal” electricity, how to “turn off a light.” In the advice of Jonathan Boher “disconnect... save your minutes” to check out this great new volume of NSCC student work!

— Chrissie Anderson Peters, Librarian

Get That Dough

Helpful Hints for Working with Phyllo Dough

(Contributed by Eric Fish, from the March “Eating With the Experts” Program)

Grocery store Phyllo is now generally sold in half-sheets, which is fine (and actually easier to work with).

Thawing Phyllo in the refrigerator overnight generally works best. Thawing at room temperature can make the layers stick a bit. I have seen people microwave Phyllo to thaw it in an emergency, and it has “kind of worked.”

Ingredients for stuffing Phyllo dough should be fairly dry (not wet or greasy). The stuffing can be moist, but it should not drip liquid.

Have your stuffing ingredients ready before opening the Phyllo. Keep the Phyllo covered with a damp (not wet) towel while working with it to avoid having it dry and crack. The faster you work, the less the need for covering the Phyllo.

There is a difference between *brushing* butter between the Phyllo layers and *slathering* butter between the layers. You should be **brushing** and **using as little butter as possible**.

If following a recipe, follow the oven temperature and cooking times **precisely**.

For stuffings that you don’t want to bake a long time (baked brie or “small” stuffers, for example), you may use an oven temperature of around 425 degrees.

For larger items (and raw items), the oven temperature may be 350-375 degrees.

Once the Phyllo starts to brown, be sure to keep an eye on the pastry. The pastry can move from browned to burned very quickly, especially at high temperatures.

