Biology Students Join Forces with the Small World Initiative

Students at Northwestern Connecticut Community College are participating in an innovative program which began at Yale University as a “Microbes to Molecules” course. This program, known as the The Small World Initiative (www.smallworldinitiative.org), was created by Jo Handelsman, who is currently on leave from Yale while serving as the Associate Director of Science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Small World Initiative is now being run by the Institute for Life Sciences Collaboration and Erika Kurt. Kurt, describes the program as “a unique crowdsourcing approach for the 21st century to tackle pressing global health challenges while inspiring the next generation of scientists.” According to Kurt, “the solutions to our current health challenges are just waiting to be found in the world around us and could even be discovered in the soil in your own backyard.” Students enrolled in the General Biology course at NWCC, taught by Karen Hunter, adjunct professor and laboratory manager, and Sharon Gusky, Professor of Biology, are hunting for new antibiotics to help combat the increasing problems of antibiotic resistance. Nearly 700,000 people die from antibiotic resistant infections worldwide each year and this number may rise to 10 million by 2050. The students have collected soil samples, isolated diverse bacteria, tested their bacteria against clinically-relevant microorganisms, and characterized those showing inhibitory activity. Yale University will be sequencing the DNA the students isolated from their bacterial samples and sending the results to the students to analyze. NWCC students will be sharing the results of their semester long project on December 10th when the Small World Exhibit visits the college. The Small World Exhibit, developed by Barbara Murdoch, Biology Assistant Professor at Eastern Connecticut State University, has been touring the Northeast and was displayed at the United Nations last summer. This exhibit provides information on antibiotic resistances and gives participants an opportunity to view microbe and use some of the techniques students use to isolate antibiotics. On December 10th from 10:30-1pm students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to visit the exhibit and to talk with the students about antibiotic resistance and to view their posters on the research they have done this semester.

Facing Fear

Friday, December 4, 6:30pm, ASB Room 209

Academy Award Nominee - Best Documentary Short Subject 2014

For more information about the screening of FACING FEAR and the LGBTQIA+ Club, please contact please contact Karen Hunter khunter@nwcc.edu or Jim Patterson jpatterson@nwcc.edu

To learn more about this film, click here or see page 2 for more information.

Presented by Northwestern Connecticut Community College and the LGBTQIA+ Club
STUDENT and CAMPUS INFORMATION

Tangent Time (continued from page 1)

Going off topic on a tangent is not always a very effective way to teach a college history class when there is a lot of information to cover. But what do you do when you have a group of engaged students with a lot of questions and not enough classroom time to discuss the answers. If you are Northwestern Connecticut Community College history professor, Todd Bryda, you create Tangent Time, a lecture and presentation series that provides opportunity for both students and faculty to present information and material of interest outside the classroom.

The first presentation will discuss the development and role of religious sites, which will include a look at pre-Christian Neo-lithic places such as Stonehenge and Newgrange, the Roman temple to Sulis Minerva at Bath, early Christian monasteries, and some of the great Gothic cathedrals of the region. The event is free and open to the public.

“The main purpose of my presentation is to show the varied ways the diverse people of these regions sought to worship the divine, however they defined it,” Professor Bryda says.

The discussion material for Power and Piety in Ireland, Wales, and England came from a trip Professor Bryda took last summer to the region to study how invading forces used both the military and religion to control the countries’ populace. He says the trip and study work was one of the greatest experiences of his life. “I have had to completely rethink many of my previous interpretations of these sites. There is nothing quite like seeing these treasures up close as opposed to just seeing them in pictures or films. I hope to share my discoveries with my students and the community and get them to feel the passion that I feel about the past.”

Funding for the trip came from both NCCC’s Excellence in Education Award, where recipients are nominated by their peers and then chosen by the college president, and the prestigious Mosal Award. The Mosal Award is a highly competitive research scholarship, sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two year colleges, and given to campus advisors of the organization. Since its inception in 1984 only three of the annual awards have been given to New England recipients; two of them to NCCC faculty. Professor Bryda shares this honor with NCCC Professor of Biology Sharon Gusky, who was awarded the scholarship in 2008.

Since its inception in 2013, Tangent Time topics have included the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and Watergate. Students have presented topics as well, including one student’s discussion of her grandfather’s experiences as a member of the infamous Soviet Penal Battalions, and a discussion of the current nature of combat in an age of counterinsurgencies by a student who is an army reservist. The current History Association president has given two talks; one on Auschwitz and the other on the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

“In an era where there are so many distractions, it is always gratifying to see a genuine love of history,” says Professor Bryda of his students.

If you have questions about this program, please contact Prof. Todd M. Bryda at tbryda@nwcc.commnet.edu.

NCCC Art Students Display their Craft in Consortium Exhibit at the Warner Theatre

Northwestern Connecticut Community College Art students are joining their peers from the University of Connecticut and Hartford Art School, University of Hartford in a series of ongoing exhibits at the Nancy Marine Lobby of the Warner Theatre. The three colleges are part of an educational consortium sponsored by Five Points Gallery in Torrington.

Marcus Sanford and Tatyana Bristol are students in NCCC’s Professor of Art Janet Nesteruk’s Drawing I course, exhibiting landscape drawings created on the Winsted Green. “Each fall, our drawing classes use our beautiful town green as a site to study perspective and creative mark making. This year’s class did a phenomenal job on the project,” said Professor Nesteruk.

The current exhibit, which runs through February 4, 2016, features drawings and digital media by Northwestern students. Works on paper include cross contour drawings which transform simple drapery into colorful and animated works, landscape drawings which showcase the foliage of the Winsted Green and tool drawings which juxtapose realistic and abstract approaches to form. Digital media works include posters created “in the style of” well-known graphic designers, as well as digital collages and multipage designs which explore visual storytelling.

The public is invited to view the work during the theatre’s open hours. Art work on view is available for sale. Persons interested in purchasing work should contact Five Points Gallery at 860-618-7222. All proceeds from any sales will go directly to the student Artists. For more information about Five Points Gallery, please visit fivepointsgallery.org.
Facing Fear (continued from page 1)

As a 13 year old, Matthew Boger was thrown out of his home for being gay. While living on the streets of Hollywood, he was savagely beaten in a back alley by a group of neo-Nazi skinheads. Boger managed to survive the attack and escape life on the streets. Twenty-five years later, Boger found himself in a chance meeting with a former neo-Nazi skinhead, Tim Zaal. The two men soon realized that they had met before … Zaal was one of the attackers who beat Boger and left him for dead.

With their worlds turned upside down, the two embarked on a journey of forgiveness and reconciliation that challenged both to grapple with their own beliefs and fears. Neither could imagine that it would lead to an improbable collaboration … and friendship.

This documentary retraces the haunting accounts of the attack and the startling revelation that brought these men together again. Delving deep into their backgrounds, the roots of the ideologies that shape how they handle the reconciliation process are exposed. Self-doubt, anger and fear are just a few of the emotions they struggle through as they come to terms with their unimaginable situation.

Criminal Justice Association meets Tuesdays, 4:15pm, at the Oasis Center (building behind Founders Hall)

Dungeons and Dragons Club meets Tuesdays, 1:00-4:30pm, in FH 206

Early Childhood Education Association meets Mondays, November 23 and December 7, 4:15-4:55pm, FH207

Film Club meets Tuesdays, 11:45am-1:00pm, Learning Resource Center (Library)

History Association meets Mondays, 3:00-4:15pm, FH 306

NEW! Magic - The Gathering, meets Tuesdays, 6:30pm, ASB Atrium

Northwest Deaf Club meets Mondays, 3:30-4:30pm in FH 107

REAL Club (LGBTQIA+) meets Thursdays, 12:00-1:00pm in ASB 205.

Bring a lunch; Open-minded people welcome.

The NCCC Student Senate meets on Tuesdays, 11:45am-1:00pm in GW 110, and meetings are open to all registered students. Contact club advisor Kathy Chapman, kchapman@nwcc.edu

Ballroom Dance Holiday Ball
Friday, December 11th
7:00 - 9:00pm
GW Room 128

If you haven’t tried ballroom dance but would like to, come join us for the final class of the fall semester and have some fun at our annual Holiday Ball!

Singles and couples are welcome.

Free for registered credit students and Senior Citizens
Non-students: $10 per person payable at the door on the night of the Holiday Ball.

~ Sponsored by your Student Senate ~

OPEN GYM

Mondays thru Thursdays from 10:00am-4:30pm
(Closed on Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27)

The NCCC Gym (GW 128) is open to all registered students for basketball, ping pong and, with advanced requests, volleyball and dodge ball. Equipment is provided.

Stop by Student Activities (GW 110) to sign in.

If you have additional ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

REGISTRATION REMINDER

It’s Time to Register for Spring Classes!!!! Online and walk-in registration for Spring 2016 classes has begun. Register SOON to ensure you get the classes that you need!

myCommNet Alert

Text messages will be sent in the event of an emergency which may include campus-related health or safety situations and weather-related class cancellations. Enrollment in myCommNet Alert is free, voluntary and easy to do.

Enrollment in myCommNet Alert is free, voluntary and easy to do. Just log in to my.Commnet.edu and click on the ALERT button.

If you need assistance or have any questions, contact Laurie Jassen at ljassen@nwcc.edu or the Computer Center Helpdesk at 860-738-6367.
SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Greenwoods Foundation has announced that it will once again provide over 85 scholarships to students for the 2016-17 academic year. Mark your calendar NOW for any date in the month of January 2016 to come to the Financial Aid Office (GW 224) for simple instructions and an application to apply for a scholarship.

- Simple instructions
- Short application
- No essay required
- No letters of recommendation required

******************************************************************************

November Is .... Education for Business Month!

Business education is important to all students regardless of what career they will ultimately pursue. Therefore, students in all majors should take at least one business course. Basic business knowledge and skills will give students a head start after graduation in their chosen fields. Students who take business courses “play to win” in life and their career.

For more information on the business courses offered at NCCC, please see Prof. Royals or Dr. Rodgers in FX 312.

Educating for Success in Business and Life

******************************************************************************

CAMPUS CALENDAR

November 25-29   Thanksgiving Recess—NO CLASSES
December 4       "Facing Fear", 6:30pm, ASB 209
December 8       Reading Day—No Classes, History Association’s “Tangent Time” 11:30am-1:00pm, FH 306
December 11      Last day of Classes, Ballroom Dance Holiday Ball, 7-10pm, GW128
December 12-18   Final Exams

And check out the ONLINE Campus Calendar today!! This is THE PLACE on the new NCCC webpage to find out when and where student clubs are meeting, information about student events such as the annual Student vs. Faculty/Staff Volleyball Tournament and other student-related campus events, transfer representative campus visits and important deadlines.

Click on the link above or, on the NCCC webpage, go to Current Students > Campus Calendar.

FREE CAREER WORKSHOPS at NCCC!

All workshops are free of charge and meet from 11:30am to 1:00pm in Founders Hall Annex, Room 112. Space is limited and registration is required. Please call (860) 738-6419 to register. Leave your name, telephone number and the date of the workshop(s) you wish to attend.

Thursday, December 3   Spreadsheets with Google Docs  
Utilizing this free web based spreadsheets for personal use such as family and friends mailing lists, budgeting, inventory items, and lists, etc.

Thursday, December 10  Word Processing with Google Docs  
Learn to utilize this free web based word processor for personal use. Learn to use this tool to work on group projects sharing documents for editing, viewing or comment.