From an early age, Meliah Peterson knew that she wanted to be a police officer. It’s no surprise that one of her all-time favorite movies is “Silence of the Lambs.” A native of Carson City, Meliah’s dream became a reality at the Western Nevada State Peace Officer Academy at WNCC. Through dedication and very hard work, she received an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice – quite an accomplishment considering that aside from the academic challenges, she was required to experience getting tasered and pepper sprayed. Although she admits to “breezing” through her defensive tactics course, she confesses that getting pepper sprayed was her toughest challenge. Despite the grueling nature of police training, Meliah said that “being in the Academy was wonderful and one of the best times of my life.”

Quality of instructors, personal attention and small class size were all reasons she cited for the exceptional education she received at WNCC. Meeting her fiancé, a fellow police officer, was an added bonus. Her favorite instructor was Katie Durbin. “She was always concerned about what was going on in your personal life in addition to your academic life,” Meliah said. It is no doubt that this caring attitude provided the much-needed support for these officers in training.

Today, Meliah works the graveyard shift as a police officer with the University of Nevada, Reno police department. A self-proclaimed “people person,” she compares her job on campus to community policing which involves a great deal of human interaction. In addition to patrolling facilities for after-hour security and running traffic, she watches over the students in their dorms, on campus and at their parties. She is prepared to jump into any one of the many roles required of a police officer, from counselor to jailor.

Meliah said that although the police force is predominantly male, more women are becoming interested in the profession. She is a prime example of the kind of skilled, confident police officers that the Academy graduates.

Although Meliah is “perfectly content” with her job at the present time, her future plans may include further education in law. For the time being, she and her fellow police officers serve us well by keeping us safe.
**Attention all Writers**

Lone Mountain Writers is a support and critique group for writers that meets semimonthly at the Carson City campus. Alumni who are writing in any genre and looking for a writer's group, and pre-published and published writers are welcome.

**INFORMATION/SCHEDULE**

Marilee Swirczek . . . . 445-4284

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**WNCC Names First Baseball Coach**

D.J. Whittemore has been selected as WNCC's first baseball coach. Whittemore was the head assistant baseball coach and pitching coach at Feather River College in Quincy, Calif. He also served as the college's recruiting and fund-raising coordinator. A graduate of Wooster High School in Reno, Whittemore returned as a teacher and the outfied/pitching and conditioning coach from 2000-2003, when the Colts were 2001 state tournament qualifiers and 2002 Nevada AAAA state baseball champions. A community college graduate, he earned an associate degree from Santa Barbara City College, and a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University. He is currently an area scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team.

"There are plenty of talented, eager players in the state to fill all four Nevada college baseball programs," said Whittemore. "I plan to recruit the schools closest to WNCC first and gradually expand from there. We will only recruit exceptional athletes who are good people and excellent students, and we'll be specifically seeking athletes who qualify for the Millennium Scholarship."

College President Carol Lucey said, "The addition of intercollegiate athletics at WNCC will enhance the college environment and allow us to better serve the needs of traditional age college students."

The inaugural season for the baseball team is set for the 2005-2006 academic year.

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**ABE/ESL Program Looking for Volunteer Tutors**

The ESL Program is looking for volunteer tutors in Carson City to assist English as a Second Language beginning literacy learners. Some of these students are struggling to keep up with the class instruction and would benefit greatly from individualized attention. The only requirement of volunteers is willingness. They do not need to speak Spanish.

**CLASSES**

Tuesday – Thursday
9-11 a.m. and 6-8:30 p.m.
Information . . . . 445-4451

Thank you!

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**Attention all Employers!**

WNCC's Employee Training Center delivers education tailored to business needs. Pre-packaged, off-the-shelf solutions are available for the most requested skills, or trainers can produce custom designed seminars on nearly any subject employers need. Training can be delivered when and where it fits the schedule of the organization.

Need employees? List your needs @ www.nevadatraining.com
Need a job? Look for openings @ www.wncc.edu/studentservices/job/studentjobs.php

Call........................(775) 445-4458  Carson City • (775) 423-5847  Fallon

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**INFORMATION/SCHEDULE**

Marilee Swirczek . . . . 445-4284
WNCC Fallon Nets $200,000 Donation for Expansion

WNCC is moving closer to expansion of the Fallon campus with a major donation by two noted Fallon residents. A $200,000 gift has been made to the WNCC Foundation by former state Sen. Virgil Getto of Fallon and local businessman Pat Fisler, to help purchase additional acreage for the landlocked WNCC Fallon campus. A Fallon campus land acquisition fund was begun six years ago with another major gift by former state Sen. Carl Dodge and his wife, Bette.

"Senators Getto and Dodge, and Mr. Fisler have been very generous in assisting our college as we develop a land ac-

College Nets Grant for Children of Prisoners

WNCC received a $125,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau. The grant will expand mentoring services targeted to the children of prisoners, offer academic enhancement activities for the children and provide innovative, continuous training for mentors. WNCC will work with the Mentor Center of Western Nevada, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada, the Ron Wood Family Resource Center, the Nevada Department of Corrections and Friends and Family of Prison Inmates to implement the program. Ruth Gordon, director of the Mentor Center, will direct the program, called Improving Mentoring Practices for All Children Today (IM-PACT).

If you have an hour per week to share with a child of an incarcerated parent or would like to learn more about becoming a mentor, call 445-3346.

Learn to Drive at WNCC

Young drivers can prepare for the challenges of driving (and driver license testing) in the WNCC Driver Training Program. The non-credit course meets the training requirements to obtain a Nevada driver's license. It is based on the nationally-recognized “Drive Right” program and uses lectures, videos, interactive CDs and computerized driving simulators to cover Nevada driving regulation, basic vehicle control, and driving maneuvers in various environments and situations. The instructor will also discuss the added challenges of inexperience and youthful attitudes including peer pressure and high-risk activities. Guest speakers bring a wealth of knowledge in the areas of traffic safety and enforcement and insurance.

Injuries from teenage motor vehicle accidents are by far the leading public health problem for young people in the United States. In 2000, the most recent year for which this information is available, 40 percent of all deaths of 16-19 year-olds were related to motor vehicles. 5,933 teenagers died in motor vehicle accidents in 2002.

$95 • Students ages 15 & over
December 27-30 • 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.
WNCC Carson City campus
Information . . . . . . . . 445-4458

We’re on the Web!
Keep up to date on WNCC happenings @
www.wncc.edu
Make it a bookmark!

PRODUCTION TEAM: Sandi Richman, Mike Greenan, Anne Hansen, John Hawkins, Michelle Legras Peltier
Alumni Relations Committee

MISSION STATEMENT

The WNCC Alumni Relations Committee is dedicated to maintaining a communication link between alumni and WNCC, to heighten alumni awareness of the growth and improvement of WNCC, and to encourage their participation in that growth and improvement.

Graduates!

Send us your news for Class Corner. Tell us what’s happening in your life … promotions, marriages, children, milestones. Please type or print clearly.

☐ check if address is new

Name ____________________________________ (Maiden) ____________________________________
Address _____________________________________________ _____________________________________________
City _____________________________ State _____________________ Zip _____________
E-mail ___________________________
Home phone ______________________ Business phone ___________________________
Year of Graduation __________________ Major/Emphasis ___________________________________________
Notes ________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Send to: in touch • 2201 W. College Parkway • Carson City • NV • 89703
Fax: (775) 887-3127 • e-mail: richmans@wncc.edu

Enjoy Holiday Lights, Music & Refreshments

Begin the holiday season with music and song!

HOLIDAY LIGHTING

WNCC Carson City will light up the campus.
Tuesday, Dec. 7 • 7 p.m. • FREE Front of the Bristlecone Building

CONCERT CHOIR

Following is a performance of the WNCC Concert Choir. The WNCC Foundation will provide hot chocolate and cookies, perfect for a winter evening.
Sarah Winnemucca Hall
Aspen Building • 7:30 p.m. • $3

You can be the Difference...

No gift is too small to help keep WNCC on the road to excellence. Private giving enhances legislative funding to meet the special needs of the college and its students. You can participate with a general gift or a donation designated for a special purpose at the college such as scholarships or athletics.

Information . . . . . . 445-3240

The WNCC Alumni Relations Committee is dedicated to maintaining a communication link between alumni and WNCC, to heighten alumni awareness of the growth and improvement of WNCC, and to encourage their participation in that growth and improvement.

WNCC Foundation Awards $113,000 in Scholarships

The Western Nevada Community College Foundation made going to college a little easier this year for 103 WNCC students who received 133 scholarships worth more than $113,000 at the foundation’s annual scholarship reception on October 7. Donations to the foundation come from corporate partners, charitable foundations, professional associations, community service clubs and private citizens. The foundation currently holds more than $400,000 in endowments for scholarships. Individual scholarships awarded ranged from $200 to $4,000.

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CAMPUS CHAT is on the Air!

Television viewers in the WNCC service area can get the latest news about WNCC from the comfort of their living room. This lively half-hour show updates viewers on new programs, people at the college, building projects and services to the community. Helaine Jesse, vice president of Institutional Advancement at WNCC, hosts the show.

SCHEDULE

Carson City & Lyon County – CAT 10 • Cable Channel 10, Wed. – 7 p.m., Fridays – 7:30 p.m.
Churchill County – CC Communications • Cable Channel 1 "ON NOW", Daily – 10 a.m., 2 p.m., & 8 p.m.
Douglas County – DCCATV • Cable Channel 26, Mon. – 7:30 a.m., Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun., 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Fallon – FCT 25 • Cable Channel 25, Second Mon. & Wed. of each month – 7:30 p.m.
Washoe County – SNCAT • Cable Channel 16, Tuesdays – 6 p.m.

Carson City Students, WNCC, NASA Partner to Study Northern Lights

High school and middle school students in Carson City will collaborate in a unique scientific investigation to understand the onset of auroral substorms, little-understood events that break up the Aurora Borealis into beautiful and mysterious dancing lights.

The study is part of THEMIS (Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions During Substorms), a NASA-funded program that involves schools in ten rural areas around the United States. Each of the schools will have a ground-based magnetometer station and will be a part of GEONS (Geomagnetic Event Observation Network by Students).

The first GEONS magnetometer was recently installed at WNCC’s Jack C. Davis Observatory. Data collected by the ground-based observatories in Canada and Alaska and the ten magnetometers will be compared with data from five satellites to try to determine what causes the onset of the auroral substorms.

The schools with magnetometers were selected by statewide competition based on the communities’ distance from magnetic field communications, commitment of the schools to the program, and local infrastructure with the potential for reaching large communities of students and teachers.

High quality lesson plans and a web page are being developed so that teachers and students around the country can share data and discoveries. Students will learn about the Earth’s magnetic field and will develop skills in mathematics and scientific inquiry.

Jim Bean, a math and science teacher at Carson High School, will use GEONS as an integral part of his spring semester curriculum. “We’ll be studying electricity and magnetism and this will give us a great hands-on way to learn how to measure magnetic fields. It’s a hard thing to visualize, but when students see the data we collect from the magnetometer, they’ll have a much clearer understanding.”

Saturday Night Star Parties

Come spend time under the night sky with the Western Nevada Astronomical Society at the Jack C. Davis Observatory. Learn from the experts at this free event on Saturday nights from dusk to 10 p.m. Information........445-4412 or 445-3311