Award-Winning NOVA Professor Speaks at White House

Chemistry Associate Professor Reva A. Savkar (AN), winner of the 2013 Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence, was a featured speaker at a White House conference for Teacher Appreciation Day on May 5.

The event, titled “A Celebration of Teaching,” was hosted by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Teachers from K-12 from around the country were in attendance, and NOVA was the only college invited to participate. Savkar was part of a group of 16 NOVA faculty and staff who attended the event hosted in the Indian Treaty Room of the White House.

“It was a great honor to be among such fine colleagues to represent our college for this very prestigious event,” said Communication Studies and Theatre Associate Professor Bryan Brown (WO).

Speaking on the topic of “Reflections on Teaching,” Savkar began by stating, “Each day, I wake up happy, knowing that I have the honor and delight of guiding students through their exciting discovery process of learning.”

“Teaching,” Savkar added, “is not about ‘covering material.’ It is about helping to uncover, so that students can truly discover.” She discussed the many challenges that her students have faced and the different paths they have taken to “education, job security, and the pursuit of happiness – the American dream.”

“The degrees they expect to earn at community colleges,” Savkar said, “the chance of transferring to other academic institutions, the discovery that they matter, and that, above all, they are respected and valued, is what makes their journey through NOVA and other community colleges one of hope and progress.”

She concluded her speech with a message to students: “I would like to say to our young learners, our mature learners, and our lifelong learners that the past, present and future are integral to the learning process, each in its own way. The past is from where we get prior information, the future is where we can experience the fruits, but it is only in the present that we can actually learn, think, assimilate and apply, so make the present matter.”
“She truly hit it out of the park,” Mathematics Professor David Conroy (AN) said after the speech. “Because of her incredible sensitivity and marvelous insights, she had the gathering in the palm of her hand. We as a College must be so proud to have such an outstanding ambassador.”

“It was an inspiring and exciting experience,” Savkar said of the event, “and it was beautifully organized.” A video of her entire speech can be found online.

**Alexandria New Academic Building Topping Out Ceremony**

The Alexandria Campus conducted a Topping Out Ceremony for the New Academic Building on May 21. In building construction, “topping out” (sometimes referred to as “topping off”) is a builder’s rite traditionally held when the last beam (or its equivalent) is placed atop a structure during its construction. This milestone celebration included business neighbors and community friends as well. This construction project is on schedule for completion in 2016.

In the continued commitment to give updates of this ongoing construction project, updates are available online.

**Manassas Hosts Annual Faculty/Staff Recognition Awards**

Recently, the Manassas Campus hosted its annual Faculty/Staff Recognition Awards where members of the Campus were recognized for their efforts. This year’s theme was the “Moscars” (Manassas Oscars). The event was well attended and included presentations by Senator Charles J. Colgan, who delivered the Superior Campus Support Award created in his namesake. Mayor Hal Parrish, a longtime supporter and champion of the Manassas Campus, was represented by his Political Director Geoff Smith.

The Moscars also included special recognition for Claudia Serrato, one of the dedicated housekeeping staff, and the facilities team for their heroic efforts in keeping the Campus safe and ready for class during this year’s snow storms.

The award winners included: Dr. Michael Carrington (Dr. Wilfred Howsmon Campus Community Builder Award), Rosemary Gallick (Delegate Harry Parrish Innovation and Initiative Award), Dr. Molly Lynch (Dr. Robert G. Templin, Jr. Leadership Excellence Award), Nicole Mancini (Edward Anderson Teaching Excellence Award (full-time faculty)), Robert Raines (Edward Anderson Teaching Excellence Award (adjunct faculty)), Brittany Riggs (Senator Charles Colgan Superior Campus Support Award (full-time staff)) and Jessica Antelo (Senator Charles Colgan Superior Campus Support Award (part-time staff)).
Special thanks to the 2014-2016 Awards and Recognition Committee members: Dr. Sarah Gunnarson (Co-Chair), Jenni Barlet (Co-Chair), Pritha Roy, Dr. Vashti Bryan, Ramunda Young, ThuyTien Ngo-Nguyen and Heidi Adamson.

The celebration included a photo booth for faculty and staff to don fun accessories and take pictures on the “red carpet.” Congratulations to the dynamic Manassas faculty and staff, and all of the nominees and winners. See a full list of the 2014-2015 nominees in the Flyers section of this edition.

**MEC Professor Provides Hands-on Learning in Cadaver Lab**

In the state-of-the-art cadaver lab at the Medical Education Campus (MEC), Professor Byron Massie can sometimes be found passing around a human heart to students – providing a demonstration that simply cannot be learned from just sitting in a classroom.

“From the cadaver, I take out the body parts such as the heart and say, ‘This is a normal heart. It’s about the size of your fist,’” Massie explained. “I’ll go, ‘Have a heart,’ as I pass it around the room. It’s kind of traumatic for them but it’s also engaging them. What they’re seeing there and experiencing they can’t find in a textbook. It’s a learning experience they have to have because what we see in the textbook is not always how it appears in the body.”

NOVA is one of only three community colleges in Virginia that has a cadaver lab. This is an experience that nursing students, even those in four-year programs, often do not receive.

Massie’s cadaver lab demonstration is one of many facets of the MEC that allow students to combine their classroom lectures with hands-on experience on campus. With simulation labs with life-like mannequins and a fully-functioning dental hygiene clinic, students are constantly bustling through the hallways.

Massie, who has taught at the MEC for 10 years and has been on the NOVA faculty for more than 40 years, has a passion for teaching which ignited when he was a graduate teaching assistant at Virginia Tech and while doing his doctoral work at The Ohio State University. He cannot see himself doing anything else other than preparing the next generation of medical experts. Over the years, his former students have gone on to become doctors, dentists, EMTs and nurses.

Massie explained that he has noticed technology’s impact on the classroom, and his efficient use of the MEC’s cadaver lab is one of many ways he engages students and properly prepares them for the medical field. Along with using technology, Massie recognizes the need to make sure the MEC’s diverse student population is prepared for the health care field.

“Technology allows the faculty to reach students where just a lecture doesn’t. We also have a diverse population and with that, we have over 170 countries represented,” Massie said. “So
you can’t just teach it, but you also have to relate it to the medical field. The standards here at the MEC are high so we have a different type of responsibility to our students.”

Resume Workshop Engages Loudoun Community in Job Search

The Loudoun Campus hosted a two-hour resume workshop for the community in the Waddell Theatre in late May. Spearheading the operation were Information Technology faculty Tierney Pitzer and High School Outreach Coordinator Cathy Hall. Over 50 people signed up to attend this workshop, which was geared to all levels of the workforce. High school students, college students and community members interested in job opportunities were present. Some Loudoun County Public School educators were also in attendance and gave positive feedback.

As a follow up, Loudoun County’s Tuscarora High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program has invited Pitzer to present a resume workshop to their students during the early part of June. The event was so well received that the Loudoun Campus is interested in providing similar community outreach opportunities.

NOVA faculty and staff who are interested in providing community outreach via job search or resume workshops are encouraged to contact Pitzer at tpitzer@nvcc.edu, Hall at cehall@nvcc.edu or Loudoun Campus and Community Relations Specialist Tatyana Schum at tschum@nvcc.edu.

Famous Indonesian Chef Visits Annandale

Famous Indonesian Chef Visits Annandale Chef William W. Wongso, Indonesia’s most famous culinary expert, visited the culinary program at the Annandale Campus on May 4 to share his passion for the flavor and essence of this multi-faceted cuisine. Wongso is a renowned restauranteur, food consultant, critic, and host of the very popular television series “Cooking Adventures with William Wongso.”

Wongso worked with Annandale culinary students to make Asinan Jakarta (Jakarta vegetable and fruit pickled salad), Rendang Padang (Western Sumatra caramelized beef), Soto Ayam Lamongan (East Java spiced chicken soup) and Sate Maranggi (East Java spiced beef sate). Wongso had the students chop, slice, dice and mince, but rather than use recipes, guided them to assemble these dishes using their senses of taste, smell and touch. He demonstrated how to explore Indonesian cooking and its adaptability to modern cooking without losing its authenticity. Everyone was duly impressed by his culinary knowledge and easy going manner, as he seemed to have as much fun as the students.

Norman Yahya, one of NOVA’s culinary students from Indonesia, helped arrange this event through his connections with the Indonesian Embassy. Wongso was assisted by Dewi Justicia Meidiwaty, first secretary for press, information, and cultural affairs, and Istri Kuhn, Meidiwaty’s assistant. Wongso was a presenter at the Worlds of Flavor International Conference and
Festival in Napa Valley, California. His visit to NOVA was one stop on a nationwide tour to promote Indonesia’s 30 Traditional Culinary Icons.

Alexandria Library Helping to Save the Bay

Staff at the Alexandria Library grew aquatic grass in support of efforts to help save the Chesapeake Bay. Three months ago, library staff attended training sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to plant and nurture wild celery in the Library. In mid-May, library staffers Michelle Jerney-Davis and Kevin O’Hagan went to Mason Neck State Park to plant the mature grass in the shallows of the bay. Aquatic vegetation helps to clean the water and also serves as a nursery for blue crabs. Read more about this project in Library News.

June 15: 10 Years of Nature Photography Day


“Students and I have often gone out to explore the natural world on or near June 15,” Nuhn said.

Year round, she finds that her ESL students are serious about safeguarding the environment, a theme she builds into every ESL course she teaches.

“Photography opens doors,” according to Nuhn. “It’s a fabulous means of storytelling and even changing the world.”

She emphasizes that patience and concentration are musts in photographing wildlife and natural scenes. This year, June 15 is a Monday, so the occasion could be a creative start to a week of classes and other work. Thanks in part to social media and enthusiasm by the general public, Nature Photography Day now extends internationally. Nuhn produces public service announcements and media materials each year. Details are available at http://www.nanpa.org/nature_photography_day.php.

Alexandria Honors Hosts End-of-Year Celebration

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NOVA Printing Services’ Second Open House a Great Success

NOVA Printing Services’ Second Open House a Great Success NOVA Printing Services opened its doors once more on May 8 to welcome faculty, staff and friends to its second Open House. Following resounding accolades from last year’s event, Printing Services was eager to showcase its talent once more. With their best and brightest on display, the team pulled out all the stops and put on another amazing spectacle that may have even topped the previous one.

NOVA Printing Services’ Second Open House a Great Success This year’s Open House was headlined by a hands-on look at the new Employee Printing Services Storefront (WEB-EPS) system along with the recently acquired wide-format Epson SureColor printer. The Open House also featured all of the amazing machines and capabilities that made last year’s event so popular. Several vendors, including Xerox, Walker Supply Company and Domtar Paper were also in attendance with display cases to show off their impressive wares. The afternoon was catered by Euro Café, much to everyone’s delight, and their delicious arrays of food were instant crowd pleasers.

NOVA Printing Services’ Second Open House a Great Success “We were really happy with the turn out. All of the feedback we’ve been getting from attendees has been very positive!” said Supervisor Jo Ann Duron, who served as host for the afternoon’s events. With over 180 attendees, there was certainly no shortage of people trying out the WEB-EPS system, all of whom found it easy to use. Others were able to enjoy tours around the facility and presentations by the vendors.

“It was great to see so many familiar faces turn out to support us this year,” Computer Operations Tech Rick Tafoya said. In an effort to spread awareness to the entire faculty and staff about its abilities, Printing Services went all-out to attract even more people than last year. Drawing upon positive feedback and favorable reactions, this year’s attendees were also treated to balloons, door prizes and party totes filled with promotional items and other surprises.

Door prize winners included Scott Shaffer (Panera Bread Gift Card), Jenifer Murdock (Chipotle Gift Card), Jodi Erbland (USB Flash Drive), Tony Black (Vivitar All Weather Camera), Bruce Ghofrany (Vivitar All Weather Camera) and Patricia Pena (Kindle). Printing Services would like to remind winners to stop by the office to collect your prizes.

Thanks again to everyone who attended this year; it would not have been such a success without your help and support.
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Career Representatives Needed for Pathway Connection

The Pathway Connection (PC) Program is searching for career representatives to participate in a College and Career Fair hosted for high school students in Fairfax County Public Schools and Arlington Public Schools. Pathway Connection is a college and career readiness program for 10th and 11th grade students who would like additional support in preparing for post-secondary education.

This summer, PC is hosting a three-day summer institute at NOVA. On the last day, June 25, students will participate in a College and Career Expo. Local colleges and universities have been invited to attend as well. PC needs representatives from education, medicine, law, politics/public policy, IT, culinary arts, science, theater and many others.

The only requirement is that representatives have at least a bachelor’s degree (exception for military, firefighters and police officers). They must also enjoy speaking with youth about career and education.

To register, go online.

Event Details:
Date: Thursday, June 25  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Setup at 8:30 a.m.)  
Place: NOVA’s Annandale Campus in the CE Forum

Professionals will have their own table, and students will come up to speak to them. Each person is asked to bring items for the table related to their career field. Lunch will be provided.

See the flyer in the Flyers section of this edition. For more information, contact Viridiana Acosta at vacosta@nvcc.edu.

**Brian Williams’ “The Lonely Drone” at the Fisher Art Gallery**

Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery is featuring “The Lonely Drone,” oil paintings on aluminum by Brian Williams, through Sunday, July 12.

For “The Lonely Drone,” Williams’ oil paintings on aluminum bring to mind imagery of earthly horizons that could conceivably be captured by an unmanned aerial vehicle. Williams wants the viewer to imagine being in soundless flight looking at a distant horizon without complete context: knowing what is land, sea or atmosphere. For this series, Williams has restricted himself to a three-inch brush and thus has to approach detail from a different angle: painting layers upon each other with varying amount of wet-on-wet painting.

For the past five years, these abstract, otherworldly landscapes have been focus of Williams’ painting. The paintings evoke realistic dunes, seascapes, mountains or cloud formations yet are the result of an intuitive painting process. He empowers the negative space by using a grey or tinted color to separate portions of the landscape in a way that allows multiple interpretations.

Brian Williams’ “The Lonely Drone” at the Fisher Art Gallery Born in 1968 to a German artist mother and a U.S. military father, Williams absorbed his mother’s artistic lessons when they lived in the American South before arriving in the Washington, D.C. area in 1984. Recent exhibits include a series inspired by the late 1960’s science fiction cult film classic “Barbarella” and a solo show of paintings inspired by the mysterious 3.2 million year old skeleton named “Lucy” that was unearthed in Ethiopia.

Williams lives in Arlington, Virginia, and exhibits regularly at Studio Gallery in Washington, D.C. His work can be seen at www.mayalane.com.

Located on the upper level of Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, the Fisher Art Gallery is named for the late Margaret “Peggy” Fisher and her husband, Joseph Fisher. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and during performances.
Announcements

1. Technology Training (T2)
   Summer Workshops – Faculty & Staff
   https://www.nvcc.edu/faculty-and-staff/technology/tac/tactraining/register/
   For more info AskTechTraining@nvcc.edu

2. Career Representatives Wanted for Pathway Connection Summer Institute
   AN Campus
   June 25 – 9 a.m. 11 a.m.
   Email vacosta@nvcc.edu if interested