Woodbridge Partners With Future Kings to Host Summer Camp

A collaborative effort between the Woodbridge Campus and a local outreach youth program, Future Kings, resulted in providing a summer camp to help children manage their own information technology business.

Future Kings, a not-for-profit, 501(c) (3) approved organization that provides an entrepreneurial education program to young men from underserved communities, is currently sponsoring a summer camp with a STEM focus at the Woodbridge Campus.

This marks the first year the organization has designed a summer camp tailored to students in grades 6 through 12. The camp took place from July 13 to July 27. Although Future Kings’ overall purpose is to serve as a mentoring program for middle and high school boys, the STEM camp was open to all children. Campers were given the option to choose and attend one of four workforce development focus areas: cyber-security, computer game design, stock market investing and 3-D printing.

Dr. Arik King, Future Kings founder and executive director, has many years of experience as an owner of a local technology firm. King said the STEM camp offered engaging and age-appropriate instruction that converted school curriculum into high paying careers.

“The idea came about that it would be great to have a summer camp that fills a need, especially in Prince William County,” King said. “A lot of the students who attended could not typically afford to take classes or attend camp elsewhere. We felt that the NOVA-Woodbridge Campus would be a great location and we appreciate the partnership we have with the College.”

Future Kings began in December 2010 as an after-school program at Godwin Middle School in Woodbridge. Since then, the organization has provided services to over 200 young men. Throughout the year, the Future Kings hosts several programs and activities in financial management, health care management and business technology. On October 17, the organization will sponsor a STEM Expo that will incorporate the local business community and the students of Prince William County. The Expo will be held at Potomac Senior High School from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will be free and open to the public.
“As we expose kids to the cool things involved with STEM, we can also encourage them toward becoming an entrepreneur,” King said. “The main purpose of our organization is for them to understand technology, understand how to use it and to not be afraid of it.”

Membership to participate in Future Kings is free and open to boys in grades 6 through 12. Meetings are held at NOVA’s Woodbridge Campus on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Those interested are required to submit an application for approval, which should include letters of recommendation.

For additional information, email info@future-kings.org or visit their website.

Jennifer Daniels Wins New Southern Voices Poetry Prize

Annandale Languages and Literature Associate Dean Jennifer Daniels.
Photo by Dr. Karen Murph

Annandale Languages and Literature Associate Dean Jennifer Daniels won this year’s New Southern Voices Poetry Prize, sponsored by Hub City Press of South Carolina. She will receive a $1,000 prize and the press will publish her manuscript, “Wedding Pulls,” next summer.

Selecting the prize winner was celebrated poet C. D. Wright, a Guggenheim and MacArthur fellow and National Book Award nominee.

Daniels earned her Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees at George Mason University and has worked at NOVA since 1997. An English associate professor who teaches creative writing and literature, she was named associate dean of the division earlier this year. Daniels has published poems in a variety of publications, including “Best New Poets” (University of Virginia Press), “Calyx,” “The Northern Virginia Review,” “New Orleans Review,” “Lavender Review” and “Gargoyle.”

Wedding pulls are an old Southern tradition that involves wedding cakes. “Prior to reading this book,” said C. D. Wright, “I did not know what ‘wedding pulls’ were, and once I learned I would be just as happy if they did not exist. But these poems, they were meant to be here.”

TILT Showcases Miller’s Contribution to Map Book

Geography Instructor David B. Miller is a contributing writer and consultant for “Map: Exploring the World,” to be released by Phaidon Press (London) in September 2015. Miller’s articles describe maps that illustrate pivotal times in history, ranging from 16th century St. Augustine (Florida) and 19th century Russia to 20th century Disneyland and 21st century Afghanistan. The book, an international effort, offers a visual record of how the art, science and technology of mapping has changed throughout the centuries.
Alexandria’s Technology Innovation in Learning and Teaching (TILT) Supervisor Kirstin Riddick liked the book’s bright colors and asked TILT team member Patricia Cooper to take pictures. Riddick also offered TILT’s green screen to produce an enlarged version of the book with Miller in the foreground.

Miller, who teaches physical and cultural geography courses at the Alexandria and Annandale campuses, often uses paper and interactive maps in the classroom to help students visualize geographic patterns and trends.

**Agbontaen’s Oil Paintings on Canvas at Schlesinger Center**

The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center announces the opening of its new gallery spaces in the Forum and Passageway with an exhibition of oil on canvas paintings by Stanley Osaheni Agbontaen. The exhibit will be showing through Friday, August 28.

Agbontaen grew up in Benin City, Edo State in the South-south zone of Nigeria. He studied at the Creative Art Academy (Benin City) and at the School of Art and Design at Auchi Polytechnic. Using a pallet knife, he creates vibrant scenes with thickly applied oil paint to achieve amazing action packed scenes. His creative artistry is seen in his skillful design and arrangement that bestows the beauty of creation in the hands of a master artisan.

Agbontaen has been featured on Nigeria’s National Television Authority, received the Federal Capital Territory Award, and was nominated by the U.S. State Department to the International Visitor and Leadership Program. He has participated in several solo and group exhibitions. In 2006, he also exhibited his works with paintings of famed artists like Jacob Lawrence and Lois Mailou Jones in an international exhibition held in Nigeria by the U.S. State Department.

In recognition of his work, Agbontaen is listed in the Arts and Artists file in Smithsonian Libraries’ Collections. In 2009, he was featured in the exhibition “Africa Now,” sponsored by the World Bank, Washington, D.C., where World Bank acquired one of his pieces for their permanent collection.

Agbontaen is affiliated with various humanitarian organizations that promote equity and economic development through investments in youth education, intellectual development and empowerment. He is a full-time Maryland-based international artist.

The Forum and Passageway are for open regular business hours Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and during scheduled performances. Exhibitions in this space will be by invitation as the Center develops a plan that continues to focus on new and emerging professional artists in the Greater Metropolitan Washington area.
Additional Supplemental Retirement Option

Effective July 1, a Roth contribution option is available to all participants in the Commonwealth of Virginia’s 457 Deferred Compensation Plan as well as the 403-b plan. Roth contributions are contributions that employees make to their 457 or 403-b plan accounts on an after-tax basis. Employees pay taxes on the contributions now, rather than later. Employees may withdraw their Roth assets, which includes both their Roth contributions and any associated earnings, on a tax-free basis, as long as certain criteria are met.

For additional information on Roth contributions to your 457 plan, go online. For more information on Roth contributions to 403-b plans, contact your plan vendor at the toll-free number on your 403-b quarterly statement.

Make Appointments With a Doctor Online

Employees enrolled in COVA Care, COVA HDHP, COVA HealthAware and Kaiser Permanente can now have a one-on-one visit with a doctor using a mobile device or computer with a webcam 24 hours a day. Depending on the plan, the cost is the same or less than a primary care physician visit. Some of the most common conditions that can be treated through an online physician are cold and flu symptoms including cough, fever and headache, sinus and ear infections and allergies.

For more information on what each plan provides, visit the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management’s Online Doctor’s Visits web page.

Note to COVA HealthAware participants: A Teladoc welcome kit will be mailed to home addresses.

Leave Sharing Request

Christina Shanley (CS) has requested to participate in the leave-sharing program. If you would like to donate leave hours, please access a Leave Sharing Program Donor Form online. Please print, complete and submit the form to Human Resources by fax to 703.323.3155. Leave must be donated in eight-hour increments and only annual leave may be donated.

If you need other assistance or have questions about NOVA’s Leave Sharing Program, please contact Chantell Jones at 703.425.5270.
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