Higher Education Center Ribbon Cutting at Loudoun

On September 24, the Loudoun Campus celebrated the opening of its newest building, the Higher Education Center (HEC). NOVA faculty, staff, administrators and students gathered with representatives from Virginia Community College System and Loudoun County Public Schools, many elected officials, Loudoun County government and business leaders to officially recognize the opening of the building with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Loudoun Provost Julie Leidig welcomed guests and introduced the event’s speakers, all of whom remarked that the building represents a culmination and a new beginning for the Loudoun Campus. The building, which finishes the “circle” of buildings surrounding the main pond and truly creates a college “quad” feeling, marks the beginning of phase one of a two-phase Higher Education Center destination for four-year degrees in Loudoun County. Once phase two is built, the HEC will house one or more four-year colleges and/or universities to provide seamless and local access to a four-year degree on the Campus.

NOVA is excited about the addition of the HEC. The building includes a state-of-the-art music recording studio, a favorite of President Scott Ralls who tweeted a picture of the facility the day after the event; tech-based collaborative classrooms; a specialized communications lab; a high-tech IT lab; faculty suites; student lounge areas; and a 250-person glass enclosed events center that extends cantilevered over the pond and fountain.

You are invited to visit Loudoun’s new Higher Education Center.

Clothesline Project at the Medical Education Campus

Students, faculty and staff showed overwhelming support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault as part of the Clothesline Project. The first event was hosted at NOVA’s Medical Education Campus (MEC) on October 5 and 6 and will become a poignant visual display that bears witness to the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault in society.

Participants decorated shirts and hung them on clotheslines to represent a survivor’s experience, to show support for a survivor or to communicate a message to end violence. The
Clothesline Project, a national initiative that began in 1990 in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, first began as a means for women to address and actively express the issue of violence.

The Clothesline Project at the MEC was sponsored by the College’s Sexual Assault Services (SAS), a program of NOVACares. Connie J. Kirkland, director of NOVACares, said it is critical for the college community to understand the impact of sexual violence, dating/partner violence and stalking.

“The visual display of T-shirts created by our own NOVA members – some victims, some significant others, and some by concerned others – is a very graphic method of education,” Kirkland said. “Passive education, but still extremely meaningful. As we hung created T-shirts on clotheslines on our campus, people would pass by, see and read them, and they could not help but become affected by the wording.”

As a former director of Sexual Assault Services at George Mason University, Kirkland said the idea to host the project at NOVA first occurred last spring at the Annandale, Alexandria and the Medical Education campuses. This year marks the second presentation of the Clothesline Project at the same three campuses, with Loudoun, Manassas and Woodbridge scheduled to host the event during the spring 2016 semester.

Each Clothesline Project event is followed by a Take Back the Night rally and march, a worldwide event to raise awareness about sexual and domestic violence by promoting community involvement.

The MEC kicked off the rally and march on October 6, with Annandale to follow October 20 and Alexandria October 27. For each event, a resource fair for Take Back the Night takes place at 6:30 p.m. followed by the rally at 7:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed at each scheduled campus event.

For additional information or to volunteer, contact Sexual Assault Services at 703.338.0834 or nova.sas@nvcc.edu.

Workforce Development Hosts 2nd STEM Career Fair

On September 30, the Workforce Development Division (WDD) hosted its second Workforce Industry Career Fair, focused on STEM jobs. Joe Montano, regional representative for Virginia Senator Tim Kaine, started the fair by discussing the growing impact of STEM in Northern Virginia. Montano said that events like the Workforce Industry Career Fair help address the need for talent to fill the more than 30,000 available STEM jobs in the region.

This event attracted 16 marquee corporations including ABC Supply, Apple, ActioNet, Capital One, Dulles Glass and Mirror, Evolver, Fairfax County Department of Public Safety Communication, Honeywell, Leidos, Nordstrom, SAIC, Satnam Technologies, Southland
Industries, National Student Clearing House, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security, and VSE Corporation. NOVA’s Adult Career Pathways program, Extended Learning Institute and Career Services were also on hand to assist job seekers, and a Mobile Vet Center was available to attending veterans.

More than 150 job seekers, including students, veterans, and engineering and IT professionals, took advantage of this opportunity to meet companies seeking to fill STEM positions. NOVA Career Services live-tweeted the event, and photos from the Career Fair are on Twitter (@NOVACareerServ) and Facebook (@NOVAWDD).

A feedback survey reflected a strong demand for this type of solutions-focused event in the Northern Virginia business community. Seventy-eight percent of participating companies said they would attend future Workforce Industry Career Fairs at NOVA. Plans are underway for the WDD to continue collaboration efforts with all of the companies to address their most pressing workforce development needs.

2nd Annual MAN UP Induction Ceremony at Woodbridge

A total of 31 male students were inducted into MAN UP, an organization that supports educational success and mentors underrepresented minorities. The second annual MAN UP Induction Ceremony was held on October 1 at the Woodbridge Campus.

MAN UP is a minority male mentoring and leadership development program designed to promote personal, social development and academic improvement of Woodbridge students.

Student Services Center Counselor Richmond Hill, MAN UP founder and program coordinator, said the program was developed to increase the retention, graduation rates and academic performance of minority males. “We are unique from other student organizations on Campus,” Hill said. “Our goal is not to see how many service projects we can complete or how much money we can raise. Our goal is to promote and create access to resources and supportive relationships that help minority males overcome barriers to reach college graduation.”

In 2013, an initial conversation took place between Hill and program leaders Rommel Aguilar, Lando Lowe, Cedric Howard and Tank McCarl and Dean of Students Michael Turner to begin the organization. MAN UP currently has 38 active members and a strong presence on the Woodbridge Campus.

President Scott Ralls shared how he values the organization and its unique purpose for NOVA students.

“Never underestimate how inspiring you are to other people who you don’t even know are watching you,” Ralls said. “You are role models and each of you inspire others in ways that I, your deans or professors cannot. Only you can do it. I truly appreciate what you are doing.”
MAN UP is open to any minority male student enrolled at the Woodbridge Campus. As a member, students are assigned a mentor and will benefit from academic skills building and advising, monthly success coaching, access to networking opportunities, character building workshops on self-esteem and communication, social and athletic events/activities and service learning projects.

MAN UP participants must:

- Complete a MAN UP application (Located in the Woodbridge Student Services Center, WS 202 or Student Life, WS 156)
- Follow all rules and guidelines outlined by the program and within the student handbook
- Maintain a positive and respectful attitude
- Make a one-year commitment to the program
- Meet at least one hour per month with the student’s selected mentor
- Be present and on time for scheduled meetings, activities or workshops
- Attend monthly service learning projects and meetings for the program

For additional information or membership interest, please contact Hill at rihill@nvcc.edu.

Tirpak Quoted in Scientific American Mind Magazine

Communication Studies Instructor Philip Tirpak (AN) was quoted in an article in the September/October 2015 issue of Scientific American Mind magazine. The article, “How To Be A Better Listener,” gave strategies on how to improve and practice listening skills. Tirpak, who is also the president of the International Listening Association, was awarded the President’s Sabbatical Award. During the spring 2016 semester, Tirpak will conduct research and work on his project which focuses on developing a listening assessment for student success.

Currently, no listening courses are offered in the Virginia Community College System and very few assessments focus on what listening can do for students. To assist with his research, Tirpak will examine existing listening assessments across diverse disciplines and colleges. He is passionate about student success and is known as the “listening guy.” In his courses, students work on a semester-long listening project. Often, students cite improvements in their listening skills and relationships.

According to Tirpak, listening is an under-utilized skill that is not taught formally. “We teach children how to read, write and speak, we do not teach them how to listen. Being an active listener changes lives and enhances personal and professional relationships.”

To read the article, “How To be A Better Listener,” go online
Latimer’s Students Published in The Washington Post

Mary Latimer, Manassas English professor, recently had her English 111 students write a letter to the editor of The Washington Post. The instructions to her students were simple: they were to read The Washington Post and find an article of interest, preferably one in which they have a personal connection, then follow it up with a letter in response to the piece they read and submit it.

Imagine the surprise when Latimer checked the Post to see that not one, or two, but three of her students had been published. The families were of course thrilled as well. One student said that her father went to two convenient stores and bought all copies of the newspaper with his daughter’s work published.

“I love this assignment because it gives students a chance, in real-time, to engage in conversation with the larger world about the issues in today’s society. I think it is empowering,” said Latimer.

The three articles were published in the September 16 issue of The Washington Post and are now on display in MC 231 (Colgan Hall) on a bulletin board for other students on the Manassas Campus to see and read at their leisure.

Alexandria Professors Present at FLAVA Conference

Alexandria professors Martha Davis, Laura Franklin and Dali Tan greeted participants with “Ni hao!” as they entered their session titled, “Target Language: 90% Plus,” at the Foreign Language Association of Virginia (FLAVA) Conference on October 26. With Davis and Franklin as her students, Tan demonstrated how the exclusive use of the target language of instruction – in this case, Mandarin Chinese – helps students develop proficiency in a new language. She relied on gestures, visuals, repetition and positive feedback to guide the audience in exchanging greetings.

Franklin, who is a regional representative on the board of directors of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), shared ACTFL’s statement on the importance of 90 percent plus use of the target language by teachers and students at all levels of instruction.

Davis moderated the discussion portion of the session in which participants shared their strategies for keeping students speaking the target language, expressed concerns and asked for suggestions in helping to implement ACTFL’s goal in their classrooms.

The faculty members also thank Dean Jimmie McClellan for funding for their participation in the FLAVA Conference, which an estimated 600 K-16 language educators from Virginia and beyond were expected to attend.
Chef Kevin Scott Visits Annandale

Scott showed how the Rational SelfCookingCenter uses advanced technology to create a high quality, consistent product while saving labor and food costs. This cooking system senses and recognizes the sizes, load, quantity, and condition of the products, calculates the appropriate browning by itself, makes the necessary decisions and adjusts the temperature, cooking time, air speed and cooking cabinet climate to best suit the requirements of food. This unit even familiarizes itself with the chef’s preferences and can save these for future use.

This fully programmable oven can be customized to suit the individual customer’s needs. Scott and the students roasted whole chickens, chicken breasts and thighs, grilled steaks, roasted vegetables, baked salmon and tilapia, all in the same oven, many at the same time, all within a cooking time of 35 minutes. The students were impressed, as this is just an example of the technology becoming more prevalent in today’s commercial kitchens.

Kastens Featured in Georgetown’s “HOYA 30”

Theana Kastens, Woodbridge assistant English professor, is among Georgetown University’s School of Continuing Studies featured “HOYA 30” students, who exemplify the best of the school’s mission.

Kastens, a doctoral student in Georgetown University’s interdisciplinary liberal studies program, has adapted an interdisciplinary approach to her teaching of composition and literature.

When asked by Georgetown to describe her teaching style in three ways, Kastens said she, (1) listens carefully to what her students tell her about themselves, (2) builds on their pre-existing academic strengths and (3) remains flexible in ways to encourage their success.

When asked what she does in her free time, Kastens responded, “Following Voltaire’s recipe for life, I cultivate my garden, bringing my summer vegetables to my family table just as I hope each semester to harvest a new crop of students.”

To read more, go online.

Facilities Safety Slogan FY2016 Winner Announced

Robert Bullard, an Alexandria electrician, was presented with a plaque, Star Tower Desk Award and $100 in Macy’s gift cards for his winning entry in the 5th Annual Facilities Department Safety Award Contest. Bullard is a second-time recipient of this award.
The awards were presented by Operations Associate Director Thomas Reinsel and Alexandria Senior Contract and Safety Compliance Officer Kathy Clement at the monthly Facilities Planning and Support Services Health and Safety Committee meeting.

Clement also serves as the chair of the committee. The committee members include facilities managers Steve Harrelson, Thomas Dunst, Anthony Harbert, Tchakka Barrett, Aurang Zeb and Dan Bieger, Vehicle Repair Supervisor Mark Grigg, and Woodbridge Contract and Safety Compliance Officer Richard Boutchyard.

Facilities Safety Slogan FY2016 Winner Announced


This year’s safety slogan topic is “Electrical Safety.” The winning entry will be displayed on posters at each campus. The safety slogan contest is part of the Building and Grounds Safety Review Committee’s program to encourage safety awareness on NOVA campuses.

To view the FY2016 Safety Slogan poster, please see the Flyers section in this edition.

Fireside Chat: Information Technology Panel

Open Computer Labs and Learning and Technology Resources is hosting “Fireside Chat: Information Technology Panel,” on October 15 at 5:30 p.m. in Room AA-158 in the Bisdorf Building on the Alexandria Campus.

This is an informational panel and a networking event open to all NOVA students. Guests are NOVA graduates who are professionals in the information technology field. The networking event will also have pizza and drinks. There will be a question and answer session after the panel. To get your questions in early, tweet using #OCLFireSide.

Space is limited, so you are encouraged to sign up ahead of time by scanning the QR code on the flyer in this edition of the Intercom or sign up online.

First Spanish Spelling Bee at the Woodbridge Campus

The Woodbridge Campus will be hosting the first Spanish Spelling Bee on October 15 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. This activity goes beyond honoring the Spanish language; it is a valuable educational experience especially for Spanish students. Participants will gain competency over vocabulary, which will allow them to increase their skills in reading and writing in the target language. The Spelling Bee will also enhance learner memory and will motivate students to trace the origin of words. Additionally, students will increase their confidence and have fun through healthy competition.
Participants will compete in two levels, beginner and intermediate. There will be prizes for first and second place. The competition will be promoted among NOVA students, especially those in Spanish classes.

The competition judges will be Spanish instructors from NOVA’s Alexandria, Annandale, Manassas and Woodbridge campuses. Woodbridge is planning to continue the Spanish Spelling Bee each year and invites other campuses to join them.

For questions, please contact Dr. Carmen R. Figueroa at cfigueroa@nvcc.edu.

Fulbright Teaching Scholar to Speak at Lyceum Series

A Lyceum Series event, “Contemporary Anti-Corruption Policy; A Russian Academic Perspective,”

will be held Tuesday, October 20 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Alexandria Campus in the Bisdorf Building, Room AA-196. Dr. Maksim Mokeev will be the guest speaker.

NOVA’s Loudoun Campus is hosting Mokeev, who is a Fulbright Teaching Scholar with expertise in current Russian local administrative authority and corruption within the Russian state. He is from the Stolypin Volga Region Institute of Administration, Saratov, Russian Federation.

Event Overview:

In contemporary Russia, anti-corruption policy gradually goes beyond the maintenance of the rule of law in the public sector and becomes one of the key factors of the socio-economic development, national security, a prerequisite for economic growth and improvement of the quality of life of the population.

However, being a relatively new area of governmental activity, the implementation of contemporary mechanisms for combating corruption in public authorities and local government is facing some difficulties in organization and lawmaking issues.

The necessity of development of mechanisms of fighting corruption has been emphasized by the Russian government as one of the six objectives of the public administration reform. Indeed, corruption has become an issue of major political and economic significance in recent years and the need to take measures against it has become obvious.

Development of anti-corruption programs for central and regional executive authorities and the introduction of anti-corruption expertise to draft laws and legislation were the priorities of the public administration reform in Russia for 2007 to 2010.
Nowadays, fighting corruption is more preventative than a struggle. Yet, effective use of anti-corruption instruments is only possible if the anti-corruption standards become a kind of culture of thinking and acting of public authorities, business and citizens.

The ability of corruption to mimic, the appearance of new forms and types of corrupt transactions including international integration and development of the network interactions, the expansion of the boundaries and the extent of corruption stipulate the necessity of international research integration in the exploration and development of effective anti-corruption instruments.

Currently, the implementation of anti-corruption policies does not pay sufficient attention to understanding the social nature of corrupt transactions. In this regard, complex research on the determinants of emergence and development of corruption relations in all forms of interaction in society, the extent of their roots becomes urgent.

Announcements

1. FY 2016 Safety Slogan
   Electricity can kill in 3 seconds!

2. HR OL&D Workshop Schedule
   Contact AskHR@nvcc.edu for more info

3. Clothesline Project
   View or create shirts, supplies provided.
   Oct. 5 & 6, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
   MEC – Coker’s Patio

4. Take Back The Night
   Oct. 27
   Rally & March
   Resource Fair at 6:30 p.m.
   Rally at 7 p.m.
   MEC Campus

5. NOVA Sexual Assault Services is looking for volunteers for October Events
   For information and times contact Angela Acosta at aacosta@nvcc.edu

6. MEC Open House
   Oct 17, 9 a.m. – noon
   Register by Oct 2 at MECopenhouse2015.eventbrite.com
7. Technology Training (T2)
   Fall Workshops – Faculty & Staff
   https://www.nvcc.edu/faculty-and-staff/technology/tac/tactraining/register/
   For more info AskTechTraining@nvcc.edu

8. Endless Forms Most Beautiful? The Making of the Animal Kingdom
   Dr. Sean B. Carroll
   October 23, noon
   AN Campus, Ernst Center Theatre
   Free and open to the public