Fairfax Board of Supervisors Celebrates NOVA’s 50th

NOVA College Board Member Jennifer McGarey (front row, far left), President Scott Ralls (front row, third from left) and College Board Chair Michael Wooten (front row, third from right) accept a plaque from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, honoring NOVA’s 50th Anniversary.
Photo by Kathy Thompson

On October 20 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors presented NOVA with a proclamation in honor of its 50th Anniversary. The presentation was read by Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook, who sponsored the proclamation, and was given to President Scott Ralls, NOVA College Board Chair Michael Wooten, Board Member Jennifer McGarey and NOVA’s Government Relations Director Dana Kauffman, who served on the Board of Supervisors from 1996 until 2007.

The proclamation read, in part, “Be it resolved, that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County, does hereby congratulate Northern Virginia Community College for its 50th anniversary and recognizes the numerous contributions it makes to Fairfax County.”

Expressing their thanks and appreciation for the many benefits NOVA has brought to the region, supervisors Cook, Penelope A. Gross and Catherine M. Hudgins, as well as Board Chair Sharon Bulova, thanked NOVA for the ongoing efforts to improve the community by continually raising the caliber of its graduates and the number of programs offered, and also working to flood the region’s market with those holding valuable workforce certifications. All those who spoke mentioned their eager anticipation as they welcomed Ralls, as NOVA’s new president, to the region knowing his extensive background in workforce development.

Bulova recounted how she graduated from NOVA in 1977, balancing school and raising a young family, as so many of NOVA’s students continue to do. Hudgins, who represents the Hunter Mill District, also noted she would like to see NOVA expand its Reston Center dramatically to accommodate enormous community growth in the western portion of the county.
Nighthawks Cross Country Wins Region Championship

NOVA President Scott Ralls (center) celebrates Region 20 Championship with team.

Led by five runners in the top 20, the Nighthawks Cross Country team at NOVA finished first in the 5K Region 20 Division I Championship Saturday afternoon. This is the second straight Region 20 championship for the Nighthawks cross country team.

Alyssa Johnson was fourth overall, but had the second fastest time among Division I runners. She finished the 5K in 20 minutes, 55.00 seconds, which is also the fastest time in program history.

Cary Brown was the next NOVA runner, and the freshman crossed the line in 22:05.00 to set a personal best time. Brown has the third fastest time this season for NOVA in the short race. Brown placed 12th overall in the regional meet.

Finishing in a pack for NOVA were Brittany Spivey (17th), Setareh Bagherzadeh (18th) and Tamyka Mason (19th).

Rounding out the top seven for the Nighthawks was Daniela Romero, who finished in 24:19 and Karla Evora (24:42.00).

“We ran extremely well today on a beautiful morning,” said Head Coach Nicole Mancini. “It’s really great to be the Region 20 championship for two straight years.”

Johnson’s time Saturday beat the previous record by nearly a minute, which was set last season by Heather Mwitanti. All seven of the top runners for the Nighthawks Saturday set personal best times.

The Nighthawks will have a week off before running the NJCAA Division I Championship November 7 in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Award-Winning Biologist Speaks at Annandale

Award-winning Biologist Speaks at Annandale Dr. Sean B. Carroll, author and biologist, packed the theater in the Richard J. Ernst Cultural Community Center with students, faculty and community members on October 23 for his “Endless Forms Most Beautiful? The Making of the Animal Kingdom” presentation.

Carroll, whose recent book “Brave Genius” was released in September 2013, spoke to the audience about evolutionary developmental biology, or Evo Devo for short. Using multimedia, he showed the audience the foundation of his research on the evolution of the animal kingdom.
Award-winning Biologist Speaks at Annandale Carroll used his recent studies into different types of butterflies to emphasize how species in the animal kingdom are made up of the same genes but use those genes to develop differently. During his presentation, he shared the three rules of Evo Devo. First, looks are deceiving and we were fooled. Most animals are built using similar sets of genes. Secondly, diversity is not a matter of the genes species have, but how they use them during development. Finally, changes in form largely arise through changes in genetic switches.

“We all have similar genes. We use them in different ways,” Carroll said. “The changes are in the DNA, alterations in development and the evolution of form, and the rules apply across the animal kingdom.”

Before completing his presentation, Carroll highlighted the importance of preserving and protecting wildlife, as recent studies have shown that 50 years ago there were reportedly 400,000 lions compared to about 30,000 today after the disappearance of the animal in 26 countries.

Carroll is a molecular biology and genetics professor at the University of Wisconsin and the vice president for science education at Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He has published several books, including his most recent “Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The New Science of Evo Devo” (W.W. Norton & Company). Carroll took questions from the audience after his presentation and was available to sign copies of his book in the lobby of the theater.

During her introduction of Carroll, Reva Savkar, chemistry professor and Annandale Science Seminars Committee chair, thanked the committee, the Annandale Lyceum Committee and her colleagues for their assistance and support in organizing the event.

Copies of Carroll’s book were made available for purchase during the time of the event and light refreshments were served. To find out more about how you can help preserve and protect wildlife, go online.

Woodbridge Offers Air Dual Enrollment to High School Students

Woodbridge Offers Air Dual Enrollment to High School Students

The Woodbridge Natural Science and Mathematics Division (NS&M) has partnered with Prince William County Public Schools and SySTEMic Solutions to offer on-campus Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (AIR) dual enrollment courses to high school students across Prince William County.

The purpose of the AIR dual enrollment program is to enroll students interested in pursuing a career in the heating, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC-R) industry. The program began in the fall, with students enrolled in AIR 111: Air Conditioning and Refrigeration I and SDV 100: College Success Skills courses.
Students from Garfield, Freedom and Potomac Senior high schools, along with Independent Hill/PACE East Program attend classes at the Woodbridge Campus five days a week in the morning, and return to their respective high schools to complete their high school coursework.

In spring 2016, students will complete AIR 121: Air Conditioning and Refrigeration II and CST 110: Intro to Communication, along with additional coursework to achieve credits toward obtaining an HVAC-R and Facilities Services Technology Certificate by the time they graduate from high school.

Doug Wright (Prince William County Schools Supervisor of Career and Technical Education), Courtney Hill (Woodbridge and Manassas Dual Enrollment Coordinator), Alison Thimblin (NS&M Dean), Adam Johnson (Woodbridge NS&M Assistant Dean), Amy Harris (SySTEMic Solutions Director) and Jay Jensen (Woodbridge NS&M faculty) worked together to develop a program that would select eligible and interested high school students to participate in this new and continuous venture for the Woodbridge Campus.

Antonio Sorto, a sophomore student at Woodbridge Senior High School, said he plans to attend NOVA after graduation to pursue an associate’s degree in HVAC-R after he found the courses about electricity to be interesting and rewarding.

“I decided to enroll in the program because I thought it would be a great opportunity to learn something that really interests me,” Sorto said. “I love doing hands-on experiments, and I can use this skill as a backup career in life or possibly make it my main career option.”

STEM focuses on the highly-desired fields of science, technology, engineering and math. SySTEMic Solutions, a program that offers a pathway to employment or higher education with a degree in a STEM-related field, has partnered with NOVA to provide additional support through curriculum that supports student success in the HVAC-R field.

For additional information on the Woodbridge AIR dual enrollment program, please contact the NS&M office at 703.878.5739 extension 5741.

NOVA Alum Highlight IT Academic Connections at Alexandria

NOVA Alum Highlight IT Academic Connections at Alexandria The Alexandria Learning and Technology Resources (LTR) – Open Computer Lab (OCL) in partnership with IT faculty, hosted a “Fireside Chat: Information Technology Panel” on October 15. Four NOVA alumni who also worked with the OCL at some point, shared their academic experiences, career exploration opportunities and provided advice on networking opportunities. Close to 70 students, faculty and staff members participated. The students represented various IT concentrations such as cyber security, health IT and general IT, as well as students from other majors like computer science, engineering, economics and business.
NOVA Alum Highlight IT Academic Connections at Alexandria

The four panelists were Abilash Rajan, an IT specialist at National Geographic; Mamadou Bah, a systems engineer at Geico; Teba Aljumaili, an IT professor at NOVA; and Achraf Ettalhi, a senior at George Mason University. OCL Supervisor Abid Mahmood moderated the panel asking the panelist questions about their field of work, their path to success, struggles they had along the way and advice for current NOVA students. The connections between student and faculty were highlighted as one of the most important strategies for students.

NOVA Alum Highlight IT Academic Connections at Alexandria

LTR Dean Frances Villagran-Glover asked the audience to introduce themselves, tell their major and where they see themselves in five years. This exercise helped the students open up and ask more questions. This also gave staff from other departments a chance to offer advice and highlight resources available to students at NOVA.

As the event ended, many students decided to stay to get to know the speakers and exchange information. Professor Pablo Ibar, who teaches CISCO, said that his students enjoyed the event and gained valuable information about their career paths. The event was successful and students requested such events to be offered in the future. The LTR plans to offer additional events such as this in the near future.

Manassas Hosts College Transfer Fair

The Manassas Campus hosted its annual College Transfer Fair in late October. There was a very good turnout, and in two hours, about 354 college connections were made by students. The fair equipped students to transfer and continue their educational dream. The Campus community pitched in to help get the College Fair together from advertising, reserving campus space and parking, setting-up tables, passing out flyers in the cold, helping direct traffic to ordering and picking up food. Several instructors brought their entire classes.

The event was a raving success and was spearheaded by Mary Ahn and other campus counselors.

Annandale Plants Trees for 50th Anniversary

NOVA students lend a hand in planting 50 trees around the Annandale Campus during the Tree Planting Ceremony and Reception.

The Annandale Campus hosted a tree planting event and reception October 22 on the athletic field in recognition of the College’s 50th anniversary. In cooperation with WGL Energy and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, NOVA planted 50 trees on campus this fall with the help of students, faculty, staff and community members.
While addressing a small crowd, President Scott Ralls spoke on the College’s progress over the years and how NOVA’s success can be attributed to the hard work of those presently a part of the NOVA family as well as those who have represented NOVA in the past.

Annandale Plants Trees for 50th Anniversary

President Scott Ralls and Annandale Interim Provost Charlotte Calobrisi address the small crowd.

“When NOVA started, there were 761 students and now we have over 75,000 students and it’s just remarkable what everyone has done here at Northern Virginia Community College,” Ralls said. “We should be proud of the accomplishments and know that we all stand on the shoulders of those before us who made NOVA what it is today.”

“I think it’s appropriate that we’re planting trees. When the land was purchased in 1966, it was a farm covered in beautiful trees,” said Interim Provost Charlotte Calobrisi. “So it’s very fitting that we’re here planting more trees and adding to the beauty of our campus. Our hope for today that when we plant these trees, in another 50 years they will be these mighty trees that will continue and represent a legacy for future generations.”

Northern Virginia Delegate Vivian Watts, D-39th, was also in attendance as well as representatives from WGL Energy and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Campus Renovations Coordinator Cheryl Robinette played a major role in organizing the event. The ceremony was free and open to the public and light refreshments were served. After a brief ceremony, those in attendance assisted the Annandale Grounds and Maintenance Department in planting the trees in honor of half a century of education, workforce development and success.

Annandale Faculty Help Students Study Abroad

Ruth Maul (on the right) with fellow Critical Language Scholarship program participants.

The American Councils for International Education presented on their Critical Language Scholarships on October 28 on the Annandale Campus. Languages and Literature Division Associate Dean Jennifer Daniels planned the event, with more than 30 students attending. American Councils is seeking applicants for fully-funded study-abroad programs for the summer of 2016 in languages the U.S. Department of State has deemed “critical,” such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian.

NOVA has had three students receive scholarships in the last two years. This summer, NOVA student Ruth Maul studied Arabic in Madaba, Jordan. “I had the great opportunity to spend my 2015 summer break in the Middle East, living with a Christian family in a Muslim country,” she
said. I learned how to speak Arabic with native speakers, saw some of the world wonders, made new friends, and enjoyed ‘Labnah’ (Arabic for strained yogurt) with my three daily meals.”

Professor Sana Hilmi, who teaches Arabic (ARA) on the Annandale Campus, is the campus advisor for the program. She worked with Maul last year on her application and brought her ARA 202 class to the event.

Interested students who meet the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply before November 23 at 7:59 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). NOVA faculty and staff are encouraged everyone to pass on this information to students and view more information online.

According to the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program website, “All applicants must be U.S. citizens. Applicants must be enrolled in a U.S. degree granting program at the undergraduate or graduate level. All candidates must have completed at least their first year of university-level study by the beginning of the summer institute. Students in all disciplines, including business, engineering, sciences, social sciences and humanities are encouraged to apply.”

Woodbridge Hosts Frankenstein for Halloween

The NOVA Players at the Woodbridge Campus will present a production of “Frankenstein” on October 29 to 31 and November 5 to 7 at 7:00 p.m. and November 8 at 3:00 p.m. The production will take place in the Black Box Theater.

“Frankenstein,” written by Marjorie Bicknell, was inspired by novelist Mary Shelley’s classic thriller. Communication Studies and Theatre Arts Assistant Professor David Tyson directs and designed the production. He said directing the production has been a rewarding experience for him and for the cast of NOVA students and community members who contributed to the play.

“This is an interesting story about trying to figure one’s place in the world, ethics, responsibility and understanding that all actions have consequences,” Tyson said. “Everyone can relate to this story and it’s a Halloween treat for all to enjoy.”

Tickets are $8 for general admission and $5 for NOVA students, faculty, staff, children under 12, seniors and military. Only cash will be accepted for entry.

Open parking for the event will be available in Lot B. For additional information, contact Tyson at dtyson@nvcc.edu or 703.878.6114.
November is National Career Development Month

November is National Career Development Month. This is a great time for faculty and staff to think about career development opportunities for students and ways to help them navigate their career paths.

Here are ways you can assist:

- Encourage students to use the new College Central Network (CCN) to search for jobs and internships specifically for NOVA students by local employers, access career advice and to create resumes and online portfolios.
- Promote FOCUS 2 to help students to learn about and select majors and occupational fields.
- Schedule an appointment with a career counselor.
- Attend a workshop sponsored by Career Services. Sessions are free and open to faculty and staff, students and alumni. Topics include career planning, job searching, and resume writing, among others.

A complete list of National Career Development Month events is available on NOVA’s Events Calendar, on and in the Flyers section of this edition.

To learn more, contact your NOVA career counselor/advisor for more information:

Christy Jensen (ELI)
Edythe Richards (Workforce Development)
Trasi Watson (ACP)
Blake Johnson (PIB)
Trevor Blair (Alexandria)
Stephanie Allen (Annandale)
Carlita McCombs (Loudoun)
Bridget Page (MEC)
Derrick Washington (Manassas)
Dennis Sullivan (Woodbridge)
11th Annual Power Up Your Pedagogy Conference Approaching

11th Annual Power Up Your Pedagogy Conference Approaching NOVA’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) proudly presents the 11th Annual Power Up Your Pedagogy Conference (PUP) focusing on “Then and Now: Celebrating 50 Years of Learning.” It will be held Thursday, January 7 in the Ernst Cultural Center (CE) on the Annandale Campus.

PUP is an exciting, award-winning, professional development conference that brings all NOVA faculty together. You will learn amazing insights about the best way to facilitate learning for students.

The featured keynote speakers will be President Scott Ralls and Geology Assistant Professor Callan Bentley. Bentley received the 2015 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

The PUP Conference is by faculty and for faculty. Here are some ways to make it your own:

   Register for PUP. All teaching and professional staff are invited!

   Volunteers are also needed to assist for two hours with registering, directing faculty to rooms and general troubleshooting. If you are interested, please go online. New volunteers will also receive a fleece vest.

Discipline cluster meetings will be held in the afternoon of January 7 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

President’s Sabbatical Award Application Due December 1

Have you been teaching full-time at NOVA for five years or more? Do you have an idea you have wanted to work on without any other distraction? Do you want a semester with full pay and benefits and no classes? If so, apply for the President’s Sabbatical Award. The deadline is December 1.

To apply, complete Form 105-100, with your dean’s and provost’s signatures, and submit a 1,000-word statement describing how you would use your sabbatical for your professional development or to serve the College and/or NOVA students.

The members of the Personnel Services Committee will review all proposals and offer recommendations to President Scott Ralls. Ralls will choose the winners in the spring. President’s Sabbatical awardees present their work and findings to the faculty at the College Convocation.
Please send your application to Stephanie Sareeram, chair of the Personnel Services Committee chair, at ssareeram@nvcc.edu no later than December 1.

For questions, speak with your campus Personnel Services Committee representatives. To find your representative along with forms, evaluation rubric, past winners’ proposals and more, go online.

Announcements

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

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

3. Endless Forms Most Beautiful? The Making of the Animal Kingdom