Annandale Hosts First HackDC Event

From left to right: Sarah Kirby, Tyler Skluzacek, Sravya Kalva, Damola Adediran and NOVA student Brian Burack.

The Annandale Campus hosted HackDC 2015 in the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center in September. The event attracted students from several different colleges and universities in the Northern Virginia area and across the nation.

During HackDC, the participants worked with clinicians, technology experts and veterans to develop different mobile apps that could help with managing PTSD. Through the hackathon, LongView International Technology Solutions encouraged collaboration and also raised awareness about PTSD, which affects one in three troops returning home to the United States.

Brian Burack, a first-year computer science student at NOVA, had great success at LongView’s first HackDC. Burack and his teammates were recognized for creating the Best Mobile App for Clinicians during the weekend-long event.

Burack and his teammates developed “myBivy,” a mobile app that can be used on a smart watch to help monitor a veteran’s sleep patterns and track data about whether the veteran has night terrors or exhibits any other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) while resting. With the data generated by myBivy, clinicians can use the information to treat veterans. The goal is to decrease the frequency of night terrors and other PTSD symptoms.

Although only in his first semester at NOVA, Burack has shown a lot of potential and takes what he learns and applies it to real-life situations, according to Computer Science Professor Ahmed Abdel-Latif.

“My goal when I teach is to infuse passion and hard-wired problem solving abilities to my students. Brian has been an excellent student who does not take the course materials only at the teaching level. He’s always trying to correlate the materials to practical usage,” Abdel-Latif said. “We stress creativity and teamwork on certain projects when I teach alongside my
students. Brian has taken this collaborative problem-solving technique and used it with a team to build something that can possibly help veterans with PTSD.”

Burack worked with Tyler Skluzacek of Macalester College, Damola Adediran and Sarah Kirby of University of Maryland – Baltimore County, and Sravya Kalva of George Mason University. The team won $1,500 for their efforts and has plans to continue to develop the app in hopes of changing lives. They first hope to raise funds and receive support through a Kickstarter campaign. As of October 26, the team had raised close to $20,000.

Tara Seth, a business administration student at NOVA, was recognized during HackDC 2015 as well. Seth, who participated with a group of students from George Mason University and will graduate from NOVA in spring 2016, received the People’s Choice Award. Seth and her team decided to donate their $500 cash prize to veteran causes.

Woodbridge Staff Hold Cultural Competence Panel at JMU

Woodbridge Staff Hold Cultural Competence Panel at JMU On October 9, Education Support Specialist Rommel Aguilar-Cardenas and Advising Specialist Amy Zuaso presented at the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network Conference held at James Madison University (JMU).

The presentation focused on cultural competence and included a panel of three JMU students who are also members of the Latino Student Alliance. The panelists shared their experiences and perspectives and discussed college recruitment, involvement and retention. They also provided suggestions on how JMU can improve its cultural competence.

Aguilar-Cardenas and Zuaso concluded their presentation by emphasizing the importance of being culturally competent in higher education to be successful in working with diverse student populations.

Majewski’s Students Receive Virginia Academy of Sciences Grant

Angel Gutarra and Vincent Cordrey (in blue) present their experiments on levitating metal plates above rotating magnetic wheels.

On October 24, students from Dr. Walerian Majewski’s Physics Honors Research course traveled to Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, to attend the Virginia Academy of Sciences’ (VAS) Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting. NOVA’s two presentations were among 34 projects shown as posters and competing for five $500 VAS research grants. A total of 11 schools were represented by 55 participating students with NOVA being the only two-year institution in attendance.
NOVA students competed against students from George Mason University, Virginia Tech, Liberty University, Christopher Newport University, Virginia State University, Virginia Military Institute, Longwood University, Eastern Mennonite University, James Madison University and Virginia Commonwealth University. They were also the only students doing physics research, with all the other projects focusing on biology research.

Majewski’s Students Receive Virginia Academy of Sciences Grant

Nathan Gaul, Angel Gutarra and Vincent Cordrey feel energized after their successful presentations at the Virginia Academy of Sciences’ Undergraduate Research Meeting.

NOVA’s proposal “Experiments with the Electrodynamic Wheel,” by Angel Gutarra-Leon and Vincent Cordrey, won one of the five grants, with other winning teams coming from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Liberty University and Virginia Military Institute.

Majewski’s students were also invited to present research at the VAS “Research Showcase at the Statehouse” on January 25, 2016. Students can present a poster of their research to legislators as well as be formally introduced to the committees covering science affairs in both houses of the legislature. The VAS Education Committee will select students to participate in this event from among applicants who submit a research abstract and complete the application form at http://urls.hsc.edu/vasapplication by November 15.

NOVA has several groups doing undergraduate research in physics, biology, geology and nanoscience. The “Research Showcase at the Statehouse” provides an excellent opportunity to show NOVA’s best students to Virginia legislators and to highlight opportunities for funding at the College. Faculty and staff are encouraged to share this with NOVA students.

Ralls and Ramsammy Discuss NOVA and Manassas

On October 29, the Manassas Campus hosted a presentation by President Scott Ralls who has spent the first two months at NOVA getting to know the College and community.

Ralls believes community colleges are the workforce engine for the community and wants NOVA to be the seam in a seamless education from high school through NOVA to four-year universities. He intends to build on NOVA’s ties with George Mason University where most of the transfer students are from NOVA. He praised the SySTEMic Solutions Program that started at the Manassas Campus and now serves students across Northern Virginia.

Ralls applauded the student diversity at Manassas and the support that faculty and staff give students in their daily lives and encouraged everyone to continue to structure programs with the end in mind so students can see their success.
Ralls and Ramsammy Discuss NOVA and Manassas

After Ralls’ presentation, Provost Roger Ramsammy gave the annual state of the Campus discussion. He discussed the upcoming move to Battleview Technology Center located at the corner of the Campus. The new building will bring all programs and classes that are currently housed at Manassas Innovation Park back to the Campus to better accommodate students. The target date for the center opening is January 2016.

Ramsammy also highlighted the many faculty and staff who have received awards over the last year. The awards and recipients included Provost’s Awards to Dr. Ia Gomez, Dr. Anne Kuhta, Essala Lowe and Deborah Rosen; NVCC Education Foundation Service to the College Awards to Dr. Mary Ann Schmitt and Loretta Gray; College-wide Recognition Award for Teaching recipients included Cathleen Cogdill, Dr. Vashti Bryant, Maryellen Ryan and Dr. Geeta Jadhav; College and Community Service Awards to Barbara Lash and Kelly Usher; Scholarly and Creative Engagement Award to Susan Givens and Kathyrn O’Sullivan; and the Institutional Responsibility Award recipients were Gomez and Alicia Tucker.

Ralls and Ramsammy Discuss NOVA and Manassas

Other highlights included: Dr. Ruth Stewart as the editor-in-chief of The Northern Virginia Review; Nicole Mancini, who led NOVA’s Cross Country team to win the NJCAA Region 20 Cross Country Champions; Aimee Olivas who published “Survival Time: A Handbook for Surviving a Violent Incident;” Rosemary Gallick’s piece, “Raging Sea” appeared on the cover of The Northern Virginia Review and she also received the Delegate Harry Parrish Innovation and Initiative Award; Troy Dean Kurz was published in “Trick or Treat! A Collection of Spooky Stories;” and the Global Learning Center received the Innovative Practice/Partnership of the Year Award at the Prince William Chamber 2015 Business Awards.

There were also several 2015 Advancement Grant recipients including: Kristina Boberg (Zoology and Biology Curricula Through Models and Live Animal Specimens), Dr. Greg Perrier (Enhancements to NOVA’s Virtual Campus), Barbara Lash (Art Department Publication to Promote Program and Art Exhibits), Dr. Russ Carter (Polygraphs for the Administration of Justice Program) and Nina Lord (NOVA Play Day 2016).

Special thanks to NOVA’s TV Center for filming the presentation. To watch the video, go online.

Errico Gives State of the Faculty Address in Richmond

Dr. Charles Errico speaking at New Faculty Orientation in Richmond, Virginia.

On November 6, Dr. Charles Errico delivered the keynote presentation to an audience of over 150 participants at the New Faculty Orientation in Richmond, Virginia. Errico is chair of the Chancellor’s Faculty Advisory Committee (CFAC). His wide-ranging state of the faculty address discussed enrollment and retention trends in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and the impact that the chancellor’s performance-based funding model will have on community
college budgets. He also reviewed salary trends and recent changes in VCCS policy such as the new early retirement program and the prohibition of consensual relationships between faculty and students in their classroom.

Following his well-received presentation Errico led two concurrent sessions on the impact that the new faculty evaluation system will have on junior faculty in their first three years of employment in the VCCS.

**Art Everywhere Continues at Manassas**

Marcie Schreibman, Sheri David, Barbara Lash, Rosemary Gallick, student Francis Ann Sullivan, Matt Pinney and student Chris Robinson celebrated Halloween with a reception for the “Spirits, Shadows and Sounds” art exhibition at the Manassas Campus.

On October 27, the Manassas Fine Arts Program hosted a Halloween-themed reception for “Spirits, Shadows and Sounds,” the latest campus art exhibition.

“Spirits, Shadows and Sounds” was a multimedia art show featuring spooky artwork created by students, faculty and staff. The show ran from October 8 to November 3 and showcased art throughout the campus.

“This exhibition continued our commitment to highlighting art everywhere around the Manassas Campus and I want to thank Professor Rosemary Gallick for coordinating another intriguing exhibition,” Assistant Dean Barbara Lash said. “I also want to thank Student Life Coordinator Marcie Schreibman for sponsoring the art reception. Everyone at the Manassas Campus works together to provide great experiences for our students.”

Gallick enjoys getting into the spirit of celebrating Halloween and her humor was seen everywhere from “enchanted” mirrors that told fortunes to 3-D art made from unusual materials and eye-catching holograms.

“It is exciting to provide interactive artworks that evoke responses from the viewers,” Gallick said.

Gallick used the exhibition as a lesson by having her “Art Appreciation” students go on art walks to select their favorites and discuss reasons for their choices.

Exhibiting faculty included Gallick, Matt Pinney, Eric Garner and Ellen Gallup. The show also featured scary artwork created by Manassas students in painting, drawing and design courses. In addition, a painting by student Juliana Rivett was published in the Gainesville Times with a press release about the exhibition.
3rd Annual Door Decorating Contest Winner

Halloween brings the ghouls and goblins, but the Annandale Student Services staff restricts them to their doors. Annandale Student Services Division Offices in the CA Building came together to compete for who would reign supreme as the Door Decorating Contest Pumpkin King. This year they had eight wonderful submissions. Corri Sullivan from the Career and Transfer Center had a “Transfer Pumpkin Patch,” Margarita Martinez in Counseling displayed a “Day of the Dead Sugar Skull,” Jessie Zahorian in Counseling had a “Grade Graveyard,” Kristy Balbuena of Pathways had a Harry Potter themed “Chamber of Secrets,” Associate Dean Kelly DeSenti had a “Cauldron of Candy,” Maureen Lawson’s from GPS had her door dressed up as an “Advising Fairy Godmother,” Christy Genova from GPS had a Halloween caution “Beware, Do Not Enter” and Lindsay Skeens of GPS had a seasonal “Happy Fall Y’all.”

After an intense staff and student online voting where they had 696 votes, a winner was selected. Genova was the winner and awarded the Jack Skeleton Pumpkin King trophy. She can keep the trophy in her office for the entire year and has also gained bragging rights. People are already planning and strategizing for next year’s contest.

5th Annual NOVA Jazz Night

All NOVA faculty, staff and students are invited to dance the night away at the fifth annual NOVA Jazz Night at the Carlyle Club on Tuesday November 10 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This swanky 1920’s art-deco style club outside of Old Town Alexandria is the perfect place to enjoy a night of jazz music over dinner and drinks or on the dance floor. The music will be provided by the student jazz combo and NOVA Alexandria Jazz Ensemble under the direction of faculty member John Kocur (AL). NOVA adjunct faculty member Alan Golombek will provide an introductory swing dance lesson and his ballroom dance students will get things started on the dance floor.

This event is free of charge; however, donations will be collected to support the jazz program and scholarships. This is a night you do not want to miss! To learn more, see the flyer in this edition of the Intercom.

Institute for Public Service and Alexandria Lyceum Events

The Institute for Public Service (IPS) and the Lyceum Series Committee of the Alexandria Campus invite you to the following events:

Date and Time: Thursday, November 12 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Location: Bisdorf Building (AA), Room 196
Speaker: David Safavian
Contact person: Alka Gandhi

Event: “Foundation for Individual Rights in Education: FIRE’s Desire to Protect Free Speech on Campus”
Date and Time: Wednesday, December 2 from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Location: Bisdorf Building (AA), Room 196
Speaker: Catherine Sevcenko, FIRE’s associate director of litigation
Contact Person: Jack Lechelt

Faculty and Friends Concert at Annandale Campus

A Faculty & Friends Concert, featuring members of Annandale Music faculty and friends, will be held Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ernst Center Theater on the Annandale Campus.

The performers include Annandale Liberal Arts Dean Burton Peretti (violin), Artistic Director Sonya Suhnhee Kim (piano), Julie Hahn (piano), Jean Provine (violin), Robert Park (cello) and May Ing (viola). They will perform Romantic Period Chamber Music compositions to include “Love’s Sorrow” by Fritz Kreisler, “Sonata for Violin, Piano in D Minor Op. 108” by Johannes Brahms, and “Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 47” by Robert Schumann. Admission is free.

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. Emeriti Reading Series
   November 10, 3 p.m.
   President’s Dining Room, CE Building 2nd floor

2. NOVA In Focus
   NVCC-TV
   Nov. 10 at 3 p.m.
3. **Jazz Night**  
   Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
   The Carlyle Club

4. **An evening of Russian Literature**  
   The Overcoat & The Lady With The Dog  
   Nov. 16, 17, & 19  
   7:30 p.m. in the Schlesinger Concert Hall

5. **HR OL&D Workshop Schedule**  
   Contact [AskHR@nvcc.edu](mailto:AskHR@nvcc.edu) for more info

6. **Technology Training (T2)**  
   Fall Workshops – Faculty & Staff  
   For more info [AskTechTraining@nvcc.edu](mailto:AskTechTraining@nvcc.edu)