Faculty and Students Represent NOVA at GSA Meeting

Faculty and Students Represent NOVA at GSA Meeting The annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) took place in Baltimore, Maryland November 1 to 4. It is the premier meeting of geologists in the world, attended by thousands of professionals and students. NOVA was amply represented at the meeting.

Annandale Geology Professor Ken Rasmussen led a field trip for the meeting along with Victoria Martin, a NOVA student who recently transferred to Cleveland State University. Their trip was focused on the building stones displayed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. With colleagues at the College of William & Mary and the University of Maryland, Geology Assistant Professor Callan Bentley co-organized another field trip, focused on ancient sedimentary and volcanic rocks in the Blue Ridge of Virginia. Woodbridge Geology Instructor Erik Burtis and Annandale Geology Program Assistant Jim Buecheler also attended the meeting.

Faculty and Students Represent NOVA at GSA Meeting NOVA students, a professor and research collaborator made oral presentations on their research in digital geology education and outreach: Marissa Dudek, Robin Rohrback-Schivone and Alan Pitts (former NOVA student, George Mason University graduate, and now a master’s candidate at the University of Camerino, Italy). Along with their supervisor Bentley, these students also showed off their digital learning objects at the unique digital posters in the meeting’s exposition area. Pitts also co-led a pre-meeting field trip to Corridor H, West Virginia, in collaboration with colleagues at the West Virginia Geological Survey, James Madison University, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and George Mason.

Faculty and Students Represent NOVA at GSA Meeting Several recent NOVA graduates presented their research at the meeting: Whitney Spivey (now at James Madison University) and Martin both showed posters based on their work interning with the USGS in Reston, Virginia, a program nurtured and facilitated by Annandale Geology Assistant Professor Shelley Jaye. Both worked with sedimentary records of calcareous microfossils, correlating them with episodes of ancient climate change. Tiffany Wynn (now at George Mason) presented work she has done with the Cushman Foundation on 3-D printing of foraminifera fossils.
Current and recent NOVA students Stephanie Sparks, Mercer Parker, Stephen Self, Sarah Yun, Joshua Benton, Sean Driggers, Josh Darnall and Steve Gramsch all also attended the meeting. They attended research talks, met with potential graduate school advisors, talked with geology students at schools from across the country about their research, and built up their professional network of contacts. In all, it was a very successful meeting – exhausting and rejuvenating for all who attended.

NOVA Receives Mini-Grant and Hosts First Conference

Dean of Students Tanya Ingram at Lord Fairfax Community College and NOVACares Office Case Manager MaryAnn Raybuck presenting on “Working with Students in Crisis.”

On October 1, NOVA hosted the first Behavioral Intervention Strategies Conference at the Woodbridge Campus. Despite torrential downpours due to a Nor’easter and Hurricane Joaquin looming on the horizon, over 60 participants from NOVA, Germanna and Lord Fairfax community colleges participated in the specialized day of learning for Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) members.

The NOVACares Office, assisted by NOVA’s Grants Office, partnered with Germanna and Lord Fairfax to submit a conference proposal to the Paul D. Camp Mini-Grant. Once the grant was awarded, the real work began to find expert presenters on the continuing education topics identified by NOVA’s CARE Team leaders. The group worked diligently to meet the grant requirements, address the training needs of our teams and offer a pleasant, professional learning environment.

NOVA Receives Mini-Grant and Hosts First Conference

Experts from NOVA, Germanna and Lord Fairfax presented on topics such as working with the following special needs populations: (1) autism spectrum (2) veterans (3) sexual assault, dating/partner violence and stalking victims and (4) students in distress. The day also included case scenario table top exercises. A presentation by Megan Huebner of Alternative House regarding working with homeless students was also on the agenda.

The conference was videotaped by NOVA-TV. Special thanks to Gene Ertel, Lance Graham and Ashton Payne who did an excellent job capturing the presentations for those who could not attend. The six video segments captured will be aired on NOVA-TV and available online:

Understanding How Autism Spectrum Disorders Impact Students On Your Campus

NOVA has about 100 NOVACares responders. There are responders at each of NOVA’s six campuses and the Extended Learning Institute (ELI). Campus, Assessment, Response and Evaluation (“CARE”) Teams work specifically on distressed student cases. Most CARE Teams have five to seven members and include faculty, staff and NOVA Police. There are also
responders for faculty and staff concerns, as well as for non-NOVA community reports. All NOVACares responders have been trained to respond to students, faculty and staff in distress. For more information about the NOVACares program, visit their Web page or email novacares@nvcc.edu.

Remember, if you see something, say something!

NOVA Welcomes International Educators

Pakistani educators listen to a representative of the American Association of Community Colleges discuss workforce development efforts in the U.S.

On October 30, the Annandale Campus was the site of a U.S.-Pakistan University Partnership workshop, titled “Enhancing Academic Excellence.” Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, it was part of an eight-day program to increase mutual understanding through peer-to-peer relationships between U.S. and Pakistani universities.

A group of 32 representatives from colleges and universities from throughout Pakistan, many of them women’s colleges, participated in the almost three-hour session. NOVA was chosen in order to provide them with an understanding of the American community college system by observing a community college firsthand.

NOVA Plays Host to International Educators

Thirty-two representatives from Pakistani colleges and universities, including several women’s colleges, participated in the U.S.-Pakistan University Partnership workshop.

Meeting in one of NOVA’s most modern lecture halls in the CA Building on the Annandale Campus, the Pakistani educators were greeted by Interim Annandale Provost Charlotte Calobrisi. “It was a pleasure to welcome these distinguished educators from Pakistan to our country and to NOVA,” she said, “and an honor to have them on the Annandale Campus.”

Following the introduction, a representative of the American Association of Community Colleges presented an overview of community colleges and the role of the association in representing their interests. This was followed by a faculty presentation of technology in the classroom conducted by Annandale Mathematics Professor Don Goral.

Stacey Bustillos of the Office of International Students and Sponsored Programs provided an overview of NOVA’s international partnerships and a discussion of academic programs and external partnerships was presented by Annandale Mathematics, Science and Engineering Division Dean Abe Eftekhari and Business and Public Services Division Dean Celeste Dubecck-Smith. The workshop concluded with a campus tour conducted by student ambassadors.
After meeting with representatives of American colleges and universities for the first four days of their visit, the workshop was the beginning of professional development opportunities for the Pakistani educators for their final four days in the U.S. This included a tour of the landmarks of Washington, D.C., the following day in order to underscore American political concepts.

“We were delighted by their presence and hope that they found their time here beneficial,” concluded Calobrisi as the group departed.

NOVA Physics Professor Nominated for Prestigious Award

The National Society of Physics Students (SPS) recently nominated Dr. Walerian Majewski, NOVA physics professor, for the 2015 Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award. This is Majewski’s second time being nominated for the prestigious award; in 2002, Majewski was chosen as the recipient.

Majewski has been teaching at NOVA for more than 30 years and has been the advisor for the College’s SPS chapter for 25 years. Majewski’s SPS students nominated him for the award and his colleagues at NOVA also submitted recommendations to the organization.

Majewski said he is honored by the recognition from his students and colleagues. Through the SPS organization, Majewski extends his teaching from the classroom – helping students apply classroom curriculum to physics projects and real life opportunities.

“Chapter advisors play a critical role in serving our mission of helping students transform into professionals,” explained Society of Physics Director Sean J. Bentley in Majewski’s nomination letter. “Only those advisors that have led their chapter to an Outstanding Chapter Award within the past two years are even eligible for this award, and from that group those who are nominated by their students and colleagues have clearly been recognized for their passion and dedication.”

NOVA’s SPS organization recently attended the Virginia Academy of Science meeting at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, where they received a grant for their undergraduate research. The College’s chapter was one of five colleges awarded with 34 proposals considered.
NOVA was the only community college that submitted a proposal for the grant along with 15 other Virginia universities and other universities across the nation.

**Chinese Physicians Explore EMS Program at MEC**

The Chinese delegation with Dean of Students Beatrice Veney (seated to the far left), MEC Provost Anne Loochtan (seated third from the left) and NoVaHealthFORCE Coordinator Geraldine Hofler (seated second from the right) with Hui-Yi “Becky” Chen Wu (standing to the far right), of the MEC’s Learning and Technology Resources, who served as an interpreter for the group.

Photo by Kathy Thompson

An 18-member delegation from China visited NOVA’s Medical Education Campus (MEC) on November 6 for an in-depth briefing and tour of the state-of-the-art campus. The group of senior administrators and physicians from China’s Shandong Province came to NOVA with an interest in learning all they could about the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program. Currently, China does not have a formal EMS structure, and they desire to create one.

The group was briefed by MEC Provost Anne Loochtan and Dean of Students Beatrice Veney, along with NoVaHealthFORCE Coordinator Geraldine Hofler. EMS Assistant Dean Jim Rucks gave an extensive presentation on the history of the NOVA’s EMS program and the level of training students receive. Among those in the Chinese delegation were the director and section chief of the Health Protection Agency, Health and Family Planning Commission of Shandong Province, as well as medical staff from 16 hospitals from around the province.

Photo by Kathy Thompson

Don Johnson, Sim Lab and Anatomy Lab manager, gives a tour of the Simulation Lab.

The MEC has become a valuable resource for international medical administrators to learn about training the next generation of medical workers in nursing and allied health professions that are so critical to global society.

**Fulbright Scholars Provide Global Perspective at Loudoun**

Fulbright Scholars Provide Global Perspective at Loudoun On October 27, Loudoun Campus hosted two visiting Fulbright scholars for international presentations. Dr. Dian Ratna Sawitri from Indonesia, the world’s fourth nation by population, and Dr. Maksim Mokeev from Russia, the largest country by area, were invited by Dr. Ramezan Dowlati. Dowlati, a NOVA psychology professor, made a presentation about the education and career development of teenagers and young adults in their respective countries. The recently inaugurated Higher Education Center event space was filled by students primarily. Students learned how people of their generation
pursue higher education and plan for a career in other countries compared to their own experiences in the U.S.

Mokeev is spending his Fulbright visiting time at the Loudoun Campus. Sawitri is a Fulbright scholar at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and her trip was facilitated by Outreach Lecturing Fund of Fulbright Scholar Program.

Woodbridge Hosts VMATYC Fall Conference

Woodbridge Math faculty Don Gooden and Ousmane Diall learn about “Engaging Students in a Mobile Learning Environment,” led by WO Instructional Support Specialist Bo Yang, at the VMATYC Regional Conference.

On November 7, the Woodbridge Campus hosted the Northern Region Virginia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (VMATYC) Fall Conference. VMATYC is a non-profit, educational association which promotes mathematics education by encouraging the development of effective mathematics programs, providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, and promoting the professional development and welfare of its members.

More than 50 attendees including NOVA, Blue Ridge Community College, Germanna Community College and Lord Fairfax Community College gathered at the Woodbridge Campus to discuss math-related pedagogy, technology and curriculum. Faculty and staff presented over a dozen interesting workshops during three sessions, including “Math Modeling and 3-D Printing,” “VCCS Math Pathways” and “Using R Software in Statistics.”

Woodbridge Hosts VMATYC Fall Conference

VMATYC attendees learn about the “Flipped Classroom” from Math Professor Elizabeth “Paige” Highsmith (AN).

The conference was organized by VMATYC Northern Region Vice President and NOVA Math faculty Victoria Lu (AN), Math faculty Ousmane Diall (WO), and VMATYC President-Elect Math faculty Bruce Wahl (AL).

The annual VMATYC Spring Conference will be held in February at Central Virginia Community College. For registration information, faculty should contact their campus VMATYC representative or go online.

Manassas Hosts Sam Killermann for Ally Week

In celebration of Ally Week, the Manassas Office of Student Life hosted Sam Killermann, a comedian and social justice advocate, on October 21. The event took place at the Manassas Campus but was livestreamed to the Alexandria, Annandale and Medical Education campuses.
The Loudon Campus attended in person. In addition, it was livestreamed online for anyone who could not attend at a campus. NOVA-TV has also made the video available on Video on Demand.

The presentation began with a keynote by Killermann who spoke on the topic “The What, Why and How to Be a Social Justice Ally.” He touched on how snap judgements affect how we interact with others and how being an ally means not necessarily living the “golden rule” of treating others as you would like to be treated, but living the “platinum rule” of treating others how they want to be treated.

Following the keynote address, Killermann was joined by three faculty members for a panel discussion on how being a social justice ally is relevant to NOVA as a College and NOVA as a region. Dr. Sarah Gunnarson spoke to the psychology perspective. Dr. Melissa Beaudoin, spoke from the political science perspective and Professor Chaiya Mohanty Ortiz offered perspective as the parent of a transgender teen. Those viewing the session via livestream were able to ask questions through a WebEx set up by Extended Language Institute Student Life Specialist Amanda Morley. The audience, both in person and virtual, was so engaged, that there was no time to do the planned workshop.

Manassas Student Life Coordinator Marcie Schreibman invited students to stay after the event to speak with Killermann individually since the planned workshop did not occur.

Instructors Partner With ASC for Student Success

Faculty and adjunct instructors have collaborated with the Academic Support Centers (ASC) this fall to offer students more tools to supplement their coursework.

In the fall term alone, English as a Second Language (ESL) and world language instructors brought 35 language classes to the Language Center for orientation sessions that highlighted its free services, such as tutoring, language-learning software and Conversation Cafés for speaking practice.

“The Annandale Language Center helps our students to bridge their classroom and individual language work successfully by providing practice for their newly acquired Spanish skills,” Spanish Professor Alicia Falzon said. “The center’s tutoring program provides additional structured language tools for NOVA students who need additional language work.”

In both the Oral Communications Center and the Reading and Writing Center, supervisors can create special workshops tailored to instructors’ needs upon request. “We’re happy to work with instructors to ensure content that’s useful to their classes,” said Reading and Writing Center Supervisor Emily Miller.
Instructors can refer students who might need extra help to the centers for tutoring, listing specific things they would like a tutor to work on with the student. They can also recommend to all the centers exceptional students who they think would make strong tutors.

For instructors who do not have class time for center orientations but still want their students to know about the free resources in the ASC, Language Center Supervisor Brian Adler created a two-minute introductory video for them to play during their class or share on the course Blackboard page. The ASC introductory video can be found online.

To refer a student for tutoring, go online. To schedule an orientation or workshop or recommend a student to be a tutor, click on the page of the appropriate Academic Support Center and contact the supervisor listed in the sidebar.

**NOVA’s Online Librarians Present at VLA Conference**

NOVA’s Online Librarians Present at VLA Conference NOVA’s team of online librarians represented the College at the Virginia Library Association’s (VLA) 2015 Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia, on October 23. Heather Blicher and Joi Jackson, online learning librarians for NOVA’s Extended Learning Institute (ELI), led a lively presentation and discussion titled “Librarians as Guides in an OER Adoption Model.”

Many Open Educational Resources (OER) are available as digital content, making them a good fit for NOVA’s online courses. ELI’s online librarians support NOVA’s Digital Open OER-Based General Education Program by providing research, content creation and copyright consults to online faculty and instructional designers.

The team’s presentation to the VLA Conference audience focused on the extraordinary opportunities available to enhance courses using quality open content and on the opportunities and challenges that OER brings to librarianship.

**Manassas Automotive Technology Sponsors Trade Career Fair**

On November 5, the Automotive Technology sponsored a Trade Career Fair for people interested in learning how to get a job in the automotive industry. There were approximately 15 people in attendance for the day session and 30 for the night session and they heard information from several local businesses including Allstate, Micron Technology, Virginia Auto and Tire, Ford Motor Corporation and Sheehy Auto stores.

Allstate talked about jobs within the insurance industry including claims and field auto adjusters where the entry-level starting salary is $41,800. They are looking for a diverse workforce with skills in customer service, organization, computer proficiency and the ability to work independently.
The auto dealership industry talked about the importance of attaining an associate degree. There is a great shortage of technicians and engineer jobs. Insights were provided on getting a job, preparing for a job, keeping the job, earning income, staying safe on the job and handling responsibility. In addition, the Career Center at NOVA is available for assistance and offers tips on resume writing, cover letter and job searching.

Micron Technology, a 3.5 billion industry of FAB semi-conductors, is partnering with local schools and universities to offer internships for students to be manufacture techs. Students receive hands-on experience and can learn to be an engineer without a four-year degree. The interns are paid $17/hour and they will work around students’ school schedules. These positions require a high school diploma/GED and college courses in math and English.

All of the industries represented mentioned how important it is to separate work from personal life. Their suggestions were to have two separate cell phones, keep a clean driving record, refrain from drugs, be mindful of profiles on Facebook and other social media, get on LinkedIn, learn everything about the profession ask questions, find a mentor, start at the bottom and work up, and ask about advancement opportunities.

For more information on automotive and diesel technology, contact John Hicks at 703.530.8254 or jhicks@nvcc.edu, and for welding information contact, Matt Wayman at 703.530.3002 ormlwayman@nvcc.edu.

Annandale Art Exhibit by NOVA Alumna Receives Local Attention

Michelle Pham, George Mason University graduate and former NOVA student, stands in the Verizon Gallery at the Ernst Center among some of her art pieces inspired by her niece, Vanessa Pham.

Annandale Campus hosted an exhibit by artist and former NOVA student Michelle Pham in the Verizon Gallery at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center November 10 to 15. The Verizon Gallery hosted two artist’s receptions from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on November 14 and 15.

Inspired by the tragic 2010 slaying of her niece, Vanessa Pham, Michelle’s recent artwork has helped her through her pain and pays tribute to her niece who was only 19 years old at the time of her death. The perpetrator was found and convicted of first-degree murder, and Michelle and her family have been forever changed.

“Life is a journey of happiness, sorrow, courage and strength. It has its own beginning and end, but we carry with us the precious memories. The journey of life is always looking forward, even though we know that, at one point or another, we will realize that some people can only live in our heart, but cannot be by our side until the end,” Michelle said. “The journey of life is a
journey of finding ourselves, finding our power and living for ourselves and not for everyone else.

“It’s like a colorful painting and we are the only artists for our journey. In this exhibit, I want to be the artist for my own journey, the journey with many beautiful memories of my loved ones, especially Vanessa Pham, my lovely niece who is gone forever. Each of my paintings of her display happy memories I will carry in my heart until the end.”

Michelle studied art at NOVA before receiving her Bachelor of Arts from George Mason University in 2000. Despite her day-to-day job, she finds time to pursue her love of art and teaching art to others. This exhibition brought together a select group of Michelle’s work and some of her students’ artwork all inspired by Vanessa.

“I only saw like two photographs in her iPhone, so we were taking a big leap. But she was so passionate and so excited and she’d never done a full fledge exhibition,” Ernst Cultural Center Director Kevin Sheehan said.

Those who attended the reception completed comment cards. One card from each reception was selected and two lucky patrons were given a work of art to keep. The comments will also be incorporated on Michelle’s blog and Facebook page to continue the tribute to Vanessa.

Local news stations, WRC-TV (NBC 4), WUSA (ABC 9) and WTTG-TV (Fox 5), covered the exhibit and Michelle’s story in a recent segment. To see the NBC4 segment, go online.

**Manassas Faculty Takes Class to Newseum for a Second Year**

Manassas Faculty Takes Class to Newseum for a Second Year For the second year in a row, Manassas English Associate Professor Chalet Jean-Baptiste’s students in the Literature and Pop Culture class visited the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The museum is a great place to explore some of the global and local pop culture that has affected the world and made national headlines. The students experienced how social media and news shapes the society we live in and helps determine what or who is or is not pop culture. Some of the most popular exhibits are The Berlin Wall, The Civil Rights Movement and the 50th Year Voting Rights Act, the 9/11 tragedy, Vietnam War, the NBC Newsroom and selfie check-ins and social media games.

Manassas Faculty Takes Class to Newseum for a Second Year The Newseum was free to all students who made an advance reservation and included a second-day admission.

**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:
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

Register for Power Up Your Pedagogy

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning’s award-winning Power Up Your Pedagogy (PUP) conference on January 7, 2016 in the Ernst Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus.

Register for PUP today!

Do not miss PUP! You will hear the first all-faculty address by President Scott Ralls and a keynote talk by NOVA’s 2015 SCHEV Award recipient, Professor Callan Bentley. You can choose two peer breakout sessions from over 40 sessions presented by NOVA’s very talented faculty. There will also be an informative poster session as well. Following lunch, Cluster meetings will begin.

Register for Power Up Your Pedagogy Remember that all full-time and adjunct teaching and professional faculty as well as all staff who work in direct support of teaching should attend.

There are still a few volunteer spaces left too; go online to Volunteer for PUP.

For questions, contact Cindy Miller, PUP Planning Committee chair.

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. National Career Development Month
   Selected events

2. 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

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

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