Annandale Music Honors Back Scholars and 50th Anniversary

The Annandale Campus music program is celebrating NOVA’s 50th anniversary and a new scholarship program this semester. In 2014, the late Virginia Bedell Back, a former NOVA student and chorus member, left $580,000 to the Annandale music program. The funds will be used in various ways, but she continues to be remembered through the new Virginia B. Back Music Scholarships.

This year, 13 students were the first recipients of the Back Scholarships, which cover most college expenses per semester. The scholars were recognized during the concert of the NOVA Annandale Symphony and Chorus, titled “Let Freedom Ring,” held at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria Campus on November 13. This concert of American music, enjoyed by over 500 audience members, also celebrated NOVA’s 50 years of service to students in all fields.
MEC Hosts Pathway Connection Students

Pathway Connection, a college readiness program under College Pathway Initiatives, collaborated with College Access Fairfax’s Project Discovery program to bring 39 high school juniors and seniors from both Fairfax and Arlington county schools to the Medical Education Campus for a hands-on tour on November 2.

Through the planning and coordination of Counseling and Support Services Coordinator Kimberly Nicely (MEC), students experienced what happens in four different departments. These departments and the individuals that helped with programming included phlebotomy with Stephanie Thompson, simulation labs with Don Johnson, CPR class with April McMillen-Eldert and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Lab with Bill Garringer.

Students were taught how to draw blood on a fake arm, what it takes to be a first responder at an accident site, how to administer basic CPR, and the technology that is incorporated in laboratories where students need to practice on a simulated patient. At the end, students from the nursing, occupational therapy and dental hygiene programs were able to address questions the students had about their experience. Students walked away with a better understanding of the requirements and expectations needed to pursue and succeed in health care fields.

Pathway Connection and Project Discovery will continue to collaborate throughout the academic school year to provide more opportunities for students to learn about colleges. This spring, they hope to take students to George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

For more information about Pathway Connection, please go online.
The Loudoun Campus International Education Week (IEW) events were a huge success. Sessions had strong attendance and the feedback was stellar. There were three unique events each day, starting Monday with the International Potluck and ending the week with Sanjay Mishra’s Guitar Concert and Dance Performance by Tehreema Mitha, with “Let’s Learn a Language” sessions occurring Monday through Thursday. Tuesday and Wednesday’s Tai Chi education and practice sessions were a very popular way to get everyone moving and learning at the same time.

All of the events took a great deal of planning and preparation and the turnout and enthusiasm at each event made it all worth it. The week could not have come together without the 20 faculty and staff who volunteered during various events and activities including: “Let’s Learn a Language,” Woody Givens for presenting with Barbara Crain during the refugee/migration discussion, Julia Turner for judging the photography contest, Steve Clarke and Tim Eichers for presenting with Stacy Rice during the study abroad panel, and to Miguel Corrigan and Maksim Mokeev for putting on one of the best-attended, most-dance filled events to date. Also, thanks for the support, help and paperwork guidance from administrative staff Pixie Calderwood, Andrew Furr, the Humanities Division office (Lisa Stelle, Lauren Arevalo, Beverly Ellerbe, Rachna Prakash and Carolina Pineda de Giron), Debby Melko and Liz Hamrick, the entire IT team and Tiffney Laing.

Big thanks to Provost Julie Leidig for unwavering support, both leading up to the week and during each event. Hopefully IEW will continue to be an annual tradition at the Loudoun Campus. Many thanks to the IEW Planning Committee: Allison Correll, Tatyana Schum, Meena Nayak, Crain, Zaimah Khan, Chris Blake, Saleha Bholat, Anitza SanMiguel, Robyn Russo, Erika Knott, Seerat Sandhu, Bridget Pool, Ramezan Dowlati, Rice and Eddie Creppy.

Additional pictures from events may be viewed on Loudoun’s Facebook page.
Phi Theta Kappa Celebrates Founders Day at Alexandria

On November 19, the Tau Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa held its Founders Day Ceremony at the Alexandria Campus. More than 30 attendees had the honor of welcoming the new inductees into this prestigious honor society.

Dr. Chad Knights, the keynote speaker, shared his academic journey, trials and obstacles. He also encouraged the new inductees and all attendees to always challenge themselves to dream the impossible dream and to run where the brave dare not go.

Other faculty and staff who participated in the event included: Dr. Ronald Buchanan (Alexandria Provost), Dr. John Sound, Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover, Dr. John Min and faculty advisor Leola Farmer.

Established by Missouri two-year college presidents in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society continues to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students.
Showing of “The Biology of Skin Color” at Woodbridge

The November 16 showing of “The Biology of Skin Color,” presented by the Woodbridge Honors Committee, was a great success. More than 50 students attended the interdisciplinary discussion lead by Honors professors Camisha Parker (Math), Elizabeth Lynch, (Art History) and Vincent Ng (Biology). A poll taken before the film showed the majority of the students were immune to the common myths about skin color and race.

Following the film, Ng reviewed the biological terminology presented in the documentary and engaged students in conversation about the dangers of sun exposure and tanning beds and explained the warning signs of skin cancer. Parker pointed out the use of statistical data and mathematical measurements that were fundamental to the research process and provided evidence for the claims. Lynch then shared her insights from art history on how the depiction of skin color has been used in various art forms and what it reveals about ancient cultures.
NOVA Physics Students Participate in International Internship

Many universities are receiving from the National Science Foundation (NSF) research grants permitting undergraduate student participation in their research. The grants come from the NSF’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) or International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) programs. These programs are willing to accept the best community college students. Since 2011, Dr. Walerian Majewski's physics students participated in the IRES program, managed by George Mason University, at the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland, at the European Nuclear Physics Laboratory CERN.

This year for the first time, two students from Majewski's Honors Research Course (PHY 298) won these prestigious eight-week international summer internships in Mainz, Germany, at the Mainz Microtron (MAMI). MAMI is an electron accelerator at Johann Gutenberg University. The program is managed by the George Washington University (GW).

While at NOVA, Hannah Glaser and Yash Shevde investigated cosmic-ray elementary particles – muons - in PHY 298 course, which gave them preparation needed to intern at the particle accelerator. The experiments at MAMI are performed by about 200 physicists of many countries organized in international collaborations. They investigate reactions of high-energy gamma-photons with protons and neutrons, to discover details of their inner structure.

The experience at MAMI is of great benefit to the students, enabling them to attain new hardware and software skills and to develop an international contact network for their future careers. It is also an opportunity to experience international culture and enjoy learning about life in the wine-growing region of Germany. Benefits cover airfare, housing onsite and a stipend, and the program includes: internship research, lectures, travel, advising and activities.

The NOVA students’ internship was very successful, with excellent evaluations from their scientific advisor and GW professor Evangeline Downie. After returning from Germany, on November 13, Glaser and Shevde presented their research at the GW IRES Symposium, together with four other participants. Both Glaser and Shevde have now transferred; Glaser is now at Virginia Tech and Shevde is at University of Virginia.

Successful IRES internships of NOVA physics students can be emulated by other NOVA undergraduate research groups. Majewski encourages STEM faculty and students to work with innovative programs at universities, which will benefit from having NOVA’s best students as interns. Deadlines for applications are usually December to early January.
NOVA SACNAS Chapter Represents Manassas at Conference

The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Conference 2015 was held at the National Harbor Gaylord Resort in National Harbor, Maryland. Manassas’ SACNAS chapter students and faculty advisors attended.

The conference included over 2,500 professionals, scientists, graduate and undergraduate students. Eight Manassas students and faculty advisors, Professor Sara Mendoza and Dr. Jaidee Zavala, represented NOVA. The conference offered numerous opportunities for students to attend presentations and workshops, as well as a meet and greet with professionals from colleges nationwide and professional/government agencies. Students received information about transferring to four-year colleges, internships, scholarships and much more.

The conference also provided an open space for cultural enrichment. SACNAS students were able to hear inspirational stories by professionals from various backgrounds and experience different cultural dances and music.

NOVA SACNAS students said they “had an exciting and eye-opening experience” at the conference. “We were able to meet people just like us who made it big” and “we learned about so many opportunities just for community college students.”
Loudoun Hosts "Job for a Day"

The Loudoun Campus hosted Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) students in School-Business Partnership’s Job for a Day. This year, 335 LCPS students participated in the program, which was a dramatic increase from last year’s number with student participants numbering fewer than 200.

NOVA Loudoun faculty hosted a dozen students on campus. Participating high schools included Freedom, Riverside, Potomac Falls, Broad Run, Rock Ridge and Briar Woods. Professor Josh Pachter (head of the Communication Studies and Theatre Department), who paired with a Riverside High School student, said he had a great day sitting in on a class, visiting with Theatre and Communications Professor Lisa Nanni-Messegee and enjoying lunch with fellow professors Mike Polcen (Economics) and Hashem Anwari (Computer Science and IT) and their student visitors. Anwari’s student, from Freedom High School, was interested particularly in engineering. She reported that she was highly impressed with NOVA’s quality of education.

When asked about their own experience as hosts, Anwari replied that he was "happy to see more young women interested in the profession (engineering) because they are needed."

Pachter reported of the School-Business Partnership, "it’s a terrific program, and I hope that next year there’ll be even more participants from area high schools."

Participating faculty included Eddie Creppy, Georgeanna Stratton, Julia Turner, Anwari, Pachter, Polcen and Debbie Naquin.
Manassas Commemorates Transgender Day

November 20 was designated as Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day to remember transgender individuals in the U.S. and around the world who were killed for living as their authentic selves. The Gender-Sexuality Alliance Club of Manassas honored the 24 U.S. victims (an all-time high number) who were murdered since last year. Posters were made for each individual, and at 12:00 p.m., all were honored with a reading of their names by club advisor and Spanish Instructor **Chaiya Mohanty Ortiz**, Club President Ronan Goforth and First Year Advisor **Corrine House**. A moment of silence for the victims followed.

The ages of the victims ranged from 17 to 66. Most were shot or stabbed to death. The Gender-Sexuality Alliance Club is open to all NOVA students who are looking for a safe space in which to talk about issues affecting the LGBT community.

They are working toward inclusiveness at all NOVA campuses and in the community at large. If you are interested in finding out more about the club, you can contact Ortiz at cortiz@nvcc.edu.

For more information on Transgender Day of Remembrance, visit the International Transgender Day of Remembrance [site](#).

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Russian Fulbright Scholar Speaks at Loudoun
Smack dab in the center of International Education Week (November 16 to 20) events on the Loudoun Campus was “All About Russia” - a cultural view of music, dance and even authentic food typical of a Russian party. Dr. Maksim Mokeev, his wife and daughter entertained a packed house in the Higher Education Center’s event space. Mokeev is a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from the Stolypin Volga Region Institution of Administration in Saratov, Russia, who has spent this fall teaching at the Loudoun Campus.

Mokeev and his family had the entire room singing and laughing along while members of the audience danced in line and with partners. Participants remarked that it was the liveliest event held to date in the new space. Audience members asked many interesting questions (from daily diet to internet technology infrastructure) and the entire room waved and said “hello” to an audience watching along from Russia via the Periscope live video app.

The event was a highlight of the annual International Education Week programming, which included daily internationally-themed events. Thanks to Mokeev, Professor Miguel Corrigan, Senior Buyer Specialist Pixie Calderwood, Evening Operations Coordinator Andrew Furr, Campus and Community Relations Specialist Tatyana Schum and Instructor Allison Correll for helping to put on this wonderful event.
The Manassas Campus held an Adjunct Recruitment Fair at Manassas Innovation Park on the evening of November 19. This event focused on recruiting part-time faculty from the community in several disciplines in Science and Applied Technology and the Communication Technologies and Social Sciences divisions. The Manassas Campus is looking for faculty in chemistry, math, geology, physics, IT, automotive, diesel, welding, sociology, English, communication and theatre studies and psychology. Interested persons should apply online.

A total of 28 candidates came to the event and met with the division deans, administrative assistants and faculty members. Interviews were held on site.
Loudoun Campus, NOVA Cares and the NOVA Police Department are sponsoring a workshop on dealing with individuals in crisis and those who are disruptive. The workshop will be held on **Tuesday, December 8 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** in the Higher Education Center (HEC) event space of the Loudoun Campus. The event is open to all college faculty and staff.

NOVACares Case Manager **MaryAnn Raybuck** will kick off with a presentation on dealing with people in crisis, NOVA Police Lieutenant **John Weinstein** will give a presentation on dealing with difficult people, and there will be a panel discussion and question-and-answer period to follow.

There is no need to register. If you need accommodations to attend this event, please contact **Debbie Wyne** at dwyne@nvcc.edu.

James Ragan’s “Flowers and Roots” to Air on NOVA-TV
NOVA-TV will air “Flowers and Roots,” a documentary about the American poet James Ragan, on **January 3 at 10:00 p.m.**

Ragan is an internationally recognized poet, playwright and essayist. He has authored eight books of poetry which have been translated into 12 languages, including “In the Talking Hours,” “Womb-Weary,” “The Hunger Wall,” “Lusions,” “Selected Poetry,” “Too Long a Solitude,” “The World Shouldering I,” “To Sing Us Out of Silence” and Yevgeny Yevtushenko's Collected Poems, for which Ragan served as co-editor.

Ragan has read for six heads of state and for audiences in China, Japan, England, France, Spain, Brazil and the Czech Republic. In 1985, he was one of three Americans, including Bob Dylan and Robert Bly, invited to perform at the First International Poetry Festival in Moscow. Honors include three Fulbright professorships, two honorary doctorates, the Emerson Poetry Prize, eight Pushcart Prize nominations, a Poetry Society of America citation, and the Swan Foundation Humanitarian Award, among others.

Ragan’s plays have been staged in the U.S., Russia, Greece and China. For 25 years, he directed the Professional Writing Program at the University of Southern California. In 1996, Buzz Magazine named Ragan one of the “100 Coolest People in Los Angeles: Those Who Make a Difference.”

Czech President Vaclav Havel has praised Ragan calling him “an ambassador of the arts.” Ragan has worked as a screenwriter at Paramount Pictures and in various production capacities during the making of “The Border,” “Dom” (The House), “Clownwise” and the Academy Award-winning films “The Godfather” and “The Deer Hunter.”

Ragan will also be reading his poetry on **January 4** at Word Works Café Muse held in Chevy Chase, Maryland. For more information about the reading, please go [online](#).

If you miss the NOVA-TV premiere of “Flowers and Roots,” you can access the NOVA-TV [online schedule](#) or access “Flowers and Roots” [NOVA-TV On Demand](#).
Flyers

NOVA in Focus
Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. on NVCC TV

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