Secretary of the Treasury Seeks Input on Currency Redesign

Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew listens as Alexandria Liberal Arts Dean Jimmie McClellan speaks. Photo courtesy of NOVA Graphics

U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew held a town hall meeting at NOVA’s Alexandria Campus on November 23 to discuss currency redesign and the new $10 bill. The lecture hall was filled with NOVA students, faculty and staff who arrived prepared to ask questions about currency design and to offer opinions on what woman they would like to see honored on the next family of bills to be issued.

Lew said the Department of the Treasury wants a new family of bills with the theme of democracy, and they would like to see an inspiring woman depicted. He said they had put out a call for ideas and suggestions and received responses via letter, web communication and Twitter. However, he is also visiting institutions of higher education to solicit feedback from students. NOVA was the first community college on the “tour.”

Secretary of the Treasury Seeks Input on Currency Redesign

Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew discusses the importance of U.S. currency being safe, difficult to counterfeit and durable. Photo courtesy of NOVA Graphics

There were many insightful questions raised, among them the question of why the need for a redesign. Lew said the design needs to change with some regularity to stay ahead of those with nefarious motives. The top priorities for any new currency are to make it safe, difficult to counterfeit and durable. The cost of changing the portrait on currency is dramatically less than the cost of ensuring the security features are in place.

The first bill up for redesign is the $10 bill. Someone asked if Treasury was looking to remove Alexander Hamilton or to add a female portrait and have several $10 bills depicting different people, like the quarter. Lew indicated all ideas are still in play. Liberal Arts Dean Jimmie McClellan pointed out that Alexander Hamilton was a great economist; however, he was not in favor of democracy so perhaps out of step with the theme.
Possible women candidates ranged from Abigail Adams to Harriett Tubman. One attendee suggested Dr. Jean Braden, a beloved Alexandria Campus faculty member who passed away in January.

Lew was gracious and grateful for the feedback. He asked people to provide their ideas, and encourage others to do so as well, at thenew10@treasury.gov.

Emeriti Reading Series Concludes

Emeriti Reading Series Concludes On November 10, the Annandale Languages and Literature Division concluded their Emeriti Reading Series with a presentation by Dr. Terry Alford, a very recently retired history professor, on his new book, “Fortune’s Fool: The Life and Times of John Wilkes Booth.”

English Associate Professor Memuna Sillah introduced him and told the story of his worldwide fame, when she was traveling in Africa, she encountered three scholars and one student in three different countries who praised Alford’s first book, “A Prince Among Slaves.”

During the fascinating presentation on his newest and well-reviewed book, Alford discussed the 20 years of research he conducted and shared photos of Booth and his family, their homestead, and historical artifacts connected to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

You can see those photos and watch the rest of the presentation online, thanks to NOVA-TV's Gene Ertel, who recorded the event.

Alexandria Open Computer Lab Grand Opening

The Alexandria Campus Open Computer Lab (OCL) celebrated its newly-renovated location with students, faculty and staff and a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 2nd. The new location is in Room AA332 of the Bisdorf Building. OCL was located in close proximity to the other Learning and Technology Resources (LTR) service units.

The new lab is equipped with state-of-the-art PCs, Macs, touch screen Dells, flatbed and high speed scanners and iPads. The OCL is also equipped with the most current ADA compliant software, such as Zoom Text and Jaws.

The dedicated OCL team is looking forward to providing great customer service to every person who walks through the doors. For more information, visit the OCL webpage, view their blog or follow them on Facebook and Twitter.
NOVA Culinary Chef and Students Visit High Sabatino

On December 1, five culinary students and Chef Mike Herbert visited High Sabatino Associates in Jessup, Maryland. High Sabatino is a manufacturer’s representative for quality foodservice equipment in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Chef Peter Schellenbach, accompanied by Dan Martin and Harold Spotts, demonstrated how advances in commercial kitchen technology have revolutionized food service operations. Schellenbach showed how the Rational Combi oven, with its multitude of sensors and settings, can ensure a consistent, quality product while lowering food and labor costs. The students sampled roast tenderloin, which was cooked perfectly – medium rare, juicy and tender. Schellenbach also prepared grilled cheese sandwiches, salmon with rice and vegetables, shrimp and ravioli, and cookies. He described how different cooking methods work in this oven, and how to use it for a la carte cooking, as well as bulk feeding.

Martin then presented the holding cabinets, which do not only keep food hot, but prevent it from drying out. These cabinets use both dry and wet bulb temperature sensors. This enables a food service facility to cook items in advance, hold them until service, and ensure a superior product and customer satisfaction. Everyone sampled a roast pork butt, which was cooked and held for two hours.

Schellenbach and Martin then demonstrated the blast chiller, which can quickly freeze food without breaking the cell structure. Breaking the cell structure is what causes food to lose moisture, which leads to freezer burn, enabling food to stay frozen until ready to use, while still maintaining its fresh flavor and characteristics.

NOVA culinary students really enjoyed this presentation and how everything was explained in an engaging way.

Dental Hygiene Community Service

Being involved in community service is a noteworthy opportunity for dental hygienists. Dental hygienists are preventive professionals and they work to provide care and service efforts to the members of the community. Every year at the Medical Education Campus (MEC), there seems to be more coverage and volunteer hours completed from both entry-level and senior dental hygienists. Increasing numbers of community members have benefitted from preventive dental care and education, hence lessening dental diseases.

In October, in celebration of National Dental Hygiene Month, senior dental hygiene students from the MEC and Germanna Community College participated in community service opportunities as part of the curriculum for dental public health.
The American Dental Hygienist’s Association works closely with Head Start programs to provide oral health education. Head Start is a program that supports comprehensive development of children from birth to 5 years old and offers services in many areas including oral health support. In Fairfax County, NOVA’s MEC students visited nine Head Start classrooms where they presented oral health education demonstrations to young children.

Dental Hygiene Community Service

MEC senior dental hygienists

Some of the students also visited MVLE, an organization that supports over 500 individuals with disabilities and military veterans to work toward independence and growth, and a commitment to creating futures one person at a time through employment and day support services. Students presented oral health education demonstrations at both MVLE locations, Springfield and Chantilly.

All participants received a dental goody bag with a toothbrush, floss and mouth rinse. MEC faculty and staff help to find great volunteer opportunities for students to attend and help provided them with the samples and products for their goody bags.

Special thanks to the dental hygiene students for their role and involvement as health professionals at the local, state and national levels. The work of MEC faculty, staff and students put forth to help the greater community is inspiring.

“Zungenbrecher!!” Exhibit at Manassas

For the month of December, the NOVA Manassas Art Gallery is exhibiting the work of seven regional artists who work in painting, printmaking and photography. This diverse group of artists use various styles to investigate their own particular methodologies of image making.

Fred Markham, Jay Hendrick and Mike Dowley are NOVA professors, who specialize in painting. David Barr makes paintings out of the experimental gallery, “Olly Olly” in Fairfax, Virginia. Anne Smith and Nikki Brugnoli are multimedia artists and professors at George Mason University. Jessica Gamble uses photography and installation to depict icons of femininity in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“Zungenbrecher!!,” or the German word for “tongue twister,” was chosen as the title because it has a unique sound and plays on the idea how simple things, added together, become difficult to express. These artists use unique combinations of subject, material and style to turn their imagery and material on its head, producing something unexpected.

“Zungenbrecher!!” will be on display until December 18 in Manassas’ Colgan Hall gallery space, which is free and open to the public.
To read an article from the Gainesville Times about the exhibit, go online, on A7.

VRS Provides Purchase of Prior Service Planning Resources

Effective January 1, 2017, purchase of prior service provisions will change. Under the new provisions, the cost of purchasing prior service may increase. If you have service to purchase, you may want to compare the cost of purchasing now against that of waiting until January 2017.

VRS has developed resources to help you in making your decision. Go to your myVRS account and click on the Refunded Service Comparison Estimator. The estimator will pull information from your member record. It will show the number of months available for purchase and the applicable lump-sum cost now through December 2016, compared to January 2017.

This tool is for refunded service estimates only. If you have other types of prior service you want to purchase, use the VRS Plan 1 and Plan 2 Actuarial Estimator or Hybrid Retirement Plan Estimator found on the VRS website. Although both tools provide cost estimates, you must receive an official cost letter to start purchasing service. Questions may be forwarded to AsKHR@nvcc.edu.

James Ragan’s “Flowers and Roots” to Air on NOVA-TV

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.

Announcements

1. 4th annual Holiday Toy Drive  
   Donations accepted through Dec. 17

2. Move Up  
   Are you ready to reach your full potential?  
   For more info contact Dwight Carmon at 703-884-1116 or email NVCCAdmissions@yearup.org