Annandale Celebrates NOVA’s 50th Anniversary With Luncheon

To commemorate the College’s legacy, the Annandale Campus held an End-of-the-Year Holiday Luncheon Celebrating NOVA’s 50th Anniversary on December 16, in the Forum of the Ernst Community Cultural Center. The event was attended by hundreds of campus faculty and staff.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for the Campus to come together and have fun celebrating NOVA’s 50th anniversary and the end of another semester,” said Annandale Campus Interim Provost Charlotte Calobrisi.

Calobrisi handed the task of organizing the event to Provost Office Coordinator Claudia Chirinos, who formed a committee of campus staff to help with the decorations and events. Committee members included Provost Office Executive Assistant Hamdi Abdi, Campus Renovations Coordinator Cheryl Robinette, Community Outreach Specialist Bob Hull, Advising Specialist Maureen Lawson and Veterans Advisor Audra Morris.

The Forum is decorated for the Annandale Campus End-of-the-Year Holiday Luncheon Celebrating NOVA’s 50th Anniversary.

A buffet lunch of traditional holiday foods was served and dining tables were decorated with white tablecloths draped with green or gold runners with centerpieces of pine tree sprigs around electric candle lit balls of light in vases. Each of the 15 tables also had two photographs of students at the Northern Virginia Technical College in 1965 taken from NOVA's first yearbook.

The room was decorated with banners showing similar photographs and 50th anniversary posters and retractable signs. There were also posters showing Motor Trend magazine’s 1965 “Car of the Year” (GM’s entire Pontiac Division), the Time magazine cover showing the 1965 “Man of the Year” (President Lyndon Johnson), and one that displayed the top 10 network television shows in September 1965 and the top 10 grossing films of 1965.
The organizing committee: Claudia Chirinos, Audra Morris, Maureen Lawson, Cheryl Robinette, Hamdi Abdi and Bob Hull.

There was also a poster displaying the top 10 singles for the week ending September 25, 1965 (two days before the college opened), as compiled by Cash Box magazine, and another showing the popular “Top 40” AM radio stations in the area in 1965. The music played during the luncheon was from those top 10 singles.

“It is so nice to see colleagues enjoying themselves and engaging in joyful conversations during the end-of-the-year luncheon,” Campus Operations Director Rizwan Rahman said. “We had a good turn out and the coordinating staff members did a fantastic job making the event fun and engaging.”

Several events occurred during the luncheon, including a 50th anniversary themed dessert competition, a 50th anniversary Kahoot quiz challenge that included 20 questions, half of them about Northern Virginia Technical College and the other half about popular culture from 1965, and a musical gifts competition for new or re-purposed wrapped and unlabeled gifts worth no more than $10.

“Thank you to all who came and participated,” said Chirinos. “To the committee that pulled this together: ‘Thank you to a great team!’”

Woodbridge Art Gallery Features First International Artist

Kianoush Ramezani brings “The Art of Danger” to the Woodbridge Gallery. Event dates are:

Gallery Show:
January 12 to February 12
The Gallery
First Floor, Arts and Sciences Building

Closing Reception:
Thursday, February 11
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
The Gallery

Artist Lecture:
Thursday February 11
6:15 p.m.
Lakeside Theater, Seefeldt Building on the first floor

Please join the Woodbridge Campus for “The Art of Danger” exhibit, which represents a mid-career retrospective of exiled Iranian cartoonist and human rights activist, Kianoush Ramezani.
He has lived in Paris since 2009 as a political refugee, following the post presidential election protests in Iran. For Ramezani, cartooning is a political act and significant form of artistic activism that, since the Charlie Hebdo attack earlier this year, is an “art of danger.”

Ramezani is a co-founder of the Independent Cartoonist Rights Network International, an affiliation that contributed in part to his exile. He has taught many courses and delivered lectures on the cartooning process, freedom of expression and human rights. He has also co-founded and juried several cartoon expositions in Europe that support human rights in Iran as well as other exiled cartoonists and journalists. Ramezani’s cartoons have appeared regularly on Iranian websites such as Gozaar and Khodnevis, and in European publications such as Courrier International, Siné Mensuel ARTE, Le Journaliste, Sketch Freedom International and TV5 Monde.

Ramezani has been seen on CNN, Euro News and MSNBC and has given lectures at the TEDxHague Academy and the Universal Tolerance Seminar in Norway. His first book of cartoons, “The Earth’s Visual Diary,” recounts his images since he left Iran and underscores global politics from the perspective of exile. He is a former artist-in-residence at Cité Intenationale des Artes in Paris.

For further information on this exhibition, visit online or contact Gallery Director Erin Devine at edevine@nvcc.edu. The Gallery is located on the first floor of the Arts and Sciences Building and is accessible to people with disabilities.

Opportunity to Host Visiting Brazilian Faculty

NOVA will be hosting 34 Brazilian English faculty from all over Brazil for an eight-week TESOL program (January 19 to March 11) at the Annandale and Alexandria campuses.

NOVA faculty or staff from any campus who are interested in hosting two to three Brazilian faculty during the weekend of February 6 to 7 are needed. This will be a way to introduce our guests to the broader NOVA community and to provide them with a glimpse into American life and culture. This is also a great opportunity to expose your family and friends to another culture and to meet new colleagues from another part of the world.

Please note, hosting NOVA faculty are asked to agree to the following:

To be available to host either on Saturday, February 6 or Sunday, February 7.
To pick up and drop off the group to their hotel in Old Town Alexandria.
Once matched, to communicate directly with the Brazilian guests to arrange specific plans.
To cover costs related to hosting (any meals, sightseeing, transportation, etc.).
To be considerate of dietary restrictions.
Faculty are not required to spend a lot of funds while hosting. Faculty can host guests in their home for the evening or afternoon or take them to a local event or activity in the community.

It is important that faculty also not cancel after you have committed to hosting. If a last minute emergency comes up, please also try to find a replacement host, preferably a NOVA employee. Also contact Stacey Bustillos to assist in finding a replacement as early as possible.

If you are interested in hosting, please submit your name, title, NOVA campus, email, phone number, the day of availability (February 6 or 7) and the number of individuals you can host (two or three). Please send this information to Bustillos (sbustillos@nvcc.edu) no later than January 22. Matches will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Annandale Faculty and Staff Enjoy a Yummy Ending to 2015

One of the highlights of the Annandale Campus “End-of-the-Year Holiday Luncheon Celebrating NOVA’s 50th Anniversary” was the 50th anniversary themed dessert competition.

Three tables decorated with large silver bows, holiday greenery and dozens of gold and silver balloons were used to hold all of the desserts as faculty and staff cooks and bakers competed for three prizes awarded by a three-judge panel that included “Best Taste,” “Most Creative/Original Dessert” and “Best Overall Presentation/Appearance.”

The judges for the dessert competition were Hospitality Management Assistant Dean Janet Sass, and Hospitality Management Instructor DeQuan Smith and Advising Specialist Maureen Lawson.

Each of the winners was presented with two 50th anniversary champagne glasses that were donated by NVCC Educational Foundation Executive Director John Ruffino, who was present at the luncheon.

Human Resources Assistant Angelee Mehta won the “Best Taste” award for her “Holiday Wreath Pavlova.” The “Most Creative” award went to Student Services Specialist Christy Genova for her pecan and fruit pie. Program Support Technician Sharon Tindall was the winner of the “Best Presentation” award for her caramel cheese cake.

“The desserts were yummy,” said Provost Office Coordinator Claudia Chirinos, who presented the awards to each of the dessert competition winners. There were no disagreements with that assessment by anyone present at the luncheon.
New Professional Development Course

NOVA faculty are invited to participate in a new professional development course this spring semester: EDU 295 – The Science of Learning. This is a 12-week, three-credit online course offered through the Extended Learning Institute beginning February 15.

Participants will explore the empirical research and neurocognitive theories of learning, and relate them to their own learning and teaching experiences. Participants will seek answers to questions such as:

- What is learning?
- What do we know about our intended outcomes of expertise and critical thinking?
- What variables most affect student learning?
- Why do different students respond differently to the same learning conditions?
- How does experience get transformed into memory and new ways of thinking?
- What teaching functions most affect student learning?
- What skills can help students be better learners?

EDU 295 provides a foundation for EDU 285, which addresses the roles and tasks of the online teacher, and EDU 287, which teaches the design of online courses, but the content of this course applies equally well to classroom and hybrid teaching.

For additional information about this course and procedures for registration, see the EDU 295 course information page or contact Bob Loser (rloser@nvcc.edu).

Announcements

1. This Spring, join TILT
   Fridays at 10 a.m. via WebEx
   To register, go to https://goo.gl/C9Igwz

2. Tech Training
   https://eli.nvcc.edu/trainingcatalog/
   For more info email TechnologyTrainingCenter@nvcc.edu

3. NOVA in Focus
   NVCC-TV
   January 11, 1 p.m.

4. Applying the Principles of Universal Design in Teaching: Online & in the Classroom
   Jan. 29, 9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
3922 Pender Drive, Fairfax, Room 121
Register online at https://covkc.virginia.gov/nvcc/