President Ralls Keynote Speaker at Dulles Regional Chamber Luncheon

“Game-Changing Workforce Development” was the subject of President Scott Ralls’ presentation to the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce on February 3. With over 150 people attending, the Chamber’s Leadership Luncheon brought a wide array of employers and industry leaders – with a healthy portion of technology-based companies from the Dulles corridor.

NOVA representatives attending included leadership from the Loudoun Campus and Workforce Development coming together to meet and create new connections with interested community members. Ralls spoke about the changing makeup of the region’s workforce needs over the past couple of decades, the current global competition for increasingly skilled workers and how community colleges – particularly NOVA – are the front lines in the effort to provide more prepared and ready employees.

While not part of the presentation, but providing direct evidence of its content, many of the young people in attendance were current or past NOVA students who praised the College and casually shared their experiences about how they landed their current jobs. One of the event’s organizers from the Dulles Chamber of Commerce is currently an accounting major at NOVA’s Manassas Campus. He noted that he started with the chamber as a high school intern and has remained on staff while also being a fulltime student. He will attend George Mason University after transferring from NOVA in the fall.

Many thanks to Ralls for his presentation to the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and to Loudon Provost Julie Leidig for her continued support of the chamber and workforce efforts in the Western Fairfax and Loudoun areas.
Medical Education Campus Hosts Give Kids a Smile

The Medical Education Campus (MEC) hosted the 2016 Give Kids A Smile event (GKAS) February 5, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Dental Society (NVDS). Three hundred and forty two children from the Arlington County Head Start Program were seen by 34 volunteer dentists, six volunteer hygienists, 43 dental assistants, 24 second-year dental hygiene students and 13 dental assisting students enrolled in the program at the MEC.

Each year on the first Friday in February, GKAS takes place to provide free dental services to children in underserved populations that are referred by the NVDS. NVDS Executive Director Cathy Griffanti said approximately $61,000 worth of dentistry was provided to those who received care, and several NVDS member dentists volunteered to take on the children as patients pro bono into their own practices.

Medical Education Campus Hosts Give Kids a Smile

A young patient is examined during the Give Kids a Smile event.

Maria Gerald, a teacher with the Arlington County Head Start Program, said her class of 18 students were eager to receive free evaluations, prophylaxis (teeth polishing) and fluoride treatments.

“Our parents take full advantage of the GKAS event and we encourage them to let their children participate,” Gerald said. “For some of our students, this was their first time visiting a dentist, so it helped for them to experience this with their classmates and making it a more comfortable situation. Now our students know what to expect the next time they have a dental visit.”

In addition to receiving free dental care, all participants left the event with goodie bags that contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, stickers and dental floss to better assist them in maintaining a healthy smile.

The American Dental Association began the Give Kids A Smile program in 2003 as a way for dentists to join with others in the community to provide dental services to underserved children. Each year, approximately 450,000 children benefit from more than 1,500 events, all because of the efforts of 40,000 or more annual volunteers.

Physics Research at NOVA Wins National Recognition

The NOVA Chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) has won the 2015 SPS Chapter Research Award. The notification from the national SPS said, “The proposal submitted by your chapter was carefully reviewed by one of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) awards committees and will be funded. Your proposal, entitled ‘Physics of Propulsion and Levitation of a Self-Driven Electromagnetic Wheel,’ has been selected as a 2015-2016 SPS Chapter Research
Awardee. The awards committee was extremely impressed with your research proposal for its imagination and likeliness to contribute to the strengthening of the SPS program. We congratulate you and your colleagues on this successful proposal.”

The other four national awards went to four universities, all having master’s and/or doctoral level programs. The award co-winners are Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, Georgia), Ithaca College (Ithaca, New York), Lamar University (Beaumont, Texas) and Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, Alabama).

The NOVA proposal was submitted on behalf of the chapter by Nathan Gaul and Hannah Lane, who experimented together on an early version of the device, constructed by other SPS members in the spring of 2014. NOVA’s chapter of SPS began in 1990, with Professor Walerian Majewski serving as the advisor. SPS operates within the American Institute of Physics, an umbrella organization for 10 other professional science societies.

The SPS exists to help students transform themselves into contributing members of the professional community. Coursework develops only one range of skills. Other skills needed to flourish professionally include effective communication and personal interactions, leadership experience, being able to establish a personal network of contacts, presenting scholarly work in professional meetings and journals and outreach services to the campus and local communities.

In addition to receiving a very competitive 2016 research grant, NOVA SPS Chapter was recently recognized as one of the six best student physics societies in the Mid-Atlantic states for 2015. The other schools in our SPS Zone 4, which includes Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., deemed to also be outstanding include University of Virginia, University of Maryland, the George Washington University, Towson University and Randolph College. In the last year, NOVA SPS students have made a dozen presentations of their research at professional meetings.

The recent SPS citation stated, “The selection is based on an assessment of the depth and breadth of SPS activities conducted by the chapter, as presented in the yearly report. The outstanding designation is a notable accomplishment. It is a recognition of the efforts that you make to build community and propel students into their careers as prepared professionals.”

Abdi Publishes Article on Sports Injuries Among Adolescents

Hamdi Abdi, NOVA alumna and executive assistant for the Annandale Campus Provost’s Office, co-authored a paper published in “International Sports Studies,” the official journal of the International Society for Comparative Physical Education and Sport. The study is titled “Injuries and Sports Injuries Among Argentinian Students Aged 13-15 Years.”

Along with co-authors Hafsa A. Abdirahman and Kathryn H. Jacobsen, Abdi found that sports injuries accounted for the most common serious injuries among Argentinian adolescents between the ages of 13 and 15. Because sports and physical activity promote a healthy lifestyle,
the authors recommend that teachers and coaches introduce and reinforce techniques that prevent injury.

Abdi has an associate’s degree in general studies from NOVA and a Bachelor of Science in community health and nutrition from George Mason University. She will graduate with a master’s in public health in epidemiology from Mason this spring.

When she is not busy with her studies or working at NOVA, Abdi interns at the National Institutes of Health, researching the influence of social relationships on the communication of genetic/genomic risk information within families. She aspires to earn a doctorate in epidemiology and to assist with the rebuilding of health infrastructures in her home country of Somalia.

Woodbridge Library Display Highlights NOVA’s Rich History

Woodbridge Library Display Highlights NOVA’s Rich History Library Specialist Karen Williams has brought the past to life in the Woodbridge Campus Library with a 50th Anniversary historical display. The pictorial display highlights important College milestones as well as events of interest to the Woodbridge Campus. Articles and photographs were selected from the NOVA archives and from local and national newspapers. Digital frames on top of the seven panel display show images of significant events to get a sense of what was happening in the world during the past five decades.

Please stop by the Woodbridge Library to get a glimpse of NOVA’s rich history. The display will be in the Library until 2017.

Chef Herbert Presents at 6th Annual Chocolate Extravaganza

On February 6, Chef Mike Herbert from the Annandale Campus presented a variety of homemade ice creams and ice cream toppings for the sixth annual Chocolate Extravaganza in Warrenton, Virginia.

Herbert conducted two presentations of deep dark chocolate ice cream and vanilla bean ice cream, accompanied by homemade glazed pecans, maple, flavored wet nuts, butterscotch, caramel and hot fudge. He showed how to heat the sugar for the caramel sauce, how to whip egg whites for the glazed pecans, how to incorporate butter and heavy cream into sauces, and how to temper chocolate for just the right hot fudge consistency. These treats were immensely popular, as those in attendance finished off over two gallons of ice cream. Herbert’s presentation was just one part of the larger display, which included a variety of chocolate desserts and delicacies, and a silent auction for goods and services, all donated by local establishments.
The Chocolate Extravaganza is hosted annually by Ed and Carol Hamann, in memory of their daughter Jenna who lost her battle with cancer years ago. This event raises money for the 4Jenna Relay for Life Team and proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

Annandale Book Club’s Continued Success

The January 2016 book club at Annandale Campus was another wonderful gathering. At the meeting, the club discussed “Brooklyn” and “People of the Book.” The club has been meeting monthly at Annandale Campus for more than 10 years. The group has read a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction books. On occasion, authors have joined the meeting either in person or by Skype. The book club will be discussing “March” and “The Invisible Bridge” in February.

Harlem Renaissance Fair at Ernst Center

As part of Black History Month activities on the Annandale Campus, the first Harlem Renaissance Fair will be held in the Ernst Community Cultural Center on Friday, February 19 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. as musicians and actors recreate the rich artistic achievements of the early 20th century in Harlem with an evening of jazz, dance, poetry and exhibits. The Harlem Renaissance Fair will be an annual event.

The Thad Wilson’s Jazz Orchestra, featuring vocalist Sharón Clark and pianist Johnny O’Neal, will perform the music of Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and others who played at Harlem’s famous Cotton Club, while dancers will also demonstrate some of the famous dance steps of the era. Actor and poet David Mills will also present a one-man play based on the life and poetry of Langston Hughes.

There will be exhibits and living history performance vignettes of the musicians, artists, sports figures and political thinkers of the Harlem Renaissance in the Upper and Lower Verizon galleries during the reception and two intermissions.

”The Harlem Renaissance Fair will provide a wonderful evening of entertainment for the whole family,” said NVCC Educational Foundation Executive Director John Ruffino. “In addition to hearing the music and poetry of a generation of great artists, we will have the opportunity to learn more about a time of great change in our country when people struggled to overcome adversity and discrimination and how the arts provided an outlet and a vehicle to transform society.”

The event is sponsored by the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization created in 1997 to commemorate the founding of the first rural branch of the NAACP in Falls Church, Virginia, in 1915 and to preserve the early civil rights history of Northern Virginia.
A substantial discount on tickets has been offered to the NOVA community. For tickets, go to www.tinnerhill.org, click on the event poster and that will take you to the ticketing site. Enter promotional code 2016HRF for a 30 percent discount for NOVA faculty, staff and students. All proceeds will go to the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation to help with their educational efforts.

The Annandale Campus will also host another musical event for Black History Month, when “Mosaic Harmony,” a multicultural and interfaith choir, performs in the Ernst Center Theatre on Tuesday, February 16, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Founded 20 years ago, “Mosaic Harmony” includes members from various religious, racial and cultural backgrounds who seek to promote harmony, understanding and goodwill through the power of inspirational music.

See both event flyers in this edition of the Intercom.

A Black History Celebration and Tribute to Duke Ellington

The Liberal Arts Division of the Alexandria Campus will present its annual Black History Month Celebration on Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria Campus. This year’s celebration, “A Tribute to Duke Ellington,” will include Ellington’s “Sacred Concert for Soloists, Chorus and Jazz Band.”

Featured performers include NOVA Jazz Ensemble, renowned jazz pianist Wade Beach, soprano Dr. Lisa Edwards Burrs, and NOVA Community Chorus. Professor Shelly Palomino and NOVA students will read poetry and prose by notable African American writers. The Metropolitan Youth Tap Ensemble, featuring Roxanne King, will also perform.

See the flyer in this edition of the Intercom. No tickets are required. A donation is requested. For information, email mwhitmire@nvcc.edu or call 703.845.6097.

NOVA to Host Free Tax Preparation Workshops

NOVA to Host Free Tax Preparation Workshops The Working Students Success Network (WSSN) at NOVA has partnered with the NVACASH Coalition organized by the Fairfax County Department of Family Services to provide Free Tax Preparation Workshops to students and community members with eligible income. IRS-certified volunteers will help ensure participants receive the maximum tax refund and help determine if participants are eligible for the earned income tax credit. If participants and/or their family earned less than $54,000 in 2015, they may qualify for this free service.

Please see the flyer in the Flyers section of this edition for details regarding each NOVA campus and how to register. Students are also able to file for free on their own using this link.
Please share this information with the students you interact with and encourage them to take advantage of this free service. Most students will be eligible to participate and feel free to also send a link of the flyer.

Financial challenges like job loss, unexpected medical expenses, and a lack of stable resources, put many community college students on a treadmill, working hard to stay in place and even harder to move forward. WSSN is an Achieving the Dream Initiative that seeks to implement strategies that organize complementary resources to help students gain traction toward credentials and financial stability.

WSSN aims to help NOVA students not only complete certificates and degrees, but also develop financial skills and connect their credentials to jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. The effort aims to ensure that students at NOVA prepare for careers, access complementary services, and learn how to build savings to create a solid financial base for themselves and their families.

For more information about NOVA’s Working Students Success Network or the Tax Preparation Workshops, contact Program Coordinator Rachelle Thompson at rpthompson@nvcc.edu.

Science Seminar: How STEM Became STEAM

Science Seminar: How STEM Became STEAM All faculty, staff and students are cordially invited to a Science Seminar on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the CE Forum Ernst Center on the Annandale Campus. Dr. Gillian Backus (LO) and Dr. Diane Mucci (MA) will present “How STEM Became STEAM and Everyone Won: Incorporating Humanities in STEM Disciplines.”

There will be a meet and greet with light refreshments from 11:30 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. in the CE Forum.

Abstract:
Many global problems, such as population growth, inadequate health care, resource sustainability and poor water quality require multiple perspectives and the expertise of many disciplines, from science and economics to geography, history and politics.

Tomorrow’s leaders need abstract and critical thinking skills to successfully navigate critical issues, and develop unique approaches to solving these global problems. Unfortunately, cross-disciplinary courses that bridge the STEM and humanities disciplines are rare. This lecture will provide an overview of the long-standing argument for, and benefits of, integrating science and humanities content in the college curriculum, and provide two examples of nontraditional inter- and trans-disciplinary curriculum development that occur here at NOVA.
Backus is a professor of biology at NOVA’s Loudoun Campus where she teaches anatomy and physiology and biology. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in biology from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She taught high school biology at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, The Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, and The Shipley School in Pennsylvania for 10 years before pursuing graduate studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She graduated with a Ph.D. in toxicology in 2006.

From there, Backus became a Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Academies of Sciences in Washington, D.C., where she got a firsthand look at the role of science in policy and politics. She then earned a permanent position working for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency doing chemical risk assessment. She was hired fulltime at NOVA in 2009.

Currently, Backus’ pedagogical interests center on increasing cross-disciplinary course collaboration and improving scientific literacy through civic responsibility (see www.sencer.net). She has recently redesigned her biology class to center on the theme of “Food and Cancer.”

Mucci is interim dean of Science and Applied Technology on NOVA’s Manassas Campus. Prior to assuming her current position, she led the Biotechnology Program at the Loudoun Campus. Mucci assisted in the development and approval of NOVA’s A.A.S. degree in biotechnology and the biotechnology lab technician certificate program.

She holds a Ph.D. in molecular genetics, biochemistry and microbiology from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. Outside of academia, Mucci was a scientist/writer/editor for Lockheed Martin as a contractor for NIH. Her work there included playing an instrumental role in the launch of the Genetics Home Reference website, a product of the National Library of Medicine.

This event is presented by the Science Seminar Committee; Math, Science and Engineering Division; and the Lyceum Committee, Annandale Campus.

**Time for Faculty of the Year Nominations**

Each year, the Alumni Federation honors faculty at NOVA for their achievements in the classroom. Nominations are being accepted through March 15.

Faculty are nominated by students and alumni for making a difference in the lives of students. Awards are handed out each April to each nominee and an overall winner is selected for each campus and an adjunct faculty. The Alumni Federation Awards Committee will select one full-time teaching faculty member from each campus and one adjunct faculty member from the College.
Only NOVA alumni and students may nominate faculty for the awards. Nominations will not be accepted for faculty members who have received the award within the past three years. Only teaching faculty and adjunct faculty are eligible.

Nominations can be submitted online. For more information, please visit the Alumni Federation webpage. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Experience Europe This Summer

Please share this great opportunity with NOVA students. Students will have an opportunity to experience Europe while getting college credit. The course will examine the politics of conflict and cooperation in modern Europe. While studying abroad, students will experience the modern politics and history of international conflict and cooperation firsthand through visiting institutions, experts, and historical/cultural sites and hosting lectures from experts in Brussels, Belgium. The course will consist of four instructional class meetings during the second half of May (summer 2016), a two-week trip from June 5 to 19 to Brussels, Belgium, and one class meeting in June after returning from Brussels.

The Manassas Campus will host pre- and post-trip meetings for those interested in studying abroad this summer. For more information, please contact Kara Heitz (kheitz@nvcc.edu) or Melissa Beaudoin (mbeaudoin@nvcc.edu), both at the Manassas Campus. See the flyer in this edition of the Intercom.

Announcements

1. Get Your Taxes Done For Free
   http://turbotax.intuit.com/taxfreedom/index.jsp?vitaSiteID=S16091503

2. Marine Corps Leadership Seminar
   LHEC Event Center Room 203

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

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

5. HR OL&D Workshop Schedule – Spring 2016

6. Mosaic Harmony – In celebration of Black History Month
   Ernst Center Theatre
Feb 16, Noon to 1 p.m.
Free and Open to the Public
Free Parking in Lot B13

7. Edwin B. Henderson
   How the Harlem Renaissance Changed America
   Ernst Center Forum
   Feb. 17, 12:30 p.m.
   Free and open to the public

8. Harlem Renaissance
   An Evening of Jazz, dance, poetry, displays
   Feb. 19, 6 p.m. – 11 p.m.
   Ernst Cultural Center

9. Black History Month Celebration
   Martin Luther King excerpts
   Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.
   Schlesinger Concert Hall

10. Leap into your new IT career
    Feb. 29, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
    Ernst Center