NOVACares and Manassas Teacher2Teacher Collaborate on Workshop

The Manassas Campus hosted a Work-life Balance and Self-care Workshop for NOVA faculty and staff on February 12. The professional development workshop was facilitated by Dr. Dahlia Henry-Tett, health and physical education assistant dean and coordinator of the Manassas Campus Faculty Mentorship Program- Teacher2Teacher (an Achieving the Dream initiative).

Huda Khalid, MaryAnn Raybuck, Georgette Harris, Dr. Dahlia Henry-Tett, Latrice Shannon and Shaista Nazari.

The NOVACares Office and Teacher2Teacher collaborated to explore the age old question, “Can we really do our job well and have a life?” In our progressively charged work environments, particularly as technology and social media keeps us more connected, many may encounter barriers to maintaining the balance between a productive career and a happy, healthy home life. This workshop was designed to be an engaging blend of peer interaction, behavioral coaching, reflection and evaluation that explored questions about achieving balance.

Participants shared their experiences, discussed concerns related to work-life balance, took inventory, practiced techniques and developed personalized strategies to enhance self-care. Feedback about the workshop was positive, with participants leaving encouraged and energized to take the first steps to their balance preferences.

Special thanks to MaryAnn Raybuck, Monica Chenault and Latrice Shannon (from NOVACares) for their support.

To learn more about the professional development workshop series offered by the NOVACares Office this spring, please email NOVACares@nvcc.edu.
Woodbridge to Host Erin Devine “The Rest is for You” Exhibit

Dr. Erin Devine (WO), associate professor of art history and humanities, will be exhibiting her work, “The Rest is for You,” in the Woodbridge Campus’ New Gallery for Contemporary Art. The exhibition is open February 25 through March 25, with an opening reception on Thursday, February 25 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

“The Rest is for You” is described by Devine as performance-based videos that are a reflection of both her artistic practice and her research as an art historian. As an artist-scholar, Devine said her videos will reflect body art, performativity and gender, which is a personal and feminist response to art history.

“The video performances, produced since 2014, investigate the misleading and restrictive cultural definitions of incorporating a series of ambiguous narratives and gestures to uncover the irretrievable histories of artists Hortense Fiquet Cézanne, Jeanne Hébuterne and Musa McKim,” Devine said. “A fourth piece using French painter Edouard Manet’s notorious model Victorine Meurent as the subject expands upon the theme, but moves from a Canon high-definition digital SLR to an Epic Red film camera.”

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Devine received a doctoral degree in contemporary art from Indiana University. This exhibition marks her promotion to associate professor of art history and humanities at the Woodbridge Campus, where she is also the New Gallery for Contemporary Art director. Although her work has been included in exhibitions regionally and internationally, this is Devine’s first solo exhibition since completing her dissertation in 2011. In addition to her art work and curating, she is a regular contributor to Art Papers, Washington City Paper and Woman’s Art Journal.

An artist lecture will be held in the Black Box Theater next to the New Gallery for Contemporary Art immediately following the reception at 6:00 p.m. on February 25. The gallery is located on the first floor of the Arts and Sciences Building and will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The exhibit, reception and lecture are free and open to the public. Parking is free in all B lots after 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Devine at edevine@nvcc.edu or go to http://blogs.nvcc.edu

NOVA Attends NSMH National Conference

NOVA Attends NSMH National Conference On February 5, the NOVA chapter of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH), under the leadership Hospitality Professor DeQuan Smith, attended a weekend series of professional development at the NSMH National Conference in Crystal City in Arlington County, Virginia.
During the experience, NSMH representatives prepared future hospitality leaders with current industry trends, dynamic interviewing skills and strategies that will assist them in moving forward in their careers. NOVA hospitality students enjoyed meeting with influential hospitality executives in the industry and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

“This was the best professional development experience ever. I’m so excited about getting more of my classmates involved in the great things we do through NSMH at NOVA,” said NOVA’s NSMH chapter President Adam Davis.

The NOVA NSMH chapter gives special thanks to Student Life and Smith for playing such an integral role in providing students with the opportunity to explore their talent and gain skills at the NSMH National Conference.

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.

Invitation to VCCS Regional Workshops

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) has announced five upcoming regional workshops focused on search committees, recruitment and diversity for hiring managers. The System Office Human Resources staff will be offering these one-day workshops focused on streamlining and improving the search committee process, proactive recruitment techniques, and diversity support activities. The program is designed for academic program heads, deans, directors and all hiring managers. Participants can expect to gain an understanding of the following:

- How to better manage and support a search committee
- Expanding our recruiting, networking and social media approaches to find the best candidates
- How diversity and inclusion directly support our mission and Complete 2021
- The chancellor’s current initiatives for diversity
How the VCCS Diversity Office can support each college’s recruitment efforts and initiatives

The program is designed with a roundtable format to allow interactive discussions that will help participants brainstorm ways of improving each college’s way of recruiting and selecting the best and most diverse faculty and staff possible. Presenters will also discuss how to incorporate diversity and inclusion principles into the selection process.

Presenters:

Dr. Chris Lee, associate vice chancellor, Human Resource Services and author of “Search Committees: A Comprehensive Guide to Faculty, Staff and Administrative Searches”

Ms. Kate Haselhorst, VCCS Diversity Officer

Who should attend:

Deans, program heads, hiring managers, diversity liaisons, college Diversity and Inclusion Council members and human resources professionals

All workshops will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The complete list of remaining workshop dates and locations is as follows:

February 23: Blue Ridge Community College, Plecker Center
To register: http://doodle.com/poll/rdytunpbt9ye4zx7

February 24: New River Community College, Rooker Hall Auditorium
To register: http://doodle.com/poll/4i676kkspzvycrhq

February 25: NOVA, Fairfax Administrative Offices in Pender Building 4, Room 121.
To register: http://doodle.com/poll/7hnhqce7yvd4n5su

March 1: John Tyler Community College, Midlothian Campus H 109
To register: http://doodle.com/poll/fqgwkztu8puzws8m

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.
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.

Money Management and Free Tax Prep Workshops

NOVA’s Financial Literacy Program will be holding Money Management Workshops throughout February and March to discuss strategies college students can use to improve their financial situation. Topics to be covered include budgeting, saving, emergency funds, credit cards, compound interest, credit reports, responsible borrowing, financial aid, student loans and financial coaching.

A few of the Money Management Workshops are scheduled to begin right after some of NOVA’s Free Tax Preparation Workshops end so that students may receive assistance from IRS-
certified volunteers with preparing their 2015 tax returns and then stick around to learn about managing their finances.

Please encourage students to take advantage of these events! Faculty and staff are also welcome to attend. More details are available on NOVA’s Financial Literacy Blog at http://blogs.nvcc.edu/financial-literacy/upcoming-events/.

Changes Coming to Purchase of Prior Service (PPS)

Beginning January 1, 2017, purchase of prior service provisions will change, simplifying the purchase process and ensuring that the purchase cost more closely reflects the actual cost of providing the additional benefit in retirement. What does that mean for you?

Purchasing service now may save you money.
Changes may increase the cost of purchasing service credit for some types of service.
There will be limits on the number of months eligible for purchase of some types of service.

If you decide to purchase service before January 1, 2017, keep in mind:

VRS recommends that you apply to purchase your service no later than October 1, 2016.
If you purchase through a salary-reduction agreement, you must have deductions taken for the month of December 2016 or earlier.
If you use a lump-sum payment method, the full payment must arrive at VRS no later than December 30, 2016.

Prior service credit counts toward the years needed to become vested, eligibility for retirement and the health insurance credit.

Use the Refunded Service Comparison Estimator in your myVRS account to compare the cost of purchasing refunded service before December 30, 2016, versus after January 1, 2017, when the provisions change.

To register for myVRS or for more information on the Purchase of Prior Service, go online.

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.

Announcements

1. Bulk Mail – Saving Money on Large Mailings
   Contact NOVA Printing Services
   703.323.3292 or printingservices@nvcc.edu

2. Study abroad – Brussels, Belgium
   PLS 295 Conflict and Cooperation in Europe
   June 5-19, 3 credits
   Contact Kara Heitz at kheitz@nvcc.edu, or Melissa Beaudoin at mbeaudoin@nvcc.edu for more information

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

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

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

6. HR OL&D Workshop Schedule – Spring 2016

7. 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
8.  A tribute to Duke Ellington  
   Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
   Schlesinger Hall

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