Attorney General Mark Herring Visits NOVA

Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring meets with Annandale Campus faculty and staff and Director of Military and Veterans Services Takesha McMiller during the pro bono Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Annandale.

More than 30 veterans from the surrounding communities registered and attended the pro bono Veterans Legal Services Clinic March 4 at NOVA’s Annandale Campus. NOVA was one of four locations throughout Virginia to host the clinics organized through a new partnership with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS), Virginia State Bar (VSB) and Virginia’s Attorney General Mark R. Herring.

Volunteer attorneys from the Office of the Attorney General and VSB were available to serve veterans and military families by drafting wills, powers of attorney and advance medical directives. The clinics took place in multiple locations during the first week of March. According to the Office of the Attorney General, the volunteer attorneys assisted more than 130 veterans by hosting the four clinics throughout Virginia.

Herring, who attended all four events, explained that the legal services provided during the pro bono clinics would normally cost between $500 and $1,000. While visiting, Herring spoke to veterans and their families and witnessed the signing of some of their wills.

“We at the Attorney General’s Office are very proud of our veterans. These are really important documents, and during life’s unexpected challenges the last thing you want to think about is who’s going to make decisions,” Herring explained. “This is not only helping veterans talk to family members about what their wishes are, but it also helps give a lot of them peace of mind.”

The Office of the Attorney General is dedicated to supporting Virginians who are serving and who have served in the military. There are 27 military bases in Virginia and approximately 750,000 Virginia residents are veterans.

Herring is personally committed to supporting employment opportunities for veterans, guard and reserve. In August 2014, Herring signed the ESGR Statement of Support pledging his
support to Guard and Reserve employees. The Office of the Attorney General also became a member of the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program under the direction of Herring.

Director of Military and Veterans Services Takesha McMiller said this was her office’s first event partnering with the Office of the Attorney General and they look forward to planning a similar event at another NOVA campus.

“It’s important to provide additional services to our students along with education here at NOVA, and this is more of a financial and legal piece,” McMiller said. “We have started to build a partnership with the Office of the Attorney General. This is a new program for them and they’re looking to continue to do this on a quarterly basis. Our office is looking to partner with the Woodbridge Campus in April to do a second event at NOVA and hopefully do the same with other NOVA campuses in the future.”

Heather Hays Lockerman, senior assistant attorney general chief with the Financial Law and Government Support Section of the Office of the Attorney General, said they will continue to take registration applications through their website for those interested in upcoming legal clinic events.

**Regional Center for Workforce Education and Training Opens**

Members of the Workforce Development Center (WDC) Business Leaders Steering Council along with several local educators and business leaders attend the ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony of NOVA’s Regional Center for Workforce Education and Training.

A crowd of 236 educators and business leaders gathered at NOVA’s Woodbridge Campus on March 2 to celebrate the official grand opening of the Regional Center for Workforce Education and Training (RCWET). RCWET is the first facility of its kind to offer a local solution for highly-specialized continuing professional education.

President Scott Ralls said the Regional Center will play a strategic role in creating a workforce to meet the technological demands of Northern Virginia’s businesses, government and military communities.

“This is an exciting day for NOVA and our partners who have made this center a reality,” Ralls said. “This state-of-the-art facility will allow workers in critical fields to strengthen their professional value in a continually-changing environment; ultimately increasing their job security and the viability of their organization. NOVA has a commitment to this community to provide the education and training to make this happen.”

“The Regional Center is not just a great regional asset, but also serves as a national security asset,” said Dr. Michael Wooten, NOVA’s College Board chairman. “This center is strategically located between Quantico and Fort Belvoir to serve the needs of federal and local government.
The facility is a grand architectural triumph that will help us reflect and prepare students for an illustrious future.”

The 55,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art building will serve as the epicenter of high-quality training and education delivery in the region. Training programs provided will include cybersecurity, health care, IT and program management. The Regional Center also houses a Professional Testing Center and a 7,500-square-foot conference center designed to host a range of events from industrial-type training, exhibits, trade shows, formal gatherings and special events. There is also a leading-edge “Cyber Range” that will allow NOVA to provide real-time simulations of network attacks to train students to recognize and defend assets, as well as assess and certify hard skills competencies.

To secure funding from the Virginia General Assembly to build the $29 million center, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors contributed $1 million toward the facility. Woodbridge Provost Sam Hill said the initial investment by Prince William County enabled Senator Charles Colgan and the Prince William delegation to leverage $28 million from the Virginia General Assembly.

“The main purpose of developing the RCWET was to serve the business community,” said Hill. “To successfully complete this project, it needed to be business driven. In addition to conducting the feasibility study, a Workforce Development Center (WDC) Business Leaders Steering Council, was formed in 2012, consisting of business representatives from Prince William County and individuals involved in economic development. Each member played an active role in the overall building design and the specific programs RCWET would offer.”

For more on the Regional Center for Workforce Development and Training or on NOVA’s Workforce Development programs, visit http://www.nvcc.edu.

The Northern Virginia Review Celebrates 30th Anniversary

NOVA faculty and staff are invited to join the launch celebration for Volume 30 of The Northern Virginia Review (TNVR) on Thursday, March 24 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Seminar Rooms A to D in the Ernst Center of the Annandale Campus.

Ruth Stewart, Manassas English professor and TNVR editor-in-chief, will serve as master of ceremonies for the annual reception. The festivities will include awarding prizes to the winners in the best prose, poetry and visual arts categories.

The keynote speaker will be internationally acclaimed storyteller Richard Bausch, who will read from his recent novel “Before, During, After” (2014). The novel tells the story of a newly engaged couple whose relationship is upended by September 11 and deeper, personal crises “distorted and subsumed by the national disaster” (The Washington Post).
Bausch is the author of 12 novels and eight collections of short stories, including “Something Is Out There,” “Peace,” and “Hello to the Cannibals.” He is the past recipient of the PEN/Malamud Award, the Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Rea Award for the Short Story. He is also the editor of the “Norton Anthology of Short Fiction.” Bausch is currently a professor of creative writing at Chapman University in Orange, California.

Bausch’s reading will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Refreshments will follow the talk.

The Northern Virginia Review is an annual publication of essays, fine art, photography, poetry and short stories. Contributors include NOVA faculty, staff and alumni, as well as writers and artists from Northern Virginia and the greater mid-Atlantic region.

For more information, please visit the TNVR blog at http://blogs.nvcc.edu/tnvr/.

**NOVA Forensics Captures Top Awards**

Members of the nationally-ranked NOVA Forensics Team recently competed on their home turf against 12 other colleges and universities in an exciting speech and competitive literature performance tournament.

The Richard Ernst/Jean Braden Invitational and the American Forensics Association District Seven Qualifier tournament occurred on the Alexandria Campus in the Bisdorf Building on March 4 to 6.

In addition to the NOVA Forensics Team, the dynamic tournaments drew competition from other top-tier programs such as George Mason University, Cornell University, James Madison University and Saint Joseph’s University, just to name a few.

At the tournament, NOVA took home several awards in Prose Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation and After Dinner Speaking adding to the many awards already accrued this season.

The local tournament marked the end of the regular season for the team as next month, select members will travel to Los Angeles to compete at nationals and determine the top community college student performers in their respective events.

In total, the NOVA Forensics Team has already surpassed the amount of awards won compared to last year’s exciting season. The NOVA Forensics Team is directed by Dr. Nathan Carter, Communication Studies and Theatre associate professor.

For more information about the team, please contact nacarter@nvcc.edu.
Local Employers Recruit NOVA Grads at MEC Career Fair

Local Employers Recruit NOVA Grads at MEC Career Fair
More than 200 students from the Medical Education Campus (MEC) networked and discussed potential job opportunities with representatives from 24 major local health care employers during the MEC Career Fair 2016 on March 3.

MEC Senior Academic Advisor Bridget Page said the Career Fair is an annual event that serves as the centerpiece for students pursuing a degree in the allied health and nursing fields.

“Hosting an event like this is very helpful for our students,” Page said. “It gives them a chance to network and apply for jobs in a different arena. The MEC offers specialized academic programs in health sciences and each student who attended the fair received the necessary skills to further develop and set goals related to their unique academic and professional needs.”

Page along with NOVA Student Success Coach Erika Coddington said students prepared for the fair by attending several workshops hosted by MEC Career Services.

“The MEC educates highly qualified students who are fully prepared to enter the workforce upon graduating from NOVA,” Coddington said. “The College’s Career Services department hosts resume and career prep sessions, virtual workshops and mock interviews to help students become more comfortable in settings such as this. Throughout the entire month of February, we prepare students for the fair and, each year, we receive a positive response from impressed recruiters.”

“We’ve had excellent feedback from companies who attended this year,” Page added. “Employers have a great pool of students to recruit from, and each year we have noticed growth in health care companies interested in attending the fair.”

Page said MEC Career Services is currently in the process of planning next year’s Career Fair. Interested health care employers should contact, Page, career fair coordinator, at bpage@nvcc.edu.

MEC extends gratitude to the following employers for attending the 2016 MEC Career Fair:
MAN UP Honor Unsung Heroes

On February 29, the Woodbridge Campus MAN UP organization and Student Life hosted a luncheon and panel discussion in honor of Black History Month. The theme, “Unsung Heroes: Understanding our Past to Prepare for the Future,” sparked dialogue on the topics of equality, empowerment and leadership among students, faculty and eight local activist.

Prince William County residents with highly-distinctive backgrounds in education, military, medicine and economic development – Norma Fields, Karl Brower, John Harper, James Harper Jr., Dr. William Fergie Reid, Clarice Torian, Bruce Smith and Andrea Bryson – answered questions as well as shared personal stories on overcoming adversity. Student Services Center Counselor Richmond Hill, MAN UP founder and program coordinator, said the well-attended event was held to honor influential leaders within the community by encouraging leadership and responsibility.

“Our program was held to honor community members who have fought the fight and paved the way for many to follow,” Hill said. “It was an amazing opportunity for our campus community to hear stories that will help us to understand the past and prepare for the future.”

As the first African-American to serve on the Board of Directors for the Prince William County Park Authority, Harper was also the first elected African-American in Prince William County to represent the Board of Education-Neabsco Magisterial District. He challenged NOVA students to step outside of their comfort zones and become actively engaged on campus and within their community.

“As students, it is imperative to become involved in something that you care deeply about,” Harper said. “Find out what stands out to you and go after it. Becoming conscious and stepping outside of yourselves can help develop your own unique leadership abilities.”

Reid, the first African-American elected to the General Assembly in the twentieth century, and former medical doctor, shared his experiences as being one of the founders of the Crusade for Voters, organized in 1955.
“If you want to bring about change, the change has to come from you,” Reid said. “Whether it’s political, social or economic, do not wait for someone else to do it. It’s all about having the initiative to bring about change and the confidence within to lead. You have the power to do anything, if you set your mind to do it.”

“We are depending on the younger generation to promote equality, justice and peace for all mankind,” said Andrea Bryson, retired director of counseling for Prince William County Public Schools. “For the benefit of yourselves and for those who come along after you, it is necessary to become engaged and care about the well-being of others.”

**IRS Certified Volunteers Help Prepare Taxes at Loudoun Campus**

On March 7, the Loudoun Campus, with the Northern Virginia Tax Campaign and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and Rachelle Thompson of the NOVA’s Working Student Success Network, helped students and community members prepare their taxes and file them electronically. The event drew some who had never prepared their own taxes. The event was aimed at empowering individuals to prepare and file their own straightforward tax returns and to teach people just how easy it can be to file. There are criteria which must be met in order to qualify for the free help, such as a maximum earned income of $54,000 in 2015.

To read more about the criteria and qualifications, and to register for upcoming free sessions, please go online. While it is expected that a session will be scheduled in the intervening free sessions, the next tax event at Loudoun is currently on Monday, March 28 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Reynolds Building (LR) Room 249J.

**MEC Office of Student Life Positively Impact Students**

At the start of each semester, the Office of Student Life, under the leadership of Patricia Martin-Mattocks and with the help of club advisers make a remarkable effort to enhance the student learning experience by programming activities, service projects and club opportunities to the student body of the Medical Education Campus (MEC).

Already at mid-semester, feelings vary among the MEC students. For Michael Cabrera, a second-year nursing student and Phi Theta Kappa member said, “It was very difficult to balance course load and activities on campus, but I enjoyed being an active student on campus.” For Sindy Lazo, a first-year dental hygiene student and also a federal work-study student, this time proved to be very stressful due to the nature of the strong curriculum she is required to take.

**MEC Office of Student Life Positively Impact Students**

Physical Therapy Assistant group of students during Mardi Gras Celebration on February 9.
MEC Student Life programming through the semester had a direct, meaningful and fairly immediate positive impact in the students’ current lives and pursuits, and it presented students with great opportunities to catch up with colleagues, faculty and staff who they have little time to see during the semester. Programming also improved students’ interpersonal, intellectual and emotional development.

All the activities were well attended. January brought Get Fit Week, which was all about giving the semester a healthy start, learning about how wellness is related to what students want to do before graduating, finding motivation and inspiring others. Get Fit Week included giveaways and healthy snacks. Also, NOVA Day, the official welcome back to campus, was an opportunity for new and returning students to spend time getting to know each other, finding out their academic plans and learning more about student clubs, leadership programs and other services available to them. Students enjoyed food, music, giveaways and the chance to meet other students, faculty and staff.

MEC Office of Student Life Positively Impact Students

Austin Smith, second-year physical therapy assistant student, and Patricia Martin Mattocks during Wacky Wednesday.

February included Wear Your Red Day, Spirit Week activities, Mardi Gras Celebration, Happy Hearts activities, Wacky Wednesday and the Black History Month celebration. The highlight in February was the presentation of Alphonso Brown, a native of Rantowles, a rural community of Charleston, South Carolina. He spoke on the Gullah language and customs that still thrive today in and around Charleston.

In addition to the activities previously mentioned, MEC Student Life wrapped up a Career Fair and INOVA Blood Donation Drive during the first week in March. Student Life continues to help to create better leaders and plays a significant role in both student development and campus atmosphere.

The Schlesinger Center Presents “Dear Suburbia” by Kallista

The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at NOVA’s Alexandria Campus announces the exhibit “Dear Suburbia,” mixed media works by Jessica Kallista. “Dear Suburbia” opens Friday, March 18 and runs through Sunday, April 24. The artist’s reception is from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, March 18.

“Dear Suburbia” is an immersive experience using storytelling to explore a bio mythography of everyday life in the suburbs of Northern Virginia in the early 21st century. The works of this exhibit call to mind the familiar artifacts and ephemera of the mundane and reimagines and transforms them into dreamlike elements of magical worlds that are just below, above or somehow beyond our reach. “Dear Suburbia” addresses embodiment, identity, mindfulness, space and place as experienced by a stranger in the strange land that is suburbia. The process,
practice and pieces form a collective call to action, a documentation of a lived experience and a communication with the world beyond this strange land.

Kallista is an artist, poet and curator living in Northern Virginia. She received her M.F.A. in creative writing with a concentration in poetry from George Mason University in 2002. Her poems have appeared in “Phoebe,” “Sou’wester,” and “So to Speak.” Her work has been included in exhibitions at George Mason University, The Adam Lister Gallery, Epicure Café, Gallery Underground, Target Gallery, The Fridge, Tempus Projects, The Bricks of Ybor and Olly Olly. In 2014 she founded Olly Olly, an alternative art space in Fairfax, Virginia, in order to create space for local art and artists with a focus on experimental, conceptual and performance art.

The Fisher Art Gallery is located on the upper level of the Schlesinger Center on the Alexandria Campus and is named for local artist Margaret “Peggy” Fisher and her late husband, Joseph Fisher. Gallery hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and during performances.

Science Seminar: The Ecology of Wavyleaf Basketgrass

Science Seminar: The Ecology of Wavyleaf Basketgrass All faculty, staff and students are cordially invited to a Science Seminar titled “The Ecology of Wavyleaf Basketgrass: A New Invasive Species in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region.” This event will be held Friday, March 25 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the CE Forum Ernst Center on the Annandale Campus. Dr. Vanessa Beauchamp, plant ecologist and associate professor at Towson University, will be the guest speaker. There will also be a meet and greet and light refreshments from 11:30 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.

Abstract:

Wavyleaf basketgrass (Oplismenus undulatifolius) was first discovered in the United States in 1996 in a state park outside of Baltimore. The grass has since spread to thousands of acres throughout Maryland and Virginia. Recent research by faculty and students at Towson University and Hood College has looked at seed production, dispersal and germination rates, competition with other native and exotic grass species, effects on forest food webs and ways to control its spread. They have also developed Project Wavyleaf, a citizen science initiative and accompanying cell phone app to allow the public to help with mapping the distribution and locating new populations of this potentially damaging invasive species.

Beauchamp is in the Department of Biological Sciences at Towson University. Her research focuses on disturbance ecology, forest succession, ecosystem restoration, and the ecology and impacts of invasive plant species.

This event is presented by the Science Seminar Committee; Math, Science, and Engineering Division; and the Annandale Campus Lyceum Committee.
Save the Date: NOVA Service Awards Luncheon on April 8

The NOVA Service Awards Luncheon honoring employees completing 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the College will be held on Friday, April 8 at Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Invitations will be sent to all recipients. Social time (cash bar) will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. The list of those being honored is in the Flyers section of this edition of the Intercom. Please check the list for the following information as certificates are made based on this list:

- The correct spelling of your name
- Your years of service

Once again, we will be raffling off to the award recipients a gift certificate for a weekend night stay for two with complimentary breakfast at Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles. You will receive a raffle ticket at the luncheon registration desk on the day of the lunch.

Contact Dana D. Reilly at dareilly@nvcc.edu if you have any questions. Invitations will be mailed to home addresses.

Fourth Annual NOVA Math Competition

The Fourth Annual NOVA Math Competition is approaching. Students from all NOVA campuses are invited to showcase their skills and abilities. All STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) faculty are asked to spread the information about the competition to students.

The Fourth Annual NOVA Math Competition will be at the Annandale Campus on Friday, April 8 at 1:00 p.m. in Room CA 302. The registration is free and must be completed by Wednesday April 6. For more information, rules and competition policies, visit blogs.nvcc.edu/knong. For more information, contact the organizer, Assistant Professor Kumnit Nong at knong@nvcc.edu.
Second Annandale STEMfair on April 14

Following a successful first effort last year, the Annandale Campus Mathematics, Science, and Engineering (MSE) Division will host STEMfair 2016 in the Ernst Community Cultural Center on Monday, April 14.

Organized this year in a collaborative manner by a 14-member interdisciplinary advisory committee chaired by Chemistry Associate Professor Ritu Kansal, information about STEMfair 2016 can be found online.

Last year, the event drew 42 official entries, with over 120 participating students and more than 180 attendees. STEMfair 2015 photos are available online.

“I encourage faculty throughout the college to inform their students about this great opportunity for them to network with each other and share their work with other students, faculty, and industry representatives,” said MSE Dean Abbas Eftekhari.

Students may present their work as either an oral presentation or a poster presentation. And there are three categories of entries:

- Physical Sciences (PHY, CHM, GOL)
- Biological and Environmental Sciences
- Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics

The entries will be judged on the following areas:

- Originality and Creativity
- Scientific Method
- Analysis of Data and Conclusion
- Communication of Results

Awards and recognition include trophies and certificates for each category and there will be cash awards for select projects. Internships and research opportunities are also possible.

You can access the flyer in this edition of the Intercom. For questions, contact Ritu Kansal at rkansal@nvcc.edu.

Announcements

1. Bulk Mail – Saving Money on Large Mailings
   Contact NOVA Printing Services
   703.323.3292 or printingservices@nvcc.edu
2. Dessert with the Deans
   LC Café, 12 – 2 p.m.
   March 17

3. Save the Date: Ready, Set, Brand!
   Leadership Conference
   Loudoun HEC – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

5. STEMfair 2016
   April 14, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
   AN Campus, CE Forum
   Visit blogs.nvcc.edu/stemfair for more info

6. HR OL&D Workshop Schedule – Spring 2016