Priority Registration in Full Swing for Fall Semester

For the first time ever, all continuing NOVA students may register for fall semester classes in mid-spring — even before the summer session begins. Traditionally, registration for fall classes takes place in July.

Continuing students are those who have taken classes at NOVA anytime in the past three years. Priority registration started April 11 and continues through May 23, when registration will be open to all students, regardless of their enrollment status.

Faculty should make their classes aware of this exciting opportunity, since early registration will help ensure getting seats in popular classes. As an added bonus, those registering early will have until July 25 to pay their tuition.

Flyers and posters, designed by Crystal Paik in the graphics unit, are being distributed to all campuses to help spread the word. Although the printed Schedule of Classes booklets will not be available until May 8, it can be accessed online at http://www.nvcc.edu/schedule/crs2064/.

Registration for NOVA’s summer classes continues, with summer tuition payments due May 1.

If you should have specific questions or comments about this process, please contact Sheri Robertson at srobertson@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3198.

Jack Hanna Headlines Earth Day-Arbor Day Fête

A special appearance by television personality Jack Hanna (http://www.jackhanna.com), host of the nationally syndicated Jack Hanna’s Animal Adventures and frequent guest on Larry King Live, the Late Show with David Letterman and Good Morning America, will highlight Fairfax County’s annual Earth Day-Arbor Day celebration at the Annandale Campus. Cheryl Robinette, provost’s office (AN) worked with the planning committee to bring the event to the College. Festivities begin at 11:00 a.m. on April 29 and run until 4:00 p.m. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend.

For more details, see page 2.
**2006 Earth Day-Arbor Day Celebration**

(continued from page 1)

In addition to the special guest appearance by Jack Hanna, other activities at this year’s Earth Day-Arbor Day celebration include musical performances, children’s theater, environmental talks and exhibitors/demonstrations throughout the day.

This event also provides the perfect incentive to recycle your unwanted computer equipment and donate old cell phones. Fairfax County’s Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling will be providing receptacles on site for the collection of computers as well as cell phones. Computer items accepted include CPUs, laptops, hard drives, printers, scanners, mice, wires, power cords and copiers. There is a $10 donation fee for monitors. Other than cell phones, only computer related electronic equipment will be accepted.

Other activities at the celebration include geo-caching, ocean encounters, a visit to the petting zoo, face painting, gardening tips and much more! This fun-filled, family-oriented event focuses attention on local environmental issues and provides information on ways individuals can protect and preserve this precious resource. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

For information, contact Cheryl Robinette at crobinette@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3223.

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**Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards**

The State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) sponsors an Outstanding Faculty Award which annually recognizes excellence at the post-secondary level. For 2006, 15 faculty members from various colleges and universities were selected, including Dr. Patricia Daron, biology (AN). In addition to the professional recognition associated with the award, each winner received a $5,000 honorarium.

The program is self-nominating. Nominees must have a record of superior accomplishment in four areas of scholarly endeavor: teaching, discovery, integration of knowledge and service. Criteria are explained in SCHEV’s nomination guidelines at http://www.schev.edu/SCHEVs/OFAguidelines.pdf.

Faculty members desiring consideration for the 2007 award must submit to the awards committee a one- to two-page document outlining their scholarly accomplishments in the areas noted above as well as a current curriculum vitae. Submission information must be forwarded by e-mail attachment to hwhite@nvcc.edu by April 21. The committee will evaluate each submission package and notify selected nominees by May 3. Nominees will then be given additional information regarding the preparation of a complete nomination package which will be forwarded to SCHEV in September.

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**Woodbridge Hosts Professional Development Day for Student Services Staff**

The Woodbridge Campus served as the host for last month’s student services professional development day. Staff members from across the College attended the workshop, as did employees from the business offices and testing centers.

Woodbridge Provost Sam Hill welcomed the group to the Campus. Executive Vice President John T. Dever described the attendees as the “face of NOVA,” and emphasized the important role each plays in providing exemplary customer service.

The workshop, titled “From Vets to the Mets: Effectively Working and Serving Across Generations,” was facilitated by Dana Brower of the leadership development center at the University of Virginia. Brower discussed the differences among generations including the “Traditionalists,” the “Baby Boomers,” “Generation X” and the youngest generation, the “Millennials.” Participants engaged in exercises to better understand the demographics and trends which shaped each generation and learned to recognize the implications of generational differences for providing excellent customer service.
Alexandria Celebrates Library Week

April 2-8 was National Library Week, and the Alexandria Campus kicked it off with an open house for faculty and staff on April 3. The presentation, titled “What’s New in the Library,” included the library’s growing film collection, automated DVD storage and retrieval equipment, new books and information about how to renew materials online. Refreshments included cookies decorated with the library’s most important message - READ!

On April 6 the library offered another of its highly-anticipated used book sales, a favorite campus activity for faculty, staff, students and visitors. Buyers were delighted to find bargains on English grammar workbooks, classics such as T.S. Eliot’s *Four Quartets* and mysteries on tape among it’s many offerings.

*Top: The refreshments offered at the open house helped spread the library’s message. Bottom: English faculty member Jon Burton and some of his honors students find treasures at the book sale.*

Photos by Kevin O’Hagan and Sylvia Rortvedt

Art Exhibition on Display Through April 21

The annual Loudoun Campus Communication Design and Fine Arts Exhibition kicked off on March 27, with a pair of professionals judging the exhibits. The communication design department selected a member of its advisory committee, Marcy Cochran, as a judge, while the fine arts department selected photographer Larr Kelly to judge their submissions.

The winners were announced at a well-attended program on April 4. The fine arts winners received a $50 Michael’s gift card and a certificate of achievement. The communication design winners also received a certificate as well as an iPod Shuffle. The winning entries will be on display at the Waddell gallery until April 21.

Loudoun Campus student Agustin Garcia-Barneche and Associate Professor of Communication Design Julia Turner at the exhibition.

Attention: Mandatory MasterCard Training Session

A mandatory training session will be held for all MasterCard holders on April 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ernst Center forum on the Annandale Campus. It is recommended that supervisors of card holders also attend so they can be made aware of the new information.

This training session will review the new policies and procedures that include changes and updated information since the switch from American Express cards. If you attended the sessions held last October or December, then you are not required to attend.

For more information, contact Yvonne Tharp at 703-323-3305 or by e-mail at ytharp@nvcc.edu.
Alexandria Announces Annual Honors

The Alexandria Campus awarded three scholarships to members of its honors program at the spring “Honors Hour” event on April 6. Scholarship Committee Chair Sylvia Rortvedt (pictured far right), presented awards to students Michael Patrick Key, Alice Tomdio and Laila Abu-Asali.

At the same event, Robert Brunner, English faculty member and coordinator of the honors program (pictured second from left), presented certificates to honors students who completed the core curriculum, which consists of 18 hours of honors credit and a seminar. The recipients were Aleh Zaitsau, Dat Chu and Lesley Witter.

Gittens Honored with Horizon Award

Cheryl Gittens, director of the Health Careers Opportunity Program (MEC), was among five honorees to receive the Horizon Award at the annual Virginia Regional Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Conference. Gittens received the award for her role as an advisor to the MEC’s Beta Nu Psi chapter.

Gittens received a scholarship from Phi Theta Kappa headquarters, which paid for registration fees to the 2005 International Convention for her and a chapter officer. In addition, she participated in the Summer Advisors Retreat and also served as a hospitality host for the Regional Honors Institute this past fall.

Gittens applied for the charter for the MEC chapter in 2004. Since then, the chapter has inducted 39 new members and has named Wendy Unison Pace, nursing (MEC), as the chapter’s co-advisor. The Beta Nu Psi chapter will hold its third induction ceremony later this month.

Speech Professors Serve as Judges in State Championships

Four NOVA speech faculty members served as judges at the VHSL State Championships in Forensics at Culpeper High School earlier this month. More than 500 students from 115 Virginia high schools competed for awards in eight categories of speech communication. Dr. Charles Korn (MA), Rosemary Gallowick (WO), Dr. Blanton Croft (WO Emeritus) and Al Kanu (AN) participated at various events throughout the day. This annual event demonstrates the commitment by NOVA faculty to Virginia’s future generation of public speakers.

Blakeney, Bryant Featured at Regional Sorority Conference

Annandale staffer Felicia D. Blakeney will preside over the 64th Northeast Regional Conference of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina later this month. More than 400 professional and collegiate women will attend the conference which will offer workshops on sorority, spiritual, financial and community issues. Among the many speakers at the conference will be Dr. Mynora J. Bryant, national president of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority and coordinator of counseling and student activities (AN), who will discuss the event’s theme, “The Power of Vision: Through Efficient and Positive Action.”

The public is invited to attend the open programs which include a public meeting on April 28 featuring Grammy-winning entertainer Will Downing. Complete information on the conference, including descriptions of all the sessions, can be found at the conference Web site at http://www.sgrhoneregion.org.
Who’s Who at the MEC

Medical Education Campus staffers gathered with honorees in the Ernst Center forum earlier this month at the College’s annual “Who’s Who” banquet. From left: Maria Nieto-Shahsavarian, assistant to the dean of student services; Melanie Etnier, CPR instructor; students Majid Alotaibi and Jennifer Zimmerman-Broadfoot; Special Assistant to the President Brian Foley, student Christie Choi; NVCC Board Member Gregory Schuckman and M. Beatrice Veney, acting dean of student services at the MEC.

Reassigned Time for International Grants

The office of grants development is offering three to six hours of reassigned time for the fall semester to a faculty member who will help pursue a federally or privately funded international grant to support the internationalization of curriculum or student services. The ideal candidate is a “grant development” member of a group working on a defined international project. The individual will work with the director of grants and special projects to help faculty identify grant opportunities and develop proposals. For more information, contact Deborah Rosen, director of grants and special projects, at 703-323-3440 or drosen@nvcc.edu.

Faculty Reception to Be Held April 21

The NVCC Alumni Federation Board of Governors cordially invites you to attend the Faculty of the Year reception to be held in the Ernst Center at 7:00 p.m. on April 21. One faculty member from each campus will be honored at this annual reception. Additionally, one adjunct award will be presented. Winners are nominated by alumni and students and selected by the NVCC Alumni Federation Faculty of the Year committee. Please notify Alumni Director Bonnie Idle at 703-323-3749 or via e-mail at bidle@nvcc.edu no later than April 18 if you plan to attend.

Human Resources Update: Spotlight on Forms and Benefits

The following forms have recently been revised: NVCC 105-94 (Classified/Hourly Employee Employment Request) and NVCC 105-21 (Letter of Resignation). Please use the current versions of the forms which are available at http://www.nvcc.edu/forms. Today is a great day to get rid of outdated forms from your drawer stash and resolve to go online every time you need one!

Did you receive your spring edition of Spotlight on Open Enrollment, the Commonwealth’s benefits newsletter? This latest issue contains important information on the annual open enrollment period and upcoming changes to our health plans. All salaried employees are entitled to receive a copy of the newsletter even if they are not currently enrolled in a health plan. An electronic version of Spotlight is available on the Web at: http://www.dhram.virginia.gov/hbenefits/ohbcommunications/spotlight/Spring06.pdf.

Are your health benefits working for you? With open enrollment coming, it is a good idea to evaluate your current health plan. This year COVA is introducing the COVA High Deductible Health Plan. To help determine whether this might be right for you, Anthem is offering an estimating tool on their Web site to help analyze your medical costs to predict your expenses for the next year. Take advantage of these tools in order to make the best decision for you and your family. You can find them at http://www.anthem.com.

Who writes Intercom? You do!
Check out the Intercom submission guidelines at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm
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