President Bush Leads Forum at Annandale

For the third time in as many years, President George W. Bush used the Annandale Campus as a backdrop for a town meeting with approximately 400 invited senior citizens to discuss the new Medicare prescription benefit plan. The audience, primarily Asian-Americans of Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese and Filipino descent, were told how enrolling in the plan would save them money.

Joining the president on stage was Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, who came to the United States from Taiwan as an eight-year-old. “It’s not that difficult to sign up,” Chao said afterward as she encouraged attendees to pick up brochures that were available in various languages. Medicare officials were also nearby, helping those who had not yet selected a drug plan to sign up.

In his opening remarks, President Bush thanked NOVA President Robert G. Templin, Jr. for hosting the Medicare road show, commenting that the College was a place of “educational excellence.” Information about Medicare is available by calling 1-800-MEDICARE. A transcript of the meeting is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/04/20060412-5.html.

Public Information and Publications Wins Three Awards

The office of Public Information and Publications has just been honored with three new Communicator awards.

The Communicator Awards, based in Arlington, Texas, is an international competition that recognizes outstanding work in the communication field. Entries are judged by industry professionals who look for organizations and individuals whose talent exceeds a high standard of excellence and whose work serves as a benchmark for those working in the print, audio and video fields. For this year’s competition, 5,214 entries were submitted from throughout the United States and several foreign countries.

An award of distinction (second place) was given to NOVA’s television spot, “Testimonials.” An award of distinction was also given to NOVA’s main recruitment piece, Your Future Starts Now, also known as the Viewbook. An honorable mention was given to NOVA’s “Testimonials” radio spot.

“These new awards bring the total number of honors our department has won in the past six months to 13,” said Sue Davis, coordinator of public information and publications. “All of these projects were collaborative efforts between the public information, graphics and photography professionals on our staff. Every one of them has a reason to be proud of our award-winning material.”
President Visits MEC Student Services

NOVA President Robert G. Templin, Jr. (right) visits with students at the Medical Education Campus. Templin stopped by the student services office after a NoVa HealthForce meeting at the MEC.

Photo by Dane Petersen

HR Reminder - Interim Evaluations

In an effort to increase communication and improve employee relations, human resources recommends informal monthly or quarterly employee evaluations. At the very least, supervisors should discuss performance with their employees twice a year. This is an opportunity to strengthen areas needing improvement and provide positive feedback for work well done. Each P-3 classified staff member should be given an interim evaluation by May 12.

Evaluations do not have to be in writing, but should be a private session set up to talk to each employee about their work performance. The results of these meetings should not be sent to human resources. Interim evaluations are not considered official documents and will not be placed in employees’ personnel files. Supervisors should use these evaluations to assist in rating employees at the end of the performance cycle. The NVCC 105-059 employee interim evaluation form is found on the Web at http://www.nvcc.edu/forms.

Contact Stacy Pendleton at 703-323-3050 for more information.

Tuition Assistance Requests Due Soon

The deadline for submitting tuition assistance requests for summer session courses is approaching. This applies to all courses that occur between May 15 and August 21, regardless of whether the courses are taken through another school or whether the course is for credit or for a continuing education unit. Published deadlines are based on fiscal considerations.

Employees who wish to apply for fall tuition assistance must wait until after July 1, when the College has finalized its yearly budgetary planning. To maintain registration in courses, employees who register early must provide their completed tuition agreements to the business office by July 25. Those who submit requests for support between July 1 and July 23 should be able to have the requisite third party agreement to provide to the business office.

Loudoun Theatre Group Presents “Harvey”

The Loudoun Campus College Community Theatre presents the Pulitzer Prize-winning play “Harvey.” The production, directed by Matthew Randall, runs from April 21-23 and from April 28-30 at the Waddell Theater. Show times for April 21, 22, 28 and 29 are at 7:30 p.m. and at 2:00 p.m. on April 23 and 30. Tickets are $10 for NOVA faculty and staff, $8 for students and seniors.
Alexandria Band Presents Free “Pops” Concert

The 70-member Alexandria Campus Concert Band, directed by Dr. Robert Petrelli, and the 80-voice NOVA Community Chorus, directed by Dr. Mark Whitmire, will present a spring “Pops” concert at 8:00 p.m. on April 28 at the Schlesinger Concert Hall. The chorus will sing selections from “South Pacific” and the band will perform popular overtures, marches and Gershwin's “An American in Paris.” The concert is free and open to the public.

Woodbridge Cleans Up!

On March 30 members of the Woodbridge Campus, along with students and personnel from Freedom High School, participated in a roadside clean-up along Neabsco Mills Road.

Participants included (from left): Susan Sinkovic (LRS), Bob Kinsson (business and social sciences), Ash De Furia and Barbara Matza (business office), Jeanette Tucker (natural sciences and mathematics) and Tim Kraemer (natural sciences and mathematics).

Annandale Celebrates Library Week

The Annandale Campus kicked off National Library Week last month with an essay contest where students were encouraged to describe how a library changed their world. Staff members also hosted a treasure hunt designed to highlight the hidden gems of information in the library. The week was capped off with a free luncheon where faculty, staff and students gathered to join in on the celebration by noshing on wraps, chips, cookies and drinks.

From left to right: Ellen Wertman, Jeff Prater, Elizabeth Dellavedova and Irene Osterman construct an armchair made of books that was used in a contest during National Library Week.

Alexandria Hosts Karen E. Walsh Scholarship Luncheon

The scholarship committee of the Alexandria Campus humanities and social sciences division will host a luncheon to pay tribute to former ESL teacher Karen Walsh on April 21 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Bisdorf building, room AA158. You are invited to honor Walsh, enjoy a lunch catered by Kitchen Gourmet and introduce this year’s Karen Walsh Scholarship recipients as well as the recipients of the Sasscer Family Scholarship, the Elaine Niner Scholarship and the Shirley Gravette Scholarship. During the luncheon, there will also be a tribute to Dr. Elaine Niner and the dedication of a tree that has been planted in her memory. Sign up early because space is limited. The cost is $30 and a portion of the proceeds from this luncheon will be used to fund future scholarships. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund but are unable to attend, checks can be mailed to the NVCC Educational Foundation. For more information, contact Jean Braden at jebraden@nvcc.edu.

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Alexandria Campus Hosts Open House for Area High Schools

On April 4, the Alexandria Campus hosted over 130 students from Thomas Edison, West Potomac, Robert E. Lee, Hayfield, J.E.B. Stuart, South Lakes, Arlington Mill, Langston and Wakefield High Schools and the Arlington Career Center at an open house.

The students attended interactive presentations in automotive technology and information technology, participated in history and world languages classes and attended programs in areas ranging from business and nursing to music and design. The students also met with a representative from George Mason University during the business administration presentation to discuss transferring to Mason after completing an associate degree at NOVA and interacted with NOVA professors and students during lunch.

Student Services Specialist Qania Aden (left) helps a student from South Lakes High School apply to NOVA.

Annandale Disability Services to Host Vision Program for Incoming Students

On April 26, Annandale Campus disability services will host approximately 600 students, parents and professionals from area high school divisions in a half-day orientation program. Coordinated by Charlie Dy and Carol Sweetser, Vision 2006 will target students with disabilities who plan to attend the Annandale Campus this fall.

With the generous assistance and support of faculty from the various academic divisions, counselors, learning resource services and other key staff, students will hear presentations on the admissions process, College resources and services, academic programs, financial aid, the transfer process and eligibility requirements to apply for accommodations as a student with a disability.

This program has been highly successful in assisting students to make the transition from high school to college thanks to the dedication of the volunteers from the area high schools and the faculty and staff on the Annandale Campus.

Cain Retires After 25 Years at NOVA

On March 24, Joyce Cain retired from NOVA after 25 years of service to the College. A reception was held for her last month where she was presented with a plaque by Woodbridge Provost Sam Hill. Members of Cain’s family and many long-time NOVA friends bid her a fond farewell.

Photo by Ash De Furia

Whitmire to Conduct Abroad This Summer

Dr. Mark Whitmire, professor of music at the Alexandria Campus, will be conductor-in-residence at Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral in England this summer. Whitmire will direct the choir at four principle services at Westminster Abbey on August 19 and 20, then travel to Canterbury where he will direct the singing of Evensong each day the week. Whitmire’s doctoral dissertation topic and principle area of study is music of the Anglican tradition.

Dr. Mark Whitmire
Disability Services Hosts Final Audio Conference Next Month

The disability services advisory group is sponsoring the final audio conference of the year on May 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Provost’s conference room on the Annandale Campus. The title of this final session is “Distance Education Up Close” and is especially pertinent since online courses have recently come under scrutiny for not always being accessible to persons with disabilities. This following topics will be covered:

- How to make sure you know when students with disabilities enroll in distance learning classes so that you can be proactive in arranging accommodations
- The documentation you need regarding their disability and how it will be gathered
- How to use a “functional limitations” approach to determine students’ needs as related to typical distance learning activities
- What the institutional responsibilities are in providing necessary assistive technology and monitoring Web-based accessibility to course content
- How to provide effective accommodations to students you never see -- and may not have ever met

Time will be set aside for an interactive question and answer session after the presentation. Anyone who provides services to students with disabilities, ADA coordinators, compliance officers, college and university administrators and postsecondary department or division chairs should all consider registering for this informative session. Contact Carol Sweetser at csweetser@nvcc.edu to reserve a seat.

Brotton Publishes Literary History Book

Annandale English professor Joyce Brotton’s new book, Revising Life through Literature: Dialogical Change from the Reformation through Postmodernism, was released earlier this month by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. The book is an expansion of Brotton’s doctoral dissertation and traces a move by literature to enter major philosophical debate following the Reformation’s seeming endorsement of individual interpretation.

Woodbridge Presents “The Pajama Game”

The Woodbridge Campus theatre group will present “The Pajama Game” at 7:30 p.m. on April 13-15 and April 20-22 in the Campus theatre. The musical, based on a novel by Richard Bissell, features music and lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross. Admission is $3 for students, faculty and staff, children and seniors; $5 for all others. Tickets are available at the door. See the flyer attached to this edition of Intercom for more information.

Notes From HR: Job Descriptions, Open Enrollment and New COVA Plan

Effective July 1, a job description will be required for all P-14 hires. The job description must include a brief summary of the duties and responsibilities that the incumbent will perform, list the knowledge, skills and abilities expected in the position and include a working title. These job descriptions will help human resources correctly classify P-14 hires with the appropriate role and pay rate. Contact Sonia Aboulhosn at 703-323-3119 for more information.

Open enrollment is here! Remember that open enrollment lasts through May 15. To check the status of your benefits and to make changes, visit https://edirect.virginia.gov/Application.aspx to access Employee Direct. If you need assistance or if you have any questions, contact Janice Cottingham, Erin Couch or Eileen Sorenson on the human resources benefits team.

COVA has announced that the new High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) will be available as of July 1. Before you make the decision to switch to this health care plan, read all about it in Spotlight to see if it is financially beneficial to change plans and use the tools Anthem provides to analyze and forecast medical expenses. Spotlight on Open Enrollment was recently distributed to all P-3 employees, but is also available online at: http://www.dhram.virginia.gov/hbenefits/ohbcommunications/spotlight/Spring06.pdf.
The NOVA Woodbridge Theatre Group presents

The Pajama Game

Book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell;
Music and Lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross;
Based on the novel “7 1/2 Cents” by Richard Bissell

The Pajama Game is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 W. 54th St., NY 10019 (212)451-4684 FAX: (212)397-4684 http://www.MTIShows.com

Thursday—Saturday,
April 13-15 & 20-22, 2006
at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets available at the door
$3 students, NVCC faculty/staff, children, & seniors
$5 all others

In the Woodbridge Campus Theatre
15200 Neabsco Mills Road
For information, call (703) 878-5750
V/TDD: (703) 680-7942
or e-mail etrumbull@nvcc.edu

Make reservations online at:
http://www.nvcc.edu/

Student centered. Community focused.
Bob Simon
- Founder of Reston
Tom Grubisich
- Author of “Reston: The First Twenty Years”

Reston
The Past, The Present, The Future...

Thursday, April 27, 2006
5:30-6:15 pm

NVCC-Reston Center
1831 Wiehle Avenue
Third floor forum area

Free to campus and community.

Free parking adjacent to the center.

Designed by: Kizaan Knapp
FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2006
3:00 P.M. WADDELL THEATER
Free and open to the public
Book signing to follow lecture
Sponsored in part by
NVCC Honors Program and ExxonMobil