Three Sisters Highlight MEC’s Respiratory Therapy Program

The Respiratory Therapy Program at the Medical Education Campus (MEC) - a challenging five-semester program that focuses on the anatomy and physiology of the heart and lungs - is one of the most exciting and rapidly growing programs under NOVA’s Allied Health Department. Just ask sisters Sumbal, Shariel and Sarah Iqbal, who are completing their last semester of the program and graduating in May.

“We love the small class, one-on-one interaction with our professors and the deans,” said Sarah, “Not only are the faculty excellent, our clinicals are really helping us prepare for our careers after NOVA.”

Sumbal, Shariel and Sarah (who are natives from Pakistan and two of the three sisters - Shariel and Sarah - are twins) decided on Respiratory Therapy after attending an information session regarding the

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Three Sisters Highlight MEC’s Respiratory Therapy Program

“We come from a big family, so coming to NOVA was an excellent option because of the affordability and quality education we’re receiving,” said Sumbal.

So what is next for the girls after graduation? Sumbal plans to go to George Mason and seek a bachelor’s degree in Health Science, while Shariel wants to continue studying, focusing on Allied Health Management. Finally, Sarah would like to become a physician’s assistant in cardiology but is undecided on which college she would like to attend.

“I believe they will be very successful in all their endeavors,” said Rosary Ossorio, dean of clinical education, “they are all very competitive and have a good head on their shoulders.”
On March 30, the Loudoun Leadership Lecture Series and NOVA Honors Program hosted writer and political pundit Donna Brazile and former NOVA student and writer Jake Ziemba in the Waddell Theatre on the Loudoun Campus. Many faculty were present, including Cinder Cooper and Natalie Safley. Student Activities Coordinator Tiffney Laing, Dean of Students Kirk Nooks and Professor Stacy Rice coordinated the event. Student Lauren Harris, Honors Club vice president, introduced Brazile, and Sarah Prescott, Honors Club president, introduced Ziemba.

The Loudoun Leadership Lecture Series is designed to attract nationally known speakers to share their stories of challenge and triumph. Based on similar college lecture events, toward the end of the session, each invited speaker is asked to take 10-minutes to respond to the following question: “If you only had 10 minutes to live, what would you say to this audience?” Created by the Loudoun Campus Office of Student Services, the Series in its inaugural year and has also hosted Olympic Champion Dominique Dawes in the spring 2009 semester.

This event was a huge success, as over 200 people gathered to listen to Brazile talk about her career in politics and her advice for future leaders, especially young women. Her inspirational speech was also heard by Seneca Ridge Middle School students, who are partnering with the Campus’ civic engagement and service-learning programs. When asked about the vision for this series and event, Nooks said, “Today represents the essence of the collegiate experience. Being inspired by those who have gone ahead, while inspiring those who will come, we are stretching beyond the boundaries of the Campus to reaffirm our commitment to our current student scholars and to those whose dreams are yet realized.”

Ziemba began the event and read from his work “The Yukon Glory,” a book he wrote while undergoing extensive chemotherapy treatment a few years ago. He is cancer-free now and talked about his success story as a survivor. Now attending Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Ziemba is also finishing up his new work and prequel to “The Yukon Glory.”

Rice also commented on the event, “It was great to see such a strong and courageous woman speak to our NOVA community along-side such a driven, passionate and talented writer as Jake Ziemba. The combination was great; both have persevered and become strong leaders, which was great for the audience to hear and see. I can’t wait for our next speaker to motivate, encourage and excite us!”

Following the event, the Loudoun Honors Program hosted a dinner for the Exxon Mobil Scholarship recipients and faculty, staff and students involved with the Honors Program on all six campuses.

Thanks to all who attended this event and made it such a huge success!
Growing Entrepreneurship Career Studies Certificate Program

In addition to offering classes on Saturday mornings in Springfield, Virginia, the Entrepreneurship Program is opening a new center in partnership with the Ethiopian Community Development Council’s (ECDC) Enterprise Development Group (EDG).

These classes will be held weeknights to accommodate working adults. This 26-credit program is designed to prepare students to start and to grow successful small businesses by providing instruction in entrepreneurial culture, strategy, operations, financial management, marketing and leadership.

All courses are taught using an accelerated six-to-eight week semester format so the dedicated student can complete the program in less than 13 months. Most classes will use a hybrid of in-class and on-line instruction methods and will be taught by seasoned entrepreneurs who have been through it all.

Students can take only the courses they want or take all nine courses and graduate with a certificate. Financial aid is available through NOVA to those who qualify.

All are invited to the formal kick-off event for this new initiative on May 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the EDG Office at 901 S. Highland Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204. President Robert G. Templin, Jr., Provost Jonathan Gueverra (AL) and Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, president of ECDC and EDG will make remarks during the event.

Please RSVP to Chona Bravante at chona.bravante@ecdinternational.org by April 27.

Alexandria Campus National Library Week Festivities

The Alexandria Campus celebrated National Library Week (NLW) from April 12 through 18 (http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm) with special events both in and outside the library. On April 14, the library treated students, faculty and staff to cookies and lemonade in the main reading room. Homemade “READ” cookies were available, along with festive balloons and flowers. On April 16, the library conducted another of its popular book sales. Setting up shop in the lobby outside the Library, textbooks, hardcover and paperback books as well as videos were on sale at remarkably low prices. Library book sales have become a highly anticipated campus event, taking place at least twice a year. Proceeds benefit library collections and services.
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre Travels to Mexico

The Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre, which is a professional dance company in residence at the Alexandria Campus, was off to Mexico for a week to perform in the Foro Performatica 2009 by invitation from the University of the Americas in Cholula, Mexico.

The work, “Battleground,” was selected to be performed in the new Cultural Center in the city of Puebla. Kathy Gray was asked to teach two master class workshops in Humphrey/Weidman/Limon style at the University and at the cultural center, and participate in panel discussions featuring representatives from 12 countries from around the world.

Submit to the Intercom!

Deadline: Submissions must be received (via e-mail) by 5:00 p.m. on Fridays for the following week’s edition.

Submission Guidelines: Submissions should be e-mailed to intercom@nvcc.edu. Unformatted text should be sent in an MSWord document or may be put into the body of the e-mail. All photos should be attached as jpeg, bmp, tiff or eps files; photo captions should also be included with your text. For guidelines go online to: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm.

Please remember all news submissions should highlight NOVA faculty and/or staff.
NOVA SIGHTINGS

NOVA Enrolls Iraqi and Afghan Heroes

Northern Virginia has become a major gateway for resettling political refugees who were forced to flee Iraq and Afghanistan when their lives were endangered after they provided English translation and other assistance with the U.S. military. However, when NOVA American Dream Team Program Manager Evelyn Cromartie initiated a trainee referral relationship with a local nonprofit, The Kurdish Human Rights Watch Group (KHRW), little did she know that NOVA’s ESL for Employment Program was poised to serve these New American heroes.

In November 2008, Cromartie and Tonia Rodgers, NOVA’s ESL coordinator for the Annandale Campus, delivered a program presentation and English screening assessments for 16 KHRW clients at the organization’s Fairfax office. NOVA’s American Dream Team/ESL for Employment Program provides workplace English skills and job search assistance to help low-income, intermediate English-speaking immigrants launch higher paying careers with area employers. Since many of these new neighbors served as English translators, most of them demonstrated fundamental English skills needed to qualify for NOVA’s program.

Through several visits and conversations, NOVA’s staff learned first-hand about the difficulties that many of these heroes face in trying to re-establish professional careers in their adopted country. However, even those with exceptional career experience and academic achievement in their home countries can only find entry-level jobs here in retail and services that typically pay less than $10 an hour, and all of these family breadwinners have children to support as well. “Of our 20 clients, 15 are well-educated, but can’t start working in their fields until they get U.S. credentials. So, most take any job that they can get at first,” said Najat Fatah, case manager for KHRW.

During the spring 2009 semester, thanks to scholarship resources provided by NOVA’s funding partners such as The Wal-Mart Workforce Economic Opportunity Initiative, Fairfax County’s Consolidated Community Funding Pool and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, seven of these heroes have enrolled in NOVA’s ESL for Employment courses. Fatah has heard enthusiastic reports on the classes from her clients: “It’s hard for our clients to start their careers over from the beginning. But they are learning business English that they didn’t know before, and really love their NOVA instructors.” Along with nearly 40 other participants in NOVA’s ESL for Employment courses this spring, these seven heroes will complete the courses in June 2009, ready to advance their careers towards their new American Dream of opportunity for them and for their children.

NOVA faculty or staff interested in learning more about NOVA’s American Dream Team program, and how it serves heroes such as these Iraqi and Afghan participants are encouraged to contact Cromartie at 703-764-7762 or e-mail her at ecromartie@nvcc.edu.
NOVA Celebrates Student Success at Who’s Who Event

It was “A Night Among the Stars,” and NOVA’s brightest were honored at the Who’s Who Among Students in America’s Junior Colleges banquet on April 10 at the Ernst Cultural Center Forum on the Annandale Campus.

Fifty-one students, from all six campuses, were recognized with the “Who’s Who” honor based on their exceptional academic standings, campus leadership, participation in extracurricular activities and community service.

Kemper Steele, coordinator for student life at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, was the evening’s guest speaker, telling the Campus leaders to stay on target in pursuit of ambitions and not get distracted by obstacles out of their control.

In addition, NOVA students Edward Sawyer and Agnieszka Spryzynska were announced as finalists for the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship from the NVCC Educational Foundation.

See the attachment section http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/090424_attachment.pdf to view NOVA’s Who’s Who list.
The Alexandria Campus hosted its sixth annual Community Job & Internship Fair on April 14 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center. A diverse range of companies participated, representing auto rental, accounting, business, marketing, security, administrative, customer service, childcare, education, electrical construction, information technology, government, engineering and hospitality fields. As an added bonus and to help attendees further with job search assistance, representatives from Joblink and Alexandria’s Employment Resource Center also participated. Over 250 job and internship seekers of mostly NOVA students attended the event.
Sarah Prescott, Katharine Fish and Sampurna Ulanowsky were chosen to attend the National Conference on Student Leadership (NCSL) held April 4 to 10 in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference consisted of multiple keynote speakers, concurrent workshop sessions facilitated by higher education professionals and professional speakers, interactive events and networking opportunities. Coordinator of Student Activities Tiffney Laing (LO), who accompanied the three, believes that this type of opportunity for students is very important to their personal and professional growth.

During the conference, Prescott, Fish and Ulanowsky earned a Certified Student Leader certificate by scoring high on an examination of leadership skills. The exam tests candidates on the skills necessary for the effective leadership of student organizations, including running effective meetings, resolving conflicts, creating an inclusive and diverse environment and launching successful publicity and promotional campaigns. The conference was a success, and the students are enthusiastic about using their additional knowledge to help make a positive impact on the Loudoun Campus and beyond.
Ice Cream Social at the Loudoun Campus and Reston Center

On April 15, the Loudoun Campus Office of Student Activities and the Honors Club hosted an ice cream social as part of one of the activities for Spring Fling Week. Faculty, staff and students came together to mingle and enjoy a cool, refreshing cup of ice cream.

Honors Club member Lauren Harris, Provost Anthony C. Tardd and Assistant Division Dean of English Debbie Naquin.

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Casino Fun at the Loudoun Campus

The Loudoun Campus Honors Club and the Office of Student Activities hosted a Casino event on April 13 to kick off Spring Fling Week. The event was highly successful with over 60 students who participated. Students won a variety of prizes, which included an iPod, NOVA T-shirts and a NOVA embroidered blanket. Professor Stacy Rice, Honors Program and Dean of Students Kirk Nooks joined the students in the festivities.

Pictured above: Dean of Students Kirk Nooks looks on as students enjoy casino festivities.

Pictured below: Professor Stacy Rice, Honors Program, joins students in festivities.
Temporary Change in Benefit Premium Deductions for Some Nine-Month Faculty

Nine-month faculty who are paid on an 18 pay frequency and who participate in voluntary benefit programs, will see advanced deductions in their May 15 pay. These advance deductions are made to collect the premiums for May and June. A similar deduction will occur in August upon the return to a salaried payroll and for capturing the premiums for July and August. For further explanation, call any one of the benefits staff, Janice Cottingham at 703-323-3336, Sonia Aboulhosn at 703-323-3119 or Eileen M. Sorenson at 703-323-3396.
CETL Workshops and Events Available for Faculty

- **Facebook: Understanding Online Social Interaction in Today’s World.** Professor of Communication Studies Libby Vick will help you set up a Facebook page in this workshop on **April 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., CT 335 (AN)**. This is co-sponsored by the Technology Applications Center (TAC). Register at [http://tac.nvcc.edu/tactraining/sp09](http://tac.nvcc.edu/tactraining/sp09). Spaces are limited so register today.

- **Tegrity: Exploring Another Option for Teaching and Learning.** Bryan Baudean, eLearning consultant for McGraw-Hill, will demonstrate uses of Tegrity for helping students review lectures. Demonstrations will be on **April 27 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with a drop-in open house from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** This session will take place in the Provost Conference Room, CE 202 (AN). Register at CETL@nvcc.edu.

- **Developing Effective Presentations and Grading Students’ Oral Presentations.** Explore ways to help students with their oral presentations. Learning how to grade student presentations. Facilitated by Communication Studies and Theatre (CST) faculty. **May 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in LR 144 (LO).** Register at CETL@nvcc.edu.

- **So, You Want Your Students to Work in Groups?!** Explore five major communication strategies for developing more effective groups. This workshop is facilitated by CST faculty on **May 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in LR 144 (LO).** Register at CETL@nvcc.edu. Event flyers may be found in the attachment section at [http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Apr24-09_attachment.pdf](http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Apr24-09_attachment.pdf).

**Frederick Markham’s Landscapes on Exhibit at the Manassas Campus**

Large graphite and charcoal drawings by **Frederick Markham** (WO), Fine Arts, are on display at the Manassas Campus until **April 27 in Colgan Hall**.

Markham’s images of forests and rivers have won numerous awards. He says the inspiration behind his artwork started at a young age.

“I grew up in a small farming community in western Kentucky,” he said. “When I didn’t have to go to school, I spent a lot of time wandering around the woods and creeks near my house. I found the woods a great place to go. They always seemed to change and the most familiar things could all of a sudden seem very unusual. As a painter, I am still fascinated by that sort of wooded landscape I trekked around in as a kid.”

Markham’s recent drawings reflect a sustained study of the environment. “The land, trees and water embody a sense of flux, discovery and beauty. Each time I go out to paint these things, it is to enter a passage filled with the sort of mystery that excited me so much as a young boy.”

On April 8, **Randy Michener** (MA), Fine Arts, hosted a reception for Markham. Many students, faculty and staff members enjoyed meeting Markham and learning about his artwork.

**Fred Markham and Randy Michener recently hung several of Markham’s**
Memorial Celebration of Harriet (Cammy) White

There will be a celebration of Harriet (Cammy) White’s life and contributions to the College on April 29 at 2:00 p.m. in the Schlesinger Center on the Alexandria Campus. White worked as a counselor at the Alexandria Campus for more than 40 years. She passed away on March 9.

White was a dispersed counselor to several academic divisions on the Alexandria Campus, most recently, the Science and Applied Technologies Division. She served on the steering committees of every self-study conducted by the College and as chair of the most recent 1999-2002 Self-Study. She was a long-term member of the Curriculum and Advanced Standing Committees. She provided special assistance to students in the College’s cooperative programs with General Motors and Ford. She originated and was the primary instructor in the PLACe program, in which hundreds of students earned college credits for their life experiences.

White truly enhanced the educational experience, along with the lives and careers of thousands of students at the College. She will be missed by all. Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend.

Monica F. Sasscer Retiring After 40 Years of Dedicated Service

Monica Flynn Sasscer, longtime faculty member, administrator and good friend to many within the NOVA community, will retire on April 30. Sasscer leaves the College after 40 years of distinguished service to the College.

She served the College in many capacities, most notably as professor of Spanish and as assistant division chairman for foreign languages, as well as coordinator of the Learning Laboratory in the LRC for 10 years, all at the Alexandria Campus where she also held a number of other administrative positions throughout the years. In January, 2000, she assumed the position of acting director of the Extended Learning Institute (ELI), and in 2001, she took on new challenges as the College’s associate vice president of instructional technology. Active in many college committees throughout the years, she served on the College Senate, several self-study committees, the Professional Development Committee and the College Emergency Planning Committee.

While we applaud Sasscer for her many contributions to the quality of education at NOVA over the years, we also appreciate her ability to lead with wisdom, grace and kindness. She has been a wonderful role model and a steadfast colleague.

Please join her for a retirement celebration on April 30 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the large boardroom in the Brault Building, followed by an Open House reception at the ELI offices from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Honor her by attending either or both.

Please note that the attachment section of the Intercom, which includes important NOVA announcements, can now be accessed via a new link: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Apr24-09_attachment.pdf.