Hundreds Turn Out for Annandale Job Fair

Dr. John Thrash, dean of student development at the Annandale Campus, chats with a representative from Campbell and Ferrara Nurseries at the Annandale job fair.

The Annandale Campus held its 10th annual job fair in the Ernst Community Cultural Center on April 6. Annandale Provost Barbara Saperstone declared the event “a huge success.”

More than 80 organizations participated in the daylong event. Employers included banks, law enforcement agencies, engineering firms, small businesses, military branches, security and air transport firms, hotels and restaurants, recreation industry and temporary placement agencies.

Over 500 job seekers, both students and members of the community, attended the job fair. Event organizers Laura Lane and Annie Atkins would like to thank all faculty, staff and students who helped make this event possible.

Flex Time Work Schedules Approved for Summer

The Administrative Council has approved optional summer work schedules. Employees may select one of three work schedules for the summer period (June 12 through August 11). The choices are: four 10-hour days with one day off, four 9-hour days and one 4-hour day with a half-day off or five 8-hour days (the regular 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. schedule). All full-time employees will work 8-hour days or use their available leave during the week of the July 4 holiday, which falls on Tuesday of that week. Employees who are interested in working a modified schedule during the summer must obtain approval from their supervisors, who are responsible for assuring that College services are available during normal business hours, which will continue as 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

While some employees may not be able to participate in the program, the Administrative Council is encouraging supervisors to work with employees to try to accommodate requests for special schedules if possible. Employees presently on a flex schedule will continue on that schedule. Supervisors should send a list of employees who will be working a modified schedule to human resources by June 2. For more information, contact Erin Couch (classified staff) at 703-323-4276 or Jeff Sager (faculty) at 703-323-3207.
Northern Virginia Community College’s Commencement exercises for the graduating class of 2006 will take place on May 9 at the George Mason University Patriot Center, starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. Faculty are urged to march with their colleagues in the processional and other staff members are invited to cheer the graduates, who have worked so hard for this proud moment.

Special addresses will be given by Dr. Thomas Morris, secretary of education for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Dr. Bonnie Pfoutz, honorary degree recipient. Their abbreviated biographies appear below.

### Commencement Speaker

Dr. Thomas R. Morris was appointed Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia in January by Governor Timothy M. Kaine. In leading one of Virginia’s most influential agencies, Dr. Morris provides the guiding vision for all public education in Virginia by directing policies and budgets for programs at primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities and museums and libraries.

A dynamic and seasoned educator, Dr. Morris served as the 19th president of Emory & Henry College for almost 14 years. During his tenure, he challenged students to think critically about the important issues facing society today, including the environment. To demonstrate his passion for maintaining pristine, undeveloped land, he urged students to write letters to support federal legislation which sought to designate almost 43,000 acres of land in the Jefferson National Forest as wilderness. In spring 2005, Dr. Morris hiked 366 miles of Virginia’s Appalachian Trail. "I returned from my hike convinced that one of our greatest responsibilities as humans is to turn the abstract idea of environmental sustainability into reality," he told the students. "Indeed, that may be the biggest challenge facing you as emerging leaders of this new century."

A distinguished Constitutional scholar and political scientist, Dr. Morris was also a full-time faculty member at the University of Richmond for 21 years, where he was elected to numerous leadership posts and honored for excellence in the classroom.

Dr. Morris is well-known on a state and national level as an astute and well-versed political commentator and writer, and is widely known as an expert on Virginia government and politics. He is the author or co-author of four books and has written an additional 17 major articles or book chapters.

Throughout his career, Dr. Morris served as a political analyst for television, radio and the print media and has chaired several statewide commissions.

A native of Galax, Virginia, Dr. Morris earned a bachelor’s degree in government from the Virginia Military Institute, studied at Princeton University and then completed master’s and doctoral degrees in government at the University of Virginia. He received fellowships for additional advanced study, including a year as a liberal arts fellow at the Harvard Law School and a year as a fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Dr. Morris is married to the former Barbara-lyn Belcher. They have three daughters: Tabby, Robbins and Rosa.

### Honorary Degree Recipient

The 2006 recipient of the associate degree in humane letters is Dr. Bonnie Lewis Pfoutz.

Dr. Pfoutz has contributed significantly to the progress and development of Northern Virginia Community College and the Commonwealth of Virginia through her outstanding service to the College and VCCS, as well as through her years of distinguished and dedicated service as a member of the faculty and administration of the Arlington, Virginia Public Schools System and faculty at George Mason University. She is a dynamic leader who continuously seeks to enhance the quality of life for Northern Virginians and the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole.

Dr. Pfoutz completed her bachelor of arts degree at American University, after which she pursued and completed further graduate studies. She received her master of education degree from George Mason University and her doctorate in education through NOVA Southeastern University in Florida.

Because of her passionate commitment to making Northern Virginia a better place to live, Dr. Pfoutz has given generously of her time and other resources to educational and community organizations and activities. She has provided many years of service as an active member, and officer of, the Northern Virginia Community College Board of Trustees, where she served as chair for two terms.

She also served on the Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

Among the many organizations benefiting from Dr. Pfoutz’s knowledge and skills are the United Way of the National Capital area, Leadership Arlington, the Virginia Education Association, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Phi Delta Kappa and the Arlington Educational Association.

Dr. Pfoutz and her husband Daniel reside in Arlington and are the parents of one daughter, Hannah.

Congratulations to the Class of 2006
Windham Attends Oxford Conference

Dr. Joseph Windham, history (AL), attended a University Roundtable conference in Oxford, England this past March to discuss his work promoting diversity in curriculum and recruitment. Windham presented a paper on the history of American community colleges and NOVA’s commitment to cultural diversity. He also made many contacts with an international body of scholars and administrators who may prove to be helpful in the College’s endeavor to become a pilot school for the promotion of diversity.

While in England, Windham had the opportunity to tour Oxford University and its associated museums and historical sites. He chronicled his adventure by keeping a journal, collecting memorabilia and taking plenty of photos.

This fall he will give a formal presentation about his experience to colleagues during Convocation Week. Windham’s visit was made possible with professional development funding from the division, the Campus and the College.

Lobstein Featured in Southern Living

The May issue of Southern Living magazine features an article about Marion Blois Lobstein, biology (MA), highlighting her efforts with the Flora of Virginia project to produce a plant identification manual for the state. Titled “Finding Virginia’s Flora,” the article mentions both NOVA and the Manassas Campus.

In addition to describing her work on the Flora project, the article notes how “many in this region are smitten with the wildflowers they meet on walks with Marion” at such places as the Manassas Campus nature trail, the U.S. Botanic Garden and Great Falls Park.

“Developing this historic work has been a 30-year dream for me and I’m thrilled that this prominent magazine is helping spread the word about the project,” said Lobstein, who moved to Virginia in 1974. “I hope the exposure will bring additional attention to the project and, perhaps, some much needed funding.” To help, send tax deductible contributions to the Flora of Virginia Project, P. O. Box 512, Richmond, VA 23218.
Applicants Wanted for President’s Sabbatical Award

The President’s Sabbatical Award is designed to foster creative energy by providing faculty with a one-semester leave with full pay each year. The award is competitive. Applicants must submit proposals that will be evaluated by a faculty subcommittee of the personnel services committee, which may recommend to the president that up to three awards be given. The rules can be found in section six of the Faculty Handbook.

The personnel services committee is encouraging faculty to begin thinking about and planning for this valuable program. Summer is an ideal time for interested faculty to consider appropriate projects and start working on the proposal, which will be due during the latter part of fall semester.

MEC Hosts Successful Open House

Dozens of area parents and students converged on the Medical Education Campus earlier this month for an open house to learn more about the MEC and what it has to offer. Those in attendance met with faculty and staff to learn about the variety of nursing and allied health degree programs as well as financial aid. In addition, staff members from Virginia Hospital Center gave a presentation on how they work with and rely on MEC students and graduates in their operations. Representatives from the Annandale and Alexandria Campuses and Arlington Center also participated.

Physical Demands Info Now Required

Executive order 94, “Workplace Safety and Employee Health,” ensures a safe and healthy workplace for state employees and ensures employers are assisting employees in returning to work from both work-related and non work-related illnesses and injuries. NOVA must now ensure that job expectations are clearly defined in the job description/employee work profile (EWP), to include physical demand requirements. In the near future all employees will receive via e-mail an attachment to their EWP/job description that details physical demands. This must be completed and returned to human resources by May 19 and will then become a part of the employee’s EWP/job description.

New Library Database Helps NOVA Celebrate Poetry Month

NOVA libraries recently started a subscription to Columbia Granger’s Poetry Online. This database can be used to find out specific bits of information such as which Emily Dickinson poems are about a certain theme (e.g., anxiety), see what poems have the word “glaciers” in them, find out what poem begins, “I prove a theorem and the house expands” or discover in which anthologies a certain poem appears. The database often contains the complete text of the poem in question and there’s also some criticism available.

Since April is Poetry Month, visit the poetry database today and revisit an old favorite or find a new poetic star. The link can be found on the Library Databases page (http://www.nvcc.edu/library/databases.htm) under “Language & Literature.” Currently it can only be used on campus, but the libraries hope to offer off-campus access soon.

Contact your local librarian if you have any questions about using this or any of the library databases.