Shyaka Discusses Contemporary Rwanda at Loudoun

More than 150 students, faculty, staff and guests attended Dr. Anastase Shyaka’s presentation on “Contemporary Rwanda” as part of the Loudoun Campus Tea and Pedagogy series on March 27. Shyaka, who is NOVA’s first-ever Fulbright scholar-in-residence, is currently teaching PLS 295, Politics of Contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa at the Reston Center.

Shyaka's hour-long talk was both entertaining and informative. The Rwandan native, who studied in France and Poland, comes to NOVA from the University of Rwanda in Kigali. He will reside in the area through the end of July and is willing to come to other campuses to do similar presentations or meet informally with faculty and students. For more information, contact Humanities Dean Bev Blois at 703-450-2503 or bblois@nvcc.edu.

Dr. Anastase Shyaka shared his experiences at the Loudoun Campus last month.

New Payroll Identification Numbers Coming for Employees

Effective April 1, the Commonwealth of Virginia will no longer be using social security numbers (SSNs) for payroll identification purposes and will instead use the nine-digit number from the personnel management information system as the employee ID number in the central payroll system. There are still a few payroll and benefits forms that legally require the use of SSNs. However, these forms are delivered directly to HR and payroll staff who will continue to be responsible for their physical security.

There are several ways to retrieve your state employee ID number. For employees who have COVA Care, the new number consists of the same seven digits that appear on the COVA Care benefits card, preceded by two zeroes. (For example, if the COVA Care card number is YTX1234567XU, the employee ID number will be 001234567.) Additionally, the same seven digits used as the Employee Direct ID will be the new state employee ID number, preceded by two zeroes. Also, within the HR E-service system, under “Employee Self Service Job Information” employees will have access to the new payroll ID number as well as the Peoplesoft EmplID. The new identification numbers can be temporarily retrieved by visiting https://secure.doa.virginia.gov/payline/EENo/Employee_Number_Search.cfm and entering your social security number. Contact Stacy Pendleton at spendleton@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3050 with any questions.
**Annandale Student Services Event a Success**

“Connecting the Dots for Integrated Student Services” was the theme of the Student Services Day of Learning held last month at the Annandale Campus.

The event opened with a welcome from Dr. Victor E. Bibbins, Sr., dean of student development (MA), Dr. Barbara Saperstone, provost (AN), Dr. John Thrash, dean of student development (AN) and Dr. Elizabeth Harper, associate vice president of student services and enrollment management.

Dr. John Dever, executive vice president of academic and student services, provided information about critical updates on the horizon. He focused on “Access, Success and Excellence” which provide tools needed for “Achieving the Dream.”

Dever’s remarks were followed by a panel of student leaders from each campus and guest speaker Darling G. Villena-Mata, psychology (WO), who pronounced the need for more international and multicultural outreach on and between campuses. Following her presentation, the group was led in a panel discussion by Beatrice Veney, lead dean for the student activities leadership team.

The event ended with breakout sessions which provided vital information to help alleviate student services complications.

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**Former Student Exhibits at Manassas**

Photographs by former NOVA student Miriam Heishman are on display at the Manassas Campus until April 23. Many of the photos were taken in state parks, at the site of ruins and in holy places in New Mexico. Other photos were captured in Washington, D.C., at such places as the Smithsonian Castle gardens, the United States Botanic Gardens and the National Geographic Society.

“This collection represents the ideas of timelessness and the transitory nature of our existence,” Heishman explained. “Through the stone and wood carvings, I see the transitory nature of all cultures and also the desire for every culture to make its mark. Yet, for me, the very act of capturing these moments in time takes the image out of its time.”

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**Woodruff Featured as Speaker at Honors Event**

The College Honors Program is pleased to announce that Judy Woodruff will be the featured guest speaker for its year-end event on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wachovia Forum of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center on the Alexandria Campus. For 12 years, Woodruff was an anchor and senior correspondent for CNN. She was also the host of “Inside Politics,” the nation’s first television program devoted solely to politics. In addition, she served as a host on PBS’s “Frontline” and currently appears as a senior correspondent for the “Lehrer NewsHour,” also on PBS.

Among her many accomplishments, Woodruff has won an Emmy for her coverage of the 1996 bombing at Olympic Park and has received an Edward R. Murrow Award for her coverage of the 9/11 attacks. Her topic at the April 11 event will be “Politics and Journalism.” The event is free and open to the public.
Phares Wins with the Aid of an Angel

Gary Phares, automotive (MA) had a disappointing racing season last year. Despite 20 years of experience, he didn’t make it to a single final round of competition. So he decided to make some changes with help from the late Bob Worden, former welding instructor at the Manassas Campus.

“Over the winter, Bob and I completed a major upgrade on my dragster, cutting the rear frame off 12 inches behind the engine and welding on an entire rear clip with a four-link suspension and adjustable shocks,” Phares reports. “Bob spent hours on this project and it wasn’t the first time he had worked on my dragster. He was always willing to help. The day we finished this latest upgrade, we sat and talked about how great everything looked.”

At the time, Phares had no idea that would be his last conversation with his longtime colleague and friend. The next day, Worden passed away unexpectedly.

Recently, Phares tested his improved car in the King of the Hill race at Sumerduck Dragway. Competing against all the points winners from last year, Phares won six rounds of racing and was named King of the Hill for 2007.

Phares’ first thought was to share his gratitude with the man who helped make the win possible. “After the race, I said a word of thanks to Bob, who I am sure was beaming over my shoulder.”

Gary Phares (left) celebrated his King of the Hill win with his wife, Ann, and father, Luther, after giving thanks to the late Bob Worden.

NOVA Financial Aid Hosts Second “Super Saturday”

Due to the success of February’s “Super Saturday,” NOVA will host another financial aid event on April 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Ernst Center forum. Current and prospective students and their families will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a financial aid professional to complete their applications. Representatives from the College, the College Board and Sallie Mae will be on hand throughout the day. Presentations will include “Completing the FAFSA,” “Money Management and Credit Card Smarts,” “Being a Smart Online Applicant,” “You’ve Filed – What’s Next,” “Grants, Loans and Scholarships” and “Information Session for Transfer Students.”

Students from local high schools and their parents are also welcome. For more information, visit the financial aid Web page at http://www.nvcc.edu/finance. This is a free event; light refreshments will be served.

This Week’s TV Center Link Features Nova Idol

If you can’t make it to the Schlesinger Center to watch Nova Idol in person on April 6 at 7:00 pm, NVCC-TV is going to stream it live at this URL: http://www.nvcc.edu/tvcenter/nova_idol_live.htm.
In response to student requests, the Manassas Campus has formed a men’s intramural basketball team to promote lifelong recreation and healthy competition among the students.

It all started when students Stanley Clark, Jeffrey Payne and Louis Gaskins approached Student Activities Coordinator J.T. Thomas about forming a team. Thomas polled the faculty for an advisor and found a mathematics instructor who thought it was a good idea.

With financial support from Provost Hortense Hinton and Dean of Student Development Victor E. Bibbins, the dream became a reality and a group began practicing twice a week at the Freedom Center. The team then went on to enter a men’s league at Hoop Magic Sports Academy in Chantilly where they play on Sunday afternoons. As the league season comes to an end, the men will begin organizing an outdoor three on three tournament for the Manassas Campus during late April and early May. The team hopes to continue this intramural program into the fall semester and expand it to include a women’s team as well. The Manassas Campus would like to challenge the other campuses to form intramural teams so that NOVA could operate its own competition league during the fall and spring semesters.

For more information, contact Coach Pat Lazzarino at plazzarino@nvcc.edu or Assistant Coach Pat Martin-Mattocks at pmartinmattocks@nvcc.edu.

The newly-formed Manassas Campus Men’s Basketball team is ready to play and looking for intramural competition.

Documentary Club Screens Sony Film

The Documentary Club of the Loudoun Campus, in conjunction with the Loudoun County Committee for a Sustainable Society, will sponsor a screening of the Sony Classics film, Who Killed the Electric Car, which chronicles the life and death of the EV1, General Motors’ innovative fuel-efficient car on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Waddell theater.

The film investigates the mysterious and deliberate destruction of the GM fleet of all-electric cars in the Arizona desert in 2004. The film’s director, Chris Paine will be available for comments, as well as former EV1 sales specialist, Chelsea Sexton. Two operational electric cars will also be on display. The event is free and open to the public, although donations are accepted. For more information, contact Jennifer Lerner at 703-450-2514 or jlerner@nvcc.edu.

Board Member Finds Sweet Opportunity

What timing! NVCC Board member Lorenzo Esters (left) visited the Woodbridge Campus and “caught” Provost Sam Hill scooping ice cream for faculty and staff to celebrate increased enrollments. Esters, who was talked into sampling the sweet stuff, represents the City of Alexandria.

We want your news!

Check out the Intercom submission guidelines at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm
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  11:00 a.m. Money Management and Credit Card Smarts
  11:30 a.m. Being a Smart Online Applicant
  12:30 p.m. You’ve filed—What’s Next?
  1:00 p.m. Grants, Loans and Scholarships
  1:30 p.m. NVCC Information Session for Transfer Students

For more information visit www.nvcc.edu/finance or contact 703-323-3199.

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