Manassas Campus’ 16th Annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon

Manassas Campus faculty, staff and students kicked-off the holiday season with the 16th Annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon on December 2. Over 150 local seniors arrived on campus for this joyous occasion. The Campus is proud to host this event each year to provide entertainment, lunch and gifts to community friends. It is an opportunity to show appreciation for the wonderful seniors who live in the community and who have contributed so much.

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Faculty Patricia Gary, former faculty member Gail Hunter and her father Moses Hunter.

Guests for the luncheon declare “I won a poinsetta!”
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Manassas Campus’ 16th Annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon

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Without all of the support of the Manassas Campus faculty, staff and students, this event would simply not be possible. A huge “thank you” to all who gave of their time. The event was truly a success, and the Manassas Campus looks forward to hosting it again next year!

Faculty, staff and students entertaining the seniors and guests.

Faculty Pam Kramer giving a gift to guest Flora Casey.

Pictured above: Asante Clarke of Counseling Services and Marge Shaffer of the IT Department.

Pictured right: Manassas Campus Ambassadors greet and serve guests.
The Asian Student Association (ASA) sponsored the first Thanksgiving Dinner at the Alexandria Campus on November 25 for more than 50 students. This event was also supported by the generous donations of faculty. The dinner, which was open to all students, involved a large number of international students, some of whom stated that they would not be celebrating Thanksgiving because their family and friends were living outside of the United States.

Division Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences Jim McClellan provided students with the background on the origin and meaning of Thanksgiving in the United States. ASA Faculty Advisor Virginia Cabasa-Hess transformed the meeting room into a traditional Thanksgiving dining room, instructing guests at each of the seven tables on the art of carving their turkeys. The dinner provided a true sense of community for all who attended and may be scheduled as an annual event at the Alexandria Campus in the future.

Pictured top right: Jim McClellan (seated in the center) gathered with students, who are all smiles.

Pictured bottom right: Lam Le, president of the Asian Student Association (ASA), (center) and ASA Faculty Advisor Virginia Cabasa-Hess (right of center in purple).
Alexandria Campus Canned Food Drive

The Student Government Association and the Student Ambassador Club sponsored a canned food drive at the Alexandria Campus through the month of November. Many faculty, students and staff contributed to the effort. More than 17 boxes of food were delivered to the Capital Food Bank in Fairfax (which also serves Alexandria) on November 25. The "Food for Others" organization recorded a total of 574 pounds of food donated through this food drive. The next community service initiative will be a clothing drive!

Left to right: Phillip Han, Jennifer Abbott, Student Chris Mastromarino (Student Government Association president) and Patricia Gordon, Office of Student Activities.

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.

The first annual Annandale Campus Lake Clean Up took place on November 18. As the first snow flakes of the season dusted the banks of the lake, members of the Recreation & Parks Society (RPK), Student Government Association (SGA) and VAAPA assembled for duty under the direction of Nancy Chamberlain (AN), assistant dean, Department of Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services.

With the lake at its lowest level in some time, the RPK Society decided it was time to do something about the trash that was in and around the lake. Without going for a swim, they removed as much trash as possible.

With “Hot Hands” in supply, extra jackets readied, hand-washing units on stand by and first aid kits in the garden cart, the groups committed to the effort. They had teams to handle bag throwing, rope duty and safety patrol. They were eager and motivated as heard by the exclamations of volunteers, “Wow, there are fish,” “I found a turtle shell,” “This is its own ecosystem” and “It is really too bad that people throw trash in the pretty lake.” The only casualty of the event was a shoe lost in the muck. Rather than leave it for posterity, the shoe was rescued and the student washed thoroughly.

After completing the clean up, the group took a moment to consider how much was collected. They
Faculty and staff enjoyed an informative “Financial Literacy” presentation by Finance Professor **Larry Edwards** on November 7. Edwards shared insights and strategies for responding to the recession and concerns about retirement investments. The Faculty Focus workshop was sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Faculty workshops and other events are posted on the CETL Web site at [http://www.nvcc.edu/CETL](http://www.nvcc.edu/CETL).

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**Annandale Campus Lake Clean Up**

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found a great deal of glass, soda cans, bottle tops, plastic bags, zip ties, turtle bones and pens. There was also a lot of cigarette butts, and they were still intact! A truck tire, a concrete planter, large pieces of construction lumber, a chair and a stanchion pole were among the largest items retrieved. They even found a license plate and a hub cap. Speculation remains as to the location of the remainder of the vehicle. The most delicate item retrieved was a Metro bus ticket from 2000. There were also reusable items found such as golf balls.

As Chamberlain drove away from the lake with a pick-up truck full of trash, she heard students say “If I ever see anyone throw trash in that lake, I will get after them!” The lesson of ownership, civic and personal responsibility was definitely learned!

Let us all do our part today to keep NOVA Campuses and our communities clean — reduce, reuse, recy-
“Look What the Light is Doing” at the Waddell Art Gallery

Currently on exhibit in the Loudoun Campus Waddell Art Gallery is “Look What the Light is Doing…” digital photographs by Mark Worthington. This exhibit runs through December 12. Gallery hours are 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., from Monday through Friday. The gallery is closed on the weekends.

The public was welcome to attend. Besides his hobby as an artist, Worthington works full-time as an IT support specialist at the Loudoun Campus.

2009 Power Up Your Pedagogy Conference

Mark your calendars for January 7 and 8 for faculty professional development. The annual conference on teaching and learning, Power Up Your Pedagogy (PUP), will be held on the Annandale Campus. President Robert G. Templin, Jr. and Executive Vice President John Dever will be the keynote speakers. The PUP conference is by and for NOVA faculty, and there are over 60 presentations planned for you.

January 8 is also NOVA’s Cross Campus Day with discipline cluster meetings in the afternoon. A continental breakfast and lunches will be provided on both days. Faculty are asked to pre-register as this will give us a better head-count and we will know what special accommodations we need to make. Please encourage your colleagues to register as well at http://survey.vccs.edu/ss/WSB.DLL/Yzhou/CCPD2009.htm.

Early registration is not required and there is no registration fee. If you have not registered, please do so. So far we have over 60 presentations and just 39 registrants, so please make sure you register.

This year’s PUP is co-sponsored by Academic Services, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), the Extended Learning Institute (ELI), Human Resources (HR) and Technology Applications Center (TAC).

Volunteers are also appreciated. In order to sign up to volunteer, go online to: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=xSEh3f6xiQ7juuQPv2tg_3d_3d

All faculty, full-time, adjunct, new, emeriti, credit and non-credit, are welcome. For more information go to http://www.nvcc.edu/CETL.

Meeting: VRS Change in Vendors for the Deferred Compensation Plan

The Virginia Retirement System has announced a change in vendors for the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Deferred Compensation Plan. The new vendor is ING, replacing Great-West Services. ING is scheduled for a presentation here at NOVA on December 19 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Seminar Rooms C and D in the Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus. No registration is required.

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about ING and their administration of the governmental 457 plan beginning January 5, 2009.
NOVA Team Completes Duplicate ID Project

In November, NOVA staff completed its portion of the massive Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Duplicate EMPLID Project ahead of schedule. NOVA is one of only 12 colleges to accomplish this task. The project was designed to resolve problems for thousands of students who had more than one ID on the PeopleSoft Student Information System. These duplicate IDs complicated financial aid, transcripts and transfer for these students. NOVA staff put in more than 2,711 person-hours since September 2007 to resolve 3,665 duplicate IDs. While there are still duplicate IDs that could not be resolved, and many old duplicates that fell outside of the students and dates covered by the VCCS project, this effort will be a significant improvement for thousands of current students.

Participating on the NOVA Duplicate ID Process Committee that initially helped develop the business processes, forms and procedures for mounting this huge college-wide effort were: Rita Bender, Art Cavanagh, Tiffany Chau, Kimberly Ellis, Ann-Danae Erickson, Godfrey Ezeigbo, Michelle Gee, Beth Harper, Gert Heslin, Michael Howard, Zina Jemison, Martha Kossoff, Oscar Larson, Hoang Le, Sue Liller, Yoo-Kyang Lee, Pam McCray, Doug Michel, Nga Ngo, Esther Perantoni, Jeff Sager, Sharon Shue, Cathy Simpson, Rae Smith-Watson, Angel Thomas, Jayne Townend, Comfort Uanswerume and Kathy Vessey.

Participating from the Campus Student Service Centers to identify master student IDs, as well as review and certify the accuracy of merged student records were: Rita Archer, Ellis, Erickson, Heslin, Howard, Jemison, Theresa Le, Lee Liu, France Meneely, Niki Neal, Thuy Tien Nga-Nguyen, Maria Saunders, Townend and Uanswerume.

Participating from College Information Services to directly complete the record merging tasks or indirectly picking up tasks for those committed to the project were: Richard Bautista, Cavanagh, Chau, Robin Gold, Oscar Larson, Hoa Le, Liller, Mingfang Liu, Wayne Marple, Doug Michel, Jeff Petrarca, Sushie Rath, Travis Robertson, Dale Seward, Thomas and Vessey.

Thanks to all who made this possible. Your hard work is truly appreciated.

In the News:

“Virginia’s Community Colleges served more than one third of last year’s bachelor’s degree earners”

The impact the Virginia Community Colleges System (VCCS) is making on higher education state-wide is exceptional. The VCCS reports “that more than 36 percent of bachelor’s degree recipients at Virginia’s public and private colleges and universities had attended a Virginia Community College.” They also note that, “…of those students who earned an associate’s degree and went on to earn their bachelor’s degree, nearly half – or 48 percent – took developmental education coursework.”

Thank you, NOVA faculty and staff, for your dedication. NOVA is certainly a part of this success, and your efforts are truly appreciated.

To read more about the work of Virginia community colleges, go online to: http://myfuture.vccs.edu/NewsEvents/NewsReleases/tabid/250/newsid584/245/Default.aspx.
One childhood dream, shared by two women from two different countries in two different continents, coming from two different cultures, was to travel and experience the wonders of down under, also known as Australia.

Each knew nothing of each other as they sat across the conference table in an orientation for the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). All they knew was that they had been selected to attend the CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar. Only when their names and placement countries were read aloud to the group did they realize that they were about to embark on an unforgettable journey together.

The dream of travel became a reality this summer for Professor Reva Savkar, Chemistry and Professor Nancy Chamberlain, Recreation, Parks & Leisure Services. They participated in the "Water & Climate Change: The Reefs & Waterways of Australia" seminar. We traveled over 2,000 miles by boat, train and airplane across the eastern half of the Australian continent visiting with ecologists, wildlife managers, land managers, tribal owners, water resource managers, farmers, educators and politicians.

The availability of fresh water and the impact of the 10-year drought were central themes in ongoing political, social and scientific discussion. The politics of human need versus environmental need was pivotal to the scientific community while the allocation and entitlement to the water resource was also essential to the farming community and to the city governments. Regardless of one's perspective, everyone agreed that there was little water everywhere, no rain and diminishing water reserves.

The goal of CIEE International Faculty Development Seminars (IFDS) participation is to increase the awareness of the faculty so they may include global perspectives in the classroom. The participation reaffirmed Chamberlain and Savkar's belief that people are people wherever one travels! The proof was in the water! The perceptions of water availability and the politics of water were the same in Australia as they are in the US. Two perspectives ring true on both continents: the prevailing attitude that rain will eventually come to the drought-stricken areas and that human demand out-weighs the need of the environment. The troubled Murray-Darling Basin (Australia) suffers much as the Colorado River Basin (U.S.) suffers from increased demand and a reduction in rainfall.

The message they took from their CIEE experience is that water is a precious commodity While oil dominates today's news, some scholars suggest that water will drive future challenges and conflicts throughout the world. Has anyone seen the new James Bond movie "Quantum of Solace?" The enviro-war is fought over fresh water - the "new oil."

This trip gave them both perspective. Having new experiences and/or experiences that reinforce their knowledge and beliefs provides fuel for renewed vision and problem-solving. Chamberlain and Savkar are thankful for the opportunity and encourage anyone interested to apply for the CIEE program, and send a fond "Gooday Mate!” to all.
The twelve-day Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) seminar in Dakar, Senegal, studied the impact of global exchanges and migration on indigenous Senegalese traditions. Memuna Sillah was privileged to attend. It began with a tour of Dakar, where cows and cars shared the streets with ease, next to outside cafes and patisseries. Sillah and her group attended lectures on religion, state separation, women and migration. Dakar’s colorful marketplaces were teeming with goods from all over the world.

Ninety percent of Sengalese are Moslems, including the vibrant youth. As a result of a religious teachings of the Mourid Brotherhood centering on the perception of hard physical work as a form of prayer, coupled with appreciation of the success of black boxers in the U.S., and the modern preoccupation with good health and exercise, chest-pumping youth can be seen every evening in massive group exercise sessions at the Dakar beach.

The group’s first visit outside of Dakar was a 30-minute ferry ride to the old Slave House on Goree Island, from where African captives were shipped for the transatlantic voyage into slavery in the United States. The Island also hosts a museum of women’s achievements. They also spent two nights at an artistic center in the fishing village of Toubab Dialow and received lessons in drumming, dance and tie dying.

From Sabo Bade, Sillah’s group drove three hours further North of Dakar, to the Mourid Holy City of Touba. Senegal is divided into four major Brotherhoods: Mourids, Tijanis, Layenes and Qadriyya, with the Mourids, a mercantile class, sitting atop influence in politics and the youth. It was a wonderful and eye-opening opportunity.
**Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign**

The Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) is well underway. The **December 15 deadline** for pledging your donation is fast approaching. Please view the Intercom attachment section for more details on how you may participate in the CVC through payroll deduction or online pledging, among other convenient options. Thank you in advance for your support of this worthy endeavor!

**Mileage Rate Regulations**

Effective July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, the mileage rate is 58.5 cents per mile. However, please be aware of the following regulations.

From January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008, the personal mileage rate was 50.5 cents per mile and from July 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2008 it was changed to 58.5 cents per mile if your travel is local or your trip averages less than 100 miles per day. If you travel locally on a “normal” workday, you are only entitled to be reimbursed for the *excess* mileage that you drive that day. The excess mileage is the actual mileage driven minus your normal commuting distance. This does not apply to overnight trips.

If your trip averages more than 100 miles per day, you are entitled to 50.5 cents or 58.5 cents per mile, depending upon the date of travel. **If a state car is not available and it would cost more to rent a car for the trip.** If a state car is available and you decide to drive your own car, you will receive 24.6 cents per mile. If the rental car (with added expenses as described below) is cheaper and you decide to drive, you will be reimbursed at the 24.6 cent rate.

You can request a state vehicle by contacting Cathy Magalis at 703-323-3798. For a car rental, the state has a contract with Enterprise Leasing to provide cars for short-term travel. When preparing for a trip that averages more than 100 miles per day, visit [http://www.dgs.virginia.gov/fleet.aspx](http://www.dgs.virginia.gov/fleet.aspx) and click on “Travel Planning” to use the trip calculator to determine costs. The calculator will provide a cost benefit analysis between driving your personal vehicle at the 58.5 cent rate and renting one from Enterprise. Please note that the trip calculator does not include the cost of gas that you would spend if you rented the car. For estimate purposes, assume a gas usage rate of 20 miles per gallon and a cost of approximately $4.00 per gallon (adjust, based on current price). Add that cost into the total rental cost. Also you might need to rent the car an extra day depending on the time you need to travel. If you find it is cheaper to use your own vehicle, you will be reimbursed the full 58.5 cents per mile, provided you attach a printout of the trip calculator (with the added expenses) to your travel reimbursement form. If it is cheaper for you to rent a car, but you decide to drive your own, you will be reimbursed 24.6 cents per mile. All rental reservations must be made via the Enterprise Web site or by phone at least 24 hours in advance of the anticipated vehicle pickup.

**Effective January 1, 2009 the mileage rate for personally owned vehicles will be 55 cents; this is a change from the current rate of 58.5 cents.** Make sure to see the December 19 edition of the Intercom for more details regarding 2009 rates.

**Learning Communities Proposal Coming Soon**

Thinking of doing a Learning Community at NOVA? Learning Communities combines the content of two or more courses. A common cohort of students enrolls in the linked classes and faculty work together on shared assignments and learning opportunities. The goal is to build community and to foster connections among students, among students and their professors and in various disciplines. Learning Communities provide an opportunity for students to build a supportive academic network and to make connections with NOVA.

For further reading, please visit [http://www.evergreen.edu/washcenter/lcfaq.htm](http://www.evergreen.edu/washcenter/lcfaq.htm). A description of the process to schedule a learning community for fall 2009 is coming soon in the Intercom.
George Mason University (GMU) Army ROTC Program proudly announces its first $28,000 financial award to a NOVA student who completed ROTC classes at NOVA. Wei Chih (Steve) Tong of Springfield completed Military Science (MSC) courses 111 and 112 through the joint NOVA-GMU program held on the Annandale Campus. Tong is a member of the Virginia National Guard and has been deployed to Iraq. He is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and we acknowledge his accomplishment.

The total value of a two-year scholarship for an incoming junior at GMU is $28,000. This includes tuition at the in-state rate, a textbook allowance and a monthly stipend towards the goal of a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Currently, 31 NOVA students are taking MSC courses at Annandale. MSC Courses will also be offered in spring 2009 at the Annandale Campus. For further program information, contact Major Todd Sipe, assistant professor of Military Science, GMU at 703-993-9020.
NOVA Manassas Symphony Orchestra

James Villani
Music Director

FAMILY CONCERT: Moo-sic of the Old West
DECEMBER 13, 2008, 3:00 PM

Presented by NOVEC

Glenn Smith - Cowgirl Rosie and Her Five Baby Bison (World Premiere)
Aaron Copland – Rodeo: Hoe-Down
Ferde Grofé – On The Trail
Plus other surprises and seasonal favorites

Adults: $10  Seniors: $5
Students & Children: Free
For tickets and information:
Phone 703-257-6500 x47737
Email info@manassassymphony.org

Grace United Methodist Church
9750 Wellington Road, Manassas, Virginia

WWW.MANASSASSYMPHONY.ORG
2008 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC)  
“What $2 Can Do”

The CVC is a wonderful tool that facilitates State Employee giving through December 15. Employees may designate their gift to a specific charity or multiple charities in the campaign. With over 1300 charities, there are plenty of choices for employee contributions. New this year is the slogan “What $2 Can Do.” Pledging just $2 per pay period can make a difference over the course of a year to a worthy cause.

Here are some benefits of participating in the CVC for your charitable contributions:

- All charities participating in the CVC have been pre-screened to insure that they are fiscally sound and that they perform the services stated.
- Payroll deduction allows you to budget your contribution throughout the year.
- Giving through the CVC minimizes the intrusive personal solicitations that might occur if you participate in multiple direct fundraising drives.
- The CVC accepts contributions from cash, check, payroll deduction, stock or credit card gifts.
- Online pledging through Employee Direct makes donating easier than ever.

Please visit the CVC website today to donate to the charity of your choice: http://www.cvc.vipnet.org. You may also contact Kelly Bacon in Human Resources for more information: kbacon@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3596. Each campus also has a Coordinator where you may obtain pledge materials. Look for signs at your location to identify your Campus Coordinator.
SOME TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR THE SAVVY TRAVELER

- There is a user-friendly per diem calculator that many travelers use at http://www.vccs.edu/services/perdiem

- If a traveler must pay the airlines for extra baggage, the cost is reimbursable but there must be an explanation on the travel expense reimbursement voucher for the necessity of checking an extra bag.

- If you need to rent a car, do not enter into any agreement to pay a fuel charge at the time of rental or when you return it to the rental agency.

- If you rent a car, decline any extra insurance that the rental company offers. The Division of Risk Management covers any damages or liability if you are negligent or “at fault”. For damages caused when no fault can be determined or if caused by weather or any other uncontrollable act, the college will be responsible for the repair to the vehicle.