Majewski Receives Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award

Walerian Majewski (AN), professor of physics, is the recipient of the Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award (OFA) for 2008. This prestigious award is sponsored by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Dominion Foundation, and it is the highest honor bestowed to faculty.

Since 1982, Majewski’s distinguished record of teaching, service and scholarship has been a remarkable asset to NOVA. He is an exceptional physics educator and has continued to have a special place in the hearts of students. Majewski is known for being enthusiastic and making physics exciting. Because he recognizes that many students have not taken physics in high school, he works very hard to provide for each student’s needs within his classroom. His endearing approach has brought other accolades to include being named the Faculty of the Year three times by the NVCC Alumni Federation and named the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Chancellor’s Commonwealth Professor twice.

Majewski also established the local chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and serves as the advisor. Their chapter has received five Outstanding Chapter awards, and he inspires SPS members to do community outreach in the public schools. He often organizes trips with students to off-campus physics laboratories to expose them to real-life research. He has developed seven online physics courses and was the first to teach honors physics courses and to use it in his electronic physics textbooks.

Before coming to NOVA, Majewski devoted years of research to Theoretical Elementary Particle Physics. He produced research publications in journals on weak interactions, symmetries of strong interactions, parity violation in atoms and processes in strong electromagnetic fields. He also presented at international conferences and pursued research at some of the most respected laboratories in the world. His research has led him to the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna in Russia; the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland; the University of Missouri; Harvard University; Brandeis University and the University of Maryland, among others.

Majewski received his Ph.D. in physics from the Institute of Physics, Polish

Continued on page 2
Majewski Receives Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award
Continued from page 1

Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland. He has also taught as a visiting professor at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri and later at George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax. Over the years this multi-talented professor has taught the full range of 25 different physics courses – lectures and laboratories.

This is only a brief glimpse into the accomplished life of this scholar. Along with 11 other recipients, Majewski will be recognized in an awards ceremony that will take place on February 20 at 1:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond. He is the sixth NOVA faculty member to receive this honor, and the third NOVA recipient in the past three years. NOVA congratulates Majewski on this wonderful accomplishment.

For photos and information about each of this year’s recipients, go online to: http://www.schev.edu/AdminFaculty/OFAprogramIndex.asp.

LexisNexis Academic Comes to NOVA

The NOVA Libraries are happy to announce the acquisition of LexisNexis Academic. This database provides access to over 5 billion searchable documents from news, business and legal sources. LexisNexis Academic joins two other products, LexisNexis Congressional and LexisNexis Statistical to provide NOVA users with unparalleled access to full-text online resources. Use LexisNexis to find national and international news, law reviews, Supreme Court and other cases, U.S. Legislation, company financial and industry information as well as a wide range of statistical tables. Visit your campus library today to learn more or explore LexisNexis from the Library home page:
http://www.nvcc.edu/Library/databases.htm

You can also keep up to date through the library blog at:
http://alexandrialibrary.blogspot.com/
Rebhan’s Photography on Exhibit

Professor of photography Gail Rebhan’s (WO) work is being shown in an exhibition titled, “Digital Sequences: Gail Rebhan and Chris Jordan” at Montpelier Arts Center in Laurel, Maryland. It showcases new approaches to photography in the digital age. Jordan’s series, “Running the Numbers” has been highlighted on both Bill Moyers Journal and The Steven Colbert Report.

Rebhan’s latest work explores consumerism closer to home in the series, “Room.”

A gallery talk and reception will be held on February 1 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and a lecture will be on February 23 at 3:30 p.m. Shannon Perich, associate curator, Smithsonian Museum of American History, on Emerging History of Digital Photography will be speaking. For more information go to http://www.pgparks.com/places/artsfac/mac.html.


Loudoun Campus Veterinary Technology Program Cares

The Veterinary Technology Department on the Loudoun Campus has a motto, “It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing.” With this in mind, they became a proud participant of Pet Pantry. Pet Pantry is a project of the Loudoun County Department of Animal Care and Control’s award-winning Companion Animal Resource Effort (C.A.R.E.) program, which works year-round to assist low income families. C.A.R.E. is dedicated to providing pet owners in need with financial assistance, goods and services for their companion animals. The organization assists individuals in keeping and caring for their beloved companion animals, when they might otherwise be unable to do so.

The magic of the holiday season showed through and the saying “We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals” became a reality as the Veterinary Technology Program along with other Loudoun Campus animal lovers proudly collected 400 lbs of pet food and treats for C.A.R.E. Thank you to all who participated—it was a great success!

To learn more about C.A.R.E. and other animal care efforts in Loudoun County, go to: http://www.loudoun.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=1174.
Climate Change Teach-In Activities and Events

There is an overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is real, that it is being strongly influenced by human activity and that the potential consequences for planet Earth and those who inhabit the Earth are significant. On January 30-February 1 over 1400 of America’s colleges and universities will host programs and activities designed to focus college and community attention on the topic and on what can be done to help. Each of NOVA’s six campuses is hosting climate change events over the three days. A large event is being held on February 1 at the Annandale Campus, and the entire NOVA community is invited to attend. To see details on each campus’ activities, view pages 7 - 9 in the attachment section and go online to http://www.nvcc.edu/committees/green/.

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Advisory Council Meeting

Please join the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Advisory Council for its next meeting on February 1 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in CG 202 on the Annandale Campus. For more information, contact Nan Peck at npeck@nvcc.edu and see the flyer in the attachment section.

2007-2008 Faculty of the Year Nominations

The NVCC Alumni Federation is once again calling for nominations for the 2007-2008 Faculty of the Year awards. Only alumni and students of NOVA may nominate full-time teaching faculty for these awards. A nominating form may be printed from the Alumni Web site at www.nvcc.edu/alumni under “Faculty Recognition.” Nominating forms may also be found at your campus Information Desk and Learning Resource Centers. The deadline for nominations is March 31. The reception honoring nominated faculty and announcing the Campus winners will be held on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Forum. For further information, please contact Bonnie Idle, alumni coordinator, at 703-323-3749.

Virginia Retirement System To Host Events

On March 18, the Virginia Retirement System will be hosting a Retirement Education Seminar (RES) from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and a Group Counseling Session (GCS) from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Both events will occur on the Annandale Campus in the Ernst Cultural Center Forum.

For more information on the RES and GCS go to, http://www.varetire.org/Members/RetPlanning/Index.asp.

To register and to view the Annandale Campus map, go to http://www.varetire.org/Members/RetPlanning/Schedule.asp.
HOT TOPICS

Mandated Reference and Background Check Policy

A new College policy was put into place and effective January 1, 2008. Mandated by VCCS, the Reference and Background Check Policy applies to all employees hired after the first of this year—whether they are full-time or part-time, teaching, administrative, professional faculty, classified staff or wage employees. Work-study students and student hire positions are not covered by this policy, nor are employees who transfer to other positions within Northern Virginia Community College. Employees rehired within 18 months of their last assignments are not required to undergo a background check if a background check that is appropriate to the new position had previously been completed. Employees rehired more than 18 months after their last assignment are subject to this policy on background investigations. Passing a background check is a condition of employment.

Once a candidate is recommended to Human Resources (HR) for hire at NOVA, he or she will be subject to the standard background check. The standard review includes a check of: social security number verification, driver’s license check, national/state criminal history, residential history and sexual offender registry check. More in-depth background checks may apply but are not limited to, those college positions designated by the College as being directly responsible for health, safety and welfare of the general populace, protection of critical infrastructures and/or direct financial responsibility. The purpose of the background check policy is to promote a safe environment and protect the welfare of students, employees and visitors to the College.

Please see the HR Web site for further information about this policy or contact HR if you have additional questions.

Reading Across the Curriculum Initiative Offers Support

Celebration Reading offers faculty, staff and students an opportunity to prepare for and fund celebrations of Black History Month (February), Women’s History Month (March) and National Poetry Month (April). Preparations may be developed for content courses or for public events. For more information, contact Linda Simmons at LSimmons@nvcc.edu.

GOT NEWS? Let Your Colleagues Hear From You!

What is happening at your campus? Who is setting trends? Have you presented at a conference? What events are coming up?

Check out the submission guidelines at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm.

E-mail your article to Intercom@nvcc.edu!

Deadlines are Fridays at 5:00 p.m. for the following week’s edition.
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Advisory Council Meeting
All are Welcome to Join Us

Friday, February 1, 9:30-11:30,
CG 202, Annandale Campus
Human burning of coal and oil is causing the Earth’s atmosphere to retain heat. This **global warming** is destabilizing the climate that humanity has enjoyed for its entire existence. In the next century, the planet’s temperature is predicted to increase by several degrees. This melts ice caps and causes sea level to rise. Scientific consensus is clear: **this problem is real**, it is caused by humans, and **now is the time for society to act**.

Each of NOVA’s six campuses is hosting Climate Change events over those three days. A large event is being held on Friday, Feb. 1 at Annandale, and the entire NOVA community is invited to attend.

More details on all the different activities and how you can get involved can be found by visiting the web site at [http://www.nvcc.edu/committees/green/](http://www.nvcc.edu/committees/green/)

Some students have filmed a video appeal to faculty to get involved and make the event part of their classes for that day: [http://www.nvcc.edu/depts/woodbridge/teachin2008/](http://www.nvcc.edu/depts/woodbridge/teachin2008/)
Wednesday, January 30

7:30pm : Annandale campus

"The 2% Solution" webcast - CT Building, room 122
Free food and a viewing of this live, interactive webcast. Join Stanford University climate scientist, Stephen Schneider, sustainability expert Hunter Lovins and green jobs pioneer Van Jones and youth climate leaders, for a discussion of global warming solutions. Audiences can weigh in with cell phone voting. The event is free and open to the public.

Thursday, January 31

11am : Manassas campus
Colgan Theater (MC Building, room 226) "The business and moral case for stepping up climate leadership on campuses: and how graduates will benefit" Julian Keniry, Senior Director of Campus and Community Leadership, National Wildlife Foundation

12pm : Medical Education campus
MEC Forum, "brown bag" gathering: "Human health implications of climate change" Daria Amato, Assistant Professor of Nursing at NOVA Medical Education

12:30pm : Loudoun campus
Climate change symposium and panel discussion, featuring: "The geologic record of climate change. (emphasis on the past 2 million years) Bill Bour, Assistant Professor of Geology, NOVA Loudoun.

1pm : Alexandria campus
“Coal, Climate Change and Virginia: What Are the Connections?” Bisdorf Building, room 158. The event will feature a global overview of energy use and its impact on climate change presented by Dr. Victor Zabieliski, Assistant Professor of Geology at the Alexandria campus; and an update on current and proposed coal-fired plants in the Commonwealth of Virginia presented by Hannah Morgan, Virginia field organizer for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

2:30pm : Manassas campus
Colgan Theater (MC Building, room 226) "A geologist's perspective on climate change." Callan Bentley, Instructor of Geology at NOVA Annandale
12pm: Annandale campus

Climate change "Teach-In" - Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater
Parking restrictions have been waived from 11am until 4pm. The event is free and open to the public.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>A biologist's perspective &amp; call to action</td>
<td>Jill Caporale, Instructor of Biology at NOVA Annandale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Looking Backwards Into Our Future: A Unique Role for the Geological Archive</td>
<td>Ken Rasmussen, Professor of Geology at NOVA Annandale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Meltdown: how an invisible gas is changing our world</td>
<td>Callan Bentley, Instructor of Geology at NOVA Annandale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Human health implications of climate change</td>
<td>Daria Amato, Assistant Professor of Nursing at NOVA Medical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>The nuclear option</td>
<td>Craig Jensen, Professor of Physics at NOVA Annandale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>The potential of solar power</td>
<td>Scott Sklar, President of the Stella Group, Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>What can you do?</td>
<td>Paul Burman, Northern Virginia Coordinator for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Policies for climate change</td>
<td>Steve Fetter, Professor and Dean of the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Panel discussion</td>
<td>All speakers + audience questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>Concluding remarks</td>
<td>Jill Caporale, Instructor of Biology at NOVA Annandale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cookie reception to follow