Dr. Jill Biden Joins NOVA Faculty

Dr. Jill Biden, life-long educator and wife of Vice President Joseph Biden, has joined the faculty at the Alexandria Campus where she will teach two English courses during the spring semester.

“I am thrilled to return to the classroom to continue working with community college students, whom I greatly admire and enjoy teaching,” Biden said. “I have always believed in the power of community colleges to endow students with critical life skills and I am pleased that I can make a difference by doing what I love to do, teaching people who are excited to learn.”

Biden has been a teacher for more than 28 years, having spent 15 years teaching English composition at Delaware Technical and Community College. Prior to that, she worked as a reading specialist and English teacher in the Delaware public school system.

While working full-time and raising a family, Biden earned two master’s degrees: a master’s degree in English from Villanova University in 1987 and a master’s degree in reading from West Chester University in 1981. Biden earned a doctorate in education from the University of Delaware in 2007. Her dissertation focused on how to retain students in community colleges.

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Dr. Jill Biden Joins NOVA Faculty

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In addition to her work as a professor, Biden recognizes the critical importance of quality education to the nation’s economic well-being and to our communities and will continue to work to elevate these issues in the coming months.

How did Biden choose NOVA? When Division Dean Jim McClellan learned Biden might be moving to the area and wanted to continue teaching, he reached out to her. After several discussions and a couple of campus visits (with Secret Service inspections), this experienced teacher is back in the classroom, using her talents to help NOVA students achieve success. And the rest, as McClellan might tell his students, is history.

Ralph Eckerlin Receives Outstanding Faculty Award

Ralph P. Eckerlin, professor of Biology, has received the 2009 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and Dominion. Eckerlin is the only community college faculty member to receive the award this year.

Twelve faculty members from Virginia’s public and private colleges and universities received the award, the highest honor bestowed upon faculty in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The award recognizes excellence in teaching, research, knowledge integration and public service.

President Robert G. Templin Jr. congratulated Eckerlin on behalf of the College. “We are very pleased Dr. Eckerlin was selected for this prestigious honor. Throughout the years, Ralph has consistently demonstrated his strong commitment to teaching while also pursuing significant research in his field. His dedication was confirmed by the many letters of recommendation written by students and colleagues in support of his nomination,” Templin said.

Eckerlin has served with distinction at NOVA since 1971, teaching general biology, human anatomy and physiology, health science and invertebrate zoology courses. As a co-author of the biology laboratory manual in use at the Annandale Campus, he has influenced the education of thousands of students.

“I enjoy what I do and what I do mostly is teaching,” Eckerlin said. “I
have been a professional teacher for more than 40 years, and it is still a pleasure to get up in the morning and go to work. At the community college, we see the broadest spectrum of ages and abilities. The challenge for me is to try to reach all of them.”

Many of Eckerlin’s students have gone on to careers as physicians, nurses, scientists and teachers. A former student who is now a doctor wrote to Eckerlin: “I wanted to thank you for your contagious interest and love for life, as well as your inspiration to be passionate and generous.”

Believing hands-on training to be an important learning tool, Eckerlin has led or co-led several study trips to study tropical biology in such places as Mexico, Central America, the Bahamas and the West Indies, providing experiences that are unusual for community college students.

As a parasitologist with numerous interests, Eckerlin has described four new species of parasites: a protozoan, a louse and two fleas. He has also published on ticks, nematodes and trematodes.

Eckerlin is a prolific writer. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals, has contributed three book chapters and edited a volume of contributed papers for a book on Appalachian Biogeography for the Virginia Museum of Natural History. He has been a member of the editorial board for the journal Comparative Parasitology for 24 years and served that publication as editor for five years. He regularly reviews manuscripts for several other journals.

Eckerlin does not just belong to 14 professional organizations, he has an extensive record of service to those groups. In addition to serving as president of the Entomological Society of Washington, Helminthological Society of Washington, Virginia Association for Biological Education and the Tropical Medicine Association of Washington, he readily shares his expertise with many professional committees.

Eckerlin is the seventh NOVA faculty member to receive this honor and the fourth NOVA recipient in the past four years.

Eckerlin and the other 11 recipients will be recognized during a ceremony at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia where they will receive an engraved award and a $5,000 check underwritten by the Dominion Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Dominion. The Outstanding Faculty Award (OFA) program is administered by SCHEV and funded by a grant from the Dominion Foundation, which has fully supported the OFA program since 2005.

This year’s 102 applications were initially evaluated by a peer review committee comprised of former OFA recipients and other members of the higher education community. A final committee of Virginia community and academic leaders selected 12 recipients whose accomplishments strongly reflect the missions of their respective institutions. Since the first awards ceremony in 1987, a total of 268 Virginia faculty members, including the 2009 recipients, have received this high honor.

Read more about this year’s recipients at http://www.schev.edu/AdminFaculty/OFAProgramIndex.asp. Congratulations!

Cross Campus Day Power Up Your Pedagogy Evaluation
Tell Us What You Think!

You can easily complete your Cross Campus Day/Power Up Your Pedagogy (PUP) Conference evaluation online at: http://survey.vccs.edu/ss/wsb.dll/yzhou/PUPEVL09.htm.

Your input and feedback is so important to the planning process. Please take the time to complete the evaluation today and thank you in advance for your assistance.
Nearly 50 full-time faculty attended the NOVA New Faculty Orientation II session held January 9 on the Annandale Campus. Faculty shared with one another their surprises, insights and explored more instructional resources and responsibilities including academic advising, strategies for deeper learning, MERLOT and faculty governance. Faculty also learned more about measuring learning outcomes, professional development opportunities and workforce development. Faculty orientation is sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Handouts of these sessions are available on the CETL Web site at http://www.nvcc.edu/CETL.

The third and final orientation session for this cohort group is August 21.
The Lifelong Learning Institute Meet at the Manassas Campus

On January 14, Provost Hortense Hinton (MA) spoke to members of the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI). Hinton presented her vision of the future of the Manassas Campus along with the College and Campus strategic plans. The Manassas Campus has hosted LLI since 2003. It provides quality, affordable educational opportunities for adults 50 year of age and older. Speaker forums are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Colgan Hall. For more information please contact Marya Wysocki at mwysocki@nvcc.edu.

Community Outreach at the Manassas Campus

Last semester, the Manassas Campus participated in Home Instead Senior Care’s “Be A Santa to a Senior” program. The Manassas Campus sponsored a tree on the Campus in which faculty, staff and students selected an ornament and purchased a gift for a local senior. They collected 78 gifts for local seniors. The Manassas Campus looks forward to participating in many more community service activities. A big “thank you” to all who participated this year and helped to brighten the lives of local seniors.
More than 30 new adjunct teaching faculty gathered at the Annandale Campus on January 10 to meet and explore teaching resources, expectations and instructional norms. Andrew Goldstein, Annandale Campus evening administrator, sponsored the event. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning’s (CETL) Nan Peck served as emcee, with featured speakers including Provost Barbara Saperstone, Business Manager Rick Tittmann, Student Services Counselor Ellen Fancher-Ruiz, Learning Resource Services Director Michelle Woodford, Student Disability Services Director Carol Sweetser, Librarians Irene Osterman and Kevin Simons and Instructional Technology resources director Judith Gustafson. The IISS Faculty/Staff Resource Center and Technology Applications Center (TAC) offered afternoon workshops following a pizza lunch.

On January 9, the Virginia Latino Higher Education (VALHEN) launched its first statewide teleconference, connecting six sites throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Over 40 people from 20 colleges and universities, including representatives from Governor Tim Kaine’s Office, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and community organizations were present for its first official board meeting. The Woodbridge Campus hosted the NOVA teleconference.

In 2007, SCHEV, representatives from Governor Kaine’s Office, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), James Madison University (JMU) and other colleges and universities attended VALHEN’S initial meeting to help develop its goals and objectives. This included the Woodbridge Campus’ Provost Sam Hill and Faculty Gordon Cook and Darling Villena-Mata.

NOVA is proud to be one of the sponsor institutions. Many of VALHEN’s goals and objectives mirror that of NOVA’s Achieving the Dream.

Outreach, recruitment, retention and student success are the primary aims of VALHEN. Professional development via conferences, training and workshops, as well as providing support and exchange of funding information to administrators, faculty and others will be forthcoming. Additionally, NOVA job announcements may be sent to VALHEN. Likewise, NOVA VALHEN will also post job announcements from other parts of Virginia and the nation at large.

President Robert G. Templin, Jr. encourages all campuses to participate. NOVA VALHEN is openly inviting all faculty and administrators interested in joining. It is an inclusive group of Latino and non-Latino

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people interested in seeing Achieving the Dream become a reality for these students.

If you are interested or wish to receive additional information, please contact Villena-Mata, NOVA VALHEN representative, at dvillenamata@nvcc.edu or 703-878-5641.

NOVA VALHEN is a college-wide effort sponsored by the Office of the President.

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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.
Honors Program Speaker at the Alexandria Campus

The Honors Program at the Alexandria Campus is pleased to announce that its next Honors Hour speaker is Mike Tidwell. Tidwell is the founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grass roots non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the impacts and solutions associated with global warming in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, District of Columbia. He is also an author and filmmaker who predicted in vivid detail the Katrina hurricane disaster in his 2003 book “Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana’s Cajun Coast.” His newest book, focusing on Katrina and global warming, is entitled “The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Coming Death of America’s Coastal Cities.” Tidwell’s most recent documentary film “We Are All Smith Islanders” – graphically depicts the dangers of global warming in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

In 2003, Tidwell received the Audubon Naturalist Society’s prestigious “Conservation Award.” A longtime resident of Maryland, he lives in Takoma Park with his eleven-year old son Sasha.

The program, whose topic is global warming, will be at 1:00 p.m. on February 5 in the Bisdorf Building, Room 196. Everyone is invited.

Free Spanish Course

Come exercise your mind in Spanish! By popular request, this class is for those who already have a basic knowledge of the Spanish language. Your trainer will be Alicia María de la Torre Falzon, professor of Spanish. Employees who participated in any of Falzon’s other trainings for employees or classes for credit will enjoy this “next level” training opportunity. The objective is to build on basic Spanish language skills and provide college employees with exposure to the Spanish culture.

Open only to faculty and classified staff, this free course will meet on the Annandale Campus, weekly on Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. beginning February 11 and running through April 8 (no class during Spring Break).

To register, please send an e-mail to HRDtraining@nvcc.edu indicating that you wish to register. Please copy your supervisor if you need supervisory approval. Falzon will be using the same book that was used in previous classes. If you do not already have the textbook, you will need to purchase one. The cost is approximately $20.

All registrations will be confirmed with details about the training room location and the textbook. Contact Kathy Weiner in the Human Resources Office at kweiner@nvcc.edu if you have any questions about this wonderful professional development opportunity. ¡NOS VEMOS PRONTO!

These course are sponsored by NOVA’s Professional Development Unit.
“Politics and Pop Icons” on Exhibit at the Woodbridge Campus

Paintings by artist Rosemary Gallick that showcase political figures and musicians will be on exhibit until February 16 at the Woodbridge Campus. Exhibit hours for the fourth floor gallery are from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Fridays and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

“This exhibit features a series of both acrylic and mixed media portrait paintings that I created based on the influence of American politics on popular culture,” Gallick said. “The color palette consists primarily of red, white and blue with energized lines and brushstrokes.”

Inspired by the recent election, Gallick felt compelled to create portraits that highlight the political, musical and media icons of the 21st century. The “Politics and Pop Icons” exhibit includes portraits of President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Governor Sarah Palin, as well as comedic news commentators Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart. In contrast to these depictions, the artwork shifts to well-known musicians who have taken a political stand including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Bruce Springsteen and Willie Nelson.

“Each portrait attempts to reveal the essence of the icon’s personality and character,” Gallick explained. “Some of the faces reveal a calm, somber exterior while others display a vibrancy and dynamism. Trying to capture the excitement of this historical moment while rendering the voices that have echoed in the past, this exhibit aims to share the spotlight with the viewer.”

Gallick is a professor of art and art history at the Woodbridge Campus. She has published numerous articles and given various presentations on art and popular culture. In addition, her artwork has been exhibited throughout the United States.

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Retirement Education Seminar and Group Counseling Sessions

The Virginia Retirement System (VRS) will hold a Retirement Education Seminar (RES) on March 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and a Group Counseling Session (GCS) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Both events will take place on the Annandale Campus in the Ernst Cultural Center Forum. In addition to separate presentations on “Adjusting to Retirement” and “Estate Planning,” an ING representative (1-VRS-DC-PLAN1) will also be present to discuss “Financial Planning.” For general information on RES and GCS go to, http://www.varetire.org/members/retplanning/MemEdu/res/classregister.asp?regType=res&id=3 and http://www.varetire.org/members/retplanning/MemEdu/gcs/classregister.asp?regType=gcs&id=3, respectively.

To register and to view the Annandale Campus map, go to http://www.varetire.org/Members/RetPlanning/Schedule.asp.
2008-2009 NOVA Faculty of the Year Nominations

The NVCC Alumni Federation is once again calling for nominations for the 2008-2009 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 http://www.nvcc.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-federation/faculty/index.html. Nominating forms may also be found at your Campus Information Desk and Learning Resource Centers. The deadline for nominations is March 13.

The reception honoring nominated faculty and announcing the campus winners will be held April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Forum. Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

For further information, please contact Alumni Coordinator Bonnie Idle at 703-323-3749.
Climate Change Symposium:

Mike Tidwell

"Global Warming IS Your Future: Learn What Campuses Can Do"

Mike Tidwell is founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness about the impacts and solutions associated with global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and DC. He is also an author and filmmaker who predicted in vivid detail the Katrina hurricane disaster in his 2003 book *Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana’s Cajun Coast*. His newest book, focusing on Katrina and global warming, is titled *The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Coming Death of America’s Coastal Cities*. Tidwell’s most recent documentary film – “We Are All Smith Islanders” – vividly depicts the dangers of global warming Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. In 2003, Tidwell received the Audubon Naturalist Society’s prestigious “Conservation Award.” A long-time resident of Maryland, he lives in Takoma Park with his 11-year-old son Sasha.

NOVA Annandale Campus
CE Theater
Ernst Community Cultural Center
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
February 5, 2009

Booksingning to follow in the CE Theater lobby.
Join us for the FREE
Wealth Starts @ Home College Tour

Get ready for your future!
Join us at this free seminar by the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) and learn how to take charge of your finances, manage credit wisely and position yourself for homeownership.

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009
6 - 7 p.m.

NOVA Annandale Campus
Richard J. Ernst
Cultural Center Forum
FREE Food & Giveaways
Text NOVA to 68247 to register and win prizes

vhda.com/collegetour | 877-VHDA-123
ATTACHMENT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Anatomy volunteers are needed for the newly developed Ultrasound Program. Interested parties would be scanned by the sonography students on campus during specific hours at the Medical Education Campus.

Both male and female volunteers are needed for various procedures. Some preparations will be required by the volunteer for certain examinations.

Anyone interested in volunteering would need to contact either Anita Freeman @ 703-822-9048 for general scanning or Joyce Schwartz @ 703-822-6502 for obstetrical scanning.