President Barack Obama Holds Town Hall Meeting at NOVA

On June 29, President Barack Obama marked his first visit to the Annandale Campus of NOVA for a town hall meeting on health care reform. The town hall meeting featured an audience of about 200 people, including NOVA students, faculty and staff.

The meeting was a part of the President’s ongoing efforts to address the nation’s health care needs. He also answered seven questions from the audience and via Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Among the special guests were Governor Tim Kaine, Senator Mark Warner, Senator Chuck Colgan, Chairwoman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova and Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Chancellor Glenn DuBois.

During the meeting, President Obama took a moment to acknowledge and give special thanks to President Robert G. Templin, Jr. and the NOVA staff members who worked with White House officials to make this event possible.

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Tulane University Recognizes NOVA as a "Katrina School"

At the May 16 Commencement Ceremony at Tulane University, NOVA was listed as one of the “Katrina Schools” in Tulane’s commencement program and was given this recognition. It was noted that “Just days before the start of the fall semester in August 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and flooded 70 percent of the uptown campus of Tulane University and all of its downtown campus. Tulane closed its doors for the fall semester, but these…[Katrina Schools]…took in Tulane students so that they could continue their studies. The entire Tulane community is appreciative of the assistance by these institutions of higher learning during our nation’s worst natural disaster. Almost four years later, upon the graduation of many of those students who were dispersed around the nation by Katrina, Tulane salutes these colleges and universities who will always be friends of Tulane.”

In a letter to President Robert G. Templin, Jr. from Tulane President Scott Cowen, he wrote, “Our commencement ceremony paid special tribute to our Katrina Class and in the printed program…we listed the schools such as yours that welcomed our Tulane students in the fall of 2005…I will always be grateful…for what you did for our students and for Tulane. We will never forget your kindness and generosity.”

To read and see more about this honor, go online to: http://tulane.edu/grads/streaming.cfm. Thanks to all of the dedicated NOVA faculty and staff who made this possible. Your efforts did not go unnoticed.
Rosemary Gallick Paints “The American Dream”

Professor of Art History Rosemary Gallick (WO) recently had a solo exhibition at the Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo Park, Maryland. Titled “The American Dream: Politicians, Musicians and The Media,” the show featured 40 acrylic and mixed media portrait paintings based on American politics, television news and the American public’s obsession with celebrity culture.

Political figures such as President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Dr. Jill Biden (AL), President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, President Ronald Reagan and even President Abraham Lincoln were depicted.

A wide range of musicians were also included, from Aretha Franklin to Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Tina Turner. Portraits of other musicians in flag-inspired attire include Jon Bon Jovi, Frank Sinatra, Tom Petty, Willie Nelson and Dolly Parton. News commentators such as Larry King, Keith Olbermann and Rachel Maddow were presented as well as political satirists Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert.

“The paintings included a bit of mixed media,” reports Marge Shaffer (MA), trainer/instructor. “The women in the paintings have real earrings, necklaces, ribbons and all kinds of interesting things.”

Trying to capture the excitement of recent times while rendering the voices echoed in past decades, “The American Dream” exhibition seeks to share the spotlight and glory of the moment with the viewers.
On June 25, the Medical Education Campus (MEC) faculty and staff toured Dewitt Army Hospital as well as the construction site for the new 120-bed Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, the first tri-service military hospital (Army, Navy and Air Force) of its kind. The new hospital will be a 1.287 million net square-foot campus which will be staffed by 3,198 personnel, approximately two-thirds of which will be civilian. There will be two indoor parking garages with 3,500 parking spaces, 55 primary and specialty clinics, in addition to labs and pharmacies that will flank the seven-story inpatient unit providing access to all services on one site. The new facility will be a high tech, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification Project. Even the parking garages will improve access to health care by allowing a patient to swipe their ID in the garage, so the check-in desk can pull the patient’s chart decreasing waiting times. All rooms are private rooms with patient, family and staff areas in the one room. There will be multiple outdoor gardens, meditation rooms and lounges that open to the outside. Each patient room will face either the east or west so sunrise or sunset can be seen in each room.

The hospital is scheduled to open in April 2011 with final completion on September 15, 2011.
Racing Magazine Features Gary Phares

Automotive Instructor Gary Phares (MA) is on his way to another successful season at Old Dominion Dragstrip and was recently featured in “Old Dominion Racing Report” for using his car as a teaching tool at NOVA.

“School Built” congratulates Phares and his students for creating the winning dragster. The article states, “This car isn’t the product of a fancy race shop with years of chassis building experience. This is a car designed and built by a teacher and his students. You can see by his success and clean design of the car that he puts his heart and soul into his work.”

Phares, who has been racing for 26 years, secured his most recent win on June 19. When not teaching or racing, Phares takes his championship car to local high schools to recruit students for NOVA.

Alford Speaks at Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College

Terry Alford (AN), History, spoke on June 22 at the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. “Fateful Friendships: The Pleasures and Perils of Knowing John Wilkes Booth” was presented to an audience of 300 people.

NOVA’s Surplus Equipment Goes on the Road

Special thanks to all of the NOVA employees who assisted with the loading of surplus equipment, at the Loudoun Campus surplus storage facility, sold to buyers from across the United States and overseas.
UP&COMING

Teaching and Learning Matters Deadline Approaching

CETL is preparing the next issue of Teaching and Learning Matters, a newsletter for and by our NOVA faculty. Submissions are welcome. Please submit these to CETL@nvcc.edu by July 20.

The newsletter is published quarterly and is available online at http://www.nvcc.edu/CETL.

“Shakespeare in Hollywood”
Presented by the NOVA Woodbridge Theatre Group

Lights, camera, movie moguls, faeries and magic as Oberon and Puck appear for real in 1930's Hollywood on the set of Max Reinhardt's movie version of “A Midsummer Night's Dream!” “Shakespeare in Hollywood,” Ken Ludwig's satiric comic romance, presented by the NOVA Woodbridge Theatre Group, will frolic onstage on the following dates:

- Thursdays: July 9 and 16 at 8:00 p.m.
- Fridays: July 10 and 17 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday matinees: July 11 and 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are $10.00 for general admission and $5.00 for students, faculty/staff, children (12 and under) and seniors. Tickets are available at the door or by reservation. You may call 703-878-5750 or go online to http://www.nvcc.edu/nwtg/reservations.htm.

All performances will take place at the Lakeside Theatre on the Woodbridge Campus located at 15200 Neabsco Mills Road, Woodbridge, Virginia 22191-4099.

For additional questions, see the flyer in the attachment section or e-mail etrumbull@nvcc.edu.

Tackle the Yearly Performance Evaluation Process for Classified Staff with Confidence and Smarts

Performance evaluation training is scheduled for college employees. It will be led by Marleen McCabe, associate director of human resources for employee relations. In this interactive workshop, participants will discuss the how-to’s of an effective yearly performance evaluation process that focuses on discussing your staff’s and your unit/division’s strengths and progress/completion of identified yearly goals. The yearly evaluation also needs to accurately reflect essential SKA’s (Skills, Knowledge and Abilities) that need improvement in the context of the EWP (Employee Work Profile), and identifies, with the input from staff, training/retraining needs for the upcoming year. This two-hour workshop will also explain what managers need to know and do to comply with DHRM policy. Please see the Intercom attachment section for the workshop schedule, additional information and registration procedures.

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.

Reminder: During the summer months (after graduation), the Intercom is published every other week. Please note the next two editions will be July 24 and August 7. Submission deadlines still apply.
New Check Request Form

Please be advised that as of July 1, 2009 we have a new Check Request Form 105-111. To order the new form, please complete a Supply Requisition 105-032, and e-mail or fax it to Printing Services.

Also effective as of July 1, 2009, all purchases, especially P-Card, must go through eVA. Should you have any questions please contact the Purchasing Department.

Use of Your New Health Plan ID Card Started July 1

Health care plan and membership changes as well as Flexible Reimbursement Account elections made during Open Enrollment took effect on July 1. COVA Care and COVA Connect enrollees, as well as new COVA HDHP participants, will receive new health plan ID cards soon (if you have not already). In addition, Medical FRA participants will receive two new myFBMC VISA cards before the new plan year begins. Please remember that new ID cards and MRA reimbursement cards are for use on or after July 1.

Several Changes in Employees Benefit Programs

Health Care Premiums: Effective July 1, 2009
- Most premiums, deductibles and co-pays will increase. The changes can be found in the DHRM Spotlight mailed to your home address during the open enrollment period or you can download it from the following Web address: http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov.

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA): Effective July 1, 2009
- July 1 begins the new plan year for the flexible spending accounts (FSA).
- Employees enrolled in an FSA will have a monthly fee of $3.67 for one or both accounts deducted from your pay.
- A new VISA reimbursement card for Medical FRA will be automatically issued to all participants.

Changes in the Virginia Sickness and Disability Program (VSDP): Effective July 1, 2009
- Establishes a one-year waiting period for new and/or rehired employees hired on or after July 1, 2009 for eligibility for short-term disability benefits for non-work related claims.
- Institutes a cap of 60 percent on the short-term disability income replacement rate until a new or re-hired employee serves a five-year vesting period.
- Changes the recurrent period for repeat short-term disability claims changes from 14 consecutive days to 45 consecutive days for ALL VSDP participants.

Optional Life Coverage Increase: Effective July 1, 2009
- Minnesota Life has announced an increase for employee coverage to $700,000 with a corresponding increase to $350,000 for a spouse.
- Letters will be sent by Minnesota Life to impacted employees to notify them of the change.
- A salaried employee may elect to participate in the optional life coverage program by completing an enrollment form and have it submitted to Minnesota Life for underwriting purposes. If approved, premiums are deducted from your pay.

VRS Member Benefit Profile: Effective 2009
- The distribution method of the Member Benefit Profile will change when the 2009 profiles are available. They will not be distributed in a paper format from the Human Resources Office.
- Access to this important information for future retirement planning can be achieved by following the prompts to register and create your own “myVRS” account on the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) home page, http://www.varetire.org.

Please note that the attachment section of the Intercom can be accessed online at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Jul10-09_attachment.pdf.