NOVA Employees Come Together at Waterfront Festival

Last month, NOVA faculty and staff volunteered their time at the 26th Annual Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival, the largest outdoor fundraising event on the east coast. According to the festival chair, more than 30,000 participants from the surrounding area attended this event, which included musical performances, arts and crafts, tall ship tours, food vendors and amusement rides. Faculty and staff from the Alexandria, Annandale, Manassas, Medical Education and Woodbridge Campuses, as well as representatives from ELI and human resources, provided participants with information about the College, programs of study and employment opportunities.

Crystal Emel from human resources thought the Waterfront Festival was a great event for NOVA because of the large number and the diversity of those attending. “The College was able to gain maximum exposure in the community and show support of local events by staffing a tent,” said Emel. “It was a great experience to have the opportunity to interact directly with the public outside of the office setting!”

The Festival also provided the opportunity for staff members to meet their colleagues from other campuses. “The experience of being surrounded with friends at the College, who are dedicated to help promote NOVA, was very unique,” remarked Richard Bautista, programmer/systems analyst (AN). “It was a time well spent.”

Photographers Wanted!

Do you take award-winning photos? Try your luck with a charity photo contest to benefit the Prince William Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PWSPCA). Digital images will be accepted in three categories: pets and animals; scenics and landscapes and people. Pictures of adopted or rescued pets will also be considered for a fundraising calendar. For additional details, go to http://www.pwspca.org.

The winning entries will be included in an exhibit hosted by the Manassas and Woodbridge Campuses in August. Watch Intercom for exhibit details and good luck!
The Woodbridge Campus cafeteria was transformed into a café, complete with decorated tabletops, flowers, balloons and French music as the Campus celebrated Classified Staff Day. The catered luncheon honored staff for their contributions and recognized the nominees for the Classified Staff Superior Performance Award: Randall Carlock, Sally Cool, Waring “Skip” Claud, Dave Dillon, Cindi Heisler, Keith Johnson, Debera Long, Kathy Matthews-Luker, Carrie Pascoe, Roneisha Still and Beverly Unkle. Dillon won the award and received a plaque as well as a $500 prize. Professor Alice Reagan acted as master of ceremonies and members of the Provost’s staff served as hosts for the event. On behalf of Dr. Sam Hill, Dr. Ted Maguder read a special message recognizing the classified staff’s hard work. “In every office around the Campus, you provide immeasurable support to faculty and administrators. Our operations would grind to a halt without your efforts,” the message said. Each classified staff member received a gift bag filled with an emergency kit, a NOVA writing pad and a colorful beach ball. In addition to Maguder, the planning team of Maxine Toliver, Paul Loving, Rita Bender, Maddie Coradin, Karen Castro and Deena Furry deserve kudos, for putting together such a great event.

Selected Images on Display at Waddell Gallery

Selected Images, an exhibit of photographs and manipulated pigment prints by Leesburg artist Neil Steinberg, will be on display at the Waddell Art Gallery through August 3. A special reception for the artist will take place July 15 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. which is free and open to the public. Selected Images will focus on architectural spaces and details. Normal gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Steinberg and his wife, KD Kidder, have owned and operated Photoworks, in Leesburg, for 28 years, the same amount of time he has been a photographer. "My background was in theater, and photography came as happenstance," he says.

Steinberg still uses conventional film and darkroom techniques, but the photography business has meant a transference of time and skills into digital imagery, which he sees as simply developing another tool in the box (no pun intended).

The next Intercom deadline is Friday, July 20 at 5:00 p.m.
Super Performers Recognized at F&AS Annual Picnic

On June 7, 200 members of the financial and administrative services (F&AS) staff celebrated an outstanding and productive year at their annual “company” picnic at Burke Lake Park. Facilities and parking services staff members started the morning with professional development activities at the park, which included sessions on workplace safety, worker’s compensation, updates on pandemic flu planning, employee savings plans and much more.

Around noon, the parking and facilities teams were joined by staff from the other units for a catered picnic lunch, followed by a recognition ceremony for some of the many outstanding employees who serve the College in F&AS. There were 45 staff members nominated for the super performer awards. The four winners were selected by an awards panel made up of Vice President Alison Baker, Facilities Director Bill Chamberlin and Business Manager Nancy Wyatt. All those nominated were recognized at the picnic and were given a Barnes & Noble gift certificate. Winners of the super performer awards each received a plaque and a bonus of $250.00.

The winners of the 2007 awards are Gary Robinette (purchasing) who won in the exempt/supervisory category; Rita Bender, business office (WO), who won in the office services category; John Dyer, buildings and grounds (AL), who won in the police and facilities worker category; and Jill Shockley, human resources (CS), who won in the P-14 worker category.

The awards were presented by Baker, who complimented the staff on all the hard work they had done to make NOVA a better place during the past 12 months. While the increases in resources that the College saw in fiscal 2007 were wonderful, allocating and disbursing them properly fell in large part to F&AS staff, where more people were hired and trained, more material was acquired and put into place, more renovation and beautification projects were undertaken, more capital construction was planned or underway and more bills were paid than anyone can remember ever happening in one year before this. “Financial and administrative services performed brilliantly under pressure and its staff is full of super performers,” Baker said.

Changes in Deductions to Employee Paychecks

Beginning with the July 16 paycheck, employees will see changes in deductions as a result of their benefit programs. Those who have health coverage will see an increase in the 2007 premium deduction. Employees who participate in flexible spending accounts (medical and dependent care) will see a change during this pay period, too. Those who have additional life insurance through the optional life benefit program will note that optional life premiums have decreased. To view the complete rate charts, go online to http://www.varetire.org/Members/BenefitPlans/OptLifeIns/OptLifeRates.asp. Nine month faculty, who are on an 18-month pay frequency, will see applicable deductions in August when their pay resumes.

Salaried employees have a fully funded employer-paid pension program and term life insurance benefits. Frequently, employees do not know the cost of these benefits because the amounts do not show on earnings statements. As of July 1, employer contribution rates for programs administrated by the Virginia Retirement System changed. The employer contribution rate for retirement increased to 11.15 percent of salary, for VALORS (police) it increased to 20.86 percent. The employer-paid term life insurance rate went to 1.00 percent. The retiree health insurance credit is now 1.20 percent and the long-term disability (VSDP) rate increased to 2.00 percent. This means that for every pay period, 15.35 percent of each regular employee’s salary is paid by NOVA for VRS funded benefits. In addition, there is the health contribution paid by the employer for those employees participating in the health program, as well as the employer share of the Social Security and Medicare funding of 7.65 percent.

Employees are encouraged to view the employer benefit paid screen using Payline. If you are not already connected to it, use this link to set-up your access: https://secure.doa.virginia.gov/payline. Payline offers the advantage of giving employees quick access to view their individual pay period earnings statements, withholding information and W-2 data for tax and other periodic needs.

Woodbridge Campus FAFSA Initiative

The Woodbridge Campus introduced a Web-based FAFSA initiative that is already showing signs of success. In its first month, 500 users have accessed http://www.nvcc.edu/afshaelp. The video features two professional high school actors, Gracie Terzian and Marshall Swing, who guide the applicants through the steps of completing the Free Application for Student Aid. Funded by the president’s office, the project will also include the distribution of 1,000 Windows-based CDs of the tutorial to students.

The FAFSA initiative was the collaboration of many College staff members: Carol Mowbray, Carol Sweetser, Dr. Sam Hill and Monica Sasscer (executive producers); Cathy Simpson and Robert Brown (project managers); Richard Attix (video); Lance Graham (audio) and Cuong Hua (graphics). Brown also uploaded the video to the Web.

More than $80 billion in federal aid is available annually. The Woodbridge initiative eliminates the barrier to the complex application process and ensures that more students have the opportunity to receive educational aid.

Wilhelmi Nominated to Agency Board

Charlotte Wilhelmi, director of government affairs and community relations, has been nominated to serve as the second vice-chairperson on the board of the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia. Elections take place at the end of July.
Cammy White Receives Who’s Who Honor for Third Time in Last Four Years

Cammy White, counselor (AL), has been selected as a recipient of the Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers honor for the third time in the last four years. It is especially meaningful as the recipients are nominated by honor students. White is a counselor at the Alexandria Campus where she has been helping students for almost 40 years. She feels that the most meaningful project she has accomplished at NOVA is PLACE, a program for adults to attempt to get credits for work and life experiences. More than 1,000 students have participated in PLACE and several thousand credits have been awarded as a result.

Congratulations, Cammy! We’re proud of you!

Noises Off Coming to Woodbridge

The NoVa Woodbridge Theatre Group is presenting Michael Frayn's hilarious farce within a farce, Noises Off, on July 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8:00 p.m. and July 15 and 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the Woodbridge Campus theatre. Directed by Dr. Eric Trumbull, tickets are $10.00 (general admission) and $5.00 (students, children and seniors). Tickets are available at the door 30 minutes prior to the performances or through online reservations at http://NWTheatreGroup.org/Reservations.htm.

For more information, call 703-878-5750 or visit http://NWTheatreGroup.org.

Chancellor’s Fellowship Awarded to Maria Nieto-Shahsavarian

Maria Nieto-Shahsavarian, assistant to the dean of students (MEC), has been awarded the Chancellor’s Fellowship for Classified Staff. Sponsored by the Virginia Community College System, this award provides Nieto-Shahsavarian with administrative leave and financial support for two semesters at George Mason University, where she will finish her master’s in foreign language with a concentration in Spanish and bilingual and multicultural education. She’ll also receive half her salary and NOVA benefits.

Nieto-Shahsavarian has spent 20 years at the College in various student services positions. Her lifelong dream is to become a faculty member, teaching Spanish and ESL classes.

Congratulations and good luck in your studies!

Interior Design Site Wins National Honor

Students in Kristine Winner’s interior design classes are to be congratulated! The Web site of the Loudoun Campus student chapter of the American Society of Interior Design (ASID) has been selected as ASID’s 2007 Web site of the year. (This is for student chapters and is a national honor.)

Go to http://www.nvccasid.org to check it out. Keep up the good work!

MEC Cookout Honors the Late Hal Corker

On June 1, the Medical Education Campus student activities area hosted their annual cookout in tribute to the late Hal Corker, former registrar for the Annandale and MEC Campuses. In keeping with the locomotive-themed event, part of Corker’s collection of train memorabilia was on display. Chow included delicious burgers and hot dogs, chips and pasta salad, plus an assortment of mouth-watering desserts and ice-cold drinks. Linda Ruiz, who coincidentally graduated from NOVA’s hospitality management program with Corker, was contracted to prepare the food for the event. The event was open to MEC students and staff. Special guests included Corker’s wife Carol and daughter Ashley, and many neighborhood friends of the family. A collection of his favorite tunes, were played in the background, to the delight of all in attendance. Some of Corker’s personal books and prints were available for purchase, and proceeds totaling $510.00 went to the Hal Corker Endowed Scholarship Fund.
Comings and Goings

Donaldson Named Division Dean

Dr. Lisa Donaldson has joined the Woodbridge Campus as dean of the business and social sciences division.

“Lisa brings a wealth of experience to this position,” said Provost Sam Hill. “In addition to teaching, her background includes course development, faculty assessment, budget and personnel management. She’ll be a great asset to the Campus and our students.”

Before coming to NOVA, Donaldson was at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado, where she taught sociology and developed new courses in ethnic studies. Prior to Pikes Peak, Donaldson was director of human services education at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico, where she supervised adjunct faculty and was responsible for developing and implementing courses to maintain the quality of the programs. She also taught at the University of New Mexico and Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque.

Donaldson is eager to get involved with the College and the community. “I am very excited at the prospect of working in such a dynamic and diverse community as Woodbridge. NOVA is clearly focused on providing quality education to students from all walks of life and I look forward to being part of that mission,” she said.

Donaldson, who recently moved to Woodbridge with her husband, Blair, holds a doctorate of sociology from the University of New Mexico. Her dissertation, “Indian Rolling: White against Navajo Violence in Farmington, New Mexico,” is being considered for publication as a book.

Welcome to NOVA, Lisa!

Community Relations Specialist Hired

Visitors to the Alexandria Campus provost’s suite will see a familiar face in a new role — Yolanda Barbier is now serving as campus community relations specialist. Barbier, who started at Alexandria as the Campus-wide events coordinator and student services specialist, has been with the College since last September. A native of Lynchburg, Barbier is a graduate of Marymount University. She is currently enrolled in graduate school, going for a degree in higher education administration at George Mason University.

Barbier is looking forward to raising the visibility of the Campus. “I am very excited about the opportunity to build strong relationships with local businesses and organizations and to establish a presence within the Alexandria community,” she said.

A resident of Lorton, Barbier counts traveling and reading among her hobbies. To reach her, send an e-mail to ybarbier@nvcc.edu or call 703-933-5076.

Best of luck in your new role at Alexandria, Yolanda!

Hollins Retires from Annandale Campus

After 21 years, Susan Hollins, the helpful technology guru in the faculty/staff resource center, has retired. Hollins’ upbeat disposition and “can do” attitude helped many Annandale Campus and College employees troubleshoot issues with software, Web pages, electronic publications and countless other technology tasks. Her tireless persistence in helping solve small but annoying problems, and her dedication to helping promote a positive learning environment, earned her high praise throughout the NOVA community. And did we also mention that she produced the online edition of the Annandale News?

Hollins hopes to parlay her interest in electronic publishing and digital imaging into a second career. Best wishes for a happy and successful retirement! (We miss you already!)
The New Administrative Information System is Here

The new administrative information system (AIS) was officially deployed on July 2, after a year of planning and preparation. Powered by PeopleSoft Financials (Version 8.9), AIS provides self-service access and business process support to faculty and staff and improves workflow for major financial functions performed throughout the VCCS colleges and central offices.

The new AIS replaces the FRS mainframe-based legacy software. AIS transactions include general ledger, accounts payable (payments), purchasing (vendor and purchase orders), basic reporting and budget and accounting inquiry. Administrative offices whose staffs formerly used FRS are now using AIS. At the end of the first week, there were over 60 end users at NOVA and that number is expected to increase to approximately 300 by the end of the month.

Intensive classroom-based training sessions have been completed for financial and administrative services and college information services staff.

Training for those who only use the AIS to monitor their budget and accounts begins in late July through desktop computer training. This training will occur after a few weeks so users can see actual data and become familiar with the AIS navigational interface. For general information about the AIS implementation project and its current and future scope, visit http://www.nvcc.edu/depts/ais/.

To celebrate its deployment, the business offices and the finance staff from the budget, payroll and controller’s offices paused on Thursday afternoon, July 5, to celebrate the implementation with an old-fashioned ice cream social for all who worked to make the system roll-out so smooth. Ben Pittman, budget office director, and Diana Kerns, reconciliation specialist from the controllers office, played leading roles in the design and testing of the new system.

Contact the IT help desk at ithelpdesk@nvcc.edu if you have any questions about the new system, access or security.

Connolly Retires as MEC Provost

Dr. Charlene Connolly has retired from NOVA after 16 years of service in order to accept an ongoing position as executive vice president with the International University of Nursing, the organization that she has been working with for the past year while on leave of absence.

Connolly will be remembered for her many creative initiatives and her leadership as the founding provost of the College’s Medical Education Campus in Springfield.

We wish her the best as she pursues this new career opportunity. Those who wish to keep in touch with her may send e-mail to cconnolly@iuon.org.

Until a permanent appointment is made, Brian Foley has agreed to serve as the acting provost.

WAMU Interviews Ognong, Templin

Jean-Blaise Ognong, the Alexandria student who won a prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship, was the focus of a July 2 feature on WAMU 88.5 FM, a National Public Radio affiliate in Washington, D.C. Ognong, who was raised by a single mother in a mud hut in Cameroon, overcame adversity to win this highly competitive award.

NOVA President Robert G. Templin, Jr. was also interviewed by correspondent Leslie Fuger as part of the radio feature. It was Templin who nominated Ognong for the scholarship, after watching him organize the College’s soccer team and create a volunteer tutoring program in Washington, D.C.’s charter schools.

“He is a person of boundless energy who’s always finding reasons why things can happen rather than can’t happen and his energy is contagious,” says Templin. “That has helped create a new sense of optimism on our campus.”

To listen to the feature, go to http://wamu.org/news/07/07/02.php#16787.
On June 19, the Medical Education Campus kicked off the summer semester with a “Summer Daze” picnic! Done the old-fashioned way, with burgers and hot dogs on a grill, the picnic also featured good music and lots of mingling with friends, old and new. It was a great event, with everyone proclaiming it a big success. Even though the temperature was in the 90s, it didn’t stop the MEC students from lining up to enjoy a tasty and nutritious barbecue lunch.

Are you interested in following the progress of Alexandria Campus’s Phase III construction? Visit http://alexandriaphasethree.blogspot.com/, the Alexandria Campus blog. This latest addition to Alexandria Campus’s blogging endeavor includes photographs and occasional updates on the progress of the construction.

The creators of the “Watch Us Grow” blog are Sylvia Rortvedt and Kevin O’Hagan.

Pandemic Flu Presentation Available

Recently, safety program manager Roger Tancreti (CS) and Dr. Robert Younes (MEC), gave a series of presentations on “Preparing for and Preventing Pandemic Flu.” If you were unable to make it to one of those presentations, you can view this useful information from “Video on Demand” at mms://vod01.nvcc.edu/vod/Public/Pandemic%20Seminar/Pandemic.wmv. The video was produced by the staff of the Television Center at the Annandale Campus.

Woodbridge Campus Interim Dean of Students Carol Sweetser (right) takes a ride on a Segway scooter model i2 PT (Personal Transporter) as Police Sgt. Randall Carlock looks on. The Segway is one of two vehicles used to support the Woodbridge Campus police department with their patrol duties in the parking lot and on the nature trails.
How to Hire the Best People

Sponsored by: NVCC Human Resources Department

Audience: Supervisory employees who hire classified staff.

Workshop Objectives: By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

♦ Identify the essential skills and experience that a job requires
♦ Prioritize the requirements of the job
♦ Use appropriate screening practices
♦ Prepare for and conduct an effective interview
♦ Make better hiring decisions
♦ Prepare for and make a job offer

Pre-registration is needed for effective planning purposes.

This workshop is part of the NVCC supervisors training program. Employees who want to receive an HR certificate in supervisory training must complete this training module. Any supervisory employee may attend this training module even if they have not yet completed the other component modules of the NVCC supervisory training program.

All registrations will be acknowledged by return E-mail. The training room will be provided in your registration acknowledgement.

Indicate which session you want to attend. Please E-mail registration...

TO: hrdtraining@nvcc.edu
CC: your supervisor
SUBJECT: How to Hire the Best People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NVCC Campus</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manassas</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 24th, 10 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Education</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 25th, 10 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annandale</td>
<td>Thursday, July 26th, 10 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
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HR will not be offering this workshop again until the fall semester.