NOVA Initiative in Turkey

In June, a delegation of nine NOVA representatives traveled to three cities in Turkey (Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir) to visit institutions and agencies associated with its recruitment initiative, to meet NOVA graduates, to advance discussion about program collaborations and to assess how support to international student services can be improved. The NOVA group visited with representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Council of Higher Education, Bahcesehir and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Universities, Doga and Ahmet Ulusoy High Schools and the office of the college’s marketing representatives, United Towers. The trip was sponsored and funded by Bogazici Atlantik Kulturel Dostluk Veis Birligi Dernegi (BAKIAD), a Turkish organization committed to improving understanding between the U.S. and Turkey.
4th Annual Career Learning Exploration Achieves Rewards

The Manassas Campus hosted its’ 4th Annual Career Learning Exploration Achieves Rewards (CLEAR 4) program June 22 to 26 with Manassas Park, Osbourn and Battlefield High Schools. The CLEAR program was implemented in order to broaden opportunities for high school students in various career and educational paths. Exciting workshops and activities were presented to introduce students to the possibilities available through post-secondary education. This year, CLEAR 4 hosted 30 rising sophomores, 10 from each high school. Highlights during the week included an interactive seminar about navigating VA Education Wizard, a technology workshop presented by a MICRON Technologies employee and a Biotechnology lab with Biotechnology Outreach Specialist Ia Gomez. Other highlights included presentations from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Lockheed Martin, a Real World simulation and a career panel. The career panel consisted of representatives from Prince William Transportation, an attorney, the Department of Labor Apprenticeship Programs and representatives from the banking, finance and insurance industries, as well as representatives from Hemlock, B&R Associates.

For more information on the CLEAR Program, please contact Alicia Grande, high school outreach coordinator at agrande@nvcc.edu or 703-530-8251.
On June 5, as reported in The Washington Post, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife and Professor of Developmental English Jill Biden (AL) hosted a Global Race for the Cure kick-off dinner that drew about 300 guests, including Serbia’s Crown Prince and Princess Karageorgevitch, Mayor of Washington, District of Columbia Adrian Fenty, in addition to some congressmen, senators and diplomats. Also invited, and receiving a “shout-out” from Biden, was NOVA’s Race for the Cure Team, the Sauntering Scholars.

With teeming rain falling outside an enormous white party tent, the guests ate traditional American cookout fare, including ice cream sundaes, rosé wine and pink lemonade, while being entertained by local violinists and singer Lalah Hathaway. The team and other invited guests listened as Biden, the...
Vice President and Nancy Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure, spoke of their personal connections to the disease and their hopes to find a cure in the near future.

The next morning the Sauntering Scholars, under the leadership of co-captains Maureen Madden (AN) of the Extended Learning Institute (ELI) and Kathy Wax (AL) of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS), were up bright and early to hit the streets of Washington to run, walk and saunter for a good cause. The cool and sunny morning provided the perfect ending to a surreal weekend that the team will always remember.
For the third year in a row, NOVA’s Arlington Center was the host to STARTALK, a national grant-supported program that prepares instructors of Chinese and Arabic language at all levels. Participants and faculty members came from NOVA, George Mason University, area colleges and school systems, with at least one participant this year from as far as Penn State.

The NOVA program focused on technology-enhanced language training and is followed by a separate STARTALK student language program with Arlington County Public Schools in July.

Professor Laura Franklin, who is also the editor of MERLOT World Languages, directed this initiative, and Ruihua Dong, lead trainer, World Bank and Instructional Technologist Shaoyu Chi, Extended Learning Institute (ELI) served as Chinese consultants. Dr. Mohamed Esa, associate professor, McDaniel College, served as an Arabic consultant, and Dr. Marjorie Hall Haley, professor, Foreign Language Licensure, George Mason University, served as the foreign language methods consultant. In addition, Assistant Dean Takako Shigeihisa, World Languages served as the project’s instructional technology coordinator and instructor.
Medical Education Campus Prepares for President Obama’s Visit

Left to right: Amsalu Getahun of Nursing, Dean of Students M. Beatrice Veney, Cynthia Williams, Health Information Management (HIM) student, Barbara Back, nursing student, Nancy Morris, radiology student; Provost Brian Foley (MEC) and Karima Puch, HIM student.

The Medical Education Campus Provost Brian Foley joined by Dean M. Beatrice Veney pause for a photo opportunity with student representatives from Health Information Management (HIM), Radiology and Nursing. The group was invited to attend President Obama’s Health Care Town Hall meeting held at the Annandale Campus on July 1.
Alaska Children’s Choir Visits the Manassas Campus

The Alaska Children’s Choir presented a free concert on July 3 at the Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater at the Manassas Campus, co-hosted by the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The “Voices of Hope and Peace” concert was part of the Choir’s Lincoln Bicentennial Concert Tour. Choir members also performed at the Lincoln Memorial, Gettysburg National Military Park, Antietam National Battlefield and the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where President Abraham Lincoln worshipped.

Alaskan Children’s Choir
Photo by Jim Fabian

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 August 7 and August 21. Submission deadlines still apply.
Premiere of “The Fugue”

An original film produced by Drama Professor Kathryn O’Sullivan (MA) will be screened on July 30 at 9:30 p.m. at the Old Town Theater on King Street in Alexandria, Virginia.

“The Fugue” is a thriller about a young graphic designer living in Chinatown who is haunted by the spirit of a dead childhood friend. Filming took place last summer in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia. O’Sullivan served as executive producer and her husband, Paul Awad, was writer, director and editor.

Several NOVA drama students appear in the film: Nicole Underwood, Bob Martin, Kawan Karadaghi, Harold Demas, Jacob Yeh, Evan Shaw, Tina Cipara, Jared Mehraban, Carole Bellacera and Raj Sandhu.

Admission to the premiere is free. To learn more, contact O’Sullivan at kosullivan@nvcc.edu.

Teaching and Learning Matters Coming Soon

Recently, NOVA’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) requested articles for the upcoming newsletter Teaching and Learning Matters. The next issue is coming out on August 13, so keep your eyes open for the release. For questions, please e-mail CETL@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 the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) policy. Please see the Intercom attachment section for the workshop schedule, additional information and registration procedures.
UP&COMING

Justice Frank Williams to Speak at Constitution Day Event

Sponsored by the Lyceum Committee, the annual Constitution Day event will be held at **12:30 p.m. on September 24 in the CE Theater on the Annandale Campus.** The guest speaker will be Chief Justice Frank J. Williams.

Williams was appointed Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court by Governor Lincoln Almond and unanimously confirmed by the Rhode Island General Assembly in January 2001, after serving for five years as Associate Justice of the Superior Court. He served as Chief until retiring on December 30, 2008, when he took “senior” status as a jurist without the administrative duties.

Williams is also one of the nation’s leading scholars on the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. In August 2000, he was appointed to the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission by the Congress. In addition, he is a major collector of Lincolniana, a peripatetic lecturer before Lincoln and Civil War groups, and a scholar whose books include, with Edna Greene Medford and Harold Holzer, “The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views.” His latest book, “Lincoln Lessons: Reflections on America’s Greatest Leader,” with William D. Pederson, was published by Southern Illinois University Press in 2009.

He has also been named by Lawdragon as one of the top 500 judges, out of 30,000, in the United States.

You simply do not want to miss this event, so mark your calendar!
Leave Sharing Request

Police Officer Keith Florence at the Manassas Campus has requested to participate in the leave-sharing program. If you would like to donate leave hours to Florence, please contact Sonia Aboulhosn at 703-323-3119 for a leave donor form or go to the Human Resources Web site, http://www.nvcc.edu/hr/forms to download the Leave Donor Form.

Please submit the form to Human Resources by fax at 703-323-3155. Leave must be donated in eight-hour increments and only annual leave may be donated.

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 Flexible Reimbursement Account (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.

Reminder! 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 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 rehired 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/Jul24-09_attachment.pdf.