Loudoun Hosts the National Association of Geoscience Teachers Meeting and Honors Professor

The 2009 meeting of the Eastern Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) was held May 14 to 17 on the Loudoun Campus. The four-day event was organized by Richard Gottfried, with assistance from Melissa Batum, both Loudoun Campus adjunct geology instructors and the NAGT Eastern Section President. The participating faculty would also like to thank the Dean of the Natural and Applied Science Division Joyce Samuels (LO) for all her help and support in getting the conference organized.

The meeting was attended by approximately 50 geoscience educators from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, New England and Ontario.

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Batum organized a short course in seismology on Friday morning. Assistant Professors of Geology Bill Bour (LO) and Callan Bentley (AN) participated in the seismology workshop.

Geology Instructional Assistant Joe Marx (AL) and Bentley led field trips on Saturday. Marx took a group to Gettysburg National Battlefield to examine how the geology there influenced the Civil War battle, while Bentley took a group to examine the bedrock underneath Washington, District of Columbia.

On the basis of his many years of dedicated, high-quality instruction, Professor of Geology Kenneth Rasmussen (AN) received the John H. Moss Award for Excellence in College Teaching. Colleagues, supervisors and many former students all contributed letters of support for Rasmussen’s award. The award was presented by Jim Hensel, former NAGT Eastern Section President.

Congratulations to Rasmussen for a sterling record of dedicated work in the classroom.
Annandale Campus Hosts Last Democratic Gubernatorial Debate

On May 19, NOVA’s Annandale Campus served as the venue for the last Democratic Gubernatorial Debate of 2009. The debate was sponsored by The Washington Post and News Channel 8. It included the three democratic candidates running for governor - former head of the Democratic National Committee Terry McAuliffe, former Delegate Brian Moran and State Senator Creigh Deeds.

Among the hot topics during the debate were improving transportation, creating more jobs and public education. All three candidates stated their support for public education. Some of the candidate’s ideas for improving public education are increasing teaching salaries, promoting small class sizes, making college

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more affordable and including financial education as part of the high school curriculum.

Pictured right: Moran, Deeds and McAuliffe.
Photo by Kevin Mattingly
Semi-Annual Bill Shonk Memorial Golf Outing

The semi-annual Bill Shonk Memorial Golf outing was held on May 22 at Pinecrest Golf Course. The best ball tournament was attended by present and former administrators, faculty and a student. The team winning with two under par were former Alexandria Campus Dean of Students Fred Hecklinger, Ginger Primus (AL) and Alexandria Campus student Clint Crenshaw. Prizes were also given to Hecklinger for “the longest ball” and to Primus for “the closest to the pin.” A donation was made by each participant and other supporters for the Bill Shonk Memorial Fund which provides money to purchase golf equipment for the Alexandria Campus. Shonk, former instructor of Physical Education (PED) at the Alexandria Campus, died many years ago of cancer. Participants shared many fond memories of him during refreshments following the tournament. Any golfers interested in the fall outing should contact Primus at vprimus@nvcc.edu.
NOVA Student Receives Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

Edward Sawyer, an honors student at the Alexandria Campus, has recently been awarded the nationally prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. He is the third honors student at the Alexandria Campus to receive this award. The scholarship will give Sawyer $30,000 a year toward the completion of his undergraduate degree. After having been removed from the academic world for 10 years, he returned to school at the Alexandria Campus, where he began taking courses in the Honors Program. He recently graduated from NOVA as a psychology major. Sawyer was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and he completed the Honors Core Curriculum. In the fall, he will continue his undergraduate work at American University, where he has been awarded a presidential scholarship to further assist him toward his bachelor’s degree. As a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, Sawyer will be able to apply for an additional $50,000 to help him earn his graduate degrees. He plans to continue his education until he earns his Ph.D.

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 June 26 and July 10. Submission deadlines still apply.

Please note that the attachment section of the Intercom can be accessed online at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Jun12-09_attachment.pdf.