Golding Represents College at Stamp Ceremony

John Golding, warehousing services manager and the College's own postal guru, was invited to attend the ceremony for the reissue of the United States Postal Service's Purple Heart stamp. The ceremony, held at the Women in Military Service in America memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, was jointly sponsored by the Postal Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Purple Heart stamp is available for first class mailing at the 39-cent rate.

In the photo (left), Golding, a veteran himself, and his wife, Nancy, were able to get their photo snapped after the unveiling ceremony.

Swirl, Sniff and Slurp Away Stress

If the stresses of the office have you looking for a way to unwind, this summer, check out a new continuing education course offered in conjunction with the Loudoun Campus, Lord Fairfax Community College and dozens of regional wineries. The class, “Fundamentals of Wine Tasting and Winery Fundamentals,” is a one-day introductory course led by experts in viticulture (vineyard management) and enology (wine making) from Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. A series of related courses will follow this fall.

The introductory class will be held twice, on June 10 and July 15, at Veramar Vineyard in Berryville, Virginia. Participants (who must be age 21 or older) will spend an afternoon with the Bogarty family, as they teach you a simple 1-2-3 wine tasting system of “swirl, sniff and slurp.”

Classes planned for the fall will cover additional topics, including grape harvesting, marketing, wine cellar management and discussions of red and white wines around the world. These courses will be held at several area wineries, vineyards and restaurants. For additional details, visit http://www.nvcc.edu/loudoun/continuing.

Deferred Compensation Meeting

The Commonwealth of Virginia is holding meetings about deferred compensation plans on June 20, starting at 9:00 a.m. and continuing through 1:30 p.m. No registration is required. There are four sessions. The first one, starting at 9:00 a.m. will discuss the features and benefits of this plan (commonly referred to as the 457 plan). A session at 10:15 a.m. will discuss account management strategies. The third session, starting at 11:30 a.m. will focus on the advantages of budgeting. The final workshop, beginning at 1:30 p.m., is about post-retirement strategies, and is geared toward those employees nearing retirement or those already retired.

These sessions are being held in Room 214 of the Northern Virginia Graduate Center, 7054 Haycock Road in Falls Church, which is across the road from the West Falls Church Metro station (Orange Line). Parking is $3.75.

Additional information can be obtained by calling human resources or the plan’s offices in Richmond at 804 643-1882. You may also check online at http://www.vadcp.com.
H. Patrick Walters Joins College Board

H. Patrick Walters has been appointed to represent Fairfax County on the Northern Virginia Community College Board, replacing Carmin “Chuck” Caputo. Walters has been with the Inova Health System since 1997 and currently serves as the executive vice president for the west region, with oversight of the organization’s facilities in the western areas of Northern Virginia. He is also responsible for leading Inova’s efforts to expand the system through merger, acquisition and partnership development.

With executive responsibility for system-wide strategic planning and planning activities at all Inova facilities, Walters also leads Inova’s “All Hazards” disaster preparedness program. He also supports the system’s major project development activities.

Prior to joining Inova, Walters was the president and chief executive officer of the Alexandria Health Services Corporation and the administrator of Alexandria Hospital. His primary background is in the area of finance and system development and he has held leadership positions in regional healthcare organizations. He was part of the development team that organized the first network model health maintenance organization in Northern Virginia.

Walters received his bachelor of science and master of business administration degrees in finance and accounting from George Mason University. He also has an A.S. degree in business administration from from Northern Virginia Community College.

NOVA is pleased that H. Patrick Walters is “coming home” to provide the College with his experience and leadership skills.

Welcome!

MEC Staffer and Alum Get Scholarships

MEC senior administrative assistant Andrea Bilson (left), special assistant to the president Brian Foley and MEC alum Emily Graham, stop for a photo on their way to the year-end event for the national capital area chapter of the Health Information Management Systems Society, where Bilson and Graham were awarded scholarships. Bilson is currently pursuing an associate degree in health information technology (HIT) through the MEC and was given the associate scholarship. Graham, who graduated in May from NOVA with an HIT degree, earned the undergraduate award.

Congratulations, Andrea and Emily!

Celebrate Nature Photography Day

View the world with your camera and help advance the cause of conservation! That’s the encouraging news from Shirley Nuhn, ESL instructor (AN) about Nature Photography Day, to be celebrated for the first time on June 15. Designation of this day stems from the North American Nature Photography Association’s History Committee, of which Nuhn has chaired since 1996.

There are dozens of ways to celebrate Nature Photography Day. Among them are the following:

- Decide on a special location to photograph a sunrise or sunset—and then plan to repeat that episode at the same time and location every June 15.
- Teach a child how to take photos of flowers or trees in his or her backyard.
- Learn about the life of a famous nature photographer, such as Ansel Adams, Philip Hyde or Roger Tory Peterson.
- Finally, ask yourself how your photos could contribute to a happier world.

Brackett Receives Recognition from Public School System

Administrators and staff of the Davis and Pulley Centers, part of the Fairfax County Public School System (FCPS), visited the Annandale Campus Library on May 30 to recognize and present a certificate of appreciation to Phoebe Brackett, manager of the circulation desk. These FCPS centers seek opportunities for their students to receive training and job skills as they transition into a work environment. Brackett supervised and mentored several student interns in library tasks over the semester, giving them an opportunity to gain practical experience and build confidence. This partnership has been a win-win situation for the library and for the students involved.

Principal Aaron Engley (left) presented Brackett with the certificate of appreciation.

Foley Earns Recertification

Brian Foley, special assistant to the president, recently earned recertification as a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. This fellowship is awarded to individuals who demonstrate continued leadership in health and community affairs and participation in programs of continuing professional education. It is the highest level of achievement possible for executives. Foley, who was originally certified as a fellow in 1996, was recertified in recognition of 10 years of professional achievement in the field.

Congratulations, Brian!

Benavides Runs to Benefit St. Jude

For the fifth year in a row, Judy Benavides, senior administrative assistant for languages and literature (AN), will run the United States Marine Corps Marathon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the largest childhood cancer research center in the United States. Since its founding in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude has treated more than 20,000 children from all 50 states and 60 foreign countries. At St. Jude, no child is ever turned away because of a family’s inability to pay.

You can help by sponsoring Benavides’ efforts. To find out ways to donate, call 703-323-4441 or visit the St. Jude Web site at http://stj.convio.net/site/TR?px=1132222&pg=personal&fr_id=1310. Every donation — large or small — brings her one step closer to reaching her goal.

The next edition of Intercom is dated June 23.
The submission deadline is June 16.

Nasim Khawaja Leads CASE Course

HUM-195 - Middle Eastern Languages and Culture, part of a broader Cultural Awareness and Student Engagement (CASE) project, was taught at Forest Park High School in Woodbridge during the spring semester. CASE, a joint project between NOVA and the Prince William Public School system, was designed to provide cultural training to their teachers. This class is divided into three parts. The lead instructor from the College was Nasim Khawaja, a native of Pakistan and a full-time ESL instructor at the Woodbridge Campus, who taught the Urdu language and Pakistani culture. Firouz Hejazi taught Farsi language and Iranian culture, and Jehad Salameh taught Arabic language and Middle Eastern culture. A total of nine students were enrolled in the course.