Annandale Campus PTK Recognizes Students Success

On February 27, Acting Dean of Student Services Christine Holt reflected on the “Paradox of Affluence” as the guest speaker for Alpha Beta Rho Chapter’s Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Induction Ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus. One-hundred eighteen students became PTK members during spring induction. New members were congratulated by Provost Barbara Saperstone, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Richard Wilan and Holt.

Phi Theta Kappa is the Honor Society for two-year colleges. Students are invited to join by having a 3.5 grade average after taking 12 college credits.
Achieving the Dream Strategy Institute

Eighty-two college teams gathered in San Francisco for the fifth Achieving the Dream (AtD) Strategy Institute in February. The NOVA team joined over 800 participants at the three-day institute.

The event provided opportunities to discuss a variety of strategies and institutional practices. Interactive clinics and workshops were presented by experienced AtD college teams and consultants. Evaluation workshops, cross-team talk and informal networking stimulated discussion and collaboration among the teams. Teams also met with their AtD coaches and data facilitators.

Each year, the Strategy Institute focuses on four main goals: (1) to reflect on and share lessons from experiences with AtD, (2) to deepen understanding about ways to increase student success, (3) to increase capacity for data analysis, program evaluation and data-driven decision making focused on student success and (4) to continue to build the community of learners in AtD.

This year's theme was "Equity and Excellence." The Institute featured a variety of workshops and presentations addressing issues of equity and student success in higher education.

PolicyLink founder and CEO Angela Glover Blackwell gave a rousing keynote address on the last day of the Strategy Institute. Visit http://www.achievingthedream.org/ and type “Blackwell” in the Search bar at the top of the page. You can access her remarks on equity and the role of AtD community colleges by clicking the mp3 link.

The Institute workshops were identified by themes that included Committed Leadership, Use of Evidence, Broad Engagement, Systemic Institutional Improvement, First-Year Experience, Retention and Support Services, High-Quality Learning Experience, Structural Inequity, Developmental Education and Communications.

The experience will assist the NOVA AtD teams with identifying strategies to improve student success on the identified college goals of student persistence and developmental education.
On March 6, the Medical Education Campus (MEC) participated in the Northern Virginia Technology Council’s (NVTC) Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Eleven high school juniors and seniors who have an interest in health care careers visited the MEC to learn about the educational and career opportunities offered in the nursing and allied health programs offered at the College. The students had the opportunity to interview a member of each department in an effort to learn more about each health care career, its work environment and educational requirements. This was a very hands-on experience for them; they took an x-ray, drew blood, inspected the Campus ambulance and observed a pig’s lung.

This annual NVTC event, held in conjunction with Fairfax County Public Schools, allows high school students to gain a first-hand look at a professional workplace and to explore the many lucrative career opportunities in the Northern Virginia region.
“Welcome to Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale Campus” scrolled across the Verizon message board on February 12 as campus faculty/staff attended the Capitals game. Jennifer Helfman arranged this great evening out as one of the Campus’ Fun Committee events.

Damon Green and Mark Johnson coordinated our Bowling Night. What a surprise to see what skilled bowlers they were. Everyone had such a good time that many did not want to leave. Many suggested that they do this each week, start a league and/or challenge other campuses.

During Spring Break, JoAnn Credle organized a Progressive Lunch that fostered mixing and mingling with colleagues and enjoying a wide array of foods. It was a wonderful event for all who attended.

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.
The Women's Center Hosts Mardi Gras Event to Endow Scholarship Fund

The Women's Center at the Alexandria Campus hosted a Mardi Gras event on February 21. The event helped to raise funds to endow the Elaine C. Niner Scholarship Fund, which will honor outstanding female students each year in the Alexandria Campus Honors Program. The event brought faculty and staff together to celebrate with great food, live jazz, provided by Rick Franklin, dancing and lasting memories.

The event was a huge success, in great part due to the efforts of Jean Braden and Beth Harrison, in generating the funds needed to endow the scholarship fund, which was established in memory of Dr. Elaine C. Niner, former chairperson of the Humanities Division at the Alexandria Campus.

Student members of the Women’s Center Advisory Committee: Manal Sorour and Heidi Chapman, who promoted the fundraising event around the Campus, and also helped tremendously throughout the Mardi Gras activities.

Faculty pictured left to right: Connie Elsberg, Judy Snyder, Terese Aylward, Brenda Connelly (on the phone in the background), Gillie Campbell, Kaya Ford, Beth Harrison and Dianne Daily.
UP & COMING

Science Seminar
Presented by the Mathematics, Science, Engineering Division of the Annandale Campus and supported by the Lyceum

A Science Seminar titled “Open Educational Resources: Using Technology as a Lever for Change and Educational Access” will be presented on March 20 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m in the CE Theater on the Annandale Campus. French Professor Laura Franklin (AL) will be the speaker.

In summer 2008, Franklin represented NOVA and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) team at the 1st Pan-African Forum on Open Educational Resources in Accra, Ghana. It was an important moment for the Open Educational Resource movement in that colleagues were able to share free and open-learning materials for immediate use in the expansion of e-learning throughout the world. This international community effort shows the level of interaction NOVA can have with using technology as a lever for change and educational access. Other colleagues in this work are none less than UNESCO, the African Virtual University network and the MERLOT and its institutional partners. This presentation will show some of the science resources and shed light on this promising model for equity and access.

Franklin has been honored with numerous national and international awards, including the 2003 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award, the highest award bestowed on faculty by the Commonwealth of Virginia. She also teaches online courses at the Extended Learning Institute (ELI). She is a founding editor of the World Languages collection of MERLOT. She is also on the leadership council of the MERLOT Africa Network and the chair of the MANela awards committee, granting awards for innovative use of instructional technology to improve free and open access to all. She is the current chair of the NOVA Global Studies committee.

All students, staff and faculty are cordially invited to attend.

Loudoun Leadership Lecture Series & NOVA Honors Program Welcomes Donna Brazile and Jim Kiemba

On March 30 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Loudoun Leadership Lecture Series and NOVA Honors Program will take place in the Waddell Theatre on the Loudoun Campus. The Campus will host author, educator and political pundit Donna Brazile and author and NOVA student Jim Kiemba. To learn more about this amazing leadership opportunity, see the flyer in the attachment section at http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Mar20-09_attachment.pdf.

Alexandria Campus Anthem Wellness Screening Event

There will be free screenings at the Alexandria Campus Anthem Wellness Screening event. This will be available to all faculty and staff (classified and P-14s) on March 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Bisdorf Building, room 158. Spouses and dependents of faculty and classified staff only, that live in the employee’s household, are also invited. You do not have to be enrolled with Anthem insurance to participate; however, you must register to attend. Your appointment time will be confirmed via e-mail. Register today! Spaces will fill up fast! See the flyer in the attachment section at http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Mar20-09_attachment.pdf for more details.

To sign up for your health screening, contact Kathy Clement via e-mail at kclement@nvcc.edu.
**Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre Performs**

The Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre (KHGDT) will present a program of dance stories on **March 22 at 3:00 p.m. and March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Tyler Building Auditorium at the Alexandria Campus.** Works to be presented include “Battleground,” about the struggles of women during wartime and “Lincoln Portrait” incorporating the speeches of Abraham Lincoln. Two thousand nine is also the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth. Also presented is “Ellis Island” inspired by sculptor Philip Ratner, whose bronze statues stand on this island in the New York harbor, portraying the thousands of immigrants coming to the United States.

The KHGDT is Alexandria's oldest modern dance company, founded in 1978, and is in residence at NOVA’s Alexandria Campus. Focusing on telling stories through dance, the company presents programs about history and current events. This concert previews their performance at the Foro Perfromatica Festival in Puebla, Mexico this April.

Tickets are available at the door for $10. NOVA students, faculty and staff are **free**. More information is available at [http://www.khgdt.org](http://www.khgdt.org) or in the attachment section online at [http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Mar20-09_attachment.pdf](http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Mar20-09_attachment.pdf).

**Politics and Pop Icons**

Due to popular demand by students, faculty and staff, the art exhibition "Politics and Pop Icons," featuring paintings by NOVA faculty **Rosemary Gallick**, has been extended until **March 26**. The exhibit is located on the **fourth floor at the Woodbridge Campus**. All are welcome! For more information contact the Communications and Humanities Division at 703-878-5718 or e-mail rgallick@nvcc.edu.

**Student Learning Outcomes in NOVA Programs and Classrooms Workshop**

The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) and Academic Assessment are offering a workshop session on student learning outcomes for interested faculty. This workshop will take place on **March 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the Alexandria Campus, Room AA291**.

The workshop will provide an overview of student learning outcomes and the assessment cycle and will include information about why we need to assess student learning outcomes, student learning outcomes at the program level, major steps in the assessment loop, components of an assessment plan, types of assessment tools and improving teaching and learning using student learning outcomes. This presentation will lay the foundation for later workshops, including those on writing student learning outcomes and curriculum mapping, classroom assessment techniques and using assessment results in the process of continual improvement.

Because of limited space, registration is limited to 25 people. To register, go online to [http://survey.vccs.edu/wsb.dll/s/41g6c5](http://survey.vccs.edu/wsb.dll/s/41g6c5).

If you have questions, contact Coordinator of Academic Assessment **Jennifer Roberts** at jeroberts@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3086.
**NOVA Community Chorus and Others Perform Duruflé Requiem**

Mark Whitmire (AL) will conduct two performances of the “Duruflé Requiem,” one of the most magical, transcendent pieces in the choral repertoire. The performances feature the Washington Philharmonic Orchestra and the NOVA Community Chorus, with the soloists mezzo-soprano Grace Gori and baritone Aurelius Gori. **No tickets are required.**

Performances will be **March 29 at 3:00 p.m. at the Church of the Epiphany** located at 1317 G Street N.W., Washington, District of Columbia and **April 5 at 3:00 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School** at 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, Virginia.

For information contact Whitmire at mwhitmire@nvcc.edu or 703-845-6097.

**Catherine Clinton Presents on the Life of Mrs. Lincoln**


Educated at Harvard, Sussex and Princeton, Clinton is a professor of history at Queen's University in Belfast.

The program will be held on **April 16 at 12:30 p.m. in the CE Forum** on the Annandale Campus. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing after the speech.

**Lyceum Program on Earth Day**

Sam Love, a co-founder of the first Earth Day (1970), will speak on "Ecology: The Key to a Sustainable Future" at **12:30 p.m. on April 22 in the CE Forum on the Annandale Campus.** You do not want to miss this great, eye-opening event.
NOVA /Alexandria Renowned Music Faculty Perform in Concert

Professors James Jelasic, International Steinway Artist-In-Residence at NOVA, and Jon Lackey, professor of voice will perform Johannes Brahms’ song cycle “Die Schöne Magelone,” one of the most exciting and beautiful pieces in the romantic music repertoire. This recital duo, with numerous recordings, has performed internationally to great critical acclaim.

The performance, also a benefit for the Alexandria Music Department, will be on April 6 at 8:00 p.m. in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center located on the Alexandria Campus. Tickets will be sold at the door for $25 General Admission and $10 for NOVA students with ID. Paid adjacent tiered-parking will be available.

For more information, contact Barbara Ryland Wells at bwells@nvcc.edu or 703-845-6026. For more details, please see the flyer in the new attachment section at http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Mar20-09_attachment.pdf.

DON’T FORGET!

The Last Day to Place Orders for Faculty Regalia is This Week

All Campus Bookstores will be accepting faculty regalia orders for Commencement until Saturday, March 21. Orders placed after this date require expedited handling and may be assessed a late fee. Complete the order form (see the attachment section http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Mar20-09_attachment.pdf) and forward it to your campus bookstore.

ORDER TODAY!

NOVA Faculty Jon Lackey and James Jelasic.
-A Word to the Wise-
Are All Learning Disabilities the Same?

The majority of our students receiving accommodations at NOVA are requesting services due to a learning disability. On occasion, students go directly to professors and ask for accommodations based on their “learning disability.” However, learning disabilities affect individuals very differently and therefore accommodations differ. It is important that the Disability Support Services (DSS) counselor has an opportunity to review all disability-related documentation and develop an appropriate memorandum of accommodation before any type of accommodation is provided. Below are some of the more common learning disabilities and how they may differently impact on learning. With each unique learning disability comes a unique set of accommodations:

- A person with dyspraxia may mix up words and sentences while talking. There is often a discrepancy between language comprehension and language production. It may also affect motor development.
- A person with dyslexia often has problems in expressive and/or receptive language and may mix up letters within words and words within sentences. This often may affect spelling, but can also impact on mathematics and reading.
- A person with dysgraphia has difficulties with the physical aspects of writing.
- A person with dyscalculia has difficulties with math skills and the memory of math facts.

As people mature and change, so too can the impact of their disability on the ability to learn. This is one reason that current documentation of a disability is often required at the College. Anytime you have any questions, please contact the DSS counselor on your campus. They are experienced and qualified to assist you in appropriately accommodating your students.

Do you have a question regarding working with students with disabilities? E-mail Special Assistant for College-Wide Disability Support Services Carol Sweetser at csweetser@nvcc.edu. Anonymity will be respected, but please provide your campus. Check out future editions of Intercom for answers.

2009 Service Awards Luncheon

The NOVA Service Awards Luncheon honoring employees completing 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service with the Commonwealth of Virginia will be held on March 30 at the Waterford at Springfield located at 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield, Virginia. Social time (cash bar) will begin at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at 12:00 p.m.

A revised list of those being honored is attached to this Intercom (http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Mar20-09_attachment.pdf). The employment cut off date for the awards is for service through June 30, 2009. Please check the list for the appropriate spelling of your name as well as years of service. Certificates will be made based on this list. Changes or corrections to your 2009 Certificates must be submitted before April 17.

Contact Human Resources, 703-323-3788, to verify your years of service or the correct spelling of your name.

Invitations were mailed at the end of February. If your home address has changed recently, please inform Human Resources. Employees must RSVP by March 20. Please indicate on the card if you will bring a guest and enclose a $26.00, check made payable to Northern Virginia Community College, for each guest. The College pays for employees receiving awards. Send your reply to College Government Affairs and Community Relations.

For further information, please call Geri Dolan at 703-323-3753.

Please note that the attachment section of the Intercom, which includes important NOVA announcements, can now be accessed via a new link: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Mar20-09_attachment.pdf.