As part of Women’s History Month, the Woodbridge Campus business and social science division held its first-ever voter registration drive on March 14 and 15. Staffed by volunteers from the League of Women Voters from Fairfax County, the event was a great success and registered 22 new voters. Said League coordinator Anita Ford, “We all believe it was a wonderful experience and hope we are able to come back again.” Pictured, from left to right: **Dave Dillon** (AV supervisor), **Lisa Riggleman** (sociology), **Alice Reagan** (history), **Fran Emory** (dean, business and social sciences), Jeanette Rishell and Anita Ford (League of Women Voters), **Darling Villena-Mata** (psychology), **Evelyn Potts** (business administration) and **Michele Wendell** (communications). Not pictured: **Cathy Behan** (business administration) and **Steve Cool** (AV specialist).

Volunteers Needed for Commencement 2006

Commencement is Tuesday, May 9, at the George Mason University Patriot Center and volunteers are needed to help with various tasks that evening. Please contact **Geri Dolan** at gdolan@nvcc.edu no later than April 7 if you would like to be part of the team.

This is a wonderful opportunity to lend a helping hand at the most important evening of our students’ lives. Refreshments will be served.
CommonHealth Program Helped Richardson “Break Free From Tobacco”

Dorothy Richardson, executive assistant to the dean of student development (LO), is now into her fifth smoke-free month thanks to a “quit kit” offered by Virginia CommonHealth. Richardson sent away for the “Breaking Free From Tobacco” program when she decided to quit smoking last October. She had tried to quit many times before, but this time had made up her mind to do it and to stick to it. It was a struggle all the way, but Richardson feels it was well worth it. “Even though today there are times that I long for a cigarette, I have discovered that I have willpower,” she said. “Call CommonHealth if you want to quit. There will be a counselor to take your call and help you through the steps.”

Benefits of the program include individual phone support from a health coordinator who will guide you through the process, incentives to help make a smooth transition, including a planning guide and a relaxation tape and an eight-week supply of your choice of patches or gum (your health coordinator will help you choose which will work best for you). The program is free to state employees eligible for the State Health Benefits Program. Additionally, adult family members living permanently in the employee’s household and retirees are eligible to participate (limit two enrollments per lifetime).

You'll decide when you’re ready to quit. Your health coordinator will help set reachable goals whether you're ready to quit now or are just starting to think about it. No pressure. No nagging. Call 1-800-394-6380 to enroll and take the first step toward breaking free.

Benefits Open Enrollment Announced

The open enrollment period for changes to health/flex benefits begins on April 14 and ends on May 15. Employees must make any changes to health coverage plans or membership and enrollment in the flexible reimbursement program during this time. The state’s Web-based system, Employee Direct, is a quick and easy way to review and make changes to your personal information, health coverage elections and flexible reimbursement accounts. A password must be set up in advance to make changes using Employee Direct. Visit https://edirect.virginia.gov to get your password or to review your benefits account.

Reminder - Reference Checks Mandatory

Reference checks are required on potential new employees, including all P-3 and P-14 positions. References from previous employers should confirm information shared during interviews and provide a snapshot of the individual’s strengths and weaknesses. A minimum of two professional references who can vouch for the candidates capabilities are required. Record information obtained during the reference check on the telephone reference form, NVCC 105-113. Reference information must be included in the hire packet and sent to HR prior to making an offer. For more information, contact Sonia Aboulhosn at 703-323-3119.

Williams Leaves Loudoun for Woodbridge

Barbara Tyler and the classified staff committee threw a “so long” party for Loudoun Campus staff member Jeanette Williams. Williams and her husband Ollie were treated to a home-cooked lunch courtesy of Loudounites and their family members. Pat Phelan’s wife made a knockout vegetable lasagna, Sam Cooper’s mother made her famous macaroni salad and just about everyone went back for seconds of Tyler’s candied yams.

In addition, Rhonda Martin and Dorothy Richardson collected for a “money tree” for Williams and Provost Tony Tardd presented her with a framed certificate of outstanding achievement for her years of dedicated service to the Campus. Although Williams has returned to Woodbridge, her welcoming smile and helpfulness won’t be soon forgotten. Best wishes, Jeanette.

New Addition to Human Resources Staff

Human resources welcomes Erin Couch, the newest member of their full-time staff. Couch is not actually new to HR - she began working as a part-time employee last August. Recently transplanted from Colorado Springs, Couch holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Northern Arizona University. She will be working with the benefits team and looks forward to assisting all employees with benefits matters. Welcome, Erin!

WANTED:
Your News Here!

Check out the Intercom submission guidelines at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines
Battle of the Breads at MEC Meeting

Medical Education Campus Provost Charlene Connolly and Special Assistant to the President Brian Foley pose with their “battling soda breads.” The State Council on Higher Education in Virginia held its most recent bi-monthly meeting at the MEC, giving council members the opportunity to tour and learn more about the Campus.

The council also unknowingly served as judges in the “great soda bread bake-off.” Connolly’s husband, Robert, and Foley’s wife, Terry, had each prepared their own Irish soda bread recipes, and both were set out for the council to sample during their meeting. So which was the bread winner? “It was a tie,” Foley said.

Digital Reference Works - New in Your Library!

Through a membership in the Virtual Library of Virginia, NOVA libraries now offer access to two collections of complete reference works from both campus or off-site computers. Oxford Reference Online: Premium Collection is a comprehensive and detailed resource that includes more than 120 dictionaries and reference works published by Oxford University Press. The titles cover virtually all subjects in the humanities, the sciences, social sciences, business, language and general reference.

Many features of the Oxford Reference Online enhance its usefulness to researchers. Because it covers works published in all disciplines, users can see how different fields treat the same subject, word or phrase. Furthermore, the user can highlight a word or passage in any article, click “cross-reference” at the top, and the database will provide links to articles with that word or words.

In addition to the many titles in the core collection of dictionaries and reference works, NOVA faculty and students will also have access to more than 50,000 in-depth articles from the numerous titles in the “Oxford Companions” series, 20,000 entries from the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, some 5,300 illustrations, maps and timelines, more than 36,000 bibliographies and over 1,400 links to Web sites.

Gale Publishing provides the second group of reference works. These works include notable and frequently used encyclopedias and other special reference sources and are useful for researchers in both disciplinary and multidisciplinary research. Titles in this reference database include Beacham’s Guide to the Endangered Species of North America, Encyclopedia of Education, New Dictionary of the History of Ideas, Learning and Memory and the Encyclopedia of Aging. This new feature can be accessed by visiting: http://find.galegroup.com/gvrl/start.do?prodId=GVRL&userGroupName=viva2_nvcc. Contact any campus librarian for more information.

Lunchtime Spanish Class a “Grande” Success

¿Habla Español? Un poco. The recent Functional Spanish for Employees training course was a great success. This learning opportunity was spearheaded by Dr. Alicia Falzon and coordinated by HR professional development. Falzon proposed a plan to teach employees some basic functional Spanish. The class met weekly in the Brault building for an hour over the course of two months and was such a hit that the group asked to extend it for four more sessions. Human resources was pleased to plan and support this kind of effort and hopes that they can do more of it in the future. Muchas gracias to Dr. Falzon and congratulations to all the employees who participated: Steve Mahood, Choon Lee, Susan Gossman, Ralph Eckerlin, Catherine Bander, Stephen Kohls, Kim Jacomo, Mary Vander Matten, Wistar Withers, Myrtho Blanchard, Wayne Marple, Leslie Toozer, Joan Trabandt, Cindy Miller, Fran McDonald, Heather Tillberg, Randy Langston, Linda Delp-Miller, LaToya Brown, Peggy Weissinger and Thomas Gunick.
MEC, Timber Lane Team Up for Dental Health

A group of 28 students from Timber Lane Elementary in Falls Church, the “adopted school” of the Annandale Campus, recently visited the Medical Education Campus to learn more about dental health. This visit was the culmination of the “Love Your Smile. Keep Healthy Teeth” project coordinated between the MEC and the Annandale Campus/Timber Lane Committee. The students viewed a presentation on dental care and Dr. Howard Kelley (left) and the dental clinic staff examined the children’s teeth and created a dental record, providing many of them with a first-time assessment. The students also received MEC bags containing dental care tips and other items.

Call for Nominations - Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards

The State Council on Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) sponsors an Outstanding Faculty Award which annually recognizes faculty excellence at the post-secondary level. For 2006, 15 faculty members from various colleges and universities were selected, including Dr. Patricia Daron, biology (AN). In addition to the professional recognition associated with the award, each winner received a $5,000 honorarium.

The program is self nominating. Nominees must have a record of superior accomplishment in four areas of scholarly endeavor: teaching, discovery, integration of knowledge and service. Specific criteria are explained in SCHEV’s nomination guidelines at: http://www.schev.edu/SCHEVs/OFAguidelines.pdf.

Faculty members desiring consideration for the 2007 award must submit to the awards committee a one- to two-page document outlining their scholarly accomplishments in the areas noted above and a current Curriculum Vitae. Submission information must be forward by e-mail attachment to hwhite@nvcc.edu by April 21. The committee will evaluate each submission package and notify individual nominees regarding their selection no later than May 3. Selected nominees will then be given additional information regarding the preparation of a complete nomination package which will be forwarded to SCHEV in September.

Do More This Summer at NOVA

NOVA’s Web site is one of the first places students go for the latest information about courses and enrollment. To encourage greater enrollment this summer, the staff of NOVA’s Technology Applications Center (TAC) recently joined forces with Kukovich & Associates, the College’s marketing consultants, to create a special summer Web site: http://www.nvcc.edu/summer. This site is designed to quickly link current, prospective and new students to the information they need to apply, register and pay for summer classes.

Focusing on the theme “Do More This Summer,” the site went live on March 24 - just in time for summer registration. Special thanks to Cathy Simpson, Susan Picard and the entire TAC staff for their leadership on this project.

Townsend Speech Available Online

For anyone who missed Kathleen Kennedy Townsend’s recent speech at the Annandale Campus, the “Video on Demand” stream of it is available at: http://www.nvcc.edu/tvcenter/Public_Videos.htm. It will be there for the next two weeks, after which it will be pulled. The topic of her speech was “Women in Politics.” The event was part of NOVA’s Women’s History Month observation.
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For more information contact the Annandale Campus Career Resource Center, McDiarmid Building, room CM327 or call 703-323-3144