Manassas Campus Common Reading Program Hosts Cedric Jennings

Faculty, staff, students and members of the community came together on April 16 for a presentation by Cedric Jennings, the subject of the book “A Hope in the Unseen: an American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League” by Ron Suskind. The event was the culmination of the Campus’s participation in the One Book, One College Common Reading Program which promotes reading and community in colleges and universities across the nation. All Manassas Campus students, faculty and staff were encouraged to read this important work.

Jennings spoke of his experience as a high school student from Ballou High School in Washington, District of Columbia to his acceptance into and graduation from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. He went into further detail about his experiences through these years as well as an update on his recent accomplishments.

Other events which took place throughout the semester included readings by theater students, a lunchtime book discussion and a writing contest. Many

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Manassas Campus Common Reading Program Hosts Cedric Jennings

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faculty members used the book in the classroom as a teaching tool, but also as an opportunity to learn about the opportunities in life. After the presentation, the audience enjoyed a reception with Jennings as well as a book signing. The Manassas Campus would like to thank Barnes & Noble for their participation in the Common Reading program as well as the Manassas Campus Book Club for coordinating this special event. The Campus looks forward to reading another book together.

Alexandria Campus Body Division Builds Vehicle for NOVA EMS Training

The Auto Body Division at the Alexandria Campus, under the direction of Geoffrey Brown, took a donated vehicle and stripped it of all its mechanical components: engine, transmission, suspension, fuel tank and pipes. The interior was removed and the vehicle repainted white inside and out. Following the paint job, the roof was cut off and attachments were fabricated to enable its easy removal and re-installation. The door hinges were also modified to enable the doors to be removed and replaced. Finally, the vehicle was mounted on a frame with casters so it can be moved around the classroom. This vehicle is designed to provide training for the Emergency Medical Services Department at the Medical Education Campus (MEC) to teach students how to extricate persons who have been in a serious car accident. This frequently necessitates removing the doors and roof of the vehicle in order to gain access to the occupants.

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NOVASIGHTINGS

Alumni Board Announces 2009 Faculty of the Year Awards

The NOVA Alumni Federation Board of Governors announced the winners of the 2008-2009 Faculty of the Year awards at its annual reception held on April 17 in the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Forum.

Over 170 faculty, staff and students attended the event. Each nominee was presented with a certificate and the winners from each campus received an engraved Jefferson Cup. Only alumni and current students may nominate faculty members for this award. The Alumni Federation Faculty of the Year Committee made the selections based on the written essays from the student/alumni nominators.

The winners were: Brian Leffler (AN), Victor P. Zabielski (AL), Erik W. Burtis (WO), Edward Creppy (LO), Carol Lang (MEC) and Marion B. Lobstein (MA). The adjunct faculty award winner was Stanley Johnson (MEC).

Congratulations to all those who were nominated and to all of the students and alumni who took the time to send in nominations. NOVA has outstanding faculty, and we are proud to honor them.

Executive Vice President John T. Dever of Academic and Student Services addressed faculty, staff and students and congratulated all those who were nominated.

Photo by Kevin Mattingly
The Medical Education Campus Celebrates Health Information and Privacy Security Week

As part of the American Health Information Management Association’s (AHIMA) Health Information Privacy and Security Week, April 12 to 18, the Medical Education Campus (MEC) held various presentations addressing the need to educate the public on measures to protect the privacy and security of health information.

This year’s theme was, “Protecting Information - It’s a Top Priority.” Provost Brian Foley kicked off the week with a presentation about how Health Information Management (HIM) and electronic health records have influenced and evolved health care professions.

“There is a severe shortage of health care workers, including health information technicians, to meet the increased demands in our area,” said Foley. Foley cited research done by the Northern Virginia Health Force and discussed the initiatives NOVA is taking as the region’s leading provider of trained health care workers.

Assistant Dean Jacqueline Gibbons, HIM Program, gave a presentation regarding AHIMA’s privacy and security of health information and Emily Graham, former NOVA student and associate director of Regulatory Affairs at the American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery provided information on the evolving Red Flags Rule regulations.

“The risk of medical identity fraud is a growing theft,” said Gibbons, “However, preventative measures are progressing to ensure the safety of patient information.”

These preventative measures include establishing patient verification procedures, minimizing the use of social security numbers and storing individually identifiable information in a secure manner that administrative, technical and physical safeguards are in place.

Red Flags Rule - which originally stemmed from the November 2007 Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) that required financial institutions and creditors to develop and implement written identity-theft prevention programs—are now being modified to address the concern of medical identity theft.

Finally, Victor Eilenfield, senior consultant for Health Information Technology and NOVA faculty member, presented on the 18 latest statutes and provisions that are affecting HIM professionals. Some of these statutes include: breach notifications, education on health information privacy, restrictions on disclosures and sale of health information, improved enforcements and audits. Eilenfield predicts the public will begin to see the statutes full implementation in four to five years. He said the direct effects to patients will be mostly positive because health information will be actively protected and secured.

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NOVA Production Receives Telly Award for Exceptional Film

Anyone can win an Academy Award or a Golden Globe Award, but not even Marlon Brando, Meryl Streep and Robert De Niro have been awarded a Telly, the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional and cable television. NOVA recently received this honor for the production of a one-hour original film titled “A Dialogue with James Madison and George Mason at Old Gadsby’s Tavern.” The film was a real team effort. John Ruffino and the NVCC Educational Foundation provided a grant that helped fund the project. The College’s talented Telecommunications Center crew consisting of Richard Attix, Tony Matthews, Lance Graham and Sabrina Xavier worked the cameras, lighting, editing and sound equipment. Leslie Bosch and Loretto Wiggins of the Graphics Department provided the artwork for the DVD. Charles Errico wrote the grant and script. Family members Denise Errico, Charlie’s wife, and Connor Attix, Richard’s son, also provided valuable assistance on a hot Sunday last August when the film was shot in Old Town Alexandria. The film will be distributed to high schools, colleges and universities throughout Virginia. It is an example of the outstanding work that NOVA produces. A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to all who put their time, talents and hard work and provided unwavering dedication and service to this project and so many others.
To celebrate National Library Week and to cap off the Loudoun's Reading Initiative, READ#@%&#, the library hosted a Book Festival. The Festival included book tables set up by different departments and student clubs, hourly raffles of free books, treats and lots of book discussions. The tables included the following topics:

- “Are You As Smart As a Four-Year Old?” by the Child Development Program
- “Local Nature Reserves” by the Biology Club
- “Reading Across the Globe” by the Geography Program
- “Interpersonal Relationships” by the Social Science Program
- “Global Business and Cultural Awareness” by the Economics and Business Program
- “How to Read Your Textbooks” by the English Department
- “Light in Photography” by Mark Worthington from the Loudoun Campus IT Department
- “Faculty in Print” showcasing Loudoun faculty who have been published
- Electronically published materials showcasing NOVA e-Book databases including Overdrive and Safari

The Festival also included two wonderful guest speakers Laura Bobrow, renowned storyteller, poet and author of children's books and Dr. E. R. Braithwaite: teacher, diplomat and author of the book and award-winning movie, “To Sir with Love.” It was a great success and an event that the Loudoun Campus Library hopes to offer every year during National Library Week!
Alexandria Campus Facilities Department Celebrates Administrative Professionals Day

Seated (left to right): Jackie Giovani, Kathy Clement, Candice Vazquez and Marwan Gharbieh. Standing (left to right): Rob Williamson, Yahree Cannon, Key Norris, Jeoffrey McGilton, Aurang Zeb, Eric Hochstrasser, Carlos Swann and Dan Teachey.

The Alexandria Campus Facilities Department celebrated Administrative Professionals Day on April 22 with cake and flowers. It was fun and smiles for all who attended the celebration.

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.
On April 15, the Young Professionals of NOVA with the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce participated in their monthly networking event at the Manassas Campus. The Young Professionals of NOVA serve to create an environment for students to develop professionally, become more active in the community and contribute to the high quality of life in the area by retaining young professionals in Northern Virginia. During this event, Manassas Campus Student Ambassadors learned the importance of networking skills with business professionals. Students met representatives from education, finance, event planning and health care.

For more information on the Young Professionals of NOVA, please contact Marya (Wysocki) Johnson at mwysocki@nvcc.edu or 703-530-8243.
2009 Literary Awards on the Alexandria Campus

On April 16, the Alexandria Humanities and Social Sciences division hosted a chili luncheon reception for the winners of the Campus’ 2009 Literary Awards. Winners were honored for their hard work and got an opportunity to take a photo with Dean Jimmie McClennan, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Front row (left to right): Winners Joel Kubicki Jr., Inna Kalmykova, Paul Kent, Maabika Obanda and Alfred Keith Felix. Back row (left to right): Winners Michael Cherry, Annie Elizabeth Ryan, Jessica M. Bates and Natalie F. Fortunato.

Photo by student Alton McDougle
Annandale Campus Celebrates World Heritage Week

This year’s World Heritage Week festivities at the Annandale Campus lasted three days, with each day focusing on different parts of the world. The cultural performances that took place on April 14, focused on Europe and Asia, on April 15, Africa and the Middle East and on April 17, South America and the Caribbean.

Darlene Branges, ESL (English as a Second Language) program assistant coordinator for American Culture & Language Institute in Continuing Education, coordinated tables for ESL students to offer food tasting, fortune telling, storytelling, bookmarks made with your name in another language, origami stations and foreign country game stations. Kathy Ferguson and Marjorie Wallach, CE-ESL adjunct instructors from the American Culture & Language Institute, organized an international fashion show with over 20 students modeling national dress from Vietnam, Korea, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

Alicia Falzon, professor of Spanish, coordinated Foreign Language Day which took place on April 15 as well. Foreign Language Day was a chance for students, faculty and staff to find out about the many foreign languages taught at the Annandale Campus, and the study abroad and internship opportunities available.

Due to impending rain, the event was moved inside. However, this did not dampen the mood of the students, faculty and staff who attended. In addition to the cultural performances, students were able to sample cultural cuisine each day, visit a fortune teller or obtain a henna tattoo sponsored by the Office of Student Activities. Cultural performances included Irish dancing from the McGrath School of Irish Dance, Chinese lion and dragon dancing from the Tai Yim Kung Fu School, African stilt walkers Shacoba Phipps, Middle Eastern dancing by Mia Naja and Andean folk music by Polca Paraguaya to name a few. Students were given the opportunity to interact with the performers when Kon Kouran, an African dance and drum group, taught students African dance and when Polca Paraguaya, an Andean folk music group, invited student Corey Eveler to the stage to sing.
NOVA hosted its’ second annual Biotechnology Open House on April 10 at the Manassas Campus. Over 25 high schools juniors and seniors attended including students from Prince William County, Loudoun County, Fairfax County, as well as students from Youth for Tomorrow, Pimmit Hills Alternative School and the home schooling community.

Parents and students attended a presentation by Biotechnology Outreach Coordinator La Gomez who spoke about NOVA’s Biotechnology program, biotechnology applications and biotechnology as a career option. Students then participated in lab activities, led by Gomez and the Biotechnology Program Coordinator Johanna Weiss. Students simulated an AIDS outbreak during which they determined whether they were carriers of an “infectious agent.” Students also participated in an activity to detect pollutants in water. Through these activities, students learned some of the techniques that scientists are working with in the biotechnology industry. The lunch was provided for students and their parents at the conclusion of the lab activities.

For more information on the Biotechnology Program and the open house, please contact Gomez at igomez@nvcc.edu or 703-530-8255.
Alexandria Campus Celebrates Diversity

The NOVA International Club hosted the “International Spring Festival 2009” on April 15. The event was co-sponsored by the Alexandria Campus Diversity Committee and supported by the Office of International Students. Through food, music and dance, participants celebrated cultures from all over the world, from Asia and Africa to Europe and North and South America. The members of the International Club together with student volunteers and embassy representatives featured 16 countries and displayed brochures, memorabilia and cultural information at their booths. The event attracted an impressive number of students, faculty members and visitors, who joined together in the multisensory festivities. The International Club's slogan, "Be a part, not apart," has been successfully implemented. The celebration not only underlined the wonderful richness of NOVA’s population, but it also contributed to an overwhelming feeling of united community. Special thanks to all of the students, faculty and staff who worked so hard, including the International Club President Karima Ben Ayed, who led the effort.
CETL Workshops and Events Available for Faculty

- **Developing Effective Presentations and Grading Students' Oral Presentations.** Explore ways to help students with their oral presentations. Learning how to grade student presentations. Facilitated by Communication Studies and Theatre (CST) faculty. **May 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in LR 144 (LO).** Register at [CETL@nvcc.edu](mailto:CETL@nvcc.edu).

- **So, You Want Your Students to Work in Groups?!** Explore five major communication strategies for developing more effective groups. This workshop is facilitated by CST faculty on **May 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in LR 144 (LO).** Register at [CETL@nvcc.edu](mailto:CETL@nvcc.edu). Event flyers may be found in the attachment section at [http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/May1-09_attachment.pdf](http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/May1-09_attachment.pdf).

**You Are invited to a Learning Communities Summit**

You do not want to miss the upcoming Learning Communities Summit scheduled for **May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College’s Parham Road Campus, Richmond, Virginia (beginning in the Gallery in Georgiadis Hall).**

Learning Communities (LCs) are one of the best strategies for improving student success. The purpose of this gathering is to share successes and opportunities associated with teaching and managing LCs. There will be special tracks for both faculty and administrative participants.

This event is completely **free!** Continental breakfast and lunch included. LCs materials and enrollment in LCs Blackboard site also provided.

Send participants’ names, college affiliation, teaching or administrative areas, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to Charlie Peterson at cpeterson@reynolds.edu.

**Please note:** If you are interested in providing an update at the summit on the status of LCs at the College, please notify Peterson at 804-523-5821 or at the above e-mail address or Miles McCrimmon at mncrimmon@reynolds.edu asap! This professional development opportunity is supported by a Virginia Community College System workshop mini-grant.

**Alexandria Band and NOVA Community Chorus Spring Concert**

The Alexandria Band and NOVA Community Chorus will present their Spring Concert on **May 7 at 8:00 p.m. in the Schlesinger Center.** Band music will include “Dizzy Fingers” and “Italian Rhapsody.” The chorus will present poems by William Shakespeare, set to music by the jazz composer George Shearing. Also on the program are selections sung be members of the chorus at the Leipzig Choral Festival in Germany last summer, and Gershwin’s “But Not for Me” sung by NOVA Idol winner Susan Bilodeau. No tickets are required; a donation of $5 is requested. For more information, please call 703-845-6097 or e-mail mwhitmire@nvcc.edu. See the flyer in the attachment section [http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/May1-09_attachment.pdf](http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/May1-09_attachment.pdf).

**Information for NOVA Employees from the Alzheimer’s Association**

In a recent survey conducted by NOVA Human Resources in association with the Alzheimer’s Association, 89 percent of NOVA employees who responded stated that they are either currently caregivers or will be involved in their parent’s care and support. Eighty percent are interested in learning about healthy brain aging, 63 percent worry about their ability to care for and support aging loved ones and 50 percent are concerned about their ability to balance work and family life.

Based on these results and more, NOVA Human Resources will partner with the Alzheimer’s Association to provide information, workshops and other support for NOVA employees. The first of these offerings is a workshop for all employees on “Balancing Family, Work and Caregiving.”

This workshop will be held **May 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Annandale Campus** in the President’s Dining Room of the Ernst Community Culture Center. Please pre-register by sending an e-mail to HRDtraining@nvcc.edu to help us plan for the event. We hope you will join us for this informative session.
The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) 
*Welcomes Applications to*
Participate in a Faculty Learning Community: 
Incorporating Information Literacy into Your Courses

All NOVA faculty are welcome to go online [http://tiny.cc/xKvuM](http://tiny.cc/xKvuM) and apply. The deadline for applications has been extended to May 10.

Twelve faculty members will be accepted into the community. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) will provide your materials and food. Participants will be asked to participate in the CETL Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for the academic year 2009-2010 and to:

- Support the development and retention of participants in this community of practice;
- Contribute your “fair share” to the leadership of the FLC by participating in drafting an expanded FLC charter, proposing and facilitating FLC goals, activities and evaluations, moderating discussions, performing and documenting research and other appropriate actions as FLC needs emerge;
- Read “Teaching Information Literacy: 35 Practical, Standards-Based Exercises for College Students” by Joanna M. Burkhardt by the date agreed to by FLC members and be prepared to discuss your reactions to it;
- Prepare for and participate in FLC online discussions by responding to and posting encouraging comments at least once every two weeks;
- Attend four in-person FLC luncheon meetings, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in September, November, February and April. Specific dates will be determined by the FLC at a later date;
- Maintain a personal blog to journal evolving insights and applications about teaching and learning. Post to the blog at least once a week and allow FLC facilitators access to the blog for purposes of assessing FLC effectiveness and
- Test new ideas about teaching and learning resulting from FLC readings and discussions in your own or others’ courses and report the results to the FLC at least three times during academic year 2009-2010.

The community will be run with participatory leadership. Beth DeAngelo, Dana Roggenbaum and Nan Peck will serve as your resource facilitators. E-mail your questions to CETL@nvcc.edu or call 703-323-4140.

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**Important Notice**

**Leave Sharing Request**

Hector Revollo, trainer and instructor, Learning Resources at the Woodbridge Campus has requested to participate in the leave-sharing program. If you would like to donate leave hours to Revollo, 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](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 8-hour increments and only annual leave may be donated.
The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Welcomes Applications for Faculty to Participate in Faculty Learning Community: Best Practices in Teaching and Learning for STEM Faculty

All NOVA faculty are welcome to go online http://tiny.cc/xKvuM and apply. The deadline for applications is May 10. Twelve Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) faculty members will be accepted into the community. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) will provide your materials and food. Participants will be asked to participate in the CETL Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for the academic year 2009-2010 and to:

- Support the development and retention of participants in this community of practice;
- Contribute your “fair share” to the leadership of the FLC by participating in drafting an expanded FLC charter, proposing and facilitating FLC goals, activities and evaluations, moderating discussions, performing and documenting research and other appropriate actions as FLC needs emerge;
- Explore the online resources available through the National Science Foundation and other similar organizations by the date agreed to by FLC members and be prepared to discuss your reactions to these;
- Prepare for and participate in FLC online discussions by responding to and posting encouraging comments at least once every two weeks;
- Attend four in-person FLC luncheon meetings, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in September, November, February and April. Specific dates will be determined by the FLC at a later date;
- Maintain a personal blog or journal to reflect upon evolving insights and applications about teaching and learning and
- Test new ideas about teaching and learning resulting from FLC readings and discussions in your courses and report the results to the FLC at least three times during academic year 2009 - 2010.

The community will be run with participatory leadership. Karen Walters, Johanna Weiss and Nan Peck will serve as your resource facilitators. E-mail your questions to CETL@nvcc.edu or call 703-323-4140.
NOVA Human Resources (HR) recently concluded an eight-session Spring 2009 training series, Fundamental HR Practices for Supervisors of NOVA Classified Staff. Eighty-six NOVA supervisors participated in at least one of the following workshops:

- EWP-Part 1: Writing the Work Profile
- Hiring the Best and the Brightest
- Accelerating New Employee Productivity
- Recording Time and Attendance
- Performance Feedback for Better Results
- Standards of Conduct: Progressive Performance Improvements
- EWP-Part 2: How Effective Managers Manage Performance
- Supervisor Situations and Appropriate Responses

The following individuals attended all eight sessions of the series and received a certificate from NOVA HR recognizing their effort and dedication. Our hats are off to: George Bolash (MA), Kim Chau (WO), Bruce Ghofrany (AN), Jane Maddan (AL), Abid Mahmood (AL), Sherri Anna Robinson (MEC) and Tamasha Story (CS).

NOVA supervisors are encouraged to complete each of these important training sessions as they are offered in the future. Thank you to all participants for investing in your professional development and for helping to make this series so successful.

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/May1-09_attachment.pdf.