NOVA and U.Va. Celebrate the Official Launch of the Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Program

On May 4, President Robert G. Templin, Jr. and University of Virginia (U.Va.) President John T. Casteen III celebrated the official launch of the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) program at the Schlesinger Center of the Alexandria Campus. The partnership allows NOVA students to earn a bachelor’s degree from the U.Va. without leaving the Northern Virginia area.

The launch included remarks by Provost Jonathan Gueverra (AL), U.Va. Assistant Dean and director of the BIS Program Donna Plasket and a conversation between Templin and Casteen.

“This unique partnership offers the non-traditional

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NOVA and U.Va. Celebrate the Official Launch of the
Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies
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President Robert G. Templin, Jr. and U.Va. President John T. Casteen III (right) stand with NOVA student Curtis Newkirk who created the acrylic painting representing “opportunity and diversity.”

Photo by Kevin Mattingly

student population, who are outstanding in their potential and abilities but lacking the opportunity to fulfill a four-year degree; the means to make that dream a reality,” Templin said.

The BIS program is a part-time, rigorous undergraduate degree program with evening and weekend classes designed to meet the educational needs of the adult student. The program is offered by U.Va. exclusively for current and former NOVA students.

“One of the interesting things I’ve looked at is the high success rates of community college students who transfer to the University of Virginia,” Casteen said. “We studied students in the McIntire School of Commerce, the hardest of our undergraduate schools to get into, and what we discovered over a three-year period is that community college transfer students actually got higher grades than students who start at the University as freshmen. That piece of information made it very clear that community colleges have every reason to be proud of its graduates.”

As a symbol of the partnership, Templin and Casteen exchanged institutional gifts. Templin gave a gift of “opportunity & diversity” represented through an acrylic painting by Curtis Newkirk, a NOVA Pathway to the Baccalaureate student, while Casteen presented a one-of-a-kind watercolor painting depicting the Rotunda by Williamsburg, Virginia artist Gary Robertson.
President Templin Honored by The Washingtonian Magazine

The Washingtonian Magazine has named their first-ever Top Tech Titans, and NOVA’s President Robert G. Templin, Jr. is among the honorees. This award recognizes leaders in technology, education, business, politics and the community who have contributed in the success of the region’s technology standing nationally.

This new recognition will honor Templin with an award at the Smithsonian later this month. Among the accomplished recipients are the creators of the Internet: Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn, the founders of America Online (AOL) and Blackboard and the president of Bell Labs, Jeong Kim.

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 May 29 and June 12. Submission deadlines still apply.

Don’t Forget
2010 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards (OFA) Nominations on page 21.
On May 1, NOVA hosted a public hearing to receive input on the environmental sustainability efforts being set forth by the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). The hearing brought in faculty, staff and students from NOVA to offer ideas in VCCS’ pending policies.

Charlie White, president of Wytheville Community College and chairman of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Taskforce, and William Chamberlin, director of Facilities Planning and Support Services at NOVA, were present to hear the recommendations by the College community.

The recommendations included hiring a College-wide Green coordinator to oversee the College’s environmental sustainability policies, helping and supporting the school developing environmentally friendly facilities by adding a “green fee” in tuition. Also mentioned were solar panels, different lighting options, telecommuting and incorporating “going green” curriculum in existing courses.

All recommendations will be taken into consideration when the taskforce develops environmental sustainability priorities related to construction, renovation and the operation of facilities. The committee will also identify opportunities to work with community partners to support and promote environmental sustainability. In addition, the committee will recommend curricula enhancements and new workforce programs that respond to the “going green” economy. Contracting procedures will be evaluated with a goal of implementing procurement practices that promote the use of technologies, products and practices that are environmentally beneficial.
Adjunct Professor Jill Biden (AL), English as a Second Language (ESL) and Developmental English, gave her ESL class a special treat last week. Her students were invited for a morning tea at the Vice Presidential Residence on Observatory Circle in Washington, District of Columbia. Twenty-two students and nine members of the NOVA faculty and staff were warmly greeted by the Second Lady. The students toured the mansion and grounds with Biden and then presented her with a framed class photograph, which was placed in the entry foyer of the Residence. The students represented nations from countries on every continent.

As with all of our ESL classes, students had developed a strong bond with each other and with their professor. Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Jimmie McClellan reminded the group of the fact that while they, and the students of 180 nations who study at NOVA, may have come from countries that are in conflict that once here, our common humanity allows us to work together in friendship and cooperation. He also asked, “Could any of you have ever imagined when you decided to come to America and study at NOVA that you would find yourself standing here, in the parlor of the home of the Vice President, enjoying tea and muffins with your teacher, the Second Lady of the United States.” Of course, no one could have imagined it.
Manassas Campus Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony

On May 4, faculty and staff at the Manassas Campus participated in the annual awards luncheon with a movie awards theme. The awards represented teaching excellence, campus support services, administrative excellence, campus and community builders and innovative initiative.

Award recipients for 2009 included: Greg Perrier and Matt Reres for Teaching Excellence; Pat Carrow, Richard “Moose” Auckerman and Pete Queen for Campus Support Services; Charles Korn for Supervisory Excellence; Alicia Grande and Laura Casal for Campus Community Builder and Karen Sheble for Innovative Initiative.

Honorable Mentions for Continuing Excellence awards went to two of last year’s award winners, Loretta Gray and Johanna Weiss.

The Campus Awards Committee also presented “Fonzie” awards, given in a humorous vein, to add fun to the program. Award winners included Paparazzi Press Pass for Carlene Mackereth; Little Miss Sunshine for Cindi Hill; The Consigliore for Nancy Green; John Wayne Memorial Scholarship for Alicia Grande and The Convenient Truth Award for Laura Bhadra.

Thanks to everyone for making this event such a success!
Manassas Campus Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony
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The awards committee:
Photo by Marge Shaffer

Provost Hortense Hinton, with special guest emcee Ken Elston and Dr. James White, NOVA Board.
Photo by Marge Shaffer
The Loudoun Campus Partners with Seneca Ridge Middle School

The fall 2008 semester, Dean of Students Kirk A. Nooks, Loudoun County Supervisor Susan Buckley, and administrators of Seneca Ridge Middle School formed a partnership to help Seneca students realize higher levels of student success in and out of the classroom. This outreach opportunity was a combination of service learning and civic engagement. Nooks shared, "The goal was to create a platform through our SDV 109 Leadership Course for a service learning experience. The students from the course were so passionate that they invited student leaders from clubs to get involved." Over 15 students remained involved with the outreach initiative during the year. Many of them are already talking about their plans for continued involvement. The school is located just five minutes from the Campus in the Sugarland Run District of Loudoun County. The Seneca Ridge Varsity Step Team also participated in this year's NOVA Idol by opening the show with an amazing performance.
Medical Education Campus Celebrates International Week

The Medical Education Campus (MEC) celebrated the diversity of their Campus with a three-day festival which kicked off with a Meet & Greet reception. Students were surprised and happy to be greeted by flags that were hung in the halls to represent some of the ethnicities that make up the MEC. The reception brought students, faculty, staff and friends of the community together to display the vast cultures that make up the MEC community. Participants shared their clothing, arts and traditions at the reception. On day two, 12 countries were represented at a luncheon sponsored by MEC students. Entrees, breads and desserts were enjoyed by all. Lunch was followed by belly dancing lessons and fun for all. Day three bought the community in to help with the closing festival. Neighborhood restaurants provided a wide-range of food from Afghanistan, India, Peru, Japan and Ethiopia. Ethiopian and Salsa dance groups provided entertainment and exercise for the Campus community.

Provost Brian Foley welcoming everyone to the festival.

International Committee members.
Whoever said that “you can’t go home,” has not met the student leaders of the Loudoun Campus’ Student Alumni Cluster (SAC)! These energetic and personable students go out to the Loudoun County high schools to share their NOVA experience with seniors and families. These SAC members put the “student” back into student outreach.

This year, the Loudoun Campus’ Outreach and Recruitment efforts integrated seven first and second-year NOVA students into a multi-tier enrollment model. The Enrollment Model, tracking students through the Prospective, Interested and Applied phases, trigger the participation of SAC volunteers attending: high school visits, college fairs and parent nights. High school seniors receive progressively interactive contact according to their status in the Enrollment Model.

The Loudoun Campus’ outreach efforts, under the leadership of Dean of Students Kirk A. Nooks and Enrollment Coordinator Matthew Niziol, have taken a proactive approach to developing student leadership at all levels of the Campus outreach. In accordance with Achieving the Dream initiatives, SAC members are

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active partners in enhancing NOVA’s reputation among high school seniors and communicating through the new technologies that high school students use.

The feedback from high school career counselors and students has been overwhelmingly positive. SAC members, like Evan Wiley, have been able to speak to students in the high schools from which he graduated. He has also re-established connections with his former counselors. A visit does not pass when a student recognizes him, and Wiley always takes the opportunity to share his love for NOVA.

SAC members understand their importance as role models on and off Campus. In the high school community, they share their reasons for choosing NOVA, how they are involved on Campus and where they are “going” after graduation. SAC members like Ola Alghazzouli, Sampurna “Sammi” Ulanowsky and Alex Chatelain have been instrumental in beginning new student clubs on the Loudoun Campus. SAC members Meryem Noucair, Tatiana French and Hajirah Ishaq are also active members of the Loudoun Student Ambassadors and Orientation Assistants.

The Women’s Center at the Alexandria Campus hosted an “Equal Pay Day” discussion with Marj Signer, president of the Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) on National Equal Pay Day. This year’s event was held on April 28.

Equal Pay Day symbolizes the point in the following year that a woman must work in order to earn the same wages paid to a man in the previous year. On a national level, women earn only $.78 for every $1 a man is paid. The wage gap is even greater for women of color. The discussion centered on the reasons why the wage gap exists, raising awareness about the wage gap and the fact that it impacts everyone and how to resolve the pay inequity. Signer also talked about the significance of legislative actions, including the recent passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act, which is currently before the U.S. Senate. The entire event was organized by Maria Lauron, a student member of the Women’s Center Advisory Committee.
On April 28, the Annandale Campus held its annual end of the year party, Spring Fling. Students were able to participate in a variety of activities such as climbing up a 28-foot rock wall, jousting on an inflatable ring, sitting for a caricature portrait, throwing balls at the dunk tank or obtaining an airbrush tattoo. In addition to the activities offered, vendors such as Vector Marketing and Provident Bank were present to educate students about opportunities with their businesses. Clubs and organizations such as the Recreation & Parks Society, the Vietnamese Association, Campus Democrats and the Muslim Student Association recruited members to serve next year.
Two NOVA Students Amongst the Brightest in Virginia Community Colleges

Two NOVA students were recently honored among the best and brightest students throughout Virginia’s Community Colleges by Virginia Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling, Glenn DuBois, the chancellor of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and President Robert G. Templin, Jr. Sumaya M. Al-Hajebi of the Woodbridge Campus and Nathanael Ajit Arthur of the Loudoun Campus were amongst the top 10 students who earned special recognition as the “First Virginia Team,” representing the best and the brightest of community college students.

Al-Hajebi is majoring in education at the Woodbridge Campus. She is maintaining a 3.7 grade point average while participating in several campus organizations including the Student Government Association, the Black Student Alliance and the Inter Campus Council. Following graduation, she is transferring to George Mason University.

Arthur is majoring in social science and business management at the Loudoun Campus, where he maintains a 3.8 grade point average. Arthur serves as a Student Ambassador, president of the Student Leadership Club and the Campus’ Phi Theta Kappa chapter. His academic achievements have earned him an All USA Today Bronze Medal, the VCCS Leadership Award, the Richard J. Ernst Endowed Scholarship, the Dr. Max L. Bassett Endowed Scholarship and a place in the Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

"Your achievement is a tremendous accomplishment,” Bolling told the students. “You are preparing yourselves for a lifetime of work and success, and I salute you.”

Congratulations to Sumaya M. Al-Hajebi and Nathanael Ajit Arthur on a job well done!
Dean Nooks Presents at Two National Conferences

During the month of March, Dean of Students Kirk A. Nooks (LO) presented at The Chair Academy’s International Conference for Postsecondary Leaders in Nashville, Tennessee. Nooks presented the framework used in his SDV 109 Leadership Course. The presentation titled, “Academic Alliteration: Service, StrengthsQuest and Student Success” followed the service learning partnership established with a local middle school. Two students from his SDV 109 class, Christopher Hefty and Johanna Squires, also attended the conference to assist with the presentation.

This month, Nooks will attend the Community College National Center for Community Engagement annual conference to present follow-up research titled, “The Student Voice: A Qualitative Reflection of a Service-Learning Experience.”
On April 23, the Annandale Campus’ American Culture and Language Institute sponsored field trips to a variety of destinations. Kathy Ferguson’s Level D class elected to go to the National Museum of American History. One of the most popular exhibits was the "Join the Student Sit-Ins," which was a reenactment of the famous Greensboro Sit-In. The students took part in a "training session" based on an actual 1960s manual. The students were instructed to decide for themselves if they would have had the bravery to fight for justice during the Civil Rights Movement. It was a very insightful trip for all.
Loudoun Campus Second Annual Leadership Banquet

On May 6, over 140 people attended the Loudoun Campus’ Student Recognition Ceremony where over 70 students were recognized for their accomplishments, ranging from academic excellence, service on Campus and in the community and athletics. Loudoun Campus faculty and staff presented awards to individual students and student groups that excelled in their contributions to the collegiate experience.

Attendees included guest speaker, Susan Klimek Buckley, vice chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, Provost Anthony C. Tardd (LO), Associate Vice President for Academic Services Sherri Robertson (CS) and Academic Deans Beverly Blois (LO) and Joyce Samuels (LO).

The Ceremony was hosted by Dean of Students Kirk A. Nooks (LO) and Student Activities Coordinator Tiffney Laing (LO). The celebration of student leadership included musical guest Herb Smith’s (AN) “Confirmation” and Loudoun’s NOVA Idols competitors Seraphina Johnson and Laila Sanie.

Commenting on the significance of the banquet, Nooks states, “This event allows us to acknowledge our student leaders in a grand way. As we tie together the curricular, co- and extra-curricular experiences, the collegiate experience is made possible via the diverse contributions of our students.”

The ceremony concluded with a presentation of the Dean’s Cup to the Loudoun Honors Club. The Dean’s Cup is the highest honor and recognition for a student organization that has made the broadest impact on the collegiate experience at the Loudoun Campus.
Alexandria Campus Welcomes AACC and Central Florida Community College

The Plus 50 initiative is a three-year national initiative reaching out to adult learners who are age 50 and up. The initiative is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and is funded by a grant with the Atlantic Philanthropies. Ten demonstration colleges are piloting new programs reaching out to students over 50 years of age. They are being helped by five mentor colleges that already have established Plus 50 programs. NOVA is partnered with Central Florida Community College. The Plus 50 initiative is all about helping plus 50 adults re-discover who they are or what they have dreamed of becoming. With the help of community colleges, they can map a strategy for these bonus decades and live life longer and fuller.

NOVA will be hosting a Plus 50 Ageless Learning Resource Symposium on June 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center on the Alexandria Campus.

For more information about NOVA’s Plus 50 program, please go to http://www.nvcc.edu/alexandria/plus50/ or call Keith Wynn at 703-845-6326.
Alexandria Campus Participates Alexandria’s Annual Community Service Day

On May 1, student leaders, volunteers and NOVA faculty and staff volunteered at the Department for Human Services (DHS), located in Alexandria. In doing so, they participated in a landscaping project, painting and cleaning children’s toys. In addition, employees from the DHS participated in the Campus’ beautification project.

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The Medical Education Campus “Going Green”

The Medical Education Campus (MEC) has been busy with “green” events since March. The Campus joined efforts to recycle old cell phones to be donated to neighboring women’s shelters. The Lions Club of Springfield provided free eye screenings for the MEC community. In return, the MEC community collected and donated old eye glasses to be recycled and used again. Food Banks: MEC responded to the call from the state when they asked for peanut butter donations to stock our food banks. Over 50 jars of peanut butter and other non-perishable items were collected and will be given to a local food bank in Lorton.

Phi Theta Kappa sold Blue Spruce pine trees and Student Activities provided water bottles to be carried and filled instead of buying bottled water, seedling plants to encourage people to start a garden and recycled grocery bags to reduce the use of plastic bags. As a result of these efforts, students pledged to help make our world a little greener by recycling more, using less water, walking more, planting a tree or small garden and caring to take notice of the trash we tend to amass (like plastic bags/wrap/bottles).
CETL Workshops and Events Available for Faculty

- **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**.

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.

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 on **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 Cultural 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.

NOVA Community Chorus Benefit Concert

Piano Duo Christine and David Hagan will present a recital on Saturday, **May 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Tyler Recital Hall on the Alexandria Campus**. The program will include music by Mozart, Schubert, Warlock, Brahms and Gershwin. Tickets are $20 (under 18 - $10). Proceeds benefit NOVA Community Chorus. Seating is limited. For more information please call 703-845-6097 or e-mail **mwhitmire@nvcc.edu**.

Event flyers may be found in the attachment section at [http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/May15-09_attachment.pdf](http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/May15-09_attachment.pdf).
HOTTOPICS

2010 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards (OFA) Nominations

The Awards Committee invites nominations for NOVA faculty for the Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards (OFA) for 2010.

The Outstanding Faculty Awards, which are administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and sponsored by Dominion, are the Commonwealth's highest honor for educators at Virginia's public and private colleges and universities. The awards also include special categories for "Rising Star" and "Teaching with Technology."

Nominees for the award should possess a record of superior accomplishment in four areas of scholarly endeavor: Teaching, Discovery, Integration of Knowledge and Service. Full information about the OFA may be found on the SCHEV Web site: http://www.schev.edu/AdminFaculty/OFAprogramIndex.asp.

Please submit a draft of your nomination with the documents described below to the Awards Committee by May 15. The Awards Committee will review nominations and select up to four for final submission to SCHEV on behalf of the College. Those selected must work with the committee in completing the full application packet as called for in the OFA guidelines (expected to be due in October 7, 2009).

Faculty members may nominate other faculty member or themselves. Nominations must include, a one to two page document outlining scholarly accomplishments in the four designated areas (a-d):

a. Teaching,
b. Discovery,
c. Integration of knowledge,
d. Service and
e. A copy of current curriculum vitae

Nominations must be submitted by e-mail attachment to George Gonchar, chair of the Awards Committee, at ggonchar@nvcc.edu.

Nominations including the one to two page document and a current curriculum vitae must be received by May 15.

Reminder – Important Open Enrollment Action Required

Remember that amnesty for removing ineligible dependents from their health care coverage ends on May 15. Employees who remove ineligible dependents during Open Enrollment will not be penalized. However, employees covering dependents who do not meet eligibility criteria will face stiff penalties if they fail to act by the end of Open Enrollment. The State Health Benefits Program will conduct an audit of state health plans during the new plan year which begins on July 1. Ineligible dependents identified during the audit will be removed, and employees covering those dependents may face penalties, including suspension from the health benefits program for up to three years. Employees should visit EmployeeDirect at https://edirect.virginia.gov/ during Open Enrollment to remove dependents who are ineligible for coverage. Do not risk losing your health benefits!

PBS Videos Now Available Online

PBS videos are now available for viewing through NOVA’s Web site. The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) recently concluded a contract with PBS allowing NOVA students, faculty and staff to view streaming PBS videos online. To view any of the nearly 500 PBS videos, go to the main library page http://www.nvcc.edu/library. Mouse over the “Books & More” box and select “PBS Videos Online.” It is necessary to log-in to BlackBoard to access the videos. Videos are organized by series title and are free to current NOVA students, faculty and staff.

Please note that the attachment section of the Intercom can be accessed online at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/May15-09_attachment.pdf.