Loudoun Campus’ Newest Tradition: The Dean’s Cup

On May 7 over 100 Loudoun faculty, staff and students gathered at the Algonkian Conference Center to celebrate the accomplishments of their student leaders. In its first annual Loudoun Student Recognition and Awards Ceremony, the Campus aimed to highlight the theme of excellence and “Achieving the Dream.”

Executive Vice President John Dever (CS) and Provost Anthony Tardd (LO), started the ceremony with brief comments for the occasion. During the evening, students were recognized for their accomplishments in four categories: Student Academics, Student Life, Student Service and Student Athletics. The Provost’s staff, faculty and student services representatives handed out over 70 awards.

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Pictured top: Student representatives from the Muslim Student Association pose after being announced the winners of this year’s Dean’s Cup.
Photo by Allison McElfresh

Pictured below: Executive Vice President John Dever and Provost Anthony Tardd take a break from Pacific Rim’s fine catering to smile for the picture.
Photo by Dorothy Richardson
Loudoun Campus’ Newest Tradition: The Dean’s Cup

Commenting on the success of this inaugural event, Kirk A. Nooks, dean of student services stated, “This event symbolizes the epitome of excellence and a glimpse into the bright future of our students. Dorothy Richardson (executive assistant to the dean of student services) and her committee of staff and students really made the vision a reality.” The audience enjoyed the melodious sounds of Herb Smith’s (AN) Confirmation (the band) and the three Loudoun NOVA Idol finalists, Laila Sanie, Abbigayle Warner and Karin Bourdelais. The culmination of the event was the presentation of the Dean’s Cup - awarded to the student organization that has made the most significant contribution to student life throughout the year. The Muslim Student Association was this year’s recipient - the first to receive the coveted cup.

Pictured top: Dean Kirk A. Nooks (LO) with the Loudoun NOVA Idol finalists, Laila Sanie, Abbigayle Warner and Karin Bourdelais.

Pictured bottom: Student leaders after receiving recognition for their contributions to the Campus. Left to right: Mawule Sessou, Amit Awasthi, Shanita Fletcher, Muhaimeinul Khan, Marquis Malone, Meryem Noucair and April Shettle-Magee.

Photos by Allison McElfresh
Reading Across the Curriculum Awards Nine Grants to Faculty

The Reading Across the Curriculum Initiative, which the Professional Development Committee funded for 2007-2008, has selected nine college faculty members to receive grant support for various projects. These faculty members received grants supporting projects aimed to help students develop reading skills and an appreciation of reading. Each of the recipients developed a focused project and assessments with the grant funds.

Grant Recipients include:
- Laura Bhadra, Economics
- Danielle Conyers, Business
- Joy Stratton, Psychology
- Susan Givens, Developmental English
- Ed Anderson, Mathematics (for Phi Theta Kappa)
- Jennifer Reynolds, Librarian
- Joan Blankmann, English as a Second Language
- Rosalyn King, Psychology
- Satarupa Das, Economics

Tutor Appreciation Luncheon at the Manassas Campus

The Manassas Campus held its annual Tutor Appreciation Luncheon on April 21. The luncheon takes place each year honoring tutors who assist students through counseling, mathematics and the Writing Centers. Faculty and staff attended the luncheon to express their appreciation to all of the Campus's wonderful tutors.

Ronald Buchanan, dean of communication technology and social sciences, presented Charles J. Korn, assistant dean of speech and drama, with the “Outstanding Writing Tutor Award.” This award is given annually by the Writing Center. Korn volunteers many hours working with students in the Writing Center. Congratulation for this great honor.
Alexandria Campus Provost Receives Award of Excellence

Alexandria Campus Provost Jonathan Gueverra’s article, “Repositioning for a Virtual Culture,” has been chosen as one of three highly commended papers in the Emerald Literati Network 2008 Awards for Excellence. The editorial team for the journal “On the Horizon” selected his article for its outstanding contribution, not just to the journal, but to the overall body of knowledge itself. More information on this award is on the Emerald Literati Network’s Awards for Excellence Web page at: http://info.emeraldinsight.com/authors/literati/index.htm.

To read “Repositioning for a Virtual Culture,” go to the NOVA Libraries list of education databases at http://www.nvcc.edu/library/db_humanities.asp#education and select Emerald Journals.

The award will be presented to Gueverra at the World Future Society Conference in Washington, D.C. this summer. Congratulations!

Photo by Sylvia Rortvedt

NOVA Idol Video
Television Center has posted the Nova Idol Video online. Go to: mms://vod01.nvcc.edu/vod/Public/NOVA_Idol/NOVA_Idol_08.wmv.

REMINDER: NOVA Wordmark

NOVA has a new “wordmark.” When referring to Northern Virginia Community College, use NOVA (not NVCC), except in cases when the formal name has “NVCC” as a part of its title (example: the NVCC Educational Foundation).

Access NOVA wordmarks and instructions online at: http://www.nvcc.edu/wordmark/wordmark.htm.
The NVCC Alumni Federation Board of Governors announced the winners of the 2007-2008 Faculty of the Year awards at its annual reception held on April 18 in the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Forum (AN). Over 150 faculty, staff and students attended the event, the largest turnout ever. It was very exciting! 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: Elizabeth H. Hill (AL), communication design; Charles P. Poland, Jr. (AN), history; Julia J. Turner (LO), communication design; Raymond C. Bailey (MA), history; Doriann Hildreth-Fischer (MEC), physical therapy and Beverlee K. Drucker (WO), mathematics. The Adjunct Faculty award went to Matthew T. Pearcy (WO), history.

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.

The Intercom Wants to Hear from You!

The Intercom is for and by the faculty and staff of NOVA. So you are welcome to e-mail your articles and news to intercom@nvcc.edu! The deadline is EACH Friday at 5:00 p.m. for the following week's edition (note: as usual during the summer, the Intercom is published every other week).

For complete submission guidelines, go to: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm. Send your news!

REMINDER: In the summer, the Intercom is published EVERY OTHER WEEK. Next edition: May 30 (Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on May 23).
Alexandria Campus Participates in Volunteer Arlington Day

On April 22, students and staff from the Alexandria Campus participated in Volunteer Arlington Day 2008, sponsored by the Arlington County Chamber of Commerce. Volunteer Arlington Day enables businesses and community leaders to participate in community service projects throughout the Arlington Communities. The Alexandria Campus joined employees from the Hyatt Regency Hotel to work on interior and exterior projects for “Community Residences,” which provides housing, medical services and skills training to adults with disabilities. The projects included staining the rear deck, repainting the front porch and entrance foyer and general yard cleanup and landscaping. All NOVA participants showed a willingness to jump in where needed and embodied one of NOVA’s core values which is “dedication to the service of our community and a timely response to its needs.”
NOVA Donor Receives 2007 Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy

Dr. Lee Gurel received the prestigious Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy at a luncheon held on April 23 at the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond. The Honorable Anne Holton, First Lady of Virginia, gave the keynote address.

Dr. Gurel has long supported faculty and students at NOVA through his generosity. His gifts allowed the Alexandria Campus to replace the circulation desk in the library, provided benches and chairs for students in the Bisdorf Building and landscaped the Zing Jung Memorial Garden. In addition, Dr. Gurel provides emergency grants to students at the Alexandria and Annandale Campuses.

When asked for his reason for giving to NOVA, Gurel said, “I am impressed with the quality of youngsters I have met and the outstanding faculty and teachers at the College. They deserve all the support they can get.”

This is the third year that Chancellor Glenn DuBois has honored donors nominated by each of the 23 colleges in the Virginia Community College System. Previous NOVA honorees include Richard Semmler (AN), professor of mathematics, and Bonnie Lewis Pfoutz, current member of the NVCC Educational Foundation (NVCCEF) board of directors and former chair of the NOVA College Board.
The Student Government Association and Sports and Recreation Club co-sponsored a Spring Fling at the Alexandria Campus on April 17, for the entire campus community. Faculty, staff and students competed in volleyball, participated in the Dunk Tank to raise funds for the SGA F-1 International Student Scholarship, played in a number of rented sports games and enjoyed a campus picnic, to celebrate the warm weather and have some fun before the week of final exams.

Pictured top: Brijesh Shrestha, Student Government president (holding up the cotton candy).

Pictured left: Jim McClellan (far left), dean for humanities and social sciences; Vaden Fitton (middle in pink and black), computer science and Tony Stanzo (far right), dean for visual and performing arts.

Pictured bottom: Cate Keaser (sitting in the dunk tank), director of the Writing Assistance Center.
Cancer survivors kicked off Relay For Life on April 19 by doing the first lap of many at NOVA’s Annandale Campus. Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Beta Rho chapter sponsors and the College hosts this annual event, for a sixth year in a row, to raise money for the American Cancer Society. This year 300 participants, from all NOVA campuses, raised $45,000 and walked from 8:00 p.m. on April 19 until 5:00 a.m. on April 20, when rain and a lightening storm interrupted the event. Participants usually walk a total of 12 hours taking turns with teammates. When not walking, other activities run all through the night to include a pizza party at 12:00 a.m., limbo and musical chairs to keep non-walking teammates awake. Thanks to all who participated.

Don’t Forget: The College will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday!
Once again the Alexandria Campus Library opened early and stayed open late to support students as they studied for final exams. From April 28 through May 9 the Library opened half an hour early at 8:00 a.m. and stayed open an extra hour, closing at 11:00 p.m. Over the course of the last week of classes and exams, over 530 students were served before 8.30 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m. Students working into the night were sustained with Late Night Study Snacks of cookies, iced tea and lemonade each evening - over 20 packages of cookies and more than eight gallons of lemonade were consumed as students crammed into the night. Extended hours are made possible by the willingness of the Library staff who voluntarily arrive early and stay late, as well as the flexibility of staff to cover normal shifts throughout the day. Thanks to everyone who makes this popular service possible. As one student said "This is great. Cookies and lemonade keep us going. Thanks for doing this." To read more, go to the Library blog:
http://alexandrialibrary.blogspot.com/.
The multi-generational Fitness and Nutrition PED 107 class at the Alexandria Campus enjoys an end of the semester coffee time at Le Madeleine. Students in the class range in age from 18 to 85, with half of the class over the age of 60. Students learn aerobic, strength and flexibility exercises for a total body workout and updated nutrition information. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. fall and spring, beginning August 25. For information contact Ginger Primus, instructor, at vprimus@nvcc.edu.
On May 5, the faculty and staff at the Manassas Campus celebrated the Campus All-Stars, the annual Faculty and Staff Awards Luncheon. The awards represented excellence, campus support, co-curricular support, administrative excellence and innovative initiatives were given. Award Recipients included: Michael Carrington, Tim Godfrey and Sue Surina for Teaching Excellence; Loretta Gray, Claire Ackerman, Kathy Russell and Maria Serna for Campus Support Services; Johanna Weiss for Administrative Excellence; Gary Phares and Pat Gary for Co-Curricular Excellence and Ray Bailey for his Innovative Initiative. Honorable Mentions for Continuing Excellence awards went to Randy Michener, Bill Ruffle, Danae Erikson and Pamela Kraemer.

Provost Hortense Hinton awarded Dee Martin with the Above & Beyond award, Russ Carter and Molly Lynch were awarded the Making a Difference award and Heidi Adamson received the Community Service award.

The Campus Awards Committee also presented “Fonzie” awards, given in a humorous vein, to add fun to the program. Award winners included the Fabulous Flora Honor: Marion Lobstein, the Mayor of Margaritaville: Carrington, Most Likely to Make Good Use of a Phone Booth "Data:" Dan Riley, Starbucks Superstar: Charles Korn, Miss Manners Etiquette Award: Queen Elizabeth (Libby) Sears and the Speedy Gonzales Rapid Response Award: IT Department.
Everyone sees signs posted at numerous churches announcing ESOL classes starting around Northern Virginia, so many classes held in so many churches that one wonders is there some unifying element among so many. What if they all combined for some common goal? This is what has happened through the creative efforts of NOVA, a college forever growing and reaching out with innovative approaches to meet the ongoing needs for education and training, no matter what a person’s age, language or economic status. A new initiative for better jobs through better English taught at Vienna Presbyterian Church and led by church volunteers and faculty of NOVA’s Workforce program has been the test pilot program during the past few months.

Through this pilot “ESOL for Employment,” NOVA has connected employers’ needs for entry level talent and the ESOL adult participants’ needs for finding higher paying jobs or advanced skills and training. The pilot project will help prepare scores of advanced-level adult ESOL students in Northern Virginia for new careers. During the past few months this pilot project, offered with start-up funding from NOVA, has collaborated with the Vienna Presbyterian Church in efforts to help people connect with employers through classes offering practical assistance, career fairs, interview practice, job placement assistance and training information. This initiative has a goal to prepare its graduates to compete for new jobs or to enter advanced skills training programs.

On April 19, about 150 people gathered for an international dinner at the Vienna Presbyterian Church. ESOL participants from area church-based programs in Northern Virginia gathered and shared food, and President Robert G. Templin Jr. talked about the American Dream Team proposal, the pilot program for ESOL to Work. In his keynote address, Templin described the College’s community-based approach: “NOVA plans to work in partnership with churches and nonprofits in a relay team to help adult ESOL participants achieve their career and educational goals.” Entertainment included a cultural fashion show presented by ESOL participants. The pilot program offers collaboration with NOVA’s Workforce Development Group, churches and non-profit networks, the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and Northern Virginia One-Stop Centers.

A recent career fair held for the class of 19 adults of varying ages and nationalities, had screening interviews with representatives from Cardinal Bank, Wegman’s, Inova Health System and the Fairfax County Transportation Department. Janet Schuchmann, human resources director and vice president of Cardinal Bank of McLean, interviewed interested participants from the Vienna Presbyterian Church ESOL to Work class. Dilwara Begum, who is here from Bangladesh, and has a degree in electronics and science, would like to study accounting at NOVA. Schuchmann met with Begum and asked her about customer service and told her to take a teller test online first. Begum became hopeful about going to talk with her in the bank soon. Another young participant, a mother of young children who has been in this country for two and a half years, is from Assuite, Egypt. Having had little experience working in business, she needs to discuss options and ideas with someone. Another class participant, Emebet Shimeles, is here with her resume and she is interested in clerical work with a bank. She is from Ethiopia and came to this area about three years ago. She heard about the ESOL class from a church in Centreville and comes to the class regularly hoping to make contacts and find resources for securing a job.

Participants interested in working with customer service, met with Rebecca Morrison, from Wegman’s in Fairfax. Wegman’s is known for its job satisfaction among employees and the opportunities for advancement within the company. From the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) was Transportation Recruitment Specialist Norm Gottlieb. He told one man, Yong Ik Cho, from S. Korea, who has automotive company business and training experience, perhaps he may be interested in driving a bus for FCPS. “We need you more than you need us,” is how Gottlieb expressed his interest. He is looking for reliable people to fill the jobs with Transportation Services and tells them to come in and talk with him. The Inova Health Care and Child Care Center also had representatives present. Information about free and low-cost career education programs from a few sources was also available at the Career Fair. The participants are looking for jobs paying from $11.00 per hour and up, and interested employers can participate in the connections by e-mailing Bill Browning at wbrowning@nvcc.edu.
Another goal of the program and its partners is to secure sponsoring employers’ commitment for supporting employment focused ESOL training courses in areas such as health care, customer service and other entry level jobs. One outcome of this initiative is that it results in improved self-sufficiency for low/moderate income Northern Virginia residents. People simply helping people is what this program is all about, and that has made all the difference in providing hope for better chances for these people. If you would like to assist the new graduates or have jobs to advertise, please e-mail Browning at wbrowning@nvcc.edu.

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**Premium Deductions for Nine Month Teaching Faculty on 18 pays for Summer Months**

Nine-month Teaching Faculty that have elected to participate in voluntary benefits (i.e. such as health care, optional life, long-term care, UNUM disability and/or other miscellaneous deductions) are taken for the summer months as followed:

- **Premium Deductions are not deducted from any summer pay.**

- **To collect the May and June full premiums (four pay periods):**
  - May 15 paycheck will reflect the deductions of premiums for May and June.
  - EXCEPTION: Optional Life premiums. The May 15 paycheck will have two pay periods of deductions for optional life.

- **Deductions for Optional Life will resume with the September 16 pay at the normal per pay period amount.**

- **Contributions to the 403(b) program and/or the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan are normally not deducted from any summer pay.**
  - The annual deductions are calculated to be made during the nine months/18 pay periods.

- **Coding for deductions on checks:**
  - Health Care premiums: Pretax Hlth Care
  - Optional Life premiums: Optional Grp Life
  - Other Voluntary Benefits premiums: Misc Insurance

If you have any questions regarding these deductions, contact the Benefits Team members:

- **Eileen Sorenson** 703-323-3396
- **Janice Cottingham** 703-323-3336
- **Erin Couch** 703-323-4276
Dealing with diabetes is an ongoing challenge that many people face throughout their lives. However, with preparation and planning, individuals suffering from diabetes can enjoy daily activities and academic pursuits.

Students with diabetes might carry hypodermic needles, insulin bottles, medication, identity bracelets or cards indicating that they have diabetes. If an individual is experiencing a diabetic crisis, do not attempt to treat them. The symptoms do not necessarily indicate the treatment required. In the case of an emergency, place the student in a safe recovery position and call 911 immediately.

The American Diabetes Association has extensive information about diabetes at their Web site: http://www.diabetes.org.

Students pursuing a college career, and their parents, will find this article useful: http://care.diabetesjournals.org/cgi/content/extract/26/9/2675.

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