Medical Education Campus Dedicates Memory Garden

Faculty, staff and students at the MEC gathered near the southeast corner of the Campus recently for the dedication of a new memory garden. The garden, with its short path leading to a fountain and two stone benches, was established in memory of anonymous donors who had granted permission for their bodies to be used for research by Medical Education Campus students.

As part of the dedication, a group led by Holly Frost, dean of the MEC’s EMT degree program, spread the ashes of two cadavers across the grounds of the garden. Frost said it is important that the garden be viewed as a celebration of life, and for students to use the space as a place of reflection or relaxation when they need a break. While the identity of the donors is protected, family members are able to find out the fate of their loved ones’ remains.

“The main reason we wanted the garden was in case we ever received a phone call from someone who wanted to know what happened to a loved one, we could say the remains were in a beautiful place, not just on a shelf in a closet.” Frost said.

NOVA Student Wins Prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

NOVA President Robert G. Templin, Jr. surprised Alexandria student Dan F. Nechita with news of his designation as a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar. Nechita was one of 38 students to receive the national award which recognizes excellence among two-year and community colleges. Winners were selected on the basis of academic performance, financial need, leadership ability and service.

Templin complimented the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for acknowledging the accomplishments of community college students. “My thanks to the Foundation for having the vision to step forward and be an advocate for these excellent students. Recognizing and rewarding their accomplishments will give them opportunities to use their academic strengths in some of the best four-year institutions in the nation,” Templin said.

Nechita, a computer science major, holds a 4.0 GPA. He is on track to receive his associate degree in science in January; he hopes to continue his education at Yale or Georgetown University.
New procedures have been implemented to improve the selection process for new faculty members. Roles for the provost, dean and screening/interview committee have been more clearly defined and applicants must now submit transcripts and three letters of recommendation along with the completed State application. The makeup of the screening/interview committee has changed to include a member of the teaching faculty from the discipline, one teaching faculty member from outside the discipline, one non-teaching faculty member and one member who meets the affirmative action criteria. Human resources must approve the make-up of the committee, applicant pool and the individuals selected for interviews. The College will provide limited travel reimbursement to out-of-town interview candidates. Contact Patti Hill if you have questions about these new procedures.

The open-enrollment period for health and flexible reimbursement accounts has ended for this year. However, if you experience a qualified mid-year event such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child or loss of employment by a spouse, changes can be made within 31 days of the event. For more information, visit the department of human resources Web page at http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov.

NOVA Has a New Purchasing Director

Jonathan Pierson has joined the NOVA staff as its new purchasing director. Pierson brings with him over 20 years of governmental logistics and procurement experience, seven of which he spent at Texas A&M University. He is certified with the Institute for Supply Management as a purchasing manager and holds a BBA in management from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

“Finding the right person to manage NOVA’s complex purchasing operations was a difficult task,” said Vice President Alison Baker. “But in finding a candidate like Jonathan, the College was truly fortunate.”

Facilities Director Bill Chamberlin said that Pierson has made great progress getting to know the College as it deals with year-end purchasing and contracting.

Welcome to NOVA, Jonathan!

In June, COVA Care subscribers will receive a new single ID card to present to health care providers to replace the four separate cards currently being used. Also, Kaiser participants will receive an updated member handbook. It is essential that employees keep their address current with HR as both these items will be sent to home addresses. There are two ways to change an address for salaried employees: either use the Web-based EmployeeDirect link on the DHRM Web page or submit the NVCC change of address form to human resources.

A reminder about summer schedules: employees who are going to be on a compressed work-week schedule during the summer need to forward their approved schedule to human resources by June 9. Also, please remember that the revised schedule plan needs to be signed by both the employee and supervisor.

Human resources is offering a “How to Hire the Best People” workshop. The target audience is supervisors and managers responsible for hiring personnel for their departments. Employees who want to complete the new HR supervisory training program must complete this workshop. For additional information including registration procedures, see the attachment to this edition of Intercom.

Sweetser Appointed to Consortium

Carol Sweetser, disability services counselor (AN), has joined the Virginia Higher Education Leadership Partners (VA HELP), a statewide consortium of universities, colleges, state agencies and professional organizations that collaborate on issues related to postsecondary education for students with disabilities.

VA HELP recently received a grant to sponsor a two-day summit on addressing systemic issues concerning the documentation of disabilities for students entering postsecondary programs. The summit will include decision makers, leaders and other stakeholders who can develop guidelines for Virginia and play a key role in their implementation.

Who writes Intercom?

YOU DO!

See the Intercom submission guidelines at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm
For the 12th year in a row, the Annandale Campus played host to the Earth Day-Arbor Day Celebration sponsored in partnership with Fairfax County and the Clean Fairfax Council. Thanks largely to a special appearance by Jack Hanna, host of the syndicated “Jack Hanna’s Animal Adventures,” a record crowd turned out to enjoy the festivities. Kudos to organizer Cheryl Robinette (provost’s office) for making the arrangements for Hanna’s visit.

Alexandria Salutes End-of-Year Honorees

A familiar face presided over the Alexandria Campus’ year-end reception and awards presentation. The recently retired Dr. Barbara Wyles returned to hand out the Jean C. Netherton Awards for employee excellence, standing in for Acting Provost Jenny Graves.

Singled out for plaques of appreciation were Professor of History Joe Windham (faculty of the year), Dean for Humanities and Social Sciences Paul McVeigh (administrator) and Administrative and Program Support Specialist III Nighat Sabir (classified staff). McVeigh presented Professor of History Jean Braden with a flowering plant in a hanging basket for her dedication to, and tireless work on behalf of, the Campus.

From left: Joe Windham, Jean Braden, Paul McVeigh and Nighat Sabir celebrate their achievements at the year-end reception.

Photo by Tricia Holser
Annandale Campus Honors its Prize “Apples”

The Annandale Campus held its annual Golden Apple and Leadership Awards ceremony on April 27, where the following faculty members were recognized: Donald R. Devers, psychology; Reva A. Savkar, chemistry; Khadiga H. Gamgoum, mathematics; Mary V. Zimmerman, history; Arnold Tesh, real estate and Robert S. Woodke, dean of the math, science and engineering division.

Both the Outstanding Club/Organization of the Year and the Outstanding Service Award went to the Recreation and Parks Society. The Outstanding Student Leadership Award was given to Pam Ononiwu from the Student Government Association and the Club Advisor of the Year was awarded to Nancy Chamberlain, advisor to the Recreation and Parks Society. Atanaska Dobreva was announced as the winner of the Loretta Durham Scholarship.

Photos by Jessie Zahorian

MEC’s Camp Med Program Receives Statewide Honors

The Virginia Department of Education has honored Camp Med, a summer program for middle-school children at the Medical Education Campus, with a Creating Excellence award at the state level. The award recognizes the partnership between the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA), Virginia Hospital Center and the MEC in putting the camp together. The Creating Excellence awards honor exemplary projects that promote excellence in career and technical education. Winners will be recognized in June at a ceremony in Richmond.

Camp Med gives students an up-close look at what a typical workday is like in a variety of medical professions. During the week-long camp, students are guided through simulations to gain an understanding of health care careers. VHHA provided funding for two Camp Med sessions in 2005 to help defray costs of operation. Funding from three VHHA grants will also support three separate Camp Med sessions in 2006, run in partnership with Inova Health Systems, Reston Hospital Center and Virginia Hospital Center.

There’s Still Time to Join the “Sauntering Scholars”!

Join colleagues and friends in support of a great cause - breast cancer research. The “Sauntering Scholars of NVCC” are getting ready for the Komen National Race for the Cure on June 3. To register, visit http://www.nationalraceforthecure.org, click on “registration” and select “SCH.” If you can’t participate, consider making a donation. Contact Maureen Madden or Kathy Wax with any questions.

(Right) The “Sauntering Scholars” are ready to do their part for cancer research.

Blakeney Meets R&B Singer Will Downing at Conference

NOVA employee Felicia Blakeney, who serves as the northeastern regional syn- taktes (director) of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, is pictured with Grammy Award winning R&B singer Will Downing at the sorority’s regional conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Blakeney was re-elected for a second term and will be installed in July at the national conference in Dallas, Texas.
NVCC Board Appoints Gaskill, Congratulates Tuininga

Robert C. Gaskill, Sr., a retired Major General in the U.S. Army, has been appointed to the Northern Virginia Community College Board representing Prince William County. A native New Yorker, Gaskill holds a bachelor of arts in accounting and business administration from Howard University and a master of business administration from George Washington University. He is also an alumnus of the Executive Program in National and International Security at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

After retiring from the military, Gaskill served as an adjunct associate professor of business and public management at Northern Virginia Community College. We welcome him back as a guiding member of the College Board!

Congratulations are also in order to Board member Diane R. Tuininga, who represents the City of Fairfax. Tuininga has successfully defended her dissertation, earning a doctorate in the education program, with a specialization in agency counseling through George Mason University. She has been a member of the Board since fall 2005 and serves as a school psychologist with the Manassas City Public Schools. Tuininga also operates a private psychology practice and serves on the boards of the Fairfax County Partnership for Youth and the Fairfax Police Youth Club.

Congratulations Dr. Tuininga!

NoVaHealthFORCE Signs Agreement with Education and Health Care Leaders

Last month, area health care organization CEOs and college and university presidents met at the MEC to sign a declaration of support and collaboration. This document affirms that the institutions of higher education and health care organizations of Northern Virginia agree to work together to increase the capacity within the health care education and training system, sustain an ongoing supply of persons interested in health care careers and nurture innovation in health information technology.

The meeting was the culmination of a three-year effort by NOVA President Robert G. Templin, Jr. and the chair of the NoVaHealthFORCE steering committee. Founded in 2003, NoVaHealthFORCE is a coalition of private sector, business, government, health care and educational leaders with the mission to establish a long-term, business-driven, sustainable strategy to address the Northern Virginia health care worker shortage.

Reminder: Intercom is now on its summer schedule.

The next issue will be distributed on June 9. The submission deadline is Friday, June 2 at 5:00 p.m.
From left, former Alexandria Campus librarian Beth Weixler and current librarians Matt Todd, Anne Anderson and Sylvia Rortvedt.

Three NOVA librarians who completed their master's degrees in library science while working at the Alexandria Campus recently gathered to celebrate the graduation of former colleague and new librarian Beth Weixler. Weixler, who worked at Alexandria from 1997 to 2004, received her MLIS from the University of South Carolina's distance education program this year, and is now employed by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Matt Todd earned his MLIS from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2004. Anne Anderson and Sylvia Rortvedt are graduates of Catholic University, in 1999 and 1978 respectively. All four gained valuable practical experience working in the Campus library while completing their degrees, and all were beneficiaries of the College's tuition assistance program.

Medical Education Campus Offers Bridge Program to Incoming Freshmen

NOVA faculty and staff who have children graduating from high school and are interested in pursuing a health care career are encouraged to check out the MEC’s Healthcare Careers Bridge Program (HCBP). The program is designed to help students develop critical thinking, problem solving, math and reading skills while introducing them to potential careers in nursing and allied health. The five-week course is the initial entry into a year-long program. HCBP students also receive ongoing academic and advising support throughout their freshman year. Students who attend the program will be better prepared to meet the academic and social demands of their first year at NOVA. HCBP is challenging, rewarding and fun!

Participation is open to students who have a Virginia high school diploma or equivalent, are eligible for admission to NOVA and are interested in becoming a nurse or allied health professional. High school graduates from the class of 2006 with at least a 2.0 grade point average are encouraged to apply. Registration deadline is May 31. Complete program cost is $226.98. Textbooks, materials and a field trip will be paid for by the College. Send registration materials to Don Johnson, Bridge Program Manager – Room 208, Northern Virginia Community College, 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield, VA 22150-1913.

Korean-American Association to Host Job Fair at Annandale Campus

The Korean-American Association of Northern Virginia (KAANV) will host its third annual job fair at the Ernst Center on May 27 from noon until 5:00 p.m. The goal of the job fair is to assist recent college graduates and qualified residents in the Washington metropolitan area in finding employment while offering businesses and organizations in the area the chance to promote themselves and recruit qualified employees. Invited to participate are 10 federal, state and local government agencies, 10 American owned businesses and 20 Korean-American businesses. Additionally, 12 doctors have committed their time to provide free health care checkups at the fair.

Major sponsors are Northern Virginia Community College Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Skillsource Group, Business Development Assistance Group, Inc., Fairfax County and the Korean Embassy. KAANV is non profit and one of the official organizations in Northern Virginia with the mission to improve the quality of life for Korean-Americans through community based programs. KAANV is funded by donations and sponsorships from the Korean-American community and federal and county governments. For additional information call Bill Forster at 703-323-3447.
How to Hire the Best People

Sponsored by: NVCC Human Resources Department

Audience: Supervisory employees who hire classified staff.

Workshop Objectives: By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

♦ Identify the essential skills and experience that a job requires
♦ Describe the personality traits a successful candidate must have
♦ Prioritize the requirements of the job
♦ Use appropriate screening practices
♦ Prepare for and conduct an effective interview
♦ Make better hiring decisions
♦ Prepare for and make a job offer

Pre-registration is needed for effective planning purposes.

This workshop is part of the NVCC supervisors training program. Employees who want to receive an HR certificate in supervisory training must complete this training module. Any supervisory employee may attend this training module even if they have not yet completed the other component modules of the NVCC supervisory training program.

All registrations will be acknowledged by return E-mail. The training room will be provided in your registration acknowledgement.

Please E-mail registration

TO: hrdtraining@nvcc.edu
CC: your supervisor
SUBJECT: How to Hire the Best People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NVCC Campus</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annandale</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 6th, 1 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loudoun</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 7th, 9 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbridge</td>
<td>Friday, June 9th, 1 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
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HR will not be offering this workshop again until the fall semester.