Alexandria Celebrates Phase III Groundbreaking

The Alexandria Campus hosted a groundbreaking ceremony October 19 for Phase III, which is expected to open in 2008. The building will feature state-of-the-art classrooms, a lecture hall, eight science labs and a one-stop center providing registration, advising, financial aid and parking services to students.

“Today’s groundbreaking represents the beginning of a new era for NOVA. Within the next 10 years we must find ways to serve an additional 25,000 students, just to keep up with the population growth in our region,” said NOVA President Robert G. Templin, Jr. “This is a great first step in making sure NOVA will continue to be the leading provider of higher education in the Commonwealth,” he added.

Virginia “Jenny” Graves, acting Campus provost, provided historical perspective. “We opened in 1965, with 761 students, in a warehouse in Bailey Crossroads. In 1969, this property was purchased for $450,000 and Phase I opened in 1973. The original building was expanded in 1980. We’ve outgrown our space again, and we’re looking forward to the grand opening of Phase III,” Graves said.

Professors Emeriti Fred Hecklinger and Jack Popeck (both former Alexandria Campus deans of student development) were among the distinguished guests. Also in attendance were state and local officials, including Commonwealth of Virginia Delegates Brian Moran and Mark Sickles, Senator Patricia “Patsy” Ticer, City of Alexandria Mayor William Euille, Arlington County Public Schools Superintendent Robert Smith, Arlington County Board of Supervisors member Barbara Favola and NVCC Board member Lorenzo Esters, all of whom addressed the assembly. VCCS Associate Vice-Chancellor Ed Watson also spoke, noting that construction could get underway by mid-November. Alexandria Student Government Association President Ericka Riggs represented the student body.
College Mourns the Loss of Robert C. Connolly

It is with deep sadness that NOVA mourns the loss of Robert C. Connolly who passed away October 21. Connolly worked with the Educational Foundation for more than two years. His smile, sense of humor and hearty laugh will be missed by all who came in contact with him.

Connolly was married to MEC Provost Charlene Connolly. They recently completed a cruise through the Panama Canal and had celebrated Robert’s birthday the day before returning to work. He was often seen at MEC functions entertaining visitors as “Flako Z. Clown.” He always wore a big smile and had plenty of jokes and stories to tell.

Connolly always spoke lovingly of his wife, children, grandchildren and cat. In addition to managing the accounts at the Foundation, he drew scenes on post-it notes that he gave to his co-workers for a job well done.

A memorial service will be held on November 3 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Matthews Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Robert Connolly Fund, NVCC Educational Foundation, 4001 Wakerfield Chapel Rd., Annandale, VA 22003 or The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, P.O. Box 1776, Williamsburg, VA 23187.

Updates from Human Resources

Human resources has been notified of limits for the College’s tax-deferred savings plan for 2007. The general limit is $15,500, plus the age 50 catch-up limit of $5,000. These deferral maximums are the same for both the Commonwealth’s 403(b) and 457 plans. There may be a higher deferral under the 403(b) plan using the “15 years of service” rule. Your service vendor must calculate your eligibility for this deferral.

Changes to 2007 pay-period deferrals must be received in the human resources office by December 13. If you have a 403(b) plan and want to change your deferral amount, you’ll need to complete and submit a salary reduction agreement, which can be downloaded from the HR Web page. If you have a 457 plan and want to make a change, you’ll need to complete a payroll authorization form. A downloadable version of this form can be found on the deferred compensation Web site at http://www.vadcp.com. Contact the HR benefits team for more information or assistance.

In a few weeks, the state’s ombudsman for health coverage concerns will visit the area. The Department of Human Resource Management has scheduled a visit to the Annandale Campus on November 13, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Ernst Center president’s dining room. Watch for more details about the presentation as they become available.

NOVA Libraries Web Site Gets Makeover

NOVA libraries recently unveiled their new Web page, which went live on October 29. The library page acts as a portal for access to both print and electronic sources. The new site has been designed to enhance usability and navigation, with simpler terms and titles that better represent content. The Web page can be used to search for books, access full-text articles or find Internet sites appropriate to college-level research.

New features include FAQ, online book request form, enhanced information for campus libraries and an online suggestion box. College librarians hope the new site will enhance student and faculty research. Thanks to the library Web committee (chaired by MEC Librarian Beth DeAngelo), TAC Web designer Cuong Hua and Cathy Simpson for guiding and completing this project.

Questions? Stop by any campus library or visit http://www.nvcc.edu/Library.

Who writes Intercom? YOU DO!

See the Intercom submission guidelines at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm
Governor Kaine Visits Woodbridge

Governor Timothy M. Kaine visited a U.S. History class at the Woodbridge Campus on October 25, along with Jim Webb, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate. Governor Kaine introduced Webb, who discussed campaign issues and took questions from the students. Special thanks to Charlie Errico for arranging the visit and to Alice Reagan for volunteering her class.

Provost Sam Hill greets Governor Timothy M. Kaine and Jim Webb as they arrive at the Woodbridge Campus.

Photo by Carlene Mackereth

Annandale Campus Library Celebrates “Banned Books Week” with Display

To raise awareness for “Banned Books Week,” Annandale library staff members Naimeh Abuel-Hawa and Elizabeth Dellavedova assembled a display with a sampling of titles banned over the years in the United States. While many people are aware that books like Lolita and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn have been banned by school boards and communities across the country, many are surprised by the titles on the list. In 1989, two California school districts removed an illustrated version of Little Red Riding Hood because of a picture showing a little girl carrying wine. In 1978, an Eldon, Missouri library banned the American Heritage Dictionary because it contained 39 “objectionable” words. Today, some graphic novels are being challenged because of their images. Stop by the library to view the display through November 30 and learn more about why books are banned. Anyone interested in viewing the PowerPoint slide show that accompanies the display should contact Dellavedova at edellavedova@nvcc.edu.

College Forms Emergency Planning Committee

Members of the newly-formed Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) have been meeting to develop a comprehensive plan that can be implemented immediately should the avian flu become a threat to the Northern Virginia area. Continuing the work of the ad hoc committee on pandemic flu, the EPC mandate is to advise the president and the administrative council on emergency planning for all College locations and ensure that NOVA is prepared for all foreseeable emergencies.

Chaired by Vice President Alison Baker, the committee members include Sue Davis (CS), Chief James Kalletta (CS), Dave Karstens (WO), Stacy Pendleton (CS), Dr. Steve Sachs (CS), Joyce Samuels (LO), Dr. Monica Sasscer (ELI), Libby Sears (MA), Roger Tancreti (CS), Rick Tittmann (AN), Dr. Dave Williams (AL) and Dr. Robert Younes (MEC). The committee has already met twice and has two more meetings scheduled prior to the winter break, at which time they will provide a draft plan to the administrative council for dealing with a flu emergency situation.

NVCC-TV Features “The 60 Second Chef” in This Week’s Video Link

This week, the NVCC-TV center partnered with the hospitality management program to produce a video podcast series called “The 60 Second Chef” with host Mike Herbert. These podcasts are available as an RSS feed on the hospitality management Web site. The current installment centers on wok seasoning. View the video at mms://NOVAMEDIA.NVCC.EDU/public_videos/chef/chef_wok_stream.wmv.
Ferguson’s Class Demonstrates Dangers of Drinking and Driving

Kathy Ferguson’s ESL 991D class participated in a project called “And We’d All Been Drinking,” based on the alcohol-related death of a high school student. Reader’s Digest began a contest which challenged ad agencies across the country to produce effective anti-drunk driving presentations. Ferguson’s class accepted the same challenge, showing the deadly consequences of drinking and driving. The results are on display in the upper lobby of the CF building (AN) next to the student activities office.

Assistant ESL Program Coordinator Darlene Branges and Kathy Ferguson pose with the 991D class and their posters.

Photo by Jessie Zahorian

Woodbridge Wins Innovative Business Practice Award

Each year, the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce recognizes organizations for business achievements and community involvement; this year the Woodbridge Campus was honored with the Chamber’s Innovative Business Practice of the Year Award. Provost Sam Hill accepted the plaque during a Chamber dinner on October 19.

The Woodbridge Campus earned the award for providing services to the community, such as workforce Spanish courses at the Prince William Criminal Justice Academy, diversity training for K-12 teachers and the Work Keys Writing Assessment as another way students in the County’s public schools can fulfill the Standards of Learning requirement.

Congratulations to the Woodbridge Campus!

Annandale’s Lyceum Committee Sponsors Author, Citizen-activist Tim Sneed

Annandale’s Lyceum Committee hosted writer Tim Sneed at a book talk on October 25. Sneed is the author of Don’t Stop at Green Lights: Why Wal-Mart Customers Vote Republican. A self-described “citizen-activist,” Sneed discussed his early life in one of America’s poorest counties, how a chamber pot shaped his political philosophy and his participation in John Kerry’s presidential campaign. For more information on his book, go to http://www.dontstopatgreenlights.com. The next Annandale Lyceum event is a lunchtime jazz and blues concert featuring NOVA alumnus Steve Smith and the Meteors at noon on November 7 in the CF Cafeteria.

Terry Alford (right) introduces author Tim Sneed.

Photo by Tricia Holser

Music Program Features High School Outreach Choral Concert

NOVA’s music program presents “An Aaron Copland Birthday Concert,” featuring music by America’s foremost composer on November 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Schlesinger Concert Hall on the Alexandria Campus. The concert will include choirs from Edison High School, Falls Church High School, JEB Stuart High School Choir with the Annandale Chorale, the NOVA Community Chorus (AL) and the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (AL). The concert will be conducted by Dr. Mark Whitmire (AL), Robert Webb (AN) and Ulysses James. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. For information, call 703-845-6097.
2007 Classified Staff Emeritus Awards

The Personnel Services Committee is requesting nominations of retired or retiring classified staff for the 6th annual Classified Staff Emeritus Award.

This is a great way to recognize the retiring (or already retired) heroes of the classified staff who dedicated themselves to making NOVA a great place for students, staff, and faculty.

Among the benefits they receive are continued faculty/staff parking, a Classified Staff Emeritus ID card (which gives them a discount at College bookstores and entry to college events), invitation to the College Service Awards Luncheon, recognition at Commencement, and their name in the College Catalog with the previous Emeritus winners.

Eligibility requirements include:

- retirement from Northern Virginia Community College after a minimum of ten years of service in the Virginia Community College System and meritorious and significant contributions to the College;
- maintained currency in his/her area of responsibility through significant participation in professional development or other activities while employed at NVCC; and
- displayed excellence in his/her job performance and/or administrative responsibilities.

Any past retiree meeting the above qualifications is eligible for consideration. Below is a list of newly retired and about-to-retire employees who also may be considered for this year’s award:

- Donnie Castle
- Geraldine Bridge
- Cathy Magalis
- Abe Coe
- Anita Gulbrandsen
- Merrilee Scida
- Lois Koehnke
- Roy Gjormand
- Robert DuVall
- Judith Segaar
- Mary Montemerlo
- Larry Watson
- Joyce Cain
- Shirley Hankins
- Betsy Pfeffer

An e-mail will be sent to all employees with complete instructions and criteria for nominations, but basically you just need the nomination form (in this issue of Intercom) and a detailed narrative justification for why they person should receive the award. All nominations should be sent to Patti Hill in Human Resources by November 27, 2006.

(please print the attached nomination form)
Classified Staff Emeritus

Nomination Form

Name of Nominee

Department/Office ___________________________ Campus _________

Eligibility requirements:

The nominee must have retired from Northern Virginia Community College after a minimum of ten years of service in the Virginia Community College System and must have made meritorious and significant contributions to the College.

The nominee must have maintained currency in his/her area of responsibility through significant participation in professional development or other activities while employed at NVCC.

The nominee must have displayed excellence in his/her job performance and/or administrative responsibilities.

Please provide a detailed (1 page maximum) narrative justification* in support of the nomination and return it with this form to Patti Hill in Human Resources by the deadline.

*Note: Because the members of the review committee may not personally know all the nominees, they cannot recommend the award to an individual without sufficient detail to justify their nomination. Several nominations received in the past were too brief to be considered.

All nominations must be received in Human Resources by Monday, November 27 by 5:00 p.m.
The Music Program of Northern Virginia Community College presents

Aaron Copland

Birthday Concert

featuring choirs from
Edison High School, Falls Church High School
JEB Stuart High School Choir
Annandale Chorale & NOVA Community Chorus
and
Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra

Tuesday, November 14, 2006
7:30 p.m.

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall
Alexandria Campus - 3001 N. Beauregard Street

Free Concert - Parking $5
Donations Taken

For information, call 703-845-6097
Celebration

Join us for
A celebration of Accomplishments
for
Barbara Holt
after over 20 years of service to the College
Assistant Dean of Information Systems
Alexandria Campus

Date: November 17, 2006
Time: 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.
Place: Room AA 158
Bisdorf Building
3001 N. Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311-5097

Please R.S.V.P. by November 10, 2006 at abland@nvcc.edu

Although not required, if you wish to give a monetary donation towards this event and the purchase of a gift please forward it to Alessi Bland in the Business Technologies Division, AL
The NoVa Woodbridge Theatre

Oscar Wilde’s classic farce of (mis) manners

The Importance of Being Earnest

Nov. 10, 11, 17, & 18, 8 p.m. AND
Nov. 12 & 19, 2 p.m.

Tickets available at the door
$4 students, NVCC faculty/staff,
children, & seniors
$6 all others

In the Theatre at the Woodbridge Campus of
Northern Virginia Community College
15200 Neabsco Mills Road
For information, call (703) 878-5750
V/TDD: (703) 680-7942
or e-mail etrumbull@nvcc.edu

(or reserve online at NWTheatreGroup.org/tloBE-Reservations.htm)