Great Legacies of Wilhelmi and Baker

Charlotte Wilhelmi began her career at NOVA on January 1, 1984, bringing an excellent mix of academic credentials and educational administrative experiences, along with hands-on practical marketing “know-how.” It has been her challenge and joy to provide leadership and supervision to the units assigned to College Government Affairs and Community Relations. Working under four presidents, she has also served on the 12-member College Administrative Council, the 34-member Educational Foundation Board of Directors and a wide array of community organizations. She has forged partnerships, built strong relationships with state elected officials and county and local levels to advance the interests of the College. Wilhelmi has diligently worked to ensure that the College continues to project and to safeguard its positive public image as an institution of higher education offering quality academic programs and services in a student-centered and community-focused environment. She has been instrumental in making NOVA the stalwart institution it is today, and we thank Wilhelmi for her years of unlimited devotion and care of the mission of the College. Wilhelmi’s retirement invitation is on page 8.

Alison W. Baker was appointed to head NOVA’s Financial and Administrative Services division in January 1997. In her role as chief financial and administrative officer, she supervised a wide array of critical college functions, including accounting and budget, human resources, payroll, purchasing and inventory control, auxiliary enterprises, facilities management, college police, emergency planning and the Campus business offices. She also joined the student body last spring, studying the Italian language at our Alexandria campus as she prepared for her next adventure with her husband, who will spirit her away to Georgetown’s campus abroad near Florence, Italy, followed by a year in Berlin, Germany. During her 10 years with us, she has met challenges of budget cuts, capital funding and many other administrative issues with imagination, creativity and

Continued on page 2
Alexandria Provost Participates in the 13th Annual Fall Telethon

During an interview with NBC4 reporter, Julie Carey, Jonathan Gueverra, Alexandria Campus provost, discussed opportunities that NOVA provides for students in our service area such as the Pathway to the Baccalaureate Program, guaranteed admission agreements, dual enrollment and the Virginia Two-Year College Transfer Grant.

Susan Yowell, Executive Director for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, stated that “The dollars raised during the annual telethon support the general fund which makes first-year and renewal awards to T.C. Williams High School Seniors who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need.”

In 2007, there were 37 scholarship recipients from T.C. Williams High School whom are currently pursing a degree at NOVA! The telethon was broadcast live on Comcast Channel 69 for five hours featuring live musical performances from high school students and interviews with local community leaders.

Bill Shonk Memorial Golf Outing

Once again the semi-annual Bill Shonk Memorial Golf outing was held in the rain, November 9 at Pinecraft Golf Course. Three Alexandria students, Jeff Dasilva, Steven Moore and Adrian San Jose won the best ball tournament with two under par. Their prize was a round of 18 holes of golf with riding carts at The Gauntlet Golf Course. The winner of closest to the pin was Dasilva, who received four weeks of group lessons.

There were 17 faculty, students and College staff participating from the Annandale and Alexandria campuses and the Brault Building. Donations to the NVCC Educational Foundation will be used to purchase golf equipment at the Alexandria Campus in memory of Bill Shonk, former PED Program Head and golf instructor who died of cancer. Anyone interested in participating in the spring outing should contact Ginger Primus at vprimus@nvcc.edu.

GOT NEWS? Let Your Colleagues Hear From You!

What is happening at your campus? Who is setting trends? What events are coming up?
Check out the Intercom submission guidelines at:
http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm
Submit your article today to intercom@nvcc.edu.
NOVASIGHTINGS

A Turkey Helps with Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Alexandria Campus Student Ambassador Club sponsored a Thanksgiving Food Drive/Bake Sale on November 12, 13 and 14, with proceeds to benefit patrons of homeless shelters during the Thanksgiving holiday. One student dressed up in a turkey costume, to promote the Food Drive around campus and, also, to encourage international students to participate in the annual United College Ministries Thanksgiving event, where American families invite international students into their homes to share their Thanksgiving dinners.

Pictured far right: Jean Braden of the humanities and social sciences division, stopped by to talk to the turkey.

Alexandria Partners to Help Those in Need

Each year, many struggling families look to Carpenter’s Shelter for help with the holidays. Carpenter’s Shelter is Northern Virginia’s largest homeless program serving more than 1,000 homeless and formerly homeless individuals annually. Last year, thanks to a very generous outpouring of support from the community, 100 individuals in the residential and daytime drop in shelters were able to enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving meal. They were also able to distribute a complete holiday meal to 26 families who participate in their aftercare program with more than 60 children. Carpenter’s Shelter relies entirely on donations from the local community to provide this needed assistance. The Alexandria Campus responded to the call for help during the food drive, held November 1 – 12, and happily helped those in need.

Pictured (left to right): Jimmie McClellan (AL), dean of humanities and social sciences; Stanley Wilkins (AL); Carpenter’s Shelter Volunteer; Yolanda Barbier (AL), Campus and Community Relations Specialist; Student Leaders and Jasmin Witcher, Executive Director of Volunteers for Carpenter’s Shelter.
NOVASIGHTINGS

Pictured left: Donald Depuydt (LO), from the art department, recently presented at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM), La Plata, where an exhibition of his prints opened the season in CSM's Tony Hungerford Memorial Gallery.

Matt Todd Elected to the Virginia Library Association

Congratulations to Matt Todd, collection development librarian at the Alexandria Campus. He was elected to the Virginia Library Association (VLA) Executive Board in the Office of Treasurer. Todd was elected in statewide balloting this autumn, and the results were announced at the VLA Annual Conference in Hot Springs, Virginia on November 2.

The Virginia Library Association is “a statewide organization whose purpose is to develop, promote, and improve library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to advance literacy and learning and to ensure access to information in the Commonwealth of Virginia.” The Treasurer serves on the VLA Council and presides at meetings of the Finance Committee.

A Great Start for NOVA’s Basketball Teams

Earlier this month, April Neal of NOVA’s Lady Raiders was named to the All-Tournament team selected from participants in games played at Frederick Community College in Maryland. The women’s team is coached by Liz O’Duro.

On November 17, NOVA’s men’s team, coached by Mike Fitzmaurice, defeated the Windjammers, a former American Basketball Association team, in an exhibition game played in front of 100 fans in the Ernst Center gym on the Annandale Campus. The score was 96 to 73. The Windjammers feature former players from such schools as Georgetown University and Norfolk State. NOVA’s men’s team used a nine-man rotation in the first-half and made six three-point shots to give the Raiders a 42-31 lead at halftime. The men’s team has a 5-3 season record, and their next home game is scheduled for January 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the Ernst Center.

Pictured: April Neal, student and player on the Lady Raiders women’s basketball team.
Photo by Larry Harris
**New Academic Administration Training**

On October 26 and November 2, 39 deans, assistant deans and program heads from all six campuses participated in the first-ever Academic Administration Training. The training sessions focused on the practical information academic administrators need to know to do their jobs.

On October 26, human resources (HR) staff members Pam Becker, Patti Hill, Erin Couch and Eileen Sorenson presented on HR processes for hiring, promoting and evaluating faculty and staff, and on using and documenting leave. Art Cavanagh, director of college information systems, gave an overview of the reports and queries available in PeopleSoft. Steve Sachs, vice president of instructional and information technology, stopped by to talk about software and technology funding.

On November 2, the deans, assistant deans and program heads started the day with a session on “Conflict Management,” led by consultant Alice Waagen. Tony Stanzo, dean of visual and performing arts and public services (AL), lead a lively discussion on student complaints and appeals, and Jerry Boyd, dean of languages and literature (AN), presented on “Working with the Chain of Command and Governance Structure” and the “Planning Process: Budgeting and Funding.”

Human resources, under the direction of Myrtho Blanchard, and the Academic Deans Council, led by Boyd and Stanzo, partnered to offer this important new training. Kathy Weiner, HR, and Jen Daniels, for-

**NOVA Police and Chief Jim Kalletta Receive National Recognition**

In its September issue, Security Magazine lists the top 500 security organizations in the country, along with the names of these organizations’ leaders. Included on the list are cities and towns, states and special purpose jurisdictions, school districts, hospitals, businesses and corporations and colleges and universities. NOVA’s police department and its leader, Jim Kalletta, were ranked at number 364 of 500 on this list. Only three community colleges made the list – Riverside Community College in Riverside, California, first; NOVA, second and Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona, third. Among all colleges and universities, NOVA ranked number 19 of the 46 institutions making the list. In Virginia, only NOVA and George Mason University (GMU) made the list with NOVA ranking above GMU, which came in at number 369.

“Security Magazine and Quandt Analytics used available public and private resources and interviews to identify the most intense industries and organizations facing significant risk and requiring aggressive risk mitigation strategies. The Security 500 Research project and report are based on survey data and are not the result of receiving confidential or private information.”

The largest organizations within the most intense industries were identified and then based on a calculation including 1) what is being secured and 2) an intensity or risk factor. Assets, people, reputation and regulation are the four core elements being secured at any organization. The risk factor is evaluated on value, environment, compliance/regulatory issues, geographic size, appeal and other intrinsic measures, which elevate risk.

This is a first ever ranking of top corporate, commercial, institutional and government security operations (Security Magazine; “Security 500 Ranking: the Biggest and Best;” by Mark McCourt).” Congratulations to the NOVA Police Department and its leader Chief Kalletta!
Robert Petrella (AL), music department, is currently on Presidential Sabbatical. He attended “Clarinet Day” at Michigan State University on November 10. Petrella gave several presentations during the all day event with clarinetists from universities across the United States and as far away as the University of Brasilia.

Please remember to use the College’s NEW wordmark for all publications.

For guidelines or to download, please go to http://www.nvcc.edu/wordmark.
NOVA SIGHTINGS

Loudoun’s Reston Center Celebrates GIS Day 2007
Think Spatially, Act Locally!

NOVA celebrated international Geographic Information Systems (GIS) day in style on November 14. The afternoon was filled with GIS presentations, demonstrations and an open house for the newly finished high-tech classroom at Loudoun’s Reston Center 2 facility. Guest speakers helping NOVA to commemorate the day and launch the new facility included Dr. Sergei Andronikov, professor of GIS in George Mason’s executive MBA program. Larry Stipek, Director of Mapping and Geographic Information for Loudoun County addressed managing the County’s explosive growth via GIS. Dr. Greg Smith, Chief Scientist for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) addressed the past and future of GIS with the group. In all, more than 80 individuals participated in the afternoon’s events, which included hands on demonstrations, door prizes and an opportunity to meet NOVA’s GIS faculty.

You can learn more about Geography and GIS at www.nvcc.edu/gis or e-mail Mike Krimmer, adjunct assistant professor of GIS at mkrimmer@nvcc.edu.

Pictured from left to right, Beverly Blois, Mike Krimmer and Anthony Tardd cutting the cake for the new classroom.

Pictured left: Some of the students, faculty and staff celebrating GIS Day and attending the open house at Reston Center 2.
You are cordially invited to the Retirement Reception for

Charlotte Wilhelmi

Director of College Government Affairs and Community Relations

as she concludes her 25th year at NOVA and prepares to explore uncharted territory and enjoy a life of leisure and relaxation

Please join us at
The Forum of the Ernst Cultural Center
on Thursday, December 13, 2007
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kindly RSVP by Friday, December 7

Geri Dolan
Events Manager
College Government Affairs and Community Relations
703-323-3753
You are cordially invited to a Retirement Reception for

Alison Baker

Vice President, Financial and Administrative Services

as she prepares to traverse the highways and byways of Europe with knapsack and map in hand

Please join us at
The Forum of the Ernst Cultural Center
Wednesday, December 19, 2007
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kindly RSVP by Thursday, December 13

Geri Dolan
Events Manager
College Government Affairs and Community Relations
703-323-3753
President’s Sabbatical Deadline

The President’s Sabbatical Award will allow three faculty members, one of whom can be on a 12-month contract, to receive a semester of leave with full pay. Proposals will be awarded based on their excellence and a candidate’s potential to contribute to the long-term mission of the College. Those wishing to apply for the award for the 2008-2009 academic year will need to submit their proposal by December 1.

Proposals should be no longer than 1,000 words and specify how the sabbatical leave will uniquely benefit both the individual and the College. The proposal and a 50-word executive summary should be sent as an e-mail attachment to human resources along with NVCC form 105-100. Within a week, human resources will confirm that it has received the proposal. Faculty members on the personnel services committee (who are not eligible for the award) will evaluate the proposals. Award recipients will present a lecture on their sabbatical experience to the College community during the year following their leave. Questions concerning this important professional development opportunity should be directed to Charles Errico (WO), chair of the personnel services committee.

Shirley Brown Gravette Scholarship Luncheon Deadline

It’s that wonderful time of year again! Come to the Shirley Gravette Scholarship Luncheon on December 7 at 12:30 p.m. Meet this year’s scholarship recipient and visit with members of Shirley Gravette’s family. The luncheon, prepared by Kitchen Gourmet, will be held at the Alexandria Campus in AA158 of the Bisdorf Building. The program will be hosted by Jean H. Braden, assistant dean of humanities and social sciences, and Jim McClellan, dean of humanities and social sciences. The cost is $35.00. Please make your first holiday present a check to the NVCC Educational Foundation, noting that it is for the “Shirley Brown Gravette Memorial Scholarship Fund.”

The proceeds from this luncheon will be divided between the Shirley Brown Gravette Endowed Scholarship Fund and an income account, from which future scholarships will be awarded. If you cannot attend the luncheon, donations are appreciated. Please send your reservation form and check by December 3 to Stephanie Sareeram, division of humanities and social sciences (AA252), Alexandria Campus, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22311.

NOVA Alert Test Planned

A test message is planned for the NOVA Alert system on December 5 at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of this test is to send a text and e-mail message to everyone registered with the NOVA Alert system. For many users, this will be the first text message sent from the NOVA Alert system to their cell phone or pager. While our intent is to send “alert” messages only when life or property is in danger or for closings and delays, testing is important to assure that the system is both viable and reliable. Roam Secure, the system vendor, will be monitoring the test and will make system improvements as needed. (See attachment section for full NOVA Alert Information Plan)

A follow-up email message will be sent out on December 6 to all NOVA Alert registered users to make sure the test message was received and with instructions for those who did not receive the test message. If you have not signed up with NOVA Alert, you can register at http://alert.nvcc.edu.

Virginia Retirement System Group Counseling Sessions

The Virginia Retirement System will hold two free consecutive Group Counseling Sessions (GCS) on December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The sessions will occur on the Annandale Campus in the Ernst Cultural Center Forum. For more information on the objective of the GCS, go to http://www.varetire.org/Members/RetPlanning/EduCounsel.asp. To register and to view the Annandale Campus map, go to http://www.varetire.org/Members/RetPlanning/Schedule.asp.
UP&COMING

Faculty Resource Fair

This year the College’s new Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is sponsoring the Power Up Your Pedagogy Conference, and we would like to invite you to participate in the Faculty Resource Fair on January 4 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the CE Forum.

Last year NOVA won a Technology in Education award from the VCCS for this event! NVCC-TV’s Richard Attix produced a great video of the affair. You are welcome to view this by signing on to Blackboard and going to the NOVA Video on Demand pages (http://www.nvcc.edu/tvcenter/vod/) to view the Faculty and Staff Video Resources. Alternatively, you may view this at mms://vod01.nvcc.edu/vod/Staff/Faculty_Fair_06/Faculty_Fair.wmv.

NVCC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Board of Directors of the NVCC Educational Foundation (NVCCEF) has allocated $50,000 for the 2007-2008 academic year for program grants. These grants will help meet some unbudgeted needs. Last year, the Foundation funded 30 grant proposals totaling $50,000, representing each of the six campuses. Previous 2006 grant recipients must file a follow-up report with the Foundation office before the December 15 deadline to be eligible for the 2007-2008 awards program. The NVCCEF Program Committee will meet at the end of January to make its selections. The deadline for submitting program grants is December 14.

Proposals should include:

- A narrative description of the project (two typed pages maximum).
- Two printed copies.
- Method(s) of evaluation.
- Availability of other sources required (space facilities, equipment, computer time, clerical assistance, etc.)
- If this grant is the sole basis of funding or if other sources have been secured.
- Budgetary detail on how the grant will be spent.
- How this grant will benefit the Campus and/or College as a whole, and how will this proposal benefit students.
- Approval of the appropriate division chair/supervisor or provost, where applicable.
- Information technology requests must be approved by the Vice President for Information Technology.

The maximum grant is $2,500. Travel, release time and equipment are eligible for funding, but release time will not be available until the fall 2008 semester.

Please submit applications to Michelle Beaini, NVCC Educational Foundation, Brault Building, Room 312 or call ext. 2-3023 (AN) for additional information.
Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges

Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges is an honor bestowed on those individuals who have a proven record of outstanding academic and co-curricular merit. Students earning the award will be honored at a college-wide banquet on Friday, April 11 at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, and will be printed in the prestigious Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges publication.

Students must have earned 30 credit hours or more by the end of the Fall 2007 semester, possess a minimum 2.50 grade point average, be currently enrolled and have declared a major in a degree program leading toward the A.A.; A.S.; A.A.A. or A.A.S and have demonstrated outstanding campus/community participation and contributions. To nominate a student at your campus please obtain a nomination form and attach a letter of recommendation. Nominations are due no later than Friday, December 7. Please contact one of the following individuals to nominate a student at your campus listed below.

Alexandria Campus
Patricia A. Gordon
Student Activities Coordinator
Student Organizations
Room 148, AA Bisdorff Building
703-845-6218
pgordon@nvcc.edu

Annandale Campus
Giovanna Colosi
Student Activities Coordinator
Student Organizations
Room 224, CF Building
703-323-3455
gcolosi@nvcc.edu

Loudoun Campus
Rashad Morton
Student Activities Coordinator
Campus-wide Events/Organizations
Room 142, LR Building
703-450-2616
rmorton@nvcc.edu

Manassas Campus
Jeffrey Thomas
Student Activities Coordinator
Campus-wide Events/Organizations
Room 110J, MH Building
703-257-6614
jethomas@nvcc.edu

Medical Education Campus
Jessie Adams
Student Activities Coordinator
Campus-wide Events/Organizations
Room 206, HE Building
703-822-6598
jhutsko@nvcc.edu

Woodbridge Campus
Mat (Tank) McCarl
Student Activities Coordinator
Campus-wide Events/Organizations
Room 158, WS Building
703-878-5700
mmccarl@nvcc.edu

Maria Nieto (MEC), administrative assistant, is pictured with student Courtney Lyell and Beatrice Veney (MEC), dean of students, at last year’s Who’s Who banquet. Lyell graduated from the Respiratory Therapy (MEC) Magna Cum Laude. She is also the founder of the Virginia 21 chapter at the MEC and participated in the annual legislative visit to Richmond.
ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The Entertainment 2008 coupon books have arrived! They make a unique holiday gift. They are available in room 312 of the Brault Building for $25.00 each. The NVCC Educational Foundation receives $5.00 from each book sold. The books contain over 500 discounts for dining, vacations packages, music, theaters and even online shopping.

You may pay by cash, credit card (VISA or MC only) or check. For more information, call Michelle Beaini at 703-323-3023 or e-mail mbeaini@nvcc.edu. Entertainment 2008 books may be used immediately, so don’t delay – buy yours today!

COLLEGE-WIDE PAYROLL DEDUCTION PROJECTS

Each year the NVCC Educational Foundation, Inc. asks faculty and staff to consider donating to their campus-designated projects. This year the Foundation has a college-wide goal of $25,000 for the payroll deduction campaign. Please consider giving today! This year the projects designated by each campus provost are listed as:

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<th>CAMPUS</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
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<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>Alexandria Campus Performing Arts</td>
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<td>Annandale</td>
<td>Semmler Grants</td>
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<td>Loudoun</td>
<td>Gazebo Lighting Project</td>
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<td>Manassas</td>
<td>Friends of Manassas</td>
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<td>Medical Education Campus</td>
<td>Rainbow of Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodbridge</td>
<td>Woodbridge Scholarships (McElroy, Sobien, Lowerre, Clark)</td>
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You can help by supporting any of the above campus projects or perhaps making a donation to the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund supports faculty and staff grants up to $50,000 annually as well as the Outstanding Service to the College awards. Contact the Foundation at 2-3023 (AN) to get your payroll deduction form today! All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
Inclement Weather Process

In case of inclement weather, the College will announce its plans to close or to delay opening through the following news media:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AM RADIO STATIONS</th>
<th>FM RADIO STATIONS</th>
<th>TELEVISION STATIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>WDCT 1310</td>
<td>WAMU 88.5</td>
<td>WRC Channel 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFLS 1350</td>
<td>WETA 90.9</td>
<td>WTTG Channel 5</td>
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<td>WMAL 630</td>
<td>WFLS 93.3</td>
<td>WJLA Channel 7</td>
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<td>WPGC 1580</td>
<td>WHUR 96.3</td>
<td>Cable News Channel 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>WTOP 1500</td>
<td>WPGC 95.5</td>
<td>WUSA Channel 9</td>
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|                   | WRQX 107.3        | NVCC-TV Channel 19, 25, 37, or 59 (Check local cable listing for your area.)
|                   | WTOP 103.5        |                     |

So How Do You Interpret Closing Announcements:

- **“Northern Virginia Community College is closed”** means the College will be closed until classes begin on the following morning. When this simple announcement is made, it means that no day or evening classes will be held.

- **“Northern Virginia Community College will open X hours late”** means for the purpose of delayed opening announcements, the College’s official opening time is 8:00 a.m. For example, a two-hour delay means that the College will open at 10:00 a.m. Classes that begin at 10:00 a.m. or after will be held as usual. College employees should arrive at the College by 10:00 a.m. Supervisors of employees who work special shifts should make clear how delayed openings affect attendance expectations.

- **“Morning classes at Northern Virginia Community College are canceled”** means the College will be closed until 12:00 p.m. The College will open at noon and classes beginning at noon or after will be held as usual. College employees should arrive at the College by noon.

- **“Day classes at Northern Virginia Community College are canceled”** means day classes are those classes that begin before 4:30 p.m. The College will open and classes that begin at 4:30 p.m. or after will be held as usual. Employees whose normal work schedules extend beyond 6:00 p.m. should report to work by 4:30 p.m.

- **“Evening classes at Northern Virginia Community College are canceled”** refers to evening classes are those classes that begin at or after 4:30 p.m. The College will close at 4:30 p.m. and no further classes will be held until the next morning.

In addition, the College will place a message on the College Web site and on the College TV station if there will be a change from normal operating hours. Faculty, staff and students can check for weather announcements by calling the College Call Center at 703-323-3000 or by calling NovaConnect IVR at 703-323-3770 or in Prince William County at 703-330-3770.

Please note that in all cases of delayed openings, classes that would have started prior to the opening time, but then would have continued at least 45 minutes after the opening time will go on, beginning at the opening time. For example, a three-hour class that normally begins at 9:30 a.m. and continues to 12:30 p.m. would start at 10:00 a.m. and continue as usual until 12:30 p.m. in the case of a two-hour delay.

The College makes its closing announcements as quickly as it can. During the workday, please do not call to ask whether the College will be closing. If the decision is to close, everyone will be notified. Responding to telephone calls prevents staff from receiving information from police and weather services and often slows down the closing decision.
Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) both Hospital-acquired (HA-MRSA) and Community-acquired (CA-MRSA) has spread worldwide and is responsible for significant morbidity, mortality and increase in health care costs. MRSA is a strain of a common infection-causing bacterium that has become resistant to treatment by the antibiotic methicillin which makes this a more dangerous infection.

Control strategies to limit the emergence and spread of this organism rely on rapid and sensitive testing for detection of MRSA carriage. At the forefront of this testing is the hard working Clinical Laboratory Diagnostic team in collaboration with information technology communities. In particular, the ever-so emerging field of Health Information Management (HIM) is at the forefront of this issue in efforts to improve the streamline of pertinent health information from local, state and national levels. HIM professionals are deemed experts in the field of patient information. David Brailer, MD and his team at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) supported by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) are pushing for a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO). RHIOs are a group of organizations with a business stake in improving the quality, safety and efficiency of healthcare delivery. RHIOs are the building blocks of the proposed National Health Information Network (NHIN) initiative. An infrastructure such as RHIOs can ultimately improve the ability to detect and respond to MRSA and any other emerging microbial threats and bioterrorism.

The HIM profession is looking to work closely with other allied health professions such as Medical Laboratory Technicians and state and national organizations to ensure the delivery of uniform information. The ability of HIM professionals to analyze, report, track and maintain such information to all levels of U.S. government and the healthcare industry such as the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a necessary ingredient in the combat to stop the ongoing spread of MRSA and other related infections.

However, due to the crisis of healthcare workforce shortages that are being encountered in Northern Virginia, suitable means for identification, diagnosis and effective surveillance of MRSA has the potential of becoming compromised. NOVA’s Medical Laboratory Technician Program and the Health Information Management programs at the Medical Education Campus are both committed to the training and education of allied health professionals in order to provide skilled and qualified personnel to the pool of dedicated health care practitioners here in Northern Virginia.

Got a HOT TOPIC? Submit it today to intercom@nvcc.edu.

On November 16, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* highlighted that NOVA set up a Game Pit for video gaming. The feature titled, “Video-Gamers Get Their Own Lab at a Virginia Community” can be found in the free online e-Wired Campus newsletter that focuses on education technology. The concept has helped to create interest and created additional social environments on campus. To sign up for this free service, go to https://chronicle.com/services/email_lists?minimal=y.
Location: ANNANDALE CAMPUS CF 226
Due Date: Thursday, December 6

Details: Pick an angel tag from the tree located outside of Student Activities (CF 226) and provide a toy and/or clothes matching the sizes on the tag. Please provide NEW items and place the UNWRAPPED gifts in a gift bag and secure the top. Attach the angel tag firmly on the package as this is the only way to identify the child. Return gifts by Thursday, December 6 to Student Activities.
Contact: Tiffany Fossett 703-323-3147
Announcing the NVCC Horticulture Club’s Annual Poinsettia Sale
Tuesday, December 4\textsuperscript{th} &
Wednesday, December 5\textsuperscript{th}
11:00-2:00 and 5:00-7:00
Grown in our new greenhouse on campus
Many varieties available
$8.00 per plant
Come early for best selection!
Sale will be held in the Greenhouse on
NOVA’s Loudoun Campus
1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway, Sterling VA
Proceeds will support the NVCC Horticulture Club & NVCC Horticulture Technology Program
For more information call 703-450-2558
A test message is planned for the NOVA Alert system on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 1 p.m. The purpose of this test is to send a text and email message to everyone registered within the NOVA Alert system. For many users, this will be the first text message sent from the NOVA Alert system to their cell phone or pager. While our intent is to send “alert” messages only when life or property is in danger or for closings and delays, testing is important to assure that the system is both viable and reliable. Roam Secure, the system vendor, will be monitoring the test and will make system improvements as needed.

A follow-up email message will be sent out on Thursday, December 6 to all registered cell phone, pager and email users. If the user did not receive the test message they will be instructed to reply to a special college email address so we can track problems, and to seek assistance from their cellular carrier to be sure their cell phone can receive text messages.

**NOVA Staff involved with promoting and approving this test:**
William Flagler, Director Emergency Planning  
Dr. Steve Sachs, Vice President Informational & Instructional Technology

**Announcement to be Sent by Email to All NOVA Alert Registered Users the Monday, Nov. 26 and on Monday, Dec. 3.**

A test message is planned for the NOVA Alert system on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 1 p.m. The purpose of this test is to send a text and email message to everyone registered with the NOVA Alert system. For many users, this will be the first text message sent from the NOVA Alert system to their cell phone or pager. While our intent is to send “alert” messages only when life or property is in danger or for closings and delays, testing is important to assure that the system is both viable and reliable. Roam Secure, the system vendor, will be monitoring the test and will make system improvements as needed.

A follow-up email message will be sent out on Thursday, December 6 to all NOVA Alert registered users to be sure the test message was received and with instructions for those who did not receive the test message.

**Intercom Announcement to Appear in the Nov. 30 Issue**

A test message is planned for the NOVA Alert system on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 1 p.m. The purpose of this test is to send a text and email message to everyone registered with the NOVA Alert system. For many users, this will be the first text message sent from the NOVA Alert system to their cell phone or pager. While our intent is to send “alert” messages only when life or property is in danger or for closings and delays, testing is important to assure that the system is both viable and reliable. Roam Secure, the system vendor, will be monitoring the test and will make system improvements as needed.

A follow-up email message will be sent out on Thursday, December 6 to all NOVA Alert registered users to be sure the test message was received and with instructions for those who did not receive the test message.

If you have not signed up with NOVA Alert, go to [http://alert.nvcc.edu](http://alert.nvcc.edu) to register.
**Test Message**

“This is a test of the NOVA Alert emergency notification system to be sure you can receive alerts. No response is needed.”

**Groups to Receive the Test Message**

Registered cell phones and pagers
Registered email addresses

**Follow-up Email Message on Thursday, Dec. 6:**

On December 5th, a test message went out over the NOVA Alert network. It read,

> “This is a test of the NOVA Alert emergency notification system to be sure you can receive alerts. No response is needed.”

If you did not receive this test message on the cell phone and email address you registered for receiving alerts, please send an email to NOVA_Alert_Test@nvcc.edu to let us know. Be sure to include your emplid, cell phone number or email address so we can check the system from our end. You also should be sure to login to NOVA Alert and check your registered devices under the “Devices” tab. A link to your NOVA Alert is provided at the bottom of this email. If you did not receive a text message on a registered cell phone, you should also contact your cellular customer service center to be sure your account allows text messages.

Remember, you can choose which alerts you receive by logging into NOVA Alert as follows:

Logon to NOVA Alert at [https://alert.nvcc.edu/](https://alert.nvcc.edu/) (also see the link below)
Click the “My Alerts” tab.
Click the “Optional Alert” bar.
Review the full list and join as many groups as you like.
Click the “Home” tab to review your registered devices and group memberships.
You can add a cell phone or email address under the “Devices” tab.
Log off when done.
Thank you for helping us with our Fall Test of NOVA Alert.

**Follow-up to the Fall Test**

Emergency Planning and IT staff will follow-up on the emails received from individuals who indicate they did not receive the test message to determine how successful the test was and if there are patterns to those who reported problems.