NOVA Welcomes Two New Board Members

Two new members have been appointed to the Northern Virginia Community College board. Jerome T. (Jerry) Barrett, the new representative from the City of Falls Church, has more than 40 years of experience in helping labor and management resolve mutual problems and disputes. He has a rich background in labor relations, as well as experience in the classroom, including a stint at the University of Northern Kentucky, where he headed up the labor management department.

Since leaving government work, Barrett consults, mediates, arbitrates and writes on labor and management issues. He has authored two books, dozens of articles and produced a video. With a bachelor’s degree from the College of St. Thomas, a master’s from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate from George Washington University, Barrett lives in Falls Church with his wife of 54 years.

Lorenzo Lamar Esters represents the City of Alexandria. Since April, Esters has been working as a management and program analyst for the office of the assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to that, he served as a senior program analyst for the Impact Aid Program in the same agency.

Before joining the Department of Education, Esters had various roles within the Social Security Administration. He also taught English and creative writing classes at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland and at Jackson State University in Mississippi. Esters holds a bachelor’s degree from Rust College in Mississippi, a master’s degree from Jackson State University in Mississippi and is currently pursuing doctoral studies in higher education administration from Morgan State University in Maryland. Both board members’ terms expire in June 2010. Welcome!

NovaConnect Upgrade is Almost Here!

On October 10, the new version of the Student Information System (SIS) will be launched, promising a cleaner look, easier navigation and the ability to find more information on one page. The “Student Center” and “Faculty Center” menu options will offer one-stop shopping, providing access to all information needed to do business. Students will also have links to the enrollment pages directly from the “Class Search Results” page, making registration easier.

The transition to SIS 8.9 is underway and extends to 8:00 a.m. on October 10 when the new system goes live. During this period, some staff in division offices and student services centers will be able to look up student information, but no one will be able to enroll or pay for courses in-person, online or by phone.

Posters, cards, e-mails, Web tutorials and FAQs have been distributed and support training is underway in preparation for the changeover. Training for faculty and staff continues through October 16 with additional training to be scheduled once the new system goes live. Everyone will also have access to the newly revised Easy Steps to Registration card to assist with the registration process.

Thanks to the SIS 8.9 steering committee and subcommittees, under the direction of Executive Vice President John T. Dever and Manassas Campus Provost Hortense Hinton, who have been working to make the conversion as seamless as possible. Although the transition will require some down time, the new NovaConnect promises to provide a more efficient and effective means of communication to better serve our students and the needs of the College.
Annandale Library Welcomes Kevin Simons

The Annandale Campus library welcomes their newest reference and instructional services librarian, **Kevin E. Simons**. Simons received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and his master’s in library science from Wayne State University. He comes to NOVA with a variety of academic library experience, most recently from a 10-year stint with George Mason University, serving as Mason’s university libraries’ instruction coordinator and liaison librarian to the honors, New Century College and English composition programs.

Simons is eager to work with faculty to support their instructional needs for developing students’ information literacy skills. Stop by and say hello at the Annandale library reference desk, or give him a call at 703-323-3410. He’s an avid golfer, so keep him in mind when planning a golfing event. Welcome, Kevin!

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William Soza Visits Annandale Campus

William Soza, founder, former chairman and CEO of Soza & Company Ltd., and current chairman of the board of directors of Security One Bank in Fairfax, visited NOVA last week as the guest speaker for the business and public services division’s Braun Executive Lecture Series.

Soza spoke on entrepreneurship, describing his business startup experiences and recommendations. He also discussed risk taking, financing, growth management, market research and promotion, identifying competition, developing a business plan and building a winning team.

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Web-Based Time and Leave System to Debut in October

Over the course of the last several months, Human Resources, in conjunction with Information Technology, has been in the process of implementing a new Web-based, College-wide HR system. Many redundant systems and processes have already been eliminated and the efficiency of the new system has been apparent. Many features will affect the day-to-day operations and processing of employee-related information.

Brault building P-14s have been using Web time sheets since July and this functionality is ready to roll out College-wide. Prior to the debut, HR is asking that all employees review the documentation that pertains to their role (entering their timesheets and/or approving time sheets). This documentation can be found on the HR Web page at [http://www.nvcc.edu/hr](http://www.nvcc.edu/hr).

When the new system debuts, employees will also have the ability to view and update their personnel records. Basic functions such as address and phone number changes and the entry of emergency contact information will be available immediately. Other functions will be added over time.

Human Resources will be able to keep employees up to date with an events calendar and announcements on the front page. Articles of interest and mini-polls are also new features on the site. Visit the HR Web page to begin reading the documentation. All time and leave reporting will be processed in this manner during the November pay periods.
A Celebration of Hispanic/Latino Poetry

Thursday October 12, 2006
6:00 p.m.
Bisdorf Room 158

Come and enjoy an evening of poetry in both Spanish and English, read by faculty, staff and students. If you are interested in reading a poem yourself, contact Dr. Margarita Hodge (ext. 16586 or e-mail: nvhodgm@nvcc.edu) or Dr. Lawrence Rich (ext. 13986 or e-mail: lrich@nvcc.edu).

Light refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by the Hispanic Heritage Committee of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Office of Student Activities, and S.A.L.S.A.
Dr. Stephen Fuller
Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and University Professor
Director, Center for Regional Analysis, School of Public Policy
George Mason University
speaks on
The State of the Regional Economy

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Waddell Theater, NOVA-Loudoun Campus

Cosponsored by The Humanities Division and
The Economics Department
A Tea & Pedagogy presentation
Free and Open to the Public