NOVA’s Constitution Day Film

With the support of the NOVA Telecommunication Center and a grant from the NVCC Educational Foundation, the College produced a film for Constitution Day. On August 17, the film was shot at Gadsby’s Tavern in Old Town Alexandria with the help of two actors who portrayed George Mason and James Madison. The premise is that Mason and Madison are on their way back from the Constitutional Convention. A ne’er-do-well, also staying at Gadsby’s, played by Charlie Errico, is interested in discovering what was discussed at Philadelphia.

Charles Siegel was the executive producer and Richard Attix directed and edited the film. Other members of the Telecommunication Center who gave up a Sunday to work the cameras, lighting and sound equipment included Lance Graham, Sabrina Xaviar and Tony Matthews. In addition to his supporting role in the film, Errico wrote the grant. This soon-to-be-nominated Emmy production first aired on NOVA Television at 7:00 p.m. on

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Constitution Day, September 17. Much like on a Redskins Sunday, streets and stores were empty as eager viewers gather around their television sets.
Hundreds of students participated in the NOVA Day student welcome event held at the Alexandria Campus on September 9, organized by Chris Mastromarino, Student Government president and the Office of Student Activities. Students met with club officers of more than 15 different student organizations and participated in a variety of activities, including a rock climbing wall, caricature and graffiti drawings, volleyball, karaoke, gaming and a barbeque. Faculty Advisors covering tables with their club officers included Joseph Windham (All Afrikan Student Union), Jean Braden (Persian Club and Muslim Student Association), Jardod Waetjen (Chess Club) and Darlene DuBose (Ambassador Club/Peer Mentor Program). The brief period of rain had no effect on the activities, as students continued climbing the 20 foot rock wall, interacted with Slapshot, the official mascot of the Washington Capitals, and danced to student and employee karaoke performances.

Multimedia Designer Lisa Stedge (AL) goes up the rock wall with various students.

Photo by Nabin KC

Joe Windham (second from left) covers a table with the All Afrikan Student Union officers.

Acting Dean of Students Frances Villigran-Glover (far right) meets with the Phi Theta Kappa officers.
Continuing Education ESL “Back to School” Event Peeks Interest

On the evening of August 20, the Continuing Education English as a Second Language (CE ESL) Department organized a “Back to School” event for our community residents who take English as a Second Language classes. The event was held in the CE Cultural Center. In addition to recruiting new students and making current students aware of the new programs and offerings, the main purpose of the event was to promote college services available to students. This event was conceived as the first of its kind orientation for community ESL students studying part-time. A variety of NOVA staff and faculty members helped make this evening a success. Michol Beltran, CE ESL office supervisor, Kathy Ferguson and CE ESL office staff, Ji-Hyun Kim and Catalina Amortegui assisted with event planning and setup as well as student testing and counseling.

The evening began with a series of presentations by representatives of different departments involved in working with ESL students. Tonia Rodgers (AN), CE ESL program coordinator, talked to the students about the challenges of learning a language as an adult, about the steps of learning English at NOVA and the ESL courses available in Continuing Education and academic ESL programs. Mary O’Neill (AN and MEC), CE ESL faculty, and Christiane Silva (MEC and CEWD) told the students about the new ESL for Healthcare program available at the Medical Education Campus. With the growing demand for healthcare jobs, more and more students are interested in healthcare related courses. O’Neill discussed different opportunities for students who are interested in this career track, including free on-the-job training.

Veronica Campos (AN), director of the ESL Center, talked about special workshops and classes that she created for ESL students. Campos’ enthusiasm about language learning was as always contagious and inspiring. Bill Browning, director of Workforce Development, discussed a new exciting program starting this fall at multi-
Continuing Education ESL “Back to School” Event Peeks Interest

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ple NOVA locations. All CE ESL departments will be offering “Employment Skills for ESL Students,” tuition for which is partially grant funded. The goal of the program is to help students improve their English as well as develop their job-related skills in order to enter or advance in the U.S. employment market. Felicia Blakeney (AN), Career Center, talked to the students about career exploration and NOVA Career Center services. Blakeney encouraged students to visit the center and meet with career counselors, who can help evaluate students’ professional experience from their home countries.

Nimra Siddiqui (AN) represented the NOVACARD office. The formal presentation section was concluded by a very special guest, Eduardo Torres (WO). Torres started his U.S. education at the CE ESL program at the Annandale Campus many years ago at the low-beginner level. In his advice to new students, Torres said, “The most important thing you can do as a student is being positive about your learning and asking questions.” With spirited enthusiasm he talked about his experience learning English here at NOVA and his experience as a new immigrant, graduating from NOVA with an IT degree and going on to work for the government at the U.S. Labor Department, and finally returning to where it all started – to his family at NOVA, where he is currently working in the IT Department at the Woodbridge Campus. At the end of his speech a lot of students had tears in their eyes because his story resonated so closely with their own lives. One of the most exciting events of the evening was the teaching demonstrations presented by CE ESL instructors. O’Neill taught a lesson on the challenges of English pronunciation. Peggy Hobler (AN), CE ESL faculty, taught a short lesson on interviewing skills and dressing for success. Both were very well received by the prospective students, giving them a taste of the classroom experience.

For many students it was an eye-opening evening, with so many opportunities lying ahead. There were tables set up around the CE Forum that showcased the work of each department, and all the Fair participants welcomed the opportunity to talk to the students before and after the presentations. CE ESL Placement testing was administered throughout the evening, with students registering for classes for the upcoming semester.

One of the students attending the Fair and interested in the Employment Skills course, mentioned that he was “very nervous about coming to NOVA but was so impressed with how helpful and encouraging everyone he spoke to had been.” He said that he had only expected to be given a placement test, not given so much hands-on guidance. Director of Annandale CÉWD Robert Vaughn and Provost Barbara Sapernstone (AN) both stopped by to see the activities of the ESL Back to School Fair and were very supportive of this CE ESL community outreach effort. Our only hope for next year is to attract more students who can benefit from this kind of orientation.
The Intercom Wants to Hear from You!

Tell us about what your division has accomplished, articles you have published, obstacles conquered and insight uncovered! Share it with your peers and other Intercom readers. Remember the deadline is EACH Friday at 5:00 p.m. for the following week’s edition.

A few reminders:
- E-mail your submissions from your NOVA e-mail account to intercom@nvcc.edu in a Word of Publisher file.
- Please remember to send photos as attached jpegs (make sure they are good quality or they cannot be used).
- Include captions for photos in your submission text.
- Make sure to denote what acronyms mean.
- Make sure you have the correct listing of position titles and campus affiliations (AL, AN, LO, MA, MEC and WO)

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

Please see the ATTACHMENT SECTION for various campus events and announcements! Highlights include:

Loudoun Campus:

Alexandria Campus: National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day

Annandale & Loudoun Campuses:

2008 FALL FOR THE BOOK
Annandale Campus SNNAP Program Pilot Yields Positive Student Feedback

This summer the Student Development Division at the Annandale Campus piloted the Students Navigating NOVA through Advising and Planning (SNNAP) program for students new to college. One student participant comment after attending the program was, “This session was very informative. Now I feel comfortable starting my first semester at NOVA!”

After taking placement exams, new students registered in the Counseling Center for one and a half hour group sessions between the months of June and August for the fall 2008 registration. During the PowerPoint presentation, counselors discussed placement test results, the College Catalog (programs of study, course descriptions, general education, etc.), class scheduling, NOVACONNECT and financial information. Sessions were held in the CT computer laboratory where students also received instruction on the uses of NOVACONNECT and how to search, register and pay for courses. All participating students received a First-Year Guidebook, NOVA giveaways and extra credit for Student Development 100-College Success Skills at NOVA Annandale Campus. Preceding the start of classes, the SNNAP program primarily focused on registration and NOVACONNECT usage.

The SNNAP counseling team included Giovanna Colosi, Raymond Jones, Sherri Anna Robinson, Cheryl Rohrbaugh, Frances Troy, ViNita Warren and Wistar Withers. The program provided over 90 sessions (day, afternoon and evening) throughout the weekday and serviced over 940 students which led to a decrease in the wait times in the general counseling center. For new students, SNNAP provided the additional time with counselors to be able to learn important pre-enrollment procedures and the use of supportive technology so that students are better acclimated to the College process. Participating students provided wonderful feedback sharing that SNNAP also assisted them with learning about program selection, transfer and balancing responsibilities.

The SNNAP team would like to thank all members of the Student Development Division at Annandale for their support as well as the staff of the Annandale Campus Learning Resource Services (Testing Center and Computer Lab) for their collaboration. Currently, the Student Development Division is in the planning stages to continue the SNNAP pilot for the spring 2009 registration.
Faculty Benefits Orientation: Retirement, Deferred Compensation & More!

Human Resources will host presentations and answer questions about retirement plans, deferred compensation and more. The remaining Benefits Orientations will take place on September 19 at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. All sessions are in the large Boardroom of the Brault Building on the Annandale Campus. Contact Erin Couch at ecouch@nvcc.edu or 703-323-4276 to confirm the date and time you plan to attend.

Science Seminar

(Presented by the Science Seminar Committee MSE Division, Annandale Campus and also supported by Lyceum)

The Science Seminar titled, “The Wonders of Down Under: Australia’s Wetlands, Rivers and the Great Barrier Reef,” will take place on September 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the CE Forum of the Ernst Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus. Speakers include NOVA faculty members Nancy Chamberlain (Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies) and Reva A. Savkar (Chemistry).

Professors Chamberlain and Savkar had wonderful experiences this summer while working on the project “Global Climate Change and the Effects on the Waterways of Australia.” The project was part of the Summer 2008 International Faculty Development Seminars organized by the Council for International Education Exchange (CIEE). Trace the travel and educational experiences of Chamberlain and Savkar through this seminar and examine the critical issues of water resource management, climate change, health of the wetlands, rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy the flora and fauna of Australia from the drought stricken areas in the extensive Murray-Darling Water Basin which extends across several states in temperate Southern and Eastern Australia to the rainforests of tropical northern Australia to the Great Barrier Reef, the world’s largest and most complex reef system.

Chamberlain has been teaching in NOVA’s Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies since 1997. She is an outdoor enthusiast and diver and hopes to take a group of students to Australia someday. Savkar has been teaching chemistry and computer science at NOVA since 1974 as an adjunct faculty and full-time since 1989. She is also an avid outdoor enthusiast and has walked/hiked in the European Alps, India, the U.S. and now the Australian Blue Mountains and the New Zealand Alps. Each have realized their life-long dream of traveling and experiencing “Down Under!”

All students, staff and faculty are cordially invited.

2008 Fall for the Book Events at NOVA

Brian Turner, Iraq War veteran and author of the award-winning poetry collection “Here, Bullet,” will be speaking on September 23 at 12:30 p.m. at the Annandale Campus, CE Forum and at 6:00 p.m. at the Loudoun Campus, Waddell Theater.

This is presented by the NOVA Lyceum Committee, Tea & Pedagogy and George Mason University’s 10th Annual Fall for the Book Festival (FFTB). There will be a book signing following the reading, sponsored by Barnes and Noble Bookstore. For more FFTB information and a complete schedule, go online to: http://www.fallforthebook.org. For information, see the flyer in the attachment section.
The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) is offering a New Faculty Seminar to faculty (full-time and adjunct) hired within the last year. It is a wonderful opportunity for professional development and there is no cost to the faculty member or their college for the program. The sessions will take place September 25 and 26 at the Virginia Crossings Resort (http://www.virginiacrossingsresort.com/) in Glen Allen, Virginia. One night’s lodging and all meals are included: opening luncheon on Thursday, dinner with the Chancellor, breakfast buffet and a box lunch on Friday. Attendees simply need to get themselves there and back; many colleges carpool or use college vans for transportation. Registration has been extended but is filling up quickly.


A new feature this year includes Discipline Meetings in which faculty of similar disciplines meet together to discuss teaching that discipline in the VCCS, emerging trends, useful teaching techniques and anything else that may be of great interest.

Glenn DuBois, Chancellor of the VCCS, will keynote at the banquet.

To register, move quickly! Eligible faculty should go to http://myfuture.vccs.edu/peergroups/ and click on the listing for “New Faculty Seminar” to register for the event. We have a limited number of slots for this event, so attendees will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have questions, feel free to contact Nan Ottenritter at nottenritter@vccs.edu or Nancy Harris at nharris@vccs.edu.

American Shakespeare Center Visits the Loudoun Campus

American Shakespeare Center’s Touring Ensemble will perform “Hamlet” on September 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Tom Stoppard’s “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead” on September 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the Waddell Theater.

Tickets are free to NOVA students, faculty and staff, but must be reserved in advance. Tickets for the general public can be purchased for $5.00, cash or check at the door, but need to be reserved in advance.

Space is limited and, again, all tickets must be reserved in advance! To reserve your tickets, contact Natalie V. Safley at 703-948-7701 or e-mail nsafley@nvcc.edu.

NOVA Hosts Seminars for Your Future Financial Needs

Great West Services, the service provider for the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Deferred Compensation Plan, will conduct a regional education enrollment seminar for all interested employees on October 22 at the Manassas Campus. For further information on times and dates see the attachment section.
The Board of Directors of the NVCC Educational Foundation has allocated $50,000 for the 2008-2009 academic year for program grants. These grants will help meet some unbudgeted needs. Last year the Foundation funded 29 grant proposals totaling $50,000 and representing each of the six campuses. Previous 2007 grant recipients must file a follow-up report with the Foundation Office before the December 19 deadline to be eligible for the 2008-2009 awards program. The NVCCEF Program Committee will meet at the end of January to make its selections. The deadline for submitting NVCC Educational Foundation program grants is December 19:

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.)
- Whether this grant is the sole basis of funding or have other sources been secured.
- Budgetary details 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 2009 semester.

Please submit applications to Michelle Beaini, NVCC Educational Foundation, Brault Building, Room 312 or call 703-323-3023 for additional information.

The Intercom Wants to Hear from You!

The Intercom is for and by the faculty and staff of NOVA. 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. For complete submission guidelines, go to: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm. Send your news!
Flu Shot Program Offered Again to State Health Plan Members

Free flu shots once again will be available from now until the end of flu season at specific participating COVA Care and COVA HDHP plan chain and independent retail pharmacies. In addition, individual agencies may make arrangements to have a local pharmacy that participates with COVA Care come onsite to provide flu shots at no cost.

**Pharmacy Program:** Any plan member, including employees, non-Medicare eligible retiree group members, covered spouses and dependents, may present a plan ID card to receive a flu shot at no cost. A list of pharmacies, flyers and a Q&A for each plan is available on the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) Web site at [http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov](http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov). DHRM will update the lists on the DHRM Web site as pharmacies are added.

**For COVA Care:** Pharmacy chains and independents this year include CVS, Giant, K-Mart, Kroger, Rite Aid, Safeway, SuperValu, Walgreens, Ukrop’s and independent pharmacies in EPIC and Leadernet, among others.

**For COVA HDHP:** CVS, Farm Fresh, Medicine Shoppe, Ukrop’s and Walgreens, among others.

Plan members should also check with their local pharmacy to be sure it is participating in the program. Each pharmacy location sets up its own clinics and procedures, which may differ within the pharmacy chain.

**Flu Shots Under the Medical Benefit:** All COVA Care and COVA HDHP members may receive flu shots at no cost in their doctor’s office covered under the medical routine wellness benefit. Kaiser Permanente HMO plan members have access to free flu shots from their physician or at participating medical centers.

Please forward any questions to **Janice Cottingham** of the Benefits Team in Human Resources at jcottingham@nvcc.edu.
Brian Turner
Iraq War veteran
Author of the award-winning poetry collection Here, Bullet

Tuesday, September 23
12:30 p.m. Annandale Campus – CE Forum
6:00 p.m. Loudoun Campus – Waddell Theater

Presented by the NOVA Lyceum Committee, Tea & Pedagogy, and George Mason University’s 10th Annual Fall for the Book Festival

Book signing follows the reading, sponsored by Barnes and Noble Bookstore
For more FFTB information and a complete schedule: http://www.fallforthebook.org
Concerned about gas prices?  
Want to reduce your carbon footprint?  

Come to NOVA’s Fall Festival and Learn About GREEN Driving Opportunities  

NOVA’s Alexandria Campus  
3001 North Beauregard Street  
Alexandria, VA 22311  
Saturday, September 20th  
11am-3pm  
Free to the Public  

Come Speak with Experts AND See for Yourself  
Alternative Fuel & Advanced Technology Vehicles  

*National AFV Day Odyssey is developed and coordinated by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium in partnership with our participating sponsors.
ADMIT ONE

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008 7:30 p.m.
SHAKESPEARE'S
HAMLET

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008 2:00 p.m.
STOPPARD'S
ROSENCRANTZ AND
GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

Waddell Theater NOVA-Loudoun Campus
Tickets $5
Tickets must be reserved in advance
by calling 703-948-7701
or emailing nsafley@nvcc.edu

ADMIT ONE
Seminars to Help You Prepare for Your Future Financial Needs

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) will be conducting preretirement educational seminars in the NOVA area.

1. **Tuesday, September 16, 2008**: Annandale campus, Ernst Community Cultural Center.
   - **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**: are for employees to develop early in employment history the value of a pension plan and associated benefits such as life insurance and long-term care.
   - **1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**: GCS are referred to as Group Counseling Sessions aimed at the employee who is seriously thinking of retirement within the next five years. Employees and spouses are encouraged to attend these sessions.
   - The registration site form is found on the VRS website, [www.varetre.org](http://www.varetre.org), under planning for retirement. The local number to call for registration details is 703 323-3281.

2. **Wednesday, October 22, 2008**: Manassas Campus in the Colgan Theater.
   Virginia Retirement System in conjunction with Great-West Services will conduct a Regional Enrollment/Educational seminar on the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Deferred Compensation Plan. This plan is commonly referred to as the 457 plan. With few exceptions, all employees are eligible to participate in saving additionally for retirement using the pretax benefits of the plan.
   - The presentation is broken down in three sessions focusing on Plan Features & Benefits, Successful Account Management and Understanding Distribution Options.
   - The seminar begins at 9:00 a.m.
   - Employees may attend one, two or three of the presentations with no pre-registration required. For further information, check the plan’s Web site, [www.vadcp.com](http://www.vadcp.com).
Community Service Trip
Friday, September 26
Northern Virginia Community College
&
Northern Virginia Training Center

What is the Northern Virginia Training Center?
A center to help people with intellectual disabilities LIVE LIFE! Residents of the center participate in community service projects, arts and crafts, and other such projects. Volunteers assist the disabled in accomplishing these goals.

How do I get involved?
The Annandale Office of Student Activities will be taking a van full of students over to the Northern Virginia Training Center on Friday, September 26th. Sign up at the Annandale Office of Student Activities. We will leave from the office at 9:30 a.m. and arrive back to campus at approximately 3:30 p.m.

What to bring:
- A bagged lunch
- Wear comfortable clothing

Help Others!
Enhance Your Transfer Resume!
Earn Community Service