College Celebrates Constitution Day

Celebrations for Constitution Day, formally September 17, sprang up across the College last week, with professors and students in a variety of academic classes incorporating assignments linked to Constitutional issues.

Outside the classroom, commemorative events included an address by Washingtonian David Steward, author of the book *The Summer of 1787* and a Learning Resource Center exhibit, “Celebrate the Constitution: Read A Banned Book.” Free buttons proclaiming “I read banned books” accompanied the exhibit.

The celebration also spilled over into the electronic realm, with “We the People” screen savers installed on selected computers, a scrolling Constitution Day announcement with a link to a citizenship test and a broadcast of the Schoolhouse Rock video “The Preamble.”

The Alexandria Campus library honored Constitution Day with a display of books and videos about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The library also sponsored a survey asking students to vote on how they would change the document. Alexandria students voted to repeal both the Second Amendment (the right to bear arms) and the 22nd Amendment (presidential term limits). Students also voted strongly in support of an amendment banning gay marriage. To read more about the survey results, visit the library blog at [http://alexandrialibrary.blogspot.com/](http://alexandrialibrary.blogspot.com/).

Annandale to Host Two More Fall Lyceum Events

The Annandale Campus will host two final events in their fall Lyceum series next month. On October 15, Joseph Ichiuji, World War II veteran of the US Army’s 442nd Regimental Combat Team will appear with NOVA instructor **Michelle Krowl** at 12:30 p.m. in the Ernst Center forum. On October 25, Joan Cashin from Ohio State University will discuss “America’s forgotten First Lady,” a story told in her biography of Varina Howell Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis. This event will also take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Ernst Center forum.

*Intercom* is produced electronically every Friday for NOVA faculty and staff. Submit items via e-mail to Intercom@nvcc.edu by 5 p.m. Friday prior to publication. Photos should be submitted as digital files and attachments should be in MS Word or MS Publisher format. All submissions subject to editing for length and clarity. Editor: Melanie Martin. Phone: 703-323-3720. Back issues are available at [http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Intercom.htm](http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Intercom.htm).
Amato Visits Ghana as Part of Unforgettable Educational Opportunity

Early last spring, NOVA administration offered an exciting opportunity to five faculty members to take part in “Ghana Today: Challenges of a Developing Nation.” Daria Amato, nursing (MEC), accepted the challenge and found herself in a familiar place—Accra, the national capital of Ghana, West Africa. This was Amato’s fourth visit to the country since 1998. She and 17 faculty members from 14 different colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada became fast friends during the 10-day educational experience.

The group began their days between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. with a breakfast at the hotel before boarding a bus to the University of Ghana-Legon. The conference was a mix of lectures and cultural events. University of Ghana department chairs and professors emeriti lectured and lead discussions with topics including regional politics, history, medical sociology, women’s issues, religious practices, health care and literature.

The delegation took road trips to the Central Region, where they took a canopy walk through the jungle and visited the fishing village of Winneba, and to Elmina Castle in Cape Coast. They also visited a crocodile farm and the Ashanti Region in the north. Other cultural events included museum tours and native dance exhibits.

Amato found the people of Ghana to be warm and welcoming, yet reserved. “There is rarely an office or a home one enters as a visitor without someone saying, ‘Akwaba’ or ‘you are welcome’ and then being offered a seat and a beverage,” she said.

While sad to end the conference, Amato extended her stay in Africa by visiting U.S. expatriate missionary Beki McConnell and her family. McConnell is the daughter of Nelson Nestor from the Manassas Campus, and she is an alumna of NOVA’s early childhood development program. Amato also traveled to the Western Region to spend time with a friend with whom she helped establish a two-year nursing school.

Over the course of the next year, Amato hopes to develop an international nursing elective in which both faculty and students can participate. “I hope next year more faculty will take the opportunity to travel to such wonderful places and bring their experiences back to us and the students.”

Top left: Beki McConnell (daughter of Nelson Nestor) and her family.

Top right: Daria Amato poses in front of the Word Alive School of Nursing which she co-founded.

Right: Amato tackles the canopy walk in the Central Region jungle as a uniformed guide looks on.
Manassas Campus Hosts Chinese Delegation

The Academy for Culture and Language hosted a delegation of Chinese educators from the Beijing Century Peace International Culture and Education Exchange Center on September 19. Academy Director Heidi Adamson said the purpose of the visit was to explore educational best practices.

The visit began with a welcome by Adamson and Provost Hortense Hinton before participants were divided into discussion groups. The discussions examined resources available to instructors and administrators, employment opportunities, workload and benefits, curriculum and instruction and administration and leadership. Participants then reconvened to share what they learned.

After a break to enjoy a reception for the Campus art exhibit, the delegation visited Manassas Park Middle School and Battlefield High School to meet with administrators and instructors and to observe classes.

Special thanks to all the NOVA faculty and staff who volunteered to help make this visit a success: Dorothy Kondal, Cynthia Hughes, Jean Goodine, Cindy Langguth, Pat Carrow, Paul McVeigh, Charles Korn, Tamatha Lambert, Hortense Hinton, Cris Sparks-Early, Jackie Weaver, Mary Ann Schmitt, Bill Woodard, Jim Fabian, Victor Bibbins, Nancy Green, Kurk Lew, Sharon Robertson and Randy Michener.

The visit was featured in a front page story in the Manassas Journal Messenger titled “Cultural Program Comes to County.”

Alexandria Campus Library Displays “Altered Books”

The exhibit “Text, Image & Form: The Altered Books Project,” a collaboration between the Alexandria Campus library and art department, is the subject of a feature article in the current issue of Virginia Libraries, “a quarterly journal whose purpose is to develop 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 article, by Sylvia Rortvedt, associate director of learning resources at the Alexandria Campus, describes the project and subsequent exhibit in the Campus library. A gift from an anonymous donor allowed the library to purchase Rahsaan Williams’ piece “Old Webster’s Dictionary,” which will be on permanent display in the library.

"Old Webster's Dictionary" by Alexandria Campus student Rahsaan Williams, on permanent exhibit in the Campus Library.

Photo by Kevin Mattingly
Foundation Receives $20,000 Gift for Pathway Program

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) recently presented the Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation with a $20,000 check for NOVA students participating in the Pathway to the Baccalaureate program. The funds are provided through a partnership between NOVA and AFCEA’s International Educational Foundation. The luncheon, attended by over 400 community and business leaders, was AFCEA’s annual scholarship event. On hand to accept the check was Foundation Director John Ruffino and Assistant Director Bonnie Idle. Ten NOVA students will receive $2,000 each for the 2007-2008 academic year through this scholarship, which will be renewed annually.

Nadeau Featured at Alexandria Honors Hour

The Honors Program at the Alexandria Campus is pleased to announce that its first Honors Hour of the year will feature Dr. Robert Nadeau, professor of environmental science and public policy at George Mason University.

Nadeau is the author of nine books, his two most recent dealing with the environment and the global economy. He will appear at 1:30 p.m. on October 3 in Bisdorf room 158 at the Alexandria Campus. His topic will be “Global Warming and the Global Economy.” Everyone is invited.

Right: Dr. Robert Nadeau, George Mason University professor.
Loudoun Campus Offers Free Space Program

The Loudoun Campus is marking the 50th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik with a free presentation in the Waddell Theater at 7:30 p.m. on October 2 by Sergei Khrushchev and Paul Dickson. The Soviet Union’s October 4, 1957 launch of the world’s first artificial satellite marked the beginning of the space age and the start of a “space race” between the United States and the USSR. Although hardly bigger than a basketball and weighing only 183 pounds, Sputnik I changed history with its 98-minute orbit of Earth. In the prevailing Cold War climate, Sputnik’s success set off a national security crisis in the United States: the USSR was capable of landing an H-bomb on a distant American city.

“Sputnik: The Soviet Moon – A Cold War Conversation,” will feature a dialogue between Dickson and Khrushchev (moderated by NASA Chief Historian Steven J. Dick) on the manner in which Sputnik changed the focus of American politics, science and education. Following Sputnik, federal spending on higher education dramatically increased amid warnings of “the end of American life as we know it.” Legislators authorized the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and passed the National Defense Education Act to stimulate the advancement of education in science, mathematics and modern foreign languages.

Khrushchev, son of former Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev, is a senior fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies and author of *Nikita Khrushchev and the Creation of a Superpower* and, most recently, the editor of *Memoirs of Nikita Khrushchev: Statesman, 1953-1964*. Dickson, author of *Sputnik: The Shock of the Century*, is a founding member and former president of Washington Independent Writers and a member of the National Press Club. The two authors will sign copies of their books following the presentation.

For more information on “Sputnik: The Soviet Moon,” contact Beverly Blois at 703-450-2527 or bblois@nvcc.edu. To view an interactive event poster, click on http://www.nvcc.edu/loudoun/sputnik.

Etchings on Exhibit at Manassas

On September 19, Randy Michener, head of the Manassas Campus fine arts program, hosted a reception for Roger Frey who is exhibiting etchings of Virginia landscapes at the Campus until October 15. The unique etchings have attracted much interest to the Campus after being featured in an article in the Manassas Journal Messenger and Potomac News.

*Randy Michener (right) and Roger Frey with two of the etchings from the exhibit.*

College Wins Two Digital Achievement Awards

The Center for Digital Education announced its 2007 Best of the Web/Digital Education Achievement Awards, and NOVA has won two of the 11 awards given to colleges and universities. The Technology Applications Center won an award in the teacher-focused category for its Web site (http://www.nvcc.edu/tac) and the NVCC Television Center won an award in the integrated multi-function category for its searchable video on demand system (http://www.nvcc.edu/tvcenter). Earlier this year, this organization ranked NOVA at number five on its list of most digital large community colleges (schools with more than 7,500 FTES). Last year, the Extended Learning Institute’s Web site won an honorable mention in the integrated multi-function category. For more information about the Digital Education Achievement Awards and copies of NOVA’s entries, go to http://www.nvcc.edu/oit.
Congratulations to the following faculty members who recently earned promotions in rank:

Teaching Faculty

To Assistant Professor:
Mr. Michael E. Polcen, Economics (LO)
Mr. Stephen R. Wissing, Physics (AN)
Mr. D. Erik Nielson, English (AN)
Ms. Shonette H. Grant, English (AL)
Ms. Elizabeth H. Hill, Communication Design (AL)
Ms. Theresa K. McFadden, Art (AN)
Ms. Julie Anne M. Peluso, English (WO)

To Associate Professor:
Ms. Paula A. Smith, Physical Therapist Assistant (MEC)
Dr. Ramezan P. Dowlati, Psychology (LO)
Mr. David A. Clarke, Information Technology (AN)
Ms. Yvonne S. Cranmer, English as a Second Language (AN)
Dr. Jennifer D. Ward, English (AL)
Mr. Michael G. Heslop, Economics (AN)
Mr. Miguel B. Corrigan, Business Management (LO)
Dr. Cynthia Darlene VanEvery, Psychology (AN)
Dr. Molly E. Lynch, Psychology (MA)
Ms. Barbara L. Gershman, Accounting (WO)
Mr. Milan S. Hayward, Automotive Technology (AL)

To Professor:
Dr. Elizabeth C. Lanthier, Psychology (AL)
Ms. Margaret S. Leary, Information Technology (AL)
Mr. Charles W. Kellermann, Information Technology (WO)
Ms. Mary D. Hanrahan, Early Childhood Education (AL)

Administrative/Professional Faculty

To Assistant Professor:
Mr. Matthew M. Todd, Librarian (AL)
Ms. Sherri A. Robinson, Counselor (AN)

To Associate Professor:
Dr. Florence S. Richman, Dean, Nursing Division (MEC)
Mr. Brian P. Foley, Acting Provost (MEC)

To Professor:
Mr. Juneious (Michael) Tucker, Counselor (AN)
New York City Trip
November 9-11
Sponsored by the Annandale Office of Student Activities

Look at What’s Included!

Round-trip motor coach transportation
Two nights hotel accommodations within minutes of Manhattan
Two Buffet breakfasts at the hotel
Three Dinners: Dinner at the Hard Rock Café, Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, and a Buffet Dinner
Free time for Sightseeing
Tour of the Empire State Building
Guided Tour of Radio City Music Hall
Rockefeller Center
South Street Seaport
Ride the Beast Boat Tour
All taxes and meal gratuities

Contact: Jessie Zahorian, Counselor for Student Activities/Events, 703-323-3484 or jzahorian@nvcc.edu.

Payment is due in full by October 8.

Quad (Four adults per room) $285
Triple (Three adults per room) $305
Double (Two adults per room) $325

Make checks payable to Northern Virginia Community College.
The bus departs at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 9.