

# LEARNING & TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES NEWS

Fall/Winter 2013-14

## Safety : Everybody's Business



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We want every one of our students, faculty, and staff to feel safe in the various LTR spaces around the Annandale campus. However, you should keep in mind that even though staff try to create a comfortable and secure learning space, each building is still open to the public. This means that we all have to take some precautions to stay safe.



First of all, never leave your belongings unattended. Even a few minutes in the restroom is long enough for someone to walk off with your laptop, purse, keys, phone, iPod, or even your textbooks. Staff sometimes need to walk around and leave their desks in order to help students, so we cannot be responsible for watching your things for you. Campus Police suggest having important valuables like your laptop engraved with your Social Security number so they can be easily identified.

It's also important to be aware of your surroundings. Even though listening to music on your headphones may help you study, you should make sure the volume is not so loud that you can't hear what is going on nearby. The AN library especially may seem like a quiet place to rest in between classes, but closed eyes can make you an easy target for theft, especially if you choose a corner where there are few other students or staff.

Pay attention to those around you. If someone is behaving strangely or making you uncomfortable, don't hesitate to move to a different area and tell a staff member. They will decide whether further action is needed, and you can stay anonymous.



Other important information about safety at NOVA can be found at the Campus Police website at <http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/police/>. Remember that you can always get in touch with the NOVA Police 24/7 at 703.764.5000.

# OCC/Faculty Collaboration



Communication students in the OCC

During the fall semester, the Oral Communications Center (OCC) collaborated with Communication professor **Gordon Curry** and his students on an innovative project. The assignment was called “Trending Topics”, where groups of students were asked to research a local, regional, statewide or national issue that is important to college students.

This multifaceted project consisted of an introductory video, a written proposal, a presentation, a self-reflection assignment, and a preliminary annotated bibliography.

Instead of using lectures and speech prompts, the assignment required students to step out of their comfort area. As Prof. Curry states, the goal of this project was to “help build students’ oral and written communication skills, teamwork, group collaboration, research skills, and critical thinking skills”.

Many students stated they were stressed when they first received the assignment, but as they worked through the different phases of the project in small groups, they began to enjoy the process. Students felt that there was an increase in their critical thinking and presentation skills, as well as progress in building their skills in time management, conducting research and oral communication proficiency. Hopefully, this experience will augment their knowledge of interpersonal and small group communication as they transition into the workforce.

The OCC assisted Prof. Curry’s class at various points in the process, culminating in the group presentations which were recorded at the center. The Oral Communication Center’s mission is to enable student success through improved speaking and presentation skills across disciplines. NOVA students can work with trained speech consultants (by appointment) to develop and refine their skills for individual and group presentations. Come by and visit the OCC in CM 363.

## Co-Editors

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## Contributors

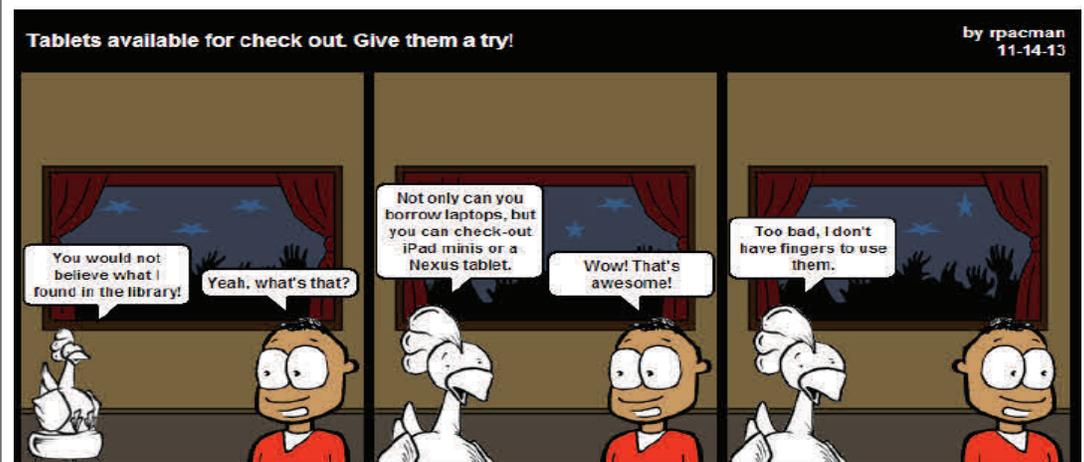
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## Lending Tablets

Since starting to lend students both Nexus tablets and iPad Minis (which weigh slightly less than the original iPad and have a smaller screen), the AN Library has not been able to keep them on the shelves! Both types of tablets can be checked out from the library for three days, and students have access to many free apps that are already downloaded on the devices. Each tablet comes with a case and charger and are quite fun to use, whether keeping up with friends on Facebook and Twitter or dropping school documents in the cloud. If you have any app suggestions, please send them to [mkclark@nvcc.edu](mailto:mkclark@nvcc.edu). Below is a list of commonly-used apps, all of which are currently available on the iPad Minis.

Most popular fun apps	Recommended apps
Skype	NOVA
Facebook	Dropbox
Twitter	Skydrive
Kindle	CloudOn
Pandora	Evernote
Google Maps	Google Drive
Pinterest	TeamViewer



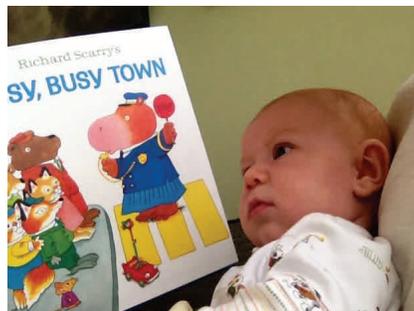
## LTR Short Stories

Welcome to **Dr. Braddlee**, the new Dean of Learning & Technology Resources, who joined NOVA in June of this year. He comes to us from Mercy College in New York where he was the Dean of Libraries, Academic Technology and Online Learning and Associate Professor. We're very excited to have him leading the LTR Team!

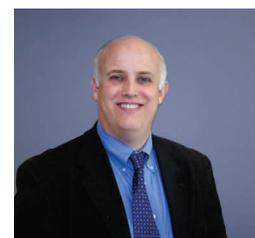
The Library hosted a *Steampunk Halloween* event to get everyone in the trick-or-treating spirit. Over 100 students enjoyed steampunk-y treats, and more than 20 students joined with numerous LTR staff to dress up in steampunk-y costumes and get their spooky portraits taken.

The Language Center co-sponsored a raffle for ESL students in early November along with the ESL Department and the American Culture and Language Institute. Any student who visited the Center between October 7th-31st immediately qualified for the raffle. There were more than 600 entries. Prizes included a Nook (donated by the Provost), Barnes and Noble gift cards, and NOVA tee-shirts, umbrellas, and pens.

A hearty welcome to Librarian **Diana Aram's** brand new baby boy, Levi! Looks like he's already caught the book bug. Maybe Diana has a new NOVA librarian on her hands. . . . **Leslie Walton** in the Language Center welcomed baby Noelle to her household this fall. Congrats to Mom & daughter! . . . And Academic Support Center Supervisor **Sarah Bogdewiecz** recently tied the knot - with several of her LTR colleagues along to witness the happy event.



Levi—budding librarian



Dr. Braddlee

## Faculty Spotlight Library Liaisons

Welcome to *Faculty Spotlight*. In this column, NOVA Annandale librarians will take the opportunity to address faculty about issues that relate to incorporating research, library skills, and information literacy instruction into your writing courses. Examples of topics you may see in this space include tips on using specific databases, ideas for incorporating information literacy instruction into your classroom teaching, and new (or old) resources and services provided by the NOVA Library.



One of our most valuable faculty resources is the NOVA Library Liaison Librarian program. Each academic department/program has a librarian who will work with you to select library materials, help you integrate library skills and information literacy instruction into your course, consult with you (and your students) on conducting effective research, and guide you through the numerous library resources and services available to the NOVA community. To find your Liaison Librarian go to the NOVA AN Library home page at [www.nvcc.edu/library](http://www.nvcc.edu/library) and click on “Annandale” under “Hours, Location, Staff”. From there, click on the “Library Faculty and Staff” link to find out who the Liaison Librarian is for your department or program.

In addition to your Liaison Librarian, please consider the *Faculty Spotlight* column as a conduit for asking questions about how the NOVA Library can help you teach the writing process. You can contact librarian **Kevin Simons** ([ksimons@nvcc.edu](mailto:ksimons@nvcc.edu)) for general questions about research or to let us know what topics you would like to see addressed here in the future. In the next issue of the LTR Newsletter, we will look at The Principles of Database Searching: the Word Game and the Math Game.

Best of luck with your courses and enjoy the holiday season.

## Testing Center / Open Computer Lab

### AN Testing Center (CA 115)

#### Regular Semester Hours:

Monday-Thursday	8:30AM - 9:00PM
Friday	8:30AM - 4:30PM
Saturday	8:30AM - 4:30PM

703/323-3833

Jason DeFreitas—Supervisor

[jdefreitas@nvcc.edu](mailto:jdefreitas@nvcc.edu)

\*Double-Check Cut-Off Times for your Test\*  
[www.nvcc.edu/current-students/services-to-students/testing/](http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/services-to-students/testing/)

### AN Open Computer Lab (CT 122)

#### Regular Semester Hours:

Monday-Thursday	8:00AM - 9:00PM
Friday	8:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM - 2:00PM

703/323-3036

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[www.nvcc.edu/annandale/computercenter/](http://www.nvcc.edu/annandale/computercenter/)

Visit the

AN Library blog at

<http://blogs.nvcc.edu/anlibrary/>