

PVCC Student Launch Team takes Flight in NASA program

Look inside for
 PVCC club
 information

Skye Scott, assistant editor

Piedmont Virginia Community College is the only Virginia college, and one of three community colleges nationwide, to earn a spot in the NASA University Student Launch Initiative.

“NASA’s student launch program is an eight-month engineering project that challenges students at U.S. colleges and universities to design, build and fly high-power rockets and experimental payloads to meet a complex set of challenges specified by NASA,” according to an article on PVCC’s website. The article also states the team has begun work on their “six foot ‘subscale’ rocket to test the students’ designs.”

As well as participating in the Student Launch Initiative, Andrew Oxford, the team leader, wrote that PVCC’s team “is making a special effort on the educational engagement front” since they are a community college team

and therefore have fewer resources than larger universities. Oxford also said there is a lot of support for community outreach, since it is part of PVCC’s mission statement.

Oxford stated it is lonely being the only Virginia team, and he hopes that changes in the future “because it would be nice to have some more local competition.” The team is looking for students to join for next years competition, according to Oxford.

“There has been an incredible amount of support for this project from the teachers and administration at the school,” said Oxford, stating PVCC has been “extraordinarily helpful” in preparing them for this opportunity.

For more information, and to stay updated on current projects, follow PVCC’s Student Launch Team on Twitter at @PiedmontLaunch, and on Facebook at Piedmont Student Launch Team. Also, visit their website at piedmontlaunch.org.



Photo courtesy of Piedmont Student Launch Team’s Facebook Page

In This Issue

- PVCC Events -pg. 2
- SGA Update -pg. 3
- Student Services -pg. 4
- Student Excuses -pg. 5
- Club Details -pgs. 6-16
- Puppies -pg. 18
- Classifieds -pg. 20

DATES TO REMEMBER

— **Free Movie Friday: *Loving* *** —
Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Love, Peace, and “Souldiers” ^** —
Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Travel Abroad Information Session *** —
Jan. 24, 5 p.m., Main Building, M229

— **Fourth Fridays Improv *** —
Jan. 27, 6-8 p.m., Dickinson, Maxwell Theater

— **FAFSA Workshop *** —
Jan. 28, 9 a.m. to noon, Main Building, M154

— **English Conversation Circle *** —
Jan. 28, 5 p.m., Main Building, Writing Center Lab

— **English Conversation Circle *** —
Feb. 1, 5 p.m., Main Building, Writing Center Lab

— **Theater of the Oppressed Workshop *** —
Feb. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dickinson Building

— **English Conversation Circle *** —
Feb. 8, 5 p.m., Main Building, Writing Center Lab

— **One Mic Stand *** —
Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson, Maxwell Theater

— **Gallery Exhibit Opening Reception *** —
Feb. 10, 5-7 p.m., Dickinson Galleries

— ***Rattlesnake* ^** —
Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Free Movie Friday: *Hidden Figures* *** —
Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Ain’t I A Woman ^** —
Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Fourth Fridays Improv *** —
Feb. 24, 6-8 p.m., Dickinson, Maxwell Theater

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

Join Us

Skye Scott, assistant editor

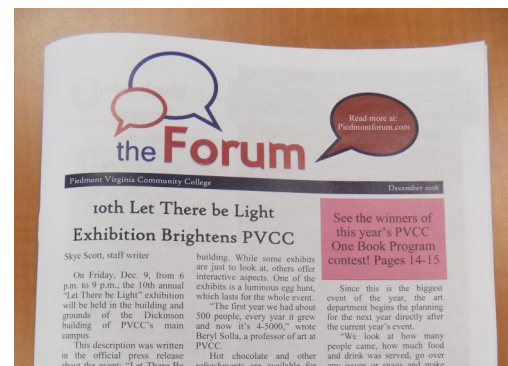
The Forum club would like to welcome all PVCC students to the Spring 2017 semester. This semester should prove to be an exciting time at PVCC, with plenty of events during the week and on weekends. There are also plenty of support services here for new and current students.

The Forum is the PVCC student run newspaper, with articles written by a collection of PVCC journalism students and club members who work to bring relevant news to PVCC’s campus.

Aside from the print issue, we have a website (www.piedmontforum.com) that contains all the articles from the newspaper as well as online exclusives. You can also follow our Facebook page at The PVCC Forum or our Twitter account at @PVCCForum. These accounts are dedicated to informing our followers about events going on at campus, as well as providing an announcement for when articles are up on the website.

The Forum provides articles about club events, PVCC productions, and local community news in an attempt to keep students informed.

If you have a love of writing and a curiosity to know the truth, then *The Forum* club would love to have you join our team. For more information about joining contact Dr. Tamara Whyte, the club’s faculty advisor, twhyte@pvcc.edu





Student Government Association News

Skye Scott, assistant editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) would like to welcome everyone to the Spring 2017 school semester!

The SGA worked hard last semester to create an inclusive and supporting atmosphere for all PVCC students, and they hope to continue to do that this semester. One way they are planning to engage students is through their Spring events.

On April 14, at 7 p.m., the SGA will be hosting their 2nd annual talent show on the main stage of the Dickinson building. The auditions will be held from March 13-31, with times to be announced closer to the date. Auditions can also be submitted through PVCC's website, pvcc.edu. This is a great opportunity for students to show off their talents to their colleagues and peers!

One new event the SGA will be hosting is an educational seminar called Understanding Religious Diversity and Tolerance. This event will be held on Feb. 24, from 4-7 p.m.

Also in February will be the Town Hall meeting, where students will be able to directly talk to the president and vice-presidents of

PVCC. The event is scheduled for Feb. 8, during college hour.

Spring Fling will be held on April 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is always a fun-filled event, meant to bring students, faculty, and staff together for an afternoon of fun and food!

Another new SGA and Marketing & Media Relations Office sponsored activity is a weekly social media contest. Students can participate by taking pictures of the topic for that week's contest and posting the picture on their personal social media accounts using the hashtags for that week. "Prizes will be awarded to the first five people to enter and for best photo," according to an article on PVCC's website.

The SGA is also looking for students who would like to join their club and volunteer their time to events. An application is available at PVCC's main campus. You are required to have a GPA of 2.5 and be a current PVCC student.

For more information, email SGA president Wadah Al Mulhim at wa292084@email.vccs.edu. Or visit the SGA's Facebook page at PVCC Student Government Association.



Student Pose for Photo at 2016 Casino Night. Photography courtesy of SGA

Helpful Stepping Stones Show the Way

Antonia Florence, assistant editor

There is no reason to go through college alone. PVCC students have a variety of support services available to them and could think of these services as stepping stones leading through a muddy garden.

If your class schedule takes you past an office that you would like to know more about, lightly tap on the door, introduce yourself and ask what they offer. If you are not in immediate need of their services, you may know someone who is.

The PVCC website includes a tremendous amount of information. Explore by clicking on every tab and link. Be prepared to learn about the college's history, future plans, and educational opportunities other than degrees and career studies certificates. Grants and scholarships are available for students regardless of their financial situation and do not need to be paid back. You will also find information about free tutoring, guaranteed admissions to four-year colleges and universities, international travel opportunities and so much more.

One link is for the Student Success Office in room M132. Their focus is to help students achieve their educational and personal goals by identifying and removing potential barriers. If it is deemed that a student needs help through off-campus resources then the Student Success Office will facilitate this introduction.

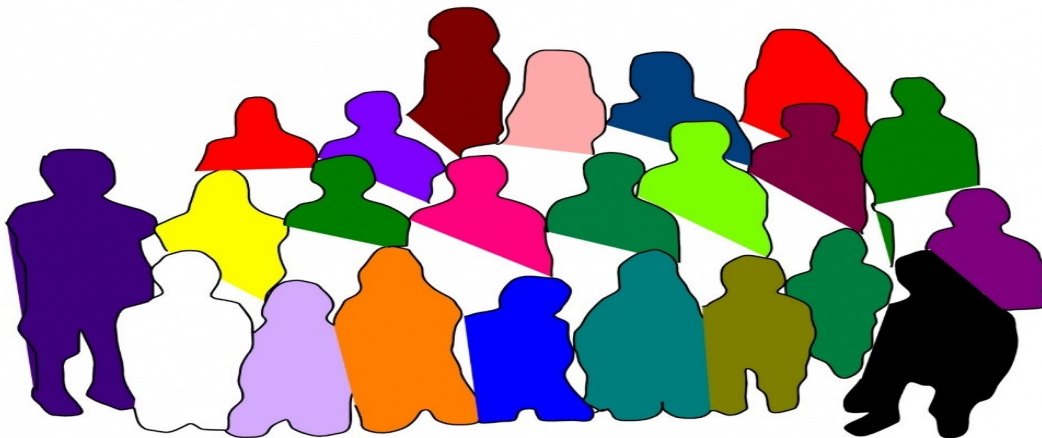
Another link is to Career Services in room M128 where they provide guidance to students

through career assessments, exploring options and job-search strategies. In addition, they will help you prepare your resume, write targeted cover letters, and provide tips for filling out job applications. They also help students hone their interview techniques and suggest salary negotiating strategies, and facilitate internships and work study positions.

PVCC, in conjunction with the YMCA Intergenerational Learning Center, offers reduced fee child-care for dependents of PVCC students while they are attending class. Full and partial grants may also be available depending on a student's financial situation. The center is located in the Jefferson School adjacent to PVCC satellite classrooms and the Culinary Arts department.

PVCC Safe offers safety tips that are valuable on and off campus. Campus police officers are sworn officers who are employed by PVCC to protect campus and its surrounding areas, according to the school's website. They will provide a protective escort on campus for any student, staff or faculty member to their vehicle or another building. To summon an escort 24 hours a day call 434-981-6362.

These are just a few of the many safety nets and services provided by PVCC. Taking advantage of them may save a student from making costly education and career mistakes. These services have already been paid for through tuition, fees and other resources. They will make walking along the muddy garden path a more pleasant productive experience.



Absences, Tardiness and Deadlines

Antonia Florence, assistant editor

A class missed is instruction lost. An assignment not turned in can lower a final grade. In college, we have deadlines to meet and when missed, most students share the reason with their instructor. However, some reasons sound silly or unbelievable even when they are the truth. However, some missed deadlines are just a fact of life. Class tardiness can be attributed to heavy traffic and accidents.

“The real world doesn’t care about excuses,” said Associate Professor of Business William Pratt. “If your boss needs an estimate by 5 p.m. on Friday to submit a contract proposal, if you don’t deliver, for any reason – even if it is a goat or dog eating your proposal, your company loses the bid!” Ironically, Pratt’s favorite excuse is, “I haven’t been skipping class, I just can’t find the classroom.” Pratt followed with, “This was about halfway through the semester!”

“The majority of students have jobs, many of which are full-time. Community/state college students often have family commitments because they live at or near home, those commitments are much harder to negotiate away,” said Professor of History Melanie Bailey. “What would have been ‘unusual’ reasons (and not acceptable as excuses) have become usual and accepted because of the financial burdens of attending college,” said Bailey in an email.

When Bailey taught in South Dakota, she noticed a significant number of students missed classes and other deadlines during planting and harvest seasons. In addition, pheasant hunting was a family event which contributed to its food stores and is a significant source of individual

and state tourist revenue. South Dakota’s state quarter features an image of a ring-necked pheasant rising up over a wheat field.

“It was simply not negotiable for a cohort of students – they would rather fail an assignment or even fail the class than miss the pheasant hunting expedition,” said Bailey, “for many students the priority is family/commitments to family, and that includes being part of family rituals and the family farm.” This included pheasant hunting.

Associate Professor of Geology Lawrence Tiezzi said, “[A student] missed the final exam and then came in the next day and said he had

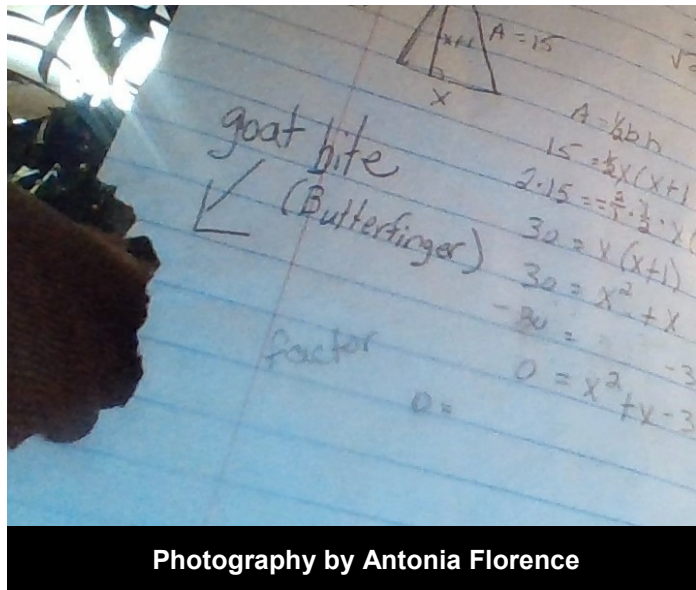
been stuck in traffic. I asked for 3 hours? He didn’t have a good answer, but I told him I would make up a much tougher exam, and he could take it that afternoon.

I took all the T [and] F questions and turned them into fill in the blank. I made the multiple choice short answer and changed some questions to harder ones.” The student missed only one answer. Then the truth came out. The

student wanted to get a 100 on the final and studied all night, fell asleep and slept through the exam, said Tiezzi.

Professor of English Jessica Kingsley and her husband Instructional Designer John Kingsley offered a few reasons to add to the collective list.

A few reasons instructors at PVCC have been told for missed deadlines include: court hearings, delivery of newborn livestock, fiancé being deployed, getting married, giving birth, had a heart attack, in jail, needing to work late, no childcare and washed USB flash drives according to Bailey, Kingsley, Kingsley, Pratt and Tiezzi. Sometimes our reasons for lost class time, tardiness and missing assignments are legitimate and cannot be avoided.



Photography by Antonia Florence

Club Day information

Charles Stish, staff writer

Once a semester, the clubs at PVCC come out and present themselves in hopes of attracting attention and gaining new members.

The clubs set up in the main building with tables, sign up sheets, and sometimes elaborate displays of flags, banners, poster boards, and bowls of candy, hoping to attract new members. The attractions work to entice passing students with questions about the club. This is Club Day, an important day for the social student body at PVCC.

Clubs can be essential to social life at PVCC as they offer extra-curricular activities and events for their members, and others, to join in on, creating a rich social environment. The clubs at PVCC are great for meeting like-minded people, making friends, and being more involved.

After interviewing members of several clubs, it seems no matter the diversity, they all share the same objective: to attract people with similar

interests and create an environment where they can share ideas. Despite a similar overall objective, each club has different goals. Some are proactive, like Volunteer Club, who actively hold club events and are involved in the local community. Others take a more passive approach, like Board Game Club, and hold meetings and small events for their members and those interested.

The clubs at PVCC can be likened to paint colors on a palette: each a different color representing something unique in the diverse social picture of PVCC's culture. Each one is important to strengthening the feeling of camaraderie, diversity, stewardship, and friendship PVCC is about. Campus culture without the colorful contribution of clubs would be stark.

Help keep PVCC colorful. Be the color and don't be shy to join a club. If it interests you, join it. Go to a meeting and be active. Be a spark of color in PVCC's cultural and social diversity.



PVCC Club Day Fall 2016. Photography by Charles Stish

Adult Student Life Club

The mission of the PVCC Adult Student Life Club is to provide support and engagement opportunities that appeal to PVCC adult students. The PVCC Adult Student Life Club provides a forum for adult students to meet as peers, plan activities and gain resources meaningful to their life goals. The PVCC Adult Student Life Club addresses issues relevant to adult students, including how to juggle work, family and college. For more information, contact Gina Edwards at gle235@email.vccs.edu.

American Sign Language Club

Whether you are in a new American Sign Language class, in a higher level, or just interested in learning ASL and about Deaf culture, the ASLC is for you! All students are encouraged and welcome to attend club meetings the first and second Wednesday of the month, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Silent Suppers are a monthly event where the Deaf community, friends, and family gather to socialize and have a meal. This event happens the third Wednesday of every month in a Charlottesville establishment. Possible field trips to Gallaudet University in D.C. and Virginia School for the Deaf, to be determined. Contact club adviser Rhonda Jennings (rjatzpvc@gmail.com) or the club President Liz Muir (emm23680@email.vccs.edu).

Anime Club



The Anime Club welcomes anyone interested in Japanese animation, comics and music. The group focuses on new animations, while leaving room for the classics. They meet on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. Club president Kayla Paschall says the group votes on what to watch. Contact Kayla Paschall at kdp2460@email.vccs.edu.

Art Club

The Art Club's mission is to support student artists by sponsoring fun, art-oriented events. The club sponsors a variety of art-related events like the the annual Day of the Dead Candy-Thon (on Halloween), the Film Series, artists workshops, college visits and more. For more information, contact Faculty Adviser Beryl Solla (bsolla@pvcc.edu).

Black Student Alliance



BSA members work together to cultivate leadership, stimulate cultural and educational awareness and contribute service to the College community, the local African-American community and the larger multicultural community and society. The organization welcomes participation by all who support this mission. For more information, please contact the Faculty Adviser, Justin Wert (jwert@pvcc.edu) or the student contact Clarence Johnson (cjohnson0628@email.vccs.edu).

Board Game Club

The Board Game Club at PVCC meets every Tuesday afternoon from 3-6 p.m. on the third floor of the Dickinson Building. Members play a



wide variety of games ranging from card games to more involved games such as war games and beyond. Contact Faculty Adviser Bruce Glassco at bglassco@pvcc.edu for more information.

Book Club

The Book Club at PVCC encourages participants to find their inner bookworm. Club members determine which books to read and host discussions, movie viewings, and other activities such as speakers. Past books read include *The Kitchen House* and *The Gadget*. The Book Club also sponsors and works closely with the events for the One Book Project. For more information, contact Faculty Adviser Crystal Newell cnewell@pvcc.edu.

Brony Club



PVCC's Brony Club is for those who share a common interest in the show *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*. Club members try to exemplify the characteristics of a good person that the series encourages: honesty, generosity, compassion, optimism, devotion and leadership. Each meeting focuses on one of these characteristics, and members join in activities once a week including watching the show, enjoying fan content, fundraisers and service projects. They strive to show that this club can make a mark at PVCC. Their goal is to be a place for people to feel like they belong with no judgment. For more information, contact Morgan Eppard (co-president) at mle2431@email.vccs.edu.

Chess Club

Interested in chess strategy, or looking to learn? Are you looking for a new place to put your chess skills to the test? Try Chess club, a fun and safe

learning environment for first-time learners and experienced veterans alike. The club meets weekly on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. in the Main Building, room M158. For more information, contact Hunter Hough (co-president) at hbh215@email.vccs.edu or Abel Pors (co-president) ataep22252@email.vccs.edu.

Cru Christian Fellowship (Cru)



CRU at PVCC is the club formally known as Christian Student Fellowship. CRU at PVCC provides an opportunity for students who share a common interest in the Bible to engage in Bible studies and discussions and pray together. The club meets every Wednesday during College Hour and all students are welcome to join. For more information, you may contact either Donnie Wilson (dsw2752@email.vccs.edu), or the club's adviser, André Luck (aluck@pvcc.edu).

Writers Unite!: Creative Writing Club



Creative Writing Club allows your imagination to roam freely through the stroke of a pen, surrounded by those who share an interest in writing. Every year, the club produces the school's literary magazine *The Fall Line*, the three-minute horror story contest and has

a special event with fun activities for The National Day on Writing. “I would say that anyone can come to our meetings. We do some writing, talk about writing, and encourage writing among ourselves. It is a place where people can learn about creative writing—low stakes and friendly,” said Jennifer Koster, the adviser. The club meeting time will be set after the college’s Club Day. For more information, contact President Annette Cashatt at alc2711@email.vccs.edu or Faculty Adviser Jennifer Koster at jkoster@pvcc.edu.

Dance Club

The PVCC Dance Club is a fun way for the PVCC community to enjoy all forms of dance with no experience necessary - just a love of moving! This club provides students with many dance opportunities throughout the year, including free technique classes, choreography, performance opportunities, and much more! Faculty adviser: Michelle Cooper, mcooper@pvcc.edu Student contact/president: Skye Scott, sms29219@email.vccs.edu

Engineering and Technology Club



The PVCC Engineering and Technology Club is designed to gather PVCC engineering and technology students for social and career-oriented purposes as well as to participate in fun and interesting projects. Student Contact: President Joshua Smith, jps24382@email.vccs.edu Club adviser: Hunter Moore, hmoore@pvcc.edu.

The Film Series

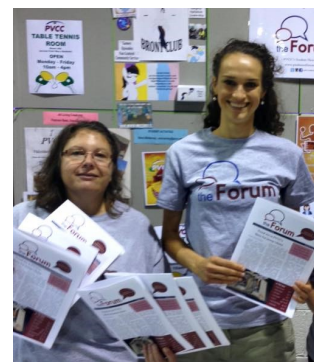
The film series is part of the art club at PVCC. The film series meets twice a semester, usually weeks two and ten. The meetings typically follow a studio art class on a day such as Wednesday when most students are on campus. Look for information posted around campus for upcoming

meetings. The films for this semester include *Loving*, *Hidden Figures*, and *Manchester by the Sea*. Club President Julia Grammer says, “For the art club film series we try to choose compelling films that appeal to critics and audiences alike; that cover topics of interest to artists and have meaningful social content and interesting visual elements.” Contact Faculty adviser Beryl Solla at bsolla@pvcc.edu.

The first Free Movie Friday is Jan. 20. The film *Loving* will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Dickinson Building.

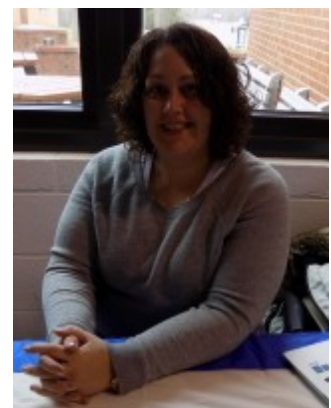
The Forum

The Forum, PVCC’s newspaper, provides a voice for the student body. *The Forum* offers students the opportunity to report their news and share their ideas while also learning the fundamentals of the journalistic experience. Faculty Adviser Tamara Whyte said, “We welcome any level of commitment or skill.” *The Forum* meets once a month at varied times depending on student scheduling. The first meeting is Feb. 2 at 1:30 in M251. Faculty Adviser: Tamara Whyte, twhyte@pvcc.edu. Student Contact/club President Skye Scott, sms29219@email.vccs.edu Website: www.piedmontforum.com/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/PVCCForum Twitter: [@PVCCForum](https://twitter.com/PVCCForum) Instagram: [PVCCForum](https://www.instagram.com/PVCCForum)



French Club

The French Club is dedicated to bringing about a greater appreciation for the French language and French culture. To this end, the main mission of the club is to aid students in their learning of French, as well as to provide an environment for them to enjoy all things



French. No prior knowledge of French is needed, and native French speakers are encouraged to join. For information about the French Culture club, contact the club president, Brandi Rey blh28575@email.vccs.edu, or the Faculty Adviser Kris Swanson kswanson@pvcc.edu.

Gender Equality Club



Our mission is to promote gender equality by educating the PVCC community about gender inequality and providing a forum to discuss issues related to gender. Gender equality does not imply that all people experience and express gender identity in the same way, but that all people should have equal rights and be treated with the same respect. For more information and details about this club, please contact Faculty Adviser Connie Jorgensen cjorgensen@pvcc.edu.

German Club

The purpose of German Club is to promote knowledge of and interest in German language, history and culture and to provide a relaxed setting where students can pursue this interest.



Members can engage in various activities such as watching German movies, practicing their speaking skills in German, playing German board games, etc. In addition, they usually organize one or two events each semester. Faculty Advisor: Patricia Jassmann,

pjassmann@pvcc.edu
 Student Contact(s): Nathan Duncan, nld2027@email.vccs.edu and Stacie Dowdy, sld2304@email.vccs.edu

Graphics Club

The Graphics Club hosts the Graphics Club Hour, where they invite speakers, hold workshops, present movies, and work in creative teams on special, real-world projects. The Graphics Club is geared for CSC Graphic Design Program students, but is open to all students interested in or experienced in all things related to design. For more information on the Graphics club, contact Aubrey Tomlin at atomlin8755@email.vccs.edu.

HOPE @ PIEDMONT

HOPE @ PIEDMONT is a new club at Piedmont Virginia Community College. Its function is to “Stand up against sexual violence and support any student who has endured an assault, is facing a pregnancy, or going through an emotional crisis while in college,” according to club Adviser Jackie Fisher. HOPE@PEIDMONT meets every other Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. in the Pace Board Room, M814 in the Technology wing. For more information, please contact Abby Lannon, club president: atl20118@email.vccs.edu or HopeAtPiedmont@gmail.com.

Horticulture & Environmental Club



In 2007, PVCC’s Horticulture & Environmental Club was formed to provide students and community members with an organic garden to learn about environmentally-sound horticulture

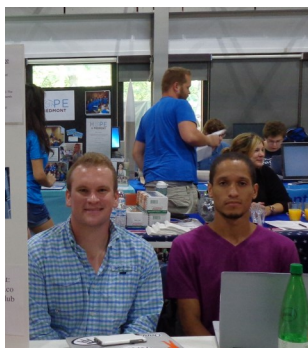
and sustainable practices. Their current project is an organic garden for use as a practical learning platform for environmentally-sound horticulture. The founding of an organic vegetable garden encourages more interest for other students, faculty, staff and the community to learn and put in practice environmentally-healthy horticulture. The excess food that is produced by the garden will find its way into the local food stream of the hungry in the community. As a club they are also interested in encouraging sustainable practices both on our campus and the College's service region. More information can be found on their website: <http://pvcchorticulture.wordpress.com>
 Email co-advisers David Lerman dlerman@pvcc.edu or Jennifer Scott scott@pvcc.edu for further information.

International Club



The International club is a service and social club designed to bring together PVCC students from other countries with the PVCC community. The international club hosts many events, including potlucks, picnics, bowling excursions, trips and more. Student contact: Jonathon Languasco, jb127@email.vccs.edu. Faculty adviser: Irina Timchenko itimchenko@pvcc.edu.

Investment Club



The Investment Club is one of the oldest clubs on PVCC's campus. Its mission is to help students improve their knowledge of the economy and Page 8 market of our country. Visit their website: www.facebook.com/

pvccinvestmentclub. For more information, please contact the Faculty Adviser: Mahmood Moghimzadeh, mmoghimzadeh@pvcc.edu.

Japan Club

The Japan Club aims to bring a piece of Japanese culture to PVCC by playing Japanese games, by indulging in some Japanese food, by providing insight into Japanese society and tradition, and by bringing people who are interested in Japan



together. On top of all this, we might, just maybe, have a little bit of fun along the way! For more information about the Japan club, contact the club's president, Alec Traaseth, akt221@email.vccs.edu or the club Adviser, Noriko Donahue at ndonahue@pvcc.edu.

Latter-day Saints Club

The goal of the Latter-day Saints (LDS) Club is to seek gospel understanding in a scholarly setting and search for the light that comes from becoming acquainted with the lessons of the scriptures. The club endeavors to share the peace that is experienced during the study of scriptures. For more information, contact the student contact, Melissa Ann Kibbe, mak21690@email.vccs.edu, or the Club Adviser, Andrew Renshaw, at renshaw@pvcc.edu.

LGBT+ Club



The LGBT+ club works to foster a sense of community between all PVCC students and to increase awareness of the lives and issues faced by people with diverse sexualities and gender identities. They participate in outreach to the LGBT+ community at large and work to create a safe atmosphere with PVCC and surrounding communities. Contact club president Annelise Stunes, as2027@email.vccs.edu or faculty advisers Barbara Heyl, bhey1@pvcc.edu, and Renee Eves, reves@pvcc.edu for more information.

Masquers Club (Theatre)



The Masquers Club is for students interested in any aspect of theatre, including film. Masquers fosters interest in live theatre through co-sponsorship of major theatre productions and through production of smaller theatre offerings, as well as by encouraging participation of students both as audience members and performers/technicians. For more information, please contact Faculty Adviser Brad Stoller, bstoller@pvcc.edu.

The Math Club

The Math Club at PVCC is for those who enjoy math and want to share that fun with others. Hosting Pi Day events and a spring math day for area



elementary students are only two of the fun projects for the coming year. The Math Club contains PVCC's Chapter of Mu Alpha Theta (MAΘ), a subset of the club which is the mathematics honor society. Members of the honor society are eligible to wear MAΘ's graduation honor cords. For more information, contact club advisers Diane Valade dvalade@pvcc.edu, Justin Storer jstorer@pvcc.edu or club president Cameron Krest cpk236@email.vccs.edu.

Music Club

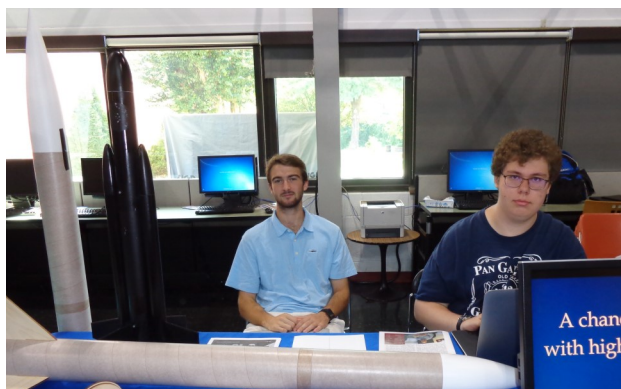
The Music Club is a place where people who share a love for music gather together to play music in jam sessions at The Maxwell Theater (Black Box) in the Dickinson building or just to discuss their appreciation of music. "I would recommend the Music Club to anyone that loves music. It's a great way to meet new friends that share an interest in music - the best art form, in my humble opinion," said Michael Baize. For more information, contact club adviser Kay Bethea at kbethea@pvcc.edu or student contacts Mike Baize at mbaize6274@email.vccs.edu and Jacob Brumback at jrb264345@email.vccs.edu.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)



Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is an international honorary academic honor society for two-year colleges. Academic standards must be met to be eligible for membership. Applications should be submitted electronically directly to the national society. Please see PTK PVCC Facebook page for the latest news. Faculty Advisers: Bruce Robinson brobinson@pvcc.edu and Kit Decker kdecker@pvcc.edu.

Piedmont Student Launch Team



The Piedmont Student Launch Team was created to bring together a diverse group of PVCC students who share the desire to build insanely high powered rockets and compete in NASA's Student Launch Initiative. The club provides a unique opportunity for interesting social interaction, combined with personal and career development, all while having a great time building rockets!

Faculty Adviser: Yana Goddard,
ygoddard@pvcc.edu

Student Contact: Andrew Oxford,
abo2738@email.vccs.edu

Web site: <http://www.piedmontlaunch.org/>

Piedmont Rotaract Club

The Piedmont Rotaract Club is a service club that is part of the Rotary International network of professionals working together. Rotaract Club members will:

- Plan and lead community service projects
- Develop leadership skills through networking with local Rotary Club members
- Interact with service-minded people
- Make new friends and have fun!

The club meets on Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m. in room 175.

Club Adviser: Miriam Rushfinn
mrushfinn@pvcc.edu

Student Contacts: Stephanie Pellicane
spellbird@yahoo.com

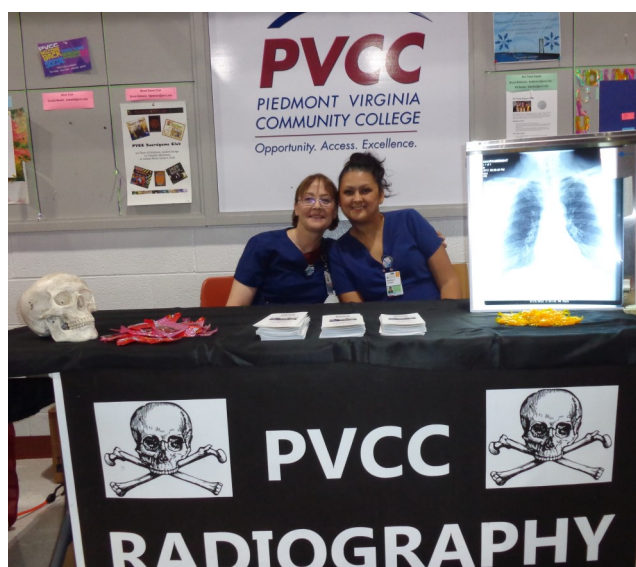
Pottery Club

The Pottery Club offers a creative outlet for

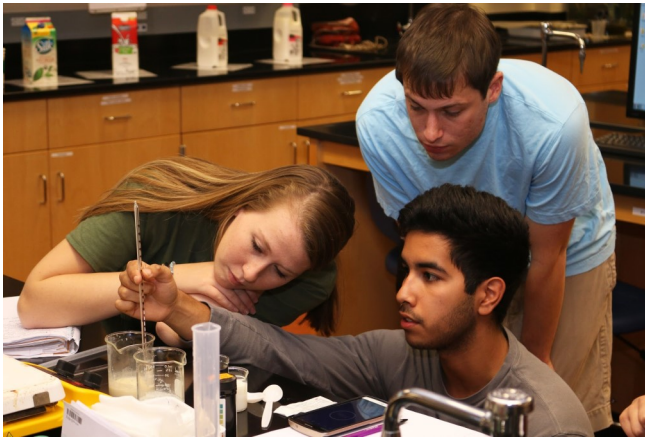
students enrolled in the ceramics courses and those who love art. In this club, students have the opportunity to hone their skills with pottery clay and make them manifest in works of art. This artisan club nurtures the skills already gained and develops those yet to be mastered. The Pottery Club meets in the Dickinson building. For more information on the Pottery Club, contact Tom Clarkson at tclarkson@pvcc.edu.

Radiography Club

The Radiography Club at PVCC strives to maintain the highest level of excellence in their clinical and didactic curriculums as well as providing the utmost quality in patient care. The Radiography Club of Piedmont Virginia Community College will become a network of Radiography students assisting each other to ensure success in their future careers. It is their mission to perform at the highest ethical and professional standards set forth by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Code of Ethics. Through their actions, they will increase awareness of the Radiography field to Piedmont Virginia Community College as well as the community at large. For more information on this club and the radiography program, contact Faculty Advisers Nicole Winkler at nwinkler@pvcc.edu and Adria Clarke at aclarke@pvcc.edu. For more information on the club, contact President Joyce Howard, jmd27111@email.vccs.edu



Science Club



The PVCC Science Club aims to promote science in our community by sharing how science applies to the real world, celebrating the creative nature of science, and making science more accessible and inclusive. All are welcome. Our meetings are held in the Keats Science Building. For more information, contact Faculty Adviser Anne Allison at aallison@pvcc.edu.

The Soccer Club

The Soccer Club invites members to be part of this great sport. You don't need to be experienced with the sport; if you are interested in trying it for the first time, they will make you feel welcomed. They have many members that play soccer tournaments throughout the semester. All students are invited to come and cheer for the school's soccer team. For more information, contact Faculty Adviser Steve McNerney at smcnerney@pvcc.edu.

Sonography Club



The Sonography Club's mission is to increase awareness of our field in the community at large and the college community. It is the club's purpose to mentor fellow students and to encourage professional development and ethics with the common goal of providing quality patient care and imaging. Staff Adviser Lisa Burrington describes a typical Sonography Club meeting: "Students may determine how they will raise funds and plan for that. In the past, students have arranged tutoring meetings and have arranged to have guest speakers." For more information, contact the club's president, Najeeb Sakhizad, nsakhizad7944@email.vccs.edu. Club Adviser Lisa Burrington can be reached at lburrington@pvcc.edu.

SNAP Club (Student Nurse Association at PVCC)



The Student Nurse Association at PVCC (SNAP) is an organization created by PVCC student nurses. They strive to support nursing students on their journey and promote an atmosphere of professional collaboration and academic excellence. They host orientation sessions for onboarding students, promote events that outreach to the community and work to boost morale of students. Through SNAP, nursing students can build an encouraging network between themselves and also serve others.

Club de Español (Spanish Club)



The Spanish Club meets on a weekly basis to chat in Spanish, share food and music, watch films, play games such as loteria or Manzanas con manzanas, hear occasional presentations,

make crafts such as papel picado or cascarones, meet visitors from other countries, and organize club events such as visits to local restaurants, the Casa Bolívar at U.Va., or a local salsa class. Students of all levels - from novices to native speakers - are welcome to attend. To learn more, contact the Faculty Advisers Kit Decker (kdecker@pvcc.edu) or Jorge Grajales-Diaz (jgrajalesdiaz@pvcc.edu).

college officials while promoting an effective communication network between students, faculty, and staff. As a council for student ideas and concerns, the SGA works in conjunction with the College to improve student quality of life by planning, supporting, and running several student events. The SGA also encourages the establishment of new clubs. Learn more about the SGA on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pvccstudentgov>

Student Veterans of America



Student Veterans of America provides students who are veterans or active service members and their families with the resources, support and advocacy needed to meet their education and career goals while at PVCC and following graduation. The organization participates in and organizes projects, events and activities and provides a social group to help veterans transition to life on campus and PVCC Student Government Association members in the community. For more information about SVA club, please contact Club Adviser Jackie Fisher at jfisher@pvcc.edu.



Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association (SGA) of Piedmont Virginia Community College is the primary organization for representing the interests of all students to the faculty, staff, and administration. SGA represents the rights, interests, and concerns of the student body to

Tennis Club

For those who love to play tennis or always had a burning desire to play, here is your chance with Tennis Club. Tennis Club is open to people of all skill levels. The club's main goal is to promote tennis throughout PVCC. For more information, contact student contact Tom Cude (tec2453@email.vccs.edu) or the Club Adviser John Thornton (mthornton@pvcc.edu)

Ultimate Frisbee Club



Led by team captain Calvin Biesecker, the Ultimate Frisbee Club meets on Fridays at noon. The Ultimate Frisbee Club is one of the longest running sports clubs currently on campus, if not the longest. Staff adviser, John Gulley had much to say about the club, including reports of heaven shining its light down upon club members, perhaps explaining the club's lasting appeal. "If you're interested in joining, look up and join the PVCC Ultimate Facebook site," said Gulley. The club is co-ed. All are welcome. Contact Club Adviser John Gulley at jgulley@pvcc.edu.

Virginia21



Be a part of the most successful advocacy group for young people in the nation by joining Piedmont Virginia Community College's Virginia21 chapter! Our goal is to educate students of all ages to influence policy by coordinating statewide political action on issues important to higher education. Members are given opportunities to lobby at General Assembly, attend leadership conferences with public officials, tour the Virginia State Capitol, be active among events at PVCC, and much more! Their motto is that they are the "voice of a generation."

Come be that "voice" and join them at their biweekly meetings on Wednesdays from 12:00-12:50 p.m. (pizza and drinks provided). For more information: www.virginia21.org

Student Contact: Grayson Katzenbach,
gk242@email.vccs.edu

Faculty Adviser: Connie Jorgensen,
cjorgensen@pvcc.edu

Volunteer Club



Interested in helping out the local community or making the campus a better place? Join the Volunteer Club. Specific activities will be determined by members of the club and can range from on campus functions (charity drives) to off campus initiatives (community events). For more information, please contact the Faculty Adviser Todd Platts tplatts@pvcc.edu.

Women in STEM Club

The Women in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Club provides social support and STEM focused discussion and activities for students interested in STEM fields. The club has collaborated with other student clubs to sponsor discussions about career pathways in STEM. For more information, please contact the Faculty Adviser: Joanna Vondrasek jvondrasek@pvcc.edu or student contact: Annelise Stunes as2027@email.vccs.edu



Let There Be Light Raku Pottery Firing

Brennan Tanner, staff writer

Raku is a Japanese low fire glazing technique that dates back several thousand years to the sixteenth century. The bisqued pottery is coated with glaze and fired until the glaze melts, first bubbling, then smoothing out. After it reaches this stage, it is placed in a container of combustible materials, generally straw, shredded paper, or sawdust.

The glaze used in raku has a different shrinkage rate than the pot itself, so as it cools, the difference in shrinkage causes the glaze to crack. The pots, still hot from the kiln, ignite. In the case of our raku firing, shredded paper is burned, and the carbon created by this seeps through the cracks in the glaze onto the pot where it is absorbed, leaving a spiderweb of gray lines across the surface of the pot.

In our raku firing this year, we used a white crackle glaze and a copper green glaze, which can range in color from a dark green to a copper color, similar to a burnished penny.

If a piece is left unglazed, it can be treated one of two ways. The pot can continue on with

the glazed pots into the bins of shredded paper, which will give the whole surface a smoky black, undulating coating. Or the pots can be set aside, and while they are still hot, feathers and horsehair are placed on them, whereupon the carbon embeds itself in the surface leaving behind an impression of the horsehair or feathers.

Due to the porosity of raku pottery, which does not vitrify because of the low temperature of the firing, it is not food safe and ends up being more decorative than functional.



Raku firing at Let There Be Light, December 2016.



Photography courtesy of Karenne Wood

How Facebook Saved a Family

Joe Fowler, staff writer

Dr. Karenne Wood responded to a Facebook post during the holiday season. Her friend's husband rescued a pregnant dog that someone had abandoned on the side of the road in early winter. Unfortunately, the family could not keep the expectant mother because of conflicts between the dog and the family cat.

Wood adopted the dog Dec. 25, 2016 and named her Chrissy the Christmas Dog. Chrissy gave birth to 11 puppies shortly thereafter. The smallest of the litter, Gracie, passed away after a brief life in which she was well-loved.

"Yeah, I know there are 10 more, plus mama, that I saved. I just wanted her to live, because she was trying," Wood wrote in a brief eulogy on Facebook. Sad but undeterred by the loss, she buried Gracie in her wildflower garden and named the site "Gracie's Garden," while

continuing to care for the rest of the family.

During a conversation with Wood, she said a primary motivator in adopting Chrissy was a story from Richmond in which rescuers saved a pregnant dog from the dumpster it had been abandoned in. "If anyone dumps a pregnant dog in frigid temperatures, they must be heartless. Those puppies are going to die," said Wood.

Chrissy became comfortable with friends handling her puppies within a few days. Wood has opened her door for visits with the new family and plans to begin allowing adoptions in March after the puppies have received their early veterinary care. She advised that there would be a vetting process for each adoption.

"I believe that all lives are connected," said Wood to reaffirm her commitment to find the best homes for all of the puppies.

To inquire about adoption, please contact Wood via email at karennewood@yahoo.com.

Sushi Now Offered at Littlejohn's

Jake DeLaurier, staff writer

Sushi has been added to the menu at Littlejohn's on campus courtesy of Kachin Sushi.

Students can expect a variety of sushi options such as: spicy rolls, vegetable rolls, Alaskan rolls, Philadelphia rolls, and California rolls.

For the price of \$7.42, I was able to buy ten pieces of a California roll. The roll also came with soy sauce, ginger, and wasabi that made my nostrils feel like they were on fire.

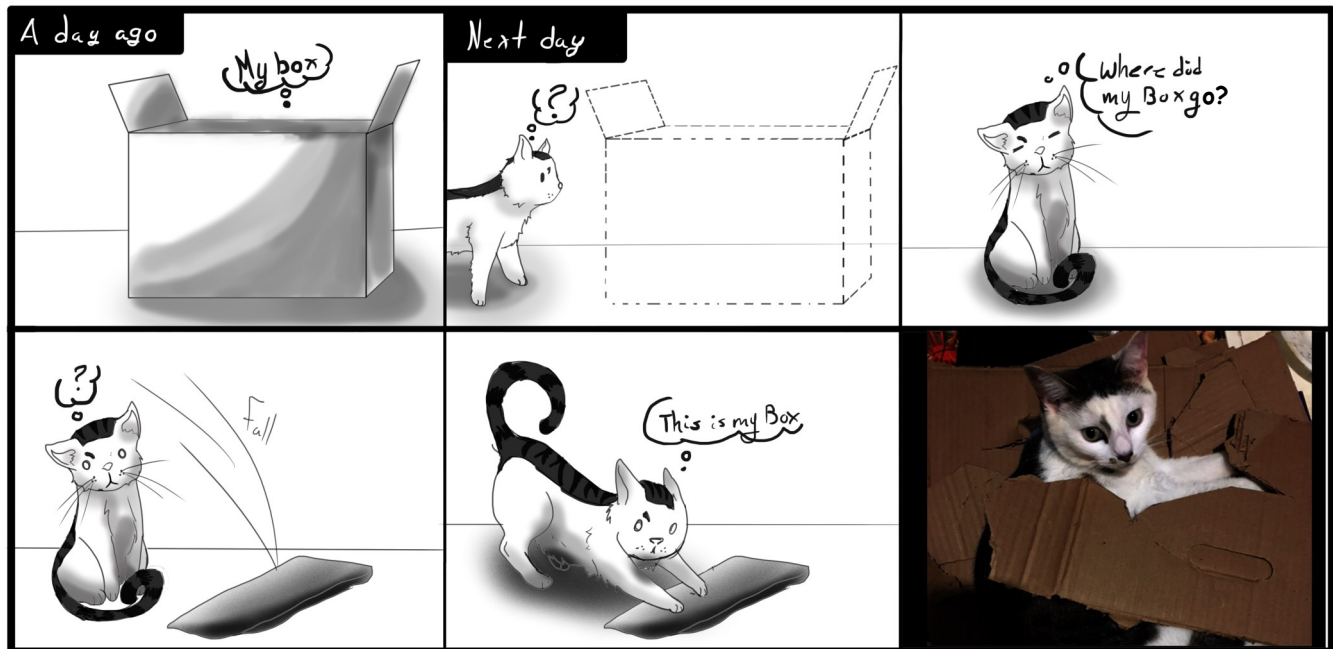
While I wouldn't say that the California rolls were mind blowing, I did find them rather tasty. In particular, the rice around the rolls had great flavor.

For those who like crab, they may be disappointed to find that the California rolls have imitation crab meat, though that is typical at many American sushi restaurants.

Overall, the new sushi items are a great addition to Littlejohn's and are perfect for students seeking an alternative to sandwiches.



California roll, photography by Jake DeLaurier



Tag-a-long by Caroline Morris

Classifieds

The Writing Center @ PVCC presents
English Conversation Circle
Spring 2017

Weekly informal gatherings for non-native English speakers to practice their English speaking skills.

Wednesdays, 5-6:00 pm

The Writing Center Lab, M627

Weekly Themes:

January 18: Being You

January 25: A Day in Your Life

February 1: Home

February 8: Visiting the Doctor

February 15: Enjoying Money

February 22: What Do You Think?

March 1: Getting Around

English Conversation Circle is not held on days when classes are not in session.

Questions: Contact The Writing Center @ PVCC, (434) 961-5499 or email jkoster@pvcc.edu

Contact Us

PVCC The Forum

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www.piedmontforum.com

The Forum offers classified space to the PVCC community free of charge. Please send announcements along with full name, email, and phone number to: theforum@pvcc.edu

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@PVCCForum

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