

## Anne Holton to speak at PVCC Commencement Ceremony

Michael Urpi, Staff Writer

Piedmont Virginia Community College has announced its speaker for the 2015 commencement ceremony.

Anne Holton, Virginia’s Secretary of Education, will be the honored guest for PVCC’s 42<sup>nd</sup> commencement at John Paul Jones Arena on Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m.

Anne Holton is an esteemed member of Governor Terry McAuliffe’s administration. Holton graduated from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

at Princeton University and earned a law degree from Harvard Law School.

Holton has received numerous honors in her time of service including the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Life Award of Distinction and the Richmond YWCA Outstanding Woman in Law award in 2006. She is a great advocate for youth education, serving on the Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation Board from 2010-2012 and on the Voices for Virginia Children Board from 2010-2013.

In addition to her advocacy for education, Holton was

involved in foster-care reforms during her husband Virginia Senator Tim Kaine’s tenure as governor. Her work in foster-care led to the “For Keeps: Families for All Virginia Teens” program, which was designed to help older foster children find permanent and strong families to grow up in.

Holton, a former Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judge, is working hard with Governor McAuliffe to reform Virginia’s public school system and expand preschool programs along with an overhaul of the standardized testing system.

Miss Spring Fling?  
 See pages 10-11



Photography by Samantha Prentiss

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

—Dedication of the Keats Science Building—  
April 30, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

—PVCC Graphic Con 2015—  
May 1, 5-7 p.m., Bridge Progressive Art Initiative

—PVCC Spring Dance Concert—  
May 1 & 2, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson

—Debut of *The Fall Line*—  
May 4, noon, North Mall Meeting Room

—Final Exams—  
May 5—11

—Radiography Program Pinning Ceremony—  
May 12, 6 p.m., Dickinson

—Nurses Pinning Ceremony—  
May 14, 1-3 p.m., John Paul Jones Arena

—PVCC Graduation—  
May 14, 6 p.m., John Paul Jones Arena

—PVCC Soccer Club soccer game—  
May 26, 11 a.m., Monticello High School

—First session of summer classes start—  
May 26

—Adult Student Life Club Reception—  
June 18, 6 – 7:30 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

—Second session of summer classes start—  
June 30

—Fall classes start —  
August 20

## Book Swap/ Donation Event May 5 through 11

It is the end of the semester, and we are all ready for a break from studying.

But before we head out the school door, maybe we should be asking ourselves, “Do I have the textbooks I need for next semesters classes,” or “Do I really want to keep these text books for the classes I just completed?”

If you are asking yourself either or both of these questions, come to the SGA Book Swap/Donation event.

The SGA Book Swap/Donation is finals week, May 5 through 11.

Monday through Friday, SGA member will volunteer to man an information table in the North Mall Meeting Room from noon to 1 p.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m..

SGA members will assist students interested in swapping or donating their text books.

We all feel the pinch in our wallets when it comes time to purchase textbooks for classes.

Why not participate in a student-to-student event where you can swap or donate textbooks and give your wallet a break?

...PVCC's



is

looking for *YOU* to join.

EXPLORE. WRITE. GAIN EXPERIENCE.  
HAVE FUN.

Contact us at [theforum@pvcc.edu](mailto:theforum@pvcc.edu) for more information

# Chocolate Chow Down and Gallery Exhibit

Katya Beisel, Staff Writer

PVCC student artists unveiled their work at the opening of the Annual Student Exhibition on April 24. The event coincided with PVCC's Seventh Annual Chocolate Chow Down, preparations for which had Professor Beryl Solla in Dickinson's small catering kitchen as early as nine a.m.

The exhibit features the work of many PVCC students, and the body of the collection includes paintings, prints, sculpture, and ceramics. As beautiful as the works are, some of the artists found their creations difficult to achieve.

"I had never used water-based ink before," said artist Erin Concepcion, "and the indirect form of printing was frustrating."

Concepcion was unaccustomed to printing, which is an indirect art form, meaning that there is another medium – in this case a plate – between the artist and her canvas. In direct forms

of art, such as painting, drawing, or sculpture, the artist has complete control over the piece.

Exhibiting her work is a first for Concepcion, who originally intended to study nursing before taking an art class with Professor Fenella Belle in order to fulfill her humanities elective. The foray into art led her to switch her major to liberal arts.

Concepcion was not the only artist who experienced a first that evening. Art and Education double major Ashley Bell also had work featured in the exhibit. While not her first show, this year's exhibition marked the first time Bell has sold a piece of her artwork.

However, the selling of student's work was not the primary goal of the event.

According to Erin Concepcion, exhibiting students' work "gives them a chance to be featured and not just graded. Seeing other people appreciate your effort is important."

The exhibition of student artwork will be open until early September 2015 during Dickinson's usual hours.



**"I think we're gonna need a bigger pocket."  
Photography by Katya Beisel**



**Photography by Katya Beisel**

# PVCC Students Win D-League Championship

Katya Beisel, Staff Writer

After a close game, a team of PVCC students won the local D-League basketball championships on Sunday, April 12.

In the first minutes of the game, spectator and PVCC student Treshawne Henderson summed up the players attitude: “the boys in red want it.”

At that point, PVCC led 8-0.

They quickly lost the lead and ended the first half trailing their opponents at 25-27.

However, the PVCC players returned from halftime quicker, sharper, and more driven than

ever. Despite numerous fouls on both sides, their speed, teamwork, and heart spurred them on to regain the lead in the second half after a third tie at 31 even.

When the final buzzer sounded, the board read 47 for the home team and 54 for PVCC.

After the game, the team’s coach Larry Sandridge said, “[the boys] played their hearts out.”

The father of player Aaron Sandridge, Coach Sandridge described the team as, “a bunch of great, young guys.”

Currently, it is unclear if the team will return to the D-League next season.

## The Forum Takes The D.C. Newseum

Katya Beisel, Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 11, members of PVCC’s *The Forum* participated in the student paper’s first club trip since Dr. Tamara Whyte became the group’s faculty sponsor last semester. The group visited Washington D.C.’s Newseum, which is dedicated to the history, nature, and future of journalism and media. The Newseum featured numerous and varied exhibits both permanent and temporary.

The temporary exhibits ranged from *New York Herald’s* coverage of President Lincoln’s assassination, to a gallery of great and historic books such as Milton’s *Areopagitica* and Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Coincidentally, the Newseum stands upon the same spot as the National Hotel, where John Wilkes Booth spent the night before assassinating President Lincoln at Ford’s Theatre.

The permanent exhibits are more poignant and at times heartbreaking, such as the Pulitzer Prize Photographs Gallery and the Journalists Memorial, the former of which honors the tremendous suffering and tragedy reported in the news.



Forum Staff on top floor of Newseum  
Photography by Tamara Whyte

The Journalists Memorial is a moving and enduring tribute to the men and women who have lost their lives reporting the news and informing the public.

Ways to become active in *The Forum* include submitting articles to Dr. Tamara Whyte (twhyte@pvcc.edu) for publication as a guest writer, joining *The Forum* club as a writer, photographer, or editor, or signing up for ENG 121 Introduction to Journalism I in the Fall 2015 semester.

# Clubs get Their Hands Dirty for Earth Day

Jackie Layton, Staff Writer

What do you get when you add dirt, plants, water, 20 energetic people, sun, wind, and pizza? Earth Day 2015 at PVCC's organic garden hosted by the Horticulture and Environmental Club. This year's spring planting was a fun mix of students, staff, faculty, and even a few community members excited about getting the garden season off to a good start.

Club member and natural science major Fletcher Gore said, "I like how our garden is making a difference and how it was created for us." He said he plans to come and work during the summer along with other club members.



Casey Chen, acting vice president of the club, said, "I really enjoy

working in the garden." She has been a club member for two semesters and plans to continue.

There were plenty of gardening gloves and tools available for everyone to use. After the seedlings were planted, club members watered the garden. Soaker hoses (hoses with many holes) were laid out carefully for later watering.

Horticulture and Environmental Club advisor David Lerman enthusiastically answered questions and guided the group as they worked. He said he hopes to have all eight garden beds full this season. He and several club members planted a tree along the inside fencing.

Started 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. Each year, produce from the garden is donated to local food banks in central Virginia.

Though a few community groups also volunteer time to maintain the garden, help from students and other groups is especially needed in the summer months.

Anyone interested in working in the garden (summer or fall) should contact Lerman to schedule (dlerman@pvcc.edu).



# 150th Anniversary of Gen. Lee's Surrender

Michael Urpi, Staff Writer

Appomattox, Virginia, celebrated the 150th anniversary of General Lee's surrender to General Grant from April 9-12. The site was home to numerous events.

I was there on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to experience the reenactment of the Confederate soldiers stacking and surrendering their arms to the Union soldiers.

The procession started with a group of Union soldiers marching through the Appomattox site until they reached a dirt road where they proceeded to form a line of soldiers facing the dirt road in front of them.

A group of Confederate Soldiers came from the opposite direction and formed a line facing the Union soldiers. The commanding officers called out an order, and the Confederate soldiers began to stack their guns together in piles.

Afterward, they removed other items they had

on them such as their canteens and satchels and placed them on top of the arms they.

One of the Confederate commanders shouted another command, prompting the soldiers to form a new line and march along. Once the Confederate soldiers were out of sight, the Union soldiers followed suit and marched away from the stacking area.

There were many other activities at Appomattox in addition to the reenactment. Park rangers stood by telling stories of the Civil War and describing how the two famous generals, General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army and General Ulysses S. Grant of the Union Army, came together and reached the terms of surrender.

Volunteers dressed up as either Confederate or Union soldiers and interacted with visitors. A band of Union soldiers played classic songs from the war using Civil War instruments.

It was a great place for people to relive an important moment in Civil War history.



Photography by Michael Urpi

# Charlottesville Municipal Band

Karen Riordan, Staff Writer

The principal oboe player walked onto center stage; all eyes were on the gentleman as he played the distinctive pitch of a *Concert A*. The stage came to life as the other musicians slowly joined in, tuning their instruments to the loan note, teasing the audience with a brilliant collective tone.

The side curtain rustled and the crowds' gaze shifted to the right. The conductor of The Charlottesville Municipal Band, Stephen Laymen, entered.

PVCC's Dickinson Theatre was electric. The woodwind, percussion, brass, and string sections snapped to attention as Layman commanded the stage.

With a whirl of the wand, the performers plunged into a spirited rendition of *The Star Spangled Banner*.

The audience rose to its feet, singing with the instrumentalists' quick, jazz-like tempo, clapping and cheering when the National Anthem came to an end. The Spring Concert's first selection was sensational.

"[Layman] always starts his concerts with the National Anthem," said Dori Hoffman-Latter, a retired special education teacher in the audience. Hoffman-Latter and her husband came to hear their friend, Frank Boone, a trombone player in the band.

"It's thrilling. We just love this group. They play the kind of music we like to hear." The second piece was Leonard Bernstein's *Slava*. The audience heard an unexpected sound midway through the piece.

The musicians launched into a syncopated clapping beat with their hands. At the end, the instrumentalists paused and shouted, "Slava!" in unison. The crowd seemed to enjoy this surprise, smiling and clapping as well.

Midway through the concert, the audience was delighted to hear guest player, Chris Hays. A junior at Charlottesville High School, Hays wowed the crowd with his performance of *Concertante for Alto Saxophone & Band* by Clare Grundman.

Winner of the James W. Simmons Concerto Competition and Dr. Genevieve Murphy Scholarship, Hays brought the crowd to their feet again with a standing ovation. No doubt they were impressed with the young man's ability to play a five-minute piece from memory.

Gary Foster, percussionist and guest conductor, engaged the audience in a lesson on percussion rhythms.

"We in the municipal band like to think the audience should learn something," Foster said with a laugh. He invited them to hold up their fingers and learn the "paradiddles" together.

The beloved Eleanor Dickerson received special recognition as the Municipal Band's librarian, serving from 1959-2015 – an impressive 56 years. Layman shared poignant words about Dickerson, presenting her with a gift. She, too, received a standing ovation for dedication to the city's band.

The concert ended with John Philip Sousa's *Glory of the Yankee Navy*. The piccolo, playing precisely one octave higher than the flute, could be heard over the roar of the band.

When the selection ended, again, the crowd rose to its feet to show their appreciation. Layman said, "I know it's really pretty outside, but would you hang around if we played another Sousa march?" The listeners were happy to oblige.

As the theatre emptied, some walked up to the stage to thank the members of the band. Others gathered around the talented high school saxophone player, showing their appreciation for his gift of music.

"Loved it," said Hoffman-Latter, "It was fun, lively, peppy, and energetic. I especially liked hearing the young boy play. I'll be back this summer."

The 88-member community band has openings in its clarinet and trombone sections. Rehearsals are from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

For more details go to [www.cvilleband.org](http://www.cvilleband.org). For audition information, call: 295-9850.

The next concert of the Charlottesville Municipal Band will be on June 2 at Charlottesville's Paramount Theatre.

# Wild Free Movie Friday at PVCC

Karen Riordan, Staff Writer

There was an air of camaraderie at Free Movie Friday. PVCC's Dickinson Theatre was packed. Almost every seat was taken, including those on the first row. The moviegoers, Charlottesville residents and fans of all ages, arrived early and seemed anxious to enjoy another free movie.

The viewers were there to watch the true story of one woman who abandoned everything and made a trek across the Pacific Crest Trail. Twenty-two year-old Cheryl Strayed walked into the wild.

*Wild*, a film directed by Jean-Marc Vallee, written by Nick Hornby, is based on Cheryl Strayed's 2012 book *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*. The book was a #1 New York Times bestseller. The movie featured actress Reese Witherspoon, as

Strayed, and Laura Dern, as Strayed's mother. Strayed was facing challenging events in her life, including the death of her beloved mother. Soon after her mother's death, Strayed went through a difficult divorce and began to rely on drugs and sex to cope with the pain; she felt as though she had lost everything.

She decided to risk it all and walk over 1,000 miles.

*Wild* tells the story of Strayed's daring quest to conquer the Pacific Crest Trail, a stretch of territory from the Mohave Desert to Washington State. Not only did Strayed attempt to walk the trail, but she also did it alone.

John Brickman sat in the audience with his wife. "I like rooting for the underdog. Whoever thought [Cheryl Strayed] would walk all the way across the coast? Not me," he said.

Strayed encountered many obstacles along the way. An inexperienced hiker, Strayed struggled to manage the hardships of the great outdoors, such as wild animals, unruly fellow hikers, and boots a



**Moviegoers flock to Free Movie Fridays.  
Photography by Karen Riordan**

size too small.

Emily Johnston, a 35-year-old schoolteacher, enjoyed the film. However, she said she liked the book much better. "The movie didn't seem to follow the book too closely," she said, "I felt like there was too much emphasis on the troubles in [Strayed's] past. There were too many flashbacks of drugs and sex."

In true Hollywood fashion, the film attempted to lure its audience with drama. *Wild* featured a beautiful Reese Witherspoon, trying to appear dirty and disheveled. There were a few scenes in the movie that were farfetched.

Midway through the movie, Strayed encountered a fox outside of her tent; this was at a time when Strayed was questioning her choice to make the trek. The fox appeared at the end of the movie as well, when Strayed reached her destination. The cinematography of the Pacific Crest Trail was breathtaking.

If the attendance is anything like that at previous Free Movie Nights, moviegoers should arrive early to get a seat.



# One Book Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Spring One Book contests!

The winners of the Spring 2015 One Book Essay Contest were:

Grand prize winner: Karen Riordan  
2nd prize winner: Brendan O'Toole  
3rd prize winner: Annette Cashatt

For the contest, students were asked to write about how the book *Breaking Night* changed their perceptions. Their essays can be read at [www.pvcc.edu/onebook](http://www.pvcc.edu/onebook).



**First Place Winners: Cassidy Tinnell, Angela Nebel, and Gaelen Edwards**



**Second Place Winners: Saronda Ross and Annette Cashatt**

On April 23, 4 teams of PVCC students competed in at *Breaking Night* trivia contest.

The top three teams all won prizes. The first place prizes included a free three-credit class, a Kindle Fire, or a \$100 Amazon gift card.



**Third Place Winners: Kellyn Torres, Karen Riordan, and Kaitlyn Duvalois**

**Look for more One Book activities in Fall 2015.**

**Next year's book is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.**

# Fun for All at PVCC's Spring Fling

Quamia Dennis, Staff Writer

As the end of the school year is approaching, PVCC's office of Student Affairs and the Student Government Association hosted a Spring Fling event for faculty, PVCC students, family and friends.

The event took place outside of the Bolick Student Center where many games were set up for the students, families and faculty to participate in. The dunk tank, pingpong and live music by Susan Greenbaum were presented to all to enjoy

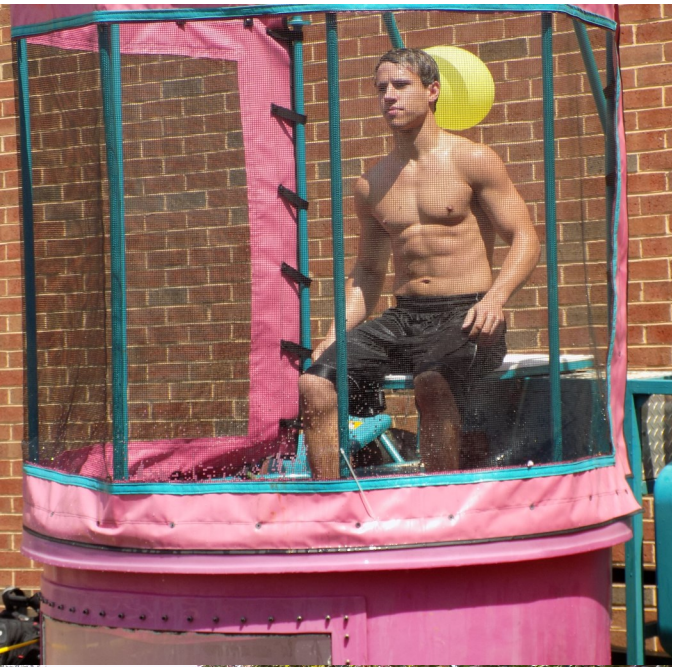
the weather, each other and the tasty food that was from the Korner.

Thomas Fortune says the events that PVCC has area great way for students to get to know each other and to enjoy themselves as they get ready to go into weeks of exams. He said, "Everyone deserves to have a good time, relax and eat good food when getting ready for a big time part of the school year."

"I had a blast, and I hope next year's Spring Fling event will be greater than this year's Spring Fling," says Phillip Warrior.



Photography by Samantha Prentiss



# Once in not Enough for PVCC

Jackie Layton, Staff Writer

Throbbing pain, overflowing soap bubbles, a cuddled infant, a sling for an injured shoulder. These were some of the scenes portrayed by the talented troupe of 16 actors of *Once is not Enough* to a full house in the Maxwell Black Box Theatre Friday, April 3.

As the actors introduced themselves in pairs to the audience, interacting with each other through dance moves, they captured the immediate trust of those who would share their life stories with them. Throughout the evening, the troupe mentored by Brad Stoller, PVCC's Coordinator of Theatre Productions, spontaneously acted on his every cue, moving stage props, using different dance moves such as ballet to act out an army scene and scarfs to represent many of the scenes.

Stoller questioned the story tellers from the "Tell Us Chair" positioned on the side of the stage, asking about the people who were part of the story and key points. He then asked them to choose actors from the troupe to play the part of each person in the story, who remarkably brought out the emotions that each storyteller wanted to express.

A woman, named Leslie, shared her experience as an 8-year-old Girl Scout at camp. She said she did not have a lot of friends. She remembered eating s'mores and singing songs. She told of making a friend with another girl who was nice to her and who had a lot of friends. Leslie said there



Photography by Jackie Layton

were strict rules about bedtime — that they had to have a flashlight and a buddy to go to the outhouse during the night. She said she woke up that night but was too embarrassed to tell anyone; so she went out by herself and



Photography by Jackie Layton

forgot her flashlight. Then, she got lost in the woods and spent a cold, fearful night in an abandoned tent. When she awoke in the morning, she found her way back to camp, but no one even noticed she had been gone. To play her part, Leslie chose a surprising actor from the troupe — a stout, football-player type young man who remarkably acted out all the feelings of an 8-year-old girl.

The enchanting part of the story unfolded when Stoller said, "You get three wishes at the end of the story. How would you have liked it to turn out?" He explained that this is where deep healing occurs from what could have been. Leslie's three choices were played out perfectly to everyone's delight.

Following the performance, it was obvious that the audience and the performers enjoyed the evening from the smiles on everyone's faces. A Charlottesville resident said she had never been to improv, but loved it and marveled how the troupe was ready to do anything.

Darlene Sacco, an actor from the troupe, said, "I have performed in theatre before, but this was my first time doing improv and I love it." Stoller shared how much he enjoyed working with the cast, ". . . and how generous they were with each other in the process of sharing their own stories and taking on this challenge to perform totally improvisational for the school."

Playback theatre is a healing form of art performed in more than 75 countries around the world. It is based on finding the heart of a story through music, movement, fabric, and voice. It is performed in venues such as prisons, nursing homes, differently-abled communities and other public settings.

# Review: Ernie G Comedy Night

Kellyn Torres, Staff Writer

As part of Latino Week at the University of Virginia (April 10), the Latino Student Alliance invited speaker Ernie G, a Latino empowerment comedian from Los Angeles. I have seen Ernie twice before today, and like always his shows have been filled with emotion, brilliance and empowerment.

Ernie G truly moves and inspires the audience. After all, that is what he promises to do in every show. He encourages Latino youths to chase after their dreams and love themselves, no matter how bad their situation is.

With his humorous anecdotes from his early life to his current situation, Ernie G focuses on bringing out the best part of his listeners.

Though the crowd at the University of Virginia was different than others that he has encountered in his previous shows, by the end of

the night he got a laugh from everyone in the auditorium.

Near the end of his show he gives a brief anecdote of how he found his path to a better life. He said, "I got arrested for drunk driving...I lost my job and didn't have any money ...I was sitting on the floor and I was holding trash, I hit rock bottom. I called to the hospital, checking up on to my tia (aunt). I said can I come visit you? She said *quédate con tu mama*. (Stay with your mom) I'll never stop regretting I never went to see my aunt. Why? The next day my cousin called. She was dead."

It was just after her death that Ernie G decided to go back to college, finish his studies and become a "beautiful educated person" because, "after all, if it is to be" it was up to him alone to decide his fate and become a better person and change the negative connotation that sometimes comes with being a Latino.

# Review: One Mic Stand

Ryan Winkler, Staff Writer

The latest edition of PVCC's "One Mic Stand" gathered a diverse group of talents, including students as well as other members of the Charlottesville community.

With comedians, singers, musicians, a novelist, and even a hip-hop artist, it was a pleasant array of different acts.

The night began with two comedy acts, the first talking about why people enjoy music so much. The second poked fun at old age from an 80-year-old point of view. The latter involved an in-depth description of the so-called "Super Senior Olympics" to the great amusement of other performers of the night and the audience alike.

A spoken word performance followed the two comedy acts. It was a moving piece about a woman's struggle with changing from a life of hedonism and crime to a life of responsibility and motherhood. Her emotionally-charged performance garnered a raucous round of

applause upon completion.

The next act involved a young author reading two excerpts from his novel. Both excerpts happened to be dream sequences from the mind of a criminal.

After the novelist, a man recited some of his personal writing, which were mainly influenced by his late father's teachings to him about life. The first piece involved what his father taught him about being a man.

The second piece involved the speaker's experience with posttraumatic stress from military service. He said that *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien was a major influence in this writing. Both were emotional, well written, and well received by the audience.

Wrapping things up, there was a poem/spoken word performance, a hip-hop artist's performance of a few verses of his work, several singers and a guitarist, and finally another comedian. Most notably of these was the guitarist and songwriter, who performed two original songs, to a great response from the audience.

# Wake-Up Call in Environmental Biology Class

Jackie Layton, Staff Writer

Ground and water contamination by chemicals, plastics that do not biodegrade causing death of sea animals and birds, and dwindling water resources were among the troubling conditions recently discussed in PVCC's Environmental Biology class. Thousands of waterways all over the U.S. have been affected, requiring expensive, large scale clean-up efforts. Some sites are so massive that it will take many years to complete.

When asked what stood out about the class, one student majoring in business said, "It has been a wake-up call. I didn't know the pollution was this bad." Other students agreed with him. Some said it was depressing, but said they were glad to be aware of it. Getting a grasp of the facts presented left many feeling powerless to know what they could do about it.

Student Charity Anderson enjoyed being able to go outdoors for some of their labs. She said, "We toured the wastewater plant when there was snow on the ground." She also said she liked the interesting articles and documentaries that were presented in class. Another student, a psychology major, said she liked the hands on approach of the class. Someone else said she liked playing with bugs.

As part of a recent lab, students tested water from PVCC's streams and ponds for organisms, pH, temperature, and water flow to determine if water quality had changed from prior testing. They found a number of different organisms (biodiversity), which means that the water has enough oxygen and the right pH to support more organisms than the few species that withstand extreme conditions. In another lab, students buried manmade items in the PVCC garden area to see how well they will break down by the end of the semester.

Though environmental issues might seem out of our control at times, there are companies and individuals who are making a difference. Solar Energy Industries Association says that many U.S. companies are choosing to install solar energy systems. They said, "Walmart, Kohl's,



**Students perform a group test.  
Photography by Jackie Layton.**

Costco, Apple, IKEA and more have embraced solar energy. Collectively, the 25 companies with the most solar capacity in the U.S. now have 1,110 systems totaling 569 megawatts (MW), generating enough electricity to power more than 115,000 homes."

This means reduced carbon emissions, which reduces greenhouse gases and global warming. Solar energy systems have dropped in price by as much as 80 per cent since 2008, making them much more affordable for homeowners.

Jennifer Scott, professor of Bio 107 — Environmental Biology and general biology courses at PVCC, sees the environmental biology course as an ever-changing curriculum that strives to present relevant, current and local environmental issues.

She said, "Climate change, species extinction and water resource management are underlying topics that will always be covered in the course, however, specific topics such as the Atlantic Coast pipeline change from semester to semester."

Scott is co-advisor of the Horticulture and Environmental club on campus and serves on the Sustainability committee. She received a B.S. degree in Biology and M.S. degree in Aquatic Ecology from Virginia Tech.

# Why We Still Need Feminism

Annette Cashatt, Staff Writer

Feminism is the new “F” word.

Or at least that is how it can feel. The connotations behind the term “feminism” can be ambiguous at times, but it has increasingly become out of vogue to call oneself a feminist.

However, PVCC's Gender Equality Club shed light on the origin of this word during its April 6 open lecture: “Why Every Month is Women's History Month.” It was the second meeting hosted by the Gender Equality Club and featured speaker Dr. Jennifer Tomás, Assistant Professor of History at PVCC.

A large group of people filled most of the seats at the lecture and many sampled the pizza offered by the Gender Equality Club.

As the last few people straggled in, Dr. Tomás took to the podium. She did not disappoint; after some jokes, she launched into the complex background behind the women of America's past as well as the history of American feminism.

According to Tomás, feminism can be defined as the struggle for equal rights of both men and women; recognition that structural inequalities exist; and that these structural inequalities can and should be corrected.

To understand Tomás' definition even further, feminism benefits both men and women by encouraging the destruction of all gender stereotypes. Feminism recognizes that social constrictions exist throughout society that pressure both men and women into confined, even painful roles.

Mary Wollstonecraft, Judith Murray, and Olympe de Gouges were some of the early feminists who worked to level that playing field.

Dr. Tomás took the lecture room on an exploration of these women's triumphs and struggles, as well as other early feminists not listed in this article.

For example, in a time that it was unheard of to have a female writer, playwright, and activist, Olympe de Gouges defied society's expectations.

In response to *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*, she wrote *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen* in 1791.

Her efforts to fight discrimination and sexism were rewarded by way of execution via the guillotine.

After the lecture, I asked Dr. Tomás what she was hoping would come from the discussion and she explained, “I am hoping that the talk will inspire students at PVCC to take my course “Women in American History” (HIS 127) this Fall.”

She continued, “So we get a good enrollment and I can continue to offer this important course at the college. I am hoping that those who attended will be inspired to think broadly and historically about feminism, knowledge, and power—this message I had that what we study, write about and teach in history classrooms matters because it demonstrates that those topics, those human beings mattered and continue to matter.”

Tomás' speech was inspirational and encouraged the audience to think both critically about feminism and the power of knowledge.

I had a second question for Dr. Tomás: what are one or two things she hoped people will understand about feminism?

She said, “I really want people to understand that the women's rights movement of the 19th century and 20th century feminism has always really been about extending “human rights” to all women equivalent to those historically exercised by a rather limited range of men.”

She said, “Feminism is really about moving human societies around the globe towards full gender equality—the equal exercise and protection of people's human rights. It just happens that historically female people have and continue to be disadvantaged and at times outright oppressed by various forms of structural sexism...Structural sexism is a thing feminism wishes to end.”

Thomas concluded, “We need feminism.”

# Leadership for Women at PVCC

Jackie Layton, Staff Writer

Building upon strengths and overcoming fears were among the topics discussed at the introductory event Lean In PVCC for staff and faculty members on April 9.

Based on Sheryl Sanburg's book *Lean In*, the group is intended for those interested in developing leadership skills and reaching their full potential. A feeling of acceptance and openness permitted the sharing of thoughtful life experiences as three questions were addressed in the hour-long discussion.

First, attendees were asked to tell a story about accomplishments that helped them become who they are. Second, they were asked to talk about women who had influenced their lives. Lastly, they were asked to think about what leadership

quality they would like to possess and then share it at the next meeting.

The meetings will be held monthly. For more information, contact Erin F. Hughey-Commers (ehughey-commers@pvcc.edu).

Sheryl Sanberg is an American technology executive, activist, and author. She is the chief operating officer of Facebook.

The overwhelming response to her 2010 TEDTalk on the ways women are held back (and the way they hold themselves back) was the inspiration for the book *Lean In—Women, Work and the Will to Lead*.

Sanberg shares personal stories and offers practical advice to help women achieve their goals. The book challenges us to think about what women can do and to work together to create a more equal world for women and men.

## Faculty Recital Showcases Talented Department

Antonia Florence, Staff Writer

After flowing down a waterfall of steps, I sat in anticipation. The Piedmont Virginia Community College Faculty Music Recital was about to begin on the V. Earl Dickinson Building's main stage. Previously postponed due to inclement weather, it was held March 29, a sunny Sunday afternoon.

Marco Escobar, PVCC's violin, viola and cello instructor, was the first to appear on stage. He played his violin with finesse, grace and urgency. His style took the listener to the brink of ecstasy and then gently back to reality.

Dr. Arnold Popkin, a retired dentist who performs regularly in the area, provided piano accompaniment on the glistening black Baby Grand piano.

Ruth Ann Bishop, voice and piano professor at PVCC, had four vocal selections, which were about different types of love. She was accompanied by Gina Tuck, guest performer, who exuded confidence.

David Wilson is PVCC's saxophone, clarinet and flute instructor. I felt quiet contentment as the

first notes emanated from his sax. His second selection had our heads bobbing in time. Dr. Kay Bethea, Professor of Theater and Music at PVCC, played the piano with fluid movement and apparent joy which projected nicely through her chosen melodies.

Melody Z. Day, one of two voice instructors at PVCC, sang with her entire body. She allows the character she portrays to take over her expressive face, enriching her performance. Even though most of her selections were not in English, she left little doubt of the story she told. Gina Tuck's piano accompaniment formed a great duet with Day's voice.

We were then treated to Dr. Bethea and Bishop once again, who played "four-handed" pieces, sitting side-by-side at the same piano. They certainly increased the excitement.

The recital closed with a trio consisting of Tuck at the piano, Bishop finally unleashing her voice and belting out, "*Love is where you Find it*" along with Day's clear voice and expressive face. This was a great hour and half spent enjoying the talents some of our PVCC faculty possess.



# Piedmont Profiles: Michael Rahilly

Antonia Florence, Staff Writer

Dr. Michael Rahilly, Assistant Professor of Psychology, became a faculty member at Piedmont Virginia Community College last fall.

After teaching at community colleges, state colleges and universities, Dr. Rahilly has found he prefers teaching at the community college level, where there is a diverse student population.

He has “always had a real love of learning and discovery” and enjoys nurturing and inspiring students who wish to immerse themselves in education.

Dr. Rahilly initially attended Virginia Tech’s engineering program but changed his major after taking a general psychology course.

He found that he enjoys working closely with people and helping them realize positive outcomes.

After receiving his doctorates degree from UC-Davis, he stayed in California for approximately 14 years where he worked in the clinical field. He then moved to the southwest corner of Utah, near Zion National Park, where he resumed teaching.

When one has an informal conversation with a psychologist or psychiatrist, many of us wonder if we are being analyzed as we speak.

Dr. Rahilly says he does not do this anymore, because he “found it exhausting and it interfered with real life. You just want to relate to them as a person.”

His face lit up and his voice projected passion when asked if he still gets excited about teaching.

He said, “I am particularly looking forward to this weeks developmental psych class, where we are talking about morality and aggression. We start with this moral dilemma, and I ask students to think about it, write down how they would act. It gets a lot of people engaged, a little



**Dr. Rahilly joined PVCC last fall**

controversy is always good.”

“It's nice to witness one individuals' perception of the world versus another's” and engage in broad minded thinking. Dr. Rahilly enjoys PVCC students for their ability to reason outside of the box and being able to address critical thinking questions.

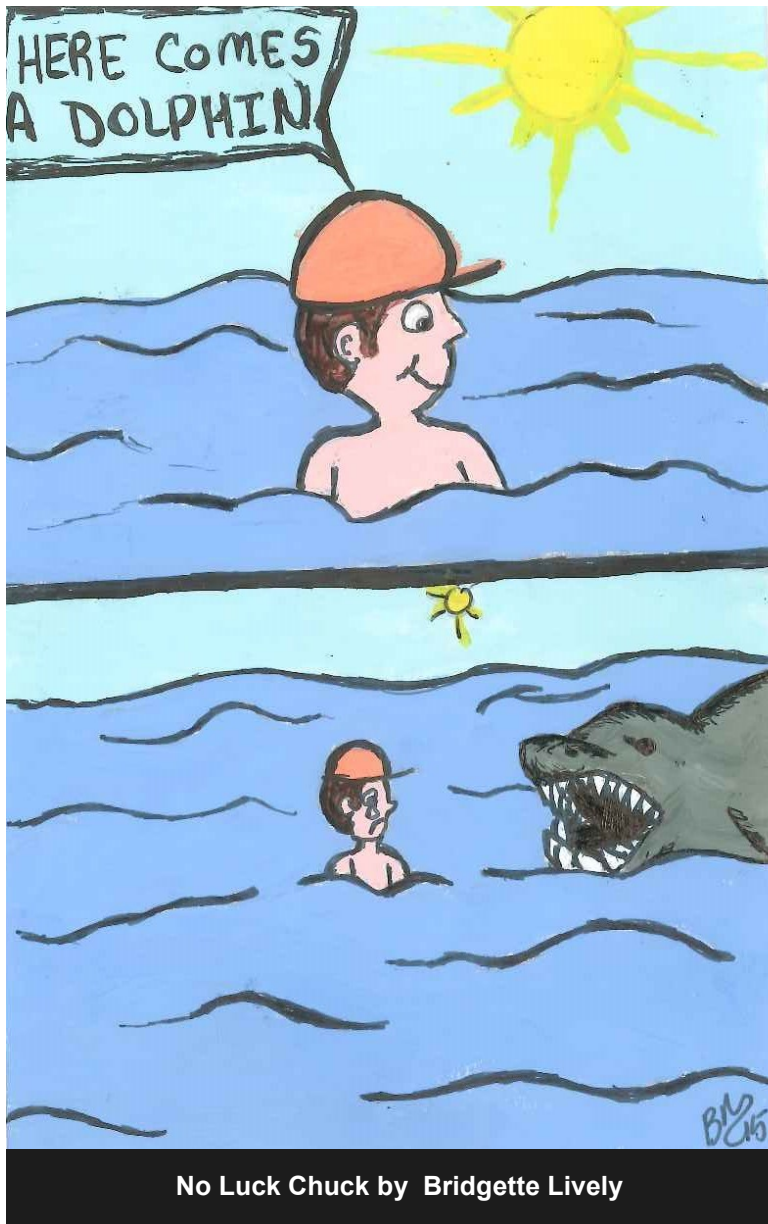
He summed it up by saying, “ Seeing students become energized in class is really rewarding.”

Thinking back through his academic travels, one of Dr. Rahilly's favorite places is the northern California and Oregon coastal region.

However, he is happy to be back in Virginia where he can pursue one of his hobbies - gardening.

With his wife’s ranching background and his children’s natural interests, gardening is a family event.

He is looking forward to starting his vegetable plants and choosing which fruit trees he will be planting.



## Riddles

Brennan Tanner, Staff Writer

I hold all colors and yet am clear,  
I can summon hope, and banish fear.

Bright as diamonds, loud as thunder,  
Never stills a thing of wonder.

Iron roof glass walls,  
Burns and burns, yet never falls.

Vast stretches of sand,  
A boat come ashore from sea,  
A silvery tree  
All joined by one strand  
The thing that defines from others

## Interesting Facts: The Human Body

Bridgette Lively, Staff Writer

The human body and how it functions is fascinating. New things continue to be discovered.

The following interesting facts about the body are from [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com).

- ◆ Similar to fingerprints, everyone has a unique tongue print.
- ◆ Your nose can remember 50,000 different smells.
- ◆ A pair of feet have 500,000 sweat glands and can produce more than a pint of sweat a day
- ◆ The human head is one-quarter of our total length at birth, but only one-eighth our total length by the time we reach adulthood.

# Shakespeare's Cyphers

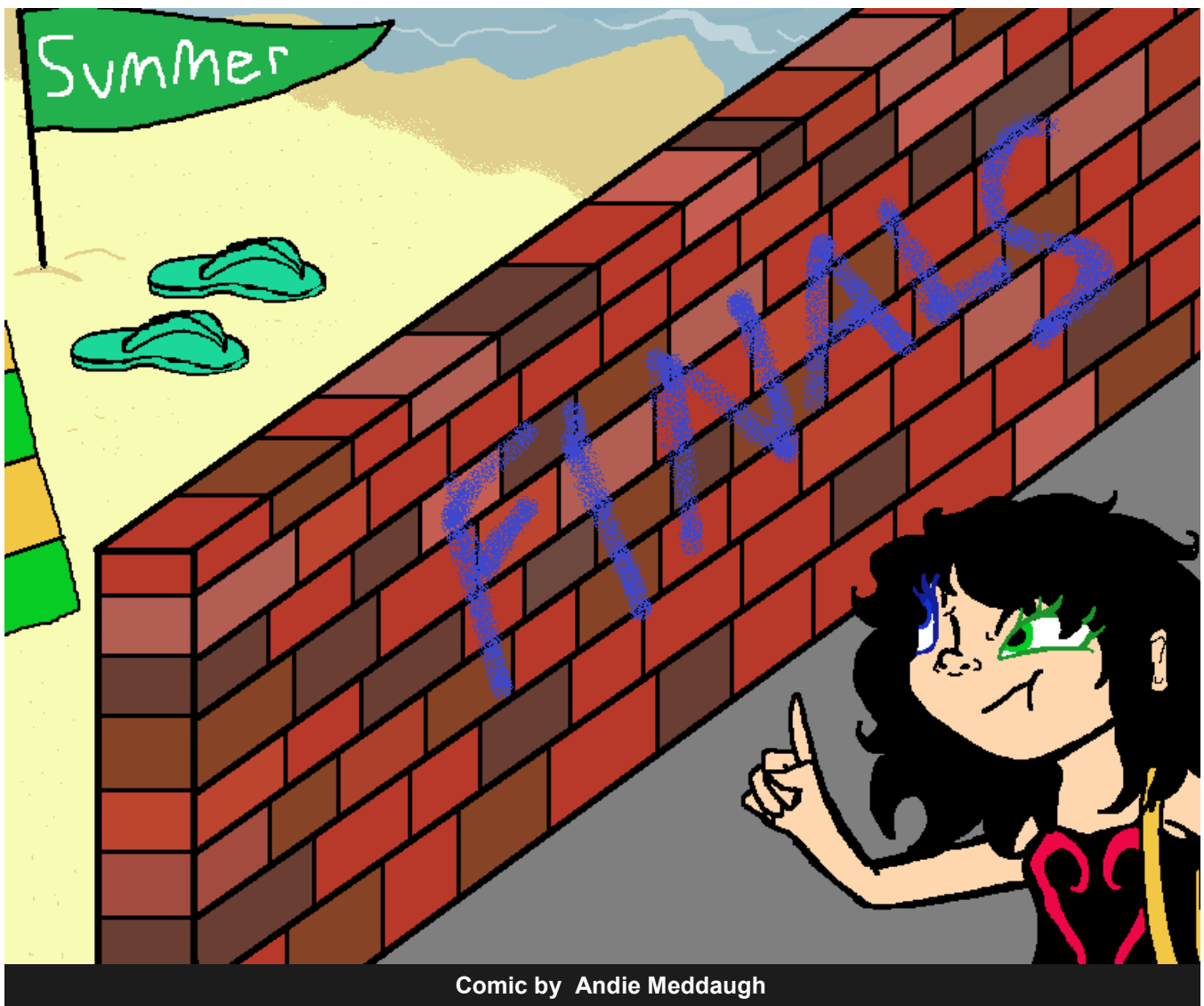
Brennan Tanner, Staff Writer

19-8-1-12-12    9    3-15-13-16-1-18-5    20-8-5-5

20-15    1    19-21-13-13-5-18-19    4-1-25

19-15-14-14-5-20    5-9-7-8-20-5-5-14

Hint: 3 = C and D = 4



Comic by Andie Meddaugh

# Classifieds

## Looking for Fall classes? Consider these:

**SSC 210 - Women in Society.** It will consider the role gender plays in America. Because the course covers three disciplines (English, Sociology, and Political Science) students will read about and discuss various issues related to gender and politics, the social construction of gender, and women as writers of their own literature. The course transfers as a social sciences credit.

**SOC 210—Survey of Physical and Cultural Anthropology.** Why are humans the way we are? From the human body to human behaviors, anthropology will take you on a journey across time and space to answer this question and more.

**ENG 121—Introduction to Journalism.** Interested in seeing your work in *The Forum*? ENG 121 offers students a chance to learn about journalistic writing and get their work in print. This 12-week class will start in September.

Know of any Community Events, Announcements,  
or Advertisements you'd like to list?

Contribute and Submit to PVCC's



Contact us at [theforum@pvcc.edu](mailto:theforum@pvcc.edu)



Check us out on social media

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## Contact Us

### PVCC The Forum

501 College Dr.  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
[theforum@pvcc.edu](mailto:theforum@pvcc.edu)  
[www.piedmontforum.com](http://www.piedmontforum.com)

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### Faculty Advisor

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