

## Charlottesville Holiday Festivities

Kaitlyn Duvalois, Staff Writer

As the holidays begin to rapidly approach, families all over Virginia are looking for that extra spark of holiday fun. There are numerous events planned like holiday tours at Monticello to Caring Santa.

The holiday season is all about giving back, and C'Ville is the place to do it. The Toy Lift will be on December 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m., at Fashion Square Mall. Also this year at Fashion Square Mall, they are holding an event called Caring Santa; if your child or a child you know has special needs and wants their picture taken with

Santa, this is a great opportunity. Reservations are required; for more information call 973-9332.

If you are interested in Christmas lights, the Annual Lighting of The Lawn will be held on Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m.; the event is free.

On December 12, here at PVCC, Let There Be Light, an outdoor art exhibit, is being held from 6 p.m.-9 p.m.; this event is also free.

If you have four-legged friends, you can take them to Fashion Square on December 14 and get their picture taken with Santa. This will be held from 6pm-8pm.

*UVA Community  
Credit Union  
coming to PVCC!*

*See Credit Union, page 11*

*A Christmas Carol* will be shown at The Paramount Theater, on Tuesday, December 9. This live show starts at 7:30 p.m.; tickets start at \$19.50.

Monticello is offering nightly holiday tours; this is a unique opportunity to see how Christmas was celebrated in Jefferson's time. For more details call 984-9822.

These festivities are a great way to get excited for the upcoming holidays.



North Entrance Changing Seasons. Photography by Jessica Hackley.

### In This Issue

- PVCC Events -pg.2
- Speak to an Advisor -pg.3
- Information Course -pg.4
- Campus Safety -pg.5
- Holiday Articles -pg.6
- Crossword Puzzle -pg.8
- Comic -pg.9
- Veterans Day -pg.10
- UVA Credit Union -pg.11

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### — *Helping the Haven* —

December 3, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., North Hall Meeting Room

### — *kNOw Homelessness* —

December 3, 2 p.m., North Hall Meeting Room

### — *PVCC Dance and Theatre present Karate Tango* —

December 5 & 6, 7:30 p.m.,  
December 7, 2:30 p.m., Dickinson

### — *PVCC Student Pottery Sale* —

December 6, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Dickinson

### — *Radiography Club Bake Sale* —

December 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Bolick Student Center

### — *Let There Be Light* —

December 12, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Around Dickinson

### — *Final Exams* —

December 15 - December 19

### — *Winter Break* —

December 20 - January 12

### — *Free Movie Friday, Gone Girl* —

January 16, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson



## Iraq: The Inside Scoop

By Idette Charlie, Staff Writer

Colonel Jaafar Mohammed Ridah Ainusawi provided fresh insight on U.S. and Iraqi relations. He said, “I want the United States to help Iraqi People.”

The talk gave details about the Iraqi soldier’s house arrest. He was under house arrest because he was a Christian, The details about the house arrest came from his son. His son explained that the soldier used a butt of a gun to hit his face and then left him down on the floor.

He discussed the dangers ISIS poses. Colonel Jaafar said the country is torn. The talk was a part of the not to miss guest speaker series. This series offers students new perspectives and awareness of broader issues. The lectures are held in the main building auditorium (M229). The guest speaker series is a must to go to.



Two RAD Club Members at the November Bake Sale.  
Photograph by Jessica Hackley.



# Speak to Your Transfer Advisor Early and Often

Abby Arnold, PhD, Guest Columnist

If you are considering transferring to a four year college after graduating from PVCC, one of the most important things you can do while at PVCC is to meet with your transfer advisor early and often. In fact, you should speak to advisors from a few different colleges to get a sense of what programs and options are out there for you.

There are many different programs and opportunities available for a transfer student and most of them either have offices on the PVCC campus or come here regularly; chances are, by meeting with a few different college advisors you will find the program that serves your goals and needs. If you know what you want to do, such as if you have your heart set on being an engineer, or an elementary school teacher, or a business major or have any other higher education goal, the transfer advisor can help you to maximize your time and minimize your expense. In this way, when you earn your PVCC degree, you will be already on your way to complete the requirements of your four year program. Whether you know what college or university you want to attend, or are not sure if a four year degree is right for you, there are numerous advantages for you to meet early, and regularly, with a transfer advisor.

A transfer advisor can help you pick electives that will count not only for your PVCC degree, but also for specific requirements in the transfer college therefore saving you time and money. Transfer advisors have a great deal of experience with the commitments required of adult students and can help you navigate the multiple demands of life, school, employment, and family. We can connect you to the appropriate financial aid office to help with your long-term budgeting. Perhaps most importantly, a transfer advisor can be a consistent, long-term support and resource for you, someone who knows your goals and is committed to helping you achieve them.

Abby Arnold, PhD, is a transfer advisor and adjunct professor at Mary Baldwin College and the UVA BIS program.

Some of the transfer advisors available to you:

**PVCC:**  
Kristin Greer  
PVCC Admissions and  
Advising Center.  
434-961-6564  
[kgreer@pvcc.edu](mailto:kgreer@pvcc.edu)

**Mary Baldwin College  
Adult Degree Program:**  
Abby Arnold  
PVCC room M300A  
(above the student  
commons).  
434-961-5421  
[asarnold@mbc.edu](mailto:asarnold@mbc.edu)

**ODU:**  
Jennifer Hudson  
PVCC Kluge Moses  
Science Center room  
K101.  
434-961-5417  
[pvcc@odu.edu](mailto:pvcc@odu.edu)

**UVA Bachelor of  
Interdisciplinary Studies:**  
Joy Sabol  
UVA Zehmer Hall  
1-800-346-3882  
[SCPSadmissions@virginia.edu](mailto:SCPSadmissions@virginia.edu)



**Veteran's Day Observance with Brian Pace, Jackie Fisher, Ralph Brown Sr., and Ralph Brown Jr.  
Photography by Jessica Hackley**

# Chart Your Information Course

Michael McGrew, Staff Writer

One course available at PVCC is easily accessible and should be a mandatory class as early as middle school. Information Literacy is a course available to PVCC students that focuses on research, validating sources of information, and the common platform for both students and employees: Microsoft Office.

How exactly is a course for college students appropriate for preteen children? The simple answer is the content does not require advanced knowledge of other subjects. There is no need for higher math or science. The English skills required have been acquired by most young students by sixth through eighth grade. The most important thing, however, is what they could get from it.

We live in a world with an unprecedented level of information available. It is estimated by Karl Fisch, Director of Technology at Arapahoe High School in Colorado, that a week's worth of *New York Times* contained more information than a person in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was likely to come across in a lifetime. Consider this newspaper is a single source of print journalism. Compared to the vast sea of information that is the internet and you can see humanity has reached a deluge with unprecedented access to the quantities of information.

The reality then becomes obvious. With so many sources of information how can anyone be certain they are getting quality information? This is incredibly important in a time where people lacking any scientific credentials are convincing citizens to avoid

medically sound procedures, politicians make claims their histories and beliefs don't back up, or when anyone is trying to claim something is a sound choice.

This is where Information Literacy comes in. Beyond simply teaching its attendees how to use software platforms or the fundamental concepts of how technologies interact, students in this course will learn the steps to inspect the veracity of information. How to separate the wheat of empirical evidence from the chaff of pseudo-scientific mongrels.

Admittedly the bulk of the class involves learning software platforms, this is still a worthwhile thing to learn. Even if a student only comes to learn how to verify information sources, learning to use programs that are invaluable to school and business can hardly seem like a foolish way to spend time.

The class is taught by George Williams, who has 37 years of experience in technology related fields. His experience includes managing computer systems for UVA and IT work for the commonwealth itself. When asked what he thought was the most important thing for students to take from the class, he remarked, "For students to be comfortable finding reliable information... and to be aware of the current and dangerous security threats online."

The class will be offered on campus in spring semester 2015 in M834 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 3:15 PM.



Students using PVCC Computer Lab. Photograph by Samantha Prentiss.

# Daylight Saving Time Raising Concerns



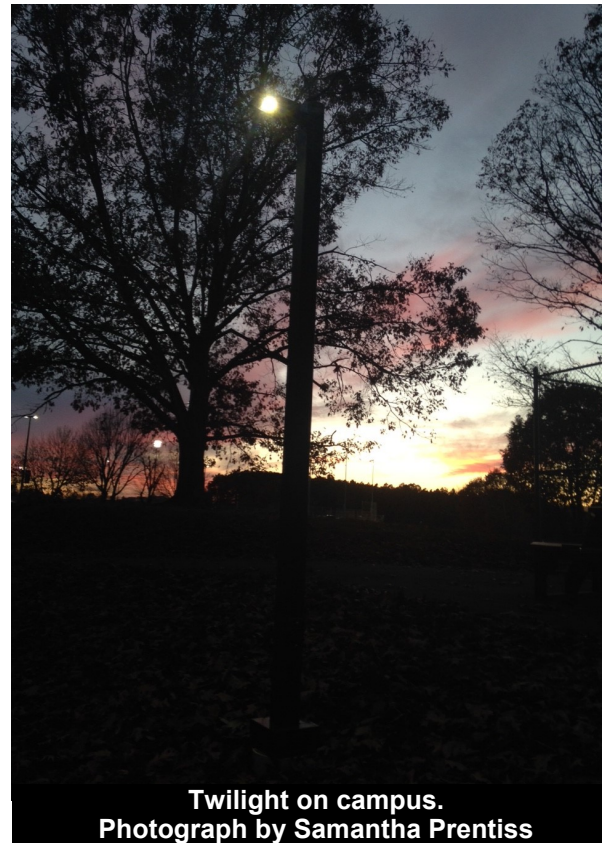
Jackie Morris, Staff Writer

Fall has set in and Daylight Savings time is in full effect. PVCC students who take evening and night classes have growing concerns for one particular area: the parking lot. "There needs to be more lighting in the parking lot," says PVCC student Katie Safely and perhaps more agree.

Many changes have been happening for the Department of Public Safety and Campus police such as gaining a new police chief and new protocols. Chief Shawn Harrison wants to help everyone, even though the department is short staffed. If one wants to feel safer and would feel safer to be escorted to their cars at night, then the department will be there to help. Harrison suggests calling the office and asking for assistance; someone will walk with you to your vehicle or they will follow you with the campus police car to make sure nothing happens.

With these new protocols, Chief Harrison says, "Part of me is changing the mindset [of PVCC] from security to department of Public Safety." As the department can do their part to help the students, Chief Harrison has a way for students to help the department: "I'm going to use a cliché that's out there in the world; if you see something, say something." Harrison expresses that Piedmont is a community, and as a police chief, she is available to help however students can help as well by reporting incidents or suspicious activity.

As far as spreading more awareness on campus, Chief Harrison has started presentations that help students learn more about different situations; for example, a few weeks ago there was a presentation about domestic violence and there



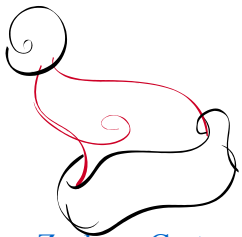
Twilight on campus.  
Photograph by Samantha Prentiss

will be more presentations to come. Harrison says, "Those presentations are a part of my protocol, although you all don't show up . . . that won't stop me from having them."

If there are any questions, comments, or concerns for Chief Harrison, the best way to contact her would be through her email ([sharrison@pvcc.edu](mailto:sharrison@pvcc.edu)), and though she may be busy around campus Harrison assures she always responds.



North Entrance of PVCC. Photograph by Jessica Hackley.



# Everyone Should Have Happy Holidays

Zachary Carter, Staff Writer

The holiday season brings fun times with family and special gifts for friends. However, it won't be as jolly of a time for some Charlottesville low-income locals this year due to rising costs for healthy food. There are ways that the community can help these low income families.

The Loaves and Fishes food shelter is a local corporation and one of the largest direct distributors of food assistance to low-income families in Charlottesville. A program called **Feeding America's Map: the Meal Gap project** estimates 17,500 people in Charlottesville and Albemarle are "food insecure," or suffer from lack of access to affordable, nutritious food.

The shelter accepts food donations, and the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank accepts money donations. Special items such as diapers, baby food, and powder formula are also needed. Volunteer times are Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays; Thursday evenings 6:00-8:30, Wednesday afternoons 1:30-4:00pm, and Saturdays mornings 9:30am-1pm.

Margaret McNett Burruss, Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes says, "November is our busiest month every year, we expect this month we'll serve 2,100 or more families." Loaves and Fishes encourage the community this season to brighten the lives of those who are struggling to have a happy holiday.

## Become a PVCC Angel

This holiday season, Phi Theta Kappa has partnered with the Salvation Army of Charlottesville to host an Angel Tree on the PVCC campus. Located near the South Entrance, the tree is fully decorated with paper "angel" ornaments, each one devoted to a local child. These cards provide details about the children and their Christmas wishes.

In order to participate: choose an angel, pick out a gift for that special child, and leave it under the tree by Friday, December 12th. Spread the joy of giving this year!



Photography by Samantha Prentiss

# What is Your Wish for the New Year?



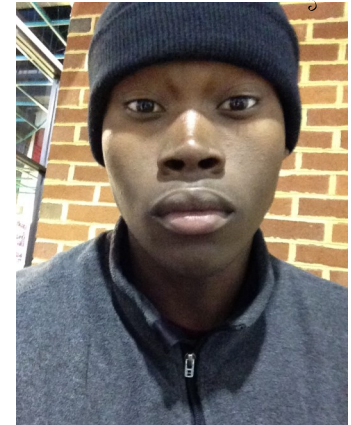
Annette Cashatt and Samantha Prentiss, Staff Writers

Photographs by Samantha Prentiss

Rosie Guerra, PVCC student: She wishes to “be successful and happy.”



Kenyatta Follet, PVCC student: “I just want to be happy, to travel, and meet new people.”



“I’m trying to successfully transfer to UVA. I have one semester (Spring 2015) left to transfer to UVA, and after a year at UVA, I’ll be able to apply to medical school where my journey to become a physician will start.” - Alaha Abdul Jamil, PVCC student.

“That I pass Anatomy and Physiology, and get accepted to the nursing program.” - Tabatha Rush, PVCC student.



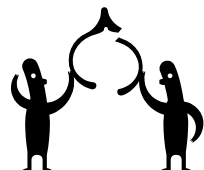
Addie Smith, PVCC staff: “I wish all the troops were home, health and wealth and a very merry Christmas and happy holidays.”



Jennifer Gaydon, PVCC staff: She wishes for “world peace and Scott.”

“I’m hoping to inspire the children I teach.” - Malcolm Hughes, PVCC student.

“To continue to encourage others toward a healthy lifestyle filled with exercise and a healthy diet, while continuing to work on my own health and fitness goals.” - Amy Floyd, Testing Center Proctor



Antonio Washington, PVCC student: “I want me and my kids to be happy and continue my road to success.”



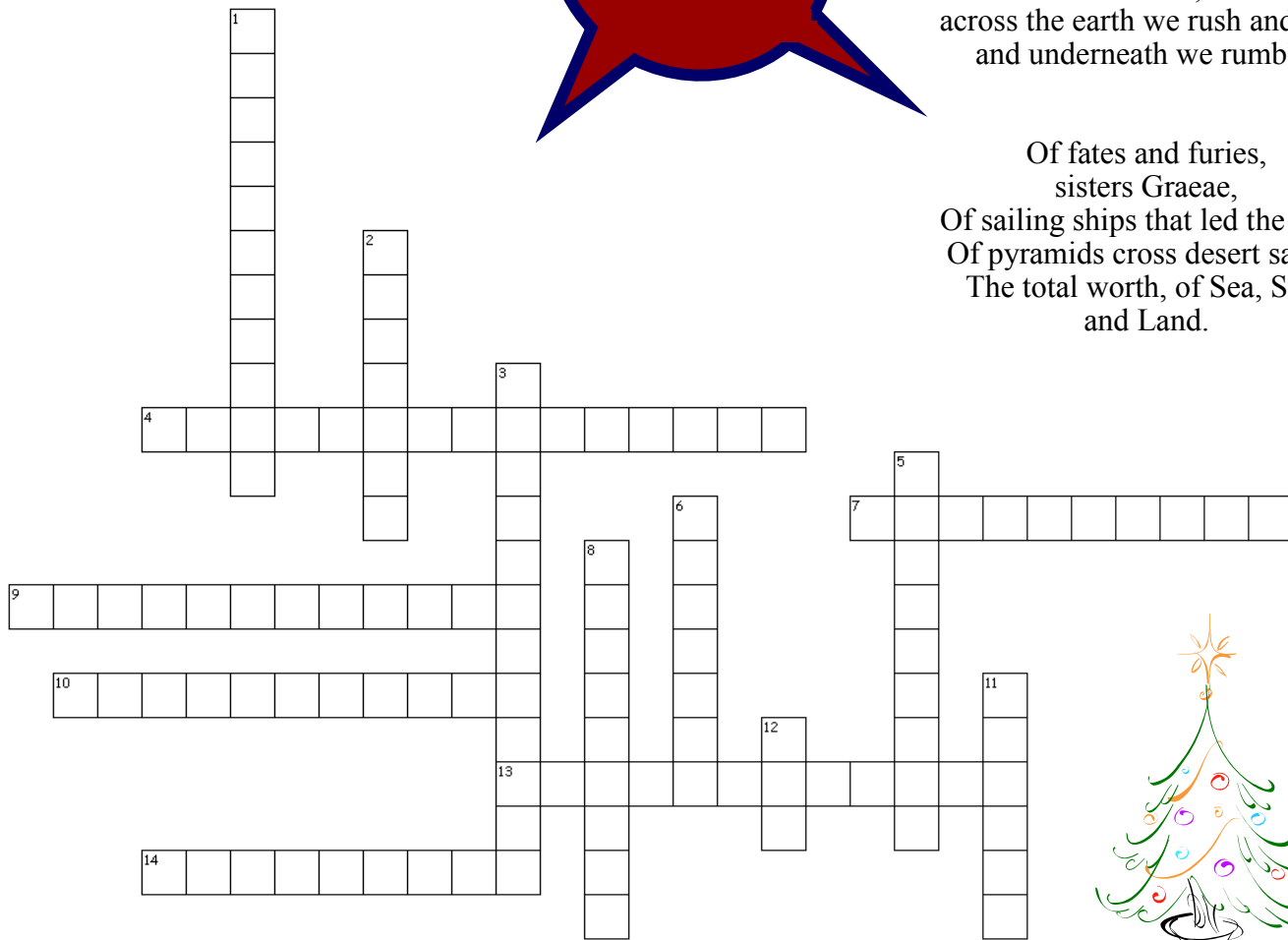
# Riddles

Brennan Tanner, staff writer

Answers?  
Piedmontforum.com

Cities we level,  
mountains we crumble,  
we cause the earth to crack and  
crumble;  
across the earth we rush and roar  
and underneath we rumble.

Of fates and furies,  
sisters Graeae,  
Of sailing ships that led the way,  
Of pyramids cross desert sands,  
The total worth, of Sea, Sky,  
and Land.



## Across

4. Who should you speak to early and often for help with your program?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ are December 15th-19th.
9. Help stop \_\_\_\_\_ with kNOW Homelessness December 3rd at 2pm in the North Hall Meeting Room.
10. Free \_\_\_\_\_ lesson on December 5th and 6th at 7:30pm and December 7th at 2:30pm in the Dickinson Building.
13. Where can you get all natural foods and delicious smoothies?
14. Gone Girl is a \_\_\_\_\_ on Friday, January 16th.

## Down

1. December 20th-January 12th will be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. SNL UVA alum.
3. Who to call to escort you to your car at night.
5. Like pottery? Buy some at the PVCC Student Pottery Sale in the \_\_\_\_\_ building.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the Haven is held December 3rd from 11am to 2pm in the North Hall Meeting Room.
8. Where can I give a local child their Christmas wish near the South entrance on PVCC's campus?
11. Better than a bank, and coming to our campus in January.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is holding a bake sale Dec. 11th in the Bollick Center.

\*Hint\*  
Read this article @  
Piedmontforum.com



# Interesting Facts About Famous People

Bridgette Lively, staff writer

The journey of every human life is nothing less than extraordinary.

However, there is something intriguing about the lives of the rich and famous both past and present.

Here are some facts you may not have known:

- In China, the tallest female basketball player and the country's tallest man were encouraged to get married. Their son is Yao Ming.

Source: [www.discovermagazine.com](http://www.discovermagazine.com)

- Bob Barker is a karate expert and trained with Chuck Norris for eight years.

Source: [www.sun-sentinel.com](http://www.sun-sentinel.com)

- Brian May, lead guitarist of Queen has a PhD in Astrophysics. He co-authored two scientific research papers while in Queen.

Source: <http://astro.ic.ac.uk/bmay/home>

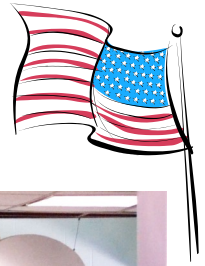
- Tina Fey graduated in the class 1992 from the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts.

Source: [www.virginia.edu](http://www.virginia.edu)





# Thank Your Everyday Heroes



Jessica Hackley, Staff Writer

To me, Veterans Day is a time for me to consciously think about the effect that the military has on this country; how so many give their lives to serve and protect America; how not only my family, but so many others know at least one person who has served, is serving, or will serve; and how reintegrating into civilian society can be more tough than service itself. On Tuesday, November 11, 2014 between the hours of noon and 1 p.m., Veterans, students, and employees alike gathered to observe Veterans Day.

The event began with a presentation of colors by the UVA Color Guard. The Pledge of Allegiance was then heard, followed by the National Anthem sung by Andrew Renshaw. Pastor Harold L. Bare, Sr., Ph.D., from the Covenant Church then held an Invocation. Albemarle Pipes and Drums then played a beautiful military tribute with bagpipes before a message from the President, Frank Friedman. Other voices of veterans were then heard about honoring the service provided by veterans, as well as issues that veterans are currently facing such as homelessness. A brunch buffet table was provided with crisp fruits and vegetables.

Chef Ralph Brown Sr., Army veteran and PVCC



Jackie Fisher, Brian Pace, and Sherrod Fisher. Photography by Jessica Hackley.

alumni, provided tasty, fresh made omelettes. After the celebration of Veterans, a few key proprietors stayed to clean up after the event, and I asked them what veteran's day meant to them.



Albemarle Pipes and Drums. Photograph by Jessica Hackley.

Sherrod Fisher, a retired chief petty officer of the United States Navy, shared his thoughts about the day: "Today marks the day of remembrance and celebration for those who served and those who continue to serve this great nation...Veterans Day allowed me to connect with past and present friends, and establish new relationships with many who share a common bond of service to our country."

SVO President, Brian Pacet, said, "Today was about honoring our service members and those veterans who attend PVCC, who have selfishly given their time and lives in defense of our nation. Their honor, courage, and commitment is a testament to America's freedom and insurance of the future for our Constitution."

With their inspiring truths, I end on the Student Veterans of America advisor, Jackie Fisher, and her empowering words, "Our gathering is just one small spark in the flame of pride that burns across the nation...we can honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in freedom."

# Financial Fortitude

Jessica Hackley, Staff Writer

If someone were to ask what demographic is most aware of financial issues, most would answer college students, especially community college students. There are always more bills to pay, more things to take care of, and those dreaded student loans. Banks that are only out for themselves, charging monthly fees or needing a minimum account balance, can make students feel weary and jaded when needing to manage their money and keep up with their lives. This is where the University of Virginia Community Credit Union (UVA CCU) comes in.

UVA CCU offers many reasonable loans, credit balance transfers, and low minimum balances or even no minimum for the interest checking account. Even the savings account is called a “personal share savings.” What is important to know about this name is that it represents the “share” of the credit union that the account holder has. This further means that a credit union operates differently from a bank; UVA CCU is a non-profit, member-owned, financial cooperative. Some other differences are those who are members at credit unions are able to vote in electing board members; a CU’s focus is really on member savings, and dividends are paid back to the member.

In the entire history of the United States, taxpayer dollars have never been used to bail out

a CU, and no credit union member has ever lost money in a CU protected by the fund (104th Congressional Record). Interestingly, CU’s are not FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) insured, but they are insured by the NCUA (National Credit Union Administration). Fortunately, the NCUA also has the backing of the full faith and credit of the US Government and accounts are insured up to \$250,000 just as the FDIC accounts are.

Enough financial jargon for now; what is so great about the UVA CCU in plain English?. They are coming to PVCC. A community driven, student run branch will be opening up at our very own community college. The starting location will be across from the vending machines, the second door on the left, in the 600 wing of the main building which is to the right just past the Bolick Student Center. One of the greatest benefits is that they take financial literacy seriously and offer free counseling to members; therefore, if you feel as if you would like to better manage your money or learn your options for investing, then make a trip to the UVA CCU as soon as they open to gain your financial fortitude with free knowledge. Estimated arrival for the UVA CCU at PVCC is in January. It has also been said that there will be promotional fun events that you will not want to miss.

If you have any questions feel free to check out the [www.uvacreditunion.org](http://www.uvacreditunion.org) website.

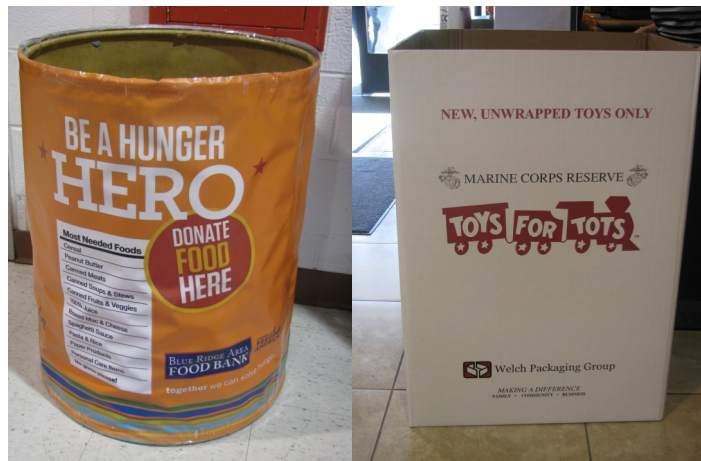
Writer? Photographer?  
Artist? Editor?...

...PVCC’s  **the Forum**

is looking for *YOU* to

Contact us at [theforum@pvcc.edu](mailto:theforum@pvcc.edu) for more information or visit our website [www.piedmontforum.com](http://www.piedmontforum.com)

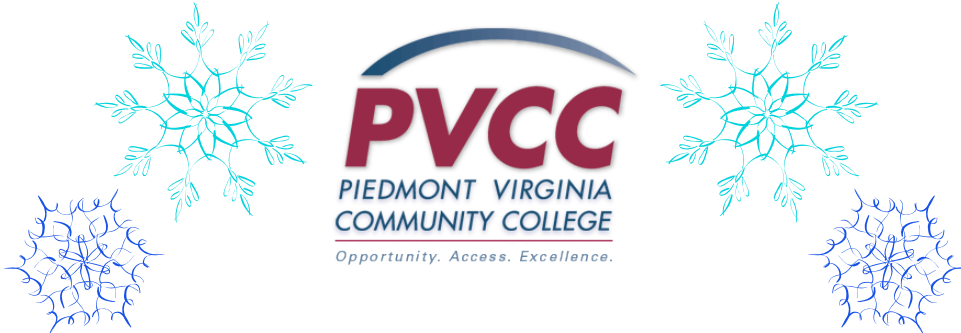
EXPLORE. WRITE. GAIN  
EXPERIENCE. HAVE FUN.



Donate food, supplies, or toys at these locations around campus. Photographs by Jessica Hackley

# Classifieds

PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE




## Do You Want to Make a Difference?

Piedmont Virginia Community College invites applications for full and part-time faculty and staff positions. Day and evening shifts are available at all locations.

Detailed job descriptions, position requirements and application procedures are available at: [http://www.pvcc.edu/human\\_resources/employment/](http://www.pvcc.edu/human_resources/employment/)

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

Contribute and Submit to PVCC's the Forum

Contact us at [theforum@pvcc.edu](mailto:theforum@pvcc.edu) for more information or visit our website [www.piedmontforum.com](http://www.piedmontforum.com)



Check us out on social media

@PVCCForum

The Forum is a voice for all students. Accordingly, materials published in The Forum, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the VCCS, Piedmont Virginia Community College, or any stakeholder thereof. The paper welcomes letters to the editor, guest columns, questions, photography or any other ideas or submissions one may have for the upcoming publications. Please contact [theforum@pvcc.edu](mailto:theforum@pvcc.edu) with any questions.

## Contact Us

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The Forum offers classified space to the PVCC community free of charge.

Please send announcements along with full name, email, and phone number to:

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