

PVCC's Hidden Gem: The Giuseppe Center

Antonia Florence, Assistant Editor

Set against the Blue Ridge Mountains and above Greene County's branch of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library lies PVCC's hidden gem. The Eugene Giuseppe Center is located in Stanardsville, Greene County, and first opened its doors for classes in August 2012.

PVCC's main campus is generally thought by many to encompass the college in its entirety, but this leaves its two satellites well-kept secrets. The Giuseppe Center in Greene

County and The Jefferson School Center in downtown Charlottesville are little-known but worthwhile extensions of PVCC.

The Giuseppe Center offers many of the same services that are offered on the main campus. Many classes are taught in the traditional manner with the instructor present; however, remote instruction and online options are also available. Its close proximity to the county high school makes it ideal for dual enrollment students, and the Guaranteed Admission Agreement between PVCC and Old Dominion University

Check out our tips for transfer students on page 6!

allows students to earn a bachelor's degree without ever leaving Greene County. There is even an academic advisor present on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The center's 14,000 square feet of well-thought-out space fills many needs: five state-of-the-art classrooms that are completely web-delivery equipped, a fully-developed computer classroom, instructional lab space, and a proctored testing center.

See Giuseppe Center on page 4



Students enjoy BSA event, see p. 9. Photography by Kellyn Torres

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DATES TO REMEMBER

—Spring Break—
Feb 29-Mar 4

—Richmond Ballet ^—
March 2, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

—SGA Faculty and Staff Appreciation Event—
March 9

—VCCS Veterans Demonstration Project —
March 15, 3:15-7 p.m.

—Women’s History Month Talk: “American
Women’s Legal History at 3 Key Moments” * —
March 16, 12-1 p.m., Main Building M229

—Free Move Friday: *Carol* *—
March 18, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

—PVCC 32nd Annual Job Fair —
March 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Main Building

—Fourth Fridays Improv * —
March 25, 6-8 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

—Positive Action Conference *—
March 25 to March 26

—William & Mary
Middle Eastern Music Ensemble^—
March 26 7:30 p.m.

—Last day to drop a course with a grade of W—
March 28

—Putin on the Frtiz * —
March 30, 12-1 p.m., Main Building M229

—Health and Happiness in Tibetan Medicine* —
March 31, 12-1 p.m., Main Building M229

—*The Tempest* ^—
March 21-April 2, 7:30 p.m., April 2, 2:30 p.m.
Dickinson Building, Maxwell Theater

—International Foods Festival —
April 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

—PVCC Talent Show *—
April 8, 6-8 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

From the Editor

Elise Hansen, Editor

Federal policies affect our everyday lives. Often what goes on in Washington feels outside our control: politicians make deals behind closed doors, compromise on policies we feel strongly about, or hold firm but legislation passes anyway. It is easy to feel powerless, but remember, we are powerful. “We the people,” the first words of the U.S. Constitution, allow us to choose our politicians; we have the right to make our voices heard about the policies that affect us.

The U.S. political system is complicated. It is a labyrinth of caucuses, primaries, debates, Super Tuesdays, and political conventions. Educate yourself: know when to vote, where to vote and how to vote. Know what each candidate stands for so your vote reflects your beliefs, not the person whose voice you have heard the most in media outlets. PVCC’s political science and journalism students have created a Virginia voter guide with highlights of candidates’ platforms on key issues. Read it; learn it.

Voting is significant; not voting is also significant. As David Foster Wallace, covering John McCain’s 2000 campaign for *Rolling Stone*, bluntly put it, “By all means stay home if you want, but don’t bullshit yourself that you’re not voting. In reality there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard’s vote.” If you do not vote, you are boosting “the other side,” whoever “the other side” may be for you.

Not everyone residing in the United States can vote. Remember, voting is a U.S. citizen’s right, but it is also a privilege. Do not take it for granted, and do not let your opportunity to affect the course of this nation pass you by.



Student Government Association News

My name is Caleb Russell, and I am currently serving as the Director of Events for PVCC's Student Government Association (SGA). My job as the director of events is to lead and manage the Events Department, which organizes and runs SGA-hosted social events across the campus and the community. In doing this, I work in collaboration with the SGA Executive Board, SGA General Body, and the College Administration throughout the semester in planning and hosting student focused activities.

This past semester, we sponsored a Halloween-themed Casino Night where students were able to participate in a costume contest, raffle, and mock gambling. We also managed to host a Welcome Back Social for students, a Night Student Appreciation table, and a cosponsored "Power Hour" with the Mary Baldwin College on Campus.

If you weren't able to make it to any of these events, fear not! We have several events coming up this semester that we are very excited about.

We will be hosting PVCC's first ever Talent Show this spring, April 8, in the Dickinson main theater. We are currently accepting auditions and would love to have you participate!

Dates to remember:

- March 9 — Staff and faculty appreciation
- April 8 — Talent show
- April 18 — Ping pong tournament semifinals
- April 20 — Ping pong tournament finals in the Bolick center.
- April 20 — Spring Fling
- April 28-May 5 — Student night appreciation tables

Be on the lookout for flyers for these events throughout the school, and if you have any questions, suggestions, or would like more information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Caleb Russell

PVCC SGA | Director of Events
Cmr2171@email.vccs.edu



Giuseppe Center, Continued from page 1

In addition to a reception area filled with caring, helpful staff, there is a huge student lounge equipped with comfortable seating, worktables, computers, and a small vending area.

Available for rental to the general public is a 250-person capacity community room with a catering kitchen and a meeting room.

It did not take long for the Giuseppe Center to come to fruition. During the summer of 2010, the Greene County Board of Supervisors offered PVCC use of the unfinished second floor of the county's library. It was up to the college to raise the necessary funds to finish out the space and furnish all of its educational necessities.

Within a year, nearly 100 major donors and many other donors contributed approximately \$1 million to make PVCC a reality in Greene County. This generosity allowed construction to begin in December of the following year.

According to a PVCC news release dated March 7, 2012, Mrs. Giuseppe's \$500,000 gift was recognized by naming the facility after her



Photography by Antonia Florence

late husband to honor his legacy. Mr. Giuseppe died in 2006 and was a lifelong champion of education serving the Greene County school system in many capacities.

Mrs. Giuseppe stated, "My husband, Eugene Giuseppe, believed that education was the path to success-to being able to lead a meaningful and productive life," Mrs. Giuseppe further wrote, "As a school principal and coach, he devoted his life to working with young people. This center in his name ensures that those who wish to pursue a college degree will have the opportunity right here in Greene County."

It is through the generosity of citizens, the dedication of the Greene County Supervisors and the area's taxpayers that PVCC now leases the building from Greene County for \$1 per year.

If you are in the area, take time to explore this treasure. You do not need to take classes in this building to use its facilities. If you are a student at PVCC, you are welcome to use its computers, make copies of assignments and study in its lounge.



Photography by Antonia Florence

How solidarity can change PVCC

Joseph Fowler, Staff Writer

PVCC Police conducted two lockdown drills on Jan. 21. The main purpose of the drills were to test emergency notifications systems and to evaluate if students and faculty followed directions.

“This is the first of many things we are trying to do to make this campus safer for everyone,” Campus Police Chief Chris Wyatt said the day before the drills. The school’s PA system was of particular concern to Wyatt. After the drills, he said that the PA system remained a problem.

Another area of concern involved the E2Campus system, which sends texts to students and faculty who sign up. For some, the system worked fine. Many, however, reported a delay in receiving notification of the drill, according to Wyatt.

The school worked on the PA system between the two drills. Though the school was able to improve the system’s performance by the second drill, Wyatt said there was room for improvement. The college plans to fix the PA system and conduct weekly tests in the future.

In an email after the drills, PVCC Vice President Kim McManus summarized some of the feedback from faculty and staff regarding the drill, particularly the PA system problems: “An overwhelming majority of feedback was in regard to the inability to hear and/or understand the PA system. We are working to immediately rectify the situation. Technical and process adjustments have been made.” Tests of the PA system later on the same week showed improvement, according to McManus.

Many of the faculty voiced concerns over the lack of follow up by authorities after the drill in order to insure that everyone in the school knew the drill was over, McManus said. “We will be sure to have the appropriate authorities positioned in various areas for future drills,” he said.

One area of the drill worked better than expected; the coordination faculty and students showed in following safety instructions was superb.

“I couldn’t ask for more,” Wyatt said, while also mentioning the positive feedback from students in regards to the drill. It is easier to fix notification systems than campus solidarity, he said.

The focus of lockdown procedures shifted from less serious drills to the legitimate need for them. The term “unthinkable” often comes up in regards to school shootings. This term is now inaccurate with America averaging over one mass shooting per day in 2015. Though it remains unlikely that PVCC will ever see a mass shooting on campus, any possibility is still a possibility.

On the subject of mass shootings, Arif Vega, a writer and photographer for The Forum described his experience during the second drill as being somewhat eerie: “I was in a corner in the dark theater with light coming in under the door, thinking about school shootings.”

Wyatt discussed the matter of school shootings openly, often referring to the saying, “Run; Hide; Fight.” He also provided a link to an informational video on how to survive an active shooter.

Though he did not endorse killing a shooter, if in the position to disarm one, Wyatt said “to use as much force as necessary,” which brought into question the rights of students who have lost certain rights, such as the right to bear arms, as a result of past crimes.

The question at hand involved the possibility of a convicted felon disarming a shooter and possibly wielding the shooter’s weapon in an effort to neutralize the threat. No probation officer would issue a warrant for the violation of the a felon’s probation for an action taken in self-defense and the defense of others in a situation like that, Wyatt said.

The two lockdown drills on Jan. 21 made a couple of problems apparent. That was one of the purposes of the drills. Despite that fact, the students and faculty can take peace in the fact that they all have one another’s best interests at heart. Solidarity saves lives. “Our safety is everyone’s responsibility,” Wyatt said. Everyone who took part in the drills seemed to agree.

The Puzzling College Application Process

Owen Krug, Staff Writer

The wave of regular applications is over and the transfer students are close to follow. During the next three months colleges and universities will be voraciously reading applications and determining who the next generation of students will be to represent their institutions. When the final words are typed and the applications are submitted there can be a strong sense of relief, followed by an even stronger anxiety. Once that application is sent, the applicant has done all they can, and the decision is in the hands of the school. Every student wants to be as competitive as possible and as attractive to the school as possible; however, are transfer students at a disadvantage from the moment they submit their applications?

Colleges are continuing to see an increase in applicants. A 2014 survey done by the National Association for College Admission Counseling, determined that during 10 of the past 15 years, colleges have reported a 70 percent increase in student applicants. Given the increase, colleges are recognizing the changing body of undergraduate admissions. Many institutions are now reaching out beyond the usual pool of students and finding ways to develop relationships with community college transfer students.

In a 2013 NACAC survey, 80 percent of colleges reported community college partnerships. Seventy percent of colleges reported attending recruitment events on community college campuses and only two percent expected recruitment of community college applicants to become less important, while 58 percent expect an increase in recruiting efforts over the next five years.

The bottom line is that colleges are looking for transfer students. However, being a community college student surrounded by college applicants working towards the same goal can be overwhelming. The question on many students' minds is, "How can I stand out from the rest?" The NACAC has continued to report that grades and the academic rigor of a student's courses are

the most important factors in the admission process. Standardized test scores, high school class rank, and the applicant's demonstrated interest in attending the school follow. Knowing the statistics and understanding what colleges claim to be the most important factors, can only take one so far. In the end, students need resources to help them navigate this incredibly difficult and complicated process.

At PVCC there are two academic advisors whose roles are specifically oriented towards transfer advising. Kemper Steele is the transfer advisor associated with UVA, and Kristen Greer is the other advisor who experienced the process first hand when she transferred from PVCC to UVA to earn her bachelor's degree. They are available for all enrolled students and can help with many of the anxieties and questions a transfer student may have.

Greer said, "I think the biggest thing with students is when they come in, you don't necessarily have to have a plan, but an end game, knowing you want a bachelors degree, of course, or if you have a major we can help you with that. If you are unsure, being willing to come talk to someone, to figure out, maybe you know what the right school might be; what the best fit is."

Communication is key. An application is often very impersonal and may not give the school an accurate understanding of who their applicants are. Effective communication can show the school that the applicant is more than a name on a piece of paper. They are a person, and better yet, someone who has actively taken the time to reach out and show an interest in the school they wish to attend. To Greer, being happy is the number one goal for a student making their decision. Greer strongly advised visiting the school one is applying to, rather than making a decision based on its website or application.

Greer said, "Visiting is huge; no one visits. I think it is really important to go there not just on spring break, not just over winter break or over the summer; you have to go when class is in session. If you go to Tech for a day, what does being around more than 30 thousand students feel like. That's very different than Piedmont."

PVCC Learns the History of Gospel

Joe Chafetz, Staff Writer

It was 7:25 p.m. on a Saturday night, and the line was out the door of Dickinson and then some. Groups of music fans and life-long learners chatted while waiting for their tickets to be collected. The crowd shuffled into and eventually packed the auditorium. It was a full house. Despite the variety of people attending, there was an atmosphere of familiarity and shared interest. The house lights dimmed and the crowd erupted into applause as Horace Scruggs and his band took the stage.

“We’re gonna talk tonight about the history of gospel,” said Scruggs, as the band took up their positions, “and it might not be as straight and narrow as you may think.” The band - with Scruggs on the piano - played an upbeat tune, “Oh Happy Day!”

Scruggs then went on to give a half-hour presentation on the evolution of the genre. The lecture covered everyone from Sam Cooke to Big Mama Thornton and explained how over time Gospel came to be influenced by the contemporary music surrounding it. Despite some technical difficulties, Scruggs had members

of the audience clapping along, singing, and even, at points, dancing.

In one video demonstrating the difference between sacred and secular blues, a group of women performed a choreography that could have been taken straight from a modern music video. “Hey, I guess we know where Beyoncé got her moves from,” Scruggs joked. After concluding the lecture, Scruggs and the band performed several more pieces including a South African piece called “Siam.” The audience received the music with an air of newfound appreciation.

“I hope people come away from this with an idea of the living history of Gospel. It’s one thing to study the history, but to hear the music you’re studying live is just a different experience. I’m also trying to break down some of the stereotypes people may have about Gospel. There’s this idea that Gospel has sort of always been on the straight and narrow, and that’s not true. Gospel, like any other genre, has influenced and been influenced by the music around it,” said Scruggs. Horace Scruggs is a music teacher in Fluvanna County and a professor of Jazz history and piano at PVCC.

Faculty Holds Recital on Another Note

Antonia Florence, Assistant Editor

Between relentless rain other events going on in the area, overcrowded seating was not an issue for PVCC’s Faculty Recital on February 21. However, the performers did not disappoint.

The afternoon began with Ruth Ann Bishop and Melody Day, both sopranos. They sang duets to English composer Henry Purcell’s “Sound the Trumpet” and “Lost is My Quiet For Ever.” Gina Tuck accompanied them on piano.

A medley of German lieder followed from the Bishop and Gina Tuck duo. Lieder characteristically are of poetic text and performed as a collaboration of voice and piano, with both equally robust and playful. Bishop came to life on the first selection, “Heidenroslein,” as Tuck

commanded the keyboard.

Six Songs, a selection of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg’s work, was a collaboration of Kay Bethea on the piano and David Wilson on the saxophone. Day and Tuck returned for two arias from “Susannah” by American opera composer Carlisle Floyd, “Ain’t it a Pretty Night?” and “Trees on the Mountains Are Cold and Bare.”

The program concluded with three preludes of George Gershwin. These were arranged by Gregory Stone for four hands, a duet played on one key board. Bishop, this time on piano, and Bethea looked like they were having fun as they melded their talent and produced a lively and full piece which lifted spirits for the walk outside... into the rain.

PVCC Instructors Exhibit at McGuffey

Arif Michael Vega, Staff Writer

Adjunct instructors Fenella Belle and Stacey Evans displayed collaborative work Feb. 5 at McGuffey Art Center. The monthly “First Fridays” in downtown Charlottesville was busy, with hundreds of visitors at a time.

According to Belle, around 1,000 people visited the exhibit throughout the night. “It is hard to say, but I did have to buy four cases of wine,” she said.

The exhibit, named “Looplab (pling pling),” included draperies, paintings and two interactive installations. One was moving photography, with participants encouraged to step into the projection with lab coats or large white cards. The participant was to observe small portions as a separate entity. The second interactive piece was a magnetic amalgamation of cut-up photographs by Stacey Evans. With this, participants were encouraged to rearrange the photos in any way they saw fit.

Both have been on display at PVCC prior to their display at McGuffey. The projection was on display for “Let There Be Light” and the interactive magnetic sculpture in the West

Gallery of the Dickinson Building.

Looplab is an experiment in social feedback loops. The exhibit aims for the multiplication and expansion of participation, conversation and collaboration. Evans said, “It’s kind of circular. If someone steps into it, someone creates something, and it just kind of continues.”

In the projection piece, called Space Scrambler, participants stand in front of a projector and use large cards to examine smaller parts of the work. By holding the cards closer or farther away, the participant can zoom in and out on their view of the project. “It’s about pulling somebody in it ... to start to transform the space onto these different cards. And then understanding that the more they move in and out, the actual light falling on the card is changing in scale and color. If you distort it or change it, small changes impact the overall scene,” said Stacey Evans.

The collaboration for the exhibit began about a year ago when Nia Stoddard, a mutual friend, suggested it. The two had also been working together at PVCC for years and collaborated on a summer camp at McGuffey in the past.

The exhibit is on display at through Feb. 28.

Return of the volunteer club

Arif Michael Vega, Staff Writer

The PVCC Volunteer Club has been revived. Former adviser Kim Hoosier’s close colleague, Dr. Todd Platts, volunteered as faculty adviser.

After three preliminary meetings, officers were appointed, a budget submitted and three projects begun.

Officers are Ashleigh Killiebrew, president; Yolanda Espinoza, vice president; Natalie Greene, treasurer; Arif Vega, secretary; and Asa Cohen, student government representative.

A budget request of \$1500 was submitted.

Projects voted into action are a Super Smash Brothers tournament, which is a fundraising collaboration with the SSB club, an Easter event and HIV testing. Working with refugees is also a

possibility, with research pending.

Ongoing actions to increase participation was also identified as an important element of the club’s efforts.

The volunteer club was disbanded for over a year. Several members continued the efforts through the winter with Santa Matters, a holiday party for the children of inmates of the regional jail. The club has a rich history with PVCC, organizing events such as the battle of the bands, Halloween and Easter events, coat drives, food drives, community outreach and awareness programs.

They have also worked with several local organizations such as SARA, local food banks, the Environmental and Horticulture Club and Habitat for Humanity.

PVCC Celebrates Black History Month

Hamed Karama, Staff Writer

To honor Black History Month, the Black Student Alliance led a celebration of Black culture in the North Mall meeting room on Feb. 24. It included music, dancing and refreshments. From 12-2 p.m., students had the opportunity to drop by and enjoy poetry, lively swing and smooth jazz. With the help of Chef Ralph Brown, one of its leading members, the BSA provided food including chicken wings, pizza rolls and vegetable platters.



The Cotton Club, as the event was called, focused on the Harlem Renaissance and celebrated the artists who rose to popularity in the 1920's. Poetry included selections from Langston Hughes. The intimacy of the small space in the North Mall meeting room was juxtaposed by the energy exuded from the dancers, and though it was a little dark, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves eating and chatting. Cameren Grooms, a member of the BSA and an organizer for the event



said, "The idea for the event came from the feeling that Black culture and history were not being celebrated enough."

For Grooms, an Education major, Black History Month is about learning from the lessons of the past. He believes it is a time in which the sacrifices made by those before him are "brought to the forefront" of his mind. Grooms said it was a "time for me to look at what people did to allow me to be where I am today." When asked which people in particular came to mind, Grooms mentioned Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Dr. King is most inspiring."

Throughout the event, Grooms also discussed contemporary Black culture. "People need to listen to what he's saying, not just what he's doing," Grooms said in reference to rapper Kendrick Lamar. "Artists should be aware of their influential position and use it wisely," he added.

As the event was winding down, Grooms pointed to the man who catered it, Chef Ralph Brown, to thank him for making the event a success. He also thanked the BSA's advisor, Dr. Wert, and all the students that stopped by. "It's about having fun," said Grooms. With all the soulful sounds and even more soulful food, there was no shortage of fun.



**Cameren Grooms enjoying the music.
Photography by Kellyn Torres**

Reflections of the Oppressed

Joe Fowler, Staff Writer

Several seemingly hypnotized people swung, swayed, danced and played in the black room with florescent lights. Led by the random whims of their partners, the participants existed only for an outstretched hand no more than a foot from their faces. Tasked only to keep their faces level with their partner's hand, attendees at the "Theatre of the Oppressed" workshop in the Black Box of the Dickinson building, engaged in a process of letting go and trusting.

"The basic aim of the Theatre of the Oppressed is to humanize Humanity," reads the first principle on the Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) website. Brad Stoller, coordinator of theater productions at PVCC, and drama therapist Mecca Burns accomplished just that when they hosted a TO workshop on Feb. 9.

"We try to show rather than tell," said Stoller regarding TO. Participating in the event provided a far more fulfilling experience than anything revealed by prior research.

According to an announcement for the workshop on the PVCC website, TO was first developed in the '60s and consists of various theatrical practices designed to address social issues through acting while also incorporating audience participation. Both Stoller and Burns learned the techniques involved with TO directly from its founder, Augusto Boal.

In a form of image theater, Stoller and Burns began a dialogue involving a conflict over work conditions. Stoller represented one party, Burns another, the party considered to be the oppressor. Two other participants represented the image of one party from the perspective of the other.

The first phase of the exercise involved both Stoller and Burns whispering into the ears of their images. In a highly dramatic manner, a performer named Alexandra presented the concerns whispered by Stoller to the oppressor, a man who apparently did not wish to be bothered by what seemed to be petty and exaggerated complaints from Alexandra.

Gradually, Burns and Stoller stepped away

and let the images engage in their conflict. The exchange became more heated with each argument before Burns and Stoller stepped back in to whisper into the ears of their images. The tone gradually became less intense.

The images stepped aside, leaving only Stoller and Burns. "I wish we could hear each other," said Stoller, also adding that he thought Burns wished the same. "I hear that," said Burns, concluding the demonstration.

The activity humanized two opposing parties in the eyes of one another, while carrying a strong message regarding the often overlooked half of communication: listening.

Stoller and Burns then broke the participants into groups of four to act out their own conflicts using the previous example.

I found myself fifth in a group of four, an observer. An older woman named Lynn expressed her feelings over a breakup with a younger man. For the performance, Lynn perceived the younger man as a type of oppressor for taking her for granted. The exact form of oppression involved how society seems to cast aside older, wiser women for their younger counterparts.

Alexandra, in a kind of repeat performance, served as Lynn's image. A younger man, named Rob, acted as the offending party. A performer in various acting troupes with Stoller, Malik, played the role of Rob's projection.

The performance played out much the same as the prior example. In the last stage, Malik and Misty talked calmly to one another. Lynn eventually broke into tears. The other four of us waited and watched until Lynn's tears ceased. We then received gratitude, hugs and a smile from Lynn.

Burns then addressed the boundaries of TO. Was there a way to take things too far using projections as in the exercise? "Is there protection in this liminal realm between real and make believe?" she said.

I had to let go more than I have in years while engaging as a participant in this workshop. I found it both fulfilling and safe.

Inside the Bernie Sanders Campaign

Arif Michael Vega, Staff Writer

Around 150 people gathered at Charlottesville's City Space to coordinate the volunteer efforts to support the Bernie Sanders campaign. On Jan. 9, a room full of supporters sorted themselves by their location and availability to staff call centers.

Dan Epstein, the Virginia coordinator, called for local leadership and about 20 people from across Virginia answered. Call centers were established for Luray, Staunton, and Nelson County, among other localities. The mood was light, with a host in Luray even promising to serve beer and wine in his effort to win supporters for Sanders.

Volunteers were encouraged to bring a laptop to the call center of their choice, though the program allowed for two callers per computer. Volunteers were also encouraged to be polite with those supporting other candidates. "We do not want to disparage other candidates," said Dan Epstein, the Virginia coordinator. Another difference with this campaign is that Virginians were calling Virginians, a practice Epstein labelled "unconventional."

Nic McCarthy, an area director for the campaign, hosted one call center held at the downtown Jefferson-Madison Regional Library's McIntire Room on Jan. 18. Seven people chatted with citizens about the Sanders campaign. A script was provided, though generally not adhered to. The calling list, provided by the Democratic Party, included supporters of both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. In addition to providing volunteers with the contact information of potential supporters, the program also allowed volunteers to collect demographic information for future campaigns. A list of descriptions was attached to each phone number, with the operator prompted to enter information such as "Did not answer," "Do not call," "Strongly Clinton" and "Undecided."

Operators grew tired during long bouts of unanswered calls or brusque answers. Their energy was revitalized, however, every time a



caller had a good conversation or secured the promise of another volunteer. One operator's voice grew excited, animating the others, and the pitch grew to a cacophony of one-line greetings: "I am calling with the Bernie Sanders campaign" and "I am a volunteer with the Bernie Sanders campaign." A phone was set down, an announcement of the latest success was yelled out, and the cacophony ended with a cheer.

After two hours, McCarthy left to pick up pizza. Operators broke and took ten minutes to eat, then promptly returned to calling.

Volunteers' calls reached a diverse audience. Some were volunteers for other campaigns. While others were staunch Sanders supporters. One woman insisted the operator not call her boyfriend anymore. Many of the calls were made at the traditional dinnertime, prompting complaints from some call recipients.

According to McCarthy, over 10,000 calls were made in the first week of the phone banking drive alone.

The Sanders campaign also hosted voter registration drives at UVA, registering around 20 new Virginia voters per hour. A team of volunteers traveled the state holding similar events.

One follow-up phone banking campaign was organized by students Ariana Miklowitz and Allen Mendez at PVCC. Six volunteers agreed to host for three hours a week, using the data obtained in the first round to target the refined audience, defined by information gained by previous phone banks drives.

The Bank-Breaking Cost of Textbooks

Elise Hansen, Staff Writer

“Three hundred forty-eight dollars and fifty cents. I know [it] exactly,” said first-year student Talur Martin. The cost of her textbooks this semester is indelibly printed on her mind.

“I spent only about 45 dollars because I didn’t buy one of the textbooks I was supposed to get,” said fourth-semester student Graham Farnsworth. He estimates that he would have spent about \$145 otherwise. Mathew Trimm used to spend between \$400 and \$500 each semester. After changing majors he paid around \$140, which, in comparison to other semesters, is “really cheap, like extremely cheap” for him.

PVCC’s in-state tuition per credit hour is \$135 (\$148.15 with fees). How can a textbook cost as much as a college credit?

Dr. John Donnelly, vice president for instruction and student services, calls the textbook publishing industry a near “monopoly” in which “students are essentially hostages” to exorbitant textbook costs. “I think [the costs] are ridiculous,” he said.

PVCC is in the process of helping students reduce textbook expenses and is “all over the spectrum” in the methods it employs, Donnelly said. In addition to offering used and rental textbooks at the bookstore, some professors are using “brief editions,” a shorter version of the original text for only a fraction of the cost. PVCC’s Textbook and Educational Resources Adoption Policy strongly encourages faculty to seek out lower-cost materials of comparable quality, including previous editions of textbooks whenever possible, so that students can purchase or rent used books from year to year instead of paying more for the newest editions.

Online resources have also played a large role in reducing textbook expenditures and have the potential to revolutionize education and the publishing industry. “[Online educational resources] is the newest, transformative thing happening in higher education,” Donnelly said. He believes it will open post-secondary education

to students who currently cannot afford it and “transform how students will pay” for educational resources.

Online content exists in different forms, from public-domain Online Education Resources (OER) to e-books to reputable Web pages. As more classes transition to using online materials, faculty find themselves drawing from any number of these sources.

“We try where we can to make classes textbook-free,” said Instructor of Information Technology Mike Ferero. Because many technology resources are available online, technology courses in particular have made substantial strides toward eliminating textbook costs. ITE 119, an Information Literacy course, now uses only online materials, as does ITE 120, Principles of Information Systems. ITN 170, Linux System Administration, uses online documentation in place of textbooks, and network security-related classes use e-books and online readings.

PVCC is also participating in the Zx23 Project. According to the project’s webpage, it is a one-year grant for participating VCCS colleges, that is “used to support and train faculty and staff at sixteen Virginia community colleges to build Z-Degrees at their institutions.” A Z-Degree is “a set of courses in a specific program area that allows a student to earn a college credential, such as an associate degree, with zero textbook costs.” The project utilizes Open Educational Resources, which are free and openly licensed, to meet this goal.

Crystal Newell, coordinator of library services, is a key member of the Zx23 program at PVCC. She helps participating faculty evaluate resources and navigate the complicated terrain of copyright and licensing details. Overall, Newell estimates that 11 or 12 courses have now eliminated textbooks, which amounts to significant savings for students. The VCCS as a whole has saved dollar amounts “in the millions” through participation in the program, she estimates.

Spring 2016 is the pilot semester for the Zx23 Project, so the program has accumulated little formal feedback; however, many faculty and students have created or experienced a textbook-free course and can speak to the pros and cons of the shift.

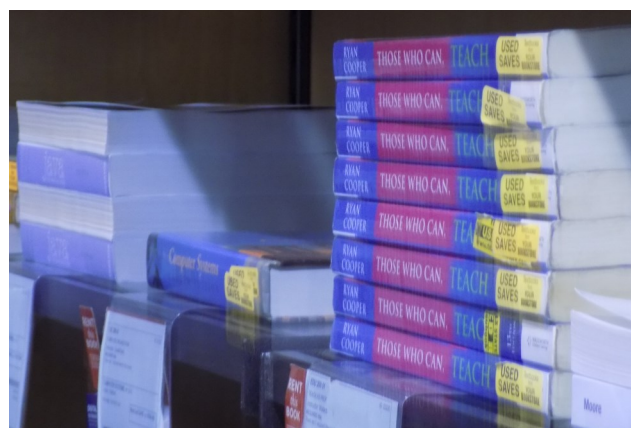
Ferero names “quality control” as one of the main hurdles to assembling a curriculum solely from online resources. However, in some cases, he found that online resources have improved the course material. For some classes, “we’ve developed or found better exercises...than what was in the textbook to begin with,” he said. For instance, sometimes students begin to read more primary sources, rather than a secondary-source textbook.

Brennan Tanner, a fine arts major, noticed this trend in his History of Western Civilization class. “Readings can be from a lot of different sources,” he said. “We read excerpts from historical sources, plays from the period we’re reading...last week was the letters by Plutarch.”

However, going digital has some disadvantages. Ferero acknowledged that because online materials are often in a variety of locations, “you do have to bounce around... there’s no one place for students to go to read [the material].” Donnelly, too, has spoken with students who voice similar concerns. “Some students say they want to have a real book in their hands,” he said.

And some online resources might not be entirely user-friendly. Talur Martin describes her online math text: “It sucks. It’s really hard to find what you need, and you have to type in the page number every time you want to turn the page.” The web-assign math courses are not a part of the OER movement, since they do still have associated costs. However, they demonstrate the conflict between a desire to incorporate technology in the classroom with the practical realities of a user interface that has not always caught up.

Some disciplines are less suited to online material. More creative or modern content makes public-domain resources more challenging to find, said Newell. Subjects such as literature usually have to rely on other cost-reducing strategies, such as shrinking the number of



Photography by Elise Hansen

required textbooks and providing used or rental copies for students.

Ferero, Newell and Donnelly all noted the time investment required by faculty in order to move class resources to online material. “The time and effort involved on individual faculty is very large,” said Newell. Donnelly, a strong advocate of online resources, admits that his History 101 and 102 classes still use a textbook in part because of expediency. It takes time to switch over to digital content, he explained. Ultimately, though, “the benefits to students far outweigh the problems or challenges,” said Donnelly.

The effects for students and colleges have become sufficiently dramatic that the textbook publishing industry has begun to take notice. “Publishers are responding as a result [of the changes], and I hope there will be some compromises made as a result,” said Newell. “It’s huge,” said Donnelly, speaking of the impact on the industry. “[Publishers] are definitely paying attention.” Some have begun to consolidate high-quality OER materials and make them available for a one-time, lower cost, he said.

Ultimately, PVCC faculty and administrators recognize textbook costs as a barrier to student achievement, and VCCS names textbook costs as an impediment to its six-year plan to triple the number of credentials that students earn. College tuitions are increasing, textbook costs are increasing, but wages are not, explained Newell. “This is not something we can ignore...we need to do something. And this is something we can do.”

“It’s 2016. It’s time,” she said.

Wintergreen Resort Finally Gets the Ball Rolling

Ryan Winkler, Staff Writer

It has been a tumultuous start of the 2015-2016 Ski and Snowboard season at Wintergreen Resort in Nelson County.

In fact, calling it the “2015-2016 season” is a bit misleading. The mountain did not even open until about a week into January, a far cry from the previous season, when it opened over Thanksgiving weekend. However, this year, with near record-breaking warm temperatures throughout the month of December, it appeared as if Wintergreen would never open for the denizens of central Virginia who enjoy seasonal winter sports.

PVCC student and Wintergreen season pass holder Jamal Scott expressed his frustration at the conditions thus far and his thankfulness for the blizzard central Virginia received.

“After spending \$250 on a season pass in early December and not seeing any cold weather for pretty much the entire month, I was seriously regretting my decision. But it’s just been one of

those years. The snow we got last weekend was awesome, and I’m glad Wintergreen is up and running,” he said.

Wintergreen received over two feet and now is completely up and running. With a base of up to 80 inches in most places (Wintergreen uses an artificial snowmaking system called SnowPower, aside from natural snow), the resort has finally reached their goal. On Sunday, Jan. 24, Wintergreen saw its first “powder day” of the season, and was completely packed from sun up to sun down.

With a forecast of potential rain and warmer temperatures throughout the next two weeks, it is anyone’s guess how long the good conditions will last at Wintergreen.

For the casual skier or snowboarder, one or two weekends like the previous one are enough to satisfy their appetite for winter sports. However, for season pass holders and avid skiers and snowboarders, it is a daily ordeal to worry about how long the snow will stay on the mountain to be enjoyed.

Charlottesville’s New Skate Park

Ryan Winkler, Staff Writer

For quite some time now, Charlottesville has been home to a fairly vibrant skateboarding culture in relation to the size of the city. With several skate shops that have come and gone, the resilience of skateboarders throughout the city has shone through the tough times.

Charlottesville skateboarding faced adversity when the original McIntire Skate Park was torn down in order to make way for the new bypass bridge off of McIntire road.

Since then, the skate park has been moved across the 250 bypass to a much smaller space just on the edge of the former McIntire golf course. With a serious reduction in features, space, and amenities, many skaters feel that the “new” park, frankly, just does not compare to the old one.

Fortunately, there is a beacon of hope on the horizon.

The city of Charlottesville has a multi-million dollar plan to advance skating in the city by constructing an all-concrete skate plaza where the current park stands.

The plans and concepts for the new park have been approved by all regulatory agencies, with the budget also having been submitted to the city and Parks and Recreation offices.

Former PVCC student and skater Shiruna Ntenda said, “It was a travesty to see the old skate park get torn down, and for Charlottesville’s skaters to only be provided with a fraction of what we had all grown to know and love about skating in town. However, all of my friends and I are ecstatic to see what the future will bring, but most of all we are stoked to ride a perfect concrete park right here in our hometown.”

New Coffee Shop Perks Up PVCC

Cynthia Beasley, Staff Writer

Along with the New Year and new semester, Piedmont Virginia Community College has welcomed a new local business onto their campus this month. What used to be Mermaid Express has been replaced by Perk Up. They are offering a wider variety of drinks, snacks, baked goods, and many healthy alternatives such as hot teas, smoothies, and fruit.

“I have always wanted to get into business after watching my parents run their own business. I’m a very hands-on learner,” said new owner Ellie Beverly.

So when the owner of the previous coffee shop across from the library, Kristin Cole, decided it was time to sell Mermaid Express, Beverly saw this as the perfect opportunity to set her plans into motion.

At the age of 21, Beverly made the bold decision to start her own business after previous experience of working at Greenhouse Coffee. When asked about the name change and new look, she said, “We want it to look warm,

welcoming, and inviting, and we want the students to realize that this is completely different from Mermaid Express.”

Perk Up is offering a greater variety of choices of both drinks and food. They are now serving dark, medium, and light roast of coffee along with lattes, mochas, espresso, and other hot and cold drinks. The coffee is brewed fresh daily and is from local coffee house, Shenandoah Joe’s. For non-coffee drinkers, there are many other options as well. These include herbal teas and fresh smoothies that include half of a pound of fruit.

If you are looking for a quick snack on your way to class or the library, Perk Up also has that to offer. And like their coffee, their fresh pastries are baked locally at Greenhouse Coffee. These include anything from cupcakes, muffins, breakfast cookies, and even kettle corn. They are also offering many gluten free and healthier alternatives such as apples, bananas, and granola bars.

Perk Up is conveniently located right across from the library.

If you are looking for a quick pick-me-up, stop by and meet the friendly staff and grab one of their delicious pastries and a hot drink.

It is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m



Photography by Elise Hansen

Ix Art Park Appoints Executive Director

Arif Michael Vega, Staff Writer

The Ix Art Park formally adopted executive staff Jan. 4. This move, by Monticello Associates board of directors, marks the change from ephemeral experiment to formal establishment. Radical expression has been homeless for several years, since the bulldozing of Random Row Bookstore. Brian Wimer will now take the lead at the Ix Art Park and Lounge, directing events, artists and professionals to speak, perform and present.

The Ix Art Park and Lounge are a social experiment in free thought and accessibility. According to Wimer, society does not allow enough space for free expression. “You can go to the library, you can go to Lee Park, but you can probably count on one hand how many accessible free spaces there are in the city,” he said. “There are a lot of coffee shops, but I want to make this space more accessible throughout the day.”

Beryl Solla, professor of art at PVCC, praised their efforts. “I think Ix provides people with an index to the arts, and generates lots of events that are interesting to people of all ages.”

Many of the events at the park are hosted as potluck, with people bringing food and drinks to share with the community. All of them are free. At the recurring “Drink and Draw” event, people bring beer or wine and sketch a live model. Other events offer products for sale, such as the fall concert series, which generates revenue providing beer from Three Notch’d Brewery.

Fall concerts are also funded through Levitt AMP, a matching grant of up to \$25,000. Last year, this program extended free concerts in Charlottesville for weeks after the end of Fridays After Five. Praise was heard at city council for the project, and its free events.

Previously holding the unpaid position as primary instigator, Wimer is now an employee with a small stipend for running the park. “It’s about a quarter of what it would take to run the park. The rest I have to raise myself, or generate with revenues from events or rentals,” he said.

Under his leadership, Ix will be hosting a diverse and collaborative community according to Wimer. Participants have created a crowded schedule of presentations at Ix Lounge, a free and open venue for all ages. Repair Café teaches people to fix things. Make Out Mondays features experts in psychology talking on intimacy and relationships. A host of programs with names like “Solstix,” “Ixuinox,” and “Summer Olympix” are anticipated too.

The focus is on open participation. The process Wimer prefers is collaborative instead of restrictive. He repeatedly said, “I want you to give yourself permission.” Citing an upcoming program from Charlottesville Pride, he outlined the importance of inclusion for self-awareness. “For LGBT youth, it’s the ideal space, because it’s a space that has not decided what it is.” He said, “And here are some young people who are trying to find out who they are, and perhaps they never will. But it’s ok ... this isn’t codified.”

Wimer also cited an American disaffection with community participation, and a pervasive fear of public space. He compared Charlottesville activities with his experience abroad. “In England there are people with strollers out at 10 p.m.,” he said.

He hopes to extend activities later in the evening with more illuminated art for safety.

The art park is his project, but Wimer stays hands-off when it comes to installations and events. “I can instigate all sorts of weird stuff,” he said. “But it’s better if I just hold the space, and I have an open door, and an invitation to people who bring to me, ideally, fully baked ideas.”

Community outreach is an important aspect of Wimer’s plan. He has been working with Tandem, the Renaissance school, schools in the county. He is hoping to reach the Boys and Girls Club and the Boy Scouts.

Solla has organized a collaboration with her design and sculpture students at PVCC and Clark Elementary School, building planters and other work based on the kindergarteners painting.

Fins and Feathers of Fralin

Sam Jefferson, Staff Writer

The Fralin Museum of Art is located near the University of Virginia and has free admission. It is home to a wide range of paintings and sculptures, created by artists from different eras. What makes the museum a constant interest is that it switches its exhibits every few months.

One of its current exhibits, *Fish and Fowl*, focuses on the various aspects of art through a common subject, which are birds and fish. The location of this exhibit can be found in the room across from the front entrance, and though the exhibit is only limited to one room, there are over a dozen different works of art complete with plaques.

There are many works of art that will capture your interest. For example, there is a small hand-sewn cloth titled *Appliqué Cloth*, which has different images woven in which makes a powerful statement. Another interesting art piece

is the photograph Fish Tank. Hagi, Japan. From the viewers perspective, it is a picture of an occupied fish tank with the city of Hagi in the background.

Though it might seem random, there is symbolic meaning to an art exhibition of fish and birds.

“The idea for the exhibition originated from the anthropological theory that humans place connotations onto live animals, and those associated thoughts and feelings are translated into a representation of the animal,” said curator Alicia Dissinger, “Birds and fish have captured imaginations throughout history because they possess innate capabilities - flying and swimming - which we, as humans, do not naturally possess. And those things we do not easily possess, are things we tend to admire or find inquisitive, and want to replicate in art.”

The *Fish and Fowl* exhibit is open for free public viewing until June 19.

Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection

Sam Jefferson, Staff Writer

If you wish to experience foreign art in a local building, visit the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art collection. There, you can get a look at art that was first introduced thousands of years ago.

Aboriginal art is an ancient style first practiced by indigenous Australians. Using tree bark and stone as canvases, the Aboriginal Australians would use crushed clay, ochre, and other minerals as their source of pigment. This gave their paintings an overall earthen color.

Often times, the painting served to tell stories, sometimes being conveyed through simple circles and lines.

My experience visiting the museum was enjoyable, and the paintings and exhibits were interesting to view. One display was a pair of log coffins displayed in the middle of the room.

Apparently, whenever someone passed away, their bodies were laid to decay on platforms while their family members went about building and

painting the coffin. Once the body was properly decomposed, the remains were placed in the coffin, which was set upright to mark the final resting place of the deceased. The coffin and grave marker were one and the same.

The display rooms were small, and I was told by the receptionist that only 1 percent of the collection was on display at the time, with the rest to be eventually cycled out.

In spite of this, what few exhibits on display were interesting, and viewing them felt like Australia. I highly recommend this exhibit to anyone with an interest in foreign art. In addition to the fascinating paintings and exhibits, the staff is also quite friendly.

“Indigenous Australians have been painting for 70-80,000 years,” said receptionist Nicole Wade, “And their painting at that time, on the body and on the landscape, isn’t permanent. Since the 1970’s onward, we are able to collect works that are portable and permanent in an effort to continue telling those stories and traditions.”

Piedmont Profile: Susan Hannifan

Sam Jefferson, Staff Writer

Like any educational institution, Piedmont Virginia Community College can be difficult for many students, including those who suffer from disabilities. Fortunately, Susan Hannifan, the Disability Services Counselor, is here to help any students who find themselves struggling in class. Located in the Main Buildings Room M125, Hannifan can provide all the help that students need to make it through the semester.

Born in a small town in Rhode Island,

Hannifan was the first person in her family to attend college. During her undergraduate studies, an interest in education led Hannifan to start a career in teaching, but disliked the classroom environment and reconsidered her options.

While taking a sociology class, Hannifan had to complete specific service requirements. She fulfilled this requirement by volunteering at a local group home for children. There, she would tutor children outside of the classroom setting, and even take them for recreational activities.

Hannifan eventually changed her major from education to social work, and with a great deal of effort, she obtained a bachelor's degree in social work from Rhode Island College and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University.

From there, she eventually settled into Disabilities Services at PVCC.

"It is fulfilling to work with students," said Hannifan, "and assist them by providing the support they need. My favorite day on my job is graduation day when I see the students I have worked with through the years cross that stage to receive their degrees."

Susan Hannifan has many hobbies, including cooking, gardening, and reading. She also works out at the gym to keep herself in physical health. She lives in Fluvanna County and enjoys the rural setting that it provides.

Hannifan enjoys spending her free time with her dog who is part beagle and part Jack Russell terrier.



Photograph courtesy of Susan Hannifan

Riddles

Brennan Tanner, Staff Writer

One seen as seven,
As the raindrops made it so,
After the storm still.
A bridge made for many gods,
To stretch from heaven to earth.

A harsh blade of ice,
That cuts right to the bone, chill,
Breath of Boreas.

Four green hearts for luck,
On a stem they join as one,
Waiting to be plucked.

A crest of sea-foam,
Long and graceful limbs and neck,
Dancing through the waves.
Coat of ivory velvet,
Silver shoes on cobbles chime.



Classifieds

Three Facts about Virginia Festival of the Book

- Most of the events are free.
- Events will be held throughout Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Locations include: The Onmi Hotel, UVA Culbreth Theater, the Paramount Theater, Barnes & Noble, various local schools, libraries, and other bookstores.
- This year, they are celebrating the centennial of the Pulitzer Prize. Attendees can meet Pulitzer Prize winning poets Rita Dove, Gregory Pardlo, and Vijay Seshadri on Mach 18.

Learn more online:
<http://vabook.org/>

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