

Casino Night is Coming Up!

Skye Scott, staff writer

Casino night is packed with food, laughter, free gambling and lots of fun! This will be the eighth year that students and faculty have gathered together in the Bolick Center at PVCC dressed in costumes to enjoy a safe, fun-filled night. The night will start at 7 p.m. and wrap up at 11 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28.

Fake gambling money will be handed out to anyone interested in participating in Blackjack, Craps, Hold'em Poker or Roulette. Tables will be set up in the Bolick center for these games.

Extra playing tickets will be awarded to anyone who shows

up wearing a fun costume or PVCC ID. Students can obtain free ID's at the public safety office located down the main hallway in the main building.

The winner of the best costume contest will receive an extra \$10,000 in fake money for gambling! There will also be a raffle at the end of the night where each participant will have the chance to win iPads, other electronics, or gift cards.

The biggest difference from previous years is the raffling process. "I want people to have an easier time getting their raffles," said Olivia Stevens, director of events for the SGA. Stevens is working to create the

Miss the Welcome
 Back Social?

See pages 10-11

raffle into a more efficient process, making it easier for winners to receive their prizes.

"Casino night is a great opportunity for PVCC students to get together and participate in fun activities sponsored by the SGA. [We are] working hard to make the event an enjoyable and memorable one. PVCC campus will be beaming with fun games, music, and activities in the Bolick center. PVCC students, don't forget to dress up, show your ID, and get the chance to win an iPad mini and other amazing prizes!" said Wadah Al Mulhim, president of the SGA.

In This Issue

- PVCC Events -pg. 2
- SGA Update -pg. 3
- Clubs -pgs. 6-7
- Books -pgs. 8-9
- Student Services -pg. 13
- Reviews -pgs. 14-15
- Profiles -pgs. 16-17



President Frank Friedman deals Blackjack at Casino Night 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Speaker: “Emerging Fissures in the EU” *** —
Oct. 3, 12 p.m., Main Building 229
- **RAD Club Popcorn & T-shirt Fundraiser**—
Oct. 4, 12-3 p.m., Bolick Center
- **Latin Ballet of Virginia** ^ —
Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Building
- **5th District Congressional Debate *** —
Oct. 10, 7-9 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium
- **One Book Film: *The Truman Show* *** —
Oct. 12, 5:30 p.m., Main Building, Library Classroom
- **RAD Club: Self-Defense Workshops** —
Oct. 13 and 14, Main Building
- **“Veteran's Story Theater” Workshop *** —
Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dickinson Building, Maxwell Theater
- **One Book Talk: Mike Ferero *** —
Oct. 19, 12 p.m., Main Building 229
- **Comedy Writing Workshop *** —
Oct. 21, 1-4 p.m., Dickinson Building
- **Free Movie Friday: *Florence Foster Jenkins* *** —
Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium
- **United Nations of Comedy Series** ^ —
Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Building
- **PVCC Theatre Presents: *Macbeth***—
Oct. 28 & Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 29 & Nov. 11, 2:30 p.m.
Dickinson Building, Maxwell Theater
- **PVCC Theatre Presents: *Much Ado About Nothing***—
Oct. 28 & Nov. 12, 2:30 p.m.; Oct. 29 & Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Dickinson Building, Maxwell Theater
- **One Book Talk—Waldo Jaquith *** —
Nov. 2, 12 p.m., Main Building 229

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

Get involved with the iCitizen App

Athena Alving, staff writer

Following the Congressional debate Monday, Oct. 10, the congressional candidates will answer questions asked by PVCC staff and students. To have a say in this debate, download the iCitizen app and complete polls on the questions you believe should be asked. Assistant Professor Connie Jorgensen said, “Questions you want asked get asked. Make them listen to you.”

Make sure to put the campus address* when making an account so the panel of interviewers can get your opinion.

Not only will this app poll on questions for the debate, it can be used to poll students on issues around campus. For example, what do you think of the food in the cafeteria? The iCitizen app will also take issues you find important and push news articles and polls straight to your device.

The polling for questions starts next week so be sure to download the app and put your opinion out there.

*501 College Drive, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902



 [Submit Issue](#)

Screen cap of the iCitizen App



Student Government Association News

Olivia Stevens: Bringing the Fun to PVCC

Skye Scott, staff writer

Olivia R. Stevens is the new Director of Events for PVCC’s Student Government Association (SGA). This semester brought about the beginning of her second year at PVCC and her first time on the executive board of the SGA.

Stevens initially came to PVCC so that she could stay close to her family after the death of her father.

She became involved in the SGA during her first semester, after a great experience in her high school SGA. She became interested in the position of director of events after also having been on the event committee in high school and thoroughly enjoying that experience.

“I want this year to be the best year for events. I want to get the school more involved in events,” Stevens said.



**SGA Director of Events Olivia Stevens
Photograph Courtesy of Olivia Stevens**

Her first event was the recent Welcome Back Social, which ended up being one of the biggest at PVCC. She was very pleased with the volunteer help she received from other SGA members and with the amazing number of students and faculty who came to partake in the fun.

Stevens said she has not faced any major challenges as director of events, mainly just little things that they have been able to quickly move past. She is always open to new ideas for events and wants students to feel free to bring their ideas to her attention.

“I want people to enjoy coming to Piedmont

and not just go to classes and then go back home. I want people to come to school, make friends, enjoy and make memories. I want people to leave Piedmont happy,” Stevens said.

Upcoming SGA Events

SGA Meeting, Oct. 4, 8 a.m., North Mall Meeting Room

SGA Meeting, Oct. 18, 8 a.m., North Mall Meeting Room

Casino Night, Oct. 28, Main Building on Campus

PVCC Students can Experience French Culture

Charles Stish, staff writer

At PVCC, there are several travel programs available for students to study and live abroad as an opportunity to enrich cultural experiences. One of these programs includes a nine-day tour of France for students to get a taste of French culture by seeing popular and historic sites and exploring the beautiful French countryside.

“It is an invaluable experience to go abroad and see how people live, see another culture, and to get out of your comfort zone,” said Kristine Swanson, assistant professor of French at PVCC and group leader for next year’s tour of France from May 16 - May 24. Swanson describes the trip as, “A quick view to spark interest. An enrichment tour for people to come and experience the joie de vivre that France represents.”

Swanson plans the trip to include traditional and well-known French landmarks including the beaches of Normandy, the Louvre, Versailles, St. Malo, Notre Dame, and more.

Since the tour is not a study-abroad program, it is open to not only students, but all people affiliated with the VCCS college system. Because of this, the trip does not cover college credits and financial aid does not cover the costs for the trip.

The expenses for those under thirty years old is \$2,950 over seven monthly payments of \$402, while it is \$432 over seven months for those over thirty. To have a better chance of going on tour, you must enroll for it before 95 days prior to the departure date. If you enroll within 94 days prior to departure you risk not being able to secure reservations for room and board and transportation.

If you want more information of the tour of France, Kristine Swanson can be contacted via email at kswanson@pvcc.edu.

You can also contact and learn more about the tours of Spain and Japan being offered via Professor of Spanish Kit Decker, at kdecker@pvcc.edu and Adjunct Professor of Japanese Noriko Donahue, at ndonahue@pvcc.edu



Picture of the Castle of Chenonceau from previous PVCC trip to France, courtesy of Kristine Swanson

Student Success Day Draws Record Crowd

Skye Scott, staff writer

Student Success day drew a big crowd this year in the Bolick Center of PVCC's main building on Sept. 9. Over 350 students attended either a workshop or the resource fair, according to the Student Success office.

The day consisted of 12 different interactive workshops for students from 10 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. Three workshops were scheduled each 25-minute time block.

There were workshops for math, financial aid, college transfer, writing, dealing with stress, and many more! Each workshop also offered free cookies to any students who attended.

Activity hour started at 12 p.m. and consisted of a resource fair followed by free food and music. To receive two slices of free pizza and a drink, all students had to do was walk around the resource fair and collect stickers from the various

departments they talked to there. The heads of each major department set up a table to talk with students about the different services around campus to help them succeed.

Phi Theta Kappa also had a table where they were encouraging students to sign a card stating that they commit to completing a degree at PVCC.

"We're hopeful that by holding this event during the sixth week of the semester, some students who may not be doing as well as they would like will begin immediately practicing/using some of what they were just exposed to," said David Lerman, the coordinator of student success.

If you missed the resource fair and want to know more about the services offered at school, check PVCC's home page under student services for a complete list! You can also find most PVCC services on Facebook.

Bard Book Smarts: Shakespeare by the Book

Ben Cozic, staff writer

There have been many writers that have changed the way we look at writing and storytelling, but there has not been one that can compare to William Shakespeare. His multiple plays, including *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, have been passed down for generations as some of the most compelling and powerful stories in fiction.

Whether they be tragic, historic or comedic, Shakespeare's plays have stood the test of time, but what about the man himself? What kind of information do we know about Shakespeare and his experiences in his writing? Well, you will find that some of the answers are closer than you think.

If you are near the University of Virginia, you will notice that one of the buildings, the Harrison/North Gallery Building, has a particular exhibit about Shakespeare. In this small but well-laid-out exhibit, you will find a number of well-organized glass cases divided into three sections, each including a specific point of information involving Shakespeare.

Each case has easy-to-read signs which tell you about an aspect of Shakespeare, and there are also videos around the exhibit that are informative and helpful if anyone has any questions about Shakespeare. For example, if you wanted to learn more about the first editions of Shakespeare's writings, the information in the cases gives a lot of info about the Bard.

The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (M to Th), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (F) and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Sat) until December 31. Worried that it may be costly or there won't be any space to park? Don't worry; the exhibit is free of charge, so you can enter whenever it is open, and there is easy metered parking around the university.

Some of the cases will be moved so that the First Folio tour can occur. The First Folio tour in the UVA Library containing many of Shakespeare's plays will be available from Oct. 1 to Oct. 26.

As Malvolio says in *Twelfth Night*, "Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

Club Day at PVCC: An Example of Diversity

Charles Stish, staff writer

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

Clubs are essential to social life at PVCC as they offer extra-curricular activities and events for their members, and others, to join in on, creating a rich social environment.

The clubs at PVCC are great for meeting like-minded people, making friends, and being more involved.

After interviewing several clubs, it is obvious that no matter the diversity, they all share the same objective, to attract people with similar interests and create an environment where they

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

The clubs at PVCC can be likened to paint colors on a palette. Each a different color representing something unique in the diverse social picture of PVCC's culture. Each one is important to strengthening the feeling of camaraderie, diversity, stewardship, and friendship that PVCC is about. Campus culture without the colorful contribution of the clubs would be stark indeed. Help keep the fabric of PVCC colorful. Be the color! Don't be shy to join a club. If it interests you, join it! Go to a meeting; get active! Be a spark of color in the picture of PVCC's amazing cultural and social diversity!

Formula SAE Team at PVCC

Lindsey Woodyard, staff writer

PVCC is only the second community college to attempt the FSAE (Formula Society of Automotive Engineers) Design Series competition, according to Linnea Saby, the project manager of PVCC's formula SAE team. The competition consists of designing and building a formula SAE racecar to perform against the nation's major four-year universities, including Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia.

The Formula Team at PVCC began last year as an offshoot of the Engineering Club. They spent their first year learning as a team, establishing the program, and gathering the resources necessary to get the project off the ground. This year, they expect to continue design plans and construction. There is also whispers of competing in 2017, but that is yet to be decided.

Their advisors are Hunter Moore, head of the Engineering Department, and Tom Clarkson, professor of ceramics, who enjoys mechanic work

in his spare time, especially motorcycles. There are three officer positions held by Linnea Saby, Josh Smith, and John Dukes who preside over four design and construction teams. There are the powertrain team, brake and suspension team, construction and frame team, and electrical team. The chief engineer of the project is Jason Richter.

In a meeting with other current members, Saby pointed out that the Formula Team embodies PVCC's motto: Opportunity, Access, Excellence. "There is opportunity in FSAE to bridge the gap between theoretical engineering education and hands-on application. The team also provides access to the professional engineering field through recognition and first-choice recruitment to universities and countries throughout the country. As for excellence, there is pride in competing with top-notch schools in the FSAE Design Series competition," commented Saby.

The team welcomes students in every program to join, as there are my types of positions available. Interested students should contact Hunter Moore at hmoore@pvcc.edu.

CRU at PVCC: A Fellowship Open to All

Charles Stish, staff writer

Sunny, warm, and bright are the words to describe the weather Sept. 7, 2016. Other than the high heat, the weather complemented the personalities of the Cru at PVCC members quite well.

The members and participants were laughing, joking, and smiling with each other as they set up assorted refreshments and activities. For them, this was not just an event but a gathering of friendship and camaraderie. They hope not only to have people learn about Cru, but also for people to join Cru with hopes of expanding the feeling of fellowship to all of PVCC.

“Myself and the other leaders in the club want to show that we are not just an organization, but a family. And ultimately we wish to include everyone in the Piedmont family by spread of the gospel,” said Donnie Wilson, president of Cru at PVCC. Even though it is a non-denominational Christian fellowship, Cru is open to all religions and everyone. Donnie Wilson said, “We would ultimately allow you to join the club and participate. But because we are a Christian club, we would show you the way of the gospel and not try and force you to convert. Following Christ is a personal decision and we, as Christians, are just called to plant the seed.”

Cru hopes to create a welcoming atmosphere and place for all. Evan Kiernan, worship leader at Cru and PVCC student, said, “CRU at PVCC, to most students, is where they feel welcome. As a Christian community, we aspire for unity in people, being able to share Christ in a compassionate way, and create a really friendly environment.”

Cru often holds extra-curricular activities for its members, mostly focusing on what its college student members would enjoy doing. Since Sept. 7, Cru will have already held several events; one being a weekend-long fall retreat to Watermarks Camp in Scottsville, Virginia. Aside from its interesting outside of school events, Cru at PVCC meets on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in Room M155. Cru at UVA meets on Thursdays at 8 p.m. in the UVA Chapel and is open to Cru at PVCC members as well.

One of Cru’s goals is to create a welcoming environment for new and old members no matter what school they attend. This way, a student member of Cru who transfers to new college should have a welcoming and familiar environment immediately.

Overall, the goals of Cru are to create unity, fellowship, and a place of welcoming to all.

Cru at PVCC is a small part of Cru as a whole. Cru is present in most major college campuses both nationally and internationally. The organization started in 1951 by Bill and Vonette Bright at UCLA. It was first called Campus Crusade for Christ, and its goals, like now, were to connect school and church life, create unity under Christ and to create a world wide fellowship because of it. Since then, Cru has expanded into sub-groups, and it supports other world benefit groups such as the International Justice Mission.

If you would like to learn more about Cru at PVCC, here is contact information:

Student Contact/President: Donnie Wilson,
dsw2752@email.vccs.edu

Club Advisor: Andre Luck, aluck@pvcc.edu



Cru at PVCC, Sept .7 Photography by Charles Stish

Book it to Your School Library

Ben Cozic, staff writer

Throughout history, humanity has handed down their books so the next generation could discover the teachings and stories that were created in the past. However, people wondered where they would keep the vast majority of books that are made? The answer became what we now know today as the library. Libraries are not only good for collecting a variety of books; they are also helpful in giving out information about certain topics you may not know much about. Libraries also have a ton of resources that are not books, including CDs, DVDs, and computers. A good example of this is shown at the Betty Sue Jessup Library at PVCC.

At the Betty Sue Jessup Library, students and faculty are given a number of ways that show them how to find books, articles, and other resources based on whatever subject they are researching. Databases and catalogs are used to help you narrow down a specific subject; these can be found on the PVCC website under Library. They can be crucial if you have a paper or project that requires searching through these databases and resources.

Books can be checked out, but they must be returned at the required time; other items such as DVDs, CDs, and laptops have to remain in the



Photography by Ben Cozic

library at all times and cannot be taken home. One such exception to this is the G.O.A.L. Program, which allows students to borrow a laptop for the entire semester. This can be helpful if you need more information available for classes but do not have the tools to which to use them. The program is full, so you will have to wait until the next semester to sign up.

One particular initiative that is quite noticeable at the PVCC Library is the One Book Project. This program brings together everyone who at PVCC, whether student, staff, or faculty, by reading a book and be a part of some activities that are related to that particular book. This semester's book is *The Circle* by Dave Eggers.

On Oct 12 at 5 p.m., there will be a showing of *The Truman Show* in the library classroom. On Oct. 19, Mike Ferero will give a talk at college hour in M229 on the topic of privacy and anonymity in internet culture.

Waldo Jaquith will give a talk on Dave Eggers vs. Reality on Nov. 2 during college hour in M229.

To learn more, visit www.pvcc.edu/onebook.



Photography by Katya Beisel

Celebration in Opposition

Joe Fowler, assistant editor

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia Executive Director Claire Gastañaga spoke on banned and challenged books in the PVCC auditorium on Sept. 29. The event was part of Banned Book Week, a celebration of free expression in literature, according to an announcement on PVCC's website. The American Library Association (ALA) established Banned Book Week in 1982, Gastañaga said.

Gastañaga described the ALA as the "fiercest and most effective" proponents of the right to read early in her lecture. She then went on to describe the difference between a challenge and a ban. A challenge to a book is more democratic and involves both a challenge to the content of a book and open dialogue in support of either the challenge or the literature, according to Gastañaga. Banning is forced control. "It establishes an orthodoxy to create like-mindedness," she said

Common themes in the most challenged books of 2015 included sexuality and cultural diversity, according to the ALA. The ALA list included challenges to several forms of religious beliefs including atheism, Islam and Christianity. The Holy Bible was the sixth most challenged book of the year.

"Read the challenged books," said Gastañaga while giving a list of ways people can stand up to attempts at censorship such as those reflected in the 2015 list. She mentioned several measures individuals can take.

"We must be fierce in our advocacy going forward," she said.

Gastañaga went on to discuss challenges and censorship of classic literature in Virginia, including the *Diary of Anne Frank* in Culpeper. A *Washington Post* contributor wrote that the book "was just removed because a parent complained about graphic sexual language." The *Washington Post* article went on to quote the director of education in Culpeper at the time as saying, "What we have asked is that this particular edition will not be taught. I don't want to make a big deal out of this. So we listened to the parent and we pulled it."

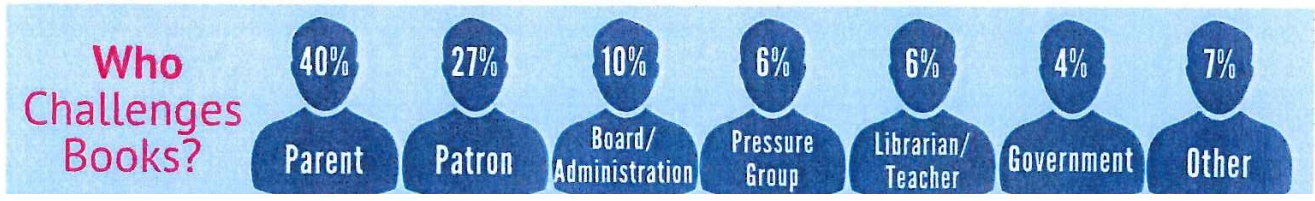
Gastañaga and members of the audience discussed in various ways how big of a deal it was. Though concerned individuals challenged Anne Frank's diary in 2010, Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* did not appear on the ALA's list of the 100 most challenged books for either of the last two decades, inspiring one attendee to mention her concern over the fact that, "More people are afraid of a woman's period than the story of Hitler's life."



9

of the **TOP TEN**
Challenged Books
include
DIVERSE *
content

* Definition:
www.ala.org/bbooks/diversity



Fall Welcome Back Social



Welcome Back Social. Photography by Skye Scott

Skye Scott, staff writer

Wednesday, Sept. 14 brought one of the biggest Welcome Back Socials PVCC has ever had. Hundreds of students and faculty came out to enjoy the efforts put forth by the Student Government Association and Student Activities.

Some students played an impromptu game of volleyball while others sat in the shade enjoying each other's company. Everyone had the opportunity to dunk students in the dunk tank, participate in the pie eating contests, and learn how to juggle. For the first time, professional face painting was offered for everyone interested. \$25 gift cards were given to the winners of the pie eating contests.

So many students and faculty ended up partaking in the fun that by 1:00 p.m. there was hardly any food or drinks left.





The Wise Old Owl Says . . . “Perk Up”

Antonia Florence, staff writer

The aroma of freshly ground and gently brewed coffee wafts through the hallway tickling my nose. As I approach the tiny shop, my eyes feast on the freshly baked delicacies arranged on pedestals, serving platters and an enclosed pastry case. Regardless of the order made, the line moves rapidly and no one waits long.

Perk Up is located on campus in the main building where the former Mermaid Express was located just across the hall from the library.

Mariellen (Ellie) Beverly jumped at the chance to start her own business. The then 21-year-old Beverly and her business partner, a successful entrepreneur, had little time to prepare but managed to organize business necessities, line up quality vendors and open Perk Up the first day of PVCC’s spring semester, 2016.

Beverly grew up in the business world with her mother formally owning a pet store and her father being a contractor. She said, “Being an entrepreneur runs in my blood.”

“I have never taken a business class and have never attended college,” Beverly continued. Her direction has come through work experiences and guidance from her mentors. Beverly presently employs one previous student, one current student, and works many hours herself. Perk Up opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 7 p.m. with the exception being 2 p.m. Fridays.

Quality, fair pricing and a diverse offering seems to be Beverly’s mantra. Perk Up uses Shenandoah Joe coffee which starts at \$2 per cup. Same-day coffee refills using the original cup are only a dollar. While there, ask about their coffee rewards card. Teas are \$2.25, and fresh baked goods are from either Albemarle Baking Company which delivers daily or are from Green House Coffee in Crozet.

These pastries run the gamut of a heavy Monkey Cake which incorporates banana and pineapple and is topped with cream cheese frosting; fruit and cheese Danishes where the pastry flakes and melts in your mouth; and rich pecan topped sticky buns. There are also an assortment of muffins. From another USDA inspected kitchen, come yummy cake pops made by another young, fledgling entrepreneur.

For individuals with dietary differences, Ellie offers gluten-free brownies, vegan Power Balls and individually wrapped CLIF Bar Energy Bars. Fresh fruit may also be available. For those who order smoothies and have a sensitivity to nuts, they are not used in the blenders. This minimizes cross exposure.

Also on the menu, Perk Up offers a delicious lunch of a plain croissant, chicken salad with nuts and cranberries, a choice of yogurts and a variety of drinks such as milk, orange juice, lemonade, La Croix seltzer and Izze sparkling juice. Perk Up is not just a coffee and pastry shop but a place to grab lunch or dinner on the go. If you do not have the energy to chew or extra hands to hold plates of food, perhaps a smoothie with optional protein powder may be the way to go.

Since January, I have sampled more than half of Perk Up’s food with all but one receiving two thumbs up. The cinnamon buns are a bit dry for my preference but may well be perfect for dunking. My favorite afternoon pick up is a cup of steaming hot dark-roasted house coffee with “room for milk” and a piece of very moist apple cinnamon cake with cream cheese frosting as I curl up someplace quiet and study.

The next time you are in Perk Up’s proximity, give it a try. Enjoy the staff’s gentle, efficient and friendly service. The price range is friendly, in fact, according to Beverly’s daily accounting program, the average customer sale equals \$3.50 each. Oh, and all prices include tax!



Photography by Antonia Florence

Get the Help You need in The First Quadrant

Jake Delaurier, staff writer

It probably will not come as a shock to find out that many students have a difficulty learning mathematics. With most college majors requiring at least one math course, some students will just bear through it regardless if they understand the material or not. Luckily, the Math Center at Piedmont Virginia Community College is here to help students with difficulty in math.

Located in the Main Building in room 253, the First Quadrant Math Center has been a part of PVCC since 2006. There, students can get help with the following math courses: Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Arithmetic, Pre Calculus I and II, Finite Math, Introduction to Math, Math for Liberal Arts, Statistics, Technical Math I and II, General Review of Math, Trigonometry, Computer Software, and certain STEM classes like Chemistry.

The Math Center is also composed of roughly thirteen tutors. “Our tutors come from all walks of life and are made up of current students, graduated students, retired teachers, and

community members looking to give back to the community,” said Renee Eves, instructor of Mathematics. According to Eves, the qualifications to become a tutor is to be “enthusiastic about learning and the subject of math.”

One of these tutors includes current student Alec Traaseth. This is Traaseth’s first semester serving as a tutor. The most common course that Traaseth helps students with is Pre-Calculus. “Pre-Calc has the highest fail rate of any of the classes at Piedmont with the pass rate just above 50 percent,” said Traaseth. He believes the reason for this low pass rate is because that the class moves at a fast pace and that students are required to know that material beforehand.

One student that has benefited from the Math Center is first-time college student Carter Hall. Hall, who recently graduated from Fluvanna County High School, is taking Pre-Calculus for the first time.

“The Math Center has been very helpful, they explain homework and go step by step,” said Hall.

Support for PVCC Parents

Sydney Pratt, staff writer

Piedmont Virginia Community College is home to many full-time students and teachers. To some, this is just an average school where people can socialize and get a great education. To others, this can be extremely overwhelming and frustrating. Some of these students and teachers may even have children.

There is nothing more complicated than trying to find a babysitter five days a week for about eight hours. Not only is it complicated, it can also be extremely expensive and possibly inconvenient for these students and teachers. This is why it is extremely satisfying that PVCC has its own Child-Care Services.

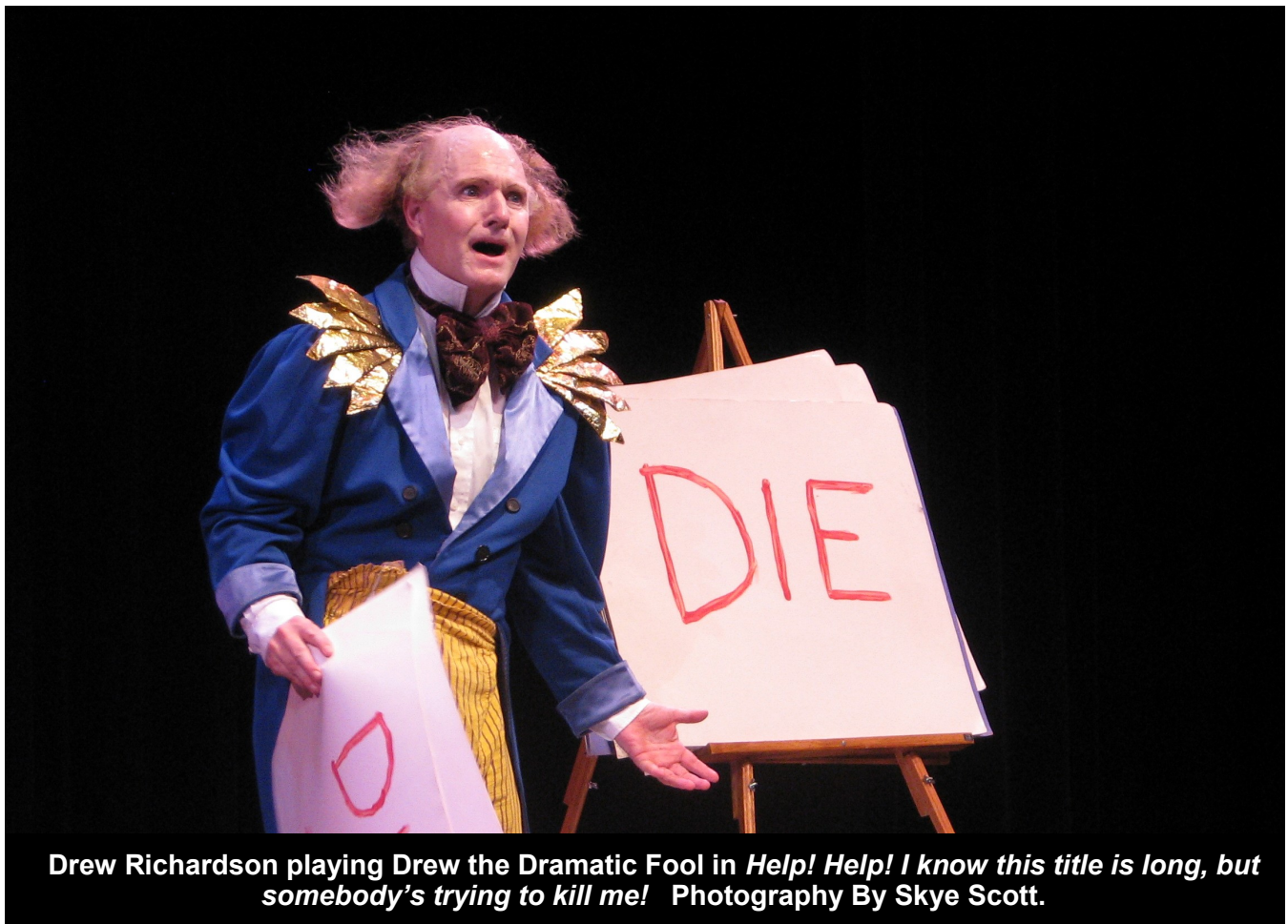
PVCC Child-Care Services runs through a Family YMCA and is available to those who qualify for it. In order to qualify students must have at least six credits, be enrolled at PVCC, making great academic standing, and must be Pell eligible. By doing these simple steps any student or faculty of PVCC should be able to qualify for

the Child-Care Services program. However, the program is only available for no more than twenty students. Usually, full-time students have a better chance of qualifying for the program.

This program offers a twenty percent discount on the average price of child watch. Children starting at the age of six weeks old to five years are able to participate in this service. The hours for the program are Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It is located at the Jefferson School City Center.

This program can be extremely helpful to the struggling parents that are trying to get a degree while raising children.

Child-Care Services at PVCC is here to help those students and faculty get a better education while their children have a fun environment that is safe. The hours and location are extremely convenient for the students and teachers. This program is PVCC’s way of saying that they care about the learning of the students and that they are willing to do anything to help keep the learning process easier.



Drew Richardson playing Drew the Dramatic Fool in *Help! Help! I know this title is long, but somebody's trying to kill me!* Photography By Skye Scott.

Drew the Dramatic Fool Entertains all Ages

Skye Scott, staff writer

The curtain parted to the side and out stepped a man who screamed comedy. His hair stood up on top of his head like he'd just been frightened, and his clothes were brightly colored and over-the-top eccentric. As he attempted to make an entrance, his thumb became entangled in the curtain, and while trying to untangle himself, he made it worse.

The show had hardly started, and the crowd was already laughing at Drew the Dramatic Fool starring in *Help! Help! I know this title is long, but somebody's trying to kill me!*

When asked about the show, creator Drew Richardson said, "This is a show about things going wrong. Like, whatever can go wrong, will go (sic) worse."

When the show began, Drew discovered that all the performers had been killed; however, the show must go on, or he'd be next. The audience laughed along as they watched Drew find the

hardest way possible to accomplish all of the acts. Drew had to go from the juggler to the spinner to the puppeteer with the flip of a card. He also had to complete the do or die challenges that the murderer had left for him.

At one point in the show, Drew pulled a slightly embarrassed woman from the crowd and brought her on stage to hold the challenge cards. He brought her back onto stage two more times, as the audience applauded them both.

Drew did not speak during the entirety of the show, only occasionally making sound effects and other fun noises that went along with the tricks.

People of all ages were seen in the crowd laughing right along with each other. Frank Friedman, the president of PVCC, attended the show, along with some PVCC professors as well.

Drew's comedic shenanigans earned him a standing ovation from the audience as the show came to a close. Everyone left the building with smiles on their faces, speaking joyfully among themselves.

Game Review: Legion: For How Many?

Joe Fowler, assistant editor

With my deadline rapidly approaching, I entered “3.3 million copies” for a google search. Most every result on the first five pages shared one thing in common: Legion, the latest World of Warcraft (WoW) expansion from video game developer Blizzard Entertainment. Having experienced the actual launch at 3 a.m. on August 30, I fully expected the numbers when they came out.

But, despite a movie, heavy advertising and news from the public test realm, the game itself provided the heaviest promotion starting a month ahead of the actual launch. For endless months, players had experienced the limbo of a content drought, a time when most players had mastered both the current gameplay and the substantial backlog of material from over 11 years of content. Dedicated WoW players, live streamers and YouTubers began speculating that after conquering all would-be WoW killers over the years, Blizzard Entertainment would be the end of World of Warcraft.

Then the invasions began.

Six low-level zones in Azeroth, the land of WoW, fell under invasion by demonic forces. Hellfire poured from the sky. Essentially, the open world of Azeroth became a round-the-clock raid. In both the Alliance and Horde capitals, players turned into demons. Doomsayers handed out pamphlets promoting the Legion invasion. While the invasions occurred outside the capitals, players fell from great heights, killing their characters repetitively to collect all the pamphlets.

Meanwhile, both the Alliance and Horde factions suffered heavy losses in an introductory scenario to the new continent, the Broken Isles. Both King Varian Wyrnn of the Alliance and Horde Warchief Vol’jin died within the first half hour of the invasions. With their deaths, a new era of WoW began.

This limited-time invasion

event began in late July and lasted just over a month during a period WoW players refer to as the pre-patch, a transition phase between expansions when Blizzard introduces players to gameplay changes and new storylines for the next expansion. Now, nearly a month into the actual Legion expansion, players can still log in every day and find dozens of things to do contributing to the development of their characters.

As both a player and reviewer, my favorite gameplay component consists of an increase in mobility. Currently, I play a fire mage (a wizard class that specializes in conjuring flames), and the stand still and cast method of playing seems to have passed. The playstyle now reminds me more of another Blizzard franchise, Diablo.

Blizzard, like many of its subscribers, has grown up and evolved to stay current with a world constantly in flux. Even the main plot point, which entails the heroes of the Warcraft universe recruiting one of its greatest lore villains, Illidan Stormrage, seems to answer a growing call in society for a different kind of solution.

That above all is my favorite aspect of Legion, the message that some of the heroes engaged in deceit and betrayal, and maybe the villains had more of a point than originally suspected.

For more information on Legion, including reception and feedback from players, look for the online exclusive at piedmontforum.com



The fall of Illidan Stormrage at Black Temple
Screen Cap taken by Joseph Fowler

Piedmont Profile: Beryl Solla

Jake Delaurier, staff writer

Few college professors have had a larger impact on their community than Professor Beryl Solla. Solla has been a professor of art at Piedmont Virginia Community College for over a decade and has also taught at James Madison University and Monticello High School. During her time at PVCC, Solla has taught Art Appreciation, Fundamentals of Design I and II, Sculpting I, and a Drawing class.

“Teaching at PVCC is a challenge. There is a lot of freedom which I love but a lot of work too. I tend to do more than the average bear but time is short. I much prefer teaching at PVCC. I am chair of the department. So I have more control and input. I can generate events and support my faculty in their goals,” said Solla.

Solla has helped create numerous art initiatives at PVCC. One of these initiatives is Let There Be Light. “Let There Be Light was the

brainchild of James Yates. I thought it was a great idea and said lets do it at PVCC. I'm always looking for ways to bring people into our program and onto campus,” said Solla.

Aside from coming up with ideas for art initiatives, Solla is responsible for creating the Student Art Club at PVCC. “I realized it was a way to fund a lot of the things the school and the students wanted, so I organized the art students and presto. For example, the students wanted visiting artists, but we didn't have any money. People wanted art in their offices but didn't have money for matting and framing. The Art Club funds that stuff,” said Solla.

Earlier this year, Solla was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. “I earned another nice award a few years ago from the college and have received grants and fellowships in years past. It's always good to be recognized. That's not what motivates me, but it is nice,” said Solla.



Photo courtesy of Beryl Solla.

Piedmont Profile: Shaheen Alikhan

Antonia Florence, staff writer

Shaheen Alikhan is an aerial performer. She is a Fairfax, Virginia, native and born to a German mother, who has always been supportive of her artistic endeavors, and a Middle Eastern father.

“On my mom's side, there were a lot of performers before it was considered 'respectable'. Musicians, genuine vaudeville performers, dancers....so I suppose my heritage did feed into the performance art. ... I remember years ago, when I was working with horses professionally, telling my aunt I was dancing and riding for work; and she looked over at my mom and just said, 'That sounds familiar'.”

Aerial silks is a mixture of acrobatics and artistic expression performed in the air while hanging from fabric without the security of safety lines or netting. There are three main categories: tricks, wraps, and drops. A trick may involve a swinging release and catch, either individually or with a partner; wraps occur when the fabric is entwined with the body and striking poses; and a drop, which requires the most strength, can be a free fall while rotating to a lower position. Aerial silks demand a high degree of strength, stamina, flexibility, grace and a large dose of courage, according to Alikhan. “I prefer dynamic moves like drops and fun climbs with fluid transitions, rather than relying heavily on poses. I do solo silks, partner silks and partner balance. Flexibility is hugely important. It's vital to engage the muscles prior to putting them under stress, you're generally counterbalancing an additional person's weight,” Alikhan said.

Alikhan states, “Silks need a lot of core and upper body [strength]; for solo silks, having good grip strength and staying calm, trusting your own wraps, is necessary. Partner silks requires all of these, plus strong air awareness and complete trust. If I don't trust my partner to catch me when we do releases or flips, I could hurt us both.”

Frightening experiences still occur even when all precautions are taken. In fact, one was quite recent. “We were performing at a private event for a local figure, and it was insanely humid that day. Like, you'd towel off, and moving a step would make you drip with sweat. Literally drip. During our partner silks routine, we had just done a release, as in, my partner was holding my ankles, we flipped me, and we caught each other's wrists. We were both so sweaty that even with rosin we ended up barely connected. That was pretty terrifying, as I was about 15 feet in the air,” she said.



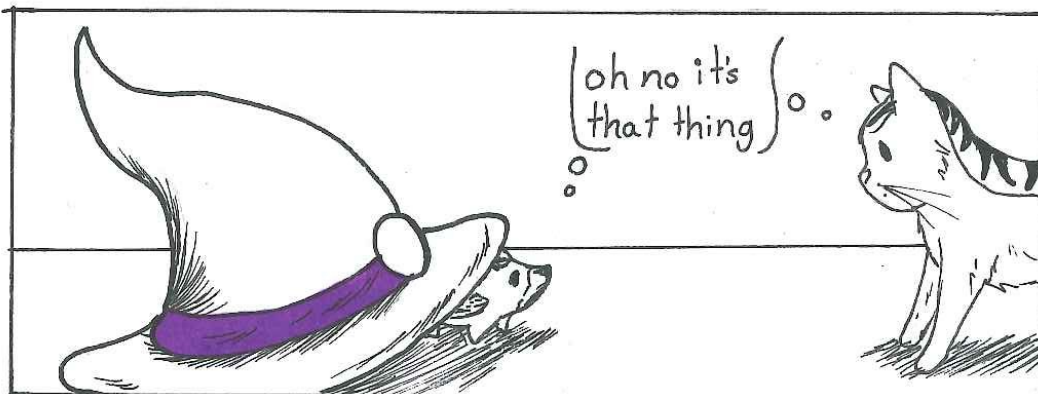
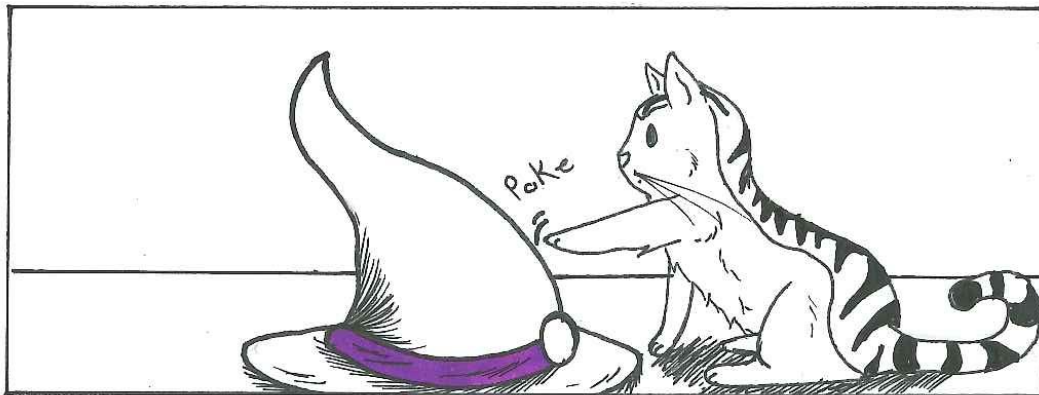
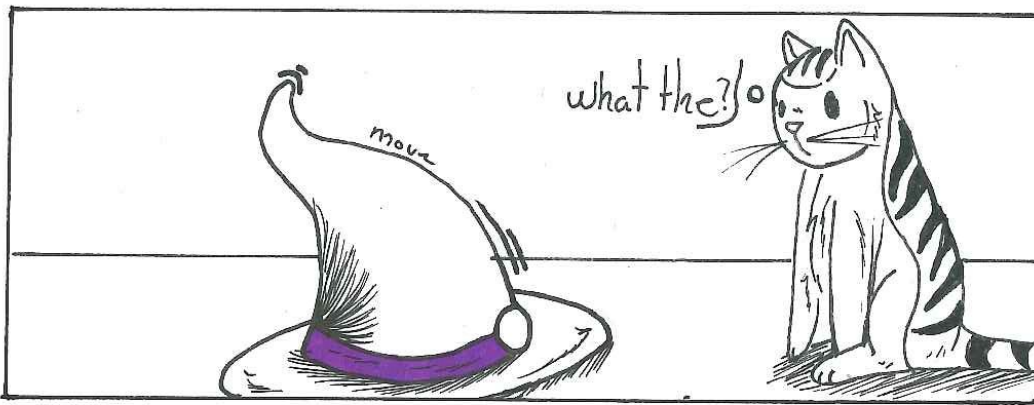
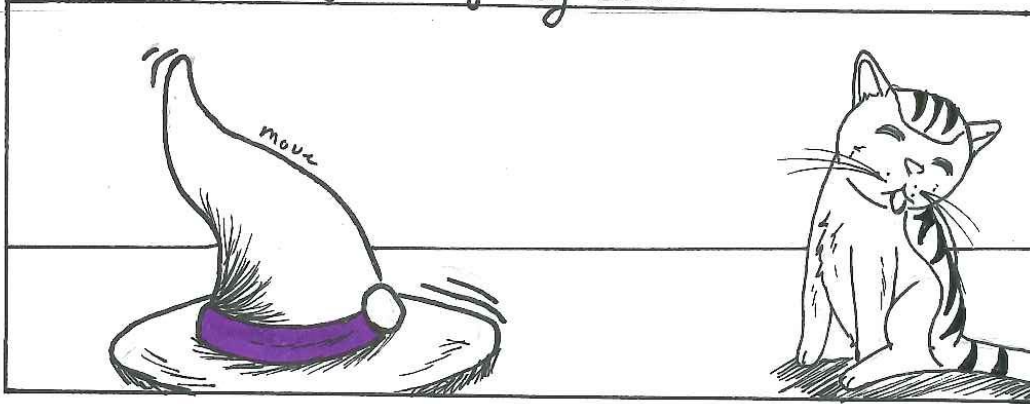
Photograph courtesy of Shaheen Alikhan

Alikhan is also a professional belly dancer. Belly dancing, with its roots in the Middle East, Mediterranean, and northeastern Africa, is thought by many experts to be the oldest known dance. It is a social dance, performed by women for women, and uses the full body with emphasis on fluidity while isolating individual movements.

As a folkloric tribal fusion dancer melding the styles of many countries, she express her creative license. Choreography is a large part of achieving the right effect. She practices aerial silks and dance at least 12 hours a week, is a full-time honors student with her sight set on becoming a landscape architect, works at Alloy Construction, and maintains a busy performance schedule. She has taken a break from teaching weekly dance classes but still offers workshops.

Sometimes, things can go wrong in a performance. She said, “There was one duo silks routine when, in the middle of a performance, my partner hissed at me to hold (in the super weird precarious position I was in). I didn't realize what had happened until he fixed the clasp on my top that was almost completely undone. It felt like it took three minutes and would be really obvious, but in the video you can't tell and it was just a second. Out of the hundreds of people watching, ONE PERSON was at the correct angle to see what had happened.”

Pincushion & Tag-a-long by: Caroline m.



Riddles

Brennan Tanner, staff writer

A battlefield barren, with not a warrior to be seen,
Viridian blades thrust into the ground, wielded by none.

A world that can fit in the palm of your hand,
An incomplete compendium of the sea and the land.

Contrary creature,
Stealthy, quiet, ever so sly,
Soft and warm am I.

Ribbons of sable, rivers of night,
Bands of blackness a spreading blight.

The end of death, the death of youth,
Then comes the lie that kills the truth.



“PUMPKIN SPICE IS HERE” by Andie Meddaugh

Classifieds

5th District Congressional Debate

Monday, Oct. 10, 2016
7 to 9 p.m.

PVCC Dickinson Building
Main Stage Theatre

Featuring

Republican



Tom Garrett

Democrat



Jane Dittmar

Free & Open to the Public

There is no admission fee to attend the debate, but tickets are required. Tickets for PVCC students, staff, and faculty can be picked up in the Cashier's Office (M237) or Professor Jorgensen's Office (M108) in the Main Building beginning Monday, Oct. 3. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tickets Required to Attend

Learn more at www.pvcc.edu | Sponsored by Piedmont Virginia Community College and CBS19



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