

Simulcast with NASA's First Female Launch Director

Charles Stish, staff writer

A young woman in her teen years wonders where she wants to go in life. Whether or not she wants to become a nurse, a psychologist, or a biologist after high school. She will be attending a four year college soon and she wants to figure out her career before she has to decide where to enroll.

In her hour of decision and confusion, her high school science teacher, nicknamed "Doc Wilson," recommends her to be an engineer and go into the robotic and computer sciences. He can sense she loves that line of work, that

field of study, despite her not seeming to think of it as an option because of social norms and stigmas. The young woman took the recommendation, and because these words came from her science teacher, whom she respected, she was inspired to learn and partake in a field of science mostly occupied by men: engineering.

This is the story of how NASA's first female launch director, Charlie Blackwell Thompson, was encouraged to take engineering as a career. She shared this story in a live simulcast meeting that was being broadcasted by the NASA Digital Learning

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Bryan Cranston's
Visit to Cville
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Network, as part of a 30 minute segment in a series of live simulcasts featuring other female NASA engineers. Thousands of people, most notably students of all ages, around the country, and possibly the world, watched and listened to the stories of these women who persevered and helped frontier women in computer sciences and robotics.

Thompson and the other renowned, respected female NASA engineers held simulcast

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Avett Brothers are on page 11! Photo by McKayla Grapperhaus

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DATES TO REMEMBER

— **Talent Show Auditions*** —
April 1-6, 12-12:50 p.m.

— **Course Café *** —
April 1-7, Bolick Student Center

— **International Food Festival** —
April 5, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— **Civic Leadership Conference *** —
April 7-8

— **Pancake Panorama** —
April 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

— **One Mic Stand *** —
April 13, 7 p.m., Maxwell Theatre (Black Box)

— **7th Annual Chocolate Chowdown and Annual Student Exhibition *** —
April 14, 5-7 p.m., Dickinson Building

— **Talent Show *** —
April 14, 7-9:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

— **Stephen Nash Book Speaking *** —
April 19, 12-1 p.m., Room M229

— **Improv Night *** —
April 21, 5 p.m., Maxwell Theatre (Black Box)

— **Free Movie Friday: "The Founder" *** —
April 21, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

— **John McCutcheon ^** —
April 22, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

— **Dance Club Showcase *** —
April 27, Dickinson Auditorium

— **PVCC Chorus Spring Concert *** —
April 30, 3 p.m.

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tucker Noelke, staff writer

On Tuesday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., PVCC is hosting the American Red Cross blood drive. The event will occur in the main building North Hall Meeting Room.

There are many reasons to donate blood, one important one being that there is a constant need for healthy blood. The general guidelines for being eligible to donate blood are being in good health, feeling well the day of donating, being at least 17 years old, weighing at least 110 pounds, and not having donated blood within the last 56 days.

When a person is qualified to donate their blood, there are a few easy steps to take before donating. A person needs to have a donor card or another form of identification such as a driver's license, student ID, or passport. More forms of identification they accept can be found online on the American Red Cross website. A list of medications a person is currently taking is also required before donating blood.

The whole process of registering, the mini physical, and donating takes up to an hour. The actual donation of blood takes eight to ten minutes. After the donating is over, participants are encouraged to wait 10 to 15 minutes at the refreshment area before going about other activities.

Blood donation is a safe and easy way to help other people. When a person donates blood, they are saving up to three lives. Such a simple task can be a huge impact to someone else.





SGA Holds Second Annual Talent Show

Olivia Stevens, staff writer

On April 14, 2017 at Piedmont Community College (PVCC), the Student Government Association (SGA) will be having their second annual talent show. The talent show will showcase students showing a variety of different talents from PVCC.

Students will be competing against each other for a grand prize of \$250. Second place winner will receive \$100, and third place will receive \$50.

Each act will be judged by a panel of students and faculty.

The judges will be Professor Colum Leckey, SGA Vice President Brandi Rey, and Dance Club President Skye Scott. Each judge has a background in music or dance. Leckey is currently a member of a band, Rey has been studying opera for over 30 years, and Scott has been dancing for 10 years.

The talent show will be held on April 14 at 7 p.m. in the Dickinson Auditorium. Auditions will run from March 27 to April 6. Students can sign up online for auditions. The link for it can be found on the blackboard page on the right hand column. Students can also submit a video link online if they cannot make it to any of the audition dates.

When signing up for auditions, students will need their email and their student identification number. They will also need their phone number and what type of talent that they will be performing.

As a disclaimer, I am the director of events for the SGA, and I am in charge of planning and running the talent show.

President of SGA Wadah Al Mulhim said, "This event is for the students who are trying to be in the spotlight and show off their talent; it is also an opportunity for our community to join us in celebrating our talented students."

SGA Helping Students Afford Textbooks

Olivia Stevens, staff writer

Textbook prices are extremely high. Students can spend over \$400 just on books alone. Why do students have to pay these outrageous prices for textbooks? Some students do not know of the different websites with less expensive books.

There are students who can only use the bookstore because financial aid will cover the cost of textbooks.

The Student Government Association (SGA) wants to help students who struggle with buying textbooks semester after semester. The SGA is attempting to create a program which allows students to rent a single textbook per semester for free.

Even just one textbook per semester can make a large difference in the way students can save money considering they can cost around \$100 to rent or \$150 to buy. The price of one credit hour can be the same as the cost of a textbook, around \$150. Having to pay for both is asking too much from students who have to support themselves.

If approved, the program will be called The Textbook Resource Program. Right now the program is in review, which means that the deans at PVCC are making sure that the program itself does not violate any contracts and if it is a good program to go through with.

Before it went for review, the program was already approved by SGA and was set to start collecting donations from students and faculty in the spring and summer semester of 2017.

PVCC student Cambria Kowalzik, the newly appointed SGA Director of The Textbook Resource Program, said, "It's amazing that we have the opportunity to do a project like this. The Textbook Resource Program is a charity operation, run by PVCC students, for PVCC students. It says a lot about the empathy and kindness of the people here at Piedmont that, within only a few weeks of announcing it, we have already received several donations. I believe that if we can implement this program, it will benefit many students who, even with financial aid, may have trouble affording textbooks."

NASA Continued from page 1

meetings all day on Feb. 23 in honor of Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day not only to inspire and encourage more girls to be engineers, but to also give more support to female students already in engineering programs.

Thompson graduated with a degree in Computer Science from Clemson University, South Carolina. After her graduation, she worked at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and worked several jobs before finally joining NASA in 2004. Some of her jobs at Kennedy included payload flight software engineer and lead electrical engineer on many Hubble Telescope servicing missions. Twelve years after joining NASA, she was promoted to launch director for NASA's Ground Systems Development and Operations and became the first female launch director. She as well manages NASA's Exploration Systems Development Division.

Part of her job will be coordinating the Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System operation, which is said to be taking place at the end of 2018. The goal of the mission is to prepare astronauts by putting them in lunar orbit for extended periods of time as to gain first hand data to what long exposure in such conditions will exact on humans physically and mentally. If the missions are successful, NASA plans on sending humans to Mars for more intense exploratory missions and possibly planetary colonization by 2030. Those are big expectations, but with Thompson's experience and knowledge, having too much doubt about the success of the missions is not recommended nor seemingly warranted.

During the broadcasts, people could send the panelists questions in real-time via Twitter and email. For Thompson's simulcast at least, there were three elementary schools that connected to the simulcast via webcam and microphone, so the elementary students could directly ask Thompson questions.

Some of the questions were about how she feels being the first NASA female launch director, if she experienced any discrimination while in the engineering program, and if she could give advice for all engineering students.

Thompson answered each question as a regular person would and/or should. Thoughtful and sincere, she did not make to put on an air because of her position, but instead seemed more

down to earth and easily approachable, which was probably a nice reassurance to the children questioners.

She answered that while she never felt discriminated against or given special treatment for being a woman in the engineering program, she did feel uncomfortable that there were fewer female students in the courses with her and that most to all of the engineering faculty were men. Which she said was off putting and intimidating to a woman in that situation, causing one to become discouraged and feel a lack of adequate peer and faculty support.

Towards the end of the broadcast, she advised, "If you want to be an engineer, find that piece of engineering you really love, that resonates with you. For me it was being a part of the space program."

Thompson and many other women in computer sciences are pioneers in their field. They are women who were not swayed by social norms or the potential pathological struggle that can come from feeling isolated or alone in such a situation described by Thompson about her academic experience earlier.

Statistically, women tend to have higher college degree graduation rates (associate degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctorate) in social and biological sciences than in computer science and engineering. Part of this is because of set ideas of social statuses, that being women can not or at least should not be engineers, and lack of an adequate support network for female students in this field. Because of this, PVCC female math, computer science, and engineering students created the Women in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) club to create the much needed support network.

Additionally, female engineering students at the University of Virginia have created the Society for Women Engineers (SWE) for the same reason.

To participate more in the engineering program, contact PVCC's Engineering and Technology club president, Joshua Smith, at his email: jps24382@email.vccs.edu.

If you would like to learn more about women in engineering you can contact Annelise Stunes about STEM at her email: as2027@email.vccs.edu

3rd Annual Student Success Day

Charles Stish, staff writer

Before the end of a semester and the horror it brings with final examinations, students will be subjected to the equally dreaded midterms. Many students know the pain that comes from midterms, as they have to punch and persevere through several papers, tests, assignments, and projects from various courses before finally being able to relax in the academic breaks that come in either the Fall Break or, more relevant now, Spring Break.

With oncoming pressure from midterms, students can find themselves stressed out and rushing through their work or be too intimidated and flustered to adequately or comfortably perform it. Either way, students can feel confused, stressed, or helpless as the due dates approach faster and faster like a stampede of wild horses, unrelenting and harsh.

The staff and faculty of Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) are aware of this, by not only seeing it affect the behavior of students, but more than likely from experiencing the same pressure from their school days. Because of this, PVCC's Student Success Office holds an event during the week of midterms for students to not only have a fun and interactive event to help relax, but also for students to better inform themselves about the several academic help resources at the college that can help students alleviate stress and gain more confidence in accomplishing their midterms.

"We do it at this time in the semester because this when the students are going to have to get their feet wet. Midterms are happening, and we try to do everything we can to help them...We always try to find new ways to help them. Finding new ways is one of those things that keep me up at night," said David Lerman, the coordinator of Student Success.

The event was held March 1 in the Bolick Student Center in two parts. The first part took place from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., with the adjacent classrooms, the North Hall Meeting Room, and even the Auditorium (M229), being temporarily occupied for several different informative and interactive seminars. There were ten Dessert Seminars in all, titled that because of the free cookies they provided. Five took place from 11 -

11:25 a.m. while the remaining five took place during the last thirty minutes of the eleven o'clock hour. The seminars tackled different academic subjects including: college transfers, financial aid, managing test anxiety, and even how to correctly use commas. Each seminar provided a chance for students to enter a raffle to win various prizes by writing on a slip of paper the name of the seminar they attended, their name, student identification number, and email. Students could even receive extra credit for attending the event depending on their instructor.

The second part was the resource fair in which the academic departments set up information fliers, and even some interactive exhibits, where students could learn about and talk to the different representatives of each department about their services for the student. These departments included: the Betty Sue Jessup Library, the Writing Center, and the First Quadrant Math Center.

During this period, the students who visited the tables received stickers, denoting that they visited the tables. After ascertaining five stickers, a student could then walk out onto the patio where, in the abnormally warm February weather, could receive free pizza and drinks whilst listening to upbeat music like Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

One could say the warm weather of the day uncannily reflected the energetic atmosphere and feeling of community as both students and faculty indulged in friendly discussion as they ate cheesy, tomato sauce filled, Italian goodness or sated their sweet tooth with chocolate chip cookies.

Even PVCC President Frank Friedman arrived to see the exhibits and enjoy chatting and eating pizza with fellow PVCC community members. Lerman remarked, "It means a lot that the president is here watching this because it's an issue [students stressing about and/or failing classes] he takes seriously too."

With a large and energetic turnout, one could accurately infer the Student Success Office accomplished their goal. As many students walked away that day not only with bellies full of free food and drinks, but a mind full of new and helpful knowledge about the resources they have at hand to help conquer the dreaded midterms.

Richmond Ballet Swipes a Dance

Antonia Florence, assistant editor

The Richmond Ballet performed March 8 in the Dickinson Auditorium for a packed house. *Swipe* opened the show with strong beats, bold moves and no storyline.

The dancers approached center stage in costumes of earthen browns and various shades of black.

This commissioned piece for the company is an upbeat mix of digital sounds including full percussion which was composed by Gabriel Prokofiev, grandson of famed Russian classical composer, Sergei Prokofiev, who died in 1953. San Francisco-based Choreographer Val Caniparoli incorporated movements from various forms of dance including hip-hop, jazz, contemporary and African tribal with ballet.

Richmond Ballet's website states, "The dance swipes movements from other genres and cultures, such as the undulating spines and grounded movements that look more like African dance than ballet. . . there's no hidden meaning, there's no background of anything other than music, dancers and dance."

Classical ballet followed with "Pas Glazunov." Abundant grace exuded from the music of Alexander Glazunov and the choreography of Malcom Burn which included jetes (a jump where a dancer springs from one foot leaving that leg extended in the air outward from the body and landing on the other foot), pirouettes (spinning on one foot, with the raised foot usually touching the knee of the supporting leg) and pointe (on tips of toes).

Susan Cologne's graduated blue costumes captured the spirit of the piece completing the ensemble. The dancers used the entire stage strategically with leaps and spins, throws and gentle bends while on pointe. I remember thinking about the female dancers aching toes. Male dancers rarely dance on pointe due to their higher weight and differing bone structure.

"Polaris," the celestial North Star, portrays a cosmic experience as it moves in and out through constellations. The space-themed music by Murcof built suspense.

The stage was dark, and I was not sure what to expect. It was only a split second before the

dancers appeared and their bodies floated, being hoisted by other dancers. Sparkling stars were released from above into the spotlight as the dancers moved about forming different constellations.

"Polaris" was choreographed by Katarzyna Skarpetowska. A collaboration including Emily DeAngelis' costumes and Brittany Dilberto's lighting design culminated in this breathtaking performance. During brief pauses in the music, all that could be heard were the shallow shuffles of ballet slippers on the stage floor.

The final dance, "Lift The Fallen," started as a light and jaunty piece with the dancers wearing soft yellow and white. However, this ballet has an intense storyline. Ma Cong, the choreographer, drew on his experiences as he dealt with his mother's death.

It began with vibrant life expressed by open and carefree movement among a long piece of yellow fabric spanning the length of the stage that had the illusion of silk. Then the movement of two dancers became intimate and restricted to tight movements and the music became more reserved leaving me with the feeling of despair. This stage did not last long before my spirits were lifted by a change in tempo and the beautiful open, airy movements of the dancers filling the stage with leaps and jumps of blossoming accomplishment.

In an interview posted on the Richmond Ballet website, Cong said, "[it is a] process of how they [people] heal their scars, and continue on with their lives, to even make their lives more extraordinary, is a process about becoming stronger. And even though our loved ones may be gone, they want you to live better. So, I wanted to create a work that can encourage and lift the fallen."

The Richmond Ballet is a professional dance company founded in 1957 and has endured many changes and expansions. The company attracts multinational and heavily sought after talent. The company tours worldwide, but they continue to support their community outreach which introduces dance to youngsters in the greater Richmond area through free classes.

For more information about Richmond Ballet, visit their website at www.richmondballet.com

C-Span Presentation at PVCC

Skye Scott, assistant editor

On Tuesday, March 21, Ashley Hill came and spoke at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC). She is a producer and local content vehicle driver for C-Span, which provides unbiased, gavel-to-gavel coverage of political discussions and meetings.

Hill was in Charlottesville for C-Span's City Tours, where three videographers embedded themselves in a city for one week to learn and cover the history of that city, according to Hill. The Charlottesville edition will air on C-Span on April 15-16 on C-Span's Book TV and American History TV.

Other C-Span producers were also in Charlottesville to cover the Virginia Festival of the Book, which they cover every year. That will also air on their television channel.

C-Span is different from other news stations, since it is nonprofit. They also do not control the cameras during coverage of events in the capital, so they are not able to skew what the watcher sees or hears.

C-Span channels contain no commercials or advertisements, so companies or outside influences do not affect the content they are able



to show on television or their website.

Students can access any videos offered on C-Span's website. They can also create short clips of different events; all they have to do is create a C-Span login.

Hill did not just come to PVCC to talk about what C-Span does, but also to talk about journalism in general. She said that no matter what you want to do in life, to learn how to do everything for that field of work. She also said that if you love something, to learn how to do it all the way, and to be passionate about it. Showing your eagerness and passion can help make you a better candidate for the job in the long run.

Statewide Tornado Drill at PVCC

Skye Scott, assistant editor

An alert message popped up on the computer screens. Red, yellow, and green drew attention to the message "Emergency Alert System ALERT!" Underneath, in bold black letters, highlighted in yellow, was the actual message: "we are having a tornado drill."

This message caused no alarm to the faculty in the Admissions and Advising Center, since there had been multiple announcements about the statewide drill. Once the message appeared, the advisors and faculty slowly got up from their desks and started walking to the door. There was no sense of urgency.

Soon after the computer alert, an over-air message said, "Go to a designated tornado shelter

area. This is a drill." The Admissions Office staff met up with the Financial Aid and Student Success office staff in the 100 hallway, before entering a classroom marked as a tornado shelter. Students and faculty can identify these rooms by the sign located on the door of many rooms around campus. The room was soon close to full, with staff, students, and teachers. A feeling of jest and playfulness was also present.

The entire drill lasted about 5 minutes, before a new computer message appeared to tell everyone they could return to their previous location.

Kemper Steele, the coordinator of advising and transfer, jokingly said, "We're following the tornado drill, but we're probably violating fire safety rules."

Advance registration now available for students

Jake DeLaurier, staff writer

Registration for the fall semester is now available for all PVCC students. “It is important to register now because this is current student priority,” said Academic Advisor Kristin Wentland.

Wentland also pointed out the sooner students register for classes, the more likely it is they will get the days and times they want for their class schedule. This is important because certain classes are only available during the fall semester. Some of these classes include BIO 256, HLT 230, and PHY 201 and 241.

For students who are considering summer classes, registration for the summer semester is also available.

“Summer is a great way to balance the fall

and spring semesters so you can take less credits,” said Wentland.

Summer classes range from five weeks to 10 weeks. Students can also use the five week classes as a way to earn more credits. One example Wentland gave was that a student could take HIS 121 for the first five weeks, and HIS 122 during the next five weeks.

When it comes to the number of available classes, the summer semester is more scaled back when compared to the fall and spring semesters. For example, according to Wentland, classes that go towards majors like Engineering and Computer Science will probably not be available during the summer semester. Classes that are typically available during the summer are in history, math, English, humanities, and social sciences.

Hiking the Trails of Charlottesville

Skye Scott, assistant editor

The sun was golden, creating a soft light in the sky; however, it was rapidly sinking behind the mountains. The cold wind blew through the trees, rustling the leaves that had dared to grow so early in March. People balanced on a cliff that seemed the edge of the world, their breathe heavy in their lungs. Dogs pulled eagerly on their leashes, lapping at the puddles of water settled in nooks in the rock.

These hikers were on top of Humpback Rock, a two mile round-trip trail along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Charlottesville, ending at an outcropping with a 365-degree view of the surrounding mountains and land. While this is one of the shorter hikes along the Blue Ridge Parkway, it can be difficult for some people because of the steepness of the hike.

The Blue Ridge Parkway contains many hiking areas around Charlottesville. The Parkway is 469.1 miles, according to the official Blue Ridge Parkway website. This website provides a list of all Virginia hikes available along the Parkway, as well as their location, mileage, and difficulty. Humpback rock is named on the website as one of the highlight hikes. It says that

the longest hike is the Roanoke Valley Horse Hike, which is 18.5 miles long, but only moderately difficult. The most difficult hikes, according to this website, are the Apple Orchard Falls Trail, Sharp Top Trail, Spec Mine Trail, Rock Castle Gorge Trail, and the Appalachian Trail.

The Appalachian Trail begins in Georgia and stretches 2,160 miles through the United States, where it ends in Maine, according to the official Appalachian Trail website. The trail runs for 554 miles within Virginia, ranging between the elevations of 265 feet-5,500 feet, according to their website.

“More of the A.T. [Appalachian Trail] passes through Virginia than any other state,” it says.

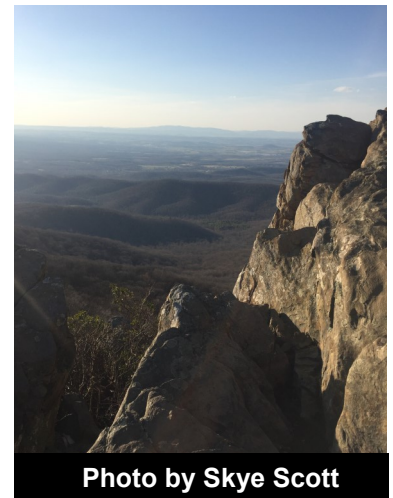


Photo by Skye Scott

Title IX and its Presence on Campus

Charles Stish, staff writer

Between March 20 and 24, Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) held a three-part event titled, “What High School Didn’t Teach You.” Supported and planned by PVCC’s Student Government Association (SGA), LGBT+ Club, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK), and Psychology Club, the event worked to present facts and information about sexual consent and diversities on college campuses, safe sex practices, and planned parenthood.

The first part of this week long seminar program was on Monday, March 20, and covered the topics of sexual harassment and violence, Title IX procedures, and ways people can fight against sexual violence on an everyday level.

The first speaker was PVCC’s Human Resource Manager and Title IX Coordinator Teresa Willis. Willis has been at PVCC for a year and half in her current occupational position and focused on the procedures and jurisdictions of Title IX at PVCC.

“For smaller schools, like in our community college system, the Title IX Coordinator often wears different hats. My hat is HR Director and I also wear the hat of Title IX Coordinator because we don’t have as many issues here as you would in an institution that has dormitories, and sororities, and fraternities,” said Willis during her presentation.

Willis then explained as acting Title IX Coordinator, her responsibilities include investigating complaints and possible infractions on Title IX guidelines, resolving any infractions unbiasedly and appropriately, and preventing issues of a sexually violent, harassing, or stalking manner.

She also noted most cases of a Title IX breach at PVCC are of a verbal nature and are mostly caused by bad breakups between two people. That is to say, one party will begin harassing the other, making them uncomfortable and intimidated whenever they can.

While students can use Title IX and go through the school system to fix the issue, they can still report to the police about the issue.

It should also be noted that Title IX only goes as far as the school system, and any domestic issues should be reported to the police

accordingly. Although, if a student were to report a domestic issue via Title IX, the school, or PVCC at least, can offer support and a safe haven for the student.

After Willis, Lexie Huston, a prevention educator at Charlottesville’s Sexual Assault Resource Agency, talked about sexual consent and ways for everyday people to put a stop to sexual crimes and violence.

Her presentation included the Happy, Free, Clear, Yes checklist that one can use to ensure there is consent in a relationship of any kind. The idea behind this checklist is to make sure there is happiness in the relationship, it is of free will, there is clear communication of intents, and there is a definite and coherent yes being said by both parties.

Huston said, “The idea here is to have a free, happy, and clear yes. Anything other than yes is a no.”

She then encouraged people to stand up and be active bystanders when they see a sexual crime taking place. Explaining that active bystanders perform some act to prevent or stop the situation at hand, unlike passive bystanders, who will not do anything. She gave a general idea, calling it The Three D’s, an active bystander can use to bring a halt to sexual violence. The first D is Direct, and that is to directly intervene by either a physical action or by making a concentrated move to bluntly end the situation. The second D, Delegate, is to call for aid whether it be friends, other bystanders, or the police. The third D is to Distract, to either draw focus to the situation indirectly or to be a decoy to allow the potential victim to slip away.

“When I talk about being a bystander, it’s really intimidating. You think, ‘Bystanders? What difference do they make?’ The reality is bystanders actually have more power [than anyone else] in any situation,” said Huston.

Huston ended by saying, “It takes small change, but little things often will add up to bigger things.”

To learn more about SARA visit their website at <http://saracville.org/>. For more about Title IX: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/tix_dis.html

Read more of this article at piedmontforum.com

Central Virginia Families Venture Back in Time



Marcus Tyler, staff writer

Charlottesville's John Paul Jones Arena was the place to be over the weekend of March 11 and 12 for families and prehistoric enthusiasts. The arena was transformed into a walk-through prehistoric exhibit.

This hands-on exhibit included a lifelike stegosaurus, velociraptor and tyrannosaurus rex. Families also participated in various activities throughout the exhibit.

A miniature golf course was part of the fun, as well as a dinosaur-themed bounce house for children.

The popular Jurassic Jeeps were taken for a spin on the miniature raceway known as Dino

Raceway. Crafts and face painting were also provided to those who kept certain admission tickets. Needless to say, Discover the Dinosaurs Unleashed provided a lot of fun and adventure for all the families that attended this unique event.

Tickets at the door for general admission were \$15 for adults and children. Seniors only paid \$12. A special T-Rex ticket for children ages 2 to 12, available for \$48, included one child's general admission ticket, a face painting, a fossil find bag, a green-screen photo print, a make-and-take T-shirt, a drawstring backpack and a pair of socks to wear in the inflatables.

Looking for a chance to attend this fun event in the future? More information can be found on Discover the Dinosaurs Unleashed website.

The Avett Brothers Come to Richmond

MaKayla Grapperhaus, staff writer

Saturday night, March 11, the Avett Brothers, performed at Richmond's theater, The National. This was the folk-rock-bluegrass band's second night in town, as their tour included dates for both March 10 and March 11. This gave fans the chance to see the show on either Friday or Saturday. Talking with fans, many shared they had come out to both performances: proving that the Avett Brothers put on a show that keeps their fans coming back for more.

Diehard fans, dressed in the iconic red flannels, lined the sidewalk hours before the show. Many were part of The Avett Guild which allows fans to enter the venue a full 15 minutes before everyone else. Another option for early access is to dine at the Vagabond. By spending at least \$15 on a meal and keeping the receipt in hand, staff will escort Vagabond customers to the concert venue through the downstairs of the restaurant which connects directly to The National. The Early-in deal gives fans entry 15 minutes before the public. For early access, it is a great deal and it definitely beats waiting out in the cold for an hour.

Entering the venue, it was clear that people were excited to be at this concert. Whether it was their first night seeing the Avett Brothers in Richmond or their second, fans were eager for the show to start. The Avett Brothers came onto the stage at 8:30 p.m.

The band opened the show with an upbeat instrumental song, ending with all band members playing a kazoo; this was a moment that really got fans excited. The Avett Brothers continued to

work the crowd with many high-energy tunes.

However, a few songs took on a softer vibe. Halfway through the show, Scott and Seth Avett took to the stage without the rest of the band, showing off their raw folk-bluegrass roots. The two brothers from North Carolina showcased their singer-songwriter talents in these more intimate moments, sharing songs from their most recent album, *True Sadness*. When they were again joined by the rest of the band, the vibe quickly became lighthearted and fun.

Although the two Avett brothers first founded the group, their band now consists of drummer Mike Marsh, pianist Paul Defiglia, cellist Joe Kwon and violinist Tania Elizabeth. The whole band is extremely talented, however, the cellist and violinist bring something uniquely refreshing to the songs, as these are both instruments that are not as commonly featured in today's more modern music.

As the night came to an end, a cover of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" was performed by the band. This song beautifully showcased the string instruments played by Kwon and Elizabeth. This was just one of the few songs that the band covered throughout the night. They also did covers of "The Prettiest Thing," by David Childers & The Modern Don Juans and "I Shall Be Released" by Bob Dylan and Pink Floyd's "Time."

With a set list of 29 songs that lasted for two hours, the Avett Brothers did not disappoint when it came to the encore. Covering "Time," by Pink Floyd, the Avett Brothers were joined by guest Herbie Abernathy from the band Valient Thorr.



Bryan Cranston Visits Cville for Book Festival

MaKayla Grapperhaus, staff writer

Bryan Cranston, the award-winning actor best known for his role as Walter White on the hit TV show *Breaking Bad*, made a visit to Charlottesville to discuss his memoir *A Life in Parts*. Joined by Mark Johnson, producer of *Breaking Bad*, Bryan Cranston's appearance at John Paul Jones Arena on March 26, was part of Virginia Festival of the Book, as well as the UVA President's Speaker Series for the Arts.

When Cranston and Johnson came onstage, the large crowd welcomed them enthusiastically. Cranston upon walking on stage remarked how large the crowd was and thanked them all for being there. Shortly after, he began cracking jokes, poking fun at the few of those who chose to take seats on the side of the arena, but it was all in good fun.

Taking a seat facing fellow producer and UVA alumnus Mark Johnson, Cranston shared how he began acting. He said he had worked several humiliating first jobs when he began pursuing acting. However, Cranston's love for acting remained strong despite the many hurdles he encountered at the start of his career. He said, "I was willing to sacrifice. I was willing to go all in and say, 'This is my life.'"

The money and fame often associated with stars who make it big, is not what drew Cranston to performing. He strongly advised to those in the crowd pursuing the arts that if they were in the business for the money, or if they had put an "expiration date" on the time they were willing to invest in making it big, they had only two options: change their entire point of view or change their career path. He reminds the crowd that no matter how talented they are, "There is no guarantee in the arts."

Cranston shared that apart from being dedicated, his success in acting is no different than finding success in any other business. He said, "That's the factor, luck. You need luck and I got luck, I got a lucky break, I got several lucky breaks. I think everyone realizes that the common denominators in whatever business are, hard work and some lucky breaks along the way." Shortly after his final season of *Malcolm in the Middle*, Cranston got his lucky break and was cast as Walter White in *Breaking Bad*.

Born and raised in L.A., Cranston also credits

his father's difficult journey in acting for his own success. As the middle child of three, with a caring mother and a very involved father, Cranston's first eight years of life were great. His childhood memories consist of baseball games and home-cooked meals shared together as a family around the dinner table. During this time, his father was pursuing a career in acting and spent much of his time making small appearances on various radio shows and movies. Cranston said of his father's downfall: "He needed to be a star. It was exceedingly important to him. He needed to be a star and he did not become a star."

Deeply frustrated by his lack of success in acting, Cranston's father left the family for another woman at the age of 40 and began getting into drugs and alcohol. His mother, who had never abused alcohol, became an alcoholic as a result of the heartbreak. Cranston's world turned upside down. He said, "I needed to grow up quicker than I think I probably should have."

Cranston was not damaged by his difficult childhood, but instead credits it for making him who he is today. He said he and his brother were forced to go live with their grandparents during what he calls the most difficult, but also the most formative, year of his life. Cranston and the crowd shared some good laughs over one of the stories in his book. It was from a period in his life when Cranston, a young boy from L.A., attempts to assist his country grandfather in butchering a chicken and the result is him miserably failing and his brother washing him down with a garden hoes. He then shared some wisdom with the crowd: "It was hell, BUT, if any of you have had challenging childhoods like mine was, where you know it is worse than some and not as bad as others, and a challenging young adult life, you have material to write about."

Cranston said, "It is all about the challenges of your life and how you overcame it." Jokingly, he said, "Nobody wants to hear a story about how someone's life was perfect, 'Oh, I got really good grades, my parents loved me and it was so great, and then I met the love of my life and we have three lovely children,' I'm happy for you, but I'm falling asleep. We need conflict to push the story forward." He told the crowd, "If you can, when bad things happen, try to remember in the back of your mind, 'Bryan Cranston told me this will someday make a good story.'"



Levity at the VA Festival of the Book

Marlie Soderquist, staff writer

On March 24, The Virginia Festival of the Book hosted “Poetry: A Little Levity at the New Dominion Bookshop” downtown. The program included two poets, James Brasfield and Joseph Mills.

Joseph Mills’ readings focused on his book *Exit, Pursued By A Bear*, which is a series of poetic prompts inspired by Shakespeare’s stage directions. Mills said he began rereading Shakespeare’s plays and noticed that, each time, they had a different meaning to him. “Macbeth”, for example, was a story of gore and death when he was a teen, a story of a horrible job or boss in his twenties, and then a story of marriage after he met his wife.

“The whole idea was absurd,” said Mills with a laugh, “but every [Shakespeare] play is about family.” Mills said his children and marriage were the inspiration for most of his poems in the book. Mills’ poems have a sense of comedy to them, the perfect examples of levity.

The second poet of the program, James Brasfield, read from his book *Infinite Alters*. To begin, he told a short anecdote of a college professor who always told him that “poems must

transcend.” This prompted his first reading, recalling his first seminar and last class with this professor. Brasfield’s book contained poems ranging from 9/11 to trips from his childhood and visiting his grandparents in Alabama. Each poem recalled an important, frivolous memory.

At the end of the program, the audience members asked questions to both authors about poetry, the process, and the enjoyment of it. Mills brought up a very current issue regarding arts and creativity in schools. When he begins teaching poetry to his students, most groan with angst. Mills said, “You all enjoyed poetry when you were a child you just didn’t know it. Poetry gets taught out of students, the idea that there is a deeper meaning to things is taken away from them.”

Both poets handled levity in their own way, coping with serious memories like 9/11 or finding ways to deal with current problems by relating them to Shakespeare’s stage directions. Brasfield gave a notion for the listeners to consider: “Levity was a substance in all things to make them rise. Gravity was a substance in all things to make them sink. We all need this rollercoaster motion to deal with everyday problems and life.”



Facts and Myths about Mexico

Jake DeLaurier, staff writer

On Feb. 27, Spanish tutor and academic coach Mónica Barquet Schwabe held a presentation titled “Facts and Myths about Mexico and Mexicans.” One of Schwabe’s reasons for the presentation was to show a different side of Mexico and Mexicans that people often do not know about.

Schwabe began the presentation by telling the audience that she was born in Mexico City, and that she is a certified primary school teacher. She also taught English in Ixtapa, Mexico, and she moved to the United States in 2011.

One of the first myths Schwabe debunked was that Mexicans moved to the southwest of the United States because it was near Mexico.

In reality, in 1848 the border crossed the southwest. Mexicans who were already living there decided to stay in that region. Schwabe also talked about the Mayans and how they built astronomic observatories and created the symbol of zero.

Schwabe also discussed language during the presentation. For example, while it is true that most people in Mexico speak Spanish, the Mexican government also recognizes 68 other indigenous Mexican languages. Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world behind Chinese. According to Schwabe, four out of ten Mexicans can speak basic English and it is a mandatory subject in schools.

Mexican cuisine was another topic discussed. An interesting myth about Mexican cuisine involved burritos. Despite being created in

Chihuahua, Mexico, the country would not consider burritos as a traditional Mexican dish. Beside burritos, Schwabe also talked about Taco Bell. Schwabe said that Taco Bell being Mexican food is a myth. “Tacos in Mexico are not made with crispy shells and ingredients like sour cream, tomatoes, and lettuce are not part of tacos in Mexico,” said Schwabe.

Schwabe also addressed the issue of immigration. While some believe that more Mexicans are crossing the United States border more than ever before, Schwabe said that this was not the case. Schwabe told the audience that more Mexicans are leaving the United States rather than entering and it has been this way ever since 2007.

The last thing Schwabe talked about was the Mexican flag. Schwabe told the audience that each part of the Mexican flag serves as a symbol. The color green on the left represents hope, the white in the center represents purity, and the red on the right represents the blood of heroes.

After Schwabe ended her presentation, she took questions from the audience. One of the questions involved how taxes work in Mexico. Schwabe responded by saying that there are two types of taxes, service and governmental. Service taxes go towards things such as schools and roads, and governmental taxes go towards the government.

Schwabe was also asked why she decided to do the presentation in the first place. Schwabe answered by saying, “In these difficult times people have a different view of us and I hope to show a different side of Mexico.”

The Game of Soularium

Charles Stish, staff writer

On March 15, Cru at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) held an event called Sweets and Soularium, where members of the PVCC community were invited to enjoy sugary snacks in the warm Bolick Student Center and participate in Soularium. Which is a method Cru members use to comfort and intrigue those interested into talking about a subject that most people, when asked directly out of nowhere, might back away from, that subject being their views on God.

For those who do not know about Cru, they are a non-denominational Christian fellowship that is open to and respects all other religious views and beliefs. Cru is much larger than its PVCC branch, with chapters on college and university campuses on an international scale.

At an event last semester, Cru at PVCC President Donnie Wilson said, "We would ultimately allow you to join the club and participate [In reference to non-Christians]. But because we are 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." The Soularium event seemed only to flesh out this open mentality the Cru members always seem to possess.

Throughout the event, Cru members wearing their new maroon Cru member T-shirts, played Soularium with their guests. The game is played

by having the guest pick from several photographs of landscapes and people expressing various moods. After the photo selection, the Cru member would then ask the guest why they chose what they did. This, in theory, would make the discussion more personal, open, and viable to diving to a deeper level that could make one comfortable about discussing religious views and beliefs.

Soularium is a successful way to reach its goal. Darin Wakatsuki, a PVCC student and Cru member, said that during his time at Cru's Big Break in Panama City Beach, Florida, the estimated 500 attending Cru members took to the beach with Soularium, all of them ready to play the game and spread the word of God in their unique fashion.

Wakatsuki also spoke about his most notable experience while at the beach. He said, "We were out sharing the gospel for a few hours and not a whole lot of people wanted to have the conversation with us and, because of that, I was getting a little discouraged. But nonetheless, I kept praying to God and right before we were about to finish up sharing, my friend Sam and I were talking and I noticed two girls behind us...So we just stepped out in faith and started talking to them...What's awesome was the will and confidence to go up to two random girls and talk about something that's a little bit scary for some to talk about," he said.

Wakatsuki then noted how the two girls doubted if they would go to heaven, but he told them about a sure way of knowing, referring to the ideals of the Christian faith. Wakatsuki then stated, "Of course, we don't want to pressure anybody at Cru or force anything on them, so we asked if they wanted to and they did."

Whether or not God did had any influence over Wakatsuki and his friend's opportunity cannot be known for sure, but what can be observed is how the two Cru members talked to these two complete strangers and did not intimidate or corner them into an answer. Which can be seen as remarkable, given that some cannot even work up the nerve to talk to any stranger about less substantial subjects.

To learn more about Cru at PVCC, email Donnie Wilson: dsw2752@email.vccs.edu or visit Cru's website at: <https://www.cru.org/>.



Photography by Charles Stish

Review: Kong Skull Island

Jake DeLaurier, staff writer

Watching *Kong: Skull Island* is like watching the world's most expensive B movie. It has bland and forgettable characters, plus a script that is poorly written. However, it still manages to provide a good time at the movies.

The film is set in the early '70s when William Randa (John Goodman) leads an expedition to map out the fictional island, known as Skull Island, to prove that monsters exist. Once their helicopters reach the island, they have an encounter with King Kong himself. After Kong destroys the helicopters, the expedition team is separated into groups and is forced to find a way off the island while trying to avoid being killed by one of the many monsters on Skull Island.

The characters in the film are similar to that of a B movie. Joining Randa in the expedition is Tom Hiddleston as James Conrad, who serves as the film's generic action hero. Brie Larson plays a photojournalist named Mason Weaver who adds nothing to the film and spends most of her screen time taking pictures of the island.

One of the worst written characters in the film is Samuel L. Jackson's character Preston Packard, a United States Lieutenant colonel who is upset over America not being able to win the Vietnam War. The film desperately tries to make Jackson's character seriously but ends up making his character feel like a cartoon character.

The only character I really liked was John C. Reilly's character Hank Marlow, a soldier from World War II who crash landed on Skull Island during the war.

Seeing him interact with the rest of the cast and asked questions on what the world is now like ever since World War II made him really likeable.

The main reason anyone would want to see a King Kong movie is for Kong himself, and the film does not disappoint in that regard. This time around, Kong is massive, even bigger than the Kong from Peter Jackson's 2005 remake. The reason for Kong's massive size is so that he will be able to face off against Godzilla in the upcoming *Godzilla vs. Kong* in 2020. Because not even Kong can escape Hollywood's obsession with turning everything into a shared universe.

Skull Island is also full of other creatures besides Kong. This includes colossal spiders, a giant octopus, and strange lizard creatures which the film calls skull crawlers. The sense that danger lurks around every corner is one of the film's strongest elements.

The audience that was in the theater also seemed to enjoy the film. Some examples of this include the audience laughing at most of the jokes in the film, a guy not being able to hold his excitement during the final battle, and another guy randomly shouting out "yes" when Kong threw a palm tree at a helicopter. So I guess you can say the film checks off all the boxes for being a crowd pleaser.

Overall, *Kong: Skull Island* is far from a perfect movie; in fact, I can think of a number of films that are currently in theaters that are better than this. However, for what it is worth, *Kong: Skull Island* does its job by being a solid B movie, and I look forward to seeing this version of King Kong duking it out with Godzilla in 2020.



Photography by Jake DeLaurier

Review: *Get Out*

Shawn Stevenson, staff writer

Jordan Peele's *Get Out* possesses a *je ne sais quoi* all of its own. Bringing its audience a fresh sense of horror with satirical racism and a dash of comedy. Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) is a black photographer who goes to a well-endowed suburbia with his white girlfriend Rose (Allison Williams) to spend a weekend with her family.

However, before they leave, he finds out that she neglected to tell them that he was black, which makes him ill at ease. It does not help the case, that in the opening scene, a young black man is snatched walking down the sidewalk and thrown into a car. This event is unknown by Chris and is prior to his arrival.

It is hard to tell that *Get Out* is Jordan Peele's directorial debut, because it feels quite the

opposite. With well executed performances, Dean (Bradley Whitford) is too friendly and direct to be hiding anything, or so it may seem. Missy (Catherine Keener), is a psychiatrist who Chris feels un-easy around and fears the way she gets inside his head with a type of hypnosis, sending him to a "sunken place," and exposing the feelings he has about his mother who was killed in a hit-and-run accident when he was a young child.

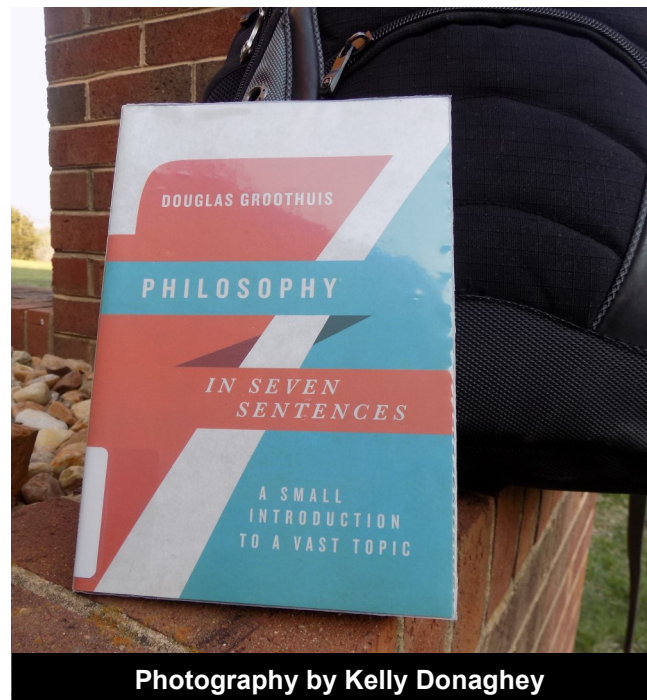
Rose however, seems to be the biggest mystery in the movie. Instead of insisting that everything is okay, she actually lets Chris know that everything that is going on is actually happening, trying to help him make sense out of everything as if she really cares. If you love jump-scares, amazing plot twists and gore, then *Get Out* is a must-see movie.

Philosophy Book Review

Kelly Donaghey, staff writer

I will be honest, the only reason I picked up *Philosophy in Seven Sentences*, by Douglas Groothuis, is because it was small. "This is great. I can rip right through this for the newspaper," I thought.

Well, surprise! It took longer than I had expected, not because the book was bad, but because I found myself wanting to ponder it while reading. This is a book of seven essays written around seven famous sentences in philosophy. Groothuis conveys his enthusiasm for the subject while clearly explaining how each sentence captures its speaker's school of thought, and how their philosophies contributed to the culture of Western civilization. That is my main issue with the book, actually. It only focuses on Western philosophy. Groothuis himself points this out in the introduction, and states he will write a follow-up book of Eastern philosophy; he chose to do this because he liked the alliteration of the title. While, obviously, a joke—if that were the case, why not *Philosophy in Sixteen Sentences*? Perhaps it would be a longer book, but it would not ignore the contributions and accomplishments of non-Western philosophers.



Photography by Kelly Donaghey

Other than this oversight, I truly enjoyed the book, and wish his book on Eastern philosophy was already out. If you want a brief, light introduction to philosophy, this is worth a look—though maybe not if you want a quick read.

Review: Sensational Home Cooking

Sean Gill, staff writer

I remember going to high school in a small town in rural South Dakota where every evening, after football practice, I would come home to an appetizing home cooked meal. That's the same feeling I got as I walked into Doodles Diner at 1305 Long St. over by the Pantops area of Charlottesville.

I have known the owner of the restaurant for two years now, as she frequented the Starbucks where I formerly worked.

She would always come in to get her morning iced coffee before heading off to work from open to close. She has a small, friendly staff, but due to the size of the staff comes a problem, they're closed on Monday. However, for me, this just added to the small town, rural diner feel it gave off.

As one enters the building, it is noticeable that it is not crowded. Against the walls to the left and right are booths, totaling roughly six or eight and in the center of the floor are approximately another six to eight tables that each hold between four and eight people.

Looking up and seeing the rest of the restaurant I felt a sense of openness which provided a homely feel. There is the counter where they can take to-go orders and beyond that one can see straight into the kitchen providing a more personable feel.

I sat down at one of the comfortable booths and noticed just how clean the place was and how at home I felt. The waitress was incredibly friendly and was quick in retrieving my beverage. As I had scoped out some suggestions on the

internet prior to going in, I knew right away what I wanted to order, the open-faced roast beef sandwich with macaroni salad and mashed potatoes. "Delicious! The open faced roast beef sandwich and mashed potatoes exceeded my expectations. The staff was great and patient with the kids," said Bethany F. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in her *Yelp review*.

Many other reviewers had tried out the same meal. So, I decided I could not go wrong after this.

The wait time was just right, especially considering that I was the only occupant at the time. I noticed that the sandwich was cooked exactly to my expectations, nothing too fantastic though. However, the gravy they used on top of the roast beef sandwich was elegant, it was easily distinguishable that it was homemade. Being a mashed potato fanatic, I knew that their homemade mashed potatoes would be the ultimate test and they aced it.

The macaroni salad tasted just fine and was probably my least favorite of what was on my plate. My meal cost me close to \$8. I would suggest Doodles Diner if you are in the mood for some good southern home cooking.

They offer breakfast all day long and have a plethora of home cooking style foods such as hamburgers, country-style green beans, cream of mushroom soup, and homemade blackberry cobbler.

You could normally get away with spending \$6 to \$8 a person. Doodles Diner is closed on Monday and opened Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.





Photography by Marlie Soderquist

Zinburger, Where UVA Comes to Play

Marlie Soderquist, staff writer

Located in the Barracks Road shopping center, Zinburger Wine and Burger Bar stands out from the run of the mill store fronts with its large glass windows and backyard-feel patio seating.

Walking into Zinburger, customers are hit with the crispness of white napkins on polished wooden tables with white chairs, mirror-lined walls, multiple televisions, and a delightfully large mural of cows grazing in a green pasture, a slight reminder of the fresh and healthy beef you are about to be fed.

The wait staff wears denim shirts and pants, that give the atmosphere a more relaxed bar vibe. The many times I have been to Zinburger, my service has been expected for a burger joint. Drinks are refilled, food comes out within 10 minutes, mistakes are fixed promptly, and the amount of friendliness you receive depends on your server, which is expected in a restaurant always filled with college students.

"It's all about the guests, the guests keep me coming back to work every day. It's at the base of UVA if you want to see a basketball player, coaches, anybody they all come to Zinburger," stated Shaun, our helpful and caring waiter, showing the true colors of Zinburger and their employees.

The price of the burgers range anywhere from \$9 to \$15, depending on your choice of meat, and in comparison to other top burger joints in Charlottesville, their prices are similar if not lower in some cases. They offer salads, sides such as onion rings, fries, coleslaw, and mac and cheese, build your own burger, which is a nice option if you do not like any of their pre-made

choices, and delicious shakes and pies for dessert.

I have been rather displeased my last few visits to Zinburger due to the employee meetings they have right in the center of the restaurant. Granted, these times have been right before prime lunch and dinner hours, the restaurant still had customers and the meetings seem rather last minute.

Although, I am happy they are getting caught up on their tasks and goals for the night, when your waitress is standing in a huddle and their manager will not let them leave to refill your water, it seems rather juvenile and something you would see in a new restaurant and not one that has been open for a few years.

On my last visit, I started with an order of a favorite of mine and anyone else I have brought to Zinburger, their Double Truffle Fries which are topped with Truffle oil and parmesan, and served with a Truffle Aioli dipping sauce. Is your mouth watering yet?

After I was finished, delivered on a white plate was their wonderful Ahi Tuna Sandwich. Served on their signature bun which is soft on the inside and lightly toasted the Ahi tuna is served medium rare and must be the best Ahi I have ever tasted.

Their mayonnaise with Tamari glaze which gives it a phenomenally sweet taste, three slices of avocado which complement the fish without overpowering it, coleslaw and three pickle slices off to the side.

Zinburger has been a nice alternative to Five Guys and Burger King by offering many specials to their guests and always having a new burger on the menu. If you are looking for a delicious and filling meal, Zinburger is the place to be.

Kathryn St. Clair: Adjunct Instructor of Geology

MaKayla Grapperhaus, staff writer

Nearly everyone can remember picking up a special rock as a child and marveling at the spectacular color, size and shape. These memories of wonder, exploration and discoveries are a staple of childhood. While as adults we often lose interest in exploring the earth beneath our feet, for Kathryn St. Clair this childhood passion became lifelong.

St. Clair, an adjunct instructor of geology at Piedmont Virginia Community College, is perhaps best described as a rock enthusiast. St. Clair says she has been interested in geology since she first started picking up rocks as a young child. Her interest in Geology has continued to grow throughout the years. She says that she really began to fall in love with the subject when attending science classes at Virginia Western Community College (VWCC) in 1996.

In 1997, St. Clair earned her associate degree in education from VWCC. She then transferred to Radford, where she earned a Bachelors in Science in both Geology and physics. Although she later attended Virginia Tech to earn her Doctor of Philosophy, she did not finish it. Most recently, in 2015, St. Clair completed her Masters in Education at Concordia University.

Since earning her Masters in Education, St. Clair has been teaching at various schools. However, she says that teaching is something that she has been doing for most of her life. One of her first teaching jobs was teaching outreach when she was a paramedic in Roanoke County. She then taught Earth Science in Montgomery County high schools for 10 years. St. Clair also

taught physics for five years at New River Community College.

Currently, St. Clair teaches geology at PVCC. She said, "This is my first semester and [PVCC] is my favorite community college in the system!" It is clear that St. Clair is nearly as passionate

about teaching as she is about geology. She says that her favorite things about teaching at PVCC are the feeling of family, the community and the school support.

When she's not teaching, St. Clair enjoys reading, hiking, and, of course, collecting rocks. St. Clair said enthusiastically, "Geology tells you about where we live, how it came to be and how it supports us. What's not to love? There are secrets about the universe being told if we know how to listen."

She shared that some highlights of working in the field of geology has been working in

California at the San Andreas Fault. St. Clair offered the following advice to students who are interested in studying geology: "Not to worry as much about grades as about comprehension. Learning to understand a subject is key to becoming a master in it. And have fun while you're at it. Every day you live through is a day of your life - enjoy it. Take care of yourself, self-care is something that needs to be learned so that the stresses of getting through the demands of a difficult major can be met.

St. Clair concluded, "I was a high-school dropout who never thought I could amount to much academically until I found the Virginia Community College System. I hope I can give back a fraction of the faith I received."



Photography courtesy of Kathryn St. Clair

Piedmont Profile: Rachel Koch

Antonia Florence, assistant editor

Rachel Koch earned her associate degree in Computer Science from PVCC almost a year ago. But she is not pursuing a profession in computers. In fact, during her four years as a full-time student, Koch learned a lot about herself.

It took her four years to earn her associate degree because she had a difficult time grasping advanced mathematical concepts. Now, she is back at PVCC but this time in a different capacity.

During her mathematical struggle, which coincided with what she termed her first real computer programming class, she “accepted a job as an embedded math tutor in a pre-Calculus class in addition to three developmental math classes,” wrote Koch in an electronic interview.

This meant that beginning with the fall 2014 semester, Koch attended those classes in addition to her scheduled academic program classes. At that point, she had no desire to take any more math than her degree required.

“About halfway through the semester, I discovered that I really didn't enjoy programming,” wrote Koch, “at the same time I came to the realization that I loved math. In part because I had an amazing Calculus teacher, Wendi Dass, and in part because I realized that I liked teaching people math.”

“I was partnered with two incredible math professors for my tutoring, Zack Beamer and Jon Hexter, who made me see math in a whole new light.

Plus, I know math is a source of stress for a lot of people. I like being a positive influence for what can be a stressful subject,” wrote Koch.

Koch knew she had to make a decision. She could continue on her path to a computer science degree and then move on or explore the field of mathematics even though PVCC does not offer a math degree, or do both.

She decided to complete her computer science degree and fulfill the requirements that PVCC offered toward a math degree at a four year college.

Her transfer to James Madison University was seamless, but Koch said she wished she had



Photography courtesy of Rachel Koch

begun the transfer process earlier to cut down on stress.

In addition to being a full-time math major at JMU, she tutors in PVCC's First Quadrant Math Center three partial days each week.

Koch has two children, 15-year-old Adrianna and 12-year-old Bennett. Koch is proud of how her children support her educational effort. “My kids have been dealing with me being in school since my daughter was in fifth grade. They're super supportive. My daughter makes dinner on nights when I get home late or have to stay up all night studying. It's hard for them sometimes, they miss my free time, but they are proud of me and encourage me all the time. Just yesterday my son took my phone away so I would have to study,” wrote Koch.

Her plan is to finish her bachelor's degree at JMU in 2018 and continue to Virginia Commonwealth University for graduate school.

Koch's ultimate goal is to teach math at the community college level. Koch wrote, “Maybe at PVCC if I am lucky and they will have me.”

Koch has continued to appreciate her math instructors even though she is now a JMU student.

She wrote, “I respect the math department there so much. I've been very lucky to have many amazing teachers and mentors in the PVCC math department. I'm proud to be a PVCC graduate and I hope one day to give back for all they have given me.”

Review: Poke Sushi Bowl

Tucker Noelke, staff writer

New to the already diverse series of unique restaurants on the UVA Corner, located on 14th Street NW, is Poke Sushi Bowl. Its healthy and trendy menu make it a popular choice among the college community.

I walked in to find a line of students patiently waiting. Grace Deal, who attends the University of Virginia, said, "Living five minutes from the Corner, I eat a lot of my meals on the Corner. I found myself eating at the same restaurants, so having Poke gives me another option that is fresh and new." Poke allows its customers to order a signature Poke bowl, or one can make their own custom order.

Starting at the front, the customer is able to pick from white or brown sushi rice as the base of the meal. Next, a protein is picked by the customer. A customer can pick from many

options from tofu, to shrimp, and my favorite, salmon. Customers are then able to add in toppings. In my sushi bowl, added in with my white rice and salmon, I picked edamame, mango, cucumber, and seaweed. I then topped it off with traditional soy sauce. My custom bowl was fresh and filled with flavor. With the wide variety of different ingredients I couldn't imagine ever making a bowl that wasn't tasty.

Poke is open from 11am to 10pm, Monday through Sunday. The small restaurant building has limited seating inside, but they have outside seating as well. The employees were more than happy to encourage me to try new things and were pleasant all around.

Poke's new take on sushi is one that can not be found anywhere else in Charlottesville. As a sushi lover, Poke is a new and exciting way to eat sushi. Prices start at \$10 for one bowl, but the size and quality do make it well worth it.

Southern Cuisine at the Whiskey Jar

Olivia Stevens, staff writer

On the downtown mall, right across from Main Street Arena ice skating rink, glowing mason jars light up a corner sign that reads The Whiskey Jar. When you walk into the softly lit restaurant, the dark red walls contribute to the atmosphere. On the walls are vintage animal artwork, even a few stuffed animal heads. A wall separates the bar from the other half of the restaurant.

The hostess stand is directly next to the door, so the traffic between people coming in and out causes people to slide between each other. As soon as we walked in the door, the hostess greeted us, and even though it was crowded that night I was seated only a minute after I had walked in. When the waitress greeted us, she filled our mason jars up with water. The menu was full of BBQ sandwiches, mac and cheese, fried chicken, burgers, and many other southern foods.

While waiting for the food to arrive, the waitress brought out peanuts and cucumbers to



eat before the food was ready. The cucumbers had a tangy and sweet flavor which complimented the peanuts. Then she brought out fried chicken and collard greens with gravy on the side, which cost \$15, and the Crunch Burger with potato wedges, fries and a salad which cost \$15 as well.

The fried chicken tasted sharp and seasoned in the first bite, and the crunch of the chicken was a refreshing blend of seasoning. The collard greens I tried without the gravy at first, was a bit salty, but when I added the gravy they both complemented each other perfectly.

The Crunch Burger tasted phenomenal, on top of the burger was a sauce that tasted savory. Lastly, the fries were fresh, and I had the pleasure of trying them with their ranch that tasted so much better than store bought.

The Whiskey Jar is a great place to go when you are on the downtown mall and want a good place to get a sit down meal. The Whiskey Jar is open Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 12 a.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Stevie Nicks Comes to Town

Marlie Soderquist, staff writer

Famous for her years in Fleetwood Mac and break-out hits such as “Landslide” and “Edge of Seventeen”, Stevie Nicks brought a bit of rock ‘n’ roll to Charlottesville on March 26.

Nicks started performing in the 1960’s, beginning her career in Buckingham Nicks, a rock duo made up of herself and Lindsey Buckingham. The duo’s album was not very successful, so both went on to sign with Fleetwood Mac in 1975. Nicks became an overnight sensation. Since then, she has had six top-ten albums and eight Grammy nominations. She was also dubbed the queen of rock ‘n’ roll by Rolling Stone Magazine.

Proving her reign, Nicks performed an electrifying show Saturday night. This is her second visit to the John Paul Jones Arena. She

performed at the arena with Fleetwood Mac in 2016. Nicks was touring with The Pretenders, an English-American rock band, but they were not able to perform because the lead singer was ill.

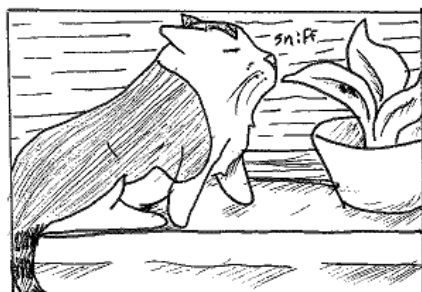
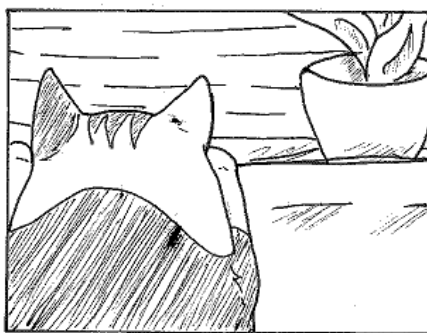
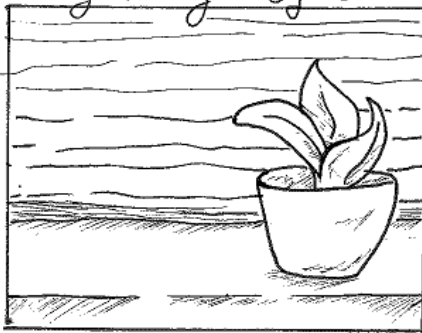
Nicks performed many popular hits but also sang songs from what she called her “gothic chest of songs” that were never heard before this concert tour. At 68 years old, Nicks said she feels her concerts should be filled with what makes her the most happy. Revisiting these songs allowed her to rekindle the past.

To set the vibe Nicks opened the show stating, “It’s a trip, it’s a journey come with me.” followed by her signature twirl. She made tributes to Prince and gave thanks to Tom Petty as well as Fleetwood Mac. A story of the songs origin or its inspiration accompanied each song.

To finish the show Nicks encore included two songs, “Rhiannon” and “Landslide”. Before leaving the stage, she held peace signs to the crowd reminding everyone to “Turn your radios up and your TV’s off!”



Tag-along by: Caroline



Classifieds

Summer and Fall registration is open! Register Now!

The current student priority registration period is from March 27 – April 10. This is YOUR TIME to register for summer and fall classes first. Beginning April 10, registration will be open to new students too.

March 27 – April 7 (Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

The Admissions and Advising Center will be hosting a *Course Café* in the Bolick Student Center in the Main Building. Academic advisors will be present to answer questions about classes, your program requirements, and what courses are best for transfer. You can even register for classes right there in the Bolick Center. Plus, we'll have free snacks!

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

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