

PVCC Celebrates School's International Diversity

Skye Scott, assistant editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Bolick Student Center to celebrate the cultural diversity at PVCC.

Before the speakers started, participants were encouraged to put heart stickers on a colorful world map to show where their families were from. Participants could also write their name and ancestry on name tags to wear for the rest of the day.

The first speaker was Connie Jorgensen, an assistant professor of political science.

She started by introducing herself and where her ancestors came from. She said, "We are a loving and supporting environment." Concluding by saying this environment is what makes PVCC the community that it is.

After Jorgensen, Jessica Kingsley, an English professor, read from PVCC's official statement in response to the Executive Order on Immigration. This statement says that everyone should have access to a PVCC education, and that PVCC takes pride in their diversity. Then it says, "The international members of the PVCC community enrich

Read more activism
 in Charlottesville on
 pages 5 and 8

our campus. They are a welcome and vital part of our global mission."

Next, Jennifer Koster, another English professor, read a poem written by Warsan Shire. The poem, titled "Home," starts with "no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark. you only run for the border when you see the whole city running as well." Koster read, with tears in her eyes and her voice cracking, the ending of the poem, "no one leaves home until home is a

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Photography by Skye Scott

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DATES TO REMEMBER

— Student Success Day * —

March 1, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Main Building

— Spring Break —

March 6-12

— Richmond Ballet ^ —

March 8, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

— Last day to apply for Spring Graduation —

March 15

— Credible News Seminar * —

March 15, 12-1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— SGA Talent Show Auditions * —

March 15 & 16, 12-1 p.m., Main Building

— Free Movie Friday: *Hidden Figures* * —

March 17, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

— What High School Didn't Teach You Event 1* —

March 20, 12-1 p.m., M229

— PVCC 33rd Annual Job Fair * —

March 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Main Building

— What High School Didn't Teach You Event 2 * —

March 22, 12-1 p.m., M229

— VA Festival of the Book —

March 22-26, around Charlottesville

— What High School Didn't Teach You Event 3* —

March 24, 12-1 p.m., M229

— Financial Aid Workshop * —

March 25, 9 a.m. to noon, sign up online:

www.pvcc.edu/supersaturday

— Lecture: Marianne vs Joan of Arc * —

March 29, 12-1 p.m., M229

— PVCC Presents *Cabaret* ^ —

March 31 & April 1, 7:30 p.m.; April 1 & 2, 2:30 p.m.

Dickinson Auditorium

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

Student Success Day March 1

Skye Scott, assistant editor

The third annual Student Success day will be on Wednesday, March 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will take place in the Bolick Student Center and surrounding classrooms.

There will be 10 interactive workshops. Five will be happening from 11-11:25 a.m., the other 5 will be from 11:30-11:55 a.m.

The goal of these workshops is to help students learn how to succeed here at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC).

The dessert seminars are: “Math Anxiety: What is it and How to Overcome it,” “The Power of Grit, Mindset, and Locus of Control,” “Debunking the Myths of Financial Aid,” “The Transfer Tornado,” “How to Use your Resume to Stand Out,” “Meet the First Quadrant: Tutoring and More,” “Honors Classes—Experiences and Rewards,” “Managing Test Anxiety,” “3 Secrets to a Great Interview,” and “Commas, Commas, Commas, Come on!”

From 12-1 p.m., there will be free pizza and desserts for everyone who participates in the resource fair. Fliers and table toppers around campus promise music and prizes as well! Students should check with their professors to see if they are offering extra credit for participation.

“The second annual Student Success Day was great event, drawing more than 350 students to participate in a dozen interactive workshops and a resource fair, all designed to increase the awareness and knowledge of the student body, and hopefully helping many more students achieve their goals that have brought them to PVCC,” said David Lerman, coordinator of student success, about last semester’s event.



SGA's First Town Hall Meeting

Charles Stish, staff writer

On Feb. 8, PVCC's Student Government Association (SGA) held the first ever Town Hall Meeting, where students and faculty were invited and encouraged to ask three of PVCC's college administrators questions about topics related to the school.

The panel was set in the Bolick Student Center from 12 to 12:55 p.m. with SGA President Wadah Al Mulhim hosting the event. The three guest panelists were PVCC President Dr. Frank Friedman, Vice President for Instruction & Student Services Instruction & Student Services Dr. John Donnelly, and Vice President of Finance & Administrative Services Kim McManus.

By 11:55 a.m., the Bolick Student Center was full of PVCC students and faculty eager to ask their questions directly to three of PVCC's most higher-up members. It had the warm feeling of a community coming together to discuss issues, problems, and concerns to find solutions for the common good.

One student asked, "Because of so many Muslim students that we have in this school, I was wondering if there was a way we can have a room, a prayer room, where Muslims can pray. Can we do something like that?"

President Friedman said, "Space is a real problem here at the college; we're very short on space. We're especially short on non-classroom space. We have many different clubs and organizations that have asked us for space dedicated to them, and it's just not possible to provide that amount of space. The other thing is we do not provide special accommodations for one religious practice over another. So providing a space just for Muslims, or just for Christians, or just for Jews, is against the policies we have and the philosophies that we have. So there is a practical issue of space and the philosophical issue that we do not provide special religious space for individual religions."

Another question was about the issue of parking spaces. Vice President McManus answered first, explaining there will be more parking in the future as more facilities are built. President Friedman said, "I knew we'd get a question about parking. So, I'm going to give you the answer I've been giving for the past, I don't

even know how many years now, whenever a student brings it up. And you're going to hate my answer, so I'm telling you that right now."

He explained statistically there is enough parking space and the parking is monitored so they know how many parking spaces are needed to fulfill the college's needs. He acknowledged the problem of people having to park by the Dickinson Building to get to a class in the Main Building, but he noted, "You will never, underline the word never, park this close to your classrooms again. You will yearn for the days when you could park in the Dickinson lot and walk to this building. So remember, these are the good old days of parking, not the bad old days of parking." The audience responded with applause and laughter.

After that, Vice President Donnelly added that the scheduling was a part of the issue, saying, "Nine through noon classes are the most popular classes that students sign up for."

Toward the end of the meeting, SGA President Al Mulhim asked the panelists, "What helped you to get through your college career and do you have any helpful tips or suggestions for our students?"

Vice President McManus said that keeping in contact with his professors was helpful during his college years.

Vice President Donnelly suggested working with others in your field of study is a good practice, as it helped him through his college career. Donnelly also suggested being active in the school outside of the classroom by spending time with friends or going to events, to make the school more than a place of work and study.

Agreeing with his vice presidents, President Friedman suggested for students to stay active and participate in the school by not only going to extra events, studying with friends, or being a part of the clubs, but also being connected with their professors. Friedman stated that one of the advantages of PVCC is "small classes and faculty who teach and really care."

Any PVCC student can contact the SGA to voice their opinions and suggestions. The SGA will share concerns directly to college administrators. President Friedman said, "I think the best way for students to make sure their voice is heard is through the SGA."

International Diversity Continued from page 1

damp voice in your ear saying leave, run now, i don't know what i've become."

Colum Leckey, a history professor, followed Koster and spoke of the historical contexts surrounding the Executive Order on Immigration.

Wadah Al Mulhim, the Student Government Association president and the only scheduled student speaker, was next. Al Mulhim is a refugee from Iraq; however, his speech did not center around his personal experience. Rather, it focused around things almost anyone could understand and appreciate. He addressed political unity: "It doesn't matter if you're red, blue or neither. Our strength is in our unity." He said that the Executive Order did not reflect on the American people whom he knows. Smiling, but with a cracking voice and tears in his eyes, he ended saying, "Open your mind to the world and understand that we can make our country great again if we love, tolerate and respect each other. This is the U.S.A and it won't be great with U.S!"

The last scheduled speaker was Bruce Glassco, an English professor. His speech concentrated around fear, mainly the fear of people that are not like us. He used the example of the Phoenicians, who were ancient sea-traders. They traveled all over the known world gathering items from the countries and trading them to other people. He said, "People could have thrown them out, or killed them and taken their goods, but the

ones who were willing to trade got something in exchange that was even more valuable than the ships' holds full of goods." Apparently the Phoenicians had developed a written phonetic alphabet they would share to the people they traded with. Glassco said that our whole modern education is thanks to these simple sea-traders, and "the people they traded with who managed to overcome their fear of different people with different customs."

All during the speeches, participants sat and stood wrapped in silent attention. The crowd grew steadily bigger as students and professors coming and going from class would stop in the sunny hallway to listen.

After Glassco, the microphone was open and anyone could come up and speak. About 13 other faculty and students stood and used their personal stories as encouragement for the people at PVCC who might be affected by the Executive Order.

Kris Swanson, an assistant professor of French, talked about the welcoming symbol of the Statue of Liberty. She read from Emma Lazarus's poem, "The New Colossus," which is engraved in the Statute. She began tearing up near the end, when she read "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



Photography by Skye Scott





Protestors marched at the University of Virginia on Jan. 29, 2017.

When Religion and Government Met

Joe Fowler, online editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) president sat outside of Jimmy John's reviewing research on the differences between fungal growth on organic and conventionally grown apples. Making use of his free time, he waited patiently for a discussion on recent changes to immigration law. Wadah Al Mulhim, the SGA president, is a Muslim immigrant from Iraq.

Al Mulhim agreed to speak about President Donald Trump's controversial executive order from Jan. 27, 2017 titled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." The order included a temporary ban on travel into the United States from several countries with majority Muslim populations and initially affected visa and green card holders.

"The same person who passed the ban also said to ban Muslims six months ago. There is a connection," Al Mulhim said of the executive order a week after its initial inception. Though quick to point out the poor phrasing and implementation of the executive action, Al Mulhim said that he was a strong proponent of both legal immigration and protecting the border and country, provided such actions serve to make everyone feel safe "within our sovereign borders."

"If Trump protects the border, I agree, but

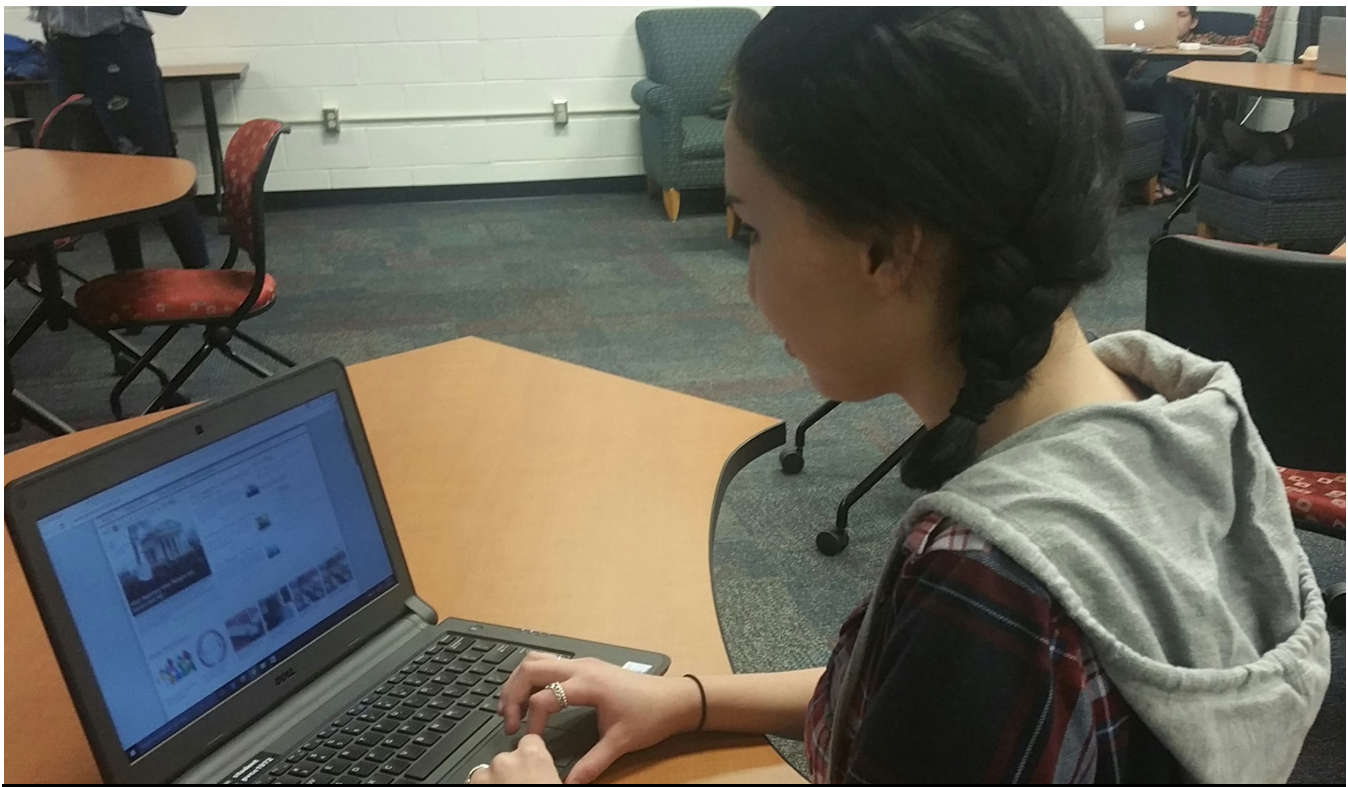
that should protect everyone," said Al Mulhim. The massive amount of protests that ensued over the hours and days immediately following the executive order failed to convey a message that citizens felt safe in America.

One such rally and march took place that weekend at the UVA Rotunda. Several hundred people convened at the Rotunda bearing signs that welcomed refugees and immigrants. Other signs simply read "RESIST." Charlottesville Vice-Mayor Wes Bellamy spoke to the crowd wearing workout clothes and reasoning that people wearing suits and ties were responsible for causing the trouble and turmoil of contemporary America.

After the speakers finished, the march began with cheers in support of the many Muslim citizens in attendance and criticisms against politicians, particularly those currently occupying the White House.

"People just kept showing up," one attendee said of the march. Both the rally and march were peaceful and legal. Though there was a slight police presence for public safety, no major direct actions or other forms of civil disobedience occurred, though protesters sent a poignant message that was repeated at PVCC, City Hall and beyond.

Editor's Note: For more with Wadah Al Mulhim go to piedmontforum.com



Janessa Jones uses a library laptop. Photography by Olivia Stevens

G.O.A.L. Program Loans 30 Laptops

Olivia Stevens, staff writer

During the fall semester 2016 at PVCC, the library introduced the G.O.A.L. program which allowed 30 students who meet financial aid requirements to use laptops for their homework outside of school. Students who qualify have to be enrolled in at least six credits, including one face-to-face class on the main campus. Another deciding factor is how much a student's family contributes according to their FAFSA calculation.

Applications for the next semester will be available during the spring semester of 2017, according to Jacqueline Carrell. The students who had laptops in the previous semester have first consideration. Otherwise, computers are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The application process can take from a few days to a few weeks. After reviewing each application, the library will choose applicants who will then need to sign a contract.

Before students can receive the laptop, they must go to an orientation session. Students who are on academic probation are allowed to apply and be approved for the G.O.A.L. program, but

the library website says that they have to meet with a retention advisor.

If students drop a class and are taking fewer than six credits, the students have to return the laptops. If the students do not turn the laptop in 72 hours, then they must pay a fee of \$5 per day.

All laptops that are being borrowed in the spring semester must be returned by May 8, 2017. If they are not returned by 9:30 p.m. on May 8, 2017, there will be a charge of \$5 per day late, according to a notice on the laptop.

Along with a fine, the student will not be allowed to receive their grades, transcripts, or diplomas until the laptop is returned, according to the contract. The contract also states that if the laptop is past due by seven business days then the student is not allowed to use the G.O.A.L. program in any future semesters.

When asked if the G.O.A.L. program has been a success since it has started, Jacqueline Carrell said that "it had been a success so far." So if a student needs a laptop and does not have the means to buy one, go to the library and ask about the G.O.A.L. program.

Piedmont's English Conversation Circle

Marlie Soderquist, staff writer

Non-native English speakers at Piedmont Virginia Community College should consider dropping by the Writing Center Lab (M627) on Tuesday or Wednesday nights.

Professor Jennifer Koster and tutors from the Writing Center meet for the English Conversation Circle from 6-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 5-6 p.m. on Wednesdays to help non-native English speakers feel more comfortable when discussing the English language with their peers.

"We started ECC (English Conversation Circle) in summer 2016 to provide our non-native English speakers an opportunity to practice conversing. Many non-native speakers have studied English in their home countries and are able to understand it when they read. However, it is difficult to understand native English speakers because of the rate of their speech, their accents, and their idiom usage [such as, "Oh, that's a piece of cake!"]. ECC is designed to help them learn some vocabulary and practice speaking so that they can keep up in their classes, but also has the effect of making students feel more comfortable on campus, like they're a part of the community," Professor Koster explains.

Piedmont's student population has many non-native English speakers, and there are many

resources for them on campus. The ECC is another way to make them feel accepted, learn about American culture, and meet other non-native English speakers.

The ECC allows English speaking students to attend as well. Professor Koster emphasizes that native English speakers benefit just as much as non-native speakers from the circles. "Learning about other cultures has been fascinating for us. We've learned about how other cultures organize or view time, perspectives on our education system, and aspects of our lives that are unusual to outsiders," she said. The turnout for the circle has not been large and students are encouraged to come out.

There are different themes each week such as "Enjoying Money," "What do you think?" and "Getting around." The themes act as a starting point to each session and are the basis of a long list of questions that can be discussed that night.

For those that have attended the circles, the impact has been great and just what Professor Koster was hoping for.

"The students tell us they feel more comfortable on campus and that they feel more comfortable talking to native speakers generally," she said.

The circle will continue to meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the Spring semester.



English Conversation Circle. Photography by Skye Scott



Hundreds gather press conference at Downtown Mall. Photography by Sean Gill

Charlottesville Declared Capital of Resistance

Sean Gill, staff writer

Mayor Mike Signer made a strong declaration for Charlottesville as he announced the city as a Capital of the Resistance on Jan. 31 in front of hundreds that gathered at Charlottesville City Hall.

It was a declaration made in response to President Donald J. Trump's executive order filed on Friday, Jan. 27, which affects thousands of refugees trying to escape hostile situations in their home countries.

"This is not about politics or about party or even a president. This is about America and about American values," Signer told the crowd of hundreds of people.

Other speakers were also at the press conference such as Khizr Khan, Gold Star Father of United States Army Captain Humayun Khan, who was killed in 2004 during the Iraq War. Khan is most recently known for his speech given during the Democratic National Convention in July 2016. "Thank you for standing for the values of this country and for the values of our forefathers," said Khan as he addressed those attending the press conference.

There were also some people in attendance showing support for President Trump's executive order. Jason Kessler, a conservative blogger, was live streaming the event while providing commentary to his viewers. Police intervened when another attendee attempted to grab the phone out of Kessler's hands.

Currently, the declaration is merely a symbolic move as Signer was there on behalf of himself only and wasn't representing the entire

Charlottesville City Council. Signer talked about the steps he plans on taking to help Charlottesville's refugee population. This included providing easy access to immigration lawyers and attempts to declare Charlottesville a sanctuary city.

The declaration has not received any immediate response from the Trump administration. However, President Trump stated, days prior to the press conference, that federal funding would be cut for any sanctuary cities.



Photography by Sean Gill

Your Safety is Their Priority

Marlie Soderquist, staff writer

A typical day at work for Piedmont Virginia Community College's Chief of Police, Chris Wyatt consists of patrolling the grounds, handing out parking tickets, supervising other security guards and officers, volunteering in the community garden, and fixing odds and ends around campus.

After retiring from Richmond's police department after twenty-two years, Wyatt (a PVCC alum) noticed the college was hiring. He thought that this job would be a walk in the park compared to the shootings, homicides, and robberies he saw in Richmond every day. Wyatt applied and was quickly offered the job of chief of police. Currently, Wyatt oversees the safety officers and the three sworn police officers here at PVCC. Safety is his number one priority, and all officers follow the same rules and procedures that he did at Richmond's police department.

To maintain safety at PVCC, Wyatt plans drills such as the recent table top talk with the state police that discussed what to do in an active shooter situation. He also listens to local police radio stations and keeps in contact with both state, Albemarle police, and the DMV to ensure parking tickets are handled correctly. Measures taken by PVCC's threat assessment team, made up of faculty members, officers, and board members for when students submit police reports also allow for any apparent threats to be handled properly.

Wyatt believes PVCC's campus is extremely safe, "I even allow my children to explore the

halls of PVCC and I would never leave them alone in the mall," he joked.

If there ever is a moment you feel unsafe, Wyatt encourages students to dial 911 first, then the PVCC's police department (434) 981-6362. Any phone calls made to either number will alert the officer on campus, as well as Officer Wyatt. An

officer is on campus Monday through Friday, 24 hours a day, and their response time is usually no more than three minutes (depending on the urgency of the situation).

Wyatt reminds students that PVCC has spared no expense to ensure student's safety: Installing 59 cameras, safe boxes (in case of fire), and hiring amazing officers. Many who are retired police or military.

All of PVCC's officers have an open-door policy. If you ever have questions, feel free to visit the campus police office in M709 or the security office located next to Perk Up.



Chief Chris Wyatt
Photography by
Marlie Soderquist



Students can find the Public Safety Office next to Perk Up. Photography by Sean Gill

Fourth Fridays Improv at PVCC

Sean Gill, staff writer

Every fourth Friday from 6-8 p.m., a plethora of high spirits can be found at the Maxwell Theatre (Black Box) in the Dickinson Building at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC). This collection of laughter and entertainment comes from the Fourth Fridays Improv series.

“Learn to think fast, improve focus and listening skills and tap into creativity to build on the many possibilities that emerge in theatrical improvisation,” the PVCC website states.

The Fourth Fridays Improv series provides interactive lessons on relaxing your nervousness, interpretation of situations, and controlling your body language. It provides useful knowledge for various forms of improv and important comprehension of interaction in everyday life.

Award-winning playwright Brad Stoller leads Fourth Fridays Improv. he has taught drama for more than 20 years. Throughout the series, Stoller shares why each exercise is important and how it contributes to theatre.

On Jan. 27, the opening act was an entertaining game that consisted of playing tag and memorizing names. It was a test of remaining calm while having to think quickly. It provided a great opening to understanding how nervous everyone was and attempted to reduce the nervousness.

“Sometimes speaking is the least important part of acting,” Stoller said during another one of the exercises. This activity consisted of three volunteers sitting in chairs in the middle of the stage. The participants were asked to do a combination of either raising one of their hands, turning their head left or right, and/or crossing their legs. They would do this while staying completely silent. It exhibited a sense of working together to tell a story while using a limited number of actions.

No previous experience is required to join in on the fun during the Fourth Friday Improv series. They will keep meeting and honing their craft in hopes of staging a performance in spring 2017.

Express Yourself at One Mic Stand

Jake DeLaurier, staff writer

One Mic Stand was held once again, on Feb. 9 in the Black Box in Dickinson at 7:00 p.m. Hosted by Ty Cooper, founder of the United Nations of Comedy, the purpose of One Mic Stand is for people to express themselves in front of an audience.

While poetry and short stories were part of the night, stand up comedy was the most popular element. Of the six people who spoke to the audience, four decided to do stand up comedy.

First was Rick Faris. “I think it’s great to be an octogenarian [a person who is 80],” said Faris. Faris talked about what it is like to be 80 and that it is the age you outlive body odor. He also mentioned that once someone reaches 80, you have checked off most things on your bucket list.

After Faris there was A.V. Crummio. Crummio let the audience know that he is part of the social media generation. One of the first jokes Crummio made was explaining the difference

between his friends. Crummio also poked fun at his boss.

“He is the type of guy who will sit and talk for eight hours on something that he knows nothing about,” said Crummio.

Next up was Manny Cosmo. Cosmo came stumbling into Black Box dressed up as an old man. Part of Cosmo’s act was being unable to keep his balance as he comically fell numerous times. A joke that Cosmo told included making fun of the drug commercials that spend half the commercial warning people about the side effects.

Lastly, there was Broocks Willich. Willich told the audience that she previously did stand up in New York. One of the stories Willich told was her time living in the “hood” in Brooklyn and how her nickname at her apartment complex was the “white woman.”

For those who missed One Mic Stand and would like to attend, the next One Mic Stand will be held on Apr. 13.

Theatre of the Oppressed Seeks Solidarity

Jake DeLaurier, staff writer

With everything facing our world today, from political unrest, to the current refugee crises, and the uncertainty of what the future holds, it would not be controversial to say that we are living in chaotic times. In response to such times, there is the Theatre of the Oppressed. Originally created by Brazilian theatre director and activist Augustus Bole in the 1960's, Theatre of the Oppressed examines the medium of theatre and how such examinations can have an impact on communities and the world as a whole. This is done by examining cultural ideas and seeing how these ideas can lead to a result of unrest in societies.

Drama therapist Mecca Burns and Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Brad Stoller led their own Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop on Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Mecca and I have offered this for a fourth time now, but as the political climate is so charged right now, people are finally taking notice of these types of offerings where people can engage in dialogue through artistic means. This type of theatre is used through most of the world (rarely in this country, as people are less likely to see the point of civic engagement for several reasons - the forces of power are so obscure and confusing - people in general believe that doing something to rock the boat will only cause them harm, because they have it relatively good. etc.),” said Stoller.

When asked why people should attend the event, Stoller said people should attend, “For finding a voice and hearing the concerns, voices and feelings of others in a non-discursive way. The body is our main instrument for discussion and therefore we bypass much of the propaganda of the media and other images that are trying to control our choices. There is a chance for entering into issues in ways that create new perspectives in everyone involved. Plus it is a lot of fun, enjoyable to use your body and voice fully

and playfully which opens everyone to areas of listening to each other that don't exist when we are closed off quite literally in our bodies and voices.”



Photography by Jake DeLaurier

Once the event started, the audience of roughly two dozen were asked to get up and form a circle in which Stoller stated that the focus was on solidarity. Burns asked the audience questions and, if it applied to them, they would step inside the middle of the circle. The first question asked was if any of the audience members saw the

flyer that advertised the event.

The questions soon became more serious once the topic of last year's presidential election and its aftermath were brought up. Questions ranged from if anyone was shocked by the election results to if they were worried about the recent travel ban. The response had almost everyone stepping in the middle of the circle.

After that, the audience started to play theatre games. The first was a game called mirroring. This consisted of the audience mimicking the movements and noises of other audience members.

The second game involved the audience splitting into groups of two. The first group put their hands together to form a bridge and made rhythmic sounds. The second group had to close their eyes and listen to the rhythmic sounds so they could walk under the bridge. Once they walked under the bridge, the group forming the bridge would make a celebration sound.

One of the last activities before lunch was a discussion of Martin Luther King Jr.'s six principles of nonviolence. The six principles of nonviolence are a way of life for courageous people: nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding, nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice not people, nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform, nonviolence chooses love instead of hate, and nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.

The group later discussed how these principles can be used today.

New Lumberjack Club at PVCC

Skye Scott, assistant editor

One of the newest clubs at PVCC is the Lumberjack Club, which is committed to bringing students together using pancakes.

“I thought that it was such a fun idea, and through the hard work and diplomatic skills of a number of students and faculty members, we were able to make this club a reality,” wrote Anne Katherine Brooks, the Lumberjack club president.

Pancake meetings are held every Wednesday evening on PVCC’s campus. Students are asked to pay \$10 for the semester, which will go toward buying supplies. These meetings start with cooking pancakes on a griddle and socializing. Some of the first pancakes cooked each night are dairy-free and gluten-free pancakes; however, they are eaten quickly. Club members also bring different toppings for their pancakes, including syrup, chocolate sauce, and blueberries.

“I had heard of types of Lumberjack clubs from various other schools and I had always thought it was such a cool idea. Who doesn’t love pancakes?” wrote Annelise Stunes, a member and co-founder of PVCC’s Lumberjack club.

Karaoke is another part of the pancake meetings. Once the singing starts, anything is a

microphone, even a bottle of chocolate sauce. The chairs become a willing participant’s stage, while the other members dance and laugh along.

Members are encouraged to wear flannels to the meetings; however, they are not required.

“Our hope for the club is that we can bring more people together over breakfast food. Even with just the first two meetings I feel like I’ve grown closer to some of the other members, and I think wearing flannels unites us even more,” wrote Stunes.

At the same time, the Lumberjack club is not just about wearing flannels and eating breakfast food. They are talking about getting together to workout at the school’s fitness center during the week or on the weekends. The club would also like to “achieve some aspect of forest preservation” which is why they joined up with the PTK to start a trail-clearing project in Scottsville, according to Stunes.

“So far, this has been a very popular club. There were almost 30 members at our last meeting, and we hope to see lots of new faces as the semester progresses,” wrote Brooks.

For more information on the Lumberjack club, follow them on Facebook at PVCC Lumberjack Club, or contact club President Anne Katherine Brooks at akb2971@email.vccs.edu.



Pancakes and karaoke at a Lumberjack club meeting. Photography by Skye Scott



Photography courtesy of Annelise Stunes

PVCC Clubs Help Clear Scottsville Trail

Olivia Stevens, staff writer

Early Saturday morning on Feb. 11, 2017 the Lumberjack Club and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) traveled to Scottsville, Virginia, to help clean the Scottsville Trail. The trail begins behind Doug's Appliance. When the clubs first arrived at the trail, it was covered in weeds and bushes and did not look like a person could hike through it.

The trail was covered in fallen leaves and branches. There is a small creek that is at the beginning of the trail. Rocks in the creek form a stepping stone path to the other side where trail blazers can begin their journey up the steep trail. Vines hang down from the trees impairing hikers' paths. When the Lumberjack club and PTK arrived they pulled on their gloves and went to work. They soon were pulling weeds from the ground and the trees. Stepping through the small creek to cut down bushes, and create an opening for the trail. After about thirty minutes of hacking away, the beginning of the trail started to show. While pulling down vines and clearing bushes, the club members filled the back of a white pickup truck. A few members disposed of the logs, sticks, vines, and leaves at a local city councilman house, who planned to use them to have a bonfire. The truck went on about four trips throughout the day.

Behind the creek in the middle of the trail was a log that had fallen down, blocking the trail. Three lumberjack club members grabbed their axes and saws and began to try and cut the log in half, so people could enjoy walking through the trail without climbing over or crawling under the log. After an hour of hacking and sawing the log,

the members barely made a dent in it. The other members were also sawing and hacking away at other logs that were too large to be carried away.

After two hours of cutting down weeds, bushes, vines, and logs, the clubs finally had created an opening so walkers could find the trail. After clearing the trail, the members went on a short hike to see where the Scottsville trail leads. Along the trail is a pond where locals can fish for trout, when the pond is stocked. The clubs also learned that the town of Scottsville has been working on the trail for six years trying to prepare for people to hike.

When the hard work was finished the members went to celebrate with a cup of coffee from the local coffee and bookstore in downtown Scottsville. Baine's Books & Coffee was only a short distance from the trail opening.

Lumberjack club member Annelise Stunes said, "I'd say that the experience made me appreciate nature and hard work more. It was nice to get away from school and work on something with my hands."

Another Lumberjack and PTK member, Alec Traaseth said, "Clearing trails this past Saturday with Phi Theta Kappa and the Lumberjack Club was an extremely fulfilling experience. In just a short two hours, we managed to assist with almost entirely clearing out an extremely overgrown trail entrance, and the difference was night and day. It was not the easiest of work, but contributing your time to a good cause with a big group of like-minded people was a fantastic way to spend a Saturday morning. I hope I'll get the chance to participate in something similar in the future!"

A Refugee Finds His Home

Sean Gill, staff writer

For as long as he can remember, current PVCC student Ahmed Al Srya, 26, was a refugee. He went from being a Palestinian refugee growing up in Iraq to finally arriving in Charlottesville on July 7, 2010, at the age of 19. He officially took his Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America Feb. 10.

“When I became a citizen, this is the first time in my life that I have a country and that I’ve become a citizen somewhere,” said Al Srya.

Prior to the Iraq War breaking out in Baghdad, Al Srya had a normal life growing up. He and his family lived in a house and city similar to Charlottesville.

“When I was a kid, I went to a shop with my mom and I saw a t-shirt with an American Flag on it and [I] was like, ‘Mom, Mom, Mom,’ and my mom, she bought this shirt for me. I never knew one day that I’d be an American. I liked the shirt. I was wearing an American flag because I like flags. When I was a kid, I had a dream that I would live here. So, I guess the dream has become a reality now,” Al Srya said with a smile.

However, once the war broke out and intensified, he and his brothers could not go to school anymore and that is when they tried to flee to Syria. They were not allowed to enter Syria so they lived in a refugee camp on the Syria-Iraq border.

“We lived there for four years. It was really difficult conditions. There were fires, flooding, scorpions, four years in the desert living in a tent...,” Al Srya said, referring to his time in the refugee camp. There was a nearby U.S. Army camp who came by and listened to the refugees’ stories. Later representatives of the U. N. came and offered care to those that needed it. While living there, Al Srya had the opportunity to meet a celebrity.

“Angelina Jolie came to the camp. I got to see her and talk to her. I wish I took a picture with her. She was crying and wanted to let us know to

be patient and that we’d get help,” he said.

Before his family finally arrived in America, they went through a multiple year vetting process. “I had to go through five different U.S. departments before getting here. So, when people say our borders are open, believe me, they’re not,” said Al Srya. His vetting process included the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Intelligence Community, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the FBI.

Al Srya currently works at Best Buy and attends PVCC part time. An unfortunate accident happened at his previous job that gave him time to spend six months focusing on his English trying to get into college.

“I didn’t pass my first test to get into PVCC by two or three points. I tried and I tried again. I tried so many times to get into PVCC. Your education is so important, and so I finally got in and I’m so happy here at PVCC.”

When not at PVCC or Best Buy, Al Srya can be found volunteering for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) where he interprets and other community service work helping incoming refugees settle. “I know how they

feel when they come here, so I’m helping the IRC to help these people. After all these years of living in a tent, they cry when they see we’ve helped them get a life here,” said Al Srya.

When thinking about finally being able to call America his home and earning his citizenship, Al Srya commented on the people that have helped him to this point and offered a little suggestion for those that question letting refugees in: “The Statue of Liberty, they put it there for a reason, you know. It means something, right? It presents America. America is diverse, this is what makes America great. Plus, Americans are wonderful people who try to help. If we took the time like this and shared stories and understand each other, the world would be much better. But if we just judge people based on their beliefs or politics we will not be successful.”



Photography by
Sean Gill

International Student: Waqas Al Mulhim

Antonia Florence, assistant editor

At the age of six, two years after the Iraq war began, a young boy fled his home in Baghdad, the capital of the Republic of Iraq. PVCC student Waqas Al Mulhim and his family settled in Jordan twice for a total of seven years. In between these years, the family spent a year in Syria. He, his older brother, Wadah, also a PVCC student; their younger sister, Jumana; and their parents arrived in the United States four years ago on Feb. 23, 2013.

Al Mulhim spoke Arabic and a bit of French which he picked up along the way. He could speak only a few words of English. This put him at a disadvantage in school. He left Jordan ready for his sophomore year in high school, but unfortunately, due to the language barrier, he repeated his freshman year at Albemarle High School. "I did not mind because I would not have learned much. I was learning the English language," said Al Mulhim.

Bad memories continue to plague 19-year-old Al Mulhim from living in Baghdad after the war began.

There were, and still are, many dangers facing those living in Baghdad, which is home to about a quarter of Iraq's total population. Some of these, according to AlMonitor: the pulse of the Middle East media site, include being caught in the crossfire between Iraqi security forces and

insurgents, car and roadside bombings, and kidnapping of wealthy individuals being held for ransom. The latter has become more prominent because of the shortage of cash. In addition,

homes, businesses and medical care facilities are hit by errant mortar shells.

Even though they lost everything, the family cherishes their new beginning and has felt welcomed.

"Charlottesville is open-minded, and I really appreciate that," said Al Mulhim.

He is adapting to the American culture by integrating it into his native culture but finds it difficult at times. There are two things he has noticed that differ between the two cultures. "There is so much fast food here, and there is not much time for family. We like being together. We eat our meals together" said Al Mulhim.

Iraqi and Jordanian weather are vastly different from ours. Summer temperatures in Baghdad average 95 F. Winter, which lasts from December to February, is mild ranging between 35 and 60 F. Rainfall is just over an inch per month between November and April, according to the Embassy website for the Republic of Iraq.

"The weather is hard to get used to. It rains a lot and is cloudy; it is not just sunshine," said Al Mulhim.

His travel within the US has been limited, but Al Mulhim would like to see more of the country. It is much larger than his native Iraq which is bordered by six countries: Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and the Persian Gulf. Despite seeming a world away, the time difference is eight hours ahead of us when we are observing Standard Time.

Al Mulhim looks forward to gaining his US citizenship. In Iraq, citizenship is by descent so at least one parent must be a citizen. After receiving his degree from PVCC, he plans to further his education at UVA. Through being a residential architect he hopes to secure financial success.

Reflecting on all of the possibilities, Al Mulhim said, "I love this country."



Graphic from the CIA World Factbook

Review: Benny Deluca's: Big Pizza in C-ville

MaKayla Grapperhaus, staff writer

Pizza is a big deal here in Charlottesville, Virginia. At Benny Deluca's, the pizza is big enough to satisfy even the most hungry college student. Located on West Main Street, just a short walk from the University of Virginia, Benny Deluca's offers pizza enthusiasts a real treat.

Calling themselves "Home of the Virginia slice," Benny's doesn't disappoint when it comes to serving up a slice.

With single slices, which are the size of two dinner plates at the price of just \$5 for one topping or \$4 for cheese, this is a deal that everyone in Charlottesville can get excited about.

Benny's makes a monstrous 28-inch pizza for between \$28 and \$35 depending on the toppings. It is a great deal, but good luck getting it out the door or into your car for that matter. With custom-sized pizza boxes larger than most coffee tables, carrying a pizza back to your own place maybe a job for two people, but it is all part of the experience.

If you're feeling really brave, you can take on The Benny's Challenge, and eat an entire 28-inch pizza by yourself in less than an hour and win \$500.

Part of the experience at Benny's is the unique atmosphere. While the pizzas are big at Benny's, the place itself is much smaller than the surrounding pizza joints in Charlottesville. Walking into the white brick building, the first thing to notice is how small the dining area is. With few window seating, three booths and two tables, a large percentage of Benny's space is dedicated to its large ovens, behind the counter where all the main action takes place.

The minimalistic fashion,

along with the abstract paintings on their walls, gives Benny's a cool retro vibe. The service at Benny's is always great and really fast. If you order a single slice, the wait will be no longer than 10 minutes, while a whole pizza will be done in about 20 minutes.

Whether you order a slice or go all out and order a whole pizza, Benny's is sure to hit the spot. It's classic pizza, a thin crust, tomato sauce, and cheese (plus a topping if you choose). It's the way pizza should be and it tastes great.

Have a late night craving? Benny's is open until midnight during the weekdays, 2 a.m. Thursdays, and 3 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. So the next time you're hungry and an average sized pizza isn't quite enough, stop by at Benny Deluca's and feast on a gigantic slice or a whole pizza if you dare.



Liam Robb poses with pizza. Photography by MaKayla Grapperhaus

Review: The Nook

Shawn Stevenson, staff writer

The Nook, a breakfast and lunch diner has everything to offer from friendly smiles, great customer hospitality and the best bacon around Charlottesville, The Nook has made its mark in our community.

Starting in 1951, this traditional family-owned restaurant has great food at even better prices. The Nook continues to welcome individuals, couples and families. Retro in style like a 1950s diner, the owners strive to keep up with current food trends by making sure that everything is top quality and that they stay ahead of the curve. The Nook succeeds.

The staff at the Nook go above and beyond for their customers. The restaurant also works to provide for the community in a variety of ways.

The Manager, Jeff, explained how The Nook is a member of the community. “We’re very big in civic donations; we try to employ people that are in transit and give them enough to get back on their feet. We donate to the free clinic twice a year, we feed the entire staff there. We participate in a lot of charity auctions. We did the



bacon festival two years ago and gave the money to Habitat for Humanity. We give a lot to the churches and the schools,” said Jeff.

The Nook not only makes sure that our stomachs are full, but also makes sure our community is rich and loved. The Nook is open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Review: Cho’s Nachos and Beer

Tucker Noelke, staff writer

It is hard not to be a nacho lover. A plate full of tortilla chips, various different toppings, and queso poured on top is difficult to pass up. In Charlottesville, there have not been any restaurants that focus on nachos being their main dish, but that has changed within the last week. Such a simple concept that is so easy and brilliant, Cho’s Nachos and Beer has made its home on 946 Grady Avenue.

Immediately after walking through the Cho’s door, my calm Sunday turned into a sports bar lover’s dream. Cho’s is decked with TVs in every direction. If there isn’t fun music playing, then the most recent football game is blaring through the loudspeakers.

The waiters and waitresses are energetic and happy to help with anything a customer needs. Before coming to Cho’s I had looked at the

menu, so I could have an idea of what to order. There were so many options, I honestly had trouble deciding what to choose. Although Cho’s is a restaurant for nachos, they also offer a variety of food such as sandwiches and salads for those who do not want nachos, but don’t be crazy, you want their nachos.

I ordered the Texas Two Step Cho’s, which included tortilla chips, beef short rib, black beans, corn salsa, jalapenos, house-made queso, shredded pepper jack and cheddar, chives, and the Cho’s sauce. The price was \$13; however, the size of my nachos was incredibly big, so I definitely got my money’s worth. The loud chatter of people in the restaurant made it clear that any aged person could enjoy Cho’s mountain of nachos placed in front of them.

My overall Cho’s experience was one to remember and would be for any nacho obsessed individual.

PTK Southern Dining Etiquette Workshop

Skye Scott, assistant editor

Eight students sat with eyes fixed on Diane Carr as she stood at the head of the table. In front of each student was a perfect plate setting, containing dishes these students would come across at some point in their professional careers.

Almost all eight students were members of Piedmont Virginia Community College's (PVCC) Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society (PTK). They gathered in the Pace Boardroom on PVCC's main campus on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Carr, the director of the Southern School of Etiquette, had sent an invitation out to these students over a week earlier, inviting them to join her in a dining etiquette workshop.

The workshop focused around correct manners and etiquette for an interview lunch or dinner. Carr started by listing off some important things to bring to the interview, mainly a resume and a list of ten questions to ask the interviewer.

After this, she introduced etiquette by saying that being respectful of other people, acceptable behavior, good manners, protocol, and decorum are what make etiquette.

After this, Carr discussed what someone should wear to an interview. She said, "Don't dress for the place, dress for the occasion." Stating that even if the interview was being held at TGIFridays, the interviewee should still look clean and professional. She also said to arrive uncluttered, with no big brief case or purse, and with phones off or on vibrate.

From here, Ms. Carr explained how to tell when the meal had started from when the host places their napkin onto their lap, and the correct manners that followed.

There are many precise utensil placements to make sure one is sending the correct message to their host and servers. One of these is the signal that one is done eating. This is signaled by placing the knife and fork at either 3:15 or 6:30 on the plate, with the tip hanging over the plate by one inch to insure it will not fall when the server picks the plate up. She also discussed the differences between silverware, and how to tell what would be served first by the placement of the forks.

Carr ended the workshop by telling the students to always send thank you notes to their

interviewer within two days of the interview. She said that these should be physical letters sent to their work address, thanking them for the meal and saying something about how the interviewee would be great for the job.

The following Saturday, Feb. 18, Alec Traaseth and Lindsey Woodyard headed into Farmington Country Club. They were dressed in their professional best, with smiles and excitement on their faces.

They headed to the Pine Room, where Carr and Andre Luck, PVCC's career services manager, were waiting for them. A few students had already arrived and stood to greet Traaseth and Woodyard with a handshake. The students took a seat to wait on their remaining peers. They were gathering to put their new skills to practical use.

After seven students had arrived, Carr decided to begin. She first reintroduced herself and then introduced Luck. Then she went back over some of the basic etiquette the students had learned the week before.

Once the review session was over, Carr told the students that they would now roleplay as if they were at a networking event. Carr and Luck would be the interviewers, and they told the students to pretend that they were applying for a job at the Southern School of Etiquette.

Once all the students had a chance to speak with Luck, it was time to take a seat. The servers had set the table to perfection. Each student sat down and waited for Carr to give the signal to begin.

When she placed her napkin onto her lap, all of the students followed her lead. Soon after, a server brought in the first course. It was a tomato bisque soup. After the soup, they ate a cobb salad, and for dessert they had a strawberry shortcake parfait.

Throughout the meal, the students practiced proper business conversation with each other, as well as with Carr and Luck. All role playing aside, they discussed how etiquette could benefit their aspirations in life.

At the end of the meal, Luck asked the students to share their thoughts on the etiquette workshop. All of the students agreed that it was very helpful, and that they had learned a lot from this wonderful opportunity.



Cheap Whiskey performed in the Bolick Student Center. Photography by Antonia Florence

PVCC Alumni Winter Celebration

Antonia Florence, assistant editor

As an alumni of PVCC, you are entitled to special privileges that few take advantage of. The Annual Alumni Winter Celebration was held in the Bolick Student Center the night of Jan. 21 until 11 p.m. The local band, Cheap Whiskey, played a variety of music appealing to many tastes while welcoming requests. An assortment of hot all-you-can-eat pizza and cold non-alcoholic beverages were available. The best part was that it was entirely free and open to alumni and their guests.

Most students do not realize that they are alumni of PVCC after successfully completing one course. Any person who has attended or graduated from a school, college, or university qualifies to use this title.

Traditionally, *alumnus* takes many forms depending on the subject being male or female, singular or plural, or a mixed gender group. These rules are due to the Latin root of the word.

However, during the 19th century the shortened form *alum* and its plural form *alums* began to be used. Initially, alum was

viewed as being informal, but its use is increasing as a gender-neutral alternative.

Two more perks of being a PVCC alumni are discount cards to area and national retailers, and networking opportunities which lead to connecting with mentors and area business leaders which may help jumpstart your career.

“Not many community colleges have alumni associations due to many of the students transitioning to four-year institutions,” said Silvia Dowell, PVCC scholarship and alumni association coordinator.

She has been striving to build a strong alumni base, offer fun outreach activities which would take PVCC into the community, and ultimately, fulfilling the goal of building a strong alumni association to help support our nationally recognized college.

Dowell is also a PVCC alumni who infectiously shares her pride in PVCC. Not only is she an employee, but also a graduate. For further information about alumni activities or advantages, contact Dowell either at sdowell@pvcc.edu or by calling her office: 434-961-5204.

Virginia21: The Voice of a Generation

Charles Stish, staff writer

During this time of political and economic strife for our country's higher education system, millennial college students may find themselves wondering if there is anyone in our political system that advocates and works to create benefits for them in the education system. Virginia21 is a group of those certain individuals.

"We're the only true generational advocate that is non-partisan. Our focus is to help pass legislations that benefit us and oppose legislation that will have negative consequences," said Tim Cywinski, Virginia21's

communication director, during PVCC's Virginia21 chapter meeting on Jan. 25, 2017.

Cywinski has been the Communications Director of Virginia21 for a little over a year. He has a Bachelor degree in Political Science and with a minor in International Relations and Affairs. Cywinski visited the PVCC chapter of Virginia21 as a guest speaker to discuss the goals and functions of Virginia21 as a whole.

During his presentation, Cywinski explained lobbying and the legislative process that Virginia21 often takes part in. The process, in general, makes the lobbying party gather information to persuade and convince legislators to pass acts that will benefit the lobbying party. The focus of Virginia21's lobbying campaign this year is on budget cuts in higher education systems and on-campus sexual assaults.

To gather the general consensus of college students across the state, Virginia21 has connections in the Council of Higher Education of Virginia and the higher education community.

They also hold monthly Student Leadership Community meetings where those in the various Virginia21 chapters meet to discuss whatever relevant topic is at hand.

"These relationships help us monitor legislations and policy, but also decide on a consensus of where we should focus," said Cywinski.

It has passed several legislations including the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP), which increased the amount of financial aid by just under \$50 million.

As of now, PVCC is the only community college to have a Virginia21 chapter, and PVCC Chapter President Grayson Katzenbach can be



Virginia21 meeting participants having an energetic discussion. Photography by Charles Stish

thanked for that.

"We actually reactivated the PVCC chapter last semester. It was dormant for a few years, but after taking the SLI (Summer Leadership Institute), we reactivated it. We have a lot of members, and we affected a lot with the general election. But this semester we really want to let students know that being involved in politics does not mean you have to go into it as a career. We want to help students understand that politics is a everyday thing," stated Katzenbach.

On the local level, PVCC's Virginia21 chapter is advocating for increasing campus security, creating a PVCC scholarship for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, and lobbying against current PVCC budget cuts.

If you would like to learn more about Virginia21 and participate with the organization both on campus and as a whole, you can contact Katzenbach at her email: gk242@email.vccs.edu or visit Virginia21's website: www.virginia21.org.

PVCC's Nursing Peer Mentorship

Charles Stish, staff writer

Among the various degree programs available at PVCC, nursing is considered one of the most rigorous with 67 credits minimum for an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree. To fulfill the requirements of the degree program, nursing students are expected to take general college courses, courses specific to the nursing program, and science courses that will help them in both the mental and physical sides of nursing. These courses include human anatomy, microbiology, pharmacology, and even sociology.

Since the nursing program is almost completely separate from other degree programs, first-year nursing students who are new to the program can feel lost or intimidated by the workload and expectations.

To help these first-year nursing students become comfortable

and less intimidated, the Student Nurse Association at PVCC (SNAP) has branched out to create a peer mentorship program where second-year nursing students give advice and help their new comrades through their first year.

“We started in the fall of 2016 and it came about because there was several of us who asked second year students for information and advice. We decided we wanted to create a more formal way of doing that,” said Kelly Hardie, a SNAP officer in charge of student activities and community outreach. Hardie is also a second-year nursing student and the peer mentorship

coordinator, meaning she helps set group meetings and coordinates one-on-one sessions between second-year and first-year nursing students.

The advice and assistance the peer mentors give include: test taking strategies, how to balance school workload with personal life, and help make new students feel more comfortable in their program.

The peer mentors do not discuss course work in detail, but offer assistance and a safe place for new nursing students to feel comfortable in.

Especially since the peer mentors will not let anything said to them by the student go outside of their meeting. “One of the main things is confidentiality, so what students says never goes past the peer mentor. It’s supposed to be a safe environment,” said Hardie.

She said, “In the first year of nursing you learn so

much, so much is being thrown at you and it’s nice to have a peer’s perspective. The peer mentorship doesn’t only help provide information, but what to expect as a first year nursing student. It helps to normalize the experience.”

The peer mentors have group meetings on Mondays from 12-1 p.m. in the Keats Science Building in room K114 and in Library Study Room E from 7-8 p.m. on Thursdays.

For information on the peer mentorship, contact Kelly Hardie at her school email: keh233@email.vccs.edu.



The peer mentoring nurses pose for a photograph. Photography by Charles Stish

Piedmont Profile: Silvia Dowell

Antonia Florence, assistant editor

Silvia Dowell is the Scholarship & Alumni Association Coordinator for Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC). She has deep roots in the Charlottesville area. Her family has lived in Albemarle County for 14 consecutive generations.

A graduate of Western Albemarle High School, Dowell attended PVCC and earned her bachelor's degree from Longwood University. She majored in Physical and Health Education with a focus in sports medicine and sports psychology. She also earned coaching endorsements for eight sports.

Now at PVCC, Dowell's love of education shines as she interacts with students.

"The students at PVCC are amazing and diverse. Each has their own story and I always try to find unique and wonderful qualities about them, their backgrounds and their interests. I like to hear about their triumphs, struggles, determination and their future plans," said Dowell.

A few of Dowell's responsibilities include cultivating relationships with prospective scholarship donors and strengthening that bond with existing donors through constant communication and appreciative interaction. This is why it is important for student scholarship recipients to write thank you notes to their benefactors. They want to know how their generosity makes a difference in the lives of students as they move forward. The note may contain a class experience or an example of how a student has used their newly acquired knowledge in a real-life situation.

Dowell also serves as a liaison with community organizations that award funds to additional students in need of assistance.

As Alumni Association Coordinator, Dowell's role leaves a lasting footprint on PVCC. This involves building a strong, active base to network and help support the college long term.



Community colleges are not known to have alumni associations. Many former students more readily identify with their high schools and four-year colleges.

Dowell has held her position at PVCC for the past six years, culminating in a 25-year career, working in the field of institutional development and advancement.

In addition to her position at PVCC, Dowell volunteers on various scholarship selection committees, is actively involved in the American Legion Auxiliary, Boy Scouts of America and baseball's Babe Ruth League of Virginia.

Dowell is currently continuing her education through Mary Baldwin University where she is enrolled in the Master of Higher Education degree program.

Dowell said this educational experience is different and "as a returning adult student with work experience and a family, it changes your perspective. I [also] see this as an opportunity to do more in my field at whichever institute I might work at. It opens a lot of doors that would otherwise be closed."

The best thing about working at PVCC, Dowell said, "is the interaction with students and watching them persevere and succeed! I am blessed to experience so many different cultures and backgrounds through the many people I meet at PVCC."

Review: Have Food Your Way at College Inn

Marcus Tyler, staff writer

The best dishes found in central Virginia are usually found in several different places. By living in a small town surrounded by many eating outlets, finding what separates each of the restaurants from each other is always fascinating. College Inn of Charlottesville is not your ordinary local diner.

Like to eat as a group? With its diverse menu, College Inn provides options for the whole family. It is well prepared, satisfying food delivers a unique variety all in one place. Customers can choose Greek cuisines, pizzas, burgers and many different sandwich combos.

Want to turn your dining into a party? Beer is served at this location. A children's menu is also offered. With its wide variety menu, College

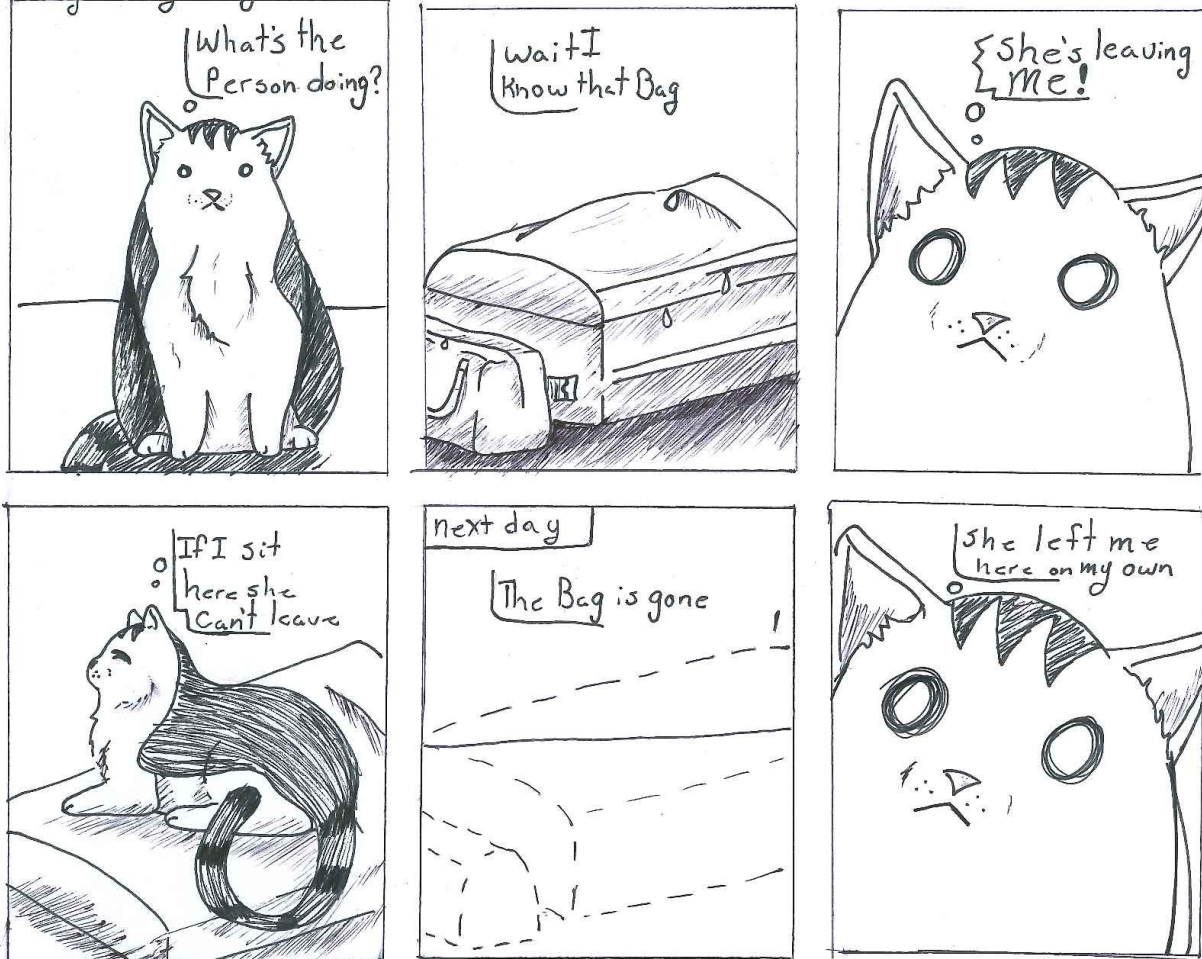
Inn could be considered the ideal diverse eating location in Charlottesville.

Within steps of both the University of Virginia and Charlottesville communities, College Inn creates a casual atmosphere for all ages. Since its opening in 1953, College Inn is a staple restaurant on The Corner. For half a century, this prime location makes serving both students and residents possible.

Out of the many eating choices located throughout The Corner, College Inn's prices separate the restaurant from many of its competitors.

Popular menu items include: Large 14-inch cheese breadsticks for \$10.95, wings at \$8.95, breaded chicken tender salad \$8.95 (They even serve pints of ice cream). At \$15 and under (some of this diverse menu favorites can be found.

Tag-along by: Caroline



Classifieds

The PVCC Engineering Club has some exciting projects to announce and is looking for new members!

If you are interested in these projects, or have a project of your own, come see us at any of the Engineering Club meeting times listed below!

General Engineering Club Meetings:

Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., Room M828

Diversity Fountain Project!

Planning and constructing a water fountain that will promote diversity and unity through symbolic designs. The finished installation will be placed on campus for the student body to enjoy. Main concepts covered: Design, CAD, Physics, and Welding.

Project Meeting Time:

Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Room M831

Metallization Sputtering Machine Project!

Building a high-voltage apparatus that utilizes an ultra strong vacuum in order to blast metal particles onto various substrates using the power of plasma. We can also build subsequent tools to later study photolithography, the process used to create micro-components. Main concepts covered: Electronics, physics, technical writing, and safety.

Project Meeting Time:

Fridays, 12-1 p.m., Room M831

Contact Club President Linnea Saby at lgs2131@email.vccs.edu



Check us out on social media

[@PVCCForum](#)

The Forum is a voice for all students. Accordingly, materials published in The Forum, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the VCCS, Piedmont Virginia Community College, or any stakeholder thereof. The paper welcomes letters to the editor, guest columns, questions, photography or any other ideas or submissions one may have for the upcoming publications. Please contact pvccforum2014@gmail.com with any questions.

Contact Us

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The Forum offers classified space to the PVCC community free of charge. Please send announcements along with full name, email, and phone number to: theforum@pvcc.edu

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