

## Khizr Khan to Send Off PVCC's 2019 Graduates

Spring Fling Fun  
 pages 16-17

Callan Shore, assistant editor

On May 16, the 46th class of PVCC students will cross the stage at John Paul Jones Arena and receive their diplomas, but what makes their ceremony unique is the speaker who will be featured.

“We are honored to have Khizr Khan as our commencement speaker this year...we look forward to hearing about Mr. Khan’s life and experiences in his message to our graduates,” PVCC President Dr. Frank Friedman said in a press release. Khan follows in the steps of PVCC’s 2018 speaker Justin Fairfax, Virginia’s lieutenant governor, and PVCC’s 2017 speaker Rasheda Ali-Walsh, daughter of Muhammad Ali.

Khizr Khan was born in Pakistan and emigrated to America in 1980. He went on to

study at Harvard Law School and the University of Missouri Law School. Khan has been both revered and despised for his activism against religious and minority based discrimination.

Khan made national headlines in 2016 when he spoke at the Democratic National Convention and criticized President Trump for his proposed Muslim ban. His son, Captain Humayun Khan, was killed in the Iraq war in 2004 and received the Gold Star and Purple Heart awards for his service. Khan said, “Hillary Clinton was right when she called my son ‘the best of America.’ If it was up to Donald Trump, he never would have been in America.”

Since 2016, Khan has continued to advocate for equity for Muslims and other marginalized communities; he has written two books, *An American Family* and *This is Our Constitution*;

*See Graduation Speaker on page 4*



Photo Courtesy of PVCC Marketing & Media Relations

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

— **SGA's De-stress Week** —

April 29—May 2

Main Building, North Mall Meeting Room

— **Science Symposium** —

May 3, 11 a.m.—5p.m.

Main Building, North Mall Meeting Room

— **PVCC Graduation** —

May 16, 6 p.m.

John Paul Jones Arena

— **Last day for to register to vote in June 11**

**Primary** —

May 20

— **FAFSA Super Saturday** —

May 25, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Main Building M154

— **Memorial Day** —

May 27 — No classes

— **Full Summer and Five Week Classes Begin**—

May 28

— **Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballot  
Via Mail, Fax or Online** —

June 4

— **Last Day to Apply in Person for an Absentee  
Ballot** —

June 8

— **Primary Election Day** —

June 11

— **First Five Week Classes End** —

July 1

— **Second Five Week Classes Begin** —

July 2

— **Independence Day** —

July 4 —No classes

— **Summer Classes End** —

Aug. 6

## Blood Donations

### Save Lives

Bryn Dotson, assistant editor

Nervous and calm faces lined the walls of the North Mall Meeting Room on PVCC's main campus on Tuesday, April 2. Students and faculty were invited to sign up online and donate blood for the American Red Cross. People young and old sat in chairs that flanked the room, waiting to be called up to give their donation. Some of them sat perfectly still, seemingly unphased, while others fidgeted.

"This is my first time donating blood," said PVCC student Ana Doder with a nervous smile, "But I'm doing it to give back."

According to the Red Cross's website, the Red Cross "prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors." One donation of blood can potentially save up to three people, according to the Red Cross's website.

Bernadette Jay, the external communications manager for American Red Cross, said, "It's always refreshing and a full circle reminder of our lifesaving and humanitarian missions."

PVCC's generous donors provided 25 pints of blood, according to Administrative Assistant Rebecca Hill.

To learn more about the American Red Cross and donating blood to the community, check out the American Red Cross's website <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>.

PVCC will be hosting another blood drive event on June 25. More information will be provided closer to the date.

"We are impacting lives and helping patients to celebrate another day with their loved ones," Jay said.



# Student Government Association News

Alexandra Keniston, Public Relations

SGA had an event on April 23, which was the Annual Spring Fling. It was a successful event with over 400 people in attendance, taking place from 4-7 p.m.

For the second event, “De-stress Week” is the theme. This will take place from April 29 to May 2.

The whole event will have a coloring art table going on throughout the day.

On May 1, there will be a water balloon fight from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The last day of de-stress week, May 2, there will have a watermelon and lemonade table set up from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



**SGA Officers of Spring 2019.**  
Photo Courtesy of Shawn Anderson

## Former PVCC Science Club President Returns

Samantha Aldridge, staff writer

On April 24, Taylor Wright, who works for the biotech company MRIGlobal, talked to students about his career and gave advice about transitioning from PVCC to a four-year school.

Wright prepared a thorough presentation about his job without getting into deep details because of the secrecy of his position. MRIGlobal is an independent organization performing contract research for government and industry. Wright graduated from James Madison University with a degree in biology. His advice to students going into their freshman year of undergraduate studies was helpful considering the amount of students in the auditorium planned to attend a four-year university after PVCC.

Students were not the only ones who showed up to Wright’s talk. PVCC President Dr. Frank Friedman and Dr. Anne Allison were also there to ask questions as well.

Friedman said, “One of the questions I see a lot in students is when will we use this material in the real world?”

Wright nodded in agreement and went said, “The math never goes away. I use it everyday.” He further explained the importance of taking chemistry and microbiology but also completely understanding the material to its core.

“Understanding the math in microbiology and organisms in general is vital.” he says.

Wright then went in to talking about the success in undergrad. He suggested joining a research lab, specializing one’s major, using specific apps that make college easier, and looking to professors as advisors.

“I used my professors as advisors because they seemed to know what classes I needed to continue my career,” Wright said. His professors would tell him which ones he should take based on the quality of teaching.

Anne Allison added, “It is very important to know these professors so they can give you great recommendations for applying to jobs.” The students in the auditorium all nodded in agreement.

Wright was asked about job search which he answered explaining how he applied everywhere. He used Indeed.com and applied to many places, but MRIGlobal was the only one to give him a call back.

He said, “I struggled finding a good fit for him but is grateful he was able to be a part of MRIGlobal.”

If anyone is interested in speaking with Taylor Wright about his experience in college or have any questions email Anne Allison at [aallison@pvcc.edu](mailto:aallison@pvcc.edu).

# Graduation, continued from page 1

and he and his wife, Ghazala, have moved to Charlottesville.

Spring 2019 PVCC graduate Tania Nuevo said, “I believe Khizr Khan’s story and life experiences resemble many of Americans who immigrated to the United States and who have been naturalized, becoming US citizens. People like him came to America looking for better opportunities for themselves and their families, and it looks like, through his personal and

professional achievements, his efforts and hard work paid off. Khizr Khan is one of many inspiring people who show us that if you do put your mind, time and energy to fulfilling your goals and dreams, you will succeed.”

PVCC’s 2019 Spring Graduation will be May 16 at 6 p.m.

Applications for Summer 2019 graduation are due June 15, and applications for Fall 2019 graduation are due October 15.

## Academic Awards Celebrate PVCC Students

Cody Clark, staff writer

The 15th annual Academic and Leadership Awards Convocation was held at the Dickinson Main Stage on April 18. The purpose of the convocation is to recognize students for outstanding achievements in academics, volunteerism, and leadership. The ceremony also acknowledged scholarship recipients.

The auditorium was packed. The crowd radiated excitement as everyone waited the start of the ceremony. The stage had seats where many faculty and staff waited to give awards to their students.

PVCC President Dr. Frank Friedman welcomed everyone to the awards ceremony and said, “The students we recognize here today are not only the best of PVCC’s 7,500 students but they are among the best college students you’re gonna find anywhere, two-year college or four-year college.”

Friedman continued by saying he had high hopes for the future with it being in the capable hands of these student who are going to be recognized. He said, “Now, each of these students has a story behind their success. For many it’s been a story of overcoming obstacles, maybe financial, social, academic. Many needed a second chance, or a third chance, to be successful.”

The academic awards followed Friedman’s

welcome and introduction. Fifty-four students received academic awards from the three academic divisions at the college. After the academic awards, Assistant Professor of Engineering and Electronics Hunter Moore gave the convocation address.

Moore stated he was excited to speak at the event and that every year it gets harder to narrow down his nominees. He said, “Here at the community college I have the luxury of teaching to a group of people who genuinely want to better themselves.”

The awards for leadership followed with a total of 19 recipients across the clubs at PVCC. Many of the awards are named by faculty members that sponsor them for the semester. Online Editor Deadra Miller won the leadership award for her work with The Forum.

The final awards focused on individual achievement and service. Alana Bittner won the Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary Club Travel Scholarship to Argentina as part of PVCC’s exchange program. Phi Theta Kappa celebrated

two students: Henry McLane was named to the PTK All-Virginia Academic Team, and Elena Cantwell was named PTK Top Ten All-Virginia Academic Team and the Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar. Kibiriti Majuto won the PVCC Board Community Service Award. The Distinguished Student Award was presented to SGA President Sophia Keniston.



# The Art of Relaxing and Retreating

Bryn Dotson, assistant editor

Tucked away in the trailers behind the main building, next to the patio, is a hidden refuge. The walls are a deep burnt orange and the carpets are bright and soft against the dark flooring.

Large upholstered chairs occupy the corners of the main room, their dark brown fabric complementing the vibrant green plants that inhabit the wooden tables. Salt lamps are on every table, giving the room an amber glow. This quiet and quaint area is the Retreat Room.

PVCC student Lima Mohammad planted the seed for the importance of having a room like the Retreat Room.

The idea to create such a space began when Mohammad realized that she and other students needed a more spiritual place to pray.

“For me, since I was in school, I wasn’t able to pray properly,” Mohammad explained. “I would pray in the girl’s locker room, which wasn’t a spiritual place or a clean place.”

Mohammad decided to go to PVCC’s president, Frank Friedman, directly to ask about creating a safe space for students to both pray and unwind.



Photography by Bryn Dotson



“Friedman was really happy about it. Since Mary Baldwin had moved out, there was a space that we could use. He rebuilt everything. We were all really excited and amazed because he had really done an amazing job,” Mohammad said, grinning ear to ear.

According to PVCC’s Facebook page, the Retreat Room opened on March 20 and “consists of three rooms for contemplation, reflection, meditation, introspection, and spiritual renewal.”

There is a sign-in sheet to the right of the door when students walk in for those who would like to reserve one of the two rooms.

The quiet study rooms are sizeable and include their own tables, salt lamps, and chairs. The Retreat Room is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

“It’s for all students. It’s for anyone who wants to come in and pray or anyone who just needs a really quiet place to get away from all of the stress,” Mohammad said.

# Dates to Know for the Delegate Primaries

Deadra Miller, online editor

Every year in Virginia is an election year. This year in particular the offices that are being voted on are members of Virginia House of Delegates (57th District) and three members of the Charlottesville City Council.

The primary to determine who will be on the ballot will be held on June 11.

The deadlines for voter registration are as follows: May 20 is the last day to register to vote in the primary; June 4 is the last day to apply for an absentee ballot (mail, fax and online); June 8 is the last day to apply for an absentee ballot in person (check out the local registrar for hours); and June 11 is primary election day.

Five democratic candidates are running for three spots within the Charlottesville City Council. This specific election will be narrowing that number of five to three candidates.

The candidates are Lloyd Snook, Sena Magill, Brian Pinkston, F. “Bob” Fenwick Jr. and Michael Payne; all of these candidates are a part of the Democratic Party, according to NBC 29.

In addition, there are two candidates running for the House of Delegates in Charlottesville.

Throughout the year, Virginia Democracy Fellows Jordan Roberts, Hannah Thacker, and Chad Mitchell have worked to register voters at PVCC.

These fellows and Assistant Professor of Political Science Connie Jorgensen have made Voter Registration easy.

For this election, awareness of candidacy and registration is in the forefront of their minds.

As previously mentioned awareness is key for the Virginia Primaries, but the fall elections have a bigger impact.

Jorgensen said, “Thacker, Roberts and Mitchell are developing voter outreach for the Fall 2019 semester, these students’ efforts are funded by the Campus Vote Project.”

The tables that show up around every election are manned by one or all three of these students, and they are looking for more help manning these; to get more information on volunteering with the help of the Fellows please contact Jorgensen at [cjorgensen@pvcc.edu](mailto:cjorgensen@pvcc.edu).



Photo Courtesy of Hannah Thacker

# Scottsville Board of Supervisors Candidate Visit

Tiana Sigala, staff writer

On April 25, PVCC hosted Donna Price, candidate for the Scottsville Board of Supervisors. Price came to PVCC in collaboration with Assistant Professor of Political Science Connie Jorgensen to speak to classes about her motivation to run for public office and her desire to impress that motivation on to students.

Price, a military lawyer for 25 years and a civilian lawyer for many years following, took care to detail the inequalities she witnessed which gave rise to her motivation to work in law. When she was young and surrounded by fellow Roman Catholics, it took John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign to first grasp the religious discrimination that pervaded our country.

Price grew up in a small town in Louisiana, and felt a slight culture shift upon moving to Atlanta. "Everyone knew their place," she said of her small town, as opposed to Atlanta, where signage in public spaces was required to remind black citizens of their supposed subserviency, she took notice of the strong racial discrimination that lay teeming in the backbone of our country.

"That just struck me as wrong. It was legally permissible," she said, framing the word permissible in air quotes, "but it was morally wrong."

Price developed views on gender discrimination while serving in the Navy, describing a combat exclusionary rule which barred women from being able to serve in combat-related areas. This struck a chord, as Price served in the Navy as a transgender woman, presenting as a man.

She said, "Had the Navy found out I was transgender while I was serving, I would have been separated and the basis would have been sexual perversion, despite never having done anything overt, or wrong."

Price's strong sense of justice expands to issues such as affordable housing. She spoke of Scottsville tenderly, describing its small-town feel and the lasting rural quality the town has maintained. She displayed an encyclopedic knowledge of the town's existing zoning laws while describing changes she would like to make in order to bring more families—rather than large developments—to Scottsville.

"If you want a live town or city, you have to have people living there," she said, "If we can increase the residential density in Scottsville, that's going to bring more people, more restaurants and shops." Her aim is to support growth in the town and to bring in development and investment that would bolster the existing culture, not diminish it.

As a politician, Price stresses her commitment to progressive policy over party. Though running as a Democrat, she said, "I am much more aligned philosophically with the firebrands, AOC, and some of the newcomers."

The voters of Scottsville are primarily Republican, but Price believes in her connection with constituents, and she described friendships she has made in Scottsville and her commitment to local enterprise.

"I've made great connections and friendships down in Scottsville. I buy my books at Baine's, not at Amazon," she said, "If you want local businesses, you have to support local business."

Price presents issues such as thriving local business, affordable housing, and the support of continued rurality in her town as partisan issues, as interests of the residents of Scottsville that rise above party lines.

Another issue Price considers non-partisan is that of representation. "I truly believe in inclusiveness and diversity," she said, solemnly, "if every member of the deciding body comes from the exact same background, then you're going to get answers that works perfectly for that group and doesn't do anything for other groups."

Price expressed her belief in the value of representation beyond representative democracy. She hopes that her campaign, successful or not, can serve as representation for those she describes as "other." She referred to herself as other, as well as people who do not enjoy the privilege of seeing themselves mirrored in roles such as politics, in the real world or in media.

To Price, being able to place oneself in such roles is pivotal, and she hopes that her candidacy might serve as the representation necessary to convince others that they have a place in politics.

"I had to spend thirty years of my adult professional life hidden, and I don't anymore," she said, "Whether I win or lose, this is my way to make the world a better place."

# International Food Festival at PVCC

Elizabeth Phan, staff writer

On Wednesday, April 3, the International Food Festival was held in the North Mall Meeting room from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to fundraise for Clowns Without Borders. The entire event supported the low waste and zero plastic movement by supplying eco-friendly utensils. The festival featured food from restaurants such as Bavarian Chef, Maru served by K-Club (Korean Club), Cactus, and Himalayan Fusion, all of which supported authentic local restaurants.

Various PVCC clubs also came to support the cause and provided dishes such as Japanese Club with sushi, homemade crepes from the French club, favorite home dishes from the International Club, Black Student Alliance with their popular classic American favorites, and the Pulsera Project where the Spanish club sold hand woven

bracelets from Central American artisans.

The organizer for the International Food Festival, Kit Decker, hopes that students and faculty at PVCC can enjoy a vibrant campus full of diversity and appreciation of different cultures and cuisine. “I love that half a dozen different student clubs will be represented and put a lot of energy and effort into the event,” he said. He wants students to learn to try something new and learn to love what other cultures have to share.

Decker explains that the student and faculty at PVCC use this opportunity to understand the rich, cosmopolitan community that flourishes in Charlottesville.

“See how different traditions, cultures, and tastes can fuse into a greater whole. To remember that the world is vast and needs to be explored by willing, curious, adaptable, compassionate minds,” said Decker.

## Spanish Club Fundraiser Success

Ella Chin, guest writer

“Amarro cinco colores . . .”

Her two young children by her side, Nazarena, an artist from the city of Masaya, Nicaragua, chooses five spools of colorful thread and begins weaving them into an intricate braid. She talks while she tucks and twists the thread, explaining that she has been making pulseras--bracelets--for four years now and that she can make twenty to twenty-five dollars a day.

She is grateful to have a job that enables her to take care of her children, and when she is finished with her pulseras, she delicately places

their ends to the flame of a candle to set the wax that keeps their tips from coming undone.

Nazarena is just one of over 200 artists whose pulseras were featured at the PVCC Spanish Club's April fundraiser for The Pulsera Project, an organization that supports communities throughout Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Despite their natural beauty and rich cultural histories, Nicaragua and Guatemala are faced with high poverty rates, and The Pulsera Project helps artisans like Nazarena to support their families and provides them with educational opportunities, scholarships, and health assistance. The complex designs and bold colors of each pulsera represent the heritage of the artist who made it, and the fundraiser brought attention to not only The Pulsera Project's mission but also the beautiful artistic traditions of Latin America.

The Pulsera Project and all the families it helps support rely on school sales to raise money, and between April 1st and 15th, the Spanish Club's sale raised over \$700 by selling tiful pulseras and bolsitas (purses) to PVCC faculty, staff, and students.

Muchas gracias to all who helped us in our efforts to make the world a more colorful place!



Photo courtesy of Ella Chin



# Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer Systems

Rebecca S. Parkhill, guest writer

## What is an MS4 Permit?

Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is defined as a conveyance or system of conveyances otherwise known as a municipal separate storm sewer system, including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains. Discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) are regulated under the Virginia Stormwater Management Act, the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Permit regulations, and the Clean Water Act as point source discharges.

The College's storm water discharges are regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality via a MS4 (Small Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer Systems) Permit. As part of the permit responsibilities, PVCC must submit an MS4 Annual Report to the Department of Environmental Quality to show that we are meeting our established BMP's (Best Management Practices).

PVCC's MS4 plan and annual report are submitted in accordance with 9VAC25-890-30 and 9VAC25-890-40 as part of the registration statement for permit coverage to discharge stormwater to surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia consistent with the VAR04 General Permit, effective July 1, 2013.



## Why do I care about MS4?

Did you know that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish and that nearly every seabird in the world has eaten plastic, according to *The Washington Post*.

The goal of PVCC's Stormwater Management Program is to ensure that stormwater generated on the College's campus does not adversely affect surface or groundwater on campus or downstream. Moore's Creek runs through PVCC to the Rivanna River, eventually reaching the Chesapeake Bay.

Any illicit discharge activity on campus, such as a motor oil spills or plastics and trash left on campus grounds, will impact these important waterways.

Just Google plastics in the ocean. What you find should disturb you.



Images courtesy of Rebecca S. Parkhill



## Dance Showcase Draws Tears and Cheers

Callan Shore, assistant editor

The PVCC Dance Club Spring Showcase, entitled “Everyone’s a Little Crazy,” began with slight technical difficulties but turned into a captivating piece of professional art that left the audience screaming.

The Dance Club is a place for all dancers, whether they have taken years of dance classes, like member Kaili Brannan, or have never stepped foot in a dance studio, like member Gareth Wittig. The club is run by Rainah Gregory, a PVCC student who will be attending UVA in the fall. Dancers Sofia Smith and Kaili Brannan help Gregory by choreographing dances and organizing meetings.

Gregory said, “I was accepted to transfer to UVA. It’s bittersweet. I hope to be involved somehow whether that is choreographing a dance or helping to market the club. My fellow officers this past semester Sofia Smith and Kaili Brannan will be taking over.”

On April 25, months of hard work culminated in the Spring Dance Club Showcase. The show began at 7:30 p.m., but the team began to trickle into the backstage room of the Black Box Theater at PVCC at 4 p.m. Dancers steamed their costumes and giggled. At 6 p.m., all club members, including stage managers, followed Gregory’s lead in a small stretch and workout session. Gregory yelled motivational sayings until all dancers had completed 100 crunches.

At 7, family and friends of the performers, as

well as a few PVCC students, found their seats. The show started 10 minutes late, but once the loud music and energized movements began, any complaints from the crowd were silenced. The showcase featured 10 dances, which were all choreographed by Gregory and other dance club members. The dances that created the most deafening cheers from the audience were a theatrical dance set to the song “Stacy’s Mom” and an intense, technical dance set to “Bellyache” and “Bury a Friend,” songs by Billie Eilish.

Gregory said, “When it comes to choreography I get a lot of inspiration from classes I have taken or works I have seen. Some moves come naturally whereas other moves I have to plan out... In this past showcase the pieces I choreographed were songs that when I heard them I immediately pictured it in my head! This can be really fun and scary (since I don’t want to forget what I’m envisioning!) I’ve loved working with Sofia and Kaili, their choreography is awesome and collaborating with them was super fun! I’m excited to see what they do next!”

After the show, family and friends mingled with the dancers and devoured a cake with “Why be moody when you can shake your booty” spelled in icing across the top. Stage Manager John Banks beamed and repeated, “That was just so good!”

In order to join Dance Club in the Fall, contact Rainah Gregory, Kaili Brannan, or Sofia Smith. Dance Club meets 12-1 p.m. every Wednesday.

# The Mona Lisa Comes to Life

Cody Clark, staff writer

On Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. The Core Ensemble performed *Equally Divine: The Real Story of the Mona Lisa* at PVCC Black Box Theatre. The Core Ensemble is a musical group whose performances highlight social justice issues and America's diverse cultures. In *Equally Divine: The Real Story of the Mona Lisa*, there were three musicians; one cellist, one pianist, and one percussionist. The music complimented the performance of the lone actor on the stage, Kevin Paley.

The musicians and Kevin Paley, who played Mona Lisa, take their positions on stage. Paley was dressed in a silky black coat and wore a wig. Paley announced the Mona Lisa has been stolen from the Louvre and the culprit is nowhere to be found.

The French police are baffled, and the public mourns the loss of a painting that no one cared about until after it was stolen. "It's human nature to not appreciate what we have until it's gone," said Paley.

The play began with the three musicians playing "Trio in Memoriam" to set the tone. The Mona Lisa described her current predicament. While talking directly to the audience, she described how she was trapped in a trunk that was tucked away in a closet. To pass the time, she recalled her time at the Louvre, where she went largely unappreciated by those that visited the museum.

In the second scene, the Mona Lisa goes over her origins. The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci for Francesco del Giocondo. The model would be Francesco's wife, Lisa.

Mona Lisa recounted an interaction between Lisa, Da Vinci, and Salai, Da Vinci's apprentice.

Paley constantly shifted tones in his voice and changed his posture to allow for the audience to easily

follow which character was talking. It was revealed that while Lisa del Giocondo was the subject of the Mona Lisa painting, it was Salai's smile that was used as the basis for the Mona Lisa's smile.

After holding the Mona Lisa captive for two years, Vincenzo Peruggia, the man responsible for crime, was caught in Italy. The Mona Lisa recounted her delight at seeing the light of day again. She soon returned to the Louvre and was enjoying the public's new found appreciation for her.

To end the night, Paley said that in an ideal society, "we are all equally divine and no one makes a fuss about it."



Photography by Cody Clark

# The Forum Club Investigates the Newseum

Jessica Adkins, assistant editor

In the midst of peak cherry blossom season, Washington, D.C., was a bustling city full of tourists. Among the groups of people was PVCC's The Forum Club. On Saturday April 6, The Forum Club left bright and early to start their journey to Washington to visit the Newseum.

The Newseum is a museum located on the corner of C Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., offering guests to experience what it is like to be in the journalism field. With six levels of exhibits, there was a lot to do and explore.

The lowest level consists of the cafe, the Berlin Wall exhibit, and the FBI exhibit. In the Berlin Wall exhibit, there is an area where a person can actually touch a piece of the wall. In the middle of the Berlin exhibit stands one of the watchtowers from the war named Checkpoint Charlie.

The FBI exhibit shows some of America's most publicized crimes. When enter the exhibit, one might notice the Nissan Pathfinder that was used in the 2010 Times Square car bombing. Further into the FBI exhibit sat the Unabomber's cabin. There was an eerie feeling coming from the small wooden structure that once stood alone in the middle of the tree-filled wilderness. The Pulitzer Prize photography exhibit is on level one of the museum, along with two gift shops. Among the prize-winning pictures was a picture from the tragic events that took place in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017. While standing and looking at the pictures, it was hard not to cry.

The ethics center and the interactive newsroom are on level two. In the ethics center, visitors can use interactive kiosks to answer what they would do in a tough journalism setting. If a group of people wanted to try test their ethics, there was an interactive game that people could compete against each other.

In the interactive

newsroom, visitors can stand in front of a camera and teleprompter, read a selected script into a microphone, and be recorded. A few cubicles down from the fast-paced recording studio were news desks that people could sit at and have their picture taken as if they were about to go on air.

Level three includes the journalism memorial which featured all names of journalists who have been killed in the line of work. One of the other exhibits was the Bloomberg Internet, TV, and Radio Gallery. This exhibit shows the evolution of internet, TV, and radio broadcasting.

Level four consisted of the 9/11 journalism exhibit which had an entire wall full of headlines from 9/11 and the days that followed. In a little room located in the corner of the exhibit, people could sit and watch a short documentary about the events of 9/11. Down the corridor from the 9/11 exhibit was the civil rights exhibit.

"I enjoyed seeing all the different headlines about the same events that happened on 9/11," said Forum Club member Deadra Miller.

On level five, there was an entire exhibit dedicated to sharing historical newspaper front pages. These dated back to the 1400s. Behind the exhibit was the Newseum's 100-foot-wide video screen that showed a video about LGBTQ+ and civil rights which correlated with the LGBTQ+ exhibit that was one floor above. Sitting outside of the historic newsroom was a replica of the Gutenberg Press.

On the top floor was the Greenspun terrace where they were actually filming a news segment that featured the U.S. Capitol building in the background. When a person came in from the terrace, they were greeted front pages from newspapers around the U.S. and the world. The

LGBTQ+ exhibit that showed how the LGBTQ+ civil rights evolved over the years was also located on the top floor.

Miller said, "It was a great experience, and I would love to go back again. I learned a lot about different types of journalism but had fun while doing it."



# Writers Unite to Express Creativity

Rachel Lemley, staff writer

For students wanting to enhance their use of language and expand their creativity, the Creative Writing Club at PVCC, also known as Writers Unite, is an opportunity. Writers Unite is where authors or students who enjoy writing come together and share their writing. Normally the members meet and have a few minutes of writing time, then get the chance to read and critique each other's work.

“The Creative Writing Club offers PVCC students a place to exercise their creativity and collaborate and converse with their fellow writers. We share and discuss original pieces, respond to prompts during "free write" time, host contests and events, and participate in editing, compiling, and formatting the annual literary magazine,” said Ella Chin, one of the presidents of the club.

She and Wyatt Ernst are co-presidents who work together to run meetings with the faculty adviser of Writers Unite and Professor of English Jennifer Koster. They also edit and publish the literary magazine *The Fall Line*, which compiles student pieces of writing and art. Anyone can submit their work to the magazine for the chance to be published in it.

Students can submit a maximum of ten pages of writing, either fiction or nonfiction, for review. The pieces are chosen on March 31, and the magazine is published by April 30. Dates may vary. The Writers Unite page under the section of clubs on the PVCC website has all the information and guidelines on how to submit a literary work to the magazine.

“One of the club's big goals is to promote writing and reading at PVCC, and we hope that we can also encourage people to express their creativity and to use the power of language to share their thoughts and things that are important to them,” Chin said.



## The Fall Line



Spring 2019 vol. XI  
Piedmont Virginia Community College

**Photo Courtesy of Professor Jennifer Koster**

Writers Unite helps students access their more creative side and practice the important skills of language and imagination. The club also gives students the opportunity to be published and have a supportive community where they can grow in knowledge and experience.

Members meet every second and fourth Monday from 12-1 p.m. in room M627, the Writing Center classroom, and everyone is invited to join.

If students are interested, they can either attend a meeting or contact the co-president Ella Chin at [efc2793@email.vccs.edu](mailto:efc2793@email.vccs.edu) for more details.

# PVCC Hosts Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Jessica Adkins, assistant editor

Saturday, April 20, was a beautiful, sunny Spring day. It was perfect weather to host PVCC's annual Easter Egg hunt. The Volunteer Club collaborated with The Forum Club to organize the Easter Egg Hunt.

The activities at the event included coloring, board games, face painting, pictures with Pouncer the Panther, and the Easter egg hunt itself, which then led to the raffle for prizes.

There were two egg hunts for two different age groups. The first group was for 4 years old and under and the second group was for children older than 4. People started showing up at 9:45 a.m., even though the egg hunt for the younger kids did not start until 10:30 a.m.

For the raffle, instead of putting candy in the

Easter eggs, each egg contained at least one raffle ticket that would be used in the raffling of the prizes. There was even a golden egg that had many tickets in it to better a person's chances of winning a great prize.

If a person did not win anything from the raffle, they did not leave empty-handed. Everyone who did not receive a raffle prize got a bag of

candy. There were also separate candy bags for children with nut allergies. Todd Platts said, "Putting tickets in the eggs was a mistake. Next time there will be no more tickets than prizes. Next year's prizes will be name brand because that is what the kids seem to like."

Along with prizes, the volunteers handed out free concessions. After hunting for Easter Eggs, children had the choice to enjoy snacks and juice, but many were too excited to see if they had won any of the prizes.

PVCC's mascot Pouncer the Panther mingled and posed outside on the Patio or inside with the board games and coloring pages. There were many photo opportunities with the terrifyingly cute feline.

The indoor activities included a Play-Doh table, several tables with coloring pages for kids to color, and various games such as large checkers and giant Jenga. Many of the younger kids were inside coloring while the older kids were outside playing yard games.

Platts said, "I think one of the neat things is the fact that it attracts a diverse crowd of people. It's kind of rare that kids like that can get together for something because they often live apart."



Pouncer the Panther poses shows off the prizes. Photography by Deadra Miller



Children hunting for eggs. Photo courtesy of Amanda Key



Tristan Miller poses with Pouncer. Photography by Deadra Miller



Photo courtesy of Amanda Key



Zaylie Reaves in Bunny Ears. Photography by Deadra Miller

# Spring Fling Attracts Large Crowd

Samantha Aldridge staff writer

On April 23, PVCC students and the community gathered outside to attend the school's annual Spring Fling. The weather was in the high 80's setting a beautiful scene for the events happening. Bouncy houses, mechanical bulls, and great music all helped create positive vibes for Spring Fling 2019.

As the DJ played, people danced while laughter filled the air. The DJ played great songs perfect for small children and the students, People danced all around while small laughs and talk filled the air.

The DJ said, "What is spring fling without a little bit of dancing?" While some people watched the festivities and ate food, others took part in the activities. Near the lawn area people played volleyball and soccer.

Upon entering the Spring Fling, the Student Government Association (SGA) required waivers to participate in the activities. The waiver itself was not long, making it easy to get straight to the fun.

Attendees had the option of putting their name into a raffle for PVCC merchandise and gift cards.



I walked past multiple corn hole boards, people playing various games and the big velcro wall. The owner of the velcro wall said, "I saw a twelve-year-old flip upside down onto the wall and I even got a picture of it."

I was not lucky enough to see someone upside down on the velcro wall but I got to see my friends and peers attempt to get stuck to the sticky wall.

The bull threw students left and right. The mechanical bull operator asked, "Do you want the easy setting or the hard setting?" The choice made by the students decided how fast and hard they would fall off the bull.

I saw many students who were confident they could stay on there the longest get thrown off in two seconds. The mechanical bull definitely humbled some people that day.

Overall, Spring Fling 2019 was a big success. Students, faculty, and the community all came together on a beautiful Tuesday evening to enjoy the activities offered by PVCC.

SGA President Sophia Keniston even mentioned, "this has been the best turnout for an event in 2019."



Photography by Samantha Aldridge





# Learning, Composing and Painting: ART 241

Rachel Lemley, staff writer

PVCC has many classes that go beyond the general education subjects and offer students a chance to learn extraordinary skills. Painting I, or Art 241, is a course worth four credits and is given in Fall, Spring and Summer. Painting I lets people to use their creativity and imagination, while also learning a new, fascinating hobby. The class is taught by Aaron Miller, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and knowledgeable artist.

“In Painting I, I do teach the basics: Composition, Observational Tools, Value & Light-Tone relationships, Paint Qualities, Mark-making, Color Mixing/Theory. However, the ‘excitement in the process’ to me is the most important part. Everyone intuitively understands different parts, and has trouble with other parts. So in my class we spend as much time as possible in front of the canvas, and through individual feedback and critiques I try to help each student figure out what the most important skill to develop is,” said Miller.

Even though the class is considered a lecture, most of the time is spent on painting with the methods shown. Students get in a circle with their paints and canvases to create their own renditions of scenes or still-lives.

Further into the semester, students are given more freedom in assignments and are able to paint self portraits, landscapes, or interesting objects found around the house. Students also get to learn the science behind making new paint colors and using brush strokes to make their art jump off the canvas.

“Painting is a skill that takes time to develop. That is because it is really many skills. To paint

you must know how to draw, assess color and light, assess the qualities of various paints and mediums, mix colors and apply them in a variety of textures and consistencies, choose appropriate materials, supports, media and tools. You must know about design and principles of visual communication, the history of painting and important painters. You must be able to solve problems, and have good time management. Above all you must paint and develop a feel for the brush and find excitement in the process,” Miller said.

After signing up for Painting I, there is a short list of supplies students should get a few basic tints of paint, nice brushes, and canvasses. Throughout the semester, students will use these tools to make art and practice the professional techniques that are introduced in the course.

“At the end of each semester, I have every student bring in every homework painting from the class, and we do a big

final critique. Practicing painting can seem slow and tedious, but seeing three months of work and progress is always great. Each student tends to improve in different areas, and make different discoveries over the semester, but seeing their own progression I hope imparts a confidence and excitement about continuing to paint and improve,” Miller concluded.

There are no requirements before taking Painting I, and the students do not have to be experienced at painting to join. As long as students are willing to learn and use their creativity, anyone can excel in this course and develop a new talent. There is also a Painting II course that helps developing artists improve on their talents.

Once the course is over, students take home their paintings. Painting I meets every Monday from 1-5 p.m. in room 118 at the Dickinson building and lasts 16 weeks.



Photography by Rachel Lemley

# Drawing I Offered in the Fall for Students

Samantha Aldridge , staff writer

Drawing I, or Art 121, is a class full of aspiring artists and students who want to get away from their core classes by drawing. After a recent interview with Aaron Miller, I was able to find out more information about his Drawing I (22495) class offered in the fall semester of 2019. I took this class last fall and had a great experience. I asked Miller about his plans for the class and why other students at PVCC should take this course.

The class switches from different mediums throughout the semester. Miller went from teaching about graphite and charcoal, to pen and ink, which means a lot of drawing. Miller added, “It is a fun class to teach and it is a lot more straightforward compared to painting.”

He says his class spends plenty of time drawing to help students improve as much as possible throughout the semester.

“I think it’s hard not to make progress in that class if you are spending that much time drawing,” Miller said. He also mentions that if students are going into any form of communications then drawing can be useful for them.

Once inside Dickinson, one can either take the stairs or the elevator to reach the classroom. Filled with easels and marks on the floor from previous students, the classroom is welcoming to any skill level of drawing.

My friends enjoyed the class along with myself. Every week we looked forward to seeing new projects up on the wall for critique. Critique was bittersweet. Whether someone had a great drawing or not, we were able to see our progress and compare our work to others.

A normal class day generally does critique and then drawing right after. Sometimes there is a small lecture but never long enough to keep students from drawing. Miller also likes to play music while students draw which sets the mood for relaxing class time.

If anyone is interested in signing up for Drawing I, the best suggestion is to sign up fast. The class is a requirement for some programs and may fill up quickly. Overall, this class is a great way to escape core classes, work on drawing skills, and meet new people.

“Getting that little gratification from making that tiny bit of progress hopefully gets students to take the next step and make the next little bit of progress,” Miller said.



Photography by Samantha Aldridge

# PSY 200 Offers Relief in Stressful World

Francesca Black, staff writer

Community Colleges offer a multitude of classes with different perspectives on what it is to be human. One immense and important discipline is psychology. Principles of Psychology, PSY 200, with Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Michael Rahilly gives an informative overview of the vast social science.

The class utilizes interactive tools such as PowerPoint, online video, and lecture to talk about various topics. The focus of the class on April 15 was stress and coping. Dr. Rahilly discussed how the research has changed to now incorporate not only what stress is but also how happiness can be achieved through coping.

In the class, Dr. Rahilly said, “When studying coping, studying happiness, you know what to do to avoid stress.” He illuminated the definition of stress with real life examples such as, “that bing on your phone is a little stressor every time,” while distinguishing between good and bad stressors.

The lecture wove through these real-life examples with research to ignite discussion. Students seemed engaged as we made a list of uncontrollable stressors, including the recent tornado warning from Sunday evening. I asked Rahilly why studying psychology, particularly stress, was important. He answered, “It's useful in understanding the bigger picture with how to cope

with stress.”

One student provided a moment of levity when the professor asked the class if anyone felt extra stressed out today for any reason, and she answered, “Not yet.”

Overall, this class is informative and engaging. PSY-200 is offered in summer session as a 7-week class Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1 - 3:10 p.m. in M247 or G211 as well as in the fall Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11-11:50 a.m. in M158.



Dr. Michael Rahilly. Photography by Francesca Black.

# GOL 105 Available this Summer and Fall

Cody Clark, staff writer

Physical Geology (GOL-105) is a four-credit course that fulfills the science with a laboratory requirement for those that need it. GOL 105 teaches students about the Earth's processes and how they form the natural wonders around us today. The class is offered in the summer and fall. During the fall semester, however, there are several more options available for the course. Classes can be scheduled for three times a week, twice a week, and once a week. There is also a choice between three different faculty members: Stephen "Aaron" Cross, Janie Vinson, and Kathryn St. Clair. In the summer, there are two options available, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 9:30-10:45 a.m. and Tuesday 11 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Both summer classes are taught by Adjunct Instructor of Geology Kathryn St. Clair.

While some science courses can be more intimidating due to the amount of math possibly required, Geology is one of the least math-intensive science courses PVCC offers. That is not the only reason to take this course though, as St. Clair said, "Geology is a science, and while it may not be as math intensive as other sciences, math is the language of science. But geology is the explanation of all that surrounds us. It's the beautiful science of our planet."

There is another geology class available at PVCC, Historical Geology (GOL 106). Although it is not required to take GOL 105 before GOL 106, some students may find it easier to take physical before historical. St. Clair said, "My



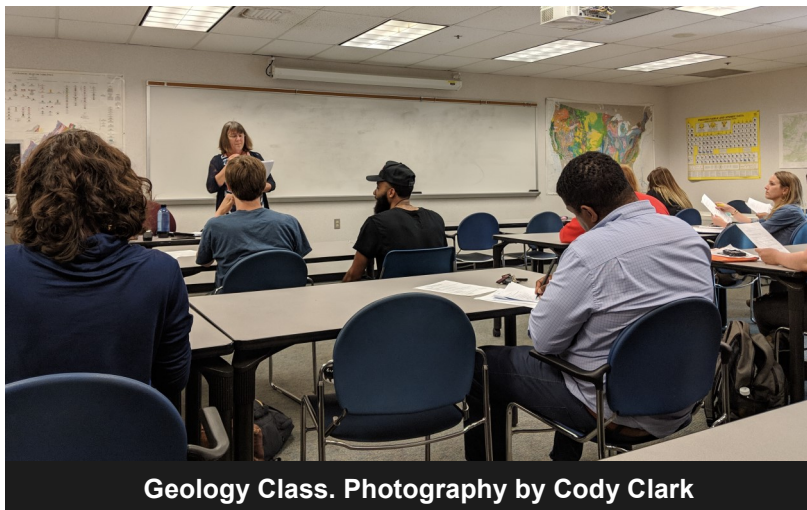
**Instructor Kathryn St. Clair.  
Photography by Cody Clark**

personal belief is that the concepts in Physical (mineralogy, rock types, rock processes) help students understand the more difficult sleuthing as it were of Historical Geology."

This could be important for students interested in the field of geology because "knowing how the processes create an ophiolite complex that you then point to and say this is how we know there was an ancient subduction zone here, this helps in the geologic understanding of the region."

Jonathan Kenney, a student who took GOL 105, said, "The thing I liked the most about the Physical Geology class was getting to study volcanoes and volcanic activity, and how it all worked."

When asked if he would recommend the class, he said, "I would definitely recommend it, students will get to learn about what makes up our world in a thorough manner, and it's a good accompaniment to Historical Geology."



**Geology Class. Photography by Cody Clark**

# The Balalaika Society Serenades PVCC

Cody Clark, staff writer

The Washington Balalaika Society (WBS) performed at PVCC on Sunday, March 31. The WBS was founded in 1988 and is comprised of local musicians who play the music of Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe on traditional Russian folk instruments. Although seated like a traditional orchestra and directed by a conductor, that is where the similarities end. What makes this orchestra unique is how the instruments are utilized to make their music.

The balalaika is a guitar-like instrument with a three-sided body. These were situated on the front middle and front right of the stage. The domra, another guitar-like instrument, has a rounded body. These were on the left of the stage. The balalaika and domra can vary in size. The wind section in the back. It held instruments that most people are more familiar with, such as the flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon. The bayan, an accordion-like instrument, was in the back, and finally, the gusli was in the center of the stage just in front of the conductor. The gusli is similar to an autoharp in concept but looks like a table with piano keys controlled by the left hand and strings controlled by the right.

The orchestra members came on stage wearing glistening red outfits with gold accents. The men wore tunics with gold striping travelling down the left side of the torso with a gold cord wrapped around the waist. The women wore dresses with white sleeves and collars with the rest of the dress mimicking their male counterparts.

Before the performance, Peter Kleeman introduced the orchestra and shared a few words with the audience saying they would play a “mixture of classic, folk, modern, and some surprises.” The WBS started the performance with the Military March and the Balalaika Waltz. Olga Orlovskaya, a soprano opera singer, came on stage to sing two songs with the orchestra. After Orlovskaya left the stage, Aaron Mott, one of the orchestra’s Balalaika soloists, led “Play, My Bagpipes.”

The orchestra then played a medley of Russian music before Peter Omelchenko, a Domra soloist, took center stage. Omelchenko led Russian Dance from “Swan Lake,” “Csardas,” and “Flight of the Bumblebee.” At the end of Omelchenko’s songs, the audience stood and applauded before Omelchenko returned to his position with the rest Domra players.

Two more songs were played before Orlovskaya returned to the stage to perform “Silva” and “My Lips Kiss so Warmly.” After Orlovskaya left the stage, Andrei Savelev, the Balalaika Concertmaster, took center stage to lead two songs, “I Met You” and “Hungarian Rhapsody #2.”

The orchestra performed “Time to Say Goodbye” to close the event. Orlovskaya joined the orchestra on stage for this final performance. As the song ended, the crowd rose from their seats and applauded. Kleeman gave a few closing words and said, “This is something that binds us all together.” The WBS website, [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org), has information on upcoming performances and the history of the society.



Photography courtesy of Balalaika Society

# VA Opera Gives PVCC a Backstage Pass

Francesca Black, staff writer

On Thursday, April 25, the Virginia Opera took the stage at PVCC for a workshop in the V. Earl Dickinson Building. The workshop titled “What does it take to be an opera singer?” demonstrated the hardships and joys of life on the stage.

A grand piano sat in the middle of the dimly lit stage as the audience filed in. Statewide Director of Education and Outreach with the Virginia Opera, Cecelia Schieve, moderated the event. Her enthusiasm for opera as an art form translated to the stage as she gave detailed information on the subject. Schieve said, “We are thrilled to have this level of artist with us today.”

Schieve introduced the artists from the Virginia Opera’s Herndon Foundation Emerging Artists Program, providing details about their individual styles and skill sets while examining how these added to their performances.

The workshop began with each artist singing a chosen piece with the accompaniment of the pianist, Johanna Kvam. The featured soprano, Symone Harcum, sang an Italian piece while the featured tenor, Logan Z. Webber, sang a German piece, and the baritone, Joseph Mazzara, another Italian piece.

The three then shifted styles between such duet performances as “Agony” from *Into the Woods* and “Tonight” from *West Side Story*. Harcum sang “Summertime” from *Porgy and Bess* by George Gershwin. Before her performance, Harcum set up the song’s setting, saying, “She’s singing about a more beautiful place in hopes that her child can see better times.”

Schieve spoke of all these style adaptations as part of the job of being an opera singer. Schieve said, “You have to find that internal mechanism to bring the scene to life.” She also went into the various musical terms as the performers continued. Schieve said, “Symone’s voice has a lovely color to it; in music, this is called *tambour* which adds a lot to the piece.”



Photography by Francesca Black

She also stressed the fact that the artists have to sing and act simultaneously, saying, “The most important thing is that they know the meaning of the words.” This is so the artists can adapt their movement, expression, and voice accordingly.

The event’s turn out showed PVCC’s appreciation for the arts. The performances were followed by an interactive Q & A session, illuminating the intricacies that go into making the art form a reality. Kvam discussed her trajectory as a pianist indicating that it all changed when she “found out that it’s possible to get a degree in collaborative.”

The artists also gave advice on life as a performer. They urged the importance of being involved in the community. Webber said, “Keep networking as much as possible.”

They advised that the job took a lot of hard work and flexibility as a specific gig might take them across the country for varying amounts of time. Mazzara stressed the pressures saying, “That five minutes can dictate whether you get a job or not.” He continued with, “It wouldn’t be opera if it wasn’t hard.”

When an audience member asked if they were nervous to perform today, Harcum replied with laughter, “Oh yeah, I think so, I definitely forgot a word.”

# Reframing Procrastination for Success

Tiana Sigala, staff writer

Director of Academic Support Services Todd Parks and Director of Student Success and Retention David Lerman sat in a small room off of the Writing Center, ready with several piping hot pizzas and ice-cold sodas, to welcome students for a candid conversation about procrastination. They gathered to discuss right and wrong ways to procrastinate, as well as some changes of perspective regarding the subject.

In “Procrastination: How the Pros do it,” the hosts acknowledged a general negativity surrounding procrastination and spoke of their desire to change any negative connotations. Rather than giving tips on how to avoid procrastinating, the workshop focused on reframing it. Lerman posits that when procrastination is viewed as something closer to a personality trait rather than a negative action, one can more easily manage their tendencies toward it.

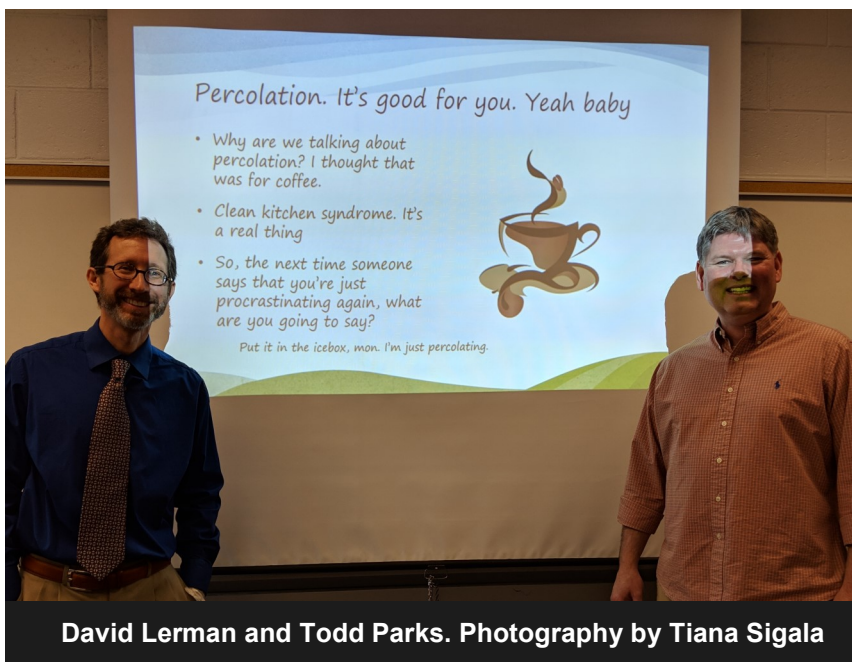
“If you think it’s not just a bad habit, then you can learn to work with it. It just takes time,” he said.

Speaking with students at PVCC, the word procrastination quickly summons up pejoratives such as lazy or unmotivated. Even objectively high-achieving students such as Elizabeth Valtierra, a full-time student and activist who currently holds multiple internship positions, nurses negative views of her own habit of procrastinating.

She said, “For me, it sometimes feels like I’m unmotivated, but there are times where you try to work and there’s really no creativity to stem off of.”

To Lerman, this is less the act of procrastination and more the act of “percolation.” He reasoned, if you begin a project and leave it alone for a period of time, the topic stays on your mind and you are working on it whether intentional or not.

“If you’ve started something, you’re not just



David Lerman and Todd Parks. Photography by Tiana Sigala

procrastinating. If you have genuinely started it, and you work on it in your mind and go back to it, that’s percolation, and it can accomplish a lot of things,” Lerman said. This perspective shift allows a student to start their projects with intent to percolate and feel less guilt or stress over not having it done by a certain time.

He moved on to strategies to improve focus and productivity, including the one every person of the modern age has heard, put your phone away. “About 300 minutes,” Lerman said, “that’s how long college students say they’re on their phone each day. Think about all the time you could get back if you just put it away.” He suggested incremental separation from your mobile device starting with 15 or 20 minutes, and building from there.

He went on with some more common strategies, such as to-do lists, which by his own admission are not very exciting and groundbreaking in the way of focus strategies. “To-do lists sound really dry. They’re not sexy,” he joked, “but they work.”

Procrastination could use some rebranding, and the Student Success Office and the Academic Support Services department are ready to help students shed negative ideas and work efficiently despite labels. While workshops for the 2019 Spring semester have ended, more workshop information can be found at [pvcc.edu/workshops](http://pvcc.edu/workshops).



# Piedmont Profile: Who is Addie Smith?

Deadra Miller, online editor

When anyone walks into the south entrance of PVCC they see Addie Smith, the receptionist responding to the many phone calls received there.

As a military wife, she has traveled the world, retired, raised four children, and watched each of them walk through PVCC at one point in time. Smith was also a beauty queen in her younger days. Smith was voted Mrs. Laurel Maryland in 1957 by fellow military wives on Fort Meade Army Base. At that time, Smith's husband was an E-9 (Sergeant Major) in the United States Army.

After she won the title, her husband received orders to report to Fort Gordon, Georgia, his new duty station. While in Georgia, Smith attended dental school and graduated with a dental assistant title associated with the Red Cross.

Smith has also traveled the world; she has been to France, Germany, Belgium, England and Italy. Traveling to these countries would not have been possible without the help of her husband Sgt. Major James Edward Smith.

Right before Smith's husband retired out of the Army, he was selected for the Warrant Officer list (a promotion list for Warrant Officer across all branches of the military,) but he



Addie Smith being pinned at graduation



Addie Smith Beauty Queen.  
Photos courtesy of Addie Smith

chose retirement in 1968.

After retirement, J. Smith and his family moved to Charlottesville so he could attend UVA for Radiology; he then received his degree and worked under the supervision of Dr. Keats. While J. Smith was working at and attending UVA, Mrs. Smith was working at K-Mart. She worked there until 1996 as a front end manager, payroll manager, and human resources manager.

Now, Smith watches her grandchildren and great grandchildren walk the halls of PVCC. One of Smiths' granddaughters will be graduating this spring with honors and went to Orlando, Florida, with Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) a few weeks ago.

Her motivation is seeing all of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren attend PVCC. She is a family woman that will help every one of them without a second thought. Please stop by greet Addie Smith or have a small chat with her; one may learn something about the older generation.

# PVCC Instills Job-Hunting Fundamentals

Tiana Sigala, staff writer

A small group of students congregated in an unused classroom on Wednesday, April 17, to discuss some basic yet important factors of entering the job market: networking and negotiating a salary. Job and Internship Coordinator Gigi Davis led a talk in which she urged students to network and make friends in their prospective industries.

The workshop touched on many different facets of job-hunting skills, such as finding the right position for students through informational interviews. An informational interview is when a person asks for a 30-45 minute interview with a person in a career they would like to be in.

“It’s great to do informational interviews, and for those who haven’t heard of these before, it basically means talking to someone about what they do, how they like what they do and how they got to that position,” Davis said. By conducting this form of interview, a job-seeker stands to build a connection with someone in the industry, as well as to get a sense of whether this job is what they want.

Davis encourages students to see the potential for growth and connection in people everywhere, from co-workers to those in prospective positions, even PVCC faculty.

Davis said, “A lot of times people see this type of networking as using people, but ultimately at some point down the road you will be able to reciprocate and act as a resource to those who have helped you.”

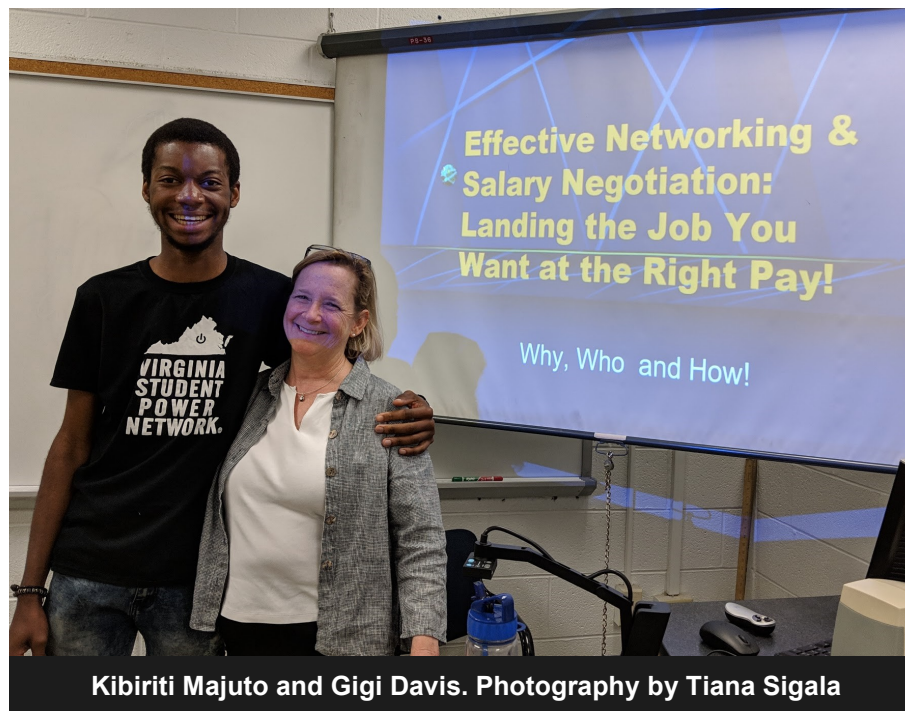
Focus on networking brought up the idea of cold talking, such as using the technique FORM. FORM is an acronym that stands for family, occupation, recreation, and message. In order to have a friendly conversation with someone upon first meeting them, a person might begin by introducing themselves and talking about their family, asking what this person does,

moving on to what they do for fun and, if the conversation has gone well thus far, get to the heart of why they approached this person. At events such as a Chamber of Commerce meeting or a convention, this allows a job-seeker to make valuable contacts in a small amount of time that can be built upon at a later date.

Another important tip is for everyone to know their worth as they head into the job market. “Unemployment is low in Charlottesville, and what I’m hearing is employers telling me they simply cannot fill positions,” said Davis. According to Davis, this atmosphere should encourage applicants to negotiate the salary rather than accept whichever job offer they receive first. Applicants are encouraged to research the salary of comparable positions on websites like [glassdoor.com](http://glassdoor.com), or even LinkedIn, in order to be better prepared to begin negotiations.

If the desired salary cannot be reached at hiring, applicants can ask about performance reviews and chances for salary raises at that time. Additionally, job-seekers can negotiate benefits such as parking spaces or time off.

Davis offers resources such as resume-building packets and slides on networking and negotiating by email or request and can be reached at [madavis@pvcc.edu](mailto:madavis@pvcc.edu).



Kibiriti Majuto and Gigi Davis. Photography by Tiana Sigala

# Violet Crown Provides Perk of the Industry

Francesca Black, staff writer

The city of Charlottesville ranks 14th on the list of cities with most restaurants per capita in the U.S. according to the Huffington Post. This means a lot of people need to work in those restaurants.

Restaurant work usually consists of long hours catering to customers looking to have a good time. For those that work late nights, the Violet Crown on the Downtown Mall provides one perk in the form of Industry Night.

Every Monday night at 10 p.m., Violet Crown Theater offers a free movie, usually a new release, to anyone with a valid food service pay stub. The movie on Monday, April 1, was *The Beach Bum*, directed by Harmony Korine. The movie has an all-star cast, including Matthew McConaughey,

Zac Efron, Snoop Dogg, Jonah Hill, and Isla Fisher. The crowd cheered as the theater darkened.

One movie goer, Daniel, a server at Now and Zen, said, "Industry Night brings a real sense of camaraderie to the evening, and is something we usually don't get to do because of work." Moviegoers choose their seating options before the movie starts, allowing for groups to reserve seating. The cozy theater was peppered with laughter throughout the movie.

Violet Crown offers draft beer (\$6-10) and wine (\$6-10) as well as a full menu until 10:30 p.m. including hand-cut fries (\$6) and avocado spring rolls (\$8).

Another server, Tasha, from The Continental Divide, said, "Sometimes all of us go right after work, and we have a great time."

# Chowing Down on Chocolate and Art

Bryn Dotson, assistant editor

Faculty, staff, students, and visitors swarmed around a variety of pieces of art with chocolates and ice-cream cups in hand. The once lifeless walls came alive in the V. Earl Dickinson building on Friday, April 19, in honor of the Annual Student Exhibition and Seventh Annual Chocolate Chow Down.

Inside the building, people handed out small cards to explain more about the artwork and the chow down. Despite the rain that day, the hallways were stuffed with people, and it was hard to navigate through them to see the artwork.

The chocolate was almost completely gone by 5:30 p.m. but by that time, the parking lot had thinned out and there were a significant number of parking spots remaining for those coming later in the evening for the Free Movie Friday event, *Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse*.

"I had only ever heard about this event through Piedmont students," said Claire Mills, a student from the University of East Anglia.

This year's art included a variety of mediums from printmaking, painting, drawing, graphic design, digital photography, art history, ceramics, and more. Each piece of artwork on display was unique from the others and had a variety of

colors, textures, styles, and emotions.

"I think it is a great idea to showcase young artists' work. I am also not one to say no to artwork and chocolate," Mills said.



Photography by Bryn Dotson

# Changing the Way Prosecutors Prosecute

Teddie Frock, staff writer

On April 6, Indivisible Charlottesville hosted a panel of law enforcement professionals to discuss the power of prosecutors and focus on ways of eliminating mass incarceration and diversion of children away from the criminal justice system.

Indivisible, a group formed in the aftermath of the 2016 election, supports localities in taking actions to teach and implement Civic education regarding Federal and State legislative issues. They also support voter registration and endorse candidates for office.

The panel included Joe Platania, Charlottesville's commonwealth attorney; Liz Murtagh, public attorney for Charlottesville and Albemarle; Jim Hingeley, co-director of the Criminal Defense Clinic; Monica Robinson, president of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham branch of the NAACP; and Diane McNeel, chairperson of the NAACP education committee, Charlottesville, Albemarle.

Prosecutors have tremendous influence regarding cases in the criminal justice system. They have the power to decide if charged individuals will be taken to court. It is the job of the defense attorney to communicate with the Commonwealth Attorney about the person who is charged and what the circumstances are in each case. This approach helps them to see defendants not just as a perpetrator or criminal, but as a person. Platania said, "Just because we have a hammer, not everything is a nail."

Juvenile offenders and those with mental health and substance abuse issues can be diverted

away from incarceration to programs that help them address underlying issues. The court can give offenders the opportunity to participate in the programs as an alternative to going to jail, or in some cases, to eliminate having a criminal record that will follow them throughout their lives.

Drug court is a rehabilitative and behavioral program available to those with substance abuse issues. Clients are followed and held accountable by the court for the period of time needed to recover and embark on a productive path. The mental health docket allows people with mental health or psychiatric issues to work with health professionals to treat and manage underlying issues. Clients can receive the support to make positive healthy changes, and at the same time, receive treatment. Some juvenile courts have programs that reach out to schools and work with them to find ways to not bring children into the system.

The panelists and audience discussed issues of disparity in the system that contributes to arrests and incarceration of minorities and children. Platania was questioned about the need to hire African-American students to work in the Commonwealth Attorney office. His office has initiated an internship program for African-American students.

The panelists encouraged citizens to influence prosecutors to work on changing laws that do more harm than good to communities, such as mandatory minimum sentence guidelines and discriminatory mass incarceration. Panelists also encouraged parental and citizen involvement with children in schools, as a way to help young people to grow up to be productive and successful adults.

Plantania's efforts include the implementation of a mental health treatment court as an alternative to incarceration. He has also introduced the concept of community prosecution. Community prosecution involves using the prosecutor's office to solve problems, improve public safety and the lives of citizens.

According to Platania on his role as prosecutor, "You're there to develop relationships, I am a big believer in relationships and pre-existing relationships as a way to solve problems."

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PROSECUTORS:  
A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 6, 2019  
11 AM - 12:30 PM

**WHERE:** City Space, Charlottesville

City and county prosecutors are some of the most powerful elected officials in the U.S. because they have real impact on people's lives.

Join us for a frank conversation about what needs to change to bring meaningful reform in 2019.

This event is sponsored by: **INDIVISIBLE CHARLOTTESVILLE**

**PANELISTS:**

- Jim Hingeley**  
Co-Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic and Candidate for Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney
- Monica Robinson**  
President of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham branch of the NAACP
- Joe Platania**  
Charlottesville Commonwealth's Attorney
- Diane McNeel**  
Chairperson of the Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP Education Committee
- Liz Murtagh**  
Public Defender for Charlottesville/Albemarle

# Understanding Islam, Seeking the Face of God

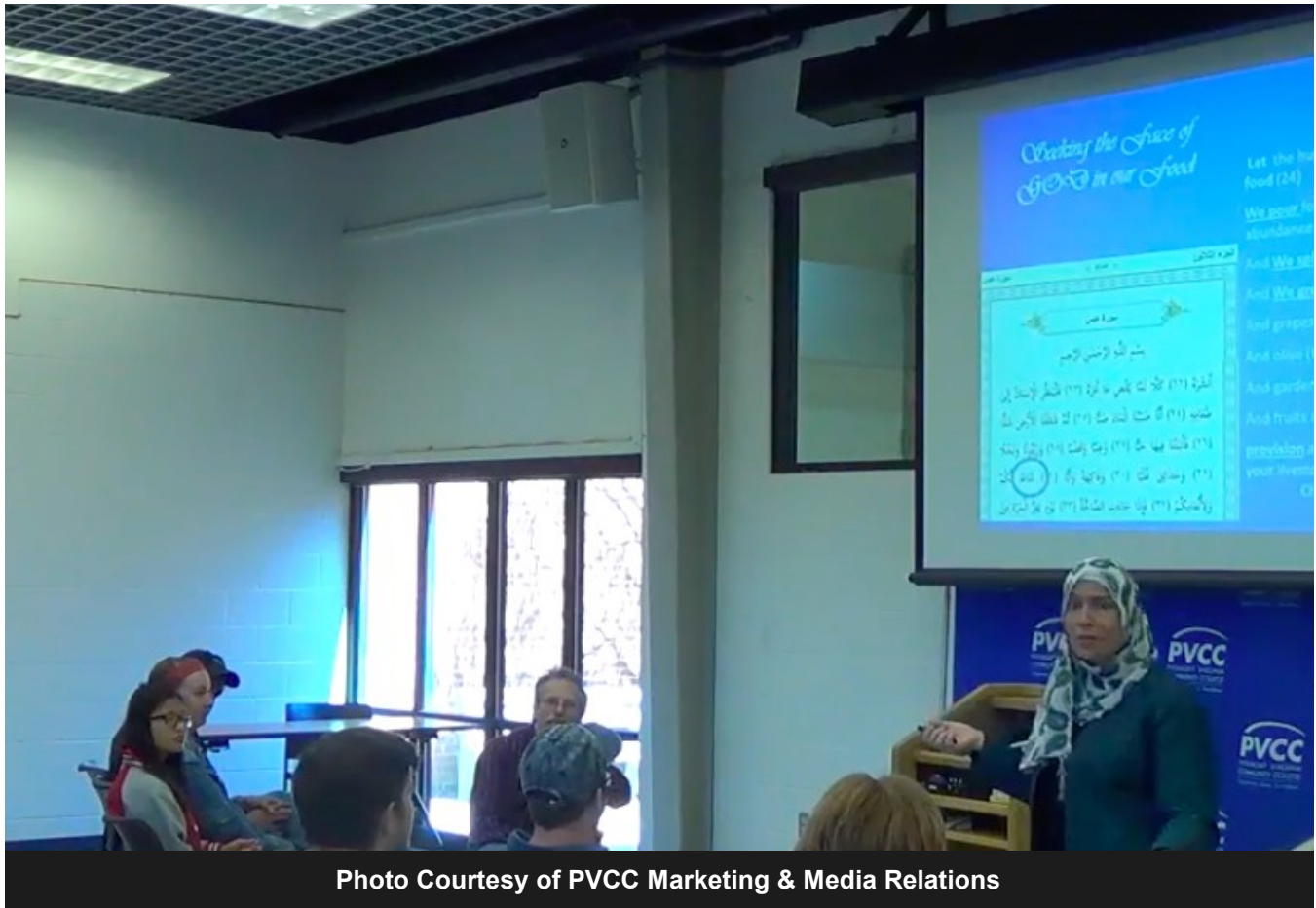


Photo Courtesy of PVCC Marketing & Media Relations

Teddie Frock, staff writer

On April 16, the PVCC Religion 230 class hosted guest speaker Dr. Aliaa Khidr to speak about Islam beliefs. The title of her talk, Believer’s Quest to See the “Face of God” in One’s Self as Well as in Creation, was open to the PVCC community.

She said, “The believer’s quest is to seek the face of God.” She said that seeking the face of God helps Muslims in seeking peace and meaning in their religion and their lives.

Khidr is a speech language pathologist and retired physician who is affiliated with UVA. She is also a public speaker on speech pathologies, disorders and treatment.

At PVCC, Khidr first had students connect in small groups to discuss their own interpretations of what the face of God means to them. This provided everyone with the opportunity to introduce themselves and speak to each other about their knowledge and interpretations of

Islamic beliefs.

Khidr then presented a powerpoint highlighting some of the tenets of Islam. “The Quran is the book of signs,” said Khidr. Muslims believe that the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad between the years of 609 and 632 B.C.

In the Quran, the first command from God to Muhammad was to read. Muhammad could not read, but he learned that to read means to understand and seek the signs. Signs are arrows that help to seek and understand God.

Allah means God, Salah means prayer, and divine worship means a connection to God. If there is not a connection, then Salah is a ritual. “The perspective of God is that he is everywhere,” said Khidr.

For those interested in learning more about Islam, they can go to the website <https://www.receivingnur.org/>.

Dr. Khidr can also be contacted through email at [alliahkhidr@gmail.com](mailto:alliahkhidr@gmail.com).

# Enjoy Delicious Offerings at Now And Zen

Francesca Black, staff writer

Good, inexpensive sushi is hard to come by in small towns such as Charlottesville. However, tucked into 2nd Street right off the Downtown Mall sits Now and Zen. With its cozy atmosphere, sunny dining room, and delicious food, Now and Zen is an amazing place to dine.

The luscious smell of soy sauce and fresh fish hits first, followed by a mixture of sesame and tempura. The food flows out of the kitchen whenever it is ready as Japanese culture does not follow the common course system of appetizer, entree, and dessert. The menu is broken down into soups, salads, homemade dumplings, small plate, noodles/entrees, and various sushi combinations including the popular “BIG Rolls!!!.” Almost all of the options pair well with each other.

The house-made dumplings are delicate and tender, brimming with either vegetable or local pork filling and served with an aromatic sauce (\$8 -11). Soups include traditional miso (\$3.50) or the



Photography by Francesca Black

special “blue crab miso” (\$5.50), which comes with a blue crab shell for added flavor and amusement. The smaller plates are delightful, with the popular Grilled Black Cod (\$12) or Octopus Tempura (\$12).

Another lure to Now and Zen is the portion size. While the more delicate small plates amused the palate, the larger entrees, noodle dishes, and big sushi rolls drove home the dinner. Dishes such as Gyudon (\$13), beef and rice bowl, and the Katsu Curry (\$18), curry with breaded pork, left us stuffed and satisfied. The big rolls entertained with decorative plating. The Volcano Roll (\$15), filled with cucumber and avocado, topped with fresh tuna, and speckled with flying fish roe and spicy mayo, was exciting and delicious.

Now and Zen offers a full sushi selection, ranging from the basic California roll (\$5.50) to sea urchin roe with quail egg (\$10), allowing diners to sample all the flavors of Japan. Open everyday from 5 - 9 p.m. except Friday and Saturday, 5 - 10 p.m., Now and Zen is a satisfying experience that will not break the bank.

# Bake My Day At The Pie Chest

Rachel Lemley, staff writer

In the heart of downtown Charlottesville lies a hidden gem - delicious pie. The Pie Chest is a local bakery in an alleyway off the downtown mall. The Pie Chest was established by Will Richey, who helped to revive downtown by opening the Whiskey Jar and The Alley Light.

The Pie Chest has been serving happiness ever since its opening in 2015. Baker Rachel Pennington uses her grandma's recipes to bring back memories of childhood. On the Pie Chest website, <http://thepiechestville.com>, she says that she strives to recreate the tastes, smells, and feels of being right at home.

"I found out about The Pie Chest about a year after I moved to Charlottesville in 2015. My father showed it to me for breakfast, and from that moment, I was hooked. From then on, I made a point of taking my friends from out of town to it, or anyone who just hadn't heard about it yet," said Curtis Gill, a food connoisseur and expert on downtown life.

All of the pies are made from scratch, whether they are sweet or savory, and kept in nice display cases. In the childhood of Will Richey, however, pies were kept in pie safes, or as Richey calls them, "pie chests," which is how he named his store.

Pie is not the only thing at this store. They also sell delicious coffee, breakfast biscuits, rolls, bars, and a variety of cookies.

Walking in the store, guests are instantly greeted with the joyful voices of the bakers and the mouth-watering aroma of freshly baked pastries. Light fills the brightly colored café and lands like a spotlight on the array of dessert and dinner pies. The people are friendly, and the shop gives off a rustic and welcoming feel.

Once the pie is bought (\$5-\$10), the guests can choose to sit around one of the quaint wooden tables either in the restaurant or on their little porch outside. Unfortunately, The Pie Chest can get busy, so seating is limited. The menu for the day and shop itself are difficult to find given their change of pie each day, but the effort it takes to get there is worth the new tastes and environment.

Eating the pie is its own experience. The crust is flaky and golden brown, while the inside is warm, soft, and filled with flavor. Some of their

popular dessert pies are the s'mores pie, which is a chocolate pie wrapped in graham cracker crust and covered in melted marshmallow, or the cinnamon crumble apple, which is a sweet pie baked to a crisp, filled with sugary apples and topped with cinnamon crumbs.

The Pie Chest is not only a dessert place. Some of their favorite pies are their special dinner pies. Their pot and hand pies are made with a thick crust and baked around many fillings, such as chicken, bacon, and roasted garlic, or spring vegetables, or southern pulled-pork barbecue.

"It doesn't matter what time of day you visit; for breakfast and lunch they have savory hand and pot pie, and they have a wide selection of dessert pies to try after dinner on weekends. They also have amazing coffee to boot. It is just another iconic spot in our Charlottesville community," Gill said.

The Pie Chest is open at the downtown mall on 119 4th Street at 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Hazelnut and Lime Pie.  
Photography by Rachel Lemley

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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: [twhyte@pvcc.edu](mailto:twhyte@pvcc.edu).

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