

PVCC Grounds Light Up for the Winter Solstice

Learn about PVCC's
 Newest Dean
 Page 7

Ari Oxford, staff writer

PVCC's annual Let There Be Light event is going to be at the V. Earl Dickinson Building on Dec. 13 from 6 - 9 p.m., and the rain date is Dec. 14. This mystical display features light-based art from more than 20 local and regional artists. On the night of the event, lights will surround Dickinson in a sprawling array of interactive pieces like Emmy Garcia's *Broadcast 266*, where guests can share their personal oral history of Charlottesville, or *Enchantment Under the Sea* by Andrew Sherogan, Dom Morse, and Murray High School Students.

"Let There Be Light celebrates the approach of the winter solstice and the longest night of the year," according to the PVCC website's event page.

This year, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' new Artmobile will debut in Charlottesville at Let There Be Light. The Artmobile will be exhibiting *How Far Can Creativity Take You? VMFA Fellowship Artists*, which explores the impact and history of VMFA's fellowship program.

This exhibit will be open to the public at Let There Be Light, and it will be at PVCC on Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

Let There Be Light is free and open to the public. Organizers encourage visitors to come as "enlightened beings" decorated in light" and should bring flashlights. There will be free hot chocolate and apple cider.

For more information on the artists and to see photos from previous years, please visit lettherebelightpvcc.com.



2018 Display. Courtesy of PVCC Marketing & Media Relations

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DATES TO REMEMBER

— **Cru's Cider and Soularium *** —
Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bolick Student Center

— **De-stress Week: Aerobic Exercise *** —
Dec. 4, noon to 1 p.m., Bolick Student Center

— **De-stress with Maker's Joy *** —
Dec. 5, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— **De-stress Week: Hot Cocoa & Tea *** —
Dec. 5, noon to 1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— **Tax Aide Training *** —
Dec. 7, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., M829

— **Annual Pottery Club Sale *** —
Dec. 7, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Dickinson Commons

— **Chorus Holiday Concert *** —
Dec. 8, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Dickinson Main Stage

— **Fall 2019 Final Exams** —
Dec. 10 to Dec. 16

— **Let There Be Light *** —
Dec. 13, 6 - 9 p.m., Dickinson Building

— **Tax Aide Training *** —
Dec. 14, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., M829

— **In-form: Shapes of Contemporary Improvisation
with "Big Blue Door" *** —
Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m., Dickinson room 202

— **Spring Semester 16-week classes start** —
Jan. 13

— **Free Movie Friday, *Harriet* *** —
Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Larnell Starkey and the Spiritual Seven ^** —
Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Martin Luther King Day: no classes** —
Jan. 21

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

Taking PVCC's Student Survey

Jessica Adkins, online editor

Every year, PVCC sends out a survey for students to complete. The survey is used to help faculty at PVCC figure out what they can do to better the services that PVCC offers to students. As an incentive for filling out the survey this year, each student who completes it will be entered in a raffle for a chance to win a three credit class.

The survey can be accessed either through email or a student's Canvas account. If a student is looking for the survey on their email, they should look for an email from Jolene Hamm or jhamm@pvcc.edu. If a student is trying to access the survey on their Canvas account, there is a banner that is shown at the top of the dashboard screen that allows students to fill out the survey on a separate screen.

When students receive an email reminder to fill out the student survey, the email tells students how many others have already completed their survey as an encouragement for them to fill one out as well. It is also noted in the email that the survey is anonymous, so students will not have to worry about confidential information being released to others. The survey closes on Friday, Dec. 13, and the raffle winners will be announced the following week.

The main idea of the survey is to get student feedback on services that are offered at PVCC such as the Writing Center, First Quadrant Math Center, Career Services, Student Services, and at the end of the survey, it asks questions pertaining to PVCC's Quality Enhancement Plan. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to this semester's Student Survey, email Jolene Hamm at jhamm@pvcc.edu.



Student Government Association News

De-Stress Week: Make Studying Fun

Veronica Reyes, staff writer

As the cold winter breeze shakes the trees at PVCC, students are preparing for final exams. Tensions are rising as students and faculty brace themselves for finals. However, to alleviate the stress and anxiety of final exams and the end of the grading period, the PVCC Student Government Association is hosting De-Stress Week: five days of fun activities to take their minds off tests.

The PVCC SGA is hosting De-Stress week with many popular and new events to prepare students for finals.

SGA's Director of Events Elizabeth Phan stated, "We saw that students need to have a de-stress so that students could relax before their exams and perform better. We always get into the cycle of studying last minute for hours on end without a break. But taking a break can actually help more than you think!"

From Monday, Dec. 2 to Friday, Dec. 6, students will be able to participate in a variety of stress-relieving activities during their hours of studying.

Monday will have arts and crafts and an encouragement wall. Phan said, "We hope that plenty of students come out to fill the wall with colorful sticky notes of encouragement for each other." This will start the week off with inspiring words and motivation for the fun activities to follow.

Exercise is often considered a good stress reliever and allows students to concentrate on something else besides lecture notes and PowerPoints.

Tuesday's Aerobics Class will be taught in the Bolick Student Center from 12-1 p.m. On Wednesday, a yoga class will be held in the Retreat.

President of SGA Jacob Laxton said, "Students specifically requested yoga and De-Stress exercises for the event. We worked hard to find a yoga instructor and gym teacher that could properly teach the classes."

Laxton said, "I personally can't wait for the

De-Stress Exercises. They will definitely help me relieve some stress."

On Thursday, students can warm-up for their study sessions at the hot chocolate, tea, and coffee bar. When students attend any of these events, they can participate in a raffle.

Winners will be picked on Friday. Students are eligible to win "a PVCC hoodie, a Bath & Body Works gift card, and spa certificates as prizes," stated Phan.

After three weeks of planning and organization, SGA is ready for De-Stress week. Elizabeth Phan said, "I found that the most enjoyable part of planning the event was seeing the look of excitement on people's faces. Everyone was so tired or down because of assignments and exams but if de-stress week can encourage students to keep going, then I think I did a good job."

Laxton stated, "Elizabeth has done a great job preparing for DeStress Week. I would argue that the Director of Events is one of the most important positions within the SGA. Elizabeth has fully maximized her potential in this position."

SGA is interested in PVCC students' experience on campus, helping them to have their voice heard.

If students are interested in this type of work, Laxton said, "Yes, we are looking for students who want to make a difference within their school community. SGA isn't all about events -- we advocate for PVCC's students at the administrative level. We also host educational activities that benefit the student body."

De-Stress week is just one way SGA helps students with their academic success and improve their experiences at PVCC. Students are welcome to all the free events happening at PVCC before finals.

Phan encouraged students saying, "Please take advantage of taking care of your mental health and take a break. As Director of Events, I hope De-stress week helps students' recharge."

Before the semester ends, students are invited to have fun and de-stress as they make their way to academic success.

Arrive Early for the Pottery Club Sale

Matthew Minecci, staff writer

Coming soon on Saturday, Dec. 7, the Dickinson building will be filled to the brim with people looking to buy the perfect Christmas gift or a beautiful pot. On that day, the Pottery Club is holding a massive sale where all the students from PVCC's Ceramics classes get together to sell their various projects. But be warned, the art doesn't last long, often getting sold out in mere hours. In fact, the sale only lasts from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., with works often selling out before they close down.

"People are often lining up at the door as early as 8 a.m.," said Professor of Art Tom Clarkson, and organizer of the event.

Most of the buyers are looking for smaller, more functional pieces, such as pots and vases, which are dishwasher safe, and that is the majority of what is being sold, with most of the price range being around \$15. However, this

varies from piece to piece, with some of them getting much more expensive.

Of particular note are some of the more detailed sculptures, which can go up to \$100. If you are thinking about making a big purchase, it is important to know that they only accept cash and checks.

The sales themselves don't go to the student's pockets though, the funds are used to hire a nationally known ceramics artist to come to PVCC and give a live demonstration for anyone who is interested. While the time of their arrival is currently being decided, if you wish to see them in action you can ask Clarkson when they will be at PVCC.

The students normally make enough funds to hire one or two people to come and visit, so if you are interested in seeing a professional at work, make sure to catch their demonstration.

"I'd definitely say its a lot of fun, but it does get crowded," said Clarkson.

Grand Illumination Lights up the Holidays

Samuel Huff, staff writer

The holidays are a time for families to unify and for communities to come together. Some cities have traditions of pop-up ice-skating rinks, beautiful lights displays, and maybe even Santas on every corner. Here in Charlottesville, we have our own special tradition: The Grand Illumination, which takes place Dec. 6, 2019.

Each year, people from every corner of Charlottesville and different walks of life convene on the downtown mall to share company, fun, and a few laughs. The center of attention is always the enormous evergreen perched in City Hall Plaza.

With food and beverages available for purchase, locals can spend the night listening to holiday choirs and local bands perform holiday hits, browsing holiday goods from local vendors, and watching a visual light masterpiece light up the roof of the Sprint Pavilion.

"It's a great time for the community. People are able to really experience something magical and it's impossible not to leave in the Christmas spirit," said Dawn McDaniel, an event volunteer. "The kids would enjoy it anyway, but we've

taken a few extra steps to make sure the whole family can have a great experience."

Kids are sure to find something to make their night as much fun as Mom and Dad's. From the holiday train in "Gum Drop Square," to the inflatable obstacle course at the "Reindeer Games," there is no shortage of fun to be had by all.

With everything going on, it will be difficult to remember to make it to the main event. Around 7 p.m., everyone will gather around the Christmas tree and shortly after, begin the countdown to illuminate the over 2,000 LED lights draped around the tree.

The fun continues after the tree lighting with a free screening of *The Polar Express* at the Sprint Pavilion.

With all of these activities and more, the 2019 Grand Illumination is the Charlottesville event that will be on your mind until next Christmas. The activities begin at 4:30 p.m. and will contribute to a night full of love, fun, and surprises.

After all, you never know what jolly bearded saint may drop by.

PVCC Chorus Sings Holiday Favorites

Elizabeth Phan, staff writer

On Dec 2, at 3 p.m. on the Main Stage of the V. Earl Dickinson Building, the PVCC Chorus will take the stage and sing holiday classics such as “The First Noel” and Kim Brickman’s “Hope Is Born Again.”

The event is free, and anyone can come to the concert along with friends, family, and loved ones. Melody Z. Day, the director of the chorus, said that she has had experience with singing in professional choruses for most of her life, including local choirs at The Oratorio Society of Virginia and the PVCC Chorus under the founding director, Jeff Suling.

“We are singing several choruses from Handel’s Messiah, an arrangement of the spiritual ‘Sister Mary Had-a But One Child’ and the beautiful, but challenging, ‘What Sweeter Music’ by the living composer John Rutter,” Day said. The chorus will also be singing “Sleigh Ride,” “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” and “Carol of the Bells.”

“This is my first semester as director, so I am learning what the choir is capable of-- they are

definitely rising to the occasion!” Day said.

The chorus is made up of 50 members, some of which are from PVCC’s one credit chorus course.

The chorus has experience performing Broadway hits and patriotic music. New members are always invited to sing in the chorus or take the course.

“Anyone may be a member of the chorus-- current students as well as community members. Unlike the Virginia Consort and The Oratorio Society of Virginia, this choir does not audition interested members,” she said.

“One of the goals is to recruit recent graduates from the many fine high school choirs in the surrounding counties and the city of Charlottesville,” said Day.

According to Day, the previous directors of the choir were Suling and Scruggs who have featured masterworks such as John Rutter’s “Requiem,” and had an instrumental accompaniment and a professional soloist.

For more information on attending the event, students can contact the PVCC Box Office at 434-961-5376 or boxoffice@pvcc.edu.



PVCC Chorus. Photo courtesy of Melody Day

SI Increases Student Success

Samuel Huff, staff writer

It is no secret that students transitioning from high school to college life have their fair share of challenges that they are destined to meet, but what if one of your first classes of your first semester was one of PVCC's most difficult courses? For students with a desire to enter the medical field, that challenge may become a reality.

The Foundations of life class (NAS2) is somewhat of a crash course in basic biology and chemistry that, because of its broad range of topics, is considered one of PVCC's most difficult courses.

Luckily, PVCC has found a solution to combat the low success and high drop rate of the class: Supplemental Instruction (SI).

Supplemental Instruction is held separately from the class itself and is designed to prioritize group study.

Led by students who have previously taken the course and excelled in it, SI provides students with an environment where they are free to work with their peers, address issues with their understanding of material, and even develop study strategies that help them better understand concepts in class.

SI leaders are trained to facilitate the session and the activities involved may vary depending on class attendance. Attendance is not mandatory, although students who do attend sessions have a higher probability of being successful in the course.

Because the sessions are usually a smaller group than the class itself, students have an opportunity to be more engaged and take a hands-on approach to their learning experience. SI leaders engage students in the material and encourage them to develop their skills in asking effective questions.

For many students, SI is the difference between passing and failing.

In a class that requires so much study-time and so much active participation, SI is a great way to ensure that students are making the most of their time and ensuring that they are providing themselves with the best chance at being successful.

NAS2 is not the only class that offers SI, for the full list of classes that do as well as the times and locations of the sessions, students can check out the options at www.pvcc.edu/supplemental-instruction.

The author of this article is currently a supplemental instructor for NAS2.

Fall 2019 S.I. Availability by Class

BIO 141
NAS 2
ECO 201
ECO 202
MTH 167

***2020 availability coming soon at
www.pvcc.edu/supplemental-instruction**

PVCC Welcomes New Dean

Jessica Adkins, online editor

In the midst of the hustle and bustle in the math wing of PVCC's Main Building lies the office of PVCC's new dean. Olugbemiga, pronounced "Beng-gah," Adekunle is PVCC's new dean of business, mathematics, and technologies. While Adekunle enjoys being the dean, it was not something he had always wanted to do.

Adekunle grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, where he attended local middle and high schools. After high school, he attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) on the Myer-Hall Scholarship which was a science program that offered support for minority students to obtain their PhD in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics topics. While at UMBC, he studied computer engineering.

He had originally wanted to double major but changed to getting a minor in mathematics.

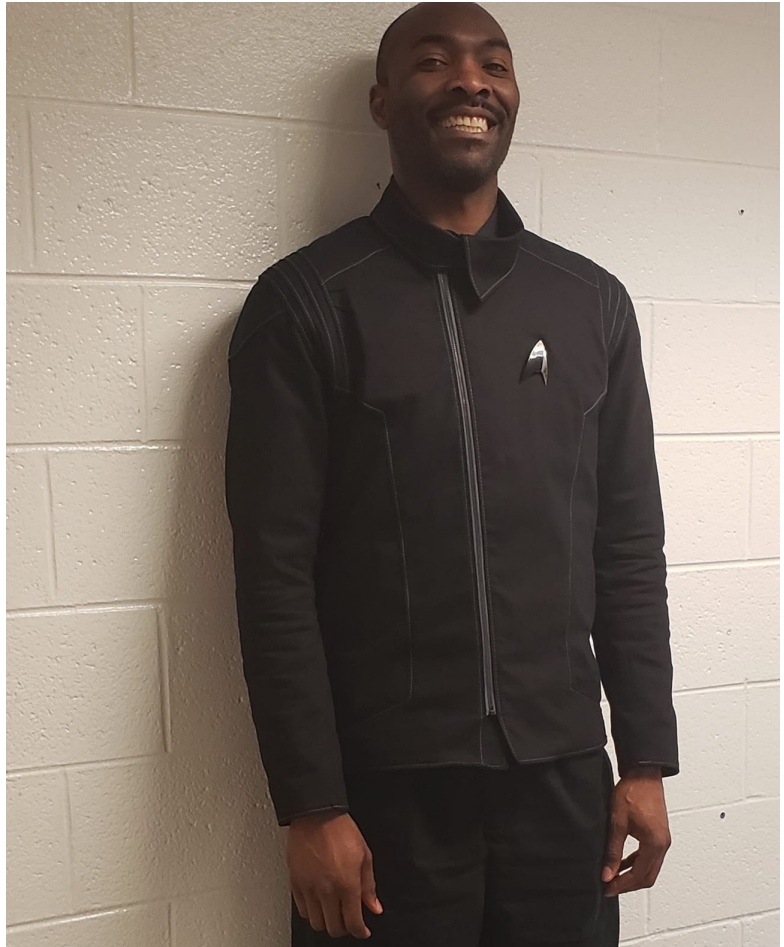
After obtaining his bachelor's degree from UMBC, Adekunle received his master's degree from the University of Illinois in computer engineering. After doing so, he decided that he wanted to teach and got his first part-time teaching job.

He taught at Parkland College in Illinois for a while, but later applied for a full-time position at Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) and became a computer science instructor. After working at BRCC, Adekunle and his family moved to Holyoke, Massachusetts, where he was the Dean of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics until he took his current position at PVCC.

His position at PVCC covers many different class types from culinary arts to computer science.

Part of his job entails communicating and working closely with faculty and staff in his division as well as helping make the class curriculum.

"I see the position as really helping the students," Adekunle said.



Dean Olugbemiga Adekunle shows off his Halloween costume. Photo courtesy of Bruce Robinson

While he may be busy at PVCC, he enjoys many activities in his free time.

When he lived in Harrisonburg, he was part of an improvised comedy club. He plays basketball for fun.

He enjoys playing video games and watching T.V. at home. Science fiction, fantasy, and comic books are his favorite books to read.

He likes to listen to rap and hip-hop music and has even written a few Christian rap and hip-hop songs.

At the end of the interview, Adekunle said, "I hope at this institution that students are shown different opportunities that they could do regardless of background."

If any students or staff ever have any questions, they can stop by his office in room M268 or send him an email at OAdekunle@pvcc.edu.

Ideas Made Real in Ceramics Class

Matthew Minecci, staff writer

In the Dickinson Building, on the first floor and at the end of the hall, there lies a large room. In it, students can let their creativity flow free by using the magic of clay. With the help of their teacher, Professor of Art Tom Clarkson, they have the ability to turn a simple block of clay into anything they imagine.

Clarkson first took ceramics back in 1972, and ever since then he has been in love with it. He worked as a full time potter for a time, then transitioned to teaching part time as well. Now, he teaches full time at PVCC.

“I’m one of those people that like my job,” said Clarkson. And it is clear that this is true. As I am in Ceramics One (Art 153), I can report first hand that he genuinely enjoys helping students improve and seeing what they can come up with. From just basic pinch pots, to working on the wheel, there are all sorts of different styles that an aspiring student can do in this class.

But be warned, it's not all fun and games. To make an item out of clay that not only looks good but also functions in its intended use takes time and effort. Visitors will often see students in the workshop outside of class hours, working on whatever project they may have.

“People think that ceramics is a class where you can just get your hands dirty and it's that easy, but its not,” Clarkson said. He went on to say that not just anyone can become good at ceramics, not because of innate talent, but rather their persistence to keep improving.

Clarkson teaches the majority of the classes for ceramics, with the one class that he doesn't being taught by professor Ed Miller. The workshop is open to any of the students on Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on Friday to Saturday the room is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The class is in Room 114 on the first floor of the Dickinson building. Of course, anyone is welcome to register for classes next semester.



Samantha Kral, Maggie Kauffman, Ahmed Al Srya (counter clockwise from left) work on their projects. Photography by Matthew Minecci

Journalism Keeps You Informed



Journalism I students work on *The Forum*. Photography by Elizabeth Phan

Elizabeth Phan, staff writer

PVCC offers an incredible variety of courses and electives to choose from. Many courses cover a wide selection of subjects and skills. One of the most challenging, exciting, and fun electives is Journalism. The Journalism course (ENG 121) at PVCC is taught by Dr. Tamara Whyte.

Dr. Whyte, associate professor of English, received her bachelor's degree in Journalism and English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Journalism was my first love. I was editor and chief of my school newspaper and the online editor for the magazine," she said. "And then I went and got my PhD in English and started teaching."

According to Dr. Whyte, Journalism is important because it keeps people educated and knowledgeable about the world. Journalists try to keep us informed with an unbiased view.

"Good Journalism is about providing truth," she said.

Dr. Whyte hopes that her students leave her class feeling more confident in writing and editing.

"You don't have to be a journalist to take the journalism class," she said. According to Dr. Whyte, some students who plan to major in business, medicine, or law say that they are communicating and writing more effectively after taking the course.

Veronica Reyes, a Journalism I student, said that she is taking the course because she wanted to expand her horizons and try something that she always heard about but never got the chance to take.

"At times, the hardest thing is writing with precision. Sometimes it's seeing your work being

edited in front of you," said Reyes. "But being in the course has helped me learn more about the English language and how to be an effective writer."

"It's a very hands-on course. It's not a lecture class. Every week students edit and learn new skills," said Dr. Whyte. "There's no final exam. Instead, there is a final portfolio which students can use when they apply for jobs."

"Even if you miss an article or a quiz here and there, there are tons of opportunities for extra credit that are fun to take up," said Reyes. "The class is fast-paced and time effective because of deadlines. There is not too much chatter unless there's peer review to be done."

Journalism I and Journalism II will be offered in the Spring 2020. The course is called ENG 121 and the course number is 24736. It will be a 16-week course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The class is a transfer elective in many degree programs and counts at UVA as a news writing course.

"Don't be shy to approach topics or interview people that normally would make you scared or intimidated. When you challenge yourself, you will be motivated to piece together a great story. Take a look around and write about what people need to know. No worries, you will fall right into it," said Reyes.

The Journalism course and club come together to make the student newspaper, *The Forum*, for PVCC. If you have any questions or are interested, email Dr. Tamara Whyte at twhyte@pvcc.edu. Work by students in the course and club members can be published in print or online at piedmontforum.com

"Even if you think this class isn't relevant to the rest of your life, it might be," Dr. Whyte said. "Everything has writing."

Learn about the Human Body from Head-to-Toe

Veronica Reyes, staff writer

The human body is a complex system of cells, tissues, organs, and nerves that allow humans to do basic things such as eating, talking, walking, or thinking. Despite the human body's intricate design, it is possible to understand the very systems down to their details in Human Anatomy and Physiology I at PVCC.

This course opens the world of how human bodies function to sustain life and how to maintain these systems in the most healthy and scientific way possible to students.

Human Anatomy and Physiology, or BIO 141 as it is listed in the Spring 2020 Course Catalog, is considered by professors and students to be a fascinating course despite its rigorous structure.

"It's fascinating to talk about the many working anatomical parts and how they function together to help us do our many functions," said Associate Professor of Biology Donna Hoefner.

What makes this course unique and engaging is the "hands-on, visual learning," said student Nancy Facundo. Many students are intrigued by the cadavers, dead human bodies used for research and learning purposes, of which PVCC has two.

They also examine other body parts from humans and animals to gain an understanding of the system they are studying in the lab.

"Labs are related to your notes and helps memorize body parts and nerves," said student Isabel Wyant. The course has an active lab component and extensive lecture and study materials.

Wyant suggested to "find your learning style," early in the course.

She said, "There's a lot [of material] and the class moves really fast and you can't get behind." For that reason, many students struggle to keep up and maintain good grades, which results in many class drops. However, there are many tools provided by PVCC to assist students' chances for academic success.

One of the best ways to succeed is maintaining a positive and curious attitude toward the course.

Professor Hoefner said, "Learn for the sake of learning. A natural curiosity about your body and

drive to learn more will eventually carry a student."

Students also inspire their instructors to remain interested in the course material as well; motivating them to add more insight to their personal knowledge and then later in class.

Professor Hoefner believes both students and their professors benefit from open discussions stating, "Students ask some challenging questions, and I love learning from what they ask because it challenges me to learn more."

The course does not only exist on the pages of a textbook, it allows students to think and theorize. Much of the human body's parts and functions remain unknown and questioned within the medical and biological community. Fostering interest in the greater picture motivates more students to grasp details during their hours of studying.

PVCC offers Student Instruction sessions, open lab hours on weekdays and weekends, free books and models on reserve in the Jessup Library, as well as instructors that are readily available to help.

Wyant said, "Choose what resources you need." She recommended that students cannot benefit from every service because they might "overload themselves." Instead, students should choose which one works best for them and their schedule.

Human Anatomy and Physiology is recommended and required for PVCC students interested in careers such as nursing, radiology, medical coding and billing, and other medical related fields. However, students that are interested and are not in this field are encouraged to take the class. Hoefner said, "the diversity of student classes really enhances the learning for the whole group."

The human body is complex and made up of a lot of intricate parts. However, knowing and understanding how it works can greatly benefit students. This course's extensive tour of human cells, tissues, and organs will give them insight into how their bodies function and how to care for them.

Professor Hoefner motivates her present and future students by saying, "Be inspired by how your body works!"

Survey of Physical & Cultural Anthropology

Abi Brand, staff writer

Nestled in the PVCC Sociology department, lies the only anthropology course offered, SOC 210.40: Survey of Physical & Cultural Anthropology. This 3-credit humanities course is taught by Adjunct Assistant Professor of Sociology Brian Robbins.

Anthropology is the study of all aspects of the human experience at all times and places, which is as broad as it sounds. Major subfields of anthropology include physical/biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and cultural anthropology.

When asked why a student should take Anthropology, Robbins said, “You should take anthropology because this is the only class that looks at you and the people you’re related to, back through time, and uncovers the story of how you came to be here, speaking the language you do and viewing the world in your culture’s unique, modern perspective.

Everything from Marvel Comics and Bigfoot to the pyramids and the birth of agriculture are discussed in the class, demonstrating how so many parts of the human story are linked and overlap with one another.”

Robbins attended Beville State Community College in Hamilton, Alabama, and studied at the University of Alabama where he received his bachelor’s in Religious Studies, as well as his master’s in anthropology. He also took four years of graduate courses in physical anthropology at the Ohio State University.

Robbins said that in this class, “You will learn the origins of our species 300,000 years ago ending at the beginning of written history. In order to take this journey, you will be provided with an understanding of basic evolutionary forces, genetics, the study of primates, the birth of ‘civilization,’ and the aspects of all human cultures, such as religion, kinship, gender, language, and economic systems. As a survey class, you are given the opportunity to explore a wide variety of things anthropologists study,”

Robbins has been teaching Anthropology for three years at PVCC, two of them being in person and the other online last year. His favorite subfield of anthropology is physical/biological

anthropology. He also enjoys paleopathology, the study of ancient disease.

When asked what he hopes a student gains from his class, Robbins said, “Among the various facts and figures that may be presented to the students, there is one thing I want them to take away above all else: perspective. We’re all the same at the end of the day. We experience joy and pain and try to get by each day. That is the universal human experience. The details can vary greatly across space and time. I want my students to leave the class thinking about that. Anthropology is the human story. As humans, we each have a lifetime to write our chapter. I hope my students can be a little more creative in their story now that they have had a look at many of the other chapters. Perspective is so important, perhaps more now than ever.”



Brian Robbins

Maker's Joy Brings Paws-itivity to Campus

Abi Brand, staff writer

PVCC has a furry new addition: Maker's Joy, an adorable golden retriever who comes to campus to help students pet stress away. The 2 ½-year-old pup is a therapy dog who loves doing exactly what her name says: making joy.

Maker has had her therapy dog certifications for just a year, which is extremely early for a dog, as most therapy dogs are two before they even start their journey to becoming a certified smile maker. To be a therapy dog, Maker went through training, a series of observations, and tough classes. The process of her certification took about three months.

Maker has a brother, Tayo, who is 17 months old and in the process of going through his own therapy dog training. Maker's other brother, Cooper, is 11 years old and is a retired therapy dog.

Her favorite activities include fishing,

retrieving tennis balls, and being around kids. Maker visits Pre-K through fifth grade every week. Maker's owner, Cricket, explained why she decided to certify Maker's Joy as a therapy dog. "I taught in the school system for many, many years. After I retired, one of the things I wanted to do was to be able to take my dogs back in the schools, and work with students. She, as a puppy, showed a natural tendency to be able to go into schools and have a calming influence on children. So, it was an easy match."

When asked about the influence therapy dogs have on students, Cricket said, "You'll walk down the hallway and you'll notice students look up and smile. Smiling is a natural way to reduce stress and anxiety. The stroking and petting of the dog, lowers your heart rate and makes you feel good."

Maker's Joy will be at PVCC on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the North Mall Meeting Room. Come and pet your stress away!



Photography by Abi Brand

Older Animals Need Homes, Too.

Karli Tuner, staff writer

More than likely, everyone who is reading this article has been to an SPCA at least once in their lives. Those sad little eyes peering back from small and pitiful cages. Some are eager to get your attention, while others need time to work up to that. No matter what, all cats and dogs deserve a warm loving home, all of the attention they ask for, lots of treats, and a nice comfy place to sleep.

The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is home to a large amount of dogs and cats of all ages. Not many people want older animals and because of this it may years for them to get adopted. While most people prefer to adopt a younger pet, there are unique benefits to adopting a more seasoned pet.

For those who cannot adopt or do not have time to foster an animal, there are other options, such as volunteering at the SPCA. Even just getting a little bit of attention or going on a nice walk can really make an older dog's day. Especially considering that many older pets don't get



enough attention and care.

One volunteer said, "I already have too many pets at home to adopt anymore, but I volunteer here just to see one old animal. I enjoy taking a variety of dogs on walks and it's my favorite part of the day."

Miss May and Russet are among many of the older animals who have been at the SPCA for quite some time. These two lovely pit bulls are inseparable friends who enjoy exciting adventures together. If you happen to be interested in them, just remember that they need to go to the same home.

As the sign says, "Dogs are like potato chips. You can't have just one."

For more information about adoption contact the CASPCA at info@caspca.org or call them at 434-973-5959.

Smash Club: A Place of Competitive Fun

Matthew Minecci, staff writer

If you have ever enjoyed the game Super Smash Bros, but you are tired of playing online or against robots, then you may want to check out The Smash Bros Club. They meet in room M173 at PVCC, across from the fitness center.

There, the Smash club has multiple TVs set up so that many people can play the fighting game at once.

They cater to all types of play styles, so it doesn't matter if you prefer casual, competitive, or even free-for-all, they have it set up so that everyone has a way to enjoy themselves.

When the club had their first meeting, there were only five members, but since then it has grown to have on average 15 to 20 people, varying from meeting to meeting. Whether you

want to try Super Smash Bros out for your first time, or have been playing the game for a while, it does not matter. There are sure to be people there that are sure to match your skill level.

There are currently no set time for tournaments, but the leaders of the club are hoping to get one set up in the near future.

The creator and co-founder of the club, Alexander and Rian, were right there in the thick of things, playing matches and having fun.

"We wanted to make a community in college for our peers, as we didn't really have one when we first came to PVCC," said Alexander.

If you are interested in joining this community, the club meets every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., although sometimes it runs a bit longer if a match goes on longer than expected.



Photo courtesy of Tyrik Hawkins

Find out more about PVCC's Board Game Club

Deadra Miller, online editor

Every Tuesday between 3 and 7 p.m. Dr. Bruce Glassco, professor of English sits down with a few students and everyday citizens who have a connection to PVCC to play board games, some of which are not widely known.

They play these games in the commons area on the third floor of PVCC's Dickinson Building.

This specific Tuesday, Nov.19, Dr. Glassco and three others were playing *Richard The Lionheart*.

This was their first time playing this particular game because it was a gift from Dr. Glassco's brother Richard.

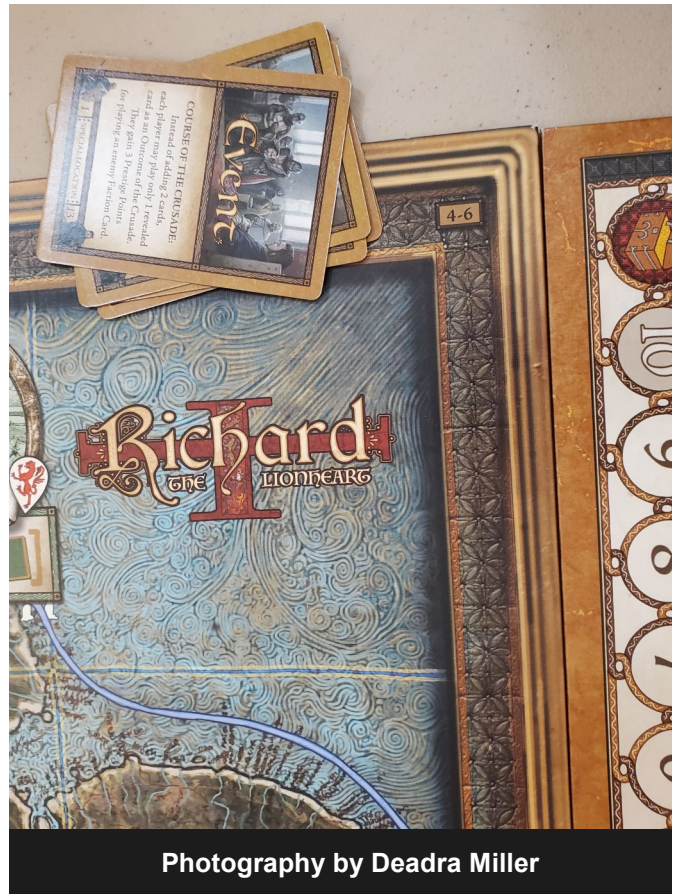
Dr. Glassco said with a chuckle, "My brother bought this game just because his first name is Richard and he thought it was named after himself."

The people who were playing *Richard the Lionheart* were Mykaela Morris, Dr. Glassco, David Platnick and former PVCC student Mason.

Mykaela Morris said, "Board game club being run by Dr. Glassco is great because he creates a safe space to unwind from the daily stressors that are in my life."

Although Dr. Glassco is officially on sabbatical, he still comes in to make sure that this safe place is there for those who may need it.

Dr. Glassco also designs board games. His games include. *Mystery! Motive for Murder* (2015) *Fantasy Realms* (2017) and his most



Photography by Deadra Miller

popular *Betrayal at House on the Hill* (2004)

To find out more information about Board Game Club, check them out at club day in the spring semester or email the advisor Dr. Glassco at bglassco@pvcc.edu.



(from left) David Platnick, Mason, Mykaela Morris and Dr. Glassco. Photography by Deadra Miller

Making a Difference One Seed at a Time

Veronica Reyes, staff writer

Members of the Horticulture Club are planting seeds of community value right here in PVCC's own community garden. Just southeast of the Dickinson building are plots of vegetables and flowers for students, faculty, and the public. However, much more is being planted in Horticulture Club.

"What you grow goes back into the community and helps people," said Horticulture club member Victoria Luevano. The Horticulture Club is advised by Director of Student Success David Lerman.

Lerman teaches PVCC students how to grow plants and care for them throughout the seasons. Students keep and maintain the garden in conjunction with UVA students.

PVCC's garden is open to the entire community. Members invite the public to grow what they would like. The garden is not only for the community, and it helps the environment.

Luevano explained that members are getting

involved by planting vegetables that are donated to various food drives around campus.

Some of Horticulture club members from PVCC and UVA also participated in the United Way Day of Caring on Wednesday, Sept. 25. PVCC hosted the event, encouraging everyone to participate to open up more slots in the garden and fix the fence.

The Horticulture Club helps students and the public alike to be more hands on with agricultural practices. Faculty members are also invited to join in making a difference from the campus' small garden to the planet.

What is grown on campus is much more than a few vegetables, flowers, and trees. Students, faculty, and the public are growing to appreciate the environment. One seed can make a difference and the club is hoping for more helping hands next year.

Horticulture Club meets every Thursday on campus and has activities Fridays and Saturdays. Email David Lerman, at dlerman@pvcc.edu for more information.



The Sun sets on PVCC's Community Garden. Photography by Veronica Reyes

Va21 is Back to Make Sure Your Voice is Heard.

Samuel Huff, staff writer

With all of the clubs that PVCC has to offer, many students have a hard time deciding which one best fits their interests. There is a club for book lovers, chess enthusiasts, and even anime-niacs. However, if you are a political whiz, or just looking for a club that advocates for young people's involvement in democracy, look no further than PVCC's chapter of the Va21 club.

The Va21 club had disappeared from PVCC's club roster, but the fall semester of 2019 marked its triumphant return to campus.

The club works to educate young people and students of all ages to get them involved in democracy and advocate for changes they want to see, primarily in education policies. Va21 focuses on state politics and how the state government directly affects students' lives.

Although many students may have an interest in politics, especially in the extremely polarized times we live in, lack of extensive knowledge often serves as a barrier which prevents students from pursuing clubs like Va21.

The club's faculty adviser and Assistant Professor of Politics, Connie Jorgensen, reassured weary students saying, "Students should be absolutely comfortable attending, no matter what their level of knowledge may be."

Jorgensen has a passion for politics. Not only does Jorgensen teach political science, but she also served in local government and is heading PVCC's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) entitled "Civic Sense".

The goal of the QEP is an extension of that regarding the Va21 club: to engage young people in democracy.

According to Jorgensen, the club promotes both the activism and the education of its members. "Not only do we educate members, but we encourage members to educate their friends and peers," said Jorgensen. "If we don't pay attention and take action, we are letting people do unto us."

According to the PVCC website, the club has a plethora of benefits available to its members



ranging from opportunities to lobby the General Assembly, tour the state capitol, and attending leadership conferences with public officials.

The club also has its own website available to the public, where blogs, tips, and opportunities for involvement are featured. The website is virginia21.org, and students are invited to check it out.

While these opportunities are not exclusive to club members, Jorgensen pointed out that Va21 exposes members to opportunities they may not have realized existed. "The opportunities are available to everyone, but they often cost money," said Jorgensen. She explained how the club maintains a budget that sponsors members, enabling them to attend events.

Jorgensen also said that the best part of the club is its credibility. "When members attend events on behalf of the club, they are taken seriously," said Jorgensen. Meetings take place each Monday from 12-1 p.m. in room M158. The club invites all students to attend and ensure that their voices are heard.

Election Day: Democracy in Action

Samuel Huff, staff writer

If most Americans were asked what the most important election is for them, they would probably respond by saying the presidential election. Many people do not even bother learning when the local elections are. The reality is local and state elections impact our lives on a far greater scale than the presidential election.

On Nov. 5 at around 10 a.m., Cheryl Bailey, a Charlottesville local for the past 25 years, arrived at her polling place to cast her vote for positions like sheriff, local senators and local representatives. It was no surprise to Bailey that her polling place had no line.

“It’s disheartening, there will be a line from the door to the highway in November next year. People just don’t get why these elections are important,” said Bailey.

“People are so caught up in who they want or don’t want as president, meanwhile we have some slime balls here who want to run our town into the ground.”

While Bailey acknowledges the bias in her statement, she believes the core message in it is still true. The local government has a lot fewer restrictions that they need to overcome to enact legislation that may not be in the community’s best interest.

Forty five minutes away, in Brightwood, Virginia, there is a similar energy, or lack thereof, at the Brightwood Ruritan Club.

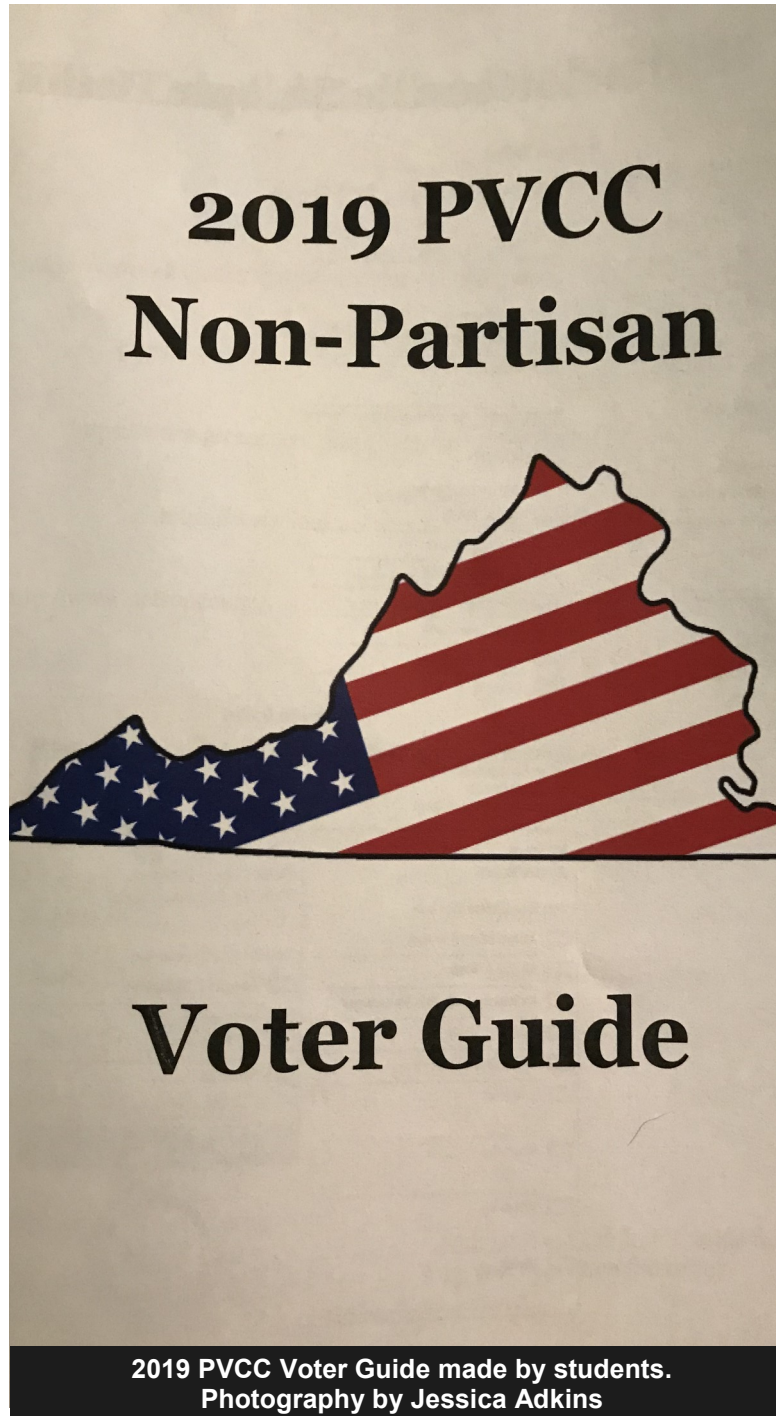
Debbie Peters has been one of the first ones in line to vote in every election since she moved to Madison County in 1974.

“I figure, if I don’t show up and vote, what right do I have to complain about what is going on in the community?” said Peters.

After she voted, Peters then served as a representative for local candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates, Nick

Freitas, handing out pens and cards with information about the candidate.

Although the turnout all over the 5th district of Virginia was fairly low, those who did show up expressed the passion they hold for their communities and hope to encourage all of us to take part in our guaranteed right to vote.



Candles Lit for Victims of Anti-Trans Violence

Ari Oxford, staff writer

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance every Nov. 20 that recognizes the deaths of transgender and gender non-conforming people who are victims of anti-transgender violence. On Nov. 24 at 7 p.m., community members gathered in front of Peabody Hall at UVA to light candles and recite the names of trans and non-conforming people killed in the USA this past year.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, “At least 22 transgender or gender non-conforming people [were] fatally shot or killed by other violent means. We say at least because too often these stories go unreported -- or misreported.”

At the vigil, an intern from the UVA LGBTQ Center started off by addressing how Transgender Day of Remembrance began with Rita Hester, who was murdered on Nov. 28, 1998. Her murder kicked off the “Remembering Our Dead” web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. He addressed that most anti-transgender murders



Vigil candles. Photography by Ari Oxford



Global victims reported from this year. Photography by Ari Oxford

in the USA are against women of color, mostly black women.

One of the speakers shared a quote from Muhlyasia Booker who was killed this year, “I’ve been shot at, hit with a gun, jumped, maced, robbed, piss thrown at me; long story short, I ain’t afraid of nobody or anything or anybody.”

After the vigil, attendees moved inside to UVA’s LGBTQ Center to talk, drink, and eat. Many knew each other already from other events, but some also made new friends. The last people to leave did so well past 9 p.m.

“2019, gonna be one of my best years yet,” said Claire Legato who was killed this year.

For a full list of transgender and gender non-conforming murders recorded this year, go to tdor.info.

The author of this article identifies as transgender.

Breaking Barriers While Drinking Soup

Anandhu Shaji, staff writer

On Oct.12, PVCC Fine Arts and the Sin Barreras hosted the Empty Bowl Fundraiser in the Dickinson building. For this fundraiser, the students in the PVCC Fine Arts Program made bowls and sold them. The profit made during this fundraiser went to Sin Barreras.

“Sin Barreras is Charlottesville’s premier non-profit that serves Spanish speaking immigrants and helps them navigate local social services, helps provide educational and health services, low cost legal services, and community workshops of interest,” said Laura Snyder Brown, a member of Sin Barreras.

One might think that Sin Barreras is a culturally centered organization; however, that is not the case. “Sin Barreras is not a cultural organization. It is a non-profit organization. It means without any barriers in Spanish,” said Fanny Smedlie, a long time member of Sin Barreras.

Not only were there members of Sin Barreras, but also many enthusiastic members of the PVCC Pottery Program present.



“This is a fundraiser. We call it Empty Bowls, where our pottery club has made bowls in our ceramics studio downstairs and we sell the bowls. And we have donated soup and tortillas and dessert. The fundraiser is for Sin Barreras and they provide services to our local immigrant communities,” said PVCC Professor of Arts, Tom Clarkson. Each bowl is handcrafted and cost \$20 to purchase.

Financial Convenience at the PVCC Branch

Karli Turner, staff writer

Imagine this: a student at PVCC has just a few quarters, but not enough to get a drink or a snack. The student has a credit card and luckily, a few machines do take them. However, it seems as if every time their card is slid through the card slot, the machine never wants to work.

After a few more slides of the card, the student begins to become frustrated, so they walk away. A few strides later, the student remembers that PVCC has a bank on campus. Minutes later, the student returns with a few dollars in hand. They get the drink or snack that moments ago seemed impossible before scurrying away to make it to class on time.

The PVCC Branch of the UVA Community Credit Union is one of the more overlooked and underappreciated services that PVCC has to offer. The bank is roughly the size of an average linen closet and is in desperate need of a bigger space.

Despite its small size, the school’s credit union works just like any other bank. Whatever another bank can do, this one can do it too. Few students are actually aware that there is a bank on campus. According to one of the tellers, on average, only about 5 to 10 students use the bank per day.

Since few students actually use this bank, the tellers know everyone’s names who come in on a regular basis; they also get to personally know a few of them.

The tellers also enjoy seeing new faces and are always happy to help you with your banking needs. They can even help you set up online banking or talk to you about any kind interest offered if you ask.

The tellers usually work on homework when no one needs assistance, which is often. This is why one of the tellers, Ashley, encourages students to, “Come see us!” as she always enjoys it when more people stop by to use the bank.

Spamalot Brings Laughs to PVCC

Cody Clark, assistant editor

PVCC Theatre hosted *Spamalot* from Nov. 21-24. *Spamalot* retells the story of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, but in a Broadway musical format. There is something in this musical for everyone. Even if you are normally not a fan of musicals, you will surely enjoy this play. *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* fans will not be disappointed by the play either. Many of the iconic scenes from the movie are “lovingly ripped off from the motion picture,” says the play’s tagline.

The performances from the cast were spectacular. The comedy was well delivered, and the cast received laughs from the audience at all the right times. Two memorable scenes that were adapted into the play were the Knights of Ni and the French taunter. Both the French taunter and the leading knight of Ni were played by PVCC’s own Professor of Spanish Kit Decker.

Another particularly funny sketch was when Dennis Galahad (played by Zack Zartler) was arguing with Arthur (played by Timothy Read) about the legitimacy of his claim to being king.



Arthur and the Lady of Lake's Wedding.
Photography by Cody Clark

Galahad argues that Arthur was not elected by the people and therefore has no authority.

Galahad’s mother (played by Marie Lotter), on the other hand, was more than happy to have a rich king visiting. She would constantly try to butter up Arthur while Patsy, Arthur’s traveling companion, would constantly fight her off. Many of the scenes were done in this manner. There was a primary conflict and then several background interactions between characters that were just as funny.

The vocal performances from the cast were also amazing. Some of the most memorable songs were performed with the Lady of the Lake (played by Deanna Dellaganna).

Jill Clark, a guest at the play said, “The mix of students and local actors made the play feel very professional.”

While there are no more plays planned for PVCC this semester. There will be a Chorus Concert hosted by PVCC on Dec. 8 and be on the lookout for more Fine Arts performances come next year.



The cast of *Spamalot*. Photography courtesy of Kit Decker

Gordonsville's Celebration of Veterans

Deadra Miller, online editor

On Nov. 9, Gordonsville's Mayor Robert Coiner, and city celebrated the local veteran heroes.

Annually, Gordonsville hosts a parade that involves many communities. From local marching bands to blacksmiths, everyone who signs up by Gordonsville's application deadline has a spot in the parade.

This year, there were approximately four side streets filled with participants for the parade.

After the parade route was completed by the participants, there was an award ceremony held at the Gordonsville Fire House.

Sixteen winners for various reasons that participated in the parade were awarded by Mayor Coiner.

To begin the awards ceremony, Fork Union Military Academy (FUMA) presented the colors (the American flag, Virginia flag, FUMA flag, and two riflemen). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troop 12 of Gordonsville. Richard Shotwell recited the opening prayer; Mayor Coiner led opening remarks and the honorable mention of the veterans.

During the recognition of the veterans, Mayor

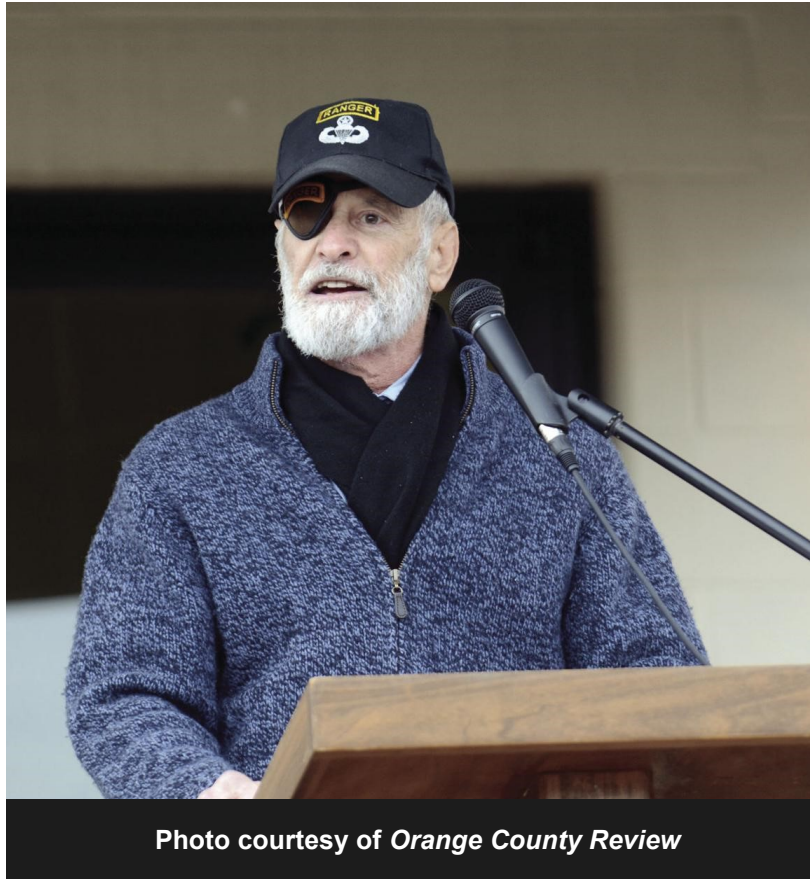


Photo courtesy of *Orange County Review*

Coiner honored five different veterans from the Gordonsville area; Sam Jurlando (U.S. Navy Veteran), Lillian Kay MacCormack and her husband Alexander MacCormack (U.S. Army Veterans), Victoria Sukar (U.S. Navy Veteran), and Forrest Elliott.

After the recognition of veterans, Dr. William "Bill" Foster Hughes, retired colonel, U.S. Army, the keynote speaker, spoke "about how Americans should be able to agree on the support of this nations' Veterans." Hughes left the audience speechless.

After Hughes gave his speech, Mayor Coiner presented the awards to the participants and their organizations.

If you are part of an organization that would like to participate in Gordonsville's 12 Annual Veteran's Day Parade check out the Gordonsville website at <https://www.townofgordonsville.org/> and fill out an application for entry into the parade.

The author of this article walked in this parade with Charlottesville VFW Post 1827.



Photo courtesy of *Orange County Review*

Civil Air Patrol Serves the Community

Anandhu Shaji, staff writer

The Monticello Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) meets every week on Tuesday at 7 p.m. The young cadets aged 12 through 18 are preparing to fall into formation before they start the meeting. A sense of professionalism and pride can be seen in the faces of the young men and women as they say the Pledge of Allegiance and their cadet oath.

“The Civil Air Patrol is America’s civilian voluntary auxiliary for the air force and what we do is we do 95 percentage of inland search and rescue missions for them as well as have a robust cadet program, teaching young people leadership, life skills and that sort of thing,” said Maj. Owen Clark, the current squadron commander of the Monticello Composite Squadron.

Each week the squadron has a different type

of meeting. These include leadership, emergency services, aerospace education, and physical training (PT). The uniforms they wear depend on the type of meeting they are having. Their uniforms include the United States Air Force Airman Battle Uniform (ABU), the service blues, and athletic clothes for PT.

The meeting for the week of October 22, 2019 was PT. The goal of this meeting is not only to make the cadets physically stronger, but also mentally. The activities they do include the mile run, push-ups, sit-ups and a group activity.

The meeting ended the same way it started, in a formation. The reason for this is to motivate and let the cadets know what the next week's meeting will be. Anyone ages 12-19 can join CAP as a cadet, and for people above the age of 19 can join as a senior member. The author of this article is a former CAP cadet.



The cadets of CAP Monticello Composite Squadron falling into formation for their meeting. Photography by Anandhu Shaji

Classifieds



The PVCC Literary Magazine, *The Fall Line*, is accepting submissions!

Sponsored by Writers Unite, the PVCC Creative Writing Club

We are accepting original poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, including graphic narratives for our Spring 2020 edition. **Submissions MUST follow the guidelines below to be considered. The last day to submit work is Monday, January 27, 2020, at 11:59pm. Here are the guidelines:**

- MAXIMUM of 10, double-spaced pgs. of prose [creative fiction or creative nonfiction], up to 10 pgs. for a graphic narrative/comic, and/or three poems per person. All prose should be written in 12-pt font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
- Submissions should have a title page with the name of the work, its genre [short story, creative nonfiction, poem, graphic narrative], writer's name, email, and phone number. **Please give all work titles. The writer's name should appear on the title page only; the title of the work MUST appear on the work.**
- Work must be submitted electronically via a VCCS email through [the link](#) sent to students' VCCS email address and posted on the "Writers Unite PVCC" Facebook page. **THIS FORM CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED THROUGH A VCCS EMAIL ADDRESS.** If you forward your VCCS email to another account, you will need to log in to your VCCS gmail through the MyPVCCportal to access the form. Please submit files as .doc, .docx, or .rtf, and .bmp, .tiff, or .png if an image.
- Work will be accepted from *current* PVCC students only.
- Submissions must be wholly the individual's work. Submitting work to this contest gives PVCC Writers Unite non-exclusive rights to publish the work, royalty free, on its webpages and in the literary magazine, *The Fall Line*. Writers retain the rights to their work and are free to seek publication elsewhere.

Submissions which don't meet these guidelines will not be considered. Questions? Contact us at literarymagazine@pvcc.edu. Follow us on [Facebook](#) to see Writers Unite PVCC news and events.



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 twhyte@pvcc.edu 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: twhyte@pvcc.edu.

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