

Learn More About PVCC's Quality Enhancement Plan

Check out the photos
 from Club Day
 pages 12-13

Jessica Adkins, online editor

On Oct. 14, 2019, a group of accreditors will be coming to PVCC to see how the college will be implementing their new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Every ten years, PVCC goes through a re-accreditation process to decide on a plan to improve PVCC. This includes a QEP. When it was time to decide on a topic for the QEP, President Frank Friedman was in charge of calling a mandatory, all-college meeting to have faculty and staff choose from a list of ten topics. Out of those ten topics, "Civic Sense" was chosen.

"What is really cool is that the topic was chosen by the school as a whole," said Connie Jorgensen, assistant professor of Political Science. Civic Sense was chosen as the topic for the QEP because PVCC encourages students to

be actively engaged within their community.

PVCC's previous QEP was "Writing Across the Curriculum," which was proposed ten years ago. With the implementation, PVCC now requires students to take writing-intensive courses so they will be better prepared for the future. Along the same lines, this QEP includes creating civic engagement classes.

"PVCC's Quality Enhancement Plan, Civic Sense: Engaging in the Civic Life of their Communities, seeks to build graduates who have a strong commitment to democracy, and who engage in the civic life of their communities through collaborative, creative, and critical problem-solving," according to the PVCC website.

To learn more about Civic Sense, stop by the table in the Bolick Center or visit its page on the PVCC website.

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Hannah Thacker & Chad Mitchell. Photography by Connie Jorgensen

DATES TO REMEMBER

— Fall Break —

Oct. 7-8, All Day, No classes

— Jim Hingeley - One Book Speaker * —

Oct. 10, 12:30-2 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— Money's Not Free: How Credit Loans Work * —

Oct. 11, 12:30-1:30 p.m., M103

— In-Form Shapes of Contemporary Improvisation* —

Oct. 11, 6-8 p.m., Dickinson Black Box Theatre

— "Empty Bowls" Fundraiser —

Oct. 12, 5-7:30 p.m., Dickinson Commons

— Core Ensemble *Los Valientes* ^ —

Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— Why Change? The Power of Mind Techniques* —

Oct. 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m., M627

— Documentary: *Color the Line of Scrimmage* * —

Oct. 16, 12-1 p.m., M229

— Business, Accounting and Administrative Support Career Expo * —

Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bolick Student Center

— Healthy Habits and Your Core * —

Oct. 17, 12:30-2 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— Film Making Workshop with Ty Cooper * —

Oct. 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— Free Movie Friday: *The Farewell* * —

Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— Theatre of The Oppressed Lab * —

Oct. 19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dickinson Black Box Theatre

— VACRAO College Fair —

Oct. 28, 9-10:30 a.m., Bolick Student Center

— Course Cafe * —

Oct. 29-30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Bolick Student Center

* Free Event ^ Student Vouchers Available

Editor's Note

Cody Clark, assistant editor

My early life was defined by self isolation and a constant need to entertain myself. I live in a secluded neighborhood at least 20 to 30 minutes from anything of interest. My parents were usually busy with work or my sister who was born with autism. I would soon find video games and books as the chief way to entertain myself and stave off boredom.

My passion for video games eventually sparked my love for writing and storytelling. I eventually turned to YouTube for more content related to games I was interested in. I eventually found journalistic channels that covered gaming. This in turn piqued my interest in journalism.

During the Spring semester of 2019, I enrolled in English 121 Introduction to Journalism. Prior to taking this course, I would never watch the news or read articles. I was used to seeing the glimpses of politicians arguing and celebrity news and thought that it was all just ridiculous. There were many times where I never found out about a major event until someone told me or I saw it in a meme.

Upon starting ENG 121, I found out that modern journalism is so much more than what I believed it to be. I learned how to tell biased news sources from unbiased ones. I became more knowledgeable about the world I live in. I also got the chance to explore PVCC and meet many staff and students I would not have otherwise.

My recent work with Civic Sense and research into student voting has even gotten me interested to vote. Seeing people my age being so active and involved has inspired me to do the same. I would highly recommend for anyone to enroll in a class that could expand their worldview. Clubs and other groups at PVCC are great at this, too. PVCC brings as much of the world to the campus as they can and it is something special.



Student Government Association News



CASINO NIGHT

OCT 11 2019

7 - 11pm in the Main Building

*Wear your best threads
(fancy or spooky),
Bring your luck,
&
Don't forget
a friend.*

Bring canned goods into the Financial Resource Center to receive bonus chips.

PVCC Ranks in Top 80 for Student Voting

Cody Clark, assistant editor

Historically, college students have been inactive voters. However, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement's (NSLVE) "Democracy Counts 2018" report, student voters have been increasing since 2014. The national average in 2018 was 39.1 percent up from 19.7 percent in 2014. PVCC, however, had a 50.8 percent student voting rate in 2018. Because of this high voter turnout, *Washington Monthly* listed PVCC as one of the top 80 colleges for student voting in 2019.

In the NSLVE report about PVCC, demographics are shown in greater detail. The report shows that the greatest change was voters between 22 to 24 years old with an increase of 32.9 percent. Voters aged 18 to 20, 25 to 29, and 30 to 39 also had increases of over 20 percent. Students over the age of 40 saw the lowest percentage of growth at 17 percent.

When asked about what has caused this change in PVCC's students voting habits Assistant Professor of Political Science and Civic

Engagement Coordinator Connie Jorgensen said that it was due to the Civic Engagement's voter outreach.

Jorgensen also believes students get more involved when they see their peers involved and excited. The nonpartisan voting guide created by the collaboration between the Forum and Jorgensen's political science students has also helped. Jorgensen said its objective is to "try to make the election visible."

"It's only at 50 percent," added Jorgensen, insinuating that the rate could get even higher.

When voting, there is always a chance the candidate you voted for could lose by a substantial amount. Some may wonder if their vote even matters in situations like this. On this subject Jorgensen said,

"Even if you lose you made a statement." Jorgensen also described an instance where one vote would have made all the difference in Virginia when the 2018 Virginia House of Delegates election was tied, and the winning candidate was decided by pulling a candidate's name from a bowl.



Hannah Thacker, Chad Mitchell, and Gretl King, Photography by Cody Clark

PVCC Offers Mentorship Program

Aleena Haidari, staff writer

Coming to college and pursuing higher education is a rewarding milestone to each student, but it can also be overwhelming. Many students, who graduate high school and seek higher education, can be overwhelmed by the complex system of education and the transition from high school to college.

The Mentorship Program was officially established two years ago, which provides guidance and assistance to newly graduated high school students.

Thanks to the faculty and staff at PVCC, who are generous to volunteer their time to mentor the newly high school graduates. In the 2018-2019 academic year, there were 60 PVCC faculty members who were matched to 120 students. Each mentor was paired with two mentees to share their experiences and help them grow as a person.

Since this program has no specific guidelines of how mentors should assist students, assistance and mentorship varies from one pair to another. For instance, some of the mentors have taught their mentees how to drive and some have helped them to grow in their career while others have helped them academically.

These examples demonstrate that mentorship varies from one pair to another and mentors mainly focus to accommodate their mentees' needs.

When asked about the guidelines and requirements of having a mentor, David Lerman, director of Student Success and Retention and coordinator for Mentorship Program, said that it is "contingent upon the allocation of next year's college budget."

"If the Mentorship Program receives funding for next year, they would match newly graduated high school, who intend to attend PVCC, over the Summer to be prepared for the Fall Semester. Therefore, when they start their first year at PVCC, each pair of students would already be matched with a mentor to make their transition easy," said Lerman.

When asked about the significance and benefits of this program in their life, similar sentiments resonated among the mentees. For

instance, Elizabeth Phan, who was a first year student at PVCC and had benefited from this program said, "My mentor is Dr. Tamara Whyte, and she has been extremely helpful both academically and socially. Although I was nervous at first because I had never done mentorship before, but we instantly connected and had a lot in common. She also helped me to come out of my comfort zone by getting involved in clubs and on campus. This program has helped me grow as a person and has provided the essential tools to be successful."

Similarly, Waheda Haidari, who was a first year PVCC student and utilized this program nodded in agreement. She said, "My mentor has been a great help in my academic accomplishments and success at PVCC. Since my mentor is fluent in German, he has helped me tremendously with my German class. He has also been very helpful in regards to finding me internships and connecting me to people so I can build up my network."

Later, Lerman added that this mentorship mutually benefits students and the faculty to expand their knowledge of each other. For instance, when students reminisce back to their college career and people who have helped them grow as a person, mentors are certainly mentioned.

Mentors can have a tremendous impact on their students' lives and help them be successful and overcome any constraints. This engagement with students in a non-academic environment also helps professors to learn more about their students and share their experience on a personal level. These engagements help both parties to develop deeper understandings of each other and mutually benefit.

In the academic year 2019-2020, the mentorship program has changed their criteria and number of students they mentor. For instance, in the past two years, they were mentoring 120 students; whereas now it has reduced to 25 students.

All of these mentees are enrolled as full-time students who are working on campus or are in the process of finding jobs. This is a new variation to the program which aims to help students both academically and socially.

Panther Pantry Feeds Hungry Students

Ari Oxford, staff writer

Food insecurity is an issue that many students face, so PVCC has tried to help alleviate this concern for PVCC students and their families. In M103, next to the Student Financial Resource Centre (SFRC), is the PVCC Panther Pantry.

According to the PVCC website, the pantry's mission is "The pursuit of knowledge is fueled by nutritious meals. Our mission is to ensure access to free, nutritious food for students that are needy and underserved."

The pantry has snacks, basic ingredients like canned beans and fruit, and almost ready-to-eat meals like ramen. The pantry also addresses the issue of students not being able to afford nice clothes for interviews, so it also has shoes, button-down shirts, ties, blouses, and more.

However, you cannot just walk in. The door

to the pantry is locked, so you have to go next door to the SFRC and sign-in for access. Also, be aware that each household will only be allowed access twice a month.

According to the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, "48 percent of respondents reported food insecurity in the previous 30 days, including 22 percent with very low levels of food security that qualify them as hungry."

The Panther Pantry hours of operation:

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



The Panther Pantry. Photography courtesy of PVCC Marketing Office

A New Perspective on the Constitution

Cody Clark, assistant editor

To celebrate Constitution Day, PVCC's One Book group invited Adeola Ogunkeyede and Jennifer Kwon to host a discussion about the Constitution. Kwon was unable to make it to the event as she needed to represent a client at the last minute. It was left to Ogunkeyede to discuss how she and her colleague use the Constitution and how it could be improved.

Ogunkeyede earned her B.A. from Duke University in 2003 and her J.D. from Tulane University Law School in 2008. During her time at Tulane, she was a member of the Criminal Law Clinic, president of the Public Interest Law Foundation, and coordinator of the Street Law Program. Upon graduating from Tulane, she received several awards commending her work with the university and community.

At the beginning of the brief lecture, Ogunkeyede said, "I have a vantage point on the Constitution from the vantage point of a practitioner."

During her time as a public defender and as the Legal Director of the Civil Rights and Racial Justice Program at the Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC), Ogunkeyede saw the Constitution used by all parties involved in her cases.

It was just as much a tool of justice as it was a tool for oppression. It was said that the Constitution makes many promises of quality. However, in its current form it still needs improvement according to Ogunkeyede

The Constitution is not the only aspect of America that needs to evolve. American society and its values must also change before we will see improvement.

Ogunkeyede used the Statue of Liberty as an example. While in public education the common teaching about the statue is that it was a welcoming beacon of hope for immigrants coming to the United States. While in reality there are many Americans who believe the statue of liberty is "Teaching

lessons about America that can be applied in their own countries," said Ogunkeyede.

Another example used by Ogunkeyede was the current immigration policy at the Mexican border where children and adults are separated. Ogunkeyede related this process to slavery and how families of slaves were broken up.

Constitution Day was the first of many One Book collaborations events. Information on upcoming events can be found at <https://libguides.pvcc.edu/thenewjimcrow/events>.



Legal Director Adeola Ogunkeyede.
Photography by Cody Clark



The panel having a discussion on openings in the medical field. Photography by Matthew Minecci

PVCC Hosts Local Medical Professionals

Matthew Minecci, staff writer

On Thursday, Sept. 26 at PVCC, a large gathering of hopeful students gathered together to hear from medical professionals. These three professionals, Camilla Washington, a clinical education team coordinator; Sarah Sutherland, a billing and coding manager; and Susan Kasbadi, a diagnostic medical sonographer, were interviewed by Andre Luck, the career supervisor at PVCC.

Primarily talking about opportunities in the medical field, the speakers had an attentive audience, as well as an interactive one, receiving several interesting questions and giving in depth answers.

When asked about the number of job openings in her field, Washington stated, “quality over quantity in nursing.” There were worries that automation may remove some of the job opportunities available, but it was also pointed out by the board that hopefully this automation

will bring more jobs to places like coding work.

If you were hoping to go into the medical field, there were a few things talked about during the meeting that you should know. First and foremost, the age requirements for the job is 18 years old.

In addition, the workplace has a strict no tobacco policy, so smokers either need to quit or need not apply.

If you were wondering how to apply for a particular job, simply go to the human resource website at UVA and search for whatever it is you are looking for.

While internships are not available with the ultrasound community, it is a fast growing profession, that allows you to shadow a professional to learn more about the work they do. In addition, the billing and coding wing has internships available to choose from.

Finally, clinical rotations at PVCC are required, so sign up for those now if you haven't already.

NASA Assistant Director Returns to PVCC

Ari Oxford, staff writer

Rick Davis, PVCC alumnus and assistant director of science and exploration at NASA, spoke to an Intro to Engineering class, at 10 a.m. in M833, and the broader PVCC community, at noon in M229, in two talks on Sept. 23 to over 45 community members.

Davis started his first talk with how he went to UVA and got a bachelor's of history, but after getting some post-college experience, he came back to PVCC to build foundational skills in math and engineering. He then went back to UVA to study aerospace engineering.

He went on the talk about his early career teaching astronauts at NASA, his three and a half years working in Russia with our international partners in space exploration. Davis talked about how his joint background in history and engineering led him to his current position.

In his presentation, Davis spoke about paradigms. He pointed out how Mars may look like Jorden but it is much more comparable to the peak of K2, in the Himalayas. He talked about how, as humans, we have gone on many exploratory missions that took three years, but a

mission to Mars would be unlike any other.

He addressed the challenges presented by Mars, such as weather that we cannot yet predict and high levels of radiation in space and on the Martian surface. He talked about how people on the frontiers of our extraterrestrial exploration need privacy, comfort, relaxation, and compatible crewmates to handle the extreme stress of such unfamiliar environments.

Davis advised the students in the audience to “screw schedule.” He said to take as much time to complete a degree because taking time to work and make connections is more valuable than entering the workforce with a degree more quickly.

He advised students to “ask for 45 minutes.” He suggested creating a list of interesting people in the area which you are interested in working, researching them so you have worthwhile questions to ask, then ask them for 45 minutes to talk. He said that those 45 minutes often turn into an hour and a half, but if you ask for an hour of someone's time they will typically turn you down. He said to end those conversations with two questions; “what else should I do?” and “who else should I talk to?”



CRU Club Carnival Feeds PVCC

Elizabeth Phan, staff writer

Buttery popcorn, Chick-fil-A, and refreshing sodas were enjoyed at Cru Club's Carnival. The event was held on the student terrace behind the Bolick Student Center on Sept. 18 from 1-4 p.m. The Cru Club, PVCC's Cru Christian Fellowship, hosted a wonderful event of games and food for the PVCC community. Groups of students lined up to grab their fresh popcorn and played cornhole.

The Cru Club is passionate about sharing the joy of Jesus Christ and hopes to connect more people to him. According to the UVA Cru Club's website, their mission is to educate curious minds about who Jesus Christ is.

Jeff Simpson, a team leader for the Cru Club, said he hopes that students find community and the opportunity to connect with each other during difficult times during the school year.

Cru is a non-profit organization that depends on funding from the community. The donations will go to student scholarships, outreaches, and supplies for ministry events. You can find their

donation page at <https://cruatuva.com/give/>.

In the future, Cru Club will be hosting a variety of events. Cru Club will be at the UVA Chapel from 8-9 p.m. and will host men's and women's bible studies several days during the week.

The Cru Club meets every week on Wednesday in Room M835 at noon. Members of the Cru Club can expect uplifting prayer, a stronger connection with God, and music.

On Sept. 27-29, Cru Club invited the community to gather together for their fall retreat where they establish a weekend of faith in hope to strengthen their relationship with God and each other.

On their website, you can find more information on carpooling to church. They offer rides to Portico, Charlottesville Community Church, First Baptist on Park Street, Trinity Presbyterian, and Jefferson Park Baptist.

To stay connected and up to date on other events, follow Cru Club on Instagram @pvcc_cru and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cruatpvcc.



Students enjoy a game of corn hole. Photography by Elizabeth Phan

The Beauty of Japanese Calligraphy

Elizabeth Phan, staff writer

A professional calligrapher taught PVCC students and faculty traditional Japanese calligraphy on Aug. 29 in the North Mall Meeting Room. Tons of curious students filled the room to watch as she performed calligraphy on traditional rice paper as tall as the ceiling. Japanese language students of Noriko Donahue edged closer to the artist to get a closer look.

Calligraphy, also known as shodo or shuji, is a form of artistic handwriting of the Japanese language. It is considered to be difficult and beautiful. Calligraphy is done with a special bamboo brush dipped in ink. The paper used for calligraphy is also very important. It is made to prevent the ink from spilling over or smudging.

Students and faculty were able to practice five times and pick their favorite one to enter into a competition. Whoever had the best handwriting, won a prize.

The top three calligraphers from the group won expensive Japanese figurines. The rest of the group were able to pick a different prize. Two Japanese students brought with them Japanese, anime designed folders and figurines for everyone to take home for free as their prize.

Noriko Donahue, the Japanese professor at PVCC, invited all her students and anyone interested in Japanese calligraphy, to watch the event. The professional calligrapher lives in Japan and had flown all the way down to Charlottesville



Students at work. Photography by Elizabeth Phan

to teach students how to do Japanese calligraphy.

Each individual student was able to work with her one on one for an insightful experience. The Japan club will hold similar events like this in the future.

According to the Japan club's bio on the Piedmont website, they hope to bring Japanese culture to Piedmont Virginia Community College by incorporating Japanese games, food, and tradition. You can contact Lydia Simmers, the Japan Club president, at lcs2849@email.vccs.edu for any questions about joining Japan club.

Or you can contact Noriko Donahue at ndonahue@pvcc.edu for more information on similar events in the future.



Calligraphy Participants. Photography by Elizabeth Phan

Club Day Fall 2019



BSA Club.
Photography by Cody Clark



LGBT Club. Photography by Cody Clark



Board Game Club.
Photography by Deadra Miller



Horticulture Club.



Cru @ PVCC.
Photography by Cody Clark



Creative Writing Club. Photography by Cody Clark



French Club. Photography by Cody Clark



Dance Club.
Photography by Cody Clark



Engineering Club.
Photography by Cody Clark



German Club.
Photography by Cody Clark



History Club.
Photography by Cody Clark



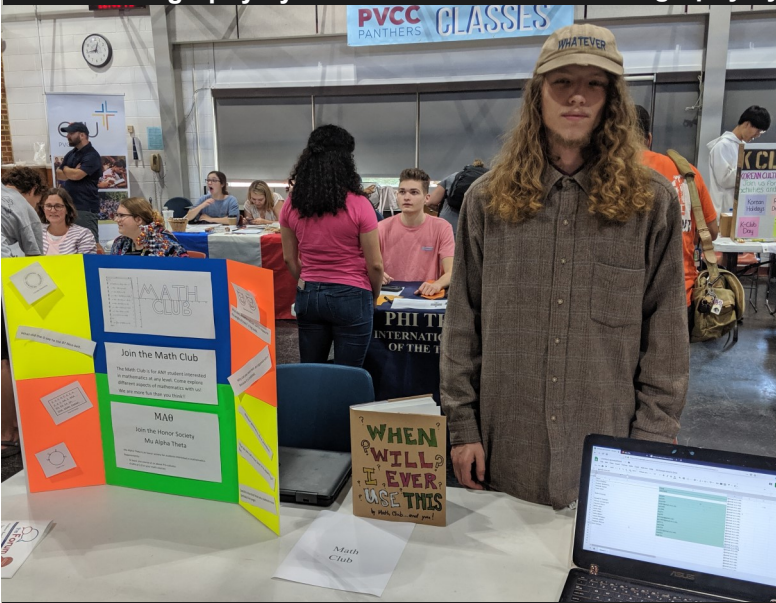
International Club.
Photography by Deadra Miller



Japan Club.
Photography by Cody Clark



Latin Club.
Photography by Cody Clark



Math Club. Photography by Cody Clark



PSLT Photography by Cody Clark



PHI THETA KAPPA

Celebrating Pride 2019 in Charlottesville

Abi Brand, staff writer

Saturday, Sept. 14, Charlottesville concluded its eighth annual weeklong Pride festival celebrating the local LGBT+ community.

Following the 50 year anniversary of the historical and revolutionary Stonewall riots, Charlottesville hosted yet another amazing week of fun and celebration and wrapped it all up with the Pride festival on Saturday. Included at the festival were booths filled by non-profit organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign, American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood, and countless more.

Caroline Weschler, a former PVCC student, went to Charlottesville Pride for the second year in a row. Weschler said, “Pride just makes me really happy because everyone at pride is happy together, and I love that there’s an event where we can all celebrate being gay and not be scared.”

The Pride Festival was held at the Sprint Pavilion on the Downtown Mall. Many children and adults attended Charlottesville Pride, most wearing bright, rainbow colors to represent the most common symbol of the LGBT community. Throughout the day, multiple performances took place on the Sprint Pavilion stage. From drag queens to local bands, the festival had enough to keep patrons entertained all day.

Mia Smith, a current student and president of the LGBT club at PVCC, said, “Pride to me means a collection of beautiful and bright people from all over my community. It means being in a family, being able to look at others faces and seeing myself in them. It's about feeling right and safe. It's about turning our struggles into a celebration of how amazing we are.”

Charlottesville’s annual Pride helps bring together people from all walks of life and recognize what makes every resident of Charlottesville so special.



Latin America visits Charlottesville IX Art Park



From above, at the Cville Sabroso event, attendees watch the Mexican Mariachi performance. Photography by Veronica Reyes

Veronica Reyes, staff writer

Latino representation sparkled in all the bold colors and flavors of various Hispanic cultures at the IX Art Park in Charlottesville on Saturday, Sept. 21. Dancers, bands, vendors, and Latino community members gathered together for an afternoon of dancing, eating, and unity over the special, individual cultural facets from the 33 countries of Latin America.

As visitors entered with free admission to the event, an overwhelming amount of food trucks and vendors surrounded them. Attendees could find anything from tacos to traditional woven and leather goods. Standing there, guests were surrounded by individuals from all over Charlottesville, Central Virginia, and Latin America collectively enjoying the dancing performances and music.

After 6 p.m., the sonorous, rich tone, unique to the romantic trumpet sounds a mariachi band, soared across the crowd. The butterfly effects of bold pink, green, orange, and yellow skirts from a Mexican group of dancers created a teeming atmosphere of awe and excitement from the cultural performance.

One spectator noted, “The entire event reminds me of Olvera Street in Los Angeles,” a historic district dominated by Mexican culture. Another attendee stated, “It felt like a block party. Very intimate and fun!”

Mexico was not the only country featured in the line of events. From 12-9 p.m., the schedule included performances from countries such as Guatemala, Colombia, and Bolivia. The Bolivian dance group Salay Tukuypaj wowed the crowd with their brilliant pink and cobalt blue garb.

At 7 p.m., there was a parade of flags which showed onlookers which nations attendees were from and resulted in nationalistic cheers.

From 7:30-9 p.m., the band named La Máquina de El Salvador, dominated the event as the pink and orange sunset on one of the last days of summer reflected on the shine of the guitars and microphones of the group. From there, the entire event was wrapped up in a final party where men, women, and children could enjoy the infectious rhythms of cumbia (a music style originating from Colombia) and several other classic music styles that originate from the streets of Latin American islands.

The entire event appeared to have hundreds of participants and attendees. The hard-working vendors, performers, crew, and law enforcement developed another exciting and fun Latin-American festival for its seventh year.

Next year, mark your calendars to attend what may become a much more popular staple of summer events in Charlottesville. For great authentic food, music, and goods, Cville Sabroso was a special way to wrap up the summer for Spanish communities and Central Virginia alike.

‘Gentlemen, Start Your Engines’ in Richmond

Deadra Miller, online editor

Sept. 21, 2019, was the second race of the Monster Energy Series Racing playoffs. This race solidifies 16 drivers’ positions in the playoffs. These drivers are from all over the United States; the second place holder in the playoffs is local to Virginia. (11) Denny Hamlin, who drives for FedEx, is from Chesterfield, Virginia. The drivers in the playoffs are (18) Kyle Busch, (11) Denny Hamlin, (19) Martin Truex Jr., (22) Joey Logano, (4) Kevin Harvick, (2) Brad Keselowski, (9) Chase Elliott, (1) Kurt Busch (older brother to Kyle Busch), (42) Kyle Larson, (88) Alex Bowman, (20) Erik Jones, (12) Ryan Blaney, (24) William Byron, (10) Aric Almirola, (14) Clint Boyer, and (6) Ryan Newman.

All of these drivers were top 16 drivers for the season that began in February and ends in November. Their season leaves the winter months for them to practice and improve their vehicles to meet the requirements that are always changing. The children and significant others of the drivers spend their days at the track as well. The teams make accommodations for the families by way of hearing protection because the cars are so loud.

The night of the race had beautiful weather, and fans could smell the exhaust coming off of the cars and the stench of the fireworks that were set off when a professional parachutist brought in

the American flag. At the beginning of every Richmond race, two to three parachutists jump in with different flags attached to them. Right after they land, the National Anthem is performed by a small band or sung by a musical artist. After the prayer is said, the most famous words in NASCAR are said by someone that is chosen prior to the race date, “Gentlemen, start your engines.” After those words are spoken the roar of the cars the roar of the engines blanketed the track.

Once all of the pre-race festivities are concluded, fans wait for the equipment to be broken down so that the cars can drive on the track. This includes the stage used for driver introductions, and the vehicles used to display the drivers to the spectators. Since this was the Federated Auto Parts 400 and Toyota is a major sponsor in NASCAR, Toyota Tundras were used to transport the drivers around the track.

This race is 400 laps around a mile and a half oval track which makes this track a short track within the Monster Energy Series. Although there are 400 laps in this race, my family and I ended up leaving at lap 340 to beat the rush to get out of there. By the time we made it to our vehicle, Martin Truex Jr. had won the race, which kept him in the playoff standings.

As of Sept. 29, the Monster Energy Series had just finished race three of the playoffs which was held in Concord, North Carolina, at Charlotte Motor Speedway. The standings have been brought down to 12 from 16 and the three races that will continue with 12 drivers are Dover, Delaware; Talladega, Alabama; and Kansas City, Kansas.

Altogether, there are 12 races in the playoffs in the racing community. After Delaware, Alabama, and Kansas they go to Martinsville, Virginia, Fort Worth, Texas, for the AAA Texas 500 and ISM Raceway (formerly known as Phoenix Speedway) with eight top drivers. Finally, the series is down to four of the top 16 drivers at Homestead-Miami Speedway for the final race of the season, naming the 2019 Monster Energy Cup Series winner.



Driver Joey Logano #22. Photography by Deadra Miller

Bang! Offers Cville a New Cultural Tradition

Samuel Huff, staff writer

Just five years ago, if you had asked the typical American to point you in the direction of an eccentric tapas restaurant, you would have probably gotten a puzzled glare. However, over the last couple of years, tapas, which are snack sized portions of ethnic cuisine, have become a cultural phenomenon. Everyone is talking about this unique dining experience and Charlottesville has the perfect place for you to get in on the exciting trend.

Resting just off the downtown mall, at 213 2nd Street Southwest, is Bang!, Charlottesville's unique tapas experience. While there is little to no designated parking, the Water Street parking garage and the metered lot directly in front of the restaurant serve as adequate substitutes.

As you approach the renovated two story house from the street, your senses immediately become overwhelmed. Taking in the romantic ambiance of the hedge-trimmed patio becomes difficult as the enticing aromas lure you to the hostess who greets you with a friendly smile. The bottom floor flows with a strategic placement of tables and walkways while the much smaller upper floor maintains a more casual vibe complete with low chairs and coffee tables perfect for first dates or one-on-one meetings.

The friendly staff will guide you through the menu and explain that each item you order is crafted to be shared by the table. The staff also ensures that your tapas experience is authentic by bringing out each ordered item as it is readily available.

If you are, in fact, planning a night out for you and that special someone, search no more. The romantic atmosphere is outdone only by

the incredible convenience of a short 3-5 minute walk from the historic downtown mall, making it the perfect option to be followed by a live show at the Jefferson Theatre, a movie at the Violet Crown Cinema, or an afternoon walk to experience the heart of Charlottesville's unique culture.

From the incredibly tender short-rib ravioli to the sweet potato gnocchi complete with curry sauce and kale, the Asian-fusion menu is sure to ruin any other restaurant for you the following week. The expert bartender utilizes

the flavors of rum, bourbon, tequila, and vodka, blended with a variety of other exciting flavors, to craft over twenty exclusive martinis that will propel you to elite, socialite status, right there at the bar.

The incredible tapas, which rotate

seasonally and typically range from \$8 - \$15 per entree, matched with stylish martinis may result in a higher bill than you would typically set aside for a night out, but the quality of the food and service, will leave you more than satisfied and ready to plan your next visit. For a less pricey dining experience, however, Bang! offers generous happy hour discounts Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

With vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free options, Bang! is a standout choice for any group that you want to exclaim with joy. With tapas exploding onto the scene and gaining a reputation for being a hip new trend, Bang! is proving to central Virginia that they are here to outlive the newest fad and provide Charlottesville with a special kind of dining experience for a long time to come, and they openly invite you to come be a part of the fun.



Photo Courtesy of Taylor Liken

A Meat Lover's and Patriot's Dream

Matthew Minecci, staff writer

In the town of Charlottesville, lies a restaurant that caters to not only those that enjoy America, but also enjoy one of its greatest exports, meat. The atmosphere is bright with that industrial look that so many restaurants seem to go for these days. Unlike other restaurants though, to spice things up, they have pictures of American heroes, large amounts of American military items, and most of all American flags everywhere. This is a restaurant that heavily leans towards the more patriotic folks in this great land.

Stars and stripes are not the only thing they serve here. Open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and finally 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, most people come here looking for their main draw, the delicious meat they serve. As the name suggests, they primarily serve barbeque items, and almost all of them are meat, although the fries in particular are notably good.

Most of the prices range from \$6 to \$10, although the ribs can get up to \$20 if you order 10 of them.

The service is fast, and you can easily look into the kitchen over the front counter, where you can see cooks hard at work. Once a customer is served their food, it is up to them to put sauce on their meal if desired. Mission BBQ has a variety of bottles at each table where you can put as much sauce on your food as you like, with the added benefit of being able to quickly and easily control not only the amount, but the type. To top it off, they have staff that visit you at your table to ask if everything is up to standard, which is always nice.

So in summary, the food is fast and hot, the condiments have variety

and are easily accessible, and if you have ever been in the military, or are even just really patriotic, you will love the atmosphere. If you're a lover of meat, I would definitely recommend you check out Mission BBQ, as it is a paradise for the good old American country folks.

You can find it at 3912 Lenox Ave, Charlottesville. It is open every day.



Photography by Matthew Minecci

Perk Up Shines in the Eyes of Students

Anandhu Shaji, staff writer

Before you walk in through the front doors of the South Entrance at PVCC, your nose will be met by the smell of delicious food. Where is it coming from? Well it is from the campus restaurant Perk Up.

I had the opportunity to try their burger with fries. There are few words to describe the experience. The burger with fresh lettuce, green pickles, melted cheddar cheese was a celebration of flavors in the mouth. Just thinking about it makes my mouth water.

If you are not a meat person, there is no need to worry. "We have salads, veggie

burgers, veggie wraps and much more for the vegetarians," said the friendly and smart staff member at Perk Up.

Perk Up also has a coffee stand outside their doors where they brew many selections of fresh and tasty coffee. So if you want to get a nice cup of coffee in the morning or before class, then the Perk Up coffee stand is the place to go. Compared to many of the restaurants around Charlottesville, Perk Up is affordable for the students at PVCC. The burger with fries came out to \$10.

Overall, Perk Up is worth trying. Perk Up is open Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hidden Gem in the Heart of Cville: Pho

Elizabeth Phan, staff writer

Thai Cuisine & Noodle House may have some of the best Thai dishes, but what might surprise you is that they also take pride in serving traditional Vietnamese Pho. It might be a little confusing that a Thai restaurant is serving Pho, but trust me when I say that my father would be so upset to know that I loved it.

Since Oct. 24, 2014, Thai Cuisine & Noodle House has been serving up traditional and authentic Thai and Vietnamese food. Located at 2005 Commonwealth Dr. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday at 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and then re-open again at 5-9 p.m.. Unfortunately, they close on Mondays. Many locals swarmed in for a relaxing and laid back dinner. Its walls decorated with local art, and across the restaurant, a football game played above the bar as the chef prepared my dinner.

Pho, a Vietnamese favorite, is a noodle soup dish made from beef broth. It is served with a huge serving of Banh Pho, which is made out of rice, thinly sliced beef, bean sprouts, and fresh herbs. The Pho was

reasonably priced at \$8.50 for a small portion or \$10.50 for a larger portion. Be careful, though, because the small is still a very large helping. The soup was warm and savory and reminded me of home.

Thai Cuisine & Noodle House serves up a four-page menu of gluten-free and dairy-free options. And if you are lactose intolerant like me, you'll be glad to know that they have dairy free dessert options that are just as good as their Pho.

Thai Cuisine & Noodle House left a wonderful first impression with very kind staff and welcoming owners. The open-style kitchen left me feeling excited about my dessert.

Even Ivan Rekosh of ZoKoLo agrees that Thai Cuisine & Noodle House deserves the full rating for their dish. The Charlottesville 29 rated it as one of the best dishes to have been eaten back in 2016.

If you are a Charlottesville local, Thai Cuisine & Noodle House is a must for any special occasion or night out with friends. Be sure to try out the chef's specials and be surprised at how delicious Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine can be.

Crozet Pizza Still Open After 42 Years

Karli Turner, Staff Writer

A man, grumpy and tapping his foot, waits in line at Crozet Pizza. Impatiently, he leans into his wife's ear and whispers, "We came all the way from California for this. It better be good." Minutes later, a friendly host greets them and sits them by a window for a scenic view of downtown Crozet.

Crozet Pizza was established in 1977 by the owners at the time, Bob and Karen Crum. Originally, the small, one-room pizza shop only had five tables, and anyone who wanted one of these delicious pies, even those living hundreds of miles away from the establishment, had to call days in advance to make reservations. Also, back then, Mr. Crum made each pie himself using both him and his wife's secret recipes for their special dough and pizza sauce.

In 2004, Bob and Karen Crum sold their business to their daughter Colleen Alexander and her husband Mike. Today, Crozet Pizza is very different from what it used to be. No longer is pizza the only item on the menu, nor is it the small one-room pizza shop it once was; though it

still contains the original room, still much unchanged from when Mr. and Mrs. Crum owned the business.

The business is now the whole bottom half of the cute red building; having taken the extra space from the video and bookstores that used to sit next door. Crozet Pizza, which is located at the four-way intersection on Three Notched Road, now has a bar and more, much needed, seating. Behind the bar, Crozet Pizza also holds an event room that is perfect for hosting large parties or events. Though the original menu can still be found in the original building, the menu has greatly expanded over the last few years. Added to the menu are a wide variety of salads, fries and/or loaded fries (\$10), burgers and sandwiches (\$10-\$12), calzones (\$14), and wings (\$11), as well as many other options.

Hours later, the now happy man and his wife thank their waiter for the excellent service. Then, like so many before them, they exclaim, "This is the best pizza I've ever had!" With bellies full, they head towards the door.

To the left of the door to the original room, there are pictures hanging on the wall. These

pictures are of people not only from all over the U.S., but also from all over the world who have visited this pizza shop for the unique pizza options and flavors.

Since so many people have come from all over to try this pizza, who is to say that it is not the best pizza in the world?

Want to check out Crozet Pizza for yourself?

Crozet Pizza is open every day of the week except on Tuesdays, starting at 11:30 am.



Crozet Pizza. Photography by Karli Turner

Timberwood Tap House is Not Half Bad



Photography by Dylan Cox

Dylan Cox, staff writer

A quintessentially quintessential American restaurant, Timberwood Tap House makes for a surprisingly good dinner. Upon entering the restaurant, one cannot help but assume that this is just another typical franchise with nothing special to offer. The dinner menu offers cliché sounding dishes such as the Clint Eastwood or Al Capone burger. Such names disheartened me, thinking that I had stumbled into another Chili's or TGI Friday's. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Dinner starts at 4 p.m., and the menu is surprisingly small. I ordered a sweet tea and the Goat Cheese Custard for an appetizer. The service was polite, quick to serve, and the crowd was sizable which boded well. Once I was served the appetizer, I was surprised that it didn't look or taste like something from those other carbon-copy chains. Since I was dead set on writing a negative review, I inspected that dip and found nothing wrong. In fact, I practically inhaled the dish and

lusted terribly for another bite.

For the entrée, I wanted something that would punch me in the face, something that would be so bad that I would have to ask for my money back. I ordered the Chuck Norris burger which came with mushrooms, onions, swiss cheese, pickles, coleslaw, and all the typical dressings. Though I cannot stand red onions, I was disappointed that my taste buds fell in love with this burger. It was greased to perfection and assaulted my mouth in all the right ways.

Though I did not buy the Steak Frites or New York strip, because I am a poor college student, I was delighted with my outing, only having spent around thirty dollars. If you are a masochist like me, looking for a complete disappointment, don't go here. You will keep coming back and keep tipping generously.

Timberwood Tap House is located at 245 Merchant Walk Ave, Charlottesville, VA 22902. They are open every day from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., except Sunday where they open at 10 a.m..

Local Restaurant Firefly welcomes Everyone

Ari Oxford, staff writer

If you are looking for a new place to take the family or some friends for dinner, consider Firefly. Besides the benefits of supporting a small, local business, it is also a casual and inclusive environment.

Firefly has pool, foosball, pinball, and plenty of board and card games to keep kids or adults entertained. Besides the games, they also have a bar and sit down dining.

Their menu boasts lots of vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options at a typical dinner price. They also do all of their frying in sunflower seed oil, so if anyone in your party has peanut allergies, they have plenty of safe options. Firefly also has several alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink options.

Just be aware that if you order food, you might get more than you can eat, and it would be a shame to miss out on the almost completely gluten-free dessert menu. Though, I highly suggest ordering food because everyone at my table said that the food was hot

and delicious.

Some other fun facts: Firefly is Cville Pride certified as a Safe Space, so the staff is trained on how to make sure everyone is safe and comfortable; they are a certified Green Restaurant; they have a gender-neutral bathroom with a changing table; they are also breastfeeding friendly; and they have a few comfy couches for those who just want to hang out.

So, if you are looking for a new place to try, Firefly might be the perfect place.

Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday – Saturday: 11 a.m. to midnight

Sunday: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Address: 1304 East Market St
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902



Bar late Sunday night. Photograph by Ari Oxford



Family planning at the pool table. Photograph by Ari Oxford

The Jefferson: Current Music in an Old Setting

Abi Brand, staff writer

Located on the downtown mall, The Jefferson Theatre serves as an emblem for Charlottesville's cool downtown culture. Once a vivacious movie theatre, this concert and event venue now holds some of the most diverse bands to come to Charlottesville. The Jefferson holds all music genres, from rap and country, reggae and rock.

The venue is a smaller size, which allows fans to get a more intimate experience with the bands. Ticket prices are extremely affordable, and the acoustics throughout the venue are great. With seating up and downstairs and a wheelchair lift, the Jefferson is accessible for everyone. Sloped flooring makes anywhere in the theatre a great seat. The interior of the theatre still has remains of its original features, giving an old time feel to any show. The adjacent taco restaurant, Cinema Taco, allows you to grab some food before the show without leaving the venue.

A few weeks ago, I was able to catch Wallows and Remo Drive at the theatre. The show was absolutely incredible and full of energy. There

wasn't a body in the venue that wasn't bouncing up and down.

After the show, I was able to talk to Sam Becht, drummer of Remo Drive, who said how impressed he was with Charlottesville.

"Charlottesville had this culture this culture and vibe I never knew existed there! Way more character than I expected!"

When asked if there was anything notable about the Jefferson, Sam said, "The venue is maybe the tallest one I've ever played in...super high ceiling!"

Knowing that Sam is a professional musician, I was curious what he thought of the acoustics of the Jefferson. "It had great sound!" Sam said.

Some current upcoming shows at the Jefferson include:

- Oct. 26: Mason Ramsey
- Oct. 28: Of Montreal w/ Locate S,1
- Nov. 2: Carbon Leaf w/ Will Overman
- Nov. 3: Alejandro Arnada is Scarypoolparty
- Nov. 4: Hippo Campus w/ The Greeting Committee



Classifieds

Don't miss these upcoming free One Book Program Events

Jim Hingeley on mass incarceration and criminal justice reform

Oct. 10, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
North Mall Meeting Room

Documentary: *Color Line of Scrimmage*

Oct. 16, noon, M229

Film showing: *Thirteenth*

Nov. 13, 12-2 p.m.
North Mall Meeting Room

**Students attending these events will be
entered in a raffle for a free class.**



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