

## Dr. Jean Runyon: PVCC and the Bright Future it has Ahead

PVCC remembers Gequetta Murray-Key, page 7

Makenzie McCoy, staff writer

PVCC’s sixth and latest president, Dr. Jean Runyon, is bringing more than 25 years of previous education experience to PVCC and shared her enthusiasm about her arrival in an interview. This is not Runyon’s first time serving at a community college; her passion for higher education itself was communicated when she said, “Community college is more than just about access, it’s about access, opportunity, and success.”

Runyon began her teaching career in Southern Maryland as a high school business education teacher. After teaching high school education for five years, she became an adjunct at the Community College of Southern Maryland. Following 22 years of working there, she went on to serve as the associate vice president at Anne

Arundel Community College. During the last seven years before coming to PVCC, Runyon served as vice president of Front Range Community College in Colorado.

During the interview, she said that taking on the position of PVCC President involves working together with students, faculty, and the rest of the community to make the best decisions for the college. “The position is about passion and an opportunity to be a part of the community,” Runyon said. With the college just passing its 50th anniversary, Runyon describes this as a time to both reflect and celebrate the past accomplishments the university has made while looking forward to the great new things to come.

Runyon has already taken the initiative to start planning a prosperous future for PVCC and all who attend. She has begun the development of

*See president on page 4*



Dr. Jean Runyon with Pouncer and students.  
 Photo courtesy of Dr. Jean Runyon

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

— Election Day —  
Nov. 8, All Day, No classes

— One Book Event: Lessons From the Snowball  
Earth talk by Callan Bentley \* —  
Nov. 9, Noon to 1 p.m., M229

— SFRC's Eat Smart, Move More Cooking  
Demonstration \* —  
Nov. 9, Noon to 1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— PVCC Education & Resource Fair \* —  
Nov. 10, 5-7 p.m., Bolick Student Center

— Open Mic Stand \* —  
Nov. 10, 7 p.m., Dickinson Black Box Theatre

— 13 Ways to Screw Up Your College Interview —  
Nov. 11 and 12, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 12, 2:30 p.m.,  
Dickinson Building Black Box Theatre

— SGA Town Hall \* —  
Nov. 16, Noon, M229 and Virtual

— One Book Event: Your Energy Matters: How  
You Can Be Part of the Climate Solution \* —  
Nov. 16, Noon to 1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— Criminal Justice Career Eat & Meet \* —  
Nov. 17, Noon to 1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— Gallery Exhibition Opening Reception \* —  
Nov. 18, 5-7 p.m., Dickinson Building Galleries

—Free Movie Friday: *Where the Crawdads Sing* \* —  
Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Building Main Stage

— Thanksgiving Break —  
Nov. 23-27, All Day, No classes

— PVCC Pottery Club Sale —  
Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to noon, Dickinson Commons

— Let There Be Light \* —  
Dec. 9 and Dec. 10, 6-9 p.m., Main Campus and  
Downtown Charlottesville

\*Free Event    ^Student Vouchers Available

## PVCC's G.O.A.L Program

Makenzie McCoy, staff writer

PVCC's G.O.A.L. (Granting Opportunities and Laptops) program is offered by PVCC to aid students throughout the semester by allowing them to borrow a laptop from the college. The program is run by the staff in the PVCC library, located in the main building on campus near the bookstore where you can visit during school hours if you have any questions. The access services librarian, Rachael Hulvey who is head of the program, will be available if any additional information is needed or can be contacted at [rhulvey@pvcc.edu](mailto:rhulvey@pvcc.edu).

One of the main goals at PVCC is to provide accessible and affordable education to all students. The G.O.A.L program focuses on providing access to technology for students who don't have it. Hulvey said, "It's a great resource that we are happy to provide; we want to help students achieve their goals."

To join the G.O.A.L program, all you need to do is fill out an application. Laptops will be given out from the library on a first-come-first-serve basis, so it is important to apply ahead of time. However, if the number of applications surpasses the number of available laptops, a waitlist will be created and you will still be in line for the next available one.

The G.O.A.L. program is currently accepting applications online at the PVCC website for the fall semester. To qualify for the G.O.A.L. program you must be currently enrolled for six academic credits or more, your household income must be less than \$80,000, and you must apply for FAFSA. The program is also available for students taking workforce services courses at PVCC.



# Student Government Association News



President Hadrien Padilla said,

“I’m Hadrien, a second-year engineering student. In my free time, I love to play soccer and guitar. I’m super excited to serve as president this year and I look forward to hearing from students at our town halls!

Vice President Austin Warrington-Stiffler said,

“Austin is a non-degree seeking student in her fourth year at PVCC. She studies math, English, and computer science and in her free time she likes to garden and listen to music.”



Secretary Johnson Li said,

“I’m Johnson, a second-year General Studies student. I am currently serving in the military and working as a substitute teacher. My goal in life is to become a Chinese teacher and professor in the United States. I am proud to be serving as secretary for SGA to improve PVCC campus activities and support student quality of life here!”



Treasurer Malcolm James said,

“Becoming a Student Government Association Treasurer empowered me to form new connections with others and find ways to improve the campus fiscally to benefit all of the diverse students that attend Piedmont Community College.”



Public Affairs Director Maia Smith said,

“My name is Maia and I am extremely passionate about art! I’m currently in the Graphic and Media Arts Certificate Program and I’m also working towards my General Studies Degree. Once I graduate from PVCC, I plan to pursue my Bachelors Degree from Liberty University majoring in Graphic Design. Wherever life takes me, I know I’ll be a creator.



# Reaping the Rewards of Hard Work

Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah, staff writer

Balkees Rekik was recently awarded the 2022 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship. She is one of 207 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members who was awarded this scholarship. PTK is an international honor society, and it is only one of the various activities that Rekik participates in outside of the classroom.

Rekik moved to Charlottesville from Tunisia in Fall 2021 to attend PVCC. Since then, she has become the vice president of service for the PTK, the vice president of International Club and she volunteers weekly at the UVA Hospital's oncology unit. Although she is thriving now, her initial move to the United States was not easy. Rekik said, "Being away from my parents was definitely the hardest. I developed panic attacks and anxiety, which was not fun."

Rekik's four older sisters are all graduates of the Virginia Community College System and two of them transferred on to Cornell University. She plans to follow in their footsteps by applying for transfer to Ivy League colleges, majoring in psychology in the Fall of 2023.

Rekik said, "I encourage people to be more active and to join as many clubs as possible. That way, you'll get this sense of satisfaction and this feeling of belonging, and it would definitely look good on your resumé and application to schools



or job applications." However, she also mentioned that she treats herself whenever she experiences burnout so that she can recover and feel more energized for the activities to come.

Rekik believes that being active outside of the classroom is overall a very rewarding experience. It allowed her to make many new connections and she reaped the benefits of doing it as well.

She said, "I don't usually check my emails. I was in D.C. with my parents. Right before going to bed, I was opening my email and I saw an email from PTK saying that I got this scholarship. I read the email probably three times, until I realized that I got this scholarship. It was like the last thing that I could ever imagine. So yeah, I was so happy. I yelled at the top of my lungs to my parents."

## President, continued from page 1

the strategic plan for 2024-2027 to create a revived experience for future students.

She went on a series of discovery tours designed to help her learn about and engage with the surrounding community. This helped her get an idea of how to move PVCC forward in the best

way possible.

To hear more, she will be reflecting on her experience with the discovery tours and discussing some common themes that came up during a town hall meeting that will be accessible through Zoom on Oct. 31 from 10-11 a.m.

# PVCC Celebrates 50th Anniversary

William Hubbard, staff writer

To the common observer, student or otherwise, administrative celebrations may appear mundane. Similar to how one may dismiss community college as a whole, administrative events are seldom viewed as moving or constructive. PVCC subverts both these dismissals. In attending the 50th anniversary celebration, held Tuesday Sept. 27 in the Bolick Student Center, I was treated to a moving series of eye opening public remarks by notable former and current staff members such as Student Government Association (SGA) President Hadrien Padilla; Bruce Robinson, Evylen Edson, Virginia delegate Sally Hudson; and, perhaps most impressively, the first student to attend PVCC, Wanda Farrar.

Upon entering the Bolick Center, I was treated to the beats of Earth, Wind and Fire playing on a continuous playlist of celebratory funk hits. The Bolick Center was decorated with gold and white balloons surrounded by various depictions of the number 50. Even Pouncer, the Piedmont Panther, the college's fur-suited mascot was there and available for pictures. The atmosphere was the right mix of formal and casual with marks of dressed-down hospitality PVCC is known for, but the real attraction was the variety of speakers who were about to begin their remarks.

Both Robinson and Edson provided heartfelt and humorous takes on their history with the school and why they have been associated with the institution for many years. Robinson's story depicting his early years in relation to the school was poignant and timely. He painted a picture of a young man trying to succeed using the universality of PVCC as a vehicle to that success. It's a picture that fits many students and faculty today. Following him, Evelyn Edson's upbeat remarks regarding the span of the school's existence complemented the tone of the event's purpose: celebrating the school that celebrates us.

The true heart of the event was the speech by Farrar, the first person to ever attend class on campus. In just a few minutes behind the podium, she illustrated her journey to PVCC and what it meant to her. While her story of finding the college and the college finding her happened 50 years ago, it is remarkably relevant to the entire

student body today. The journey of many of the college's current, former, and future student population is emulated in her: an ambitious youth, looking for an alternative higher education option. Her academic journey

and the characterizations of the college made the notion of 50 years of PVCC quite astounding. Decades have gone by, but it still seems to be the student-centered institution it's always been.

The flow between speakers was natural, and the gaps in remarks were always used as a time to advertise the photo booth, free cake, and raffle-ticket items. As the speaking session was closed by remarks from college president, Dr. Jean Runyon, the attendees were free to mingle, celebrate, and meet the speakers. I had the pleasure of briefly speaking with former staff in attendance and Farrar herself. Their candid enthusiasm about the school and appreciation of its longevity on a one-on-one level was a moving way to end the celebration.

When attending an event such as the anniversary of a community college, it is understandable to expect a level of administrative tedium in celebration of the longevity of said administration. At the celebration, students and staff alike enjoyed themselves in their own way. Some students just stopped by for some cake and to listen to the upbeat music, many of them ended up staying as the remarks began and the insights and anecdotes flowed.

As an event, it was similar to PVCC as an institution: upbeat, friendly, informative, and full of helpful staff members and magnetic teachers. That detail of an appropriate, casual but driven attitude is what made the event as special and important as the school it was celebrating. It's been 50 years of quality education in a flourishing student society, so let's make this milestone of a year a good one.



Decoration at event  
Photography by  
William Hubbard

# PVCC Alumna on crisis in Ukraine

William Hubbard, staff writer

On Monday, Oct 24, PVCC hosted a presentation by Tatiana Yavorska-Antrobis, a PVCC alumna and Ukraine-born artist and humanitarian worker. The multi-talented woman returned to the United States from a humanitarian trip to Ukraine a week before the event was held. In that week, she was involved in a car wreck which left scars on her back and arms via concussive force. This opening anecdote of hers set the tone of the serious substantive discussion about the logistical and humanitarian side to the Russian annexation of Ukraine.

This anecdote was not anticipated but her firm, honest portrayal of the incident was connected to the matter of the war due to the universal fragility of life presented. “Life has unexpected moments, everywhere,” she said. Indeed, her analysis of the turbulent history of Ukraine’s borders yielded a sense of universal chaos as it pertains to life and its events.

Her assertion about the gravity of the conflict was clear, she said, “We like to say it isn’t World War III but it really is. It’s an international conflict now, and has been.” Her primary points on the subject of the war were on matters of logistics and civilian fatalities. Logistically, the natural gas and other primary energy reserves were annexed from the area by Russia, along with all ground gained. This matter was highlighted by specific figures and maps corresponding to areas annexed. The point of this maneuver has been to choke out the energy supply of the Ukrainian military regime and to subdue the reserves for the civilian population.

The second point of logistics covered was that of the Ukrainian agrarian reserves, both in raw food supply and usable land. Yavorska-Antrobis presented a series of updated graphics and data related to the reserves and the correlation of strategic strikes of food supplies done by the Russian invading force. These tactics have made Ukraine, a region once relatively well stocked in bread and grain, reserves now in a state of caloric crisis for many people both in and out of the military. It is important to note that these tactics are not unprecedented in armed conflict, but as the speaker detailed, the focus on civilian suffering is what makes the actions of the Russian

military complex or “Unacceptable” in her words.

Yavorska-Antrobis showed the visual shift of Ukraine's border throughout the centuries, starting with the Mongol invasion and going into the beginning and intermediate stages of the Russian Empire, with Ukraine being a constant center of invasion and annexation. This detail highlighted the continuous plight of the national identity for the Ukrainian people. A series of photos showed leveled civilian buildings, broken beyond repair. The intent both implied and tangible, was the destruction of local and civilian infrastructure to ease annexation and future subjugation..

Towards the closing of the presentation, she touched on the importance of global humanitarian efforts. “Thinking in terms of national boundaries is important but it can dilute things,” she said. The chaos of the war and global events is now a main characteristic of civilian life. Just as her anecdote involving her tragic car accident was an unexpected shock that yielded an uplifting story, the continuation of the events between Russia and Ukraine will yield a necessity for more humanitarian involvement.



**Tatiana Yavorska-Antrobis (left), and PVCC student William Hubbard.**  
Photo courtesy of William Hubbard

# Highlighting Gequetta Murray-Key's Life

Gabriella Barber, assistant editor

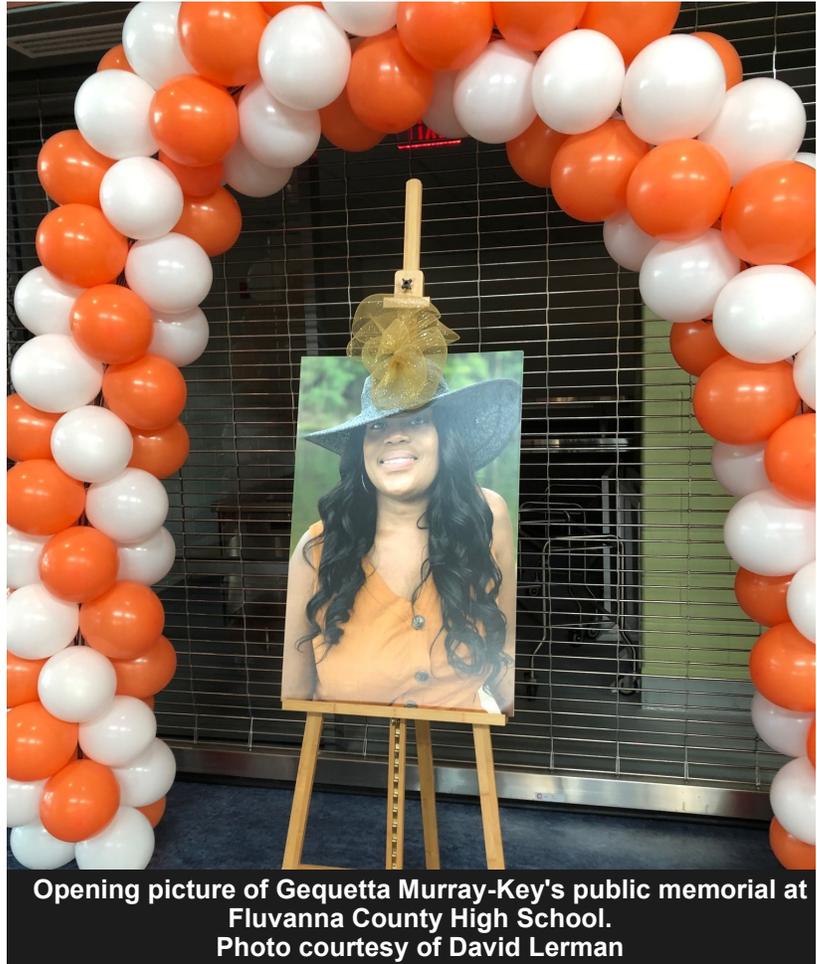
Gequetta Murray-Key was an active member of the community. She was a Fluvanna County school board member, the president of the Fluvanna PTO, and the lead singer in a local band called Salt. But at PVCC, Murray Key was known for being the adjunct instructor of Criminal Justice.

After Murray-Key died on Tuesday, Oct. 18, PVCC students and staff felt her loss. Though she lost her battle with Leukemia, members of the community and schools she was involved with are planning to keep her memory alive. On Oct. 28, the Fluvanna County Public School system announced the Gequetta "G" Murray-Key Memorial scholarship in her honor. Then, on Oct. 29, family and friends gathered to celebrate her life. And on Oct. 30, Fluvanna County High School hosted her public memorial.

David Lerman, director of student success and retention, worked with Murray-Key through the entirety of her career at PVCC, both as an adjunct professor and a student. Lerman said, "Gequetta was a student here at PVCC in 2001 and 2002... She worked with me because I was running a few small federal and state funded grant programs that helped students both with education and the resources to help them continue. We were able to help with childcare at that time, for instance. And because of that, I have kept a small picture of her oldest daughter on the filing cabinet that faces my desk as a reminder of why this work is important."

Although Lerman knew Murray-Key during her time as a student and an adjunct professor, she began working for Assistant Professor of Police Science/Administration of Justice Trisha Kipps more recently.

Kipps said, "Gequetta worked for me as an adjunct professor since I joined PVCC in January of 2020. She was hired by Brian Flick, the former Program Coordinator for Police Science. She was



Opening picture of Gequetta Murray-Key's public memorial at Fluvanna County High School. Photo courtesy of David Lerman

also his former student where she received her associate in Applied Science degree here at PVCC. After attaining her Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice, he hired her to teach criminal justice courses here."

Both Lerman and Kipps recognized Murray-Key's passion for her students. Kipps said, "She always went well above and beyond to support her students in all of the courses she taught here at PVCC."

Lerman similarly said, "She was a tireless advocate for her students and was extremely encouraging of them as they attempted to balance school, work, and personal lives."

Overall, the death of Murray-Key has impacted friends, family, students, teachers, and community members alike. It will also have an impact on future students who will not get to experience having her as a teacher. For those wishing to send condolences, they can be sent to 17 Ashton Road, Palmyra, VA 22963.

# The Fall Line Going Strong After 14 Years

April Navarro, staff writer

Interested in getting your creative work seen? Consider submitting it to PVCC's student-run literary journal.

*The Fall Line* has been publishing student creative writing and art for 14 years and is still going strong, curating a selection of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, comics, and visual art for a yearly issue every spring. Past issues are available as PDFs on the journal's website or in printed form on campus.

Despite what the "literary" in "literary journal" might suggest, *The Fall Line* isn't snobbish when it comes to subject matter. Genre works and speculative fiction are welcome.

One of the journal's guiding principles is inclusivity. Its aim is to be representative of PVCC's diverse student body.

"We'll look at anything," says Professor of English Jennifer Koster, the journal's faculty supervisor. "We have sci-fi, horror. We want to publish things that have a compelling narrative, or compelling use of language and images."

Koster has overseen the publication since its inception in 2009. Her role in the project is largely a logistical one, as it's the Creative Writing Club that decides what works get published. The magazine is designed by the Advanced Computer Graphics class, making *The Fall Line* an example of collaboration between PVCC's writing and art departments.

Cartoonists, take note: comics receive the least amount of submissions every year to the extent that they've been totally absent from some past issues. Your odds of getting published should you submit are good.

*The Fall Line* begins accepting submissions in



PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - LITERARY MAGAZINE VOL. XIV - 2022

Cover of 2022 edition of *The Fall Line*. Design by Nick Givens.

November, its deadline for submissions typically being around mid-February. Keep an eye out for an email announcing exact dates. For past submission guidelines, see the PVCC Creative Writing Club's website.

If you want to help decide what gets published or hone your writing skills in a community dedicated to the craft, consider joining the Creative Writing Club. Meetings are Wednesdays at Noon, in room M249.

# PVCC Students Read at *The Fall Line* Reception

Rebekah Carroll, staff writer

Writers can find inspiration everywhere. In fond memories, patterns of nature, compelling works of art, or the deep chasms within themselves, they find the words to propel their voices forward. Students and faculty had the pleasure of hearing these voices during the reception for the student literary magazine *The Fall Line* on Sept. 23.

After perusing the faculty art and chatting about what it may mean or how they found the time to make it, attendees gathered into the main hall to listen to contributors to *The Fall Line* read their work aloud. Throughout the year students worked hard on its release and there were many thanks given to its contributors and staff.

Many different students read, with a myriad of styles. Some were simple. Some rhythmic, some prose, some metered poetry, and everything in between. Among these readers was Seb Harper, whose work “A Body Unfurled” is formatted in a way that lends itself to silent reading, though he read aloud with intense emotion and vivid energy. Dark, eldritch imagery is translated from layered, repeating text into rising and falling tone and bouncing meter. According to Harper, this work was inspired by the video game *Cultist Simulator*, particularly the tone of existential dread.

*The Fall Line* was established in 2008 by PVCC’s creative writing club. According to Professor of English Jennifer Koster, the name was proposed by Brandon Willitts. A geographic term, it refers to “the imaginary lines where different elevation regions, such as the piedmont and coastal plain, meet.”

The magazine was and always has been a showcase of the diverse voices of the diverse student body, a meeting place for different voices from the same place, just as a geographic fall line marks a new form of the same ground. Submissions for the next issue of *The Fall Line* are open from November into January.



Seb Harper reading “The Body Unfurled.”  
Photo courtesy of Caroline Kenney

# Students' Work Showcased in *Insights*

Adina Wall, staff writer

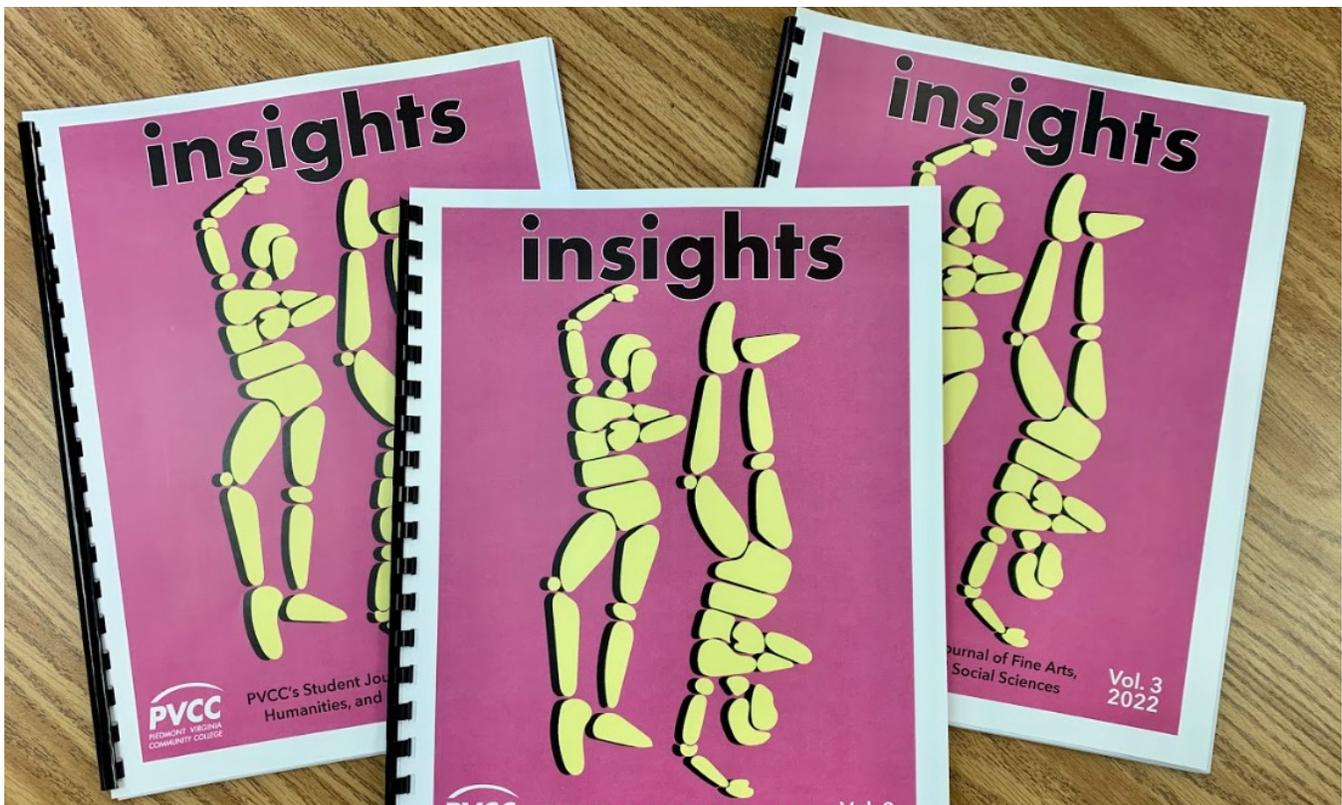
*Insights* is a PVCC journal that annually celebrates students' research with strong focus on humanities, fine arts, and social sciences. It was a privilege to sit with Dr. Todd Platts, editor in chief of the journal and professor of sociology to get the scoop on the nomination and publication process.

The latest volume of the journal is currently available for free online and at the writing center; it features the works of 13 students at the school. Aside from the 12 research papers, *Insights* volume III exhibits student Laura Carstensen's artwork on the cover. The top three papers are selected for their excellency and are recognized as the first pieces to make their debut in the collection.

When I asked Platts about the behind the scenes, he said that he is grateful for faculty members who rise to the occasion in the recruitment, nomination, and materialization of

the journal. This serves as a humbling affirmation of the uplifting community maintained at PVCC. He said that the recruitment stage is currently underway for the next volume, and he wants to encourage the involvement of other divisions (education, sciences, mathematics, business, nursing, etc.) as long as the research being considered has a strong emphasis on social sciences, humanities, or fine arts. He also mentioned that in addition to recruitment being available to online students, the journal also brings opportunities to students in local prisons enrolled in PVCC's higher education programs.

The next volume of *Insights* will be available towards the end of Spring semester of 2023. Every volume covers pieces constructed over the academic year (Spring and Fall) and is then issued the following Spring as a culmination of the hardworking students and staff that make this journal possible. Copies will be distributed throughout the school and made obtainable online through PVCC's website.



Most recently printed version of *Insights* featuring artwork by Laura Carstensen.  
Photography by Adina Wall

# PVCC Encourages Civically Engaged Students

Max Montana, staff writer

It's election season, and a group of PVCC students and faculty work tirelessly to help get out the vote on campus.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Connie Jorgensen is the director of the Quality Enhancement Plan, also known as the civic engagement program. Civic engagement on campus has only grown since she began directing it.

One of the program's main goals is to increase votership on campus. Jorgensen works with the Campus Voter Project, a non-partisan student voter organization, to employ two "democracy fellows" who help run programs to encourage voting.

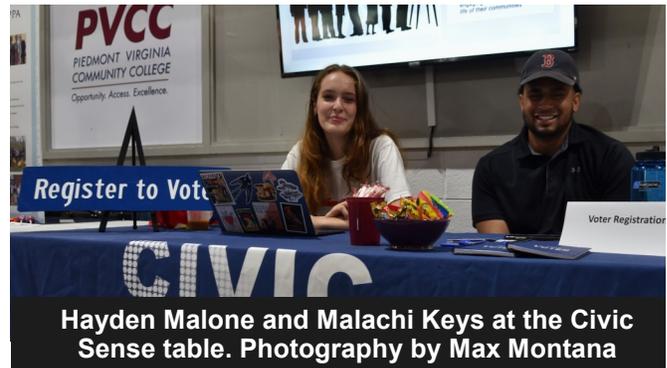
"We have an election every year in Virginia, so there's always voter registration and 'get out the vote' work to do. We do a non-partisan voter guide every year," Jorgensen said.

Jorgensen sees civic engagement as a way to connect students with tangible change in their communities.

"I would like to see us get more involved in local politics; local politics is really where the rubber hits the road. I care deeply about whether my trash is picked up every day. [For] Joe Biden, it's not on his radar, but my city counselor can make sure my trash gets picked up. That affects my day-to-day quality of life, and voter turnout during local elections is dismal," Jorgensen said, "What's happening here is we are letting a very small percentage of local citizens determine what happens in our communities because fewer people vote in local elections. If you really want to make a difference in your community, and you wanna run for office, starting at the local level [is] where you're actually going to see change."

Civic engagement courses are also offered at PVCC, with almost every program requiring one to graduate. Jorgensen explained, "the point of this is to help connect students' majors with public policy."

"Education majors, when they get out in the world, they're going to be phenomenally affected by government," Jorgensen said. "One civic engagement assignment was to look at the difference between local control of education and state and national control of education, and that



kinda ... makes you understand how you fit in the broader civic world."

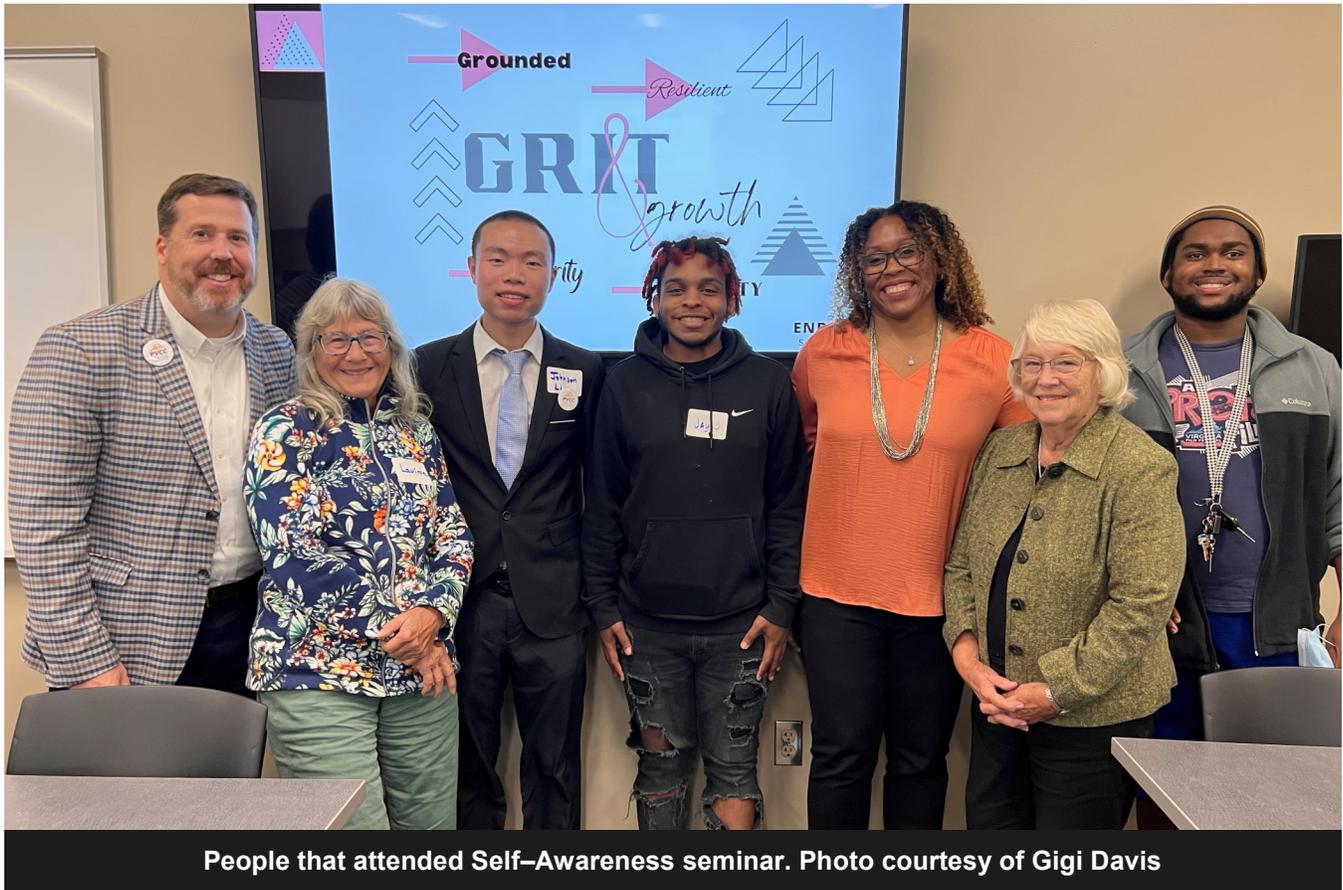
One other event Jorgensen helps coordinate is the campus Deliberative Dialogues, discussion forums hosted to help students understand different perspectives on issues. Jorgensen explained that in the mindset of traditional debates, there is a winner and a loser, which she contrasted from Deliberative Dialogues, saying, "A dialogue isn't like that - there's no pressure to solve the problem, or to win. And so we use the issue guides that come from the National Issues Forum Institute that offer three possible solutions, and in each solution you've got several pros and cons." These topic guides were built to be conducive to healthy discussion in small groups led by trained facilitators, with Jorgensen saying, "It's a safe place to have these discussions. Last year we trained a bunch of people to be facilitators, and the students really like it."

Jorgensen connected this to the broader goal of civic engagement and a positive school climate, explaining, "You learn that you can actually have a civil conversation without someone yelling at you or calling you names or saying you're wrong, and to me, changing that mindset that we always have to win - we can't discuss an issue - is something we really need to change in this country."

Jorgensen says, "I want people to respect my opinion, that means I have an obligation to respect somebody else's opinion who disagrees with me. If I want respect, I have to show respect. And deliberative dialogue is a way to kind of relearn that dialogue in the public space."

Jorgensen underlines her goal with civic engagement, "If we are going to make progress, if we are going to 'save democracy,' we're going to have to find a way to be civil to one another."

# Self-Awareness Builds Confidence



Jay Smithbey, staff writer

There is a popular saying, “You can do anything you put your mind to.” I see why people tell you that. It's because doubting yourself and not believing in yourself should not be acceptable. On Sept. 27, PVCC held a Self-Awareness seminar as part of the Charles T. Baber Leadership Program series. I attended the self-awareness seminar, and being there for an hour and a half really changed the way I see and look at things. You can achieve anything; any goals you have and want to successfully accomplish, you can. Attending this seminar showed me that. It provided me the knowledge to never give up and keep pushing forward.

Shawn Sanders, leadership instructor and program coordinator for Montgomery College, told attendees that all they needed was a little more motivation and more work ethic. Sanders had a game plan. She woke up that morning determined to educate us about self awareness, and she got her point across to everybody in the

room.

She began the seminar by handing out worksheets and making us write down our definitions of GRIT and our goals in life, short or long term. GRIT is an acronym short for Grounded, Resilient, Integrity and Tenacity. Using these key terms can help someone become successful by keeping them motivated to finish assignments and pass classes.

During the presentation, we watched Angela Duckworth, a psychologist, inspirational speaker, and author. She said, “GRIT is about having passion and perseverance, if you don't use it, you lose it.”

The overall message was to be motivated to achieve your goals, and to be passionate about succeeding after you do. PVCC is holding another seminar Oct. 26 from noon to 1:30 p.m. about Group Dynamics and Collaboration with self-awareness with others.

For more information about the upcoming seminar, view the website: <https://www.pvcc.edu/leadership-development-program>

# Workforce Services: A Gateway to Vocation

Benjamin Marcus, staff writer

Cars going up College Drive to reach the main parking lot for PVCC all pass a building at the very bottom of the road. People who take the time to look at the building's parking lot might notice that it contains several tractor-trailers. This is the Workforce Services building, where many PVCC students have acquired the skills and certification to pursue careers in the Virginia workforce.

The programs offered by Workforce Services cover a wide range of professions. These range from health care, to engine repair, commercial driving, welding, plumbing, and agriculture.

There are courses in person — either at the Workforce Services building or different locations where students can get hands-on experience. There are also courses available online, with varying amounts of contact hours. Many of these courses will make a student eligible for professional certification after completion.

In addition, there are courses in more broadly applicable skills such as leadership, resume writing, and practical training in various languages that a student may encounter once they join the workforce.

One specific group of courses available are the FastForward programs, which Dean of Workforce Services, Christy Hawkins, says are “the heart and soul of Workforce Services.” These are short-term training programs that are designed to efficiently get students who have been living in Virginia for at least 12 months credentials in high-demand fields such as healthcare, transportation, and other skilled trades.

When taking a course as part of a FastForward program, a student is responsible for one-third of their tuition. The other two-thirds are covered by Virginia.

The first of these thirds is paid when the student completes the class. The second is paid when the student earns their credential. In addition to this, some students are eligible for the G3 program, which will pay for the final third, allowing students who are going into high-demand fields to get their training and credentials for free.

There are many other programs and courses offered through Workforce Services — a list of which can be found on their website at [www.pvcc.edu/workforce/programs-courses-0](http://www.pvcc.edu/workforce/programs-courses-0) — all of them providing ways for PVCC students to get started on their paths to a career.



Promotional image featuring welding. Photo courtesy of Workforce Services

# Catherine Stelter: Friendly and Loving



Jay Smithbey with Catherine Stelter. Photo courtesy of Janet Starosta

Jay Smithbey, staff writer

PVCC has found itself a blessing. Catherine Stelter. A mother, a friend, and most importantly, an excellent librarian. Stelter was an English major. She minored in political science at Appalachian State University, then went back to graduate school for library and information science at North Carolina Central University. Appalachian State University is located in the mountains of North Carolina, and North Carolina Central University is a historically black college .

Stelter had a graduate school program near where she grew up. She had planned to go to a different school, but two weeks before school started, the school told her that they did not get the accreditation that they told her they had.

Stelter did the only thing she could do. She packed up her things and moved back to her hometown in Durham, North Carolina, and got her masters degree at North Carolina Central University.

Growing up, she always had a love for government and politics. She even had the dream of becoming a senator. After she graduated high school, she spent a summer in the former Soviet

Union. "That was a real eye opener," Stelter said. She learned a lot about local government there, and that paved the way for her senator dreams. Then she became a librarian instead, much to the amusement of her family and friends who said, "You're the loudest person that we know, how in the world are you ever gonna work in the library."

Stelter is an excellent librarian who loves her job. She cares about all her students and stops at nothing to make sure she brightens everyone's day. Last semester, I was failing badly. I was procrastinating and did not ever want to do my work. One day, I had class in the library and afterwards I sat down and talked to Stelter. She turned my mindset around. Stelter not only gave me advice to help with my schoolwork and work ethic, she also sat me down, grabbed my hands and gave me some real inspirational life advice as well.

Stelter loves PVCC. She informed me about how the staff at PVCC really do love and care about their students and want to see them succeed. I love to be a part of that journey with you and help you build confidence and find new information. That's why this job is fun and exciting.

# Tom Clarkson, PVCC's Ceramic Professor

Mercedes Lam, staff writer

"I create pieces people could relate to and use in their daily life," said Tom Clarkson, a professor of art at PVCC, when asked to describe his pottery. Clarkson graduated with a MFA in Ceramics from Ohio University. From there Clarkson opened up a small pottery studio with his wife. In 1983, he was offered a job as an adjunct professor for ceramics. Thirty-nine years later and he is the full-time professor of PVCC's ceramics program. As one of his students, I wanted to know why he chose this career and how he got here.

He said he chose ceramics over other mediums because of "The idea of making a functional item from mud." His whole philosophy towards his pottery is focused on the functionality of each item. Ceramics wasn't his first choice. During college he was exposed to numerous materials. He even took part in wood carving, but explained that his connection with the ceramics is beyond others. He couldn't explain otherwise.

His website states, "In addition to my ongoing commitment to produce fine, functional vessels, I try to capture the wet plastic nature of the wet clay in the finished piece. I use a runny, active wood ash glaze to enhance the textured surfaces. I seek a harmony between form, surface, and function." This is obvious in each piece of his.

I asked him how he was able to financially support himself during his freelance career, and he explained that being a production potter didn't leave much wiggle room for creativity. He further explained that the pottery he had to be what sold rather than what he wanted to make.

When I asked if he preferred throwing on a wheel he said, "I used to throw a lot when I was younger, but now I don't need to." He has said he had to throw literal tons of clay every year just to get by as a freelance potter. He described his years as an adjunct professor at PVCC as, "probably the best time in my ceramic career." Being an adjunct professor gave him more financial stability, while also having time to pursue ceramic shows.



During his years as an adjunct professor, Clarkson would ideally get into 15-18 shows a year, but he was never guaranteed to come back the next year. He hasn't sold his pottery anywhere other than shows until recently due to COVID-19. As an adjunct professor, he had been able to get into big ceramic showcases, like the Smithsonian showcase and the American Museum of Ceramic Art (AMOCA), but five years later he was given the opportunity to become a full-time assistant professor at PVCC.

He was offered the opportunity to continue building the ceramics department as the main professor, but he wouldn't have had enough time to pursue art shows and freelance on the side. In the end, Clarkson became PVCC's main ceramics faculty. Fourteen years later, he was promoted to a professor.

His goal had always been to be a teacher, he said, "It was worth moving up and teaching, and enabled me to make pieces I was interested in making." He has stayed with PVCC for 39 years due to the unique student and professor relationship it offers, as well as his peaceful ceramic studio on the first floor of the Dickson Building.

He now says, "I make the best pots that I can make and hope others do too."



Professor of English and board game designer Bruce Glassco and student Euan Davis at Board Game Club table



Khoah Le and Lindsey Case play Chess



Athen Wagley, Professor Noriko Donahue, Lance Shaffer, and Kaanan Barton run the Anime Club and Japan Club table



Lindsey Stegenga, Will Lewis, and Christopher Cole represent Chi Alpha Fellowship at their club table



Natalya Geer considers joining Drama Club as Zachary Zartler describes his clubs' activities

# Campus Comes Together for Club Day

Max Montana, staff writer

PVCC hosted a club fair Sept. 14 and 15 where student-run clubs came together to encourage signups for the new academic year. The event is held every semester to improve campus community engagement. The event was from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days.

“This is a great opportunity to engage in the community and learn more about experiences and interests of our other PVCC associates while participating in civic engagement,” Fellows of Democracy member Malachi Keys said. Keys interned with Professor Connie Jorgensen and hosted a table encouraging his fellow students to register to vote.

Some clubs worked to foster a religious community on campus. “[Chi Alpha Fellowship] is extremely accepting, and you're able to share your views. It also gives you a community to be a part of and worship with,” PVCC student Will Lewis said.

Students joined clubs that matched their interests. “In high school I was president of the radio club, which brought me to music club because it reminded me of a home back in New Jersey,” Skyler Meade said.

Students also joined clubs pertaining to their

career outlook. “[Science club] seems like a good thing to join because I'm going into a science field. I also enjoy hiking and they hike with the geology club,” Hanan El Abbar said.

Some students started clubs themselves and worked to establish themselves at the event. Kritagya Gurung began the Bullying Prevention Club, saying, “I started a club because I was bullied when I was in middle school.”

Jessica Hladkey runs the Student Veterans of America club, and was looking to recruit other service members on campus. “I'm a veteran myself and it's to cultivate a community as well as advocate and support veterans and military service members here as well as ROTC cadets,” Hladkey said.

Every campus club does something different, from organizing time to play Ultimate Frisbee to publishing a literary art magazine, as the Creative Writing Club does. PVCC student Monica Moriarty shopped around club tables before coming to look into the Creative Writing Club.

“What brings me here is my [upbringing] through my childhood. I enjoy coping through writing and drawing! I am excited to further my experience,” Moriarty said.

Learn more about all of the clubs at PVCC at <https://www.pvcc.edu/clubs-and-organizations>.



Daisy Dudley (left). Geology club morale officer, and Mara Cox, Geology club president, display rocks at their club fair table. All photography by Max Montana

# Science 299: Advice from a Student's Perspective

Luca Gett, staff writer

PVCC's science majors have access to a one-of-a-kind research opportunity. While capstone research courses are most commonly available to juniors and seniors at four-year universities, students in the natural sciences at PVCC are required to complete SCI 299: Supervised Study in Science, usually during their second year of study. In this course, students devise and execute a research project under the supervision of a faculty mentor in one of four offered subject areas: biology, chemistry, geology, and physics. At the end of the semester, a poster presentation is held during which they share their findings with their mentors, other faculty members, and the public. Having taken SCI 299 this past spring, there is some information relevant to the course that I would like to share.

Firstly, though listed as a two-credit course, SCI 299 has no concrete time commitment beyond class meetings, so students should plan accordingly. A microbiology or chemistry project might require numerous one-hour laboratory sessions, while a zoology or geology project might demand whole-day research sessions, but just a few of them. With the help of your faculty mentor and laboratory manager, you should get a clear idea of what your schedule will look like early on and work around it.

Next, it is important to remember that as a research student, you have access to the entire PVCC science faculty, and this should be taken advantage of. While your assigned faculty mentor comes first and foremost in overseeing the development and execution of your project, you are free to consult other faculty members that also specialize in the field you are studying. Asking multiple faculty members for their ideas, advice, and guidance proved useful when developing the idea for my project. While researching, you can compare and contrast faculty members' opinions with your assigned mentor and discuss their differing approaches to the same problem.

Regarding staying motivated and inspired, it is important to remember that your journey through SCI 299 is anything but linear. It is guaranteed that you will encounter roadblocks of all kinds, from laboratory unavailabilities, to limited literature on your chosen topic, to



**Student Emma Glover at Science 299: Supervised Study in Science poster session in spring 2022. Photo courtesy of Nathan DuPriest**

sometimes monotonous laboratory work that makes you question your interest in your chosen topic. You might do very well throughout the semester and then struggle when practicing for the poster presentation session in the final two weeks of the course. Remember that the purpose of this class is not only to expand your knowledge on a specific topic but also to prepare you for the many unexpected hurdles characteristic of scientific research and careers.

I will finish with the single most important piece of advice repeatedly given by the course coordinators and faculty mentors of SCI 299: get ahead. You should do your best to get ahead in any way that you can, whether by developing your project idea early, ordering supplies before you start the project, or trying to finish your laboratory work as soon as possible. Developing your research scheme in advance gives you the time to find something that you are truly passionate about and zero in on an fascinating but workable idea. Securing supplies as soon as possible can safeguard your project from shipping delays and shortages. Working ahead of schedule can buffer procedural mistakes, laboratory unavailabilities, and even make room for you to expand your original project plan within reason.

As a science major at PVCC, you will be responsible for directing yourself through a research course. You will have command over your exact topic of study and your laboratory schedule. Having completed prerequisites taught in a uniform and systematic manner, SCI 299: Supervised Study in Science puts your many acquired skills into practice. Creativity takes control.

# University of Richmond Campus Experience

Johnson Li, staff writer

University of Richmond is a private liberal arts institution in downtown Richmond, founded in 1830. According to their website, there are 3,890 students enrolled, including graduate students. No classes are taught by teaching assistants. Most of the students are from out of state.

This year, University of Richmond hosted Preview Richmond, an event held on Oct. 14. The event ran like an open house and registration was required upon coming to campus.

When I first walked into the University of Richmond campus it felt like walking inside the school from Harry Potter. The buildings resembled Gothic architecture, and the Westhampton Lake was beautiful. The Tyler Haynes Commons buildings are across the lake, and wildlife such as geese enjoy their time floating in the water.

There were many out of state high school students with family members visiting. I attended a financial aid workshop, which mostly focused on first-year students. Transfer students are only eligible for need-based aid.

Afterward, I went to the social sciences, humanities, and arts fair. I had many opportunities to talk with advisers and professors about their undergraduate major programs. I talked with the three departments I was most passionate about: language, education, and history. What makes the University of Richmond language department special is that they offer a variety of world languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Russian. University of Richmond is one of the few private universities in Virginia that offers an undergraduate major in Education. This allows students to earn a teaching license in Virginia. University of Richmond offers many enriching history courses for students to choose from. According to the University of Richmond website, they offer courses that are solely focused on one country, such as Russian history.

One great experience I had at this event was getting the opportunity to eat at the on-campus dining hall, where the food quality was excellent. According to their website, the University of Richmond was ranked ninth for best campus food

by the Princeton Review. The dining hall that I went to for lunch was the Heilman Dining Center. They have a Panini Station and Deli Bar. For vegetarians, they offered a variety of dishes. This included caramelized onion quinoa, roasted butternut squash, and grilled asparagus.

The last event for the day was a student life panel where visitors were given a tour of the residence hall, and were given a chance to ask current students about the university. Current students talked about why they chose to go to University of Richmond, and what job or internship opportunities they did.

This was my second time visiting the University of Richmond. I enjoyed every moment that I spent there because the students were friendly. When I passed by a University of Richmond student, they were quick to acknowledge me. Students are also fortunate to have the opportunity to explore the city of Richmond due to their close proximity to many restaurants and fun places to go. According to visitrichmondva.com, there are more than 900 restaurants in the city of Richmond.

Preview Richmond is a great way to get a sense of the university. There is a big difference between touring the university in person and touring it virtually.

After visiting, I have encouraged my community college friends to visit the University of Richmond in person. This is a great way for anyone to interact with the students and find out if they would enjoy learning in this campus environment.



# The Path to a Ph.D.: Notes from Dr. Corina

Luca Gett, staff writer

What is a Ph.D.? A talk by PVCC Adjunct Professor of Biology Dr. Corina Marziano, organized with the Scrubs Club and the Science Club, addressed this question. At noon on Sept. 28, following PVCC's 50th anniversary photo event and during the fall semester trial of the new Charles T. Baber Leadership Development Program, three students and three faculty members gathered in Room 210 of the Keats Science Building. Marziano, who put together a slide presentation, gave a concise and general overview of what it takes to earn a Ph.D., while leaving plenty of room for questions at the end. Still, she added more details relevant to her field: the biomedical sciences.

Marziano began the presentation with her academic and professional background. She attained a bachelor's degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati and Evanston, Ohio, where she had her first encounter with biomedical research, studying L-type calcium channels and their relation to coronary arteries. She then took a gap year as a technician at Cincinnati University, before earning her Ph.D. in vascular physiology from UVA. As a postdoctorate, Marziano has been studying cell and developmental biology while teaching as an adjunct professor at PVCC. Marziano is soon leaving both positions and returning to Cincinnati, where she will work as an analytical chemist for clinical research studies.

Marziano then began her discussion on Ph.D.s with a visualization from Dr. Matt Might of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The circle of knowledge illustration displayed the whole of human knowledge. It showed concentric expanding rings representing acquired knowledge throughout elementary and secondary schooling. Undergraduate study appeared similarly, but with a slight spike for specialization. Ph.D. students, through collected boundary expansions, add to the sum of human knowledge. These additions were shown as tiny protrusions from the circle of knowledge in particular areas.

After showing a brief glimpse of brightly colored lymphatic cell culture pictures relevant to her research, Marziano discussed the time frame, five to seven years, as well as the beginning course requirements of a Ph.D. program. "They're

like undergraduate classes but highly specific to what you want to study," Marziano explained when asked what her preliminary Ph.D. coursework looked like. After completing prerequisites, Ph.D. students must plan, propose, revise, and carry out their research.

Marziano discussed the job market and professional responsibilities of a Ph.D. graduate. While most commonly thought of as professors and researchers, she mentioned policymaking, journalism, manufacturing, and publishing as other sectors open to those with a professional doctorate. Marziano then clarified that many graduates move between different professions in the span of their working lives, stating, "Your career can be really, really fluid." The responsibilities that come with having a Ph.D. were attending seminars, presenting your work at seminars, and keeping updated on literature relevant to your field, to name a few.

What does a Ph.D. program teach, in a broader sense? Marziano highlighted a few skills candidates will master by the end of their professional doctorate journey. Curiosity, effective communication, creativity, and collaboration were among them. The time commitment requiring daily and yearly planning was another aspect of Ph.D. programs that she emphasized. "It can go a little longer or shorter depending on your experience," said Marziano.

When asked about any roadblocks encountered during the completion of her Ph.D. program, Marziano stated, "Generally, roadblocks could be you start investigating a question and it doesn't go the way you want it to. Mentor and trainee relationships are also really important, so sometimes disagreements can slow you down," later adding that she finished hers in an uncharacteristically short four years.

Marziano ended her slide presentation with a subtitled animation strip from Disney's Treasure Planet on the difference between having a Ph.D. and being a medical doctor. She joked that she is tired of being asked medical questions by her family members. With few audience members attending the presentation, Marziano went into plenty of detail when asked specific questions about her research and finished with a discussion on how Ph.D. programs have changed over the decades.

# Climate Journalist Enthralls Geology Club

Malachi Keys, staff writer

On Sept. 26, the campus' Geology Club received a visit from climate change journalist Sarah Kaplan. Kaplan, who has been working at The Washington Post for eight years, shared her experiences covering various stories around the globe via Zoom with the group.

The journalist's main focus of the event was discussing one of her latest stories involving a crisis near the Andes Mountains in Peru. A town of about 100,000 people in Peru are being threatened by an impending flood that could be a result of climate change. One of the town's citizens, Saul, a farmer and mountain guide, decided to take matters into his own hands by filing a lawsuit against one of Europe's largest companies that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Kaplan flew to Peru to document Saul's story.

PVCC students were encouraged to ask questions about the situation to learn in more detail. Associate Professor of Geology Callan

Bentley, who organized the event, finished what he wanted to ask the writer and opened up the floor to students who had questions. Many students asked about developments on foreign policy.

In addition to speaking about the stories she's covered, Kaplan found time to discuss her career trajectory. Kaplan attended Georgetown University in D.C., majoring in Geology and Foreign Policy, and began working on the student paper there. Following her graduation, she wrote in Washington D.C. for an outlet, covering overnight stories. She noted it was bad for health, but necessary for the career that she wanted to have.

Kaplan took a keen interest in the students that attended and made sure they knew she was in their shoes too, and even provided her email address to those that were interested in speaking with her more.

Overall, with the meeting lasting over an hour, it seemed to be a successful event for the Geology Club.



The Geology Club collecting rock samples. Photo courtesy of Caroline Kenney

# Rivanna River Alliance Celebrates Clean-Up

Benjamin Marcus, staff writer

In a statement on their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/RivConAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/RivConAlliance)), the Rivanna Conservation Alliance (a nonprofit watershed organization founded in 2016) celebrated that “The third annual River Round-Up was one for the books!” This River Round-Up took place on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The Round-Up involved groups of volunteers walking and wading at various sites chosen by the Rivanna Conservation Alliance or working to clean up spots near their neighborhoods. The Alliance provided them with plastic trash bags, gloves, devices to grab trash from a distance, and other useful supplies. The locations for this clean-up included Greenbrier Park and Moors Creek.

In addition to cleaning on foot, the Round-Up also saw volunteers and Rivanna Conservation Alliance members cleaning the river in paddle boats. These efforts were focused around Brook Hill River Park and an area downstream from Palmyra. Volunteers who did not have access to boats of their own could use boats from the Rivanna River Company (a local canoe and kayak rental and a supporter of the Rivanna Conservation Alliance).

The volunteer turnout on Saturday was large, with a combined total of 243 volunteers working in groups to remove 148 trash bags full of litter from the Rivanna and surrounding streams and trails. In the message on their Facebook, the Rivanna Conservation Alliance thanked “everyone who paddled, bushwhacked, and waded to make our watershed a cleaner place for everyone.”



**Canoes retrieve tires.**  
Photo courtesy of Rivanna Conservation Alliance



**A large group picking up trash.** Photo courtesy of Rivanna Conservation Alliance

# Fraternity Hosts Fall Festival for Philanthropy

Alec Sherwood, staff writer

While other students at UVA spent their Saturday enjoying college football or imbibing at a day party, the brotherhood of Phi Delta Theta took the opportunity to host its annual philanthropic event, Fall Phest.

For \$5, admitted guests enjoyed painting and carving pumpkins, jumping in a bounce house, and listening to the high treble sound of the fraternity band, Weekends and Wednesdays. Philanthropy chair Cyrus Rody-Ramazani served homemade cider and thanked guests for their attendance, preserving the warm feelings of fall even after the sun went down.

Around noon on Saturday, Oct. 22, the brothers kicked on the air pump and watched as the colorful bounce house sprang to life. Handmade banners stretched from tree to tree in the front yard of the fraternity's house on Grady Avenue, creating a carnival arena for the festival activities. The band set their audio equipment onto a make-shift wooden stage and prepared for the next four hours of continuous jamming. Duraan Miskinyar, an executive office holder in Phi Delt, hustled a box of adorable pumpkins

to a nearby table, spreading bottles of acrylic paint on its surface. According to Ramazani, "It takes the effort of everyone to make this event successful."

As guests arrived, the venue became animated with conversation, laughter, and an ensemble of autumn colors. Once the crowd settled, Weekends and Wednesdays kicked the energy into high gear with their cover of The Strokes' song "Reptilia." The band gained recent notoriety from their performances at venues on The Corner and used their reputation to attract an audience for the festival.

Jack Emerson, lead guitarist and founder, viewed the festival as the perfect time to "show off the wholesome side of our group." He said, "The events where we make no money are as important as the events where we do."

As the energy wound down, Fall Phest proved to be an enjoyable alternative to the weekend itinerary of the average UVA student.

Through the festival alone, they managed to raise over \$1200 for the Charlottesville Habitat for Humanity.

Ramazani continues to accept donations from friends and family, hoping to bring in at least another \$1000.



Weekends and Wednesdays band members performing  
Photography by Alec Sherwood

# First View of the Farmers Market at IX Park

Gianni Strazzullo, staff writer

IX Park near Downtown Charlottesville on 2nd Street is primarily known for its cultural art murals and sculptures representing multiple generations of art styles and is always open, free to the public. For the park, there is always one weekly event that brings in hundreds of residents from Charlottesville and surrounding areas; the IX Park farmers market on Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to noon. Going to the weekly farmers market is a routine in my family because my mom usually goes there for fresh fruits and other delicious morsels. She usually goes by herself or takes one of my sisters, but this time, I decided to go with her.

When we arrived at the farmers market, it was packed with stands at nearly every corner of the park. I had thought that it was just about the locally grown food from around the county and state, but there was more to it than that. The market also had wooden antiques like trains and an antique clock shaped like the state of Virginia, a wide assortment of bumper stickers that represented Virginia, and even a cannabis company.

Throughout my life, I have never seen such a diverse range of fresh and locally grown food



A rack of tie-dye shirts.  
Photography by Gianni Strazzullo

from anywhere in the state, even at other farmers markets, they served really cool desserts with different kinds of bread and very interesting vegan food. All the food looked pretty appetizing, and any traveling foodie would most likely feel like they were in heaven from what each food stand had. The food ranged from fruits, vegetables, baked goods, confections, and internationally-influenced food from Mexico, Jamaica, and many other countries. While there, my mom and I bought some apples from Crozet's Henley Orchard company, a pot pie, and some bread for my sisters.

I have to admit that although I thought the experience was going to be really boring, I found it to be quite pleasant.. I really enjoyed looking at all the different tents that featured where each of the products and companies came from, along with what they had to offer. I also appreciated the market being at IX Park because I understood doing it at a place that has had a lot of cultural influence on local art in Charlottesville and Virginia because I believe that the area of the park was a good setting for the market and the tents and food really blended well with the surrounding art. I would recommend going to an event like the IX farmers market in Charlottesville, even if it means getting up early in the morning.



A look at commemorative Virginia stickers.  
Photography by Gianni Strazzullo

# Fluvanna Farmers Market: More than Produce

Gabriella Barber, assistant editor

The Fluvanna Farmers Market held in front of Ace Hardware is a fantastic Sunday morning adventure from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The event includes a variety of vendors, live music that changes weekly, and children's games. (Although children's games were advertised, they were not available when I showed up.)

At this farmers market, many of the vendors did not offer much fresh produce, but did offer clothing, jewelry, baked goods, barbeque, wooden dining goods, and hemp related goods.

The one vendor that offered fresh produce was called Crickhollow Farm. At first glance, I thought the stand only offered peppers because the table was packed with a colorful variety of fresh peppers. I then glanced over at the menu, which showed that meat and veggies were also available, but not within eyesight. Prices at this stand ranged from \$3 to \$13.

Clothing was available at the Peach Pie vendor. This stand mostly sold aprons, baby clothing, and market bags (which made sense after perusing their Facebook page). According to their business card, Peach Pie clothing is "created from second life material-drapes, tablecloths and other estate sale finds." The clothing was often one solid pattern, maybe two, and many of the bags were double sided (meaning the user can flip the bag inside out and it will work as it did before).

Southern Winds offered many different jewelry options, many of them seasonal and contributing to a fantastic spooky feeling I fell for. I ended up purchasing two pairs of earrings for \$12 each. Both pairs of earrings had QR codes attached to the back for customers to scan and use to find products. I had trouble scanning the codes, but I was able to find goods on the Facebook page.

Baked goods were available at two separate stands. One stand was called Viva la nosh and offered breads, biscottis, bagels, and macarons. All prices ranged from \$2.50 to \$10. The second stand had two vendors, Susanna's Goody Bag and Nana's Country Kitchen. Both "Nana" and Susanna seemed to be working together to sell their products. They talked me into buying an

Apple Streusel Coffee Cake for \$4.50. The cake was soft, sweet, and moist with a dry yet still sweet crumble topping that pulled it together very nicely. Their prices ranged from \$3.50 to \$10.

Meat Wagon BBQ LLC made Barbeque available to customers. Both hot food to eat at the farmers market and chilled food to bring home and heat up were available. There was a BBQ sandwich with coleslaw for \$7 and a BBQ Bowl for \$9 available to be eaten at the event. The to-go menu had many different items on it, many related to barbeque, with just a few outliers. All their prices ranged from \$5 to \$26.

GES Turning showed off an array of different wooden bowls, cups, and decorations. I did not look at many of the prices because they were located on the bottom of the products. I did come across a small red wooden cup that caught my eye, and it was priced at \$60.

Lastly, two stands were set up towards the back of the farmers market with CBD and hemp being advertised. The first stand I walked up to was Way West Wellness, which only offered three products: CBD Pain Roll-on (\$39, for muscle pains and aches), Hemp Seed Oil (\$15, often used for cooking), and CBD oil for pets. On their website, they offer a full background on the science behind what they make and offer a larger variety of products that can be shipped to a customer's home.

The second stand offered a wide range of CBD and hemp products that were both confusing and intriguing. The vendor didn't seem to only be selling one brand of product, but multiple. A few brands presented included Full Spectrum Hemp Honey, Panashe, and Mount Zion. This stand offered a variety of different edible and smokable CBD products but not many visible or solid prices.

Overall, the farmers market held my full attention for over an hour and kept me wishing I had stuffed a few more dollars in my wallet.

For those looking to get involved in the event, Scott Murdoch can be contacted at [sagm@aol.com](mailto:sagm@aol.com) for music reservations. Peggy Shaglin at [peggyshaglin@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyshaglin@hotmail.com) (434-962-2762) or Cat Gardner at [cat@twolabscoffee.com](mailto:cat@twolabscoffee.com) (703-926-3699) can be contacted for booking a lot.

# Paying Homage to the Summer with the Sunset

Alec Sherwood, staff writer

As the late afternoon shifts into the evening with the descending sun, students, families, and couples fill the parking lot at Carter Mountain Orchard. Not far from Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, the orchard sits at the edge of the city, providing a bird's eye view of Charlottesville and the never-ending mountain ridges to the East.

There is music in the air, and the savory aromas of wood-fired pizza and authentic Charlottesville BBQ draw a crowd to the centerpiece of the orchard. Soon after the gates open at 6 p.m., the line for entry becomes congested with those eager to purchase the \$10 ticket at the door. To avoid this hassle, patrons have the option of paying online before the event on the Carter Mountain website.

Every Thursday evening from 6-9 p.m. from May to September, the orchard hosts the Sunset

Series. Underneath a canopy of warm string lights, patrons relax on blankets, enjoy food on picnic tables, and anticipate the beautiful sight of the sun setting on the Blue Ridge Mountains. During this wait, Root Cellar Remedy creates an ambiance with a recognizable classic rock sound, merged with blues. While the lines for food and drink are long, the view of the sun is never stunted. Those willing to wait enjoyed a delicious slice of Blue Ridge Pizza and the envy of their friends.

When asked about why students find the venue an attractive destination for a Thursday night, UVA student Elizabeth McKniff said, "I haven't seen a good sunset in a while." It may be as simple as that. For McKniff and her friends, "It is about the vibes."

While the sunset series at Carter Mountain reaches its finale on Thursday, Sept. 29, the vibes offered by the orchard remain open to the public throughout the day until the start of the new year.



Patrons of the Sunset Series converse while gazing at the colors of the horizon.  
Photography by Alec Sherwood

# Getting Lost in Virginia

Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah, staff writer

Located in Somerset, Virginia, a 40-minute drive northeast from PVCC, is Liberty Mills Farm: a family-owned farm. According to their website, it was established in 2010 by the Woods family. The area has hills of greenery and does not have many buildings, but that does not mean it lacks fun activities. Open for the season until Nov. 13, the farm's corn maze is bound to bring out your sense of adventure.

On Saturday, Oct. 22, PVCC's International Club visited the farm to navigate through the 34-acre corn maze. We were separated into groups of four or five, and each group was able to choose any of the four different maze options: Story Maze, Trivia Maze, Hole Punch Maze, or Mystery Maze. The Mystery Maze is a great option if you would like to see where your sense of direction takes you as there is no map, unlike the other three mazes. The students who tried the Hole Punch Maze had to find letters throughout the maze to complete the word.

Cedric Santiago, one of the PVCC students who did the Hole Punch Maze, said, "The corn maze was a really great challenge and was a fantastic team-building experience. I now know who to trust if we are ever lost."

Walking in the pathways of the maze, the stalks of corn towered over everyone, not allowing even the tallest person there to cheat their way out of the maze. The sun was right above our heads with no clouds in the sky. Along the journey, we encountered many creatures such as fluffy caterpillars and tiny spiders. We ran into other people in the maze; some of them went the opposite direction, which made us question our path, but it was all in good fun.

After escaping the maze, the club members decided to release their inner child at the playground which had a tall slide, giant table checkers, and more. We also stopped by the gift store, which sold many homemade goods from the farm. There we encountered Kent Woods, one



**International Club students in the Corn Maze.  
Photography by Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah**

of the members of the Woods family. He said, "We have a map hanging near the register where we let guests put a pin on where they are from. So far, I believe, there are 62 countries pinned on that map and we would love for you to pin your countries as well." The International Club managed to add a few more countries to the list including Myanmar, Tunisia, Malaysia, and Philippines.

Liberty Mills Farm has different operating hours depending on the activity you plan to do. Evie Woods, who was handling the register, mentioned that buying tickets on site is cheaper than buying them online, and the maze ticket also includes hayrides.

## RVA, Charles City Featured in *Raymond and Ray*



Ewan McGregor and Ethan Hawke in *Raymond & Ray*. Photo courtesy of Apple TV+

Adina Wall, staff writer

Virginia Film Festival presented a sneak preview of *Raymond and Ray* at The Paramount Theater on Sept. 25. The audience cheered to see brothers, Raymond and Ray, in Richmond and Charles City. Their characters were played by Ethan Hawke and Ewan McGregor as they find themselves brought together to, quite literally, bury their dead father.

Guest speakers included director Rodrigo Garcia and producer Julie Lynn, who shared their experience working on *Raymond and Ray*. The idea of filming in Richmond was weighed against other cities like Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

Lynn has a personal connection to Virginia because she is a UVA alumni. She expressed she was delighted by the opportunity to showcase Richmond's jazzy, southern feel which served as a backdrop to a heartwarming story about loss, family, and new chapters.

Humor isn't an emotion that we normally associate with death. But *Raymond and Ray* brings light to nontraditional family structures and how loss has a different meaning depending on your relationship (or lack thereof) with a person.

The less-than two hour film airs out the skeletons in the closet and invites new opportunities for the brothers. At the heart of it all are familiar views of the James River, surrounding country roads, and familiar neighborhoods such as Jackson Ward and Church Hill.

The movie was previewed in celebration of the upcoming annual VA Film Festival's 35th anniversary. This year's festival dates are Nov. 2-6.

For more information like how to obtain tickets (which are free for UVA students), upcoming events, and everything in-between you can visit [virginiafilmfestival.org](http://virginiafilmfestival.org) or email [info@virginiafilmfestival.org](mailto:info@virginiafilmfestival.org).

# See How They Run is Good, Clean Fun

April Navarro, staff writer

*See How They Run* is an irreverent murder mystery that differentiates itself from all the other irreverent murder mysteries coming out in the wake of 2019's smash hit *Knives Out* through an obsession with self-reference. While hardly breaking new ground, it's nevertheless a quality entry in the ongoing murder mystery renaissance.

In 1950s London, the run of Agatha Christie's murder mystery play *The Mousetrap* is interrupted when an American director hired to adapt the play for Hollywood is actually-for-real murdered the night of the play's 100th performance. The director, portrayed by a wonderfully arrogant Adrien Brody, is hardly a pleasant personality, running afoul of just about everyone with anything to do with the production.

Tasked with capturing the culprit are Inspector Stoppard (Sam Rockwell), a seasoned vet with a drinking problem, and Constable Stalker (Saoirse Ronan), a plucky rookie who has read too many detective novels.

It's a played-out dynamic, certainly, but the charisma of the two leads keeps the development of the two's relationship from feeling totally perfunctory. Ronan in particular brings a bumbling decency to her part that's hard not to be charmed by, and so her inevitable earning of her superior's respect is satisfying in spite of the predictability of it all.

The rabbit hole Stoppard and Stalker find themselves falling down isn't as convoluted as a veteran of the genre might hope. Compared to the aforementioned *Knives Out*, it's a little tame. Its only big surprise is saved for the final reveal. What it's got going for it in place of labyrinthine plotting is playful metatextuality. The ways in



Sam Rockwell and Saoirse Ronan in the film *See How They Run*.  
Photo courtesy of 20th Century Studios

which the real-life investigation does and doesn't mirror the play going on in the background is fun, and the hackneyed narrative techniques the American filmmaker imagines for his Hollywood adaptation seeping their way into the film we're watching sure is cheeky. At its worst, these self-aware moments can feel cheap and self-congratulatory. One suspect, a writer, rails against flashbacks in stories right before the film cuts to weeks earlier. Real clever, guys.

Another thing in the film's favor is how aggressively British it is. The wit is dry, and the telephone boxes are red as they come. The posher parts of London's West End are rendered in an ornate style that would do Wes Anderson proud. At one point a character bribes another for information with a tin of scones, and isn't that just brilliant?

If you're looking for a whimsical mystery that doesn't take itself too seriously, then you could do a lot worse than *See How They Run*. It will tide you over until *Glass Onion* comes out later this year.

Disclaimer: the author of this article is an employee of Violet Crown and received free tickets to this film.

# Mysteries of Free Movie Fridays

Gianni Strazzullo, staff writer

When I think about college or local events, I see them as stress relievers from college work. On Friday, Oct. 21, I decided to check out PVCC's Free Movie Friday at the Dickinson Theatre. This month's Free Movie Friday was showing Jordan Peele's neo-western science fiction horror *Nope*.

However, I came to this event to ask two questions about the event. My main question, however, was "How are Free Movie Friday movies selected?"

I spoke with the person who runs the event, Associate Professor of Art Fenella Belle, about these specific questions. "Movies are selected based on the audience, the PVCC students, and the Charlottesville community," she said, "Culture also plays an important factor in selecting."

"Movies are also selected based on what is a good movie," she said, "Holidays could also play a factor."

She then told me that after this most recent

event, the next one will be in November with a movie not yet determined. A couple of minutes later Belle made a quick statement welcoming everyone who attended the event, and at 7:30 p.m. she played the movie on the big screen.



This was the first time I entered the Dickinson Theatre, it was bigger than I expected with the chairs facing inward and the stage was a little smaller than ones at my old primary schools, but I think it's actually bigger with the curtain raised. I didn't stay around for the whole movie, but from the length of the movie I watched, it was a pretty interesting movie.

Free Movie Friday is a great event for those who are movie buffs and always want to see a good movie selected and want the feel of watching them in a movie theater.



Comic by Lauren Cottrell

# Stop and Stare: *She-Hulk* Polarizes Viewers

Malachi Keys, staff writer

The Marvel Cinematic Universe's (MCU) newest installment of *She-Hulk* on Disney+ is 5 episodes in and heavily polarizing. With the season complete and all episodes being released and available to the public, we have a general idea of just how good it is.

Unlike most Marvel shows to this point, *She-Hulk* breaks the fourth wall. *She-Hulk* (Jennifer Walters played by Tatiana Maslany) speaks to her viewers comically. Breaking the fourth wall can be pulled off in some situations: *She-Hulk* is not one of them. Aside from the show's quirks, which is unique and entertaining, the series feels poorly written and not well-thought-out.

Many of the jokes on the show don't land well. Most Marvel shows have a consistent storyline, while *She-Hulk* deals with different characters essentially every episode. It's almost more of a sitcom than a traditional superhero show. Right now, Disney seems to be pushing an agenda for equality. The company has been

producing more content highlighting people of color and women in major roles, and *She-Hulk* is one of those projects. Walters often explains the difficulties of being a woman in everyday society. She explains how she's catcalled and gets objectified by men. However, in that very same episode she can be found shaking her rump on camera with Megan Thee Stallion. It feels counterproductive to the important message the writers are trying to get across.

On top of that, the CGI is less than stellar. Marvel is generally great about the CGI quality, producing breathtaking scenes. At times, *She-Hulk* looks extremely unrealistic. Aside from the individuality of the show itself, *She-Hulk* is very relatable as a character, and she resonates with many of the viewers of the show. Recently, Marvel has been pushing out a lot of projects with lots of new characters. A new show comes out about every three months, almost too many to keep up with. Many have stated that they would like the quality to be higher at the expense of less shows; *She-Hulk* is exhibit A.



Tatiana Maslany as Jennifer "Jen" Walters/She-Hulk in Marvel Studios' *She-Hulk: Attorney at Law*, exclusively on Disney+. Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

# Classifieds

## The Fall Line 2023

*PVCC's Literary Magazine*

*Brought to you by the Creative Writing Club*



### Writers may submit:

- Up to ten double-spaced pages of prose
- Ten pages of graphic narrative (or comics)
- Three poems

**Submissions are due on  
Monday, Feb. 6, 2023**



**Submission Guidelines**



**Submit here!**



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