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Witness the Spectacle of Light in PVCC's Annual Celebration

Check out the PVCC
Costume Contest,
pages 16-17

Alec Sherwood, staff writer

PVCC will host its annual Let There Be Light exhibition on Friday, Dec. 9, showcasing light-centered installations and performances. With the trails of light illuminating the campus, visitors will explore artwork surrounding the V. Earl Dickinson Building while enjoying complimentary hot chocolate or cider. During the darkest and coldest period of the year, Let There Be Light aims to bring light and warmth through community and artwork.

Artists from across the Charlottesville area will include their pieces in the show. Students from the Peabody School, the Renaissance School, and members of the Boys and Girls Club will create art for the event. The PVCC Art Club will partner with a filmmaker to create an interactive shadow-puppet experience along the

riverbank. Following a stage performance, visitors will be allowed to perform their own acts before the audience.

In addition to Charlottesville artists, Let There Be Light will partner with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to include the museum's mobile gallery, VMFA on the Road: An Artmobile for the 21st Century, a collection exploring portraiture through a variety of periods, cultures, and styles. Many of the works in this exhibition focus on the nature of art, the perception of beauty, and the cultural influences on identity.

Event Curator and Associate Professor of Art at PVCC Fenella Belle places a special emphasis on the occasion. "In spite of the dark, cold winter," said Belle, "this idea is to give us a reason to connect with each other when our

See Light on page 4



Cumulosity, by Elizabeth Cassell, Let There Be Light 2021.
Photo courtesy of PVCC Marketing & Media Relations

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DATES TO REMEMBER

— **FlyDog Yoga *** —
Dec. 9 and 16, noon, Fitness Center

— **Science Symposium *** —
Dec. 9, 12:30-1:30 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

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

— **SGA Study Party** —
Dec. 12 and 13, 5-10 p.m., Tutoring Center

— **Geology Club Bake Sale** —
Dec. 12, noon to 2 p.m., Bolick Student Center

— **What's Your Word? Stress Relief Event ***—
Dec. 14 and 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bolick Student Center

— **Fall Semester Final Exams** —
Dec. 14-20

— **16-week Classes Begin** —
Jan. 9

— **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday** —
Jan. 16, all day, no classes

— **PVCC Club & Activities Fair *** —
Jan. 25 and 26, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Main Building

— **ThinkFast PVCC 50th Anniversary Challenge *** —
Feb. 2, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bolick Student Center

— **One Mic Stand *** —
Feb. 9, 7-8:15 p.m., Dickinson Black Box Theatre

— **Spring Break** —
March 6-10, no classes

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

Celebrating Election Day at PVCC

Gianni Strazzullo, staff writer

In support of election day, on Nov. 7, Assistant Professor of Political Science Connie Jorgensen and civic engagement internship students held a pizza and sugar cookie lunch party in the Bolick Student Center. The sugar cookies spelled “USA” in red and blue frosting with a miniature United States flag on each. Pouncer the Panther also roamed the Student Center, celebrating the occasion with the students.

Malachi Keys, one of the students who helped run the event, shared his assorted contributions to spread voting awareness. “It feels really good. I always love to help people, and there are a lot of ways to try to help people today,” he said. “I feel like getting people to get out and vote is one of the best ways to influence change. I want to do anything I can to promote that, and this party I feel will help with this.” The group was in Bolick Student Center from noon until 1 p.m.

They also gave out voter guides to any passers by and had voting booths and sample ballots with the electoral candidates on display.

“This is a really important election coming up, and I feel like it is significant if I can get as many people to vote as possible. Because with same day registration, there is no excuse not to vote. So go vote,” Keys said.

**CIVIC
SENSE**
*engaging students in the civic
life of their communities*



Student Government Association News:

Bridging the Student-Teacher Gap

Liam Hubbard, staff writer

In a community like PVCC, interpersonal communication and contact in the various clubs, activities, and organizations are qualities that are often a result of the close, friendly nature of the campus.

A college based in a community will tend to have tight knit groups within. This quality was found in researching and interviewing a number of the members of our PVCC student government. The current key team comprises Hadrien Padilla (president), Austin Warrington (vice president), Malcolm James (treasurer), Maia Smith (public affairs representative), and Johnson Li (secretary).

It was indicated by Padilla that, as a result of the pandemic and personnel changes, this was a transitional period for the organization but, with the solid, interpersonal team at hand, the future looks productive for the student government.

The SGA here at PVCC has always been about serving the student body and acting as a voice in the school's conversational culture. While that core interest is still in play, a revised execution of it pertains to acting as a proactive bridge between students and faculty. In my interviews with Padilla and Smith, the nature of the PVCC student government seems to be more hands-on and proactive as a result of being in a community college environment. In turn, the gap seems easier to bridge.

Campus policies such as food availability, recreational freedom, and even student safety are all policies the student government has a part in. Their role within our society at PVCC is based largely on public dialogue and input directly from students.

Positions on the SGA team are currently application and interview based, and the variety of positions makes for participation in a variety of fields.

Smith, the public relations representative, found her place in student government via her interest in graphic design and media. Her

interests and skills in relation to her position are a clear indication of the wide array of responsibilities that one may not associate with student government.

As Smith put it, "It [graphic design] has always been a passion of mine, and it's great that I've found it here in my place in student government." Graphic design is just one element of student government because just as with civic engagement in the world abroad, every element of professional work is needed.

Padilla also spoke of student senators, students who apply to be direct ambassadors for specific clubs, classes, and other points of representation. Any student can be a student senator and would act as the voting party for student/campus policy presented by members of the core team.

For example, if a team member submits a proposal for pizza in the Bolick Student Center on Thursdays, the student senate would then vote on it. This fluid, democratic student policy based on the participation by the students is enlightening, and adds legitimacy to the power that the student community has.

The overarching goal is to create a student-faculty relationship that works towards a productive and cohesive end to open communication and student-lead policy. This makes it so a sufficient student government is not only positive but a necessity.

The direct policy decision-making of the student senate, combined with a dedicated team of multi-talented people makes our student government at PVCC alive, growing, and always making progress.

As the semester continues, it looks like the organization can finish healing from the pandemic and continue growth in student senate personnel and people who are looking to make their voice heard.

Seek out the next SGA town hall. There you can listen to discussions on school policy, ask a team member about student senate positions, and make your voice heard.

Feeding PVCC Families

Gabriella Barber, assistant editor

The food pantry at PVCC has recently been putting a large effort into feeding and helping members of the school community, staff and students alike. This past Halloween, Coordinator of the Student Financial Resource Center, Amanda Key, and members of the food pantry at PVCC handed out bags of food and supplies to students and staff in need for the Fill a Bag, Feed a Family event. Now she is looking forward to helping students in need during the Boxes for Break event happening in December.

Boxes for Break will be held on Dec. 14 from 4-6 p.m., right before students are released for winter break. The boxes are created by students for students and will contain a cookbook created by work study students that uses ingredients included in the box. The boxes will contain enough food for the break.

Key is happy to help and is looking to assist all the students that she can. She encourages any students in need to visit her in the PVCC Panther

Pantry in room M124.

“We want to educate them [students] on the resources that they are eligible for,” said Key. “Most of our students are eligible for things like Medicaid, and they don’t know that. I want to get them in the door so I can get them those benefits, and I can help them apply for all that.” Key can help students with applying for Medicaid, SNAP, and other federal and state resources.

Students interested in receiving a box should sign up as soon as possible. Registration is being held from Nov. 21 to Dec. 5 online, and there are 175 boxes available to be claimed.

For those looking for financial assistance, Key can be contacted by email or in the Financial Resource Center (M103), which is directly to the right of the PVCC Panther Pantry. The food pantry is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.. Any student can receive goods through the Panther Pantry. Students interested in receiving food from the pantry should remember to bring their school ID or be able to access their ID number. It will be needed for receiving food.

Light, continued from page 1



Boys and Girls club *Trash to Treasure*.
Photo courtesy of Fenella Belle

natural inclination may be to go inward and hibernate.” Although the holiday season can be celebrated differently, Let There Be Light creates a shared tradition of gift-giving through the interaction between artists and community members.

Let There Be Light will begin at 6 p.m. after sunset. Belle recommends to anyone interested in attending to dress appropriately for the weather and to bring a flashlight. Admission will be free, and parking will be available in the main and Dickinson lots. PVCC will invite several food trucks with food available.

The Let There Be Light website includes details from previous events, as well as a campus map.

“Light is the perfect medium to bring us out of our shells,” said Belle.

Because of the surrounding darkness, stumbling upon a new and unusual piece of art can spark the imagination and inspire celebration rather than hibernation as the Winter Solstice approaches.

PVCC's Education and Resource Fair



Table setups and fair-goers at the Education and Resource Fair. Photography by April Navarro

April Navarro, staff writer

On Thursday, Nov. 10, the Bolick Student Center was packed with information tables for the Education and Resource Fair. Tables were packed with the free swag typical of professional fairs, as well as with eye-catching, department-specific attractions. The Engineering table stood out with an elaborate model bridge, and the Diagnostic Medical Sonography table with a plastic stomach for mock ultrasounds. The Culinary Arts department maintained a steady crowd throughout the night thanks to its free cookies.

Held once a semester, the Education and Resource Fair is catered towards both current and prospective PVCC students. It showcases PVCC resources like the Student Financial Resource Center and Workforce Services, along with its various departments of study. Accounting, Nursing, Business, and Health Information Management were just some of the departments present. A complete list can be found on the PVCC web page for the fair.

Fair-goers had the opportunity to have their specific and potentially obscure questions answered by faculty. Four-year colleges also had

a presence at the fair, with representatives from Old Dominion University, James Madison University, Mary Baldwin University, and the University of Virginia set up to talk about the transferring process.

The crowd in attendance was diverse. PVCC students stood alongside high schoolers and the families of working adults interested in going back to school.

Denise McClanahan, outreach manager and the fair's primary organizer, was pleasantly surprised with the turn-out. "I wanted to give people the opportunity to talk with those who teach, professionals," she said.

The next Education and Resource Fair will be held in the spring. Those who missed out on this semester's fair that are interested in any of the organizations that were present can reach out to McClanahan for help with getting in-touch. Her email is dmcclanahan@pvcc.edu, and her phone number is 434-961-5275.

PVCC president Dr. Jean Runyon paid a visit to the Fair and was elated by its energy and bustle. "What I love about this is just the buzz in the room," she said. "Everyone's so excited. About careers, the future, industry cookies..."

Criminal Justice Careers Eat & Meet

Johnson Li, staff writer

On Thursday, Nov. 17 at noon, representatives from the Albemarle County Police Department and the U.S. Secret Service conducted a criminal justice career panel at PVCC. The event was organized by Trisha Kipps, program coordinator and assistant professor of police science & administration of justice, in collaboration with the PVCC's career services managers, André Luck and Gigi Davis. The event was open to the public.

The panel featured Captain Darrell Byers from the Albemarle County Police Department and Federal Officer Jeffrey Anglim from the U.S. Secret Service. About 20 people attended the event. Luck presented general questions to the panelists, and the audience asked follow-up questions. Towards the end of the closing session, the audience was able to have one-on-one conversations with the panelists.

The first question Luck asked the two panelists was "What attracted you to law enforcement as a career?" Anglim shared that he grew up in a community where most of his family and friends served as police officers. He also served in the Army Reserves. His experience in the Army Reserve, his liking for police and military discipline, and his family and friends who served as police officers motivated him to become a law enforcement officer. For Captain Darrel Byers, he wanted to become a police

officer in the Albemarle County Police Department because he grew up in the area and wanted to protect and serve his community.

Another question that Luck asked the two panelists was, "For somebody who is graduating from PVCC in the criminal justice program, what would be some of the entry-level positions?" Anglim said that it is hard to classify the U.S. Secret Service jobs that are entry-level, since the special agent side requires some experience. Applicants that have served in a police or military unit have an advantage in getting a special agent job. However, in the uniform division, experience is not required because you are getting trained and educated there.

Albemarle County Police Department offers a lot of internship opportunities for college students. For example, Byers shared that "Samantha is actually a part of our program now." Samantha, currently a PVCC criminal justice student, had the opportunity to work with the animal protection members, K9 officers, and victims and witnesses in the internship program.

PVCC offers both a Career Studies Certificate in Advanced Criminal Justice and an Associate of Applied Science degree in police science that prepares students to work in the law enforcement field.

Students enrolled in these programs are eligible to apply for internships to work at a police department, for which they can receive college credits.



André Luck (right), Jeffrey Anglim (middle), and Darrell Byers (left). Photography by Johnson Li

Revered Buddhist Shares Thoughts on Identity

Benjamin Marcus, staff writer

On Nov. 2, Geshe Lobsang Nyendak, chief editor of the Collected Works of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, came to PVCC to talk about Buddhist concepts of identity. This presentation was made possible by Danzing Thomson, PVCC's adjunct professor of Eastern Religion, who reached out to Nyendak and invited him to campus.

The presentation took place at noon in the Main Building auditorium (M229). It lasted for a little over an hour. While Nyendak can speak some English, he gave the entire presentation in Tibetan while Thomson, who is from the same region of Tibet as Nyendak, acted as his interpreter. The presentation was accompanied by a slideshow of Tibetan script with a swirling blue background.

Nyendak introduced a variety of perspectives from within Buddhism, explaining the thousand-year-old disagreements between different branches and their interpretations of identity. Some branches believed that identity was skin deep, starting and ending with a person's physical body. Some argued that identity was somehow tied to the mind. Others held that identity was

merely a person's name.

Nyendak offered his own interpretation, saying, "I am not my name. I am not my body either. Because my body is my property, just like my name is my property... There is still an 'I.' Something that is you." He left open the answer to what the self beyond the physical body and the assigned name truly was, and he moved on to discuss the consequences of failing to properly find your identity.

"Correctly identifying yourself can set you free. The misidentification can lead you to misery... It can lead to social instability." Nyendak explained that a fundamental part of unraveling your identity is understanding the distinction between your appearance and actuality. Appearance is the false perception of reality that keeps people from identifying themselves, while actuality is the true reality that can be discovered by closely scrutinizing your perception of reality and looking past the false impressions.

Buddhists believe that there are three "poisons" that hold a person back from identifying their true self. These poisons are anger, attachment, and ignorance. Of these three, Nyendak focused on attachment the most.

Through attachment to false concepts and perceptions, individuals define themselves by appearances instead of by realities and are unable to find their true identity until they serve those attachments.

At the same time, Nyendak argued that it is equally important to not view yourself as a singular individual, because we do not exist in a vacuum, and nothing happens independently. To properly identify ourselves, we must avoid attachment but still acknowledge that we are all connected to each other.

It is through these concepts, Nyendak believes, that every one of us can properly find ourselves and be freed from discontent and suffering.



Alma Latina Brings Rhythm and Soul to PVCC

Adina Wall, staff writer

The Latin Ballet of Virginia danced their *Alma Latina* at PVCC's V. Earl Dickinson Fine and Performing Arts Center on Oct. 15 paired with live music by Richmond's Kevin Davis & Ban Caribe Ensemble. Award-winning flamenco dancer and choreographer Francisco Mesa "El Nano" joined the artists to showcase the various rhythms and movements of the Latin spirit. Each dance was inspired by the different stories that represent their history and culture.

Opening sentiments were shared by Vice President of Instruction and Student Services John Donnelly who opened the evening by welcoming the musicians and dancers to the stage. He expressed gratitude to those in attendance and encouraged people to stay updated on upcoming events. We were told to enjoy the show, the lights went down, and the curtains opened to a performance of splendor.

The costumes featured a full spectrum of colors and Latin styles, spinning and soaring across the stage. The band played an array of instruments from percussion and strings to brass and woodwind. The sounds that filled the air were produced by talented musicians – Davis studied abroad in the Caribbean islands. There was even crowd interaction. Davis stepped to the front of the stage to guide the audience in improvisation. He split the auditorium into three sections and assigned each with a "boom" (stomp), "clap," and the last group was responsible for the "Hey!" And on cue the audience got a chance to make their own contributions to the show.

One of the highlights of the evening was a guest performance by Francisco Mesa "El Nano" who performed flamenco, a Spanish dance style characterized by stomping and hand-clapping that creates an artistic conversation between musician and dancer. In addition to performing with a handful of noteworthy flamenco choreographers across the world, he has also received first-place recognition for his own choreography in Madrid, Spain. All of the performances offered a taste of rich Latin history and culture. One example was a story told through movement and sound of the integration of African peoples that were brought against their will to the New World.

PVCC gives the opportunity to experience

sensational offerings with special rates for students and faculty. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events through the college's website. Ticket information is available online.



Francisco Mesa "El Nano."
Photo courtesy of PVCC Arts Coordinator

Experiencing English 112 with Meg Gardiner

Lane, staff writer

English 112, taught by Margaret (Meg) Gardiner, is a full semester class worth 3 credits that covers the expansive topics of English composition, argument, and rhetoric. Each semester, Gardiner chooses a theme for the papers students write. This year's theme was the environment, and we wrote a total of four papers, including an analysis paper, response paper, position paper, and research paper. There was a revision process for each assignment. Last year's theme was education, and she is still determining if next fall's ENG 112 will be either education or environment-based.

The class was laid back, but content rich, and very engaging. Gardiner is interesting, humorous, high energy, and well equipped for teaching. Forget about boring PowerPoint presentations in this class; Gardiner prefers to teach through workshops, class activities, group editing and discussions.

According to the syllabus, "ENG 112 further develops students' ability to write in academic and professional contexts. Students will apply critical thinking and reading techniques, demonstrate knowledge of rhetorical strategies, and conduct independent research to produce a range of academic and multimodal texts that effectively analyze, synthesize, and argue, culminating in a fully documented research paper." The only prerequisite is the successful completion and passing of ENG 111.

I asked Gardiner what her goal for her students was, and she laughed and said "I just want everybody to pass!" as she put her head down on the table. She shared that she wanted her students to "come out of class with confidence in our writing style and an understanding that instructors are actually interested in their ideas." She added, "We want to know what you think." Indeed she does, as she always cultivates discussions, open topics, and free thinking in her classroom.

Gardiner shares a wide breadth of knowledge with her students from personal experience. She has been a teacher for 27 years, and has been with PVCC since 2019. She also teaches ENG 111 at PVCC, and a January-term course on public speaking at UVA. She has a master's degree in



**Margret "Meg" Gardiner sitting by the ocean.
Photo courtesy of Gardiner**

English and Women's Studies from UVA.

No matter how many English courses one has taken, I can confidently say that students will learn something new in this course! There is a wide variety of topics covered in this course, but it focuses predominantly on argument. Students could write how they wanted and share what they believed important to each topic. The final research paper was topic-specific but broad enough for students to find something they were passionate about, and therefore could write a quality paper. All assignments in ENG 112 are due at the end of the semester, and throughout the semester they are peer reviewed, edited by Gardiner, and given either a "Complete" or "Incomplete" grade until being fully graded at the end of the year.

If a student is interested in attending a class with Gardiner, specifically ENG 112, they are welcome to check out SIS on the PVCC portal to see when and where the class will be held. She did share that she will not be teaching ENG 112 in the spring next year. There are many enthusiastic and knowledgeable professors who are teaching English 112 in the Spring, including Justin Wert, William Edwards, Nicole Oeschlim, Charles Quinn, and Bruce Glassco. Their profiles and credentials are on the PVCC website in addition to the section they are teaching.

A New English Class Awaits

Gianni Strazzullo, staff writer

Next semester, PVCC will offer a new literature class, English 225 Reading Literature: Culture and Ideas. The class is being taught by the Professor of English Dr. Nicole Oechslin.

“This is an updated version of my all-time favorite literature course,” she said. “There is a specific theme. It focuses on non-western cultures and postcolonial ideas from contemporary literature from Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Middle East.” The readings will include novels, stories, and poems about identity, nationalism, language, oppression, resistance, and liberation.

Oechslin also explained why students should

take the course. “Students will feel like they have traveled around the world once this class is done,” she said.

She shared a little bit about her background of why she is excited to teach the class. She is from the Virgin Islands, which has experienced colonial rule under seven different flags including Spain, France, England, Holland, the Knights of Malta, Denmark, and the United States of America, and that gives her some meaningful insight for the author’s portrayal of post-colonial themes.

The class is an online anytime class and is worth 3 credits. It also meets the Writing Intensive and Non-Western Perspective requirements.



Dr. Nicole Oechslin shows books from the class. Photo courtesy of Dr. Oechslin

Honing Skills in Introduction Journalism

Benjamin Marcus, staff writer

Many articles published by *The Forum* (this one included) began as assignments for ENG 121: Introduction to Journalism, which teaches students the principles of reading, writing, and editing articles.

In the coming semester, Introduction to Journalism will be a 16-week course, meeting twice a week in the Writing Center Lab (M627) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Introduction to Journalism is taught by Dr. Tamara Whyte, professor of English and faculty adviser for *The Forum* club. Whyte organizes the class as a workshop, with a variety of activities for students to learn, such as Associated Press style guidelines, how to look critically at journalistic writing, how to edit, how to interview, and how to write clearly and concisely.

Almost every week, students will find an article online for the class to discuss and write an article of their own on topics ranging from campus events to in-depth interviews with faculty members. If the student wants, every article they write can be edited and published in *The Forum*.

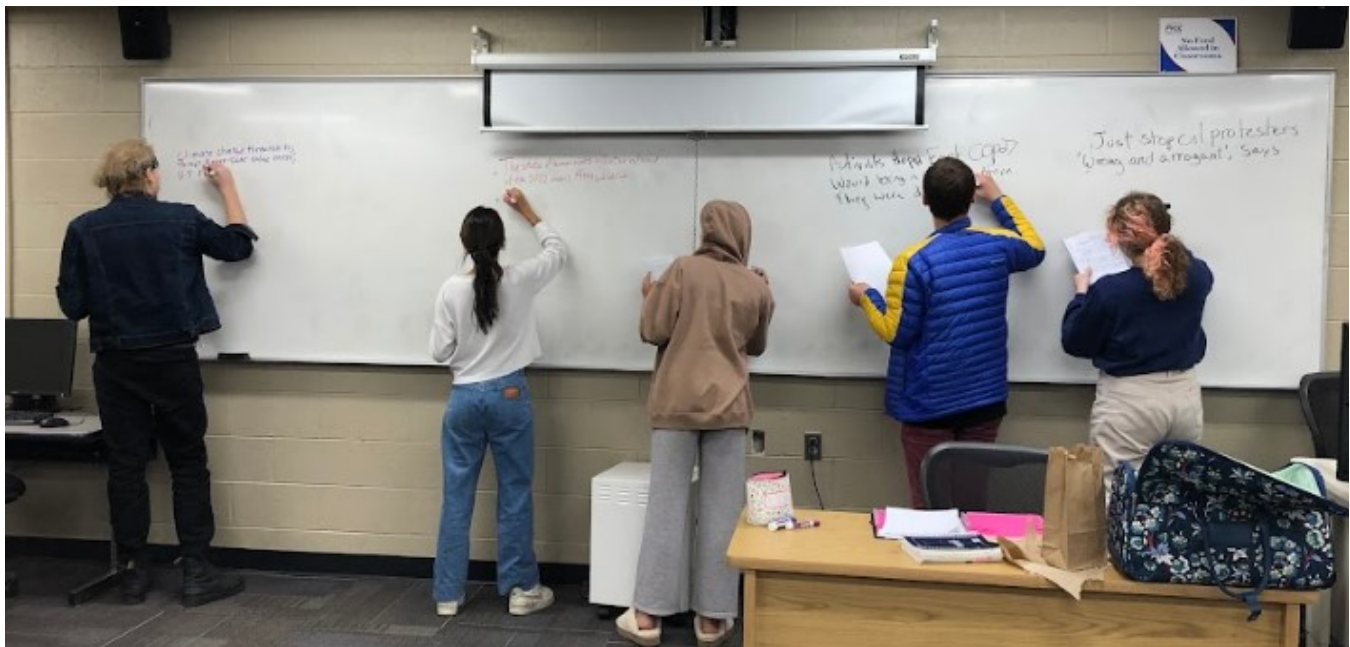
Even for students who do not intend to go into journalism professionally, the skills students learn and refine in class are still useful. Whyte said,

“You don't have to be interested in going into journalism to get a lot out of the class because it really helps you with writing, helps you with how to talk to people, how to describe things, and really develop as a writer and thinker.”

Alec Sherwood, a student who is taking Introduction to Journalism this semester, said, “Journalism allowed me to swallow my pride as a writer and challenge my conventions. While my career plans are by no means solidified, I know the critical lens required for journalism will be a useful skill in other areas of my life.”

Beyond the long-term skills taught by Introduction to Journalism, the class also fulfills the Civic Engagement requirement students must meet before they can graduate with an Associate's Degree. Many article assignments will lead to students attending various events and interviewing PVCC faculty or students, while also giving them the flexibility to write about topics that interest them.

During class, students will get to share both their own writing and professional journalism they found interesting since Whyte uses a wide range of activities to help students engage with the conventions of journalistic writing. “I run it as much like a newsroom as I can,” Whyte said. “It's a special class in that I feel like we get bonded because it's so collaborative.”



Students write recent headlines on the whiteboard for an activity. Photography by Benjamin Marcus

Introduction Philosophy: Challenging Authority

April Navarro, staff writer

Philosophy places life's most difficult questions front and center. What is true, and how do we know? How should we live? What kind of society is best for us all?

If you want an opportunity to grapple with these sorts of questions and examine your own beliefs in the process, consider enrolling in PHI 100 - Introduction to Philosophy this spring semester.

Stephen Marrone, PVCC associate professor of philosophy and the course instructor, stresses that philosophy is a set of tools to be exercised.

"It's a life skill," he said, "a thing that can make people's lives more comprehensible." Marrone knows how abstract philosophy can get and strives to make the subject's practical applications apparent. Some of the timely topics tackled in his class include climate change, internet censorship, and flat earth conspiracy theories.

Morgan Wile, a student currently taking the course, appreciates the chance the course gives her to follow her curiosity.

"It's a class that allows you to think freely and explore different ideas without being limited," she said. "We're given a lot of options to explore."

Marrone encourages his students not to abide by what he teaches and to bravely voice their dissent.

"Don't be afraid to challenge the person that's giving you instruction," he said. "Philosophy is unlike other fields in that if you're doing it well, you're in a position to question the person that's giving instruction. All of us are in a position to answer these questions for ourselves. Have the confidence to ask questions that are not obedient,



Stephen Marrone in a big chair. Photo courtesy of Marrone

that are not just accepting what's presented to you, because there are no definitive answers to what we teach in philosophy. I like to say there are lots of wrong answers, but there are also lots of right answers."

Introduction to Philosophy will be taught as an online scheduled-time class over Zoom. Its remote meeting times are Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:45 p.m.

Discovering America with Literature

Max Montana, staff writer

Literature connects people, ideas, and cultures. American literature is full of these, and through reading, one can see how those ideas evolved from each other. From colonial writings to Emerson, Thoreau, and into Dickinson and Whitman, the class brings it all together to tell one American story.

Associate Professor of English Justin Wert teaches American Literature (ENG 246), a three credit class. In previous years the class material was split into a fall section concerning earlier works and a spring section concerning more contemporary literature, but now those have become one single class in order to help the class credit transfer more seamlessly.

In the Spring 2023 semester, the class will be offered as a twelve week online-anytime course, or a sixteen week in-person class from 10-10:50 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in room D334. Professor of English Jennifer Koster teaches a section as a sixteen week online-anytime course. This class is described as a

writing-intensive course.

Much of the class content centers around three reading lists, where students read excerpts of numerous works from a textbook, *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, and write responses to them. Students also get to pick a novel for a research project which is completed later in the semester.

“I want students to read a little bit of the classics. You need to read Dickinson and Whitman as poets to understand modern contemporary poetry. You need to read a story by Poe or Steven Crane to understand where modern short stories develop out of,” Wert said.

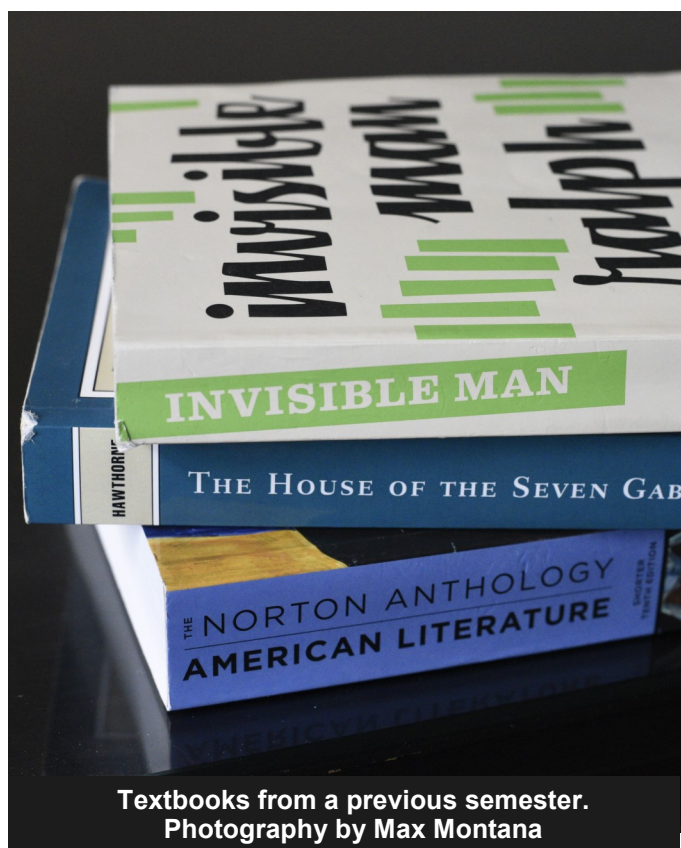
Wert plans to teach James McBride’s book *Deacon King Kong* in upcoming semesters. “I decided, I’ve been teaching this [Kurt] Vonnegut book, *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater* - another good read - in the later American Lit course for several years, and I was like, ‘I love the book, but let’s do something new.’ So I decided since we’re creating essentially new classes, let me come up with something brand new. Like a contemporary book that is from the last couple years,” Wert said.

Wert also teaches the African American Literature course, which was similarly condensed from a two-part to a standalone course. Wert explained that many four year colleges would only count one course as a literature course and the other as a transfer elective.

By combining the classes Wert explained the freedom it gives him to pick the course content more freely. “I like the freedom to teach what you wanna teach, so if you wanna drop something or take something up, you can.... It’s trying to make those kinds of decisions about what do you think students might need to know, and what you think they might like too.”

Wert said American Literature is a course that will change as he teaches it. He explained that it is a great introductory course for literature for any English major or anyone who needs a humanities credit.

“It’s a new class, so you’re trying it out and seeing what works, seeing what doesn’t. (Seeing what’s good, and it’s the timing of everything.) What you’re reading, when, and how long it takes, how much writing I want students to do,” said Wert.



Textbooks from a previous semester.
Photography by Max Montana

Forming Bonds and Reading Around the World

Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah, staff writer

From East to West, and from ancient times to modern times, English 255 World Literature covers different types of literature from all over the world and from different periods of time.

The course is taught by Professor of English Dr. Tamara Whyte. She said, “We start with Egyptian love poems, which are the oldest written poetry, and then we go to the *Epic of Gilgamesh*. We work our way forward, and we come all the way up until the 1900s. That's one of the special things about the new version is that we go through all of history, but it really gives you a sense of the world and this idea of humanity and this connectedness among people.”

In Fall 2022, ENG 255 is an online scheduled-time class that meets through Zoom every Tuesday from 7-9:45 p.m. as part of a 16-week course. According to the Student Information System’s Course Catalog and the class syllabus, the successful completion of College Composition I (ENG 111) and College Composition II (ENG 112) are prerequisites for ENG 255.

Whyte said that some of the great things about the Zoom class are flexibility and comfort for students, the ability to record and rewatch the class, and the use of different technology such as Kahoot! and the interactive e-book. Balkees Rekik, a current ENG 255 student, said that taking this class online is a great option and that she has been enjoying the class so far. A tip that both Whyte and Rekik gave for students interested in this class is to keep up on readings but to enjoy them at the same time.

However, for students who prefer an online anytime class, Whyte

suggests looking into English 225 Reading Literature: Culture and Ideas. She said that ENG 225 will be a new class in Spring 2023 that is different from ENG 255, but complements each other.

When asked about her favorite part of class, Rekik said, “I liked how diverse they were, like we learned about Indian literature and Chinese literature. I generally enjoyed the diversity of what we were learning.”

Whyte said, “This is not a ‘camera off, not talking class.’ Most students keep their cameras on, and that's really encouraged because it makes a difference. You're more connected. You're part of the group. Because I think in three hours, you really get to know each other. And you really bond, and you really get into the topics.”

ENG 255 will be available again in Spring 2023 as a 16-week online scheduled class every Tuesday from 7-9:50 p.m. on Zoom. If you have any questions about this class, please reach out to Dr. Tamara Whyte through her email twhyte@pvcc.edu.



World Literature Professor Dr. Tamara Whyte.
Photo courtesy of Dr. Whyte

PVCC Celebrates Halloween with Costumes

Benjamin Marcus, staff writer

On Monday, Oct. 31, PVCC celebrated Halloween by inviting students to put on costumes and compete for prizes in a variety of categories.

The contest took place at the Bolick Student Center at noon. Streamers of toilet paper hung from the Student-Center ceiling, and the tables had been moved to the edges of the room to leave space for a small stage on which the contestants could show off their costumes. Costumed students and faculty — some there for the contest, others taking advantage of the opportunity to dress up — sat around the center and passed through the hallway.

Both before and after the costume contest, Director of Advising and Transfer Kemper Steele, dressed for the occasion as the Monopoly Man, ran a Halloween-themed trivia contest for anyone in the center. The questions included topics such as the most disliked Halloween candy (candy corn) and the plant used to make the original jack-o'-lanterns (turnips).

After a bit of trivia, the contest itself began. People moved away from the stage at the center of the Bolick Student Center. Interim Director of Student and Campus Engagement Gigi Davis, dressed as a baseball coach, called contestants up.

One at a time, they used the stage to show off their costumes. The costumes shown included a Star Wars stormtrooper, a Star Trek red shirt, several fairies, Bob Ross, a rabbit, Cookie Monster, a creepy clown, a Ghostbuster, and a boy scout. The boy scout displayed his costume in a sketch where he and the Ghostbuster helped someone who fell off the stage.

After all the contestants had been onto the stage, they went outside for a group photo, and the people in the student center started voting on the costumes. There were five categories for contestants to win prizes in: scariest costume, funniest costume, cutest costume, best animal-based costume, and best career-based costume.

The winners of each category received a \$20 gift card for the PVCC bookstore. Before the results were announced, Steele said, “This was great. Everyone was really creative. Really talented.”

The winners of the contest were the clown for scariest costume, the boy scout for the funniest, one of the fairies for cutest, the rabbit for animal-based, and Bob Ross for career-based. Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah, the student who won the prize for cutest costume, said, “I’m personally really glad that PVCC had a costume contest because it gave me an excuse to dress up without being worried that no one else will dress up.”



All contestants pose together
Photos courtesy of PVCC Marketing & Media Relations



Director of Advising and Transfer Kemper Steele dressed as the Monopoly Man.



Dean of Business, Mathematics & Technologies Olugbemiga Adekunle dressed as a Jedi

Sydney Lyons, winner of Scariest Costume



Contestants line up so audience can vote.
Photos courtesy of PVCC Marketing & Media Relations

Horrorgami: Folding for Frights

Max Montana, staff writer

The North Mall Meeting Room was full of paper pumpkins, crows, and bats after a night spent learning to fold various origami figures. Associate Professor of Mathematics Keith Nabb and Adjunct Instructor of Japanese Noriko Donahue led an hour-long session in which many students and families learned the art of origami. The math department teamed up with the Japan Club on Oct. 27 to organize a biannual event to teach origami. The theme for their Oct. 27 meeting was “Horrorgami” in the spirit of Halloween.

This is the third origami workshop they have organized. The first, in October 2021, dealt with functional origami. Last spring they ran a workshop teaching flower origami.

“This is originally Japanese traditional culture, and everybody knows origami in Japan,” Donahue said. She explained that origami can be used in education, especially with its use of geometry, and can be used to introduce people to Japanese culture.

“I grew up just making paper cranes, and just fun things, frogs and houses. But more recently,

now that I’m in the field of math, I find that interesting that the two fields are interconnected,” Nabb said.

Participants filled the room and brought over benches and chairs so they could join in from the halls outside. Nabb set up a camera which showed his hands projected onto the screen so that everyone could see the folds he was making. He explained as he went the kinds of bases he was folding, and how they were used in other models. Two of Nabb’s daughters helped, passing out paper to the participants as they needed them.

The Japan Club wants to bring back more events to PVCC so they can be exposed to Japanese culture. In prior years, the club has visited a Japanese garden, attended tea ceremonies, and participated in calligraphy workshops. “I want to share the Japanese culture for more people,” Donahue said.

“Origami is very mathematical. At our first talk, we actually talked about ... how there's a lot of engineering and engineering applications that use origami. It's used in the medical field, it's used in space science, different areas. So there's functional properties; origami is aesthetic and beautiful, but it's also functional,” Nabb said.



Donahue And Nabb Teach Origami. Photography by Max Montana



Members of the art club posed together. Photography by Makenzie McCoy

Get Creative with PVCC's Art Club

Makenzie McCoy, staff writer

Students are encouraged to share their creativity with the college community by the art club. Their president, Morgan Bell, and vice president, Rebekah Carroll, facilitate the art club. The club's adviser and PVCC's associate professor of art, Fenella Belle, assists in running activities and collaborating with other clubs and organizations. All of them encourage students to share their talents no matter their experience level.

"You don't have to be a practiced artist to join the art club, just an interest in making and talking about art is enough," said Carroll.

Joining the art club is simple; attend one of their meetings in the Dickinson building, room D118. The club meets biweekly on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m.

A typical club meeting consists of making art and discussing any upcoming events that the club may be involved in.

The most recent event that the club sponsored was the Day of the Dead Candython held on Oct.

28 in the Dickinson building. Many of the activities and projects done in the art club come from student suggestions.

For instance, Carroll shared a story about a student who took a liking to expressionistic forms of art and said, "She requests the model put on instrumental music which is emblematic of that emotion. During this meeting, the topic was love. We all sat in a circle around the model while the music played and Azin asked the model questions like 'What color is love?' and 'Describe a time when you felt love.' Artists could draw what they were hearing however they liked."

The club is also currently accepting submissions for the upcoming PVCC coloring book. Members of the art club can submit their unique designs for the Spring 2023 coloring book through their discord server, <https://discord.gg/2K5Pn5bJ>. The theme will be PVCC's 50th anniversary. Submissions must incorporate the number 50 into the design.

If students have any questions about the club, they can contact President Bell by email at rmb23275@email.vccs.edu.

Abigail James: Journey in Shaping Minds

Benjamin Marcus, staff writer

There is no set way to learn. Each person has their own strengths and weaknesses but not every teacher knows how to teach students who do not think like them. Dr. Abigail James, professor of psychology at PVCC, has spent her life immersed in education in one way or another and is always working to teach so that any student can learn from her. She grew up at the Woodberry Forest School, a boys' school where both her parents worked, and was educated at a girl's school — St. Catherine's School. James was left with a lasting impression of the differences between how boys and girls learn, which has driven her life-long investigation into the best ways to foster learning.

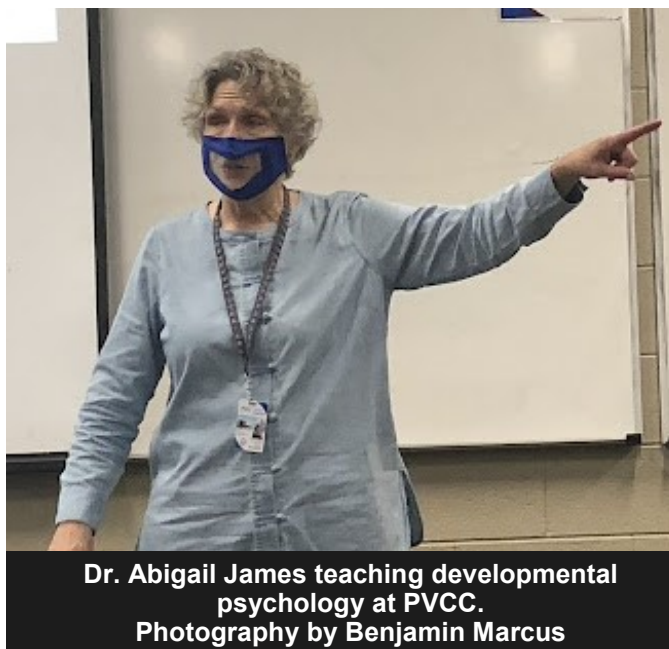
Despite her advanced age, James possesses a youthful vigor when teaching. She paces the front of her classroom as she lectures, returning to her desk only to move the slideshow forward. Her hair has yet to turn grey even after her 75 years of life, and she has started to dye it grey instead. Although she still uses slideshows she created years ago, James augments her lectures with personal anecdotes and updates on new research. To

James, her knowledge of psychology is more than the information she is sharing; it defines how she teaches.

In 1970, James received a Bachelor of Arts degree in science education from Duke University. Afterward, she taught science courses at many different institutions, including the boys' school where she grew up while continuing to take classes on education. In these classes, she noticed something. “I began to realize that a lot of my professors, who were experts in education, didn't understand that not everybody learns the way they learned,” said James. “And I thought, okay, so then that means that if you don't learn the way the teacher learns, why are you there?”

This understanding led her to pursue a Ph.D. in educational psychology at the University of Virginia, where she majored in educating boys — a subject for which there was very little research. She incorporated what she learned into how she taught, organizing her classes and her tests so that they were accessible to people who learn differently from the average student. Her knowledge of psychology is always at the forefront of her mind when she is teaching. “To me,” James said. “Teaching is a thoughtful operation. I do things very deliberately in the classroom.”

James takes into account a wide variety of differences when teaching. These range from how different genders approach learning to how learning differences impact how students handle knowledge and test. She has published books on these topics and continues to research and write. Before 2020, she traveled around the world, going to conferences and boys' schools to share her understanding of how teaching can be molded to support all kinds of learning. More recently, she spoke at a Virginia Community College conference on how to make classrooms more accessible. Currently, she is working on her next book and is teaching Developmental Psychology (PSY 230) at PVCC, and she shows no signs of slowing down.



**Dr. Abigail James teaching developmental psychology at PVCC.
Photography by Benjamin Marcus**

Fresh Air and a Helping Hand

Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah, staff writer

Six miles north of Charlottesville is the Ivy Creek Natural Area. The area is managed by the Ivy Creek Foundation. It is currently owned by Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville. Ivy Creek is rich with nature and history dating back to the 1870s when former slave Hugh Carr purchased the land as a family farm.

On Saturday, Nov. 19, PVCC's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) visited the Ivy Creek Natural Area to take part in the monthly public work day. PTK volunteers assisted Ivy Creek's Karl Hohenstein to remove and replace water bars on the trail from 9-11 a.m.. According to Hohenstein, the water bars are intended to divert water on hills that want to run down the trail, so that the water does not erode the trail further.

Hohenstein said, "We've probably got 400 of them out on the trails, and we probably, two or three times a year, go through and clear them all out so that they continue to drain and provide their intended function."

On this day, PTK volunteers helped carry red cedar logs along the trail to the replacement spot while another group of volunteers helped replace the wooden markers that indicate which trail hikers are on. These are among the many tasks volunteers are able to help with when they join the public work day.

Susie Farmer is the Ivy Creek Foundation's director of education. She said, "Ivy Creek has a public work day the fourth Saturday of every month, and we really appreciate the PVCC group coming out and doing all this hard work that you all do for us every month. You make

our jobs easier."

The next public work day will be on Dec. 17. The Foundation moved the event up by a week due to the upcoming holiday. Anyone interested in volunteering at the upcoming public work day can reach out to Farmer by email, susie@ivycreekfoundation.org, so that they know who is coming. Check out the Ivy Creek Foundation website for more information about upcoming volunteer and educational events.



Volunteers carrying logs.
Photography by Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah

Art that Shapes the Kitchen: PVCC Pottery Sale

Mercedes Lam, staff writer

On Saturday, Dec. 3, PVCC's Pottery Club lined tables with their handcrafted pieces of pottery. Every piece was one of a kind, offering dishware for everyone in the Dickinson Building this past weekend at the PVCC's Pottery Club Sale.

This sale lasted 9-11 a.m. and allowed PVCC students and anyone in the local community to enjoy and purchase a handmade pot by one of the many talented pottery club members, and was followed by the school's annual Comic Jam. Setting up Saturday for an art-packed day of appreciating and celebrating creativity with others.

The ceramics ranged from \$5, for mugs or tiny bowls, to \$60, for larger hand thrown vases. The sale had a bright array of interesting colors and styles. A large section of the pots were bright pink or speckled with pink while other pots were more neutral in color.

Professor Tom Clarkson, the ceramics professor, said the bright pink color was due to different heating in the large glaze kiln. When



people purchase a piece of pottery the Pottery Club uses the money to fundraise for a published potter to come and showcase their personal style in a workshop for all ceramic students.

Clarkson tries to bring in a new published potter every year to lead his students in for a workshop. To learn more about next year's sale and more about ceramics check out PVCC's website.



Pottery for sale in the Dickinson Commons. Photography by Phoebe Hayashi

Visualizing Climate Change

Luca Gett, staff writer

PVCC's climate-oriented one book program campus events came to a close on Friday, Nov. 18 with a photo gallery opening titled "Our Changing Climate: A Visual Chronicle Opening Night," curated by photographer Michael Snyder. The event was held from 5-7 p.m. in the Dickinson building and featured a select few submissions from Snyder's many photography students.

"We organized this gallery opening so that he could curate a collection of works by the next generation of photojournalists showcasing climate change across the world," said Fenella Belle, associate professor of art, "It completes the visual part of the one book program."

Snyder is an independent photographer and filmmaker based in Charlottesville. His work has been featured in media outlets such as the Guardian, BBC, and the Washington Post. Involved with research in the Arctic, he directed and produced a National Geographic documentary titled *Into the Dark* (2020) and, additionally, was featured in a Vox docuseries. He is a resident artist at the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville and teaches online courses in photography and filmmaking.

The photo gallery opening featured works from his diverse set of online students. "I teach students from all backgrounds. Some are older individuals, some are undergraduate students, some are graduate students. The oldest student featured here is in his seventies," Snyder said. Geographically, the featured works included submissions from Canada, Sri Lanka, France, and the United States.

Much like the recent photography contest here at PVCC, Snyder's students were not specifically asked to portray climate change in their work. "Asking people to photograph what climate change looks like where they are in the world can be somewhat limiting. Students were asked to



Climate change photographs in the Dickinson gallery. Photography by Luca Gett

capture humans and their relationship with the environment. The results just end up saying more about climate change than you would expect," Snyder explained.

A submission by a French student titled *The Waste Collector* captured a Turkish man carrying a crushing load of garbage, a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. Tashiya de Mel was a photo taken by a Sri Lankan student; a somewhat incongruous scene of desolate beetroot farmland now populated with wind turbines.

"This seems to be the favorite," Belle pointed out, gesturing to *Benita Mayo*, a submission by a Charlottesville-based student that captured a North Carolina pier at the beginning of a sea storm, attesting to the unrelenting nature of water and the rising sea levels that are an outcome of climate change.

The climate change photo gallery opening explored the issue with visual storytelling, building upon the more systematic and scientific campus talks and events previously held. The gallery showcased the universality of climate change.

As Belle explained towards the end of the gallery opening, "Whether you're into environmental science or women's rights or social justice, we all play a part in figuring out the universal problem that is climate change. Climate change is the common denominator."

Dinner at the Bebedero Leaves an Impression

Lane, staff writer

One lovely evening my boyfriend Roger and I decided to visit the Bebedero, a restaurant in downtown Charlottesville. Let me just say: it was a wonderful experience! We were greeted by our host and quickly seated at a booth.

The first thing that caught my eye was the design and artistry inside the restaurant. A full length bar with a huge selection of Mezcal and other spirits was positioned to the right of us. Exquisite art hung on the walls and the restaurant had dim lighting and deep hip hop played in the background. We ordered our food before the drinks and were welcomed by an old friend of ours, Alex, who used to work at Kama before they closed. He told us about the place and said the art on the walls and the chalk signs were all designed and painted by the owner himself, who also had a clothing brand and clearly loved visuals and aesthetics.

The owner, River Hawkins, moved to this location in March. He has been an expert of Mezcal (a distilled alcoholic beverage made from any type of agave, similar to Tequila) for twenty plus years, having been in Mexico at a resort as a barkeep, and then moving to the United States to pursue the restaurant business. He teaches classes on the rich history, processes, and includes tastings of the liquor they sell. On Friday nights especially, I have observed live music and a lively scene. It seemed to be a popular restaurant, so my Roger and I chose to view the scene on a less busy night to get a true experience of the food and drinks they had to offer.

We ordered food first; the drink list was so vast we had to pore over it for several minutes. We were given multicolored chips and salsa as a starter and ordered guacamole in addition. For the main course we had the Enchilada Suizas with chicken; it was divine. The chicken was tender and very flavorful. The cheese was hand grated, you could tell by its texture. The tortillas were homemade, and the pairing of spice and sweet was on point. The guacamole (\$16) was also lovely, although incredibly expensive for about two avocado's worth.

The drinks were cheaper than the guacamole. We ordered a drink each; Roger

ordered a Sangria, and I ordered a guava cocktail with Tanqueray called "The Floor is Guava." The Sangria was mixed with red wine, cinnamon, bourbon, apples, and lime juice. The flavor profile was exceptional, the spices were notable, and the bourbon was flavorful but did not embitter the drink. The price was \$12 which is not bad for a cocktail. My drink was fantastic. The guava juice was fresh and the mint added a refreshing zing to the drink, and the gin was barely noticeable. I chose Tanqueray because it is a classic London dry, a strong but botanical gin, in between a Hendricks and a Bombay Sapphire. It is not too sweet and is a good gin to mix with fruity and bright flavors like guava and mint. There were also hints of orange and lime; the citrus was more of a back of the throat flavor.

The menu was filled with humor; the drinks and food were accompanied on the menu with quips and sarcasm. The menus were made out of hand-dyed images on front and back, and made out of leather.

Overall, this experience was absolutely lovely. I am returning to purchase the beautiful painting that hung on the wall above our table. The price of the meal was around \$70 before tax, which we didn't argue as the food and drinks were exceptional. We will definitely be returning on Friday night to see what's happening with the crowd and bumping club music. It was a lovely experience.



Inside the Bebedero.
Photography by Lane

French Pastries, Local Ingredients



Close-up of display case with bread and pastries. Photography by Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah

Shazila Nadia Muzafar Shah, staff writer

“Coucou” is an affectionate and easygoing French greeting for “hello!” “Rachou” is the French nickname for Rachel. Cou Cou Rachou is a French bakery on Preston Avenue, right across from the Dairy Market, opened by pastry chef Rachel De Jong, who earned her certification in pastry in Paris, as their website states. According to their Instagram, Cou Cou Rachou celebrated their first birthday on Friday, Nov. 11.

Outside the bakery, patrons are greeted with a neon red sign with the shop’s name in cursive LED lights. As customers step inside, they are hit with the scent of freshly-baked pastries and coffee. Shelves of merchandise, wine, and snacks occupy the left wall. On the right, there is a fridge with cold drinks and desserts, and a door that leads to the outdoor roofed patio where patrons can sit. Opposite the entrance is a vintage wooden case, which showcases the pastries and bread available for the day, and right behind that is the open kitchen, where patrons can see bakers working with dough and various ingredients.

To start, I got an iced matcha (\$5) as my drink. The drink was simple but refreshing; it had milk, matcha powder and ice. To complement the drink, I got a croissant aux amandes (\$5), which is an almond croissant. The croissant was flaky, with butter keeping each layer moist. It was filled with almond paste and sliced almonds, and was

dusted with powdered sugar and sliced almonds on top.

Then, I tried the croissant aux oignons (\$5), also known as the french onion croissant. The same flaky pastry was used, but this time, the pastry served as a dam to hold the caramelized-onion filling. The filling was savory with a hint of sweetness, and its texture was smooth, silky and chewy. Cheese was baked on top of the croissant, which gave the pastry its salty and creamy flavor. The cheese that flowed off the pastry baked into a thin-crispy crust, giving the pastry an extra crunch.

Lastly, I got the miso chocolate chip cookie (\$4). The cookie was crisp around the edges but soft and chewy in the center. The miso gave the cookie an umami flavor, which deepened the flavor of the cookie in comparison to normal chocolate chip cookies. There were chocolate chips with every bite of cookie but it wasn’t overly sweet.

Overall, I believe that Cou Cou Rachou is worth the price for their freshly-baked goods, which, according to their website, are organic and locally sourced. The bakery is only open from Thursday to Sunday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., so be aware that the queue will be longer and seating may be harder to find in the late morning. The daily pastries and bread are posted on their Instagram story in the morning, and they also take cake orders on their website.

A Compact Coffee Shop that Packs a Punch

Mercedes Lam, staff writer

Hidden beside a ramen shop and Guadalajara is a cute and bustling cafe. One can sit out on their patio and enjoy handcrafted lattes and pastries. Atlas Coffee is one of the finer cafes in town, although you'll easily find yourself lost when searching for the cafe.

Atlas Coffee is nuzzled in between several other restaurants, to the point that it is invisible at first glance. After spotting the cafe, you must maneuver into the horrid parking lot behind the

building. Inside, the atmosphere is vivid and friendly, although a bit cramped. The baristas are kind and more than helpful. Atlas' menu is covered in bright art, themed to the seasonal flavors they're carrying; Currently, it is pumpkin spice season.

As for their coffee, their espresso is medium to light roast and creamy and is comparable to Marie Bette and Grit Coffee. For Starbucks drinkers, Atlas' espresso is similar to the blonde roast. They have a wide variety of flavors and milks fit for anyone. For sweet tooths, I'd

recommend asking for extra syrup, since their drinks mostly showcase the coffee. This cafe also has beautiful latte art.

Their pastries and breakfast items are very popular, specifically their breakfast sandwiches and baked donuts. Personally, their sandwiches weren't anything special and were priced around \$5. As for the pastries, I tried their cinnamon donuts which cost \$3 dollars, they were quite delicious.

Finally, they are not the most expensive or budget-friendly option for an on the go coffee. A coffee will run you around \$3-5, depending on add-ons or the type of coffee.

Like before, their prices are comparable to any other cafe in town, but they're cheaper than Starbucks by far, and serve a better experience.

There is more information on their website and is located at 2206 Fontaine Ave Ext, Charlottesville, VA 22903.



Atlas' chalkboard Menu. Photography by Mercedes Lam

A European-Inspired Start to the Day

Makenzie McCoy, staff writer

MarieBette Cafe & Bakery is a notable bakery and restaurant combination that was brought to Charlottesville by its founders, Jason Becton, and Patrick Evans. The two met at the International Culinary Center and combined their desire for their own business with their passion for food. Becton said, “Our vision for our business is to be a place where people feel like a part of the community.”

MarieBette serves a variety of classic coffee drinks as well as breakfast, lunch, brunch, and fresh baked goods. Becton said, “One of my favorites is the pretzel croissant; it was an experiment of Patrick’s, and it turned out to be amazing.” All of these menu items are available for take out, or they can be enjoyed in their relaxed seating area.

MarieBette is located 11 minutes from the PVCC campus at 700 Rose Hill Drive.

They're open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends.

MarieBette immediately welcomes customers with the fresh smell of bread and pastries from the



Almond Croissant (\$4).
Photography by Makenzie McCoy

bakery in combination with the espresso from the coffee bar. Their staff was friendly and greeted me immediately.

The almond croissant (\$4) is an item on their pastry menu that caught my eye and didn't disappoint. The pastry was fresh, as promised, with a perfectly placed layer of shaved almonds and powdered sugar covering the top.

Overall, my visit certainly prompted me to come back and try more of their menu items.

Taylor Swift's New Album *Midnights*

Gaby Felipe, staff writer

Taylor Swift's new album called *Midnights* has 13 songs that I can only describe as a mixture of country and pop. The songs are “Lavender Haze,” “Maroon,” “Anti-Hero,” “Snow on the Beach,” “You're on Your Own Kid,” “Midnight Rain,” “Question...?,” “Vigilante Shit,” “Bejeweled,” “Labyrinth,” “Karma,” “Sweet Nothing,” and “Mastermind.”

The album contains songs that have hit the top 100 billboard like “Anti-hero,” which was in the number one song on the billboard for five weeks in a row as of Dec. 2. “Anti-hero” I found to be very relatable as the story progressed. Each song tells a different story that listeners can relate to. As you listen to each song from this album, it takes you through an arrangement of emotions

that are expressed not only in the lyrics but also within the harmony and melodic accompaniment in the songs.

“Bejeweled” and “Anti-hero” have their own music videos that tell the story of the song in more detail. The music video for “Bejeweled” takes a hit at the classic Cinderella story with a twist where Cinderella isn't looking for their prince. The “Anti-hero” music video expresses the self doubt that is in everyone's mind. It goes through how hard it is to fit in a world where you feel like you are the villain of your own story and how to accept yourself for who you are.

This is a good album to listen to when you need help feeling the emotions that most of us have repressed for years. Overall I liked this album, but when I compared *Midnights* to her other albums like *Red* and *1989*, it scaled 7.5/10.

Billy Strings Celebrates Latest Album

Alec Sherwood, staff writer

Encompassing the length of Washington historical Wharf on a brisk Saturday evening, a dense line formed outside The Anthem music auditorium. The warm bulbs of the venue's Marquee illuminated the name "Billy Strings" in bold lettering. Anxious chatter could be heard as the minute hand approached twelve. Starting at 8 p.m., this Nov. 18 performance marked the debut and celebration of Strings' new collaborative album *Me/And/Dad*.

The project recounted the various bluegrass artists and songs shared from one generation to the next, from father to son. Strings' performance was fueled by a powerful memory of song and dance that reconciled his family's misfortune of substance abuse and poverty with the success of his music. His music conveyed a universal message enjoyed by the various walks of life found in the audience.

Strings was unlike orthodox Bluegrass artists, who typically performed with a stoic face and statue-like figure. He developed an alternative technique through years of playing guitar for a Metal Rock band, a style that included physical rocking, liberal flourishes, and stark facial expressions.

The Strings ensemble, consisting of an acoustic guitar, a mandolin, an upright bass, and a banjo, reflected the marriage of different genres in their arrangements. While a piece began with the upbeat rhythm of Bluegrass, Strings' evolved the song over the course of 10 minutes (sometimes longer) to include layers of distortion, overdrive, and compression resembling the overtures of jam-bands such as The Grateful Dead.

Beth Eames never listened to Billy Strings before Saturday's Concert, but she said, "there is something in the music anyone can feel, and



Album cover of Billy Strings' *Me/And/Dad*.

before I knew it my foot was tapping and my head was bobbing."

While his talent took Strings across the country and introduced him to other great artists, the subject matter of his songs remained tethered to his life before the fame.

"I've been focusing so much on the past that sometimes I forget about the future," Strings mentioned in between songs. Forced to leave his family home at the age of 13, he considered the past a painful space, but at the same time, the strongest connection to his family and home.

Me/And/Dad marked a turning point in Strings' discography with a focus on recalling the past to invent something new.

With a Grammy under his belt for the Best Bluegrass Album in 2021, the future of Billy Strings' music appeared bright and promising.

"I just became a fan of Billy, but he already feels like home to me," said Lauren Factor after the show. Strings will tour the album *Me/And/Dad* for the remainder of 2022 and well into 2023, where more newcomers will hopefully join his following.

Live Arts Puts on *Violet*

Liam Hubbard, staff writer

As venues in Charlottesville continue to reopen and return to regular show schedules, the ever-present chorus of Charlottesville's theater community can be heard. Live Arts has continued a regular slot of shows this winter season. The musical *Violet* has been running since Nov. 18 and after a Thanksgiving Break, will be returning to the Gibson Theater at Live Arts on Nov. 30 and will run until Dec. 10. Once performances recommence, the shows will be held on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

The show is based on the short story "The Ugly Pilgrim," by Doris Belts. The musical chronicles the story of a young woman who suffers a facial disfiguration and her journey from North Carolina to Oklahoma. She sets out in hopes of meeting a televangelist preacher who she hopes can cure her disfigurement. Along the way she meets an African American soldier who has his own identity as an outsider to deal with.

The story is set in 1964 and grapples with themes of personal identity, body image, race relations, and the journey of the self in its southern setting. The plot also integrates the topic of religious marketing within America's southern states. The musical employs a multitude of different styles including bluegrass, gospel, and blues. The cast will be accompanied by a live band, to achieve this multifaceted piece of musical Americana.

A primary component in the publicity of the show has been the presence of the live band which includes a variety of classic instrumental string accompaniments and percussion. Similar to shows previously performed at the Gibson such as *Xanadu*, the theater's diminutive size has been reported to be the

best for the high energy and beat-heavy rhythms that a show like *Violet* offers. The black box theater style makes for a max occupancy of around 150. At this time, it is uncertain if seating arrangements will change when the show begins again for the holiday season.

The main cast includes Mary Catherine Hughes as the title character, *Violet*, Thad Lane as Flick, Daniel Hugus as Monty, and Bernadette Moran as Young VI. Perry Medlin directs and choreographs, making this his second directorial piece this year since *The Legend Of George Mcbride*, earlier in March. This piece will be the first musical Medlin will have directed thus far at Live Arts. Mandy Shuker and Carter Walker act as stage manager and assistant stage manager respectively.

Violet will be on again on Dec. 11 for its Christmas season run. Tickets will range from 28 to 33 dollars. The show is small in physical scale but maintains a regular runtime of 2 hours with a 20 minute intermission. The show is a melting pot of various live musical styles tied together by a central story of pathos and universal struggles of the self.



Photo courtesy of Live Arts

Slumberland: A Sleepy Adventure

Gabriella Barber, assistant editor

Slumberland is a fun family adventure movie with a deep and meaningful plot that was recently released on Netflix. The movie begins with a young girl named Nemo (Marlow Barkley) who loves her father (played by Kyle Chandler) and the many stories he tells her. They lived on a remote island where Nemo learned everything about becoming a lighthouse keeper. However, being a lighthouse keeper comes with its dangers, and a bad storm unfortunately leaves Nemo in her uncle's care.

Her uncle Phillip (played by Chris O'Dowd) gives off feelings of loss, regret, sadness, and the need for closure. He made me feel very uncomfortable for Nemo. He seemed completely disconnected from his feelings and her.

After moving in with her uncle, Nemo begins to have vivid dreams. In these dreams she meets Flip (played by Jason Momoa), a character from her father's bedtime stories. Her father described Flip as his partner in crime as outlaws. Flip is not visiting Nemo's dreams to console her about her father's death, but he is searching for a map to the bottom of the Sea of Nightmares to find pearls that grant wishes. Thus, their adventures together begin.

As Nemo and Flip start their journey together, viewers can begin to pick up on all the rules and regulations on dream hopping. Flip has his own list for Nemo: keep a low profile, stay focused, and to always remember that he is her boss, not her friend (beginning his character arc, originally as an outlaw with little to no emotions towards others). The other important part of dream hopping is that dreamers cannot die in their own dreams, but they can die in other's dreams.

Although these are only a few of the rules that are taught, there are many more funny rules and "fun facts" (that may not actually be facts, but are stated as such in the movie). My favorite fun fact (that is thoroughly explored and visualized in the movie) was that the number one dream in Canada is of people riding massive geese as they fly through the sky.

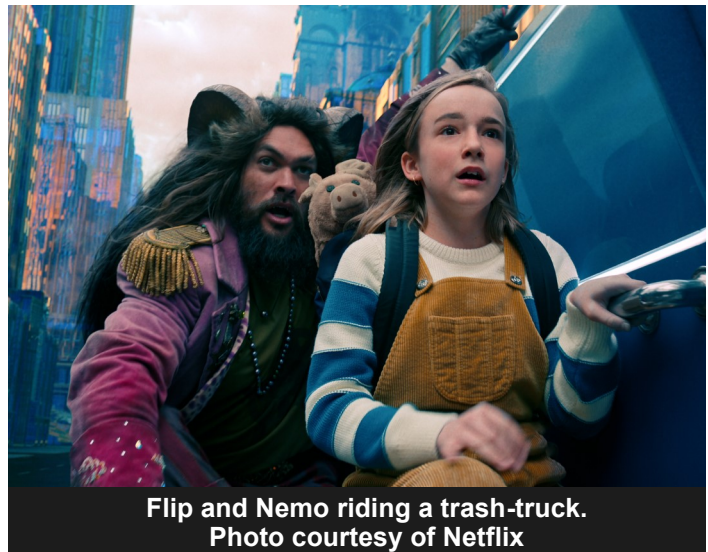
After Flip explained all the rules and regulations on dream hopping, and they dealt

with their first nightmare together, the movie began to run smoothly. They begin dream hopping with ease and have many funny moments together until they meet Agent Green.

Agent Green (played by Weruche Opia) is a member of the Bureau of Subconscious Activity. Her only goal before retiring is to lock Flip up, but her character is not cruel. Throughout her many appearances, she is fun, realistic, honest and tired. She helps as a guide for Nemo and treats her with respect. Inevitably, Agent Green tries to steer Nemo away from the dangers of dream hopping and informs her that she will put her away in dream "juvie" if she continues to hop through others' dreams.

Overall, the movie does a fantastic job in differentiating between the waking world and sleeping world. It also does well with references between the two, which helps viewers understand the plot and ending. The support and conflicts of characters in the waking world impact and determine what happens next in Nemo's sleep. This leads her to ask Flip who he is in the waking world. Maybe Flip is someone she already knows? But, watchers will have to wait to find out who Flip is.

The movie was a fantastic watch. I enjoyed following the storyline that was ever evolving and created a stir of emotions inside me. I felt sadness, happiness, and hope while watching the movie. The colorful scenes held my attention for the entire movie, and left me wanting to enjoy more vibrant moments with Flip and Nemo.



Flip and Nemo riding a trash-truck.
Photo courtesy of Netflix

Phantom of the Opera at the Paramount

Benjamin Marcus, staff writer

In celebration of Halloween, Charlottesville's Paramount Theater held a screening of an almost 100-year-old film. This film was 1925's *The Phantom of the Opera*, a silent horror film adapted from the 1909 novel by the same name.

The screening also featured a live music performance to accompany the silent film. This music was performed by Matthew Marshall, a professor of film at the University of Virginia, who has been composing and performing live music for silent films for over two decades. Alongside Marshall was a band called the Reel Music Trio.

The musicians and their instruments were positioned between the audience and the Paramount's stage so that the audience could focus fully on the screen if they wanted to but could also glance down to watch the group as they played.

Before the film opened, Marshall gave a brief history lesson on silent films and the role music played in screenings. "For the first thirty years, cinema was like a performance art," Marshall said. "A lot of the time, movies would be accompanied by live music."

The music Marshall performed for this screening was one of his own compositions, and it gave the movie a sinister and gothic tone in keeping with the story and set design of the film.

The Phantom of the Opera takes place in the Paris Opera House, beneath which the titular Phantom lives. The Phantom is played by the renowned silent actor, Lon Chaney, who had also starred in the 1923's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. The Phantom is a physically disfigured man named Erik, who has hidden away from society for years inside abandoned dungeons and torture chambers beneath the opera house.

Wearing a mask and cloak, the Phantom uses secret passageways to sneak up to the opera house and watch performances anonymously. Throughout the movie, the Phantom uses blackmail and sabotage to elevate the career of Christine Daaé (Mary Philbin) in an attempt to win her love.

After the screening was over, Marshall wrapped things up by talking about specific aspects of the film that are noteworthy for the history of cinema. These include a long scene shot with early color techniques — in contrast to the rest of the movie which was shot in black and white, and parts of the set from the earlier *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, which appears in the background near the end.

Marshall also drew specific attention to Lon Chaney, who was responsible for his own makeup — which gave the Phantom's face a corpse-like appearance. Marshall also said of Chaney, "When he was growing up, both his parents were deaf. What an environment to learn silent acting!"



The Phantom's gaunt face, as shown on the Paramount's posters. Photography by Benjamin Marcus

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