

theForum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

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NEW CENTER OFFERS STUDENTS AID, ADVICE



Joe Houghton, Flickr

LAUREN BERG
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Having trouble choosing classes for the spring 2011 semester? Need transfer help?

The Welcome Center and Counseling Center has merged to form the brand new Admissions & Advising Center.

The Admissions & Advising Center is also designed to provide PVCC students with transfer advice and registration help.

Mary Lee Walsh, the Dean of Student Services, said, "It's been a long time coming because the one thing that students have indicat-

ed to us is that they really need advising." The Center helps students choose the right classes to fit their requirements and schedules.

The new center is located in the main building in the space previously occupied by the Welcome Center. Students can make an appointment or walk in to talk to a counselor. "It is going to be much more convenient for students," Walsh said.

Kemper Steele, PVCC's new Coordinator of Advising and Transfer Programs, described his job as assisting students "by giving them the necessary resources and guid-

ance they need to make the process from the community college to the four year college as seamless as possible."

Steele also wants to educate more students about the Guaranteed Admissions Agreement with colleges and universities in Virginia. "We want to make sure that students are not only utilizing that opportunity, but also understanding what the requirements are," he said.

Starting Monday, Nov. 1, PVCC faculty will also be available to advise students. "Students can meet with faculty advisors specific to the discipline that they are

studying," Steele explained.

The new Admissions & Advising Center will be holding an open house on Nov. 1 so that students can talk to an advisor about spring 2011 classes.

Students are encouraged to register early because necessary classes fill up fast. Popcorn and other refreshments will be provided.

The Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (434) 961-5864 or email rlane@pvcc.edu.

PERRIELLO, HURT DEBATE SPARKS DIFFERING OPINIONS



Sen. Robert Hurt



Rep. Tom Perriello

perriello.house.gov

Both parties shared their views on going green, the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the Disclose Act, education, illegal immigration, retirement funds and unemployment issues.

BRANDON ESTES
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Charlottesville residents raised their voices and shared their ideas at the political debate between Tom Perriello and Robert Hurt. The event was held at Piedmont Virginia Community College in the Dickinson building on Oct. 19.

Both parties shared their views on going green, the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the Disclose Act, education, illegal immigration, retirement funds and unemployment issues.

Several hundred people filled the auditorium and many oth-

ers were turned away.

"I am fiscally conservative and I'm independent," said Albemarle resident Betty Sevachko, who was at the debate to support Hurt.

"It makes me angry to have people go blow up their credit cards and now that they're broke, they want my money," she said.

"I was Republican but didn't like some things they did with [the] conservative district," Sevachko continued.

"I think Perriello has voted against conservation with bailouts, Obama's health care and the stimulus package. I think conservatives will take it back. The proof was there when Rob McDonnell was

elected. The tide is moving."

Dual enrollment student Courtney Kerns who attends United Christian Academy stated, "I feel that Hurt will win because people are tired of Perriello. He really didn't do anything while he was in office, like he said he would. It is the year of the Republicans."

Bob Knighton, a local resident, offered his opinion on Perriello: "He seems to have the interest of the people at heart. He seems to be focused. He's helpful through the entire district. Seems like good things for a congressman to do."

Knighton added, "He's a nice guy, but needs to

look in his rearview mirror before he moves from one lane to the other."

Lorraine Cote, another local resident, agreed with Knighton, "He'll serve the people well. Some situations he votes along with the party, but I feel strongly that he'll win it. He talks and he's not nasty. I feel the Republicans are very nasty."

The debate drew the attention of several PVCC students as well. Afterwards, student Brian Kean shared his thoughts. "It's really a tossup. I'm definitely hoping Perriello will win. I believe that with the proper circumstances prevailing, Perriello will win, although Hurt certainly does have good popular support."

Alden Goodwin, a PVCC student and intern for Perriello, shared thoughts similar to Kean. "I think it is a very close election. I hope Perriello wins, of course. But, it's a really close election and I think that people are really split on the issues," Goodwin said. "[The debate] reaffirmed my support of Perriello. I think he did very well I also think there was tendency of both parties to kind of dance around the question when they were first to answer. Overall, I think Perriello came across with stronger responses and he wrapped up a lot better," Goodwin concluded.

Election Day is Nov. 2. Will voters choose Perriello or Hurt? Who wins is yet to be determined.

This is either candidate's game, but the decision is up to the voters.

WHITE HOUSE RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Pres. Barack Obama & Dr. Jill Biden

Aaron Fulkerson, Flickr

MARY KETCHAM
FORUM STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 5, the first-ever Community College Summit at the White House recognized that institutions like ours are critical to President Obama's challenge for America to have "the best-educated, most competitive workforce in the world by the end of the year 2020."

Community college enrollment has sky rocketed in recent years. Forty-three percent of American college students attend community colleges. The increasingly unaffordable tuition of many universities is one reason for this surge.

Additionally, massive job losses across the country have forced a large portion of the working public back to school for retraining and more education in order to qualify for available jobs.

Vice President Joe Biden's wife, Dr. Jill Biden, who has been a community college instructor for 17 years, hosted the Summit. She said that almost eight out of ten jobs that will become available in the next decade will require higher education.

Community colleges are "equipping Americans with the skills and expertise that are relevant

Forty-three percent of American college students attend community colleges. The increasingly unaffordable tuition of many universities is one reason for this surge.

to the emerging jobs of the future," Biden said.

The Summit highlighted a gift of \$34.8 million in competitive grants to community colleges from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The new program is called "Completion by Design."

Unfortunately, Piedmont, because it is not a multi-campus institution, cannot receive one these latest grants.

Melinda Gates criticized the government's current metric of success, which bases funding on enrollment numbers rather than graduation rates.

She urges state legislators to reward community colleges who have succeeded in propelling their students to a degree.

Mark Svensson, a Phi Theta Kappa member, is a graduate of Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY. He participated in the Summit at the White House and said, "the fact the Summit took place at all was a huge step in a positive direction."

Mark, now a Government major at Georgetown University, took part in the Affordability and Financial Aid break out session, which identified a lack of financial aid personnel on community college campuses as an immediate problem.

There is financial aid available, but the process is complicated and students need more people, right on campus, to help clarify it for them.

Dr. Cliff Wood, President of Rockland Community College predicted, "Mark is going places," and is sure that he, among other community college graduates, is not alone in his ambition and achievement.

He hopes, now that the healthcare battle has re-

duced somewhat in intensity, the President can renew his attention to what Dr. Biden called "America's best kept secret."

Dr. Wood encourages community colleges to continue to think locally in terms of their students but to reach out regionally, to the companies and industries that will be employing their graduates.

Regional consortiums can bring together different yet related business that will all benefit from an educated workforce. "The jobs that are gone are not coming back," he said.

Community colleges can play a big part in providing competitive training for the jobs being created now.

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STUDENTS WEAR PURPLE, SUPPORT GAY RIGHTS

HANNAH MAHAFFEY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 20, PVCC students were among a significant number wearing purple in remembrance of six of their peers who committed suicide in recent weeks.

This colorful display of solidarity was intended to educate others about the deaths and to advocate for wider acceptance of homosexual students on school campuses.

Tyler Clementi, Seth Walsh, Justin Aaberg, Raymond Chase, Asher Brown, and Billy Lucas were remembered during the event, but many reflected specifically on Clementi, whose death made national news in late Sept.

High schools and colleges around the nation participated in "Wear Purple Day," also known as "Spirit Day." Radford University student, Mallory Higginbotham took part and said, "Overall, I think it definitely got some people



glad.org/spiritday

to open their eyes a little and understand gay rights and how gays are treated."

"JMU always has purple-outs for football games. But, we had one in honor of the students. Some people didn't know why we were doing it, but it was a big support to the cause," said Jessica Campbell, a freshman at

James Madison University.

Purple was readily visible at PVCC, but some students were unaware of the cause. "I didn't wear purple that day because I didn't know about it. But, I think it's a really great idea for a good cause," said PVCC student Sara Qualls.

Hillary Clinton com-

mented on the event and sent a message out, "Take heart, and have hope, and please remember that your life is valuable, and that you are not alone. Many people are standing with you and sending you their thoughts, their prayers and their strength. Count me among them. Take care of yourself."

SPEAKER OVERCOMES DISABILITY, INSPIRES OTHERS

BARRY WILHELM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Monday, Nov. 22, from 12:20 until 1:20 p.m., motivational speaker Bill Deering will be speaking in the Bolick Student Center on overcoming disabilities.

Deering has gone from stuttering every other word and taking three minutes to say his first name to speaking in front of thousands of people. He inspires, empowers and encourages others to break through their personal challenges in life.

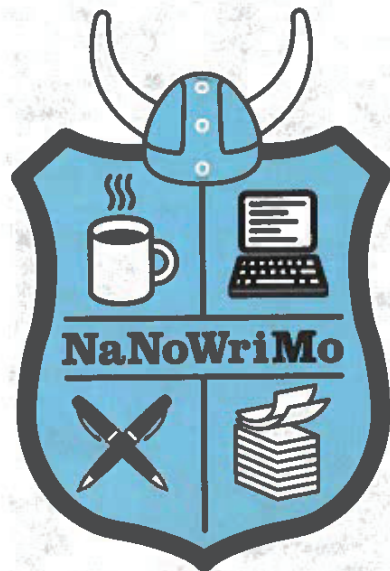
Deering speaks candidly about his self-hatred of stuttering and the growth process of accepting himself.

He has overcome many challenges in his life, including learning disabilities, and brings lightness, playfulness and fun to the

conversation of stuttering.

For more information on Deering, visit his web site at stuttering-disability-motivational-speaker.com/home.

For additional information regarding the event, contact Barry Wilhelm at (434) 961-6594 or bwilhelm@pvcc.edu.



NOVEMBER MARKS NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH

NaNoWriMo is an annual event based on writer and founder Chris Baty's idea that a human can write a 50,000 word novel in one month and live.

AMANDA FISHBACK
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Always wanted to write the next great American novel, but never had the motivation? Nov. 1 marks the beginning of National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo, as it is called by millions of authors and would-be authors.

NaNoWriMo is an annual event based on writer and founder Chris Baty's idea that a human can write a 50,000 word novel in one month and live.

Winners get a copy of their novel published by Lulu.com and those who

don't finish are determined to win the next year.

Baty only created one rule: the novel cannot be started until midnight on Nov. 1.

That is not to say the novel can't be planned before then. In fact, some people start planning for next year's novel immediately after NaNoWriMo is over, anticipating the craziness they embrace every autumn.

National Novel Writing Month gained international attention soon after its creation. There are online regional forums in North America and on other continents, such as Africa, Europe, and Australia.

But, NaNoWriMo spans age groups as well as oceans. There is now a Young Novelists' program, which donates laptops for participants who cannot afford them, and programs have been established for teachers to encourage student participation.

Many Charlottesville writers, participating through their own regional forum in Virginia, as of last year, take part in National Novel Writing Month. UVA and PVCC students, soccer moms and professors alike meet at local coffee shops or at Writer House, which is located behind the Bodo's on Preston Avenue.

At Writer House, stressed-out writers can meet several times throughout the month for NaNoWriMo write-ins. They are encouraged to bring their ideas, writing tools and even food to share as they break away from the world and force themselves to write.

Normally, those who wish to go to Writer House have to pay a fee, but NaNoWriMo participants can come and write for free during the entire month.

Anyone can register at nanowrimo.org. After that, the only thing to do is start writing. 50,000 words is a long way away!

DICKINSON PLAY NEARS LAST SHOW

MARY KETCHAM
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The play "Contentious Contemporaries: Scenes from Shakespeare and His Rivals" opened at the Dickinson Theater Friday night, October 29.

The program is a collection of scenes, songs

and soliloquies from the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, Ben Johnson, Christopher Marlowe and Thomas Kyd.

The scenes also "pay universal homage to everybody's problems and joys," said Kay Bethea, the show's director and a professor of theater and music here at PVCC.

Bethea and the cast have been working on this production since shortly after the semester began and will give two more performances on Nov. 5 and 6.

They hope students and other members of the community come enjoy the show, discover that Shakespeare is accessible and that how

people deal with one another has not changed very much, no matter the age, or the rhythm of the verse.

Curtain is at 7:00 pm on Friday and Saturday nights, Nov. 5 & 6. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students & seniors. PVCC students can get in free with an arts vouchers.



McBrett, Flickr

ZOMBIES INVADE DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTESVILLE

AMANDA FISHBACK
FORUM STAFF WRITER

In the early morning hours of Oct. 17, humans ran for their lives throughout downtown Charlottesville as zombies chased them in a desperate quest for brains.

The Danger Zombies 5K sponsored by the Filmmaker's Republik quickly gained popularity once word hit the streets.

Over 600 runners - humans and zombies alike - ran to promote the incorporation of local fresh fruits and vegetables into city schools.

Humans were given a pep talk and a head start before the roaring horde of zombies began to chase after them.

Professional make-up artists created the zombies that morning while many people showed up already dressed in magnificent and

gory costumes. People of all ages attended, from the elderly to infants; the youngest registered runner was only two years of age.

The race started at 8:30 a.m., though people arrived as early as 6 a.m. full of anticipation either to chase or be chased.

The Danger Zombies 5K Run will be featured on the special features portion of the DVD for "Danger. Zombies. Run.," a philosophical zombie comedy that was filmed and directed locally by Brian Wimer.

The film premieres at the Paramount Theater on Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$10.

The movie will also be shown at the Virginia Film Festival and will be available for purchase soon on the film's website dangerzombiesrun.com.



Chris D. Scott



Martin LaBar, Flickr



Brigitte Deisenhammer, Flickr



Keven Law, Flickr

CORRECTIONS

The article, "Student discounts mean fuller wallets," which appeared in the Forum, Volume 9.2, reported that Harris Teeter offers discounts to PVCC students. According to the company, the discount applies only to UVA students. The Forum apologizes for any inconvenience.

THOUSANDS TREK TO D.C. FOR "RALLY TO RESTORE SANITY AND/OR FEAR"



Cliff, Flickr

MOLLY GRAY
THE LANTERN
via UWire.com

Comedy Central funny-men Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart drew a crowd of celebrities and fans alike Saturday in Washington, D.C., with names such as Ozzy Osbourne and actor Sam Waterston joining the duo for their "Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear."

Those in the lineup entertained throngs of people who were on the National Mall while more lined the streets and monuments surrounding the rally.

Tobin Strohl, a Dublin, Ohio, resident, attributed the turnout to Stewart, saying he inspired everyday people to become more aware of politics.

The radical extremes have taken over the media," said Strohl, who made the trip to Washington, D.C. for

the rally with his wife, Samantha, an alumna of Ohio State. Stewart really struck a nerve in people who might not have had the time to be politically active before. We want to be politically active, but we have dinner to put on the table."

The Strohls brought their two sons, Jeremy and Samuel, along with them on the trip.

"It was quite the trip. We hopped on the Metro from our hotel and it took us about an hour to get here with the strollers and chairs. We got about as close as we could, but it has been well worth it," Samantha Strohl said.

The family set up camp just in front of the Washington Monument on the opposite end of the mall from the rally in front of the Capitol Building, with a view of the entire area.

"There has to be about five times as many people here as fit in the Horse-



Cliff, Flickr

shoe," Tobin Strohl said. "It's simply amazing."

Tyler and Meghan Brooks, however, had to work their way out of the crowd much closer to the action. The couple, also from Columbus, took a seven-hour road trip to D.C. for the rally.

"It was hard to get in, you had to push, but it was really great," Tyler Brooks said. "We can't believe how many people are here."

As they exited the rally, the Brooks said they saw lots of people with signs and costumes mocking the Tea Party and Fox News Channel, popular targets of Stewart and Colbert's satire.

Michael Trollan stood in the mall near Seventh Avenue holding up his MacBook Air with the words "Fox News says there are 100 people here."

Trollan said his sign was in an effort to mock Sean Hannity, a host on Fox, who

reportedly used old footage to make a Tea Party rally in November seem larger than it actually was.

No crowd estimates have been made thus far for Saturday's rally, but it nearly filled the National Mall.

Other signs at the rally paid tribute to Colbert's notion that Americans should be afraid of the state of their country's political system.

Christoph Schwaiger, a native of France, came to the rally as a part of a four-month trip throughout the United States. He and a friend, Ian Kellett of Montana, held signs that read "(totally) scared" and "you can't spell COURAGE without RAGE."

Molly Gray is a reporter for the Lantern of Ohio State U.

Read the Forum online!

Check out the past issues!

pvcc.edu/student_life/forum.php

Contentious Contemporaries



Oct. 29, 30, Nov. 5, 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 30 & Nov. 6 at 2:30 p.m.

PVCC's Dickinson Building, Main Stage

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UPCOMING STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

What: Fantasy Photos

When: Nov. 3, times TBA

Where: Bolick Student Center

What: Caricatures

When: Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where: Bolick Student Center

What: PVCC Ping Pong & Table Tennis
Championship Final

When: TBA

Where: Bolick Student Center

Who: Shagun Adhikari VS David Nissley (Advanced Bracket) & Andy Bogdan Bindea VS Alec Ferralli (Moderate Bracket)

What: Free Movie Night: Inception

When: Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Dickinson Theater

What: Thanksgiving Break

When: Nov. 24 - Nov. 28

Where: EVERYWHERE

What: PVCC Chorus Holiday Concert

When: Dec. 5, 3 - 5 p.m.

Where: Dickinson Theater

COLLEGE EVENTS

A CHORAL CORNUCOPIA
Sun., 11/14
3:30 p.m.

Under the direction of L. Thomas Vining, the 90-voice chorus of The Oratorio Society of Virginia starts its 44th season with a program to delight all tastes from classical to popular. Enjoy the delightful "Lovesong Waltzes" by Brahms, arrangements from Bernstein's "Candide," and opera choruses by Offenbach and Gilbert & Sullivan. The chorus will also perform the American tune "Down by the Riverside," arranged by the famed English composer John Rutter. Tickets are \$30 reserved seats, \$20 general admission, \$10 students. For more info visit pvcc.edu/performingarts

FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Fri., 11/19
7:30 p.m.

Free Movie Friday at PVCC features "Inception." Free admission, no tickets required. General seating. PVCC's Student Art Club sponsors Free Movie Friday on the big screen in the comfortable and spacious V. Earl Dickinson theater. For more info visit pvcc.edu/performingarts

**COMMUNITY EVENTS
SAMPLER****ROCK & ROLL MOVIE
NIGHT**

Mon., 11/1 & Mon., 11/18
8 p.m.

The Twisted Branch Tea Bazaar on the Historic Downtown Mall hosts WTJU's bi-weekly Rock & Roll Movie Night. A different movie somehow related to rock music is shown every other week,

starting between 8 and 9 p.m. Admission is free. Visit wtju.net or teabazaar.com for more information.

**PEOPLE, ECOSYSTEMS,
AND OUR COMMUNITY**
Wed., 11/3

7 p.m.

Tom Olivier and Jack Marshall from the Sierra Club will lead a discussion of recent studies conducted by Advocates for a Sustainable Albemarle Population (ASAP) and how local government leaders and environmentalists can use this information for planning purposes. Join the discussion at St. Mark Lutheran Church on the corner of Alderman Road and Ivy Road. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call John at (434) 973-0373.

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Fri., 11/5
8 p.m.

The Westminster Organ Concert Series continues its 31st season with organist Thomas Strauss and trumpeter Bernhard Muenchbach, both from Germany, performing Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. Additional music by Alberti, C.P.E. Bach, and Koetsier round out the program. This free concert will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 190 Rugby Road in Charlottesville. Doors open at 7:30 pm and a reception will follow the concert. Parking is available behind the church and the sanctuary is wheelchair accessible. For more information call (434) 963-4690 or visit their website avenue.org/organconcerts.

**READING OF "JAMES
DEAN & THE DEVIL"**

Sat., 11/6

7 p.m.

An actor reading of "James Dean & The Devil" by Ro-

sary Hartel O'Neill will be presented at the Hamner Theater in Nelson County. Come listen to this brand new play, and stay after the reading for discussion with the actors and playwright. Free and open to the public. Call (434) 361-1999 or visit their website hamnertheater.com for more information.

FALL BOOK SALE

Sat., 11/13 - Sat. 11/20

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily

Looking for books, recordings, movies or the like for the holidays? Visit the Gordon Avenue Library from Nov. 13 through Nov. 20, where the Fall Book Sale offers "Great Books at Great Prices for a Great Cause." Visit jmlr-friends.org for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**STUDENT-FACULTY
MEET AND GREET**

Wednesday, 11/10

12:20 p.m.

On November 10 at 12:20 p.m. in the Bolick Center, SGA is hosting a Meet and Greet, a time for students and faculty to get to know each other better in a relaxed and fun environment. Free pizza, drinks, and salad will be offered. All students and faculty have to do is show up and be ready to have fun and get to know each other better.

The Forum offers classified space to the PVCC community free of charge. Please send announcements, along with your full name, email, and phone number to theforum@pvcc.edu

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