

the Forum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

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Dickinson celebrates 10 years

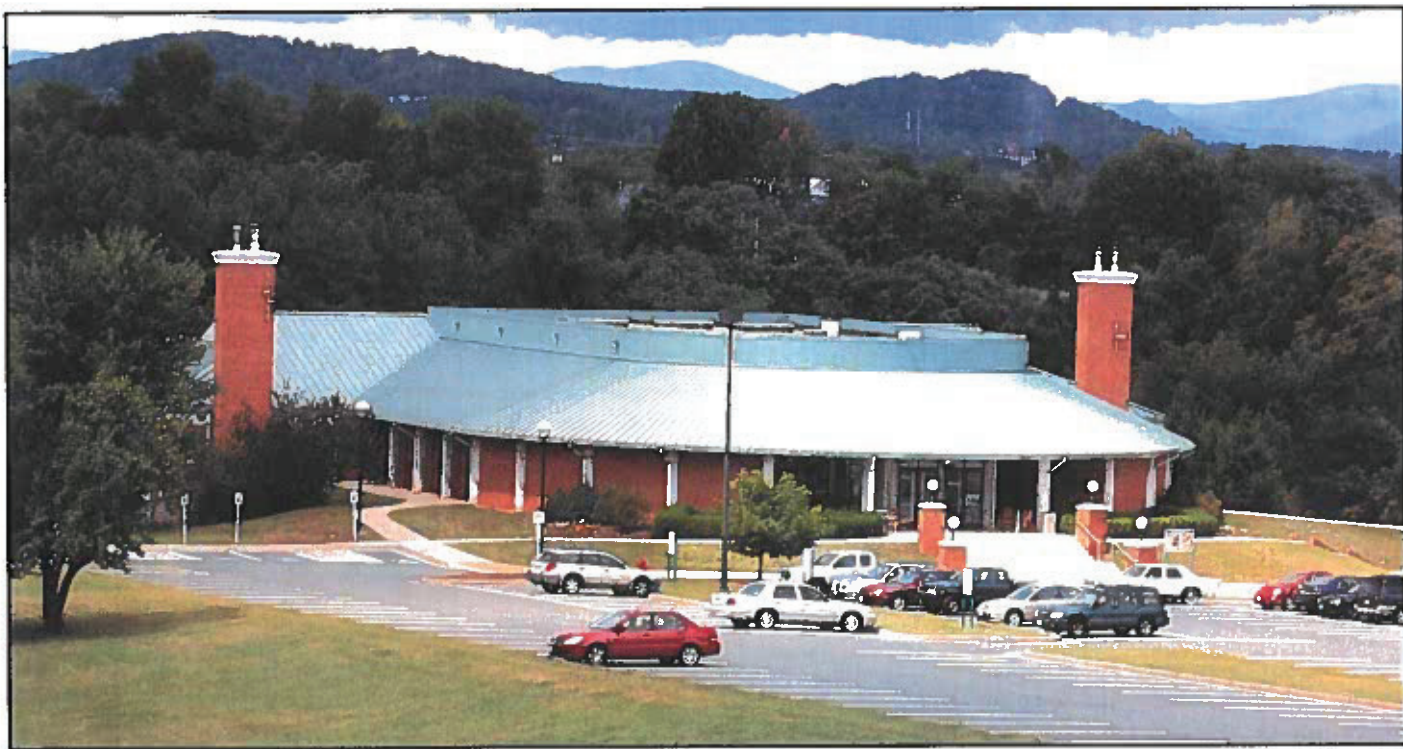


Photo by Jon Hasenfus

Wren Curtis

FORUM CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On September 13, from 12:00 – 5:00 pm, PVCC will be hosting a celebration that marks the 10th anniversary of its humanities building, the V. Earl Dickinson Building.

Named after V. Earl Dickinson, the Dickinson Building is home to many faculty offices, classrooms, a music lab, a ceramics lab, two art/design studios, practice rooms where private music lessons are held, an art gallery, and two theatres. The theatres include a 500-seat main stage theatre and a 75-seat Black Box Theatre.

Initial planning for the building began in 1992. Cliff Haury, Dean of Humanities, recalls that the project was given the vague name of "Humanities and Social Sciences Building," because Virginia Community College (VCC) regulation decreed that the

building had to "have a purpose title. When the building was built, finally, and we knew art, music, dance, and drama were going to be here, we officially changed the name to humanities, fine arts, and social sciences," Haury recounts.

According to Haury, the idea for the building came before the money for the building was raised, and there was never any doubt as to what the new building's function would be.

"At the time," he remembers, "we were artificially restricting enrollments in classes that were related to drama, music, and art because of facilities. Art was in the old welding shop, the theatre was in a space that was not acceptable, music was moved from venue to venue...[and] we couldn't expand. If you have one art studio, you have one art class a night, and that's all."

Kay Bethea, professor of theatre and music and artistic director of the theatre, remembers those days vividly. Bethea has been a full-time faculty member for 25 years.

In the early days, she says, plays were performed in "the North Mall. At that time it was just a big open area...it was all vending machines and water fountains. We had to hang ropes—cords—for the lighting... [We] set up a stage—set up these old platforms [Buildings and Grounds] built us ... we had to turn off the vending machines [for every show], turn off the water fountains, try to keep people from going through from the 200 wing to the library and the rest [of the main building], which got kind of bloody at times—we almost had fights with certain people, especially on

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3 Lower the drinking age?

4 Student activities for fall

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Dickinson from page 1

rainy nights... We did that for 4 years...we staged 3 shows a year."

Thankfully, the theatre's situation improved when PVCC added the 800 wing onto the main building, setting the "multi-purpose room" aside for drama. It was an "enormous improvement," says Bethea, but there were still many shortcomings.

"They had [some lighting equipment] built in, but they didn't finish [installing] it...it had no restrooms, so the actors had to go out the back side doors and all the way around to the other side of the building if they needed to get to the restrooms during performances."

Dance Professor Anne Megibow, has taught at PVCC for 33 years. As she recalls, there wasn't space for dance on campus when she first started teaching, so PVCC's first dance classes were held in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, "[on a] linoleum floor and next to the boiler room."

When the McGuffey Art Center (of which Anne is a founding member) opened, the dance classes moved there.

"That was interesting," she recalls, "because I'd come out [to PVCC] every month or so to check my mail, [so] I was really not...a member of the PVCC community."

There were some compromises that had to be made during the planning for Dickinson: The size of the building had to be cut back because of flood planes and the building's close proximity to the lake.

Haury notes that the building lost "some offices and a couple classrooms."

Also, Bethea was adamant about the main theatre being a smaller, 250-seat theatre, but the size had to be moved up to a 500-seat theatre in order for the building to receive state funding.

When she learned that a 250-seat theatre was out of the question, she suggested building a smaller black box theatre in addition to the main theatre. The black box could be used as a classroom as well as a more intimate theatre for smaller plays.

Despite Bethea's initial trepidation about the size of the main theatre, she remembers feeling very positively about it the first time she visited it.

"On the first day I did go into [the theatre]...when the building was maybe two-thirds finished...we walked into the theatre and there were no seats. It was just those concrete [platforms]. I mean, it was just amazing. It was just like going into Epidaurus or one of the great Greek theatres or something."



Photo by Jon Hasenfus

Above: The PVCC box office is where people can obtain tickets for performances.

Below: The Dickinson Commons at the back of the building are often used as a study area.

Dean Haury remembers that the initial reactions to the new building were very positive, although he says that some students and faculty were "puzzled that there weren't more classrooms...We were really crowded, but if you count them up, there's really not a lot of classrooms [in the Dickinson Building]."

Bethea couldn't have been more pleased, though. "To say that we went from the very, very basics to glory is an understatement here. Even with all the problems that we had here the first couple of years—and there were some enormous physical problems—I never thought it would happen."

The Dickinson Building has allowed PVCC to greatly expand both the courses offered by the college and events hosted by the college.

Dean Haury remembers that during the first fall semester the building was officially open, PVCC increased its "instructional program between 10 and 15 percent instantly in one year...[which] gave us a leap...that has continued to this day."

More specifically, he recalls, "the capacity allowed us to instantly double certain areas, like art. Ceramics was very popular, and we instantly went from one section every couple nights to having four or five sections."

Bethea says that "We couldn't offer any other music classes [before the Dickinson building]. We had a huge student recital last year with 25 people performing... we have a lot of private lessons. We've

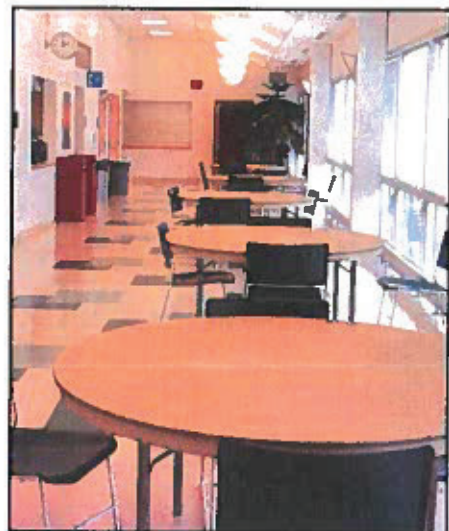


Photo by Jon Hasenfus

been able to expand—we usually have two, maybe three humanities-type courses like music appreciation and the history of jazz. I think it's had an enormous impact on theatre and music."

Megibow credits the Dickinson Building with not only with allowing PVCC to offer a dance specialization major, but also to move the dance program away from being just a physical education class. "It enabled us to address dancers more. It totally changed the dance program," she says.

The facilities that the Dickinson Building offers are key for instruction. Beryl Solla, chairperson of the art department, assistant dean, and gallery curator, says that the art classrooms are "comparable to JMU, where I taught for 5 years...they're com-

fortable, they're big. The graphics lab is fantastic. It's state-of-the-art."

Megibow rates both the main stage and Black Box Theatre as wonderful spaces for teaching dance, saying, "I think in a lot of dance classrooms there's a poll in the middle, or the ceiling's too low, or...you know. I taught at UVA as well, and that was in an aerobics studio; that was just a long rectangle. The main stage especially [is an] amazing room."

Bethea concurs, remarking that "[being] able to [teach drama] in a real theatre where you have the audience configuration is so different from being in a classroom and trying to make [students] imagine that they're in a theatre."

The Main Stage Theatre is certainly not just a classroom. The Dickinson Building hosts many events, from student performances of drama and dance to many touring performers: musical acts, dance troupes, drama groups, and more.

Bethea notes that both audiences and performers "love our theatre. For a lot of people, it's their favorite venue. It's a good, comfortable, adequate, well-equipped space. I think it has the intimacy of a [much smaller] theatre, and I don't get that feeling at the Paramount or at CHS Performing Arts Center. I don't even get it at Culbreth. The acoustics [in the theatre are] so good for so many [different] things...it's amazing. I think it's had a huge impact on the campus—obviously on the arts program, but on the campus and on the community. It's really made us a viable arts facility in the community that we never could've been [without it]."

Someone overhearing this interview with Bethea chose that moment to chime in with, "And there isn't a bad seat in the house."

The facilities of the Dickinson Building have allowed the college to add a considerable number of programs to its repertoire, and it provides some very functional learning environments.

Not only that, it also seems to foster a sense of community between all the arts—a community that doesn't exist in many larger schools.

"Most of the colleges where I've been," Bethea observes, "the theatre was in one building, music was in another, and I didn't even know where the art building was. We had no connection...and when we did things together it was a real struggle. The fact that we can have a nice program in a building with all of the arts together in one building—I would never want to separate that."

Presidents want lower drinking age

Amethyst Initiative draws 100 signatures from college presidents

Jordan McNeish
FORUM STAFF WRITER

In 1984, the federal government passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which gave states incentive to pass and enforce legislation setting the minimum age for public consumption of alcohol at 21. What incentive? States that decline to comply will take a cut on their federal funding for highways.

The Amethyst Initiative is an organization of college presidents that opposes this persuasion. Their website (www.amethystinitiative.org) says they "have signed their names to a public statement that the 21 year-old drinking age is not working, and, specifically, that it has created a culture of dangerous binge drinking on their campuses."

The initiative has taken a lot of criticism from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (www.madd.org) who allege "an estimated 25,000 lives have been saved by the 21 Minimum Legal Drinking Age."

UVA president John Casteen told the incoming class he was undecided about whether to sign the Amethyst Initiative, reports *The Hook*: "According to several recent studies and surveys, binge drinking at UVA has dropped significantly thanks to a focus on... ads... geared to teaching students that binge drinking isn't normal behavior."

Locally, PVCC President Frank Friedman had something to say. "More than half of all PVCC students are over the age of 21 so this is a moot issue for them. I have not been asked to sign the proposal and if asked I would decline." Friedman stressed that he is more concerned with the dangers of drinking and getting behind the wheel than binge drinking.



PVCC clubs and activities provide balance to student life

Emily Traylor
FORUM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Piedmont offers a wide array of programming that is as just good as what can be found at 4-year colleges and universities," says Steve McNerney, director of student activities at PVCC.

All of the events are free, and many of them occur during college hour, which is a class-free period from 12:20-1:20 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

To kick the semester off, PVCC will be hosting a club day on Wednesday, September 17 in the Bolick Student Center and main hallway. Over thirty student clubs will be represented at this event, which lasts from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Representatives from each club will be available to answer questions and recruit new members.

Many students see clubs as a way to relax outside of class and make new friends.

"I would say that it is definitely worth being active in clubs at PVCC. For me, the clubs were a great way to relax and have fun," said PVCC graduate Patrick Schwab. "I got to meet some pretty cool people while being involved and got to attend some even cooler events!" Schwab was a member of the Ultimate Frisbee Club, the Student Government Association, and was president of the Engineering Club.

A current student, Beth Russell, is involved with the Ultimate Frisbee Club and Christian Student Fellowship.

"Joining a club is definitely a worthwhile decision," she said. "Being an active student is very important when applying to other colleges. Not only that, every club at Piedmont that I have attended has been tons of fun!"

Club day also coincides with the annual welcome-back social that will occur from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm. Hot dogs, pasta salad, chips, cookies, and sodas will be provided in the Bolick Student Center. Students, faculty, and staff can load up their plates with the free food, check out clubs, and socialize.

The next event will be starring singer and songwriter, Lea, who is slated to perform at 12:20 pm on Wednesday, September 24. This will be the pop singer's third



Photo by Jon Hasenfus

Emily Traylor and Samara Townsend try out the new volleyball net.

visit to PVCC.

On Tuesday, September 30, PVCC will be hosting a custom t-shirt design in the Student Center. Students will have the opportunity to choose t-shirt designs and get their photos taken. The pictures will be incorporated into the chosen designs and stamped onto the fronts of t-shirts, which the students can keep. The event lasts from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

Eight days later, a second-annual volunteer fair will take place in the Student Center on Monday, October 8. Twenty-five organizations from the Charlottesville area will be present to discuss volunteer opportunities in the community.

"Students who are so disposed towards service and volunteering will have an opportunity to channel their passion," said McNerney.

On October 22-24, PVCC's Volunteer Club and the Office of Student Activities will jointly sponsor a Virginia Hunger Symposium. The three-day event is aimed at raising awareness about hunger around

the globe and is slated to include speakers, panel discussions, and a luncheon.

"It's going to be enlightening," McNerney said. "It's going to impart some knowledge of the suffering in our world."

A week after the symposium, PVCC will be visited by a nationally-known peace activist, Arthur Romano, who will speak about nonviolence. His presentation will occur on Wednesday, October 29 in the Student Center during college hour.

The final event of the semester will feature Elaine Pasqua, an inspirational speaker who lost both of her parents to AIDS. Her talk is entitled "Sex and Excess: Surviving the Party."

"[Pasqua] is going to come in and give a highly charged and interactive presentation that our students will find much more sophisticated than what they had in high school," McNerney noted.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12 at 12:20 pm in the Student Center.

In addition to clubs and events, students

See **Balance** on page 5

Balance from page 4

can also make use of a new volleyball court that has been constructed behind the library on the east lawn. The court is open to all students for recreation.

PVCC already has one volleyball team that competes in the Parks and Rec League of Charlottesville, and the Office of Student Activities hopes that the new court will help increase student participation even more.

Plans are currently in the works for an outdoor volleyball tournament to occur at PVCC this fall. More information will be provided as soon as details for the event are finalized.

The Office of Student Activities strongly encourages all students to take advantage of the extracurricular opportunities that are available at PVCC this fall.

"To balance out the hard work that you will put into your studies, you owe it to yourself to discover the world of student activities at PVCC!" said McNerney.

Student Activities

Fall 2008

Club day
September 17

Welcome-back social
September 17

Singer/songwriter Lea
September 24

Custom t-shirt design
September 30

Volunteer fair
October 8

Virginia hunger symposium
October 22-24

Aurthur Romano
October 29

Elaine Pasqua
November 12

Students find new path

Kyle Mikkelsen
FORUM STAFF WRITER

New to PVCC this year is a handful of students from a private high school near Charlottesville who have chosen to take a rather untraditional approach to education: They all decided to leave high school early in order to become full-time early admission students at PVCC.

This group of 16 and 17-year-old students elected to start college early in lieu of finishing high school because they feel that Piedmont offers them not only a breath of fresh air, but also a better chance at success.

These three students—Nick Williams, John Seabaugh, and Alex Shannon—see PVCC as a better school to attend for their futures. Aside from easing the transition from a small private high school to a large four-year university, Piedmont's guaranteed transfer program essentially provides assurance that hard work and great grades will pay off.

What ultimately drove Williams to PVCC was his knowledge of a friend's rejection from the colleges of his choice. His friend had been an A / B student taking honors and AP classes and actively participating in school athletics.

When Williams heard that his friend had not gotten into either UVA or Virginia Tech, he seriously began to worry about his own chances of gaining admission to the same schools.

"It really concerned me," he said, "because I quickly realized that I might not get in." At PVCC, on the other hand, students can rest assured that as long as they maintain a certain GPA while taking transfer-oriented courses, they are guaranteed admission to a host of in-state schools.

Seabaugh, a 16-year-old engineering student, said that PVCC gives him "more opportunity to have everything, such as guaranteed admission to great schools." He explained that "you can get really good grades at any high school, but you're not guaranteed success."

He went on to say that a great student can work extremely hard at a top private school and earn high grades while receiving an outstanding education but will still miss the one thing that is so important and is provided by PVCC: guaranteed admission to universities such as the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and William

and Mary.

"So far I like it a lot here," said Williams. "Of all the schools I've gone to, [Piedmont] is the only one that I really like." He emphasized that the people at PVCC seem to be nicer and are "more down to earth."

He added that "the teachers here seem to have more fun in the classroom. They make the classroom a fun and easy environment to learn in." Seabaugh heartily agreed with this, saying that "people I don't even know are nice to me and want to be friends. It makes you feel at ease here."

According to Seabaugh, the only negative aspect of PVCC, besides the often overcrowded halls and full-to-the-brim classrooms, is the long distance between the Dickinson building and the main building. He says that having to walk back and forth between buildings can be a little bit "annoying."

Not bad, though, when a student's chief complaint is the four-minute trek across parking lots from one building to the other. But, according to Shannon, the freedom of PVCC more than makes up for it. "I really like how you can leave campus whenever you want," he declared.

Seabaugh, who after 10th grade already knew that he wanted to become an engineer, said that there is no wasting time at Piedmont. Having his core classes mostly complete, Seabaugh decided that finishing 11th and 12th grades before attending college would just be a waste of time.

He said that students who leave high school early to attend PVCC as full-time early admission students are able to "focus on what they want to study" without having to take classes that don't interest them.

Seabaugh added that many required high school classes, such as geography, civics, and history, teach students information that is readily forgotten upon graduation, whereas PVCC allows students to take only the specific courses that are necessary for the professions of their choosing.

All three students are also quick to point out the major discrepancy in tuition amounts between private high school and PVCC. While tuition for most full-time students at PVCC is approximately \$3,000 – \$4,000 per year, private school education can easily reach a yearly cost of \$15,000.

Williams, Shannon, and Seabaugh agree that the freedom to come and go at PVCC is more than a nice privilege – it is something that forces students to become responsible.

Need a break? Try visiting **Humpback Rocks!**

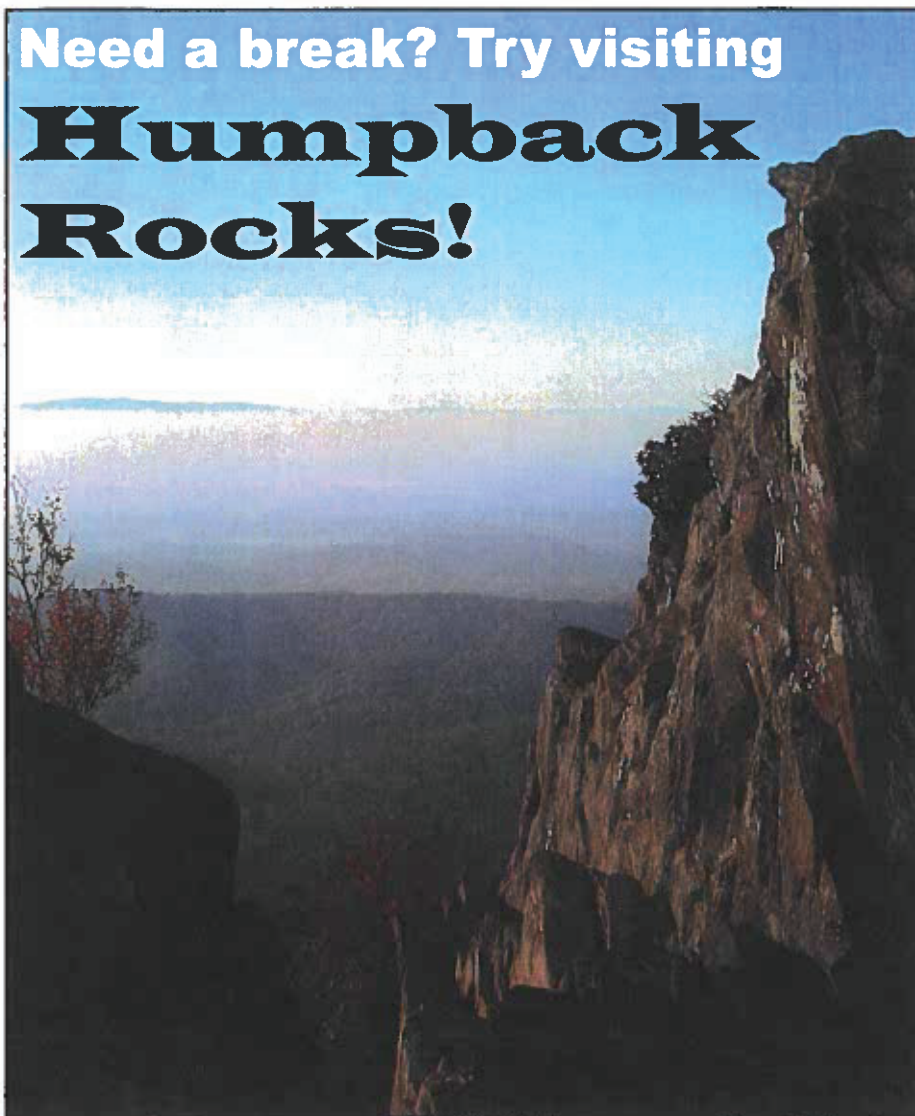


Photo by Tatiana Jorge

Above: The beautiful view as seen from the top of Humpback Rocks.

How do you get to **Humpback Rocks?**

- ⇒ Travel west out of Charlottesville on I-64, towards Staunton and Waynesboro.
- ⇒ Take exit number 99 to get to the Skyline Drive, which runs along the mountains.
- ⇒ Head south on the Blue Ridge Parkway about 9 miles, and you will see the parking lot to Humpback Rocks on the left.

How about **Crozet Pizza?**

- ⇒ Head back to I-64 after the hike and drive eastbound towards Charlottesville.
- ⇒ Take the Crozet exit and turn left at the first traffic light.
- ⇒ Crozet Pizza is on the right shortly after crossing over the railroad tracks in the center of town.

Tatiana Eames
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Gold, red, and yellow-colored leaves are beginning to decorate the countryside of Virginia. Fall is coming, and for those of you who are new to Charlottesville or haven't experienced the surrounding countryside, there are some places you might want to take advantage of this season.

When the stress of classes and exams begins to build up in a few short weeks, consider taking a day to wear hiking shoes, comfortable pants, and a sweatshirt, and go on a trip to Humpback Rocks.

**"Consider taking a day to...
go on a trip to
Humpback Rocks."**

Humpback Rocks is a short hike in the Blue Ridge Mountains that offer a scenic view through all the seasons. During the approximately 40-minute hike, you will likely see many kinds of wild life along the way, from deer to squirrels and diverse kinds of leaves and trees. The trail has beautiful scenery that will provide you beautiful pictures of nature.

The Humpback Rocks trail has its own Welcome Center where you can buy post cards, souvenirs and maps if needed. The hike also has its own parking lot and there is no charge for entry. The temperature when you reach the top is usually about ten degrees cooler than the temperature in downtown Charlottesville, so be sure to bring a jacket and a bottle of water to keep you hydrated.

After your experience hiking up to Humpback Rocks, here is a suggestion for a good bite to eat before your drive home. The name says it all: "Crozet Pizza."

This small restaurant has charm to spare. Despite the small atmosphere, one can see its popularity by looking at the walls, which are covered in hundreds of business cards from many people who have had a big slice of cheese, pepperoni, pineapple or anchovy pizza. It's true. Visitors can order almost everything they want in this friendly, small restaurant, which would one would probably never even notice while driving by. But don't forget: They don't take credit cards, so make sure to bring cash or your check book with you.

So, if you need a break from the stress this semester, take a hike on Humpback Rocks!

A night at the fair

*A yellow half-moon rose in the sky
And bid the evening "fairwell."*



Photo courtesy of freenaturephotos.com

Jonathan Sharpe

FORUM CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On August 8, 2008, the Augusta County Fair kicked off. There were activities there for people of all ages to enjoy, such as rides and raffle drawings.

There were many animals there too. Rebel Ridge in the R.L. Coffey center presented a goat exhibit.

Other animals such as pigs, ducks, horses, and llamas were present in an area called "The Petting Zoo," which was sponsored by the Augusta 4-H group. They did not charge anybody to go in and pet the animals.

The Augusta 4-H also gave away free items such as brochures, pencils, and magnets.

The fair also provided food. The prices varied among the stands. For example, at the R.L. Coffey Pavilion, one could get a dinner that consisted of coleslaw, baked beans, barbecue, and a drink for \$7.00.

The Lion's Club of Staunton sold sodas for \$1.00, hamburgers for \$2.00, cheeseburgers for \$2.50, French fries for \$2.00, and funnel cake for \$3.50.

Maple Pit Cooked Barbecue from Highland, Virginia was also in attendance, serving dinners of pork barbecue or ribs for \$6.50.

Tickets for rides were \$1.00 each, but if one purchased 25 tickets, the total price was reduced to \$20.00.

Some of the entertainment options included pony rides, water games, a horse

carousel, an Expowheel, and Skee-ball.

Skee-ball games were 50 cents. When playing Skee-ball, if anyone got 150-200 points, he or she would earn a coupon. The players could earn more coupons by accumulating more points.

Some people at the fair just walked around and watched the various events and activities. A group of women known as the Chainsaw Chix showed off their talents by carving wood with chainsaws. Their handiwork included bears, 4-leaf clovers, and birds.

There were companies present giving out brochures, credit cards, and other items. Most of it was free.

Smokey the Bear was at one booth giving away free pencils. There were also political booths supporting presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain.

Besides Smokey the Bear, another celebrity was present at the fair. The Miss Senior Augusta County Fair winner of 2008, Tracity, who had blond hair and was wearing a black dress, walked around the fairgrounds chatting with attendees.

When asked what it was like to be the pageant winner, she replied, "It's fun. I get to walk around and just talk to people!"

By 9:00 pm, darkness had settled over the grounds. The rides turned on their lights and illuminated the night with a colorful glow.

A yellow half-moon rose in the sky and bid the evening "fairwell."

Letter to the editor

Once again, the students of Piedmont Virginia Community College embark on another great semester. I enjoyed last semester very much, but I am confident this one will be one could be even better. Why? There will soon be many changes in local government, our nation and the world. We are at an important time in history, and we, the students, are the foundation of the future. How exciting!

PVCC has many new faces this semester in the student body and faculty. It's always hard to say goodbye to old friends, but so easy to say hello to new ones. We are united in our efforts to succeed and grant what is needed to have others succeed.

We are blessed, fortunate and lucky to have the staff, faculty and administration we have here at PVCC.

I cannot say that there will not be challenges, but I can say that we have the tools to beat those challenges. One day, you and your friends and associates will all be successful artists, executives, business owners, craftsmen, nurses, engineers, teachers and parents. One day, you will make tough decisions, and have to rely on what you have learned and experienced through the years.

All I am trying to say is this: It is my pleasure to be in school at this moment in time. What bonds us is our love of family, hard work, dedication, hope for our future, and Piedmont Virginia Community College.

I'd like to thank Dr. Frank Friedman, Anita Showers, SGA, BSA, Steve McNerney, the Learning Center and most importantly you, the successful student."

-Andrew Williams, PVCC student

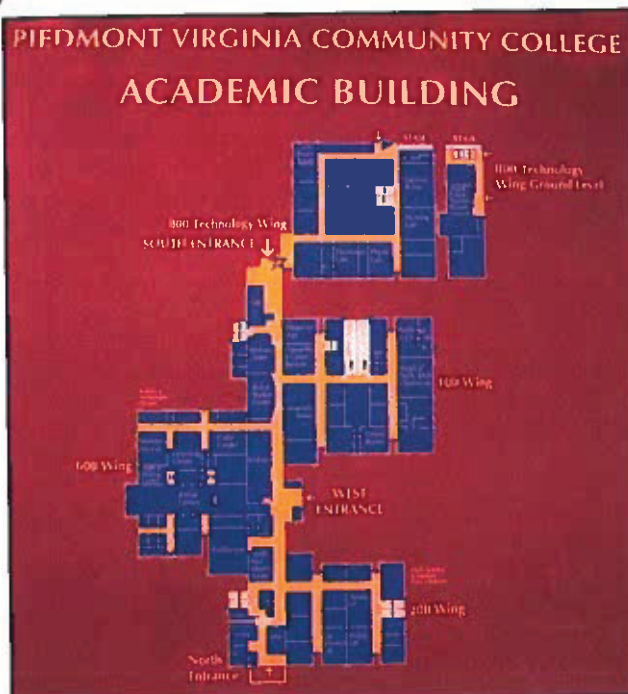
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PVCC's best-kept

A pictorial tour of some lesser-known spots around campus

Photos and text by Kelby Lightburn
FORUM STAFF WRITER

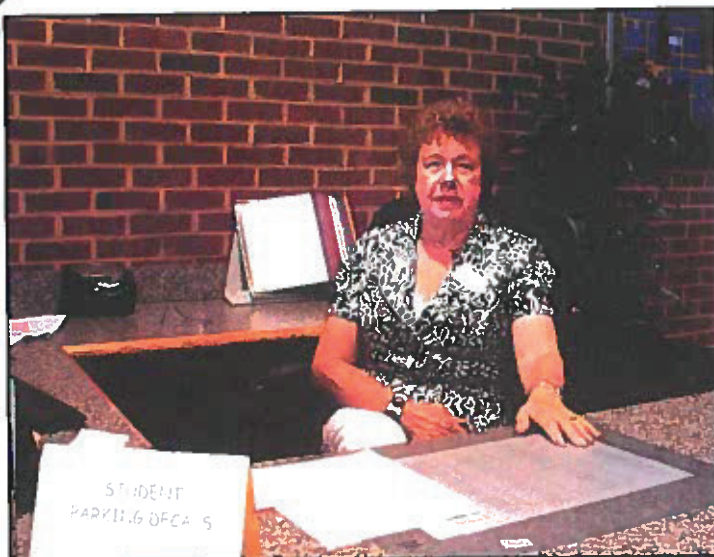
1



Map

Lost? This map will show you where to go!
The star indicates where to pick up copies of
The Forum.

2



Addie Smith

She is one of PVCC's receptionists, the ladies who smile at people as they walk in the main entrance of the school. They are responsible for student parking decals, vouchers for school events, and directing lost students to their classrooms.

3

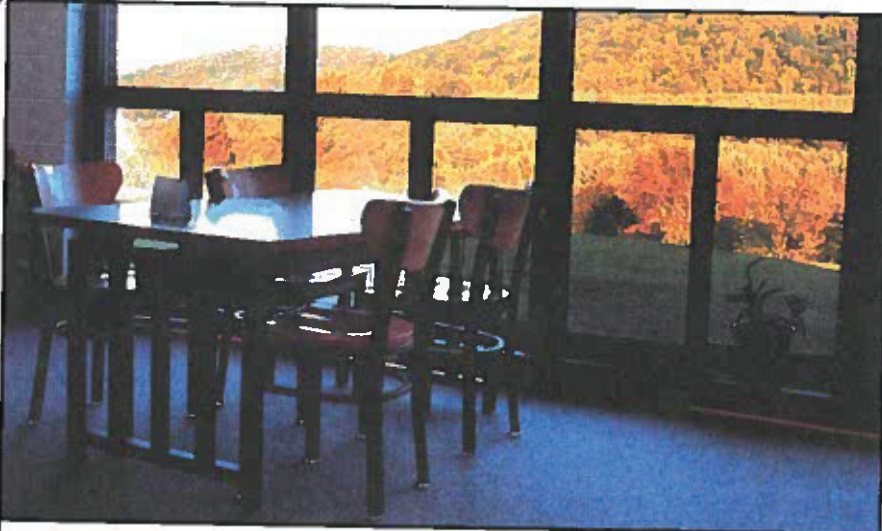


Bolick Student Center

For those who enjoy socializing, the Bolick Center is ideal. On Wednesdays, there are usually scheduled activities occurring, which sometimes involve free food! The center was newly upholstered last year and has comfy chairs and couches.

secrets

4



Betty Sue Jessup Library

Located next to the bookstore, the library has many resources. Filled with hundreds of books, it is a comfortable place to study. There is a reading room and a sign-up sheet for the study rooms. The real treasure is the back of the library, which is a study area that looks out onto the mountains.

5



The hallway

The door on the left next to the library goes upstairs to The Forum's meeting area. If you want to submit an article, feel free to check out the newspaper meetings that occur on Wednesdays at 12:30. To the right is the security office, where one can acquire an ID card for student discounts.

6



The garden

This is a hidden place behind the school. It's nice for a quiet place to study, eat lunch, or enjoy the outdoors. It features benches, picnic tables, and flowers.

7



Computer lab

Located in the technology wing, the lab is one of the most efficient places to print homework (5 cents/sheet) or check email. There are three Mac computers in the back, and all of the computers contain the adobe suit.

Art gallery opens at Dickinson

Bianca Roat
FORUM STAFF WRITER

PVCC will be opening its 2008 gallery season on Friday, September 5 with two exhibitions in the North and South Galleries in the Dickinson building. This year marks the 10-year anniversary for the Dickinson building, and many events will be held throughout the year to celebrate.

The first two shows in the galleries are Chica's Choice in the North Gallery and Constant Places in the South Gallery. Both are curated by Chica Tenney.

The opening reception for these shows will be held on September 12 from 5:00-7:00 pm and is free and open to the public.

During this reception, PVCC will be honoring numerous people who share responsibility in the success of the art program. Those honored will include Chica Tenney, former chairperson of the Visual Arts Program at PVCC, Barbara McCallum, former chair, Jeanne Van Gemert, former chair, and art critics Ruth Latter and Laura Parsons.

The reception will be an evening of art and food, reunion, and a celebration of PVCC's art program.

Chica Tenney retired from PVCC in 2004 to focus on painting. She grew up in Michigan and graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts, and then completed a Master's degree of fine arts from VCU, both in painting and printmaking.

She is a founding member of the McGuffey Art Center in downtown Charlottesville and is also one of Charlottesville's beloved artists. Chica Tenney spends her time between Charlottesville, Michigan, and her farm in Buckingham County, Virginia.

According to Chica, "Art is a personal research for me, a pursuit of the inexplicable with hopes of understanding what I see."

Constant Places, in the south gallery, is a collection of Chica's own paintings of landscapes in Michigan and in Buckingham County.

PVCC Art Professor Beryl Solla states

"Art is a personal research for me, a pursuit of the inexplicable with hopes of understanding what I see." —Chica Tenney



"October"
By Chica Tenney



"Light through the Pines"
By William White



"Studio Tea"
By Liz Geiger

that "Tenney continues her exploration of color, light, and ever changing landscape in this new body of paintings. The scale of the work is as impressive as Tenney's skillful brushwork, unerring sense of composition and love of color."

For the North Gallery, Chica chose only three among her many favorite artists; Jessie Coles, William White, and Liz Geiger. Included in this exhibition are colorful landscapes and still-life works from the artists' collections.

Jessie Coles graduated from UVA with a BA in Studio Art in 1985. She also took drawing and painting classes at PVCC with Chica Tenney 15-20 years later. Ms. Coles presently lives in White Hall, Virginia and has been showing her paintings since 2002 within the region.

Her paintings are described as "gestural still life's," meaning she does not so carefully apply the paint to the canvas. She uses a more spontaneous method. This technique is meant to exhibit the physical act of painting in the finished work.

William (Bill) White earned a B.F.A.

degree from the Philadelphia College of Art in 1967 and a M.F.A. in 1969 from Temple University. He has been teaching drawing and painting at Hollins University since 1971. He is an Artist Member of the Virginia Watercolor Society, and has had over twenty-five solo exhibitions and over eighty-five group shows within the United States.

According to Solla, Bill White's paintings "show the 'tracks of the brush' as it gives shape to the image by means of color. The vigorous, yet considered character of form conveys a lush sense of light and space."

Liz Geiger was born in Charlottesville, Virginia and was educated at UVA. She went on to study at the Vermont Studio Center and the New York Studio School.

She keeps a busy schedule with exhibitions, "and is garnering attention throughout the Northeast and Mid Atlantic in regional, juried and invitational exhibitions, says Solla. She paints still life's and landscapes of vintage neighborhoods and objects found in the home.

Chica's Choice and Constant Places will be showing from September 5th through November 6th, 2008. The paintings can be purchased by contacting Beryl Solla or Chica Tenney.