

PVCC hosts Virginia Democracy Summit

Looking for a club?
Check out
pages 8-9

Cody Clark, assistant editor

PVCC is continuing to encourage student involvement in government and politics by partnering with the Campus Vote Project to bring the 2020 Virginia Democracy Summit to the campus's Main Building on Feb. 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Students from all over Virginia will be participating in the event. Last year, the summit was hosted at James Madison University with over 70 students in attendance.

Connie Jorgensen, assistant professor of political science, said that PVCC is "lucky to host it" this year. Jorgensen expressed how important this summit is going to be especially with the primaries coming up on March 3. This summit is meant to facilitate "young people's participation" and gives students the "tools to get involved and network with students around the state," said

Jorgensen.

The intended focus of this summit is students between the ages of 18 to 24 as they historically have a "turn out far lower" than other age groups, said Jorgensen. However, she followed up by saying that the 18 to 24 age group has gone up in recent years and has "picked up in ways we haven't seen in a long time." Despite the focus on this younger demographic, students of all age groups are welcome to register and attend.

The 2020 summit will start with breakfast and sign-in at 8 a.m.. Opening remarks from PVCC's President Frank Friedman and Professor Jorgensen will follow at 9 a.m.. Then Using NSLVE Data at 9:15 a.m. followed by the Census Panel at 9:45 a.m.. At which time, the group will be split up and attendees will have to choose a panel to attend during each time slot. on

See Democracy Summit on page 4



PVCC's Voting registration table. Photography by Cody Clark

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DATES TO REMEMBER

— **Club Day *** —

Feb. 5, 10a.m. to 2p.m., Bolick Student Center

— **DMV Connect** —

Feb. 5, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
North Mall Meeting Room

— **Super Saturday FAFSA Workshop *** —

Feb. 8, 9 a.m. to noon
Main Building M154

— **Red Cross Blood Drive *** —

Feb. 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
North Mall Meeting Room

— **Eat and Meet Computing and Engineering *** —

Feb. 13, 12-1 p.m.
North Mall Meeting Room

— **Gallery Exhibition *** —

Feb. 14, 5-7 p.m., Dickinson Building

— **One Mic Stand *** —

Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
Dickinson Black Box Theatre (D202)

— **2020 Virginia Democracy Summit *** —

Feb. 15, 9 a.m.– 5 p.m.
Main Building

— **Theatre of the Oppressed with Katie Rubens *** —

Feb. 15, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Location TBD

— **Evolution of a Black Girl: From the Slave House to the White House ^** —

Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Manufacturing Day *** —

Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. (Rain Date Feb. 27)
North Mall Meeting Room and Bolick Student Center

— **Free Movie Friday: *Queen and Slim* *** —

Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **Decades of Black History *** —

Feb. 26, 10 a.m.– 2:30 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

PTK Receives Five Star Status

Ari Oxford, assistant editor

As of Jan. 16, 2020, PVCC's Alpha Epsilon Tau, a chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, has earned five star status for 2019.

Associate Professor of Information Technology Bruce Robinson, co-advisor of the club, said, "The advisors would like to thank the college community, especially our college president, Frank Friedman, for their support."

Alpha Epsilon Tau has completed the required Honors in Action Awards submission, both a research project and a college-oriented project, a separate College Project Award submission, and the submission of the Officer Team Award for their five officers by the advisors.

As part of their Honors in Action Program, PTK members went to SDV classes this past year, said Vice-President of Communications Malcolm O'Malley, to encourage students to engage in student life by joining clubs. "We held (and will hold more) panels at SDV classes telling them what goes along with being in a club. How to balance club and school time, the benefits that come with being in a club, some (like PTK) have specific scholarships, and, volunteering at local places," said O'Malley.

O'Malley also said, "Every year PTK does an annual volunteering event that not only gives back to the community but helps us keep our five-star rating. This year we are exploring a few options, the top ones as of now are either planting trees or getting some type of healthcare for students."

For more information on PTK, students can visit their page on the PVCC website under clubs.



Student Government Association News



Democracy Summit, Cont. from page 1

10:45 a.m.

Building Inclusive and Equitable Coalitions
Digital Organizing on Campus
Creating a Climate for Political Learning

11:45 a.m.

Best Organizing Practices: A Student
Perspective Panel
Voter Registration on Campus
International Perspectives

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Access the Vote:

Secure a
Polling Place
on Your
Campus

Beyond Voting:
Other Ways
Students Can
Get Engaged
Action Planning

2:15 p.m.

Day on
Democracy:
Creating an
Election Day
Culture on
Campus

Ask Every
Student/Error-
Free Voter
Registration

Finishing up the day at 3 p.m., there will be a panel called Votes and Ballot and at 4 p.m. there will be Votes and Ballot Lightning Presentations.

The event concludes at 4:30 p.m. with a Hot Chocolate and Coffee Networking Social.

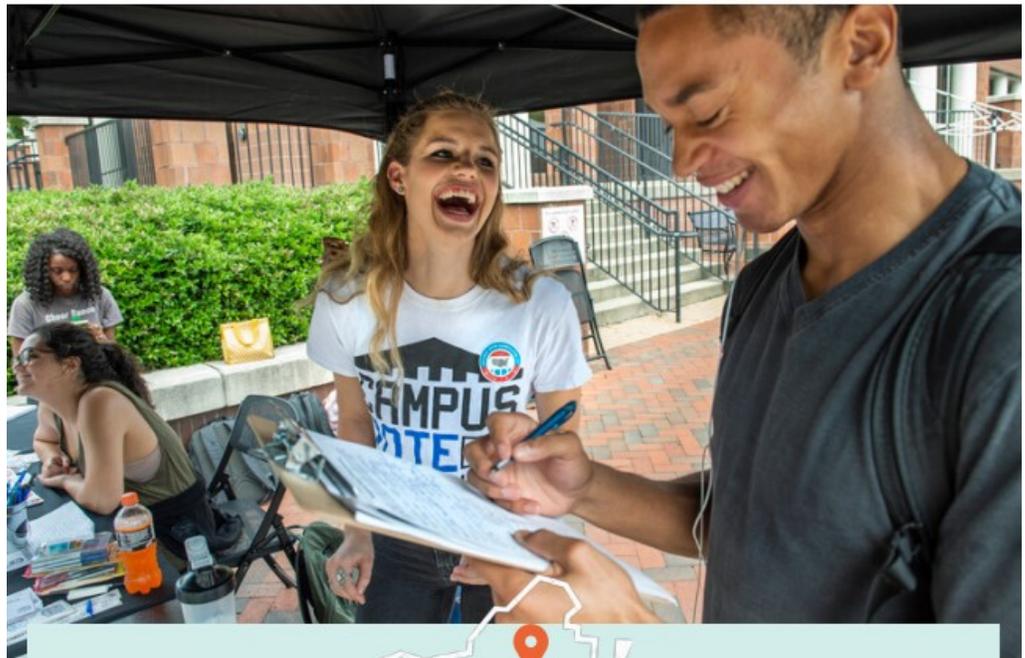
The 2020 Virginia Democracy

Summit is going to be a great opportunity for PVCC students to engage in panels that interest them.

The number of participants is limited, and students must register before the event if they wish to attend. So be sure to sign up as soon as possible to secure your spot at this year's summit.

To register please visit campusvoteproject.wixsite.com/vastudentsummit.

PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, CAMPUS VOTE PROJECT, AND VIRGINIA 21 INVITE YOU TO:



FEBRUARY 15TH, 2020
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
501 COLLEGE DR, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902
9AM TO 5PM

REGISTER TODAY: BIT.LY/VASTUDENTSUMMIT

PVCC offers Late Start Courses

Jessica Adkins, assistant editor

Many students at PVCC may not realize that there are options pertaining to when their classes start. PVCC offers a variety of classes that start at different points in the semester. This year, PVCC is offering 12-week classes that start Feb. 3, 8-week classes that start March 17, and 4-week classes that start on either Feb. 20 or April 7.

These class options allow students to have a more flexible schedule if need be. According to Robyn Lane, an administrative assistant in the Admissions and Advising Center, “Students choose to take late-start classes either because they missed the deadline for classes or they may not have the funds for classes until a certain time.”

Late-start classes are also an option for students who just like taking classes for a shorter time than the regular 16-week classes.

Students who sign up for the late-start classes can choose from a wide variety of subjects needed for both General Studies and Liberal Arts degrees. While some students may think that late-start classes are shorter classes based on the amount of weeks of class, that is not the case. Students have the same amount of instruction time in a late-start class as they would in a regular 16-week class. In shorter sessions, classes meet for more time a week.

While some people purposefully sign up for late-start classes, some may accidentally sign up and not have realized it.

Some students may have signed up for a class and gone to the room on Jan. 13 and realized that their class was not in session.

If students have any questions pertaining to late-start classes that may fit their degree, they should schedule to meet with an advisor in the Admissions and Advising Center.

Financial Aid Office Helps with FAFSA

Elizabeth Phan, staff writer

With the fall semester coming to an end, most students are rushing to get school over with. However, it is important for students to remember to complete their FAFSA. The FAFSA is now open for students to complete for the 2020-2021 school year.

The financial aid office, located in M126, is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday evening 5-7 p.m. in the Admissions and Advising Center. To make an appointment with the financial aid office, call (434) 961-6545.

Sherry Dudley, the financial aid’s office administrative assistant said, “Many times students aren’t able to come to school without financial aid. A parent could get laid off or there could be a change in income.”

The financial aid office can work with anyone on a walk-in basis, or students can reach 24/7 financial aid support on the PVCC website under financial aid. Part-time students can receive financial aid to the same degree as a full-time student. To qualify for a loan, however, the

student needs to be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours.

“Students don’t have to wait for an appointment to come in. A counselor will come and work with you. We also have student workers who will sit right with you as long as you have your documentation,” said Dudley.

The financial aid office also offers Saturday sessions for students who need to complete FAFSA with their parents. Most of the documents and paperwork needed for FAFSA can be found on PVCC’s website under paying for college and financial aid.

“It’s better to get it right the first time than to go back and correct everything,” Dudley said.

Scholarships are not awarded in the financial aid office; however, students can receive additional help with loans and grants instead.

“We don’t want you to wait until August to apply for financial aid. Start in September. On October 1st, for each year, a student can begin to apply for the fall. The earlier it is all in place, the less difficulty someone will have for coming up for funds for their tuition,” Dudley said. “It never hurts to have an extra pair of eyes.”

Potential Sociology of Gender Course

Ari Oxford, assistant editor

Sociology of Gender is a basic sociology course at most universities and has been on PVCC's course catalog for years, but it has not been offered at PVCC since Professor of Sociology Dr. Kim Hoosier started in 2006.

"I think our notions of gender are changing," said Dr. Hoosier. She said that gender as a social construct is changing and it is important for people to understand what those changes are and how that influences how they think and how society functions.

Dr. Hoosier said, "I think that's what sociology gives you in general, is a different way to think about the world." She hopes, no matter what prospective students are coming from, that they learn to think about gender and its real-world effects more broadly.

Dr. Hoosier would start the class with the difference between biological sex and gender, both as a social construct and an identity. The class would cover some history of gender in society, mostly western but pulling some examples of different gender structures from around the world.

Dr. Hoosier uses a mixed approach to learning, so students can expect classes to consist of lecture and discussion and for homework to include readings, listening to podcast episodes, watching YouTube videos, and more. So, if reading textbooks is not your thing, this

might be a more effective approach to learning.

This class would look at gender beyond binary (only two genders) and would put an emphasis on issues like toxic masculinity as much as things like workplace harassment and the wage gap.

Dr. Hoosier said that the class would feature lots of intersectionality between things like economics, media, health, and family dynamics. But, Dr. Hoosier said the class would also be a bit flexible to students' interests.

If students are interested in making this class happen, Dr. Hoosier suggests voicing interest, telling professors, telling deans, writing about it in the student survey, or just talking to each other and getting the word out. She hopes the class can run as soon as Fall 2020.



Photography by Ari Oxford

Explore Race and Ethnicity in SOC 266

Ari Oxford, assistant editor

Compared to many larger schools, PVCC has a small selection of sociology classes, but one of the most interesting is SOC 266, Race and Ethnicity. This class is only taught in the fall semester by Dr. Kim Hoosier, professor of sociology. Dr. Hoosier said, “I hope it changes their worldview.”

When Dr. Hoosier asked her class what they wanted people to know about SOC 266, they said that everyone should have to take the class because it is worldview expanding.

The class starts with the year 1619 at the settlement of Jamestown. From there, the class looks at American history from the perspective of race and ethnicity, all the way through World War II.

Then, once the students have a grounding in the historical context, the last third of the class focuses on current issues such as mass

incarceration and housing discrimination.

PVCC student Corey Goldberg said that every new lesson was “shocking and depressing.” But he thinks that shock makes the lessons more impactful.

In response, Dr. Hoosier said, “If I have shocked and depressed you, then my job is done for today.”

Even though the class deals with many heavy subjects, there is also space in the classroom for a constructive and fun discussion.

As for the duller details of the class, it fulfills UVA’s guaranteed transfer requirement of a non-western or minority subculture perspective class. It also fulfills PVCC’s social science elective and there are no prerequisites. The class has a lot of reading and most of it is from links on Canvas. The class also has assigned videos and podcast episodes, so it is not just reading. Goldberg said the class is not too hard, but you have to do the work.



SOC 266. Photography courtesy of Dr. Hoosier.

Student Organizations at PVCC

Adult Student Life Club

Adviser: Denise McCalahan,
dmccalahan@pvcc.edu

American Sign Language Club

Adviser: Susan Hannifan,
shannifan@pvcc.edu

Anime Club

Adviser: Noriko Donahue,
ndonahue@pvcc.edu

Art/Film Series

Adviser: Beryl Solla, bsolla@pvcc.edu

Black Student Alliance

Adviser: Justin Wert, jwert@pvcc.edu

Board Game Club

Adviser: Bruce Glassco, bglassco@pvcc.edu

Book Club

Adviser: Crystal Newell, cnewell@pvcc.edu

Brony Club

Adviser Michael Ferero, mferero@pvcc.edu

Chess Club

Creative Writing Club

Adviser Jennifer Koster, jkoster@pvcc.edu

CRU

Adviser: André Luck, aluck@pvcc.edu

Cybersecurity Club

Adviser Richard Seweryniak,
rseweryniak@pvcc.edu

Dance Club

Drama Club

Adviser Brad Stoller, bstoller@pvcc.edu

Engineering/Makers Club

Adviser: Hunter Moore, hmoore@pvcc.edu

French Club

Adviser: Kris Swanson, kswanson@pvcc.edu

Gender Equality Club

Adviser: Connie Jorgensen,
cjorgensen@pvcc.edu

German Club

Adviser: Patricia Jassmann,
pjassmann@pvcc.edu

Graphics Club

Adviser: Aaron Miller, amiller@pvcc.edu

Homeschool Club

HOPE@Piedmont

Adviser: Jacquelyn Fisher, jfisher@pvcc.edu

Horticulture & Environmental Club

Adviser: David Lerman, dlerman@pvcc.edu,

International Club

Adviser: Irina Timchenko,
itimchenko@pvcc.edu

Investment Club

Japan Club

Adviser: Noriko Donahue,
ndonahue@pvcc.edu

K-Club

Adviser: Todd Platts
tplatts@pvcc.edu

Latter-Day Saints Fellowship

Adviser: Andrew Renshaw,
arensaw@pvcc.edu

LGBT

Advisers Jessica Kingsley
jkingsley@pvcc.edu,
and Jessica Amos, jamos@pvcc.edu

Student Organizations at PVCC

Math Club (Mu Alpha Theta)

Advisers Karen Overman
koverman@pvcc.edu, and Justin Storer
jstorer@pvcc.edu

Music Club

Adviser Brianne Little, blittle@pvcc.edu

Pagans & Wiccans (PAW)

Adviser Colum Lecky, cleckey@pvcc.edu

People Empowering People (PEP)

Adviser Susan Hannifan,
shannifan@pvcc.edu

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

Advisers Bruce Robinson,
brobinson@pvcc.edu, and Kit Decker,
kdecker@pvcc.edu

Pottery Club

Adviser Tom Clarkson, tclarkson@pvcc.edu

Psychology Club

Adviser Michael Rahilly, mrahilly@pvcc.edu

PVCC Volunteer Club

Adviser Todd Platts, tplatts@pvcc.edu

Radiography Club

Adviser: Stephanie Gentry-Reynolds, sgentry-
reynolds@pvcc.edu

Rotoract Club

Adviser Miriam Rushfinn,
mrushfinn@pvcc.edu

Science Club

Adviser Anne Allison, aallison@pvcc.edu

Sonography Club

Adviser Lisa Burrington,
lburrington@pvcc.edu

Spanish Club (Club de Español)

Advisers Kit Decker, kdecker@pvcc.edu, and

Jorge Grajales-Diaz, jgrajalesdiaz@pvcc.edu

Student Government Association (SGA)

Adviser Shawn Anderson
sanderson@pvcc.edu

Student Launch Team

Adviser Sue Haas, vhaas@pvcc.edu

Student Nurses Association of Piedmont (SNAP)

Student Veterans of America (SVA)

Adviser Jacquelyn Fisher, jfisher@pvcc.edu

The Forum

Adviser Tamara Whyte, twhyte@pvcc.edu

VA 21

Adviser Connie Jorgensen,
jorgensen@pvcc.edu

Vegan Club

Adviser Elsa Spencer, espencer@pvcc.edu

Volunteer Club

Adviser: Todd Platts
tplatts@pvcc.edu

Ultimate Frisbee Club

Adviser John Gulley, jgulley@pvcc.edu

Women in STEM Club

Adviser: Joanna Vondrasek at
jvondrasek@pvcc.edu.

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Let There Be Light 2019 Photos

Ari Oxford, assistant editor

Dec. 14 2019 artists from all over Virginia came to PVCC to display their work in an outdoor gallery of glowing art that wove around the grounds by the Dickinson building.





Photography by Cody Clark and Ari Oxford

Richmond Symphony and Chorus asks for Snow

Deadra Miller, online editor

With the holiday activities around Richmond, a local vocalist, with the help of the Richmond Symphony and Chorus, performed a concert to remember. On Dec. 8, at 3 p.m. students ranging from fifth grade to ninth grade from across the state got to attend The Richmond Symphony and Chorus' performance *Let It Snow*.

These students are part of a program called Jacob's Ladder. According to their website, "Our mission is to aid and encourage intellectually gifted, at-risk middle school through high school students to reach their full potential and become leaders equipped to help others in similar economic and social situations."

The program includes a month-long camp during their summers away from school. These children are considered "at risk" because of their parents' income and the fact that they come from school districts that cannot give them the attention that they need to succeed.

During the school year, one parent or guardian gets to go with their child to an event that takes place around Richmond. This year it happened to be attending the Richmond Symphony and Chorus' production *Let It Snow*.

A local artist also sang along with the choir and symphony, singer and songwriter Natalie Prass. She did a number of songs with the audience during the sing-a-long part of the



Photography by Deadra Miller

concert as well as on her own. During her own song of "No Better Time," her producer and co-writer Trey Pollard joined her on acoustic guitar. She also sang her own song "It Is You."

The symphony's conductor was Chia-Hsuan Lin. Lin was interactive with the audience as a whole and commanded everyone's attention when we were allowed to ring sleigh bells in time with the symphony and choir (dependent on the musical number).

As mentioned before, there was a sing-a-long to finish out the concert. This consisted of eight commonly known songs: "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town," "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer," "Silver Bells," "White Christmas," "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," "Frosty the Snowman," and "Joy to the World." The concert lasted about two hours and was interactive as well as fun. To find out what is yet to come for 2019 or what is on the upcoming schedule for 2020 please check out richmondsymphony.com or call 804-788-1212.



Photography by Deadra Miller

Feeding PVCC with Boxes for Winter Break

Abi Brand, staff writer

Over Thanksgiving break, PVCC's Financial Resource Center sent students home with boxes filled to the top with food and special items for students and families in need. The center provided boxes for over 120 students and their families. Eight of these boxes went to veterans.

Amanda Key, Student Financial Resource Center Coordinator said, "The bags contained food items. We were able to get turkeys and other meats. We gave each student one of the resource guides we created here in the resource center. There were toys for kids in the boxes, which is different because typically when you get food boxes, there's nothing in there for the kids. It's just food. We made sure there was also financial aid information, so that students knew that we were providing the information, but that we also want you to know that this is still a college and you should take advantage of all the resources here."

In total, the Financial Resource Center ended up filling 60 boxes. Some students chose not to sign in or be counted.

"In terms of food, it was close to 1200 pounds. For our first year, that is huge!" said Key. The Resource Center worked with students and families to plan around their schedules regarding picking up the

boxes.

"We met them where they were at. The center stayed open from 7 in the morning to 9 at night some days. The students were very appreciative.



Photography courtesy of Amanda Key

Aspiring Scientists Present Their Findings

Matthew Minecci, staff writer

Once a semester, students of the supervised study courses (BIO 299, CHM 299, GOL 299, PHY 299) PVCC present their work in the Main Building on campus, in M299. These six students had been working all semester on these projects, and it truly shows how much hard work and dedication they put into them. Projects ranging from the effect of caffeine on beetles, to the way temperature affects lithium batteries, these students put their heart into their projects.

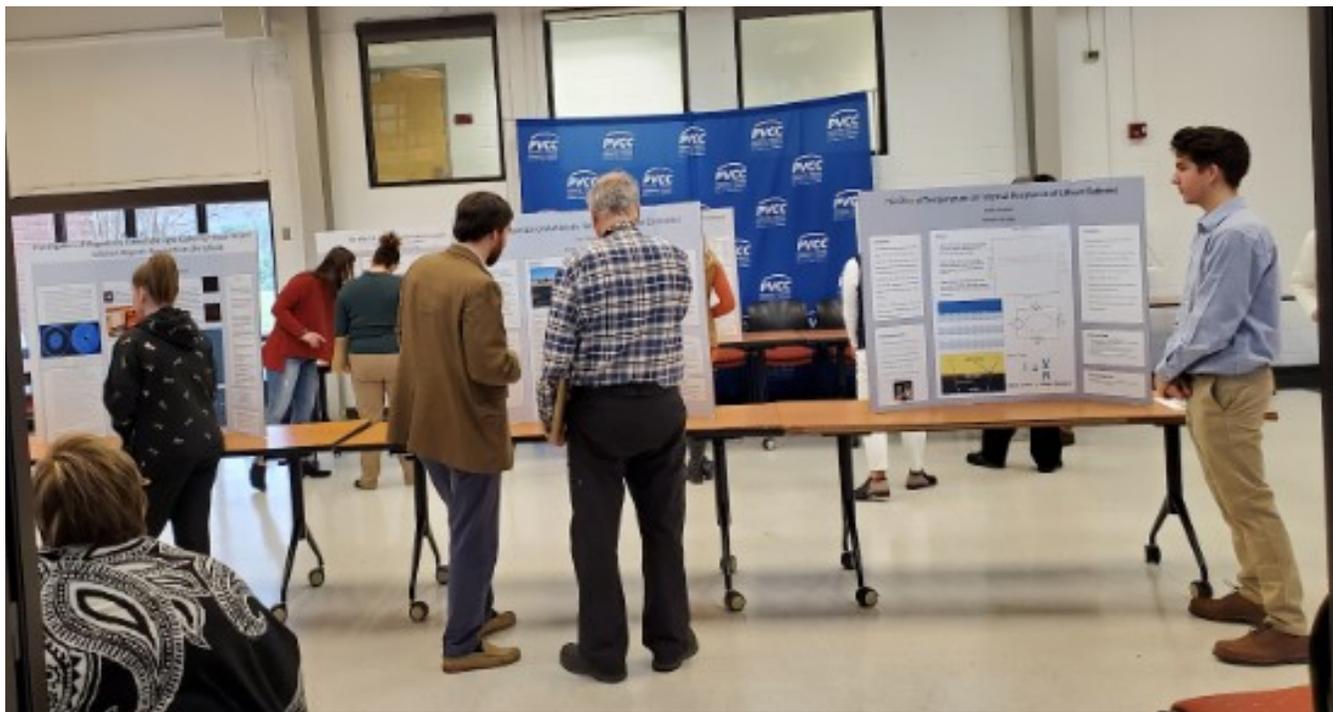
“It’s definitely a labor of love, for both the students and the faculty members,” said Professor of Biology, Dr. Anne Allison, who was coordinating the event. In fact, this course is so difficult that every year there are always at least a few students that withdraw. The six students Cambell Thornton, Caleb Herndon, Jonathan Rodriguez, Lauren Clark, James McIvor, and Tyler Wagner all were paired up with faculty members, who assisted them throughout the creative process to create their projects. But, it is all worth it in the end for these students.

PVCC is rather unique in this course, as most

undergrads do not get to make a project of this scope so early in their academic careers. The difficulty is rewarded in the results, however, as students who take science majors in PVCC and do this massive final project have an 85 percent transfer/graduation rate.

As for the projects themselves, they were all in-depth and interesting. It was clear that all the students had put a lot of effort into them, and they were all happy to explain what they were researching. For instance, Lauren Clark’s examination of the effect of caffeine on beetles was interesting, with the most effective amount for killing them being around the middle, rather than the more extreme amounts. Tyler Wagner’s experiment on the prevalence of antibiotic resistance in the environment, in which he physically went out to cow fields to test the soil, even going to a pen that held injured zebras.

And while this was all interesting and exciting, it was not without a lot of effort. “I’d say it’s very challenging,” Dr. Allison said. If you wish to contact her with any questions about the fair or about upcoming classes this spring, you can contact her at aallison@pvcc.edu.



Photography by Matthew Minecci

HUMANITIES, FINE ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDENT RESEARCH FAIR

... A showcase of our students' best work and achievements ...

Thursday, April 2, 2020 | 2-4 p.m.
NORTH MALL MEETING ROOM



For more information contact —

Todd Platts: tplatts@pvcc.edu | **Kim Hoosier:** khoosier@pvcc.edu | **John Gulley:** jgulley@pvcc.edu

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Remembering Life of UVA English Professor

Karli Turner, staff writer

Marilyn “Gail” Duggan, Hoyt’s wife, still remembers the day she met Hoyt Duggan. It was during her first year at Baylor University in Texas. One day, Gail’s roommate left her a note asking if she wanted to meet up under the flagpole at school to go on a missionary trip across town to read to the less fortunate. “I wasn’t into that sort of thing, but I had nothing to do that day. I was bored, so I went,” Gail said. They met under a flagpole in the schoolyard and eventually got to talking on the bus.

After that, Gail commented, “Hoyt wouldn’t stop asking me on dates after that.”

Hoyt was born on April 5, 1938, in Texas. Where exactly? Gail doesn’t remember. However, this is what she remembers about Hoyt Duggan:

He grew up in Joinerville, a small town in East Texas. When Hoyt’s father was not working at a nearby oil field, he taught him how to read and write. It was important to Mr. Duggan to teach Hoyt these things before he started school. Hoyt loved reading and writing so much that he became bored when he started school because he already knew all of the material. He quickly became a nuisance because he was so much further ahead than everyone else. Around third grade, his teachers made him go to the library to research and write about topics he was interested in.

Unfortunately, Hoyt did not make it past his first year at Baylor. His father was fired from his job at the oil field thus forcing the family out of their house. Since Mr. and Mrs. Duggan were from Louisiana, they decided to move the family to Shreveport. There, Hoyt went to Centenary College during the day and worked as a watchman at night. During this time, he met Mrs. Clark, a woman who ran the school’s bookstore. Eventually, Hoyt began working at the bookstore where he quickly formed a bond with Mrs. Clark and her husband. While working at the library, he spent most of his time there reading books.

From a young age, Hoyt wanted to go to the University of Oxford, in England, for their Rhodes Scholarship. With help from Mrs. Clark, Hoyt applied to Oxford. After graduating from Centenary, where Hoyt spent the next few years studying Medieval English. When he graduated

from Oxford, Hoyt decided to return to the United States.

The Vietnam War had just started when Hoyt returned from England. Quickly, Hoyt was drafted. Luckily, though, he avoided going into combat. Hoyt became stationed at Fort Holabird, as an officer for an Army intelligence spy unit, in Baltimore, Maryland. Hoyt stayed there for his two full years of military service and his unit was the last not be sent to Vietnam. Sadly, the men after him weren’t so lucky and most of them were sent to Vietnam, where many of them died.

Years later, after leaving the army, Hoyt decided to go to Princeton University to pursue a graduate degree in literature. From there, Hoyt got a job as a professor at UVA. There, he focused on Medieval English and translated works like *Piers Plowman* and the *Wars of Alexander*. He also published many scholarly journals before retiring from UVA in the early 2000s.

Later in life, Hoyt was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. After many years of battling this terrible disease, Hoyt passed away April 8, 2019, days after his 81 birthday. Hoyt was known by many in the community as a smart, kind, and hardworking individual. Even though he is gone, his work still inspires others and he will be greatly missed by those who loved him most.



Hoyt and Gail Duggan
Photography by Karli Turner.

What It's Like Being a Poll Worker

Jessica Adkins, online editor

The idea of waking up before the sun comes up may not sound appealing to some. However, that is exactly how the day starts for a Virginia election day poll worker. After rolling out of bed and getting ready to take on the 14-18 hour shift that lies ahead, it was time to go to the designated precinct. A precinct is also described as a person's designated polling place. For some people in Fluvanna County, it is the Palmyra firehouse off of Rt. 15. After arriving to the designated precinct, poll workers are encouraged to start a pot of coffee for those who like to drink it.

The doors and poll books open at 6 a.m. sharp. The poll books are a series of computers throughout a county that connect to each other to keep track of who has voted and who has not voted. As the early voters start to file into the cold building, they are met by the greeter who controls the line. Since there were only three poll books at Palmyra's precinct, only three people were allowed at the table at a time.

When the voters approach the check-in table, they are asked to show a valid photo ID. In the state of Virginia, even if a voter has a voter registration card, they must also present valid ID. Some examples of a valid ID include, a Virginia driver's license, passport, or an employee ID card. After the voter provides proper identification, it is the poll book worker's job to check in the person and give them a receipt to take to the ballot table.

The ballot table workers then provide an empty ballot sheet to the voter. Upon doing so, the worker at the ballot table should also inform the voter on how to properly fill out the ballot sheet.

The ballot table worker then tells the voter to proceed to the voting table. This is a table that is set up with dividers that allows voters to vote without feeling like they are being watched by others.



After voting, the voter is met, they are met by a poll worker who tells them when to place their ballot into the ballot reader. When the voter casts their ballot in the ballot reader and start to exit the building they are met by the exit control person who hands them an "I Voted" sticker and tells them to have a nice day.

According to Frances Schutz, the chief of the Palmyra precinct, "The person who hands out the sticker has the most important job because it is up to them to make sure no ballots leave this building."

At the end of the day, there is about another hour and a half in which poll workers must stay to make sure that all paperwork that needs to be filled out is signed.

After all paperwork is signed, poll workers then need to break down the set up, clean up the kitchen, and make sure that everything is just as it was when they arrived.

For information about registering to become a paid poll worker in an upcoming election, please visit your local county's registrar for information on training sessions and important dates.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra Wows Cville

Cody Clark, assistant editor

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra came to Charlottesville's John Paul Jones Arena on Dec. 19. This was part of their 2019 Winter Tour which had TSO going all over the United States. Charlottesville was lucky to have TSO stop by as they did not disappoint.

When I entered the JPJ arena the raw energy from the crowd was evident. Everyone was excited for the TSO's first concert here in Charlottesville. A thick fog permeated the stadium, adding another level to the atmosphere. The stage was set with one main platform in the center, and it was raised on the sides and towards the back. Large screens were positioned behind the stage and above it. They displayed an hourglass counting down to the time the performance would start.

The hourglasses ticked down, and the crowd roared in anticipation for the show to begin.

TSO's storyteller came on stage and began to tell the story, "On a snow-blessed Christmas Eve a young man found himself alone in the back of an old city bar." The story was about an angel sent to Earth by God to find one thing that represents all the good that is done in the name of Christmas. Songs that were performed include "Can You Hear Me Now," "A Mad Russian's Christmas," "The Storm / The Mountain," and "Christmas Eve/Carol of the Bells." Each song was complemented with a spectacular display of lights, lasers, and in some cases flames. From the floor seating my mother and I had, we could feel the heat on our faces from the flames.

The Storm / The Mountain the most stunning display compared to the rest. It was an amazing display of electricity cascading all across the stage at the backs of the musicians. The lead guitarists (Chris Caffery and Joel Hoekstra), bassist (Tony Dickinson), and violinist (Roddy Chong) were always front and center. They traveled up and down the stage and moved to the music while playing their respective instruments. Chong was particularly animated, and by the end of the night, his bow (the tool that is used to play a violin) was nearly destroyed. At different points in the concert, the guitarists, Caffery and Hoekstra, moved among the audience taking pictures with fans and interacting with the crowd.

Along with the instrumental performance, the vocals were stellar as well. Two of the more vocal oriented songs, "Prince of Peace" and "Can You Hear Me Now," were sung by Erika Jerry and Kayla Reeves. Both ladies had powerful voices that captured everyone's attention and captivated them for the entire song despite both songs being much slower compared to many of the other songs played that night.

TSO's concerts are a unique experience that just about anyone can enjoy. There is a message about love, compassion, and the Christmas spirit interwoven with beautiful heartfelt songs and head-banging rock n' roll.



Photography by Cody Clark. Joel Hoekstra

Review: Mill Street Grill in Stanton

Abi Brand, staff writer

Ribs, steak, and seafood, oh my! Mill Street Grill has all the great food needed to make your stomach happy. Located in downtown Staunton lies Mill Street Grill, a restaurant you will not regret going to, even if it is out of your area. Before you pass the entrance to the restaurant, a large billboard directs you to where to go.

Mill Street is best known for their baby back ribs, glazed in the restaurant's own barbeque sauce. I can attest to how good these ribs were, as I ordered them as my main dish. The ribs were tender, meaty, and fell right off the bone. The sauce was sweet, tangy, and nothing short of a perfect match to the delicious ribs.

For those who enjoy even more meat, Mill Street has steaks that are cooked to order and cut in house. They even have a large seafood menu of fresh catches that come in daily, which they serve and cook in many different ways.

Not a meat person? There is no need to worry. Mill Street accommodates everyone, even those vegetarian and vegan diets, and they even have a gluten-free menu. The Black Bean Burger is a hit among those with dietary restrictions. Pastas and salads accompany the vegetarian portion of the menu.

Mill Street Grill was once a flour mill, but in 1992 it was remodeled into a restaurant. Mill Street's food is moderately priced and food portions are very generous. The service was incredible and they were sure to accommodate all of my needs, including side substitutions, and my glass was never empty.

To finish out your meal, you are served a small bowl of peppermint ice cream to cleanse your palate.

Mill Street serves brunch every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open Monday through Thursday, 4-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 4-



Photography by Abi Brand

Classifieds

The Writing Center@PVCC presents English Conversation Circle Spring 2020

For non-native English speakers
Hosted by The Writing Center@PVCC
In The Writing Center Lab, M627

*Join us to practice speaking English in an informal setting.
No homework is required.*

Wednesdays, 12-1:00

*English Conversation Circle will not be held on days
when classes are not in session.*

Jan. 22: What's in a Name?

Jan. 29: Free time & Hobbies

Feb. 5: Motivation

Feb. 12: Friendship & Love

Feb. 19: Fears & Phobias

Feb. 26: Careers

March 4: Sleep & Dreams

March 11: Spring Break—No ECC

March 18-April 29: To be Announced

*Questions? Contact The Writing Center at PVCC.
Call 434-961-5499 or email jkoster@pvcc.edu*



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