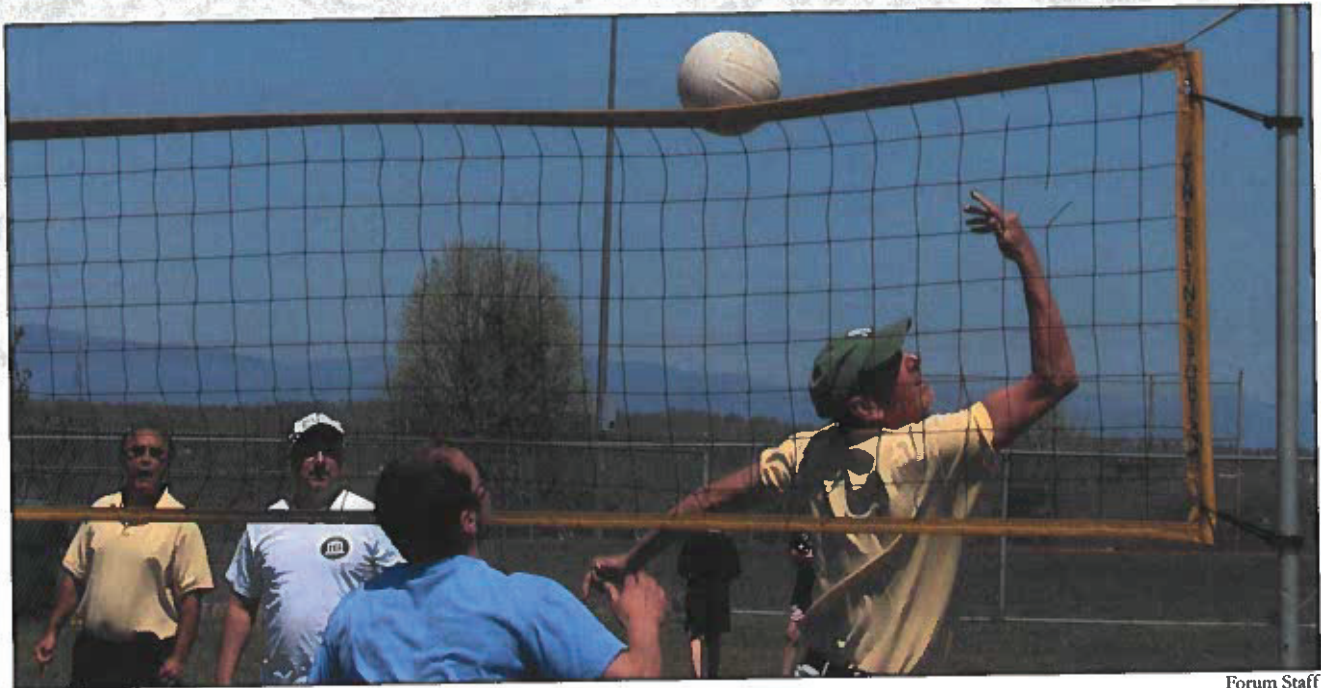


theForum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Volume 8, Issue 10 - April 2010

FIELD DAY APPROACHES



Forum Staff

Professor Steve McNerney hits the ball over the net to a student during the student versus faculty volleyball game at the 2009 Field Day, as President Frank Friedman and Dr. Mahmood stand by.

FORUM STAFF

Volleyball, kickball, snow cones, water balloons, an inflatable obstacle course and more will grace the area behind the baseball field at PVCC this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.,

"The entire PVCC community is invited to come and get its game on" said PVCC student Dori Dunu, head of the Field Day Committee in the Student Government Association (SGA).

The event is free and is designed to offer a day of fun outside activities and to foster a little healthy competition.

The event is free, and the sport games are held as students versus teachers.

Professor Kim Hoosier said, "Last year students won the volleyball game," here she paused and then emphasized, "but the teachers won the kickball game."

This year dodgeball is added to the list of sports.

Also different, the inflata-

bles are no longer two moon bounces. One is a jousting arena. The other is an obstacle course. Two competitors climb through, up, over, and around things inside the course in a race against each other.

"Everyone gets on the field and has fun" said PVCC student Yvonne Jones. "It's cool to see professors out of their suits."

To make sure everyone plays fair, "Volunteers from different clubs will be watching the games and playing referee."

Said Dunu. The Volunteer Club and Christian Fellowship Club have decided to sponsor games at field day. Volunteers from their membership will take shifts during the event to play referee or work one of the stands.

Also new this year are the options for personalized key chains and T-shirts with the line "Field Day 2010."

Dunu said, "Bring a water bottle and a lot of sunblock, and probably a hat, because Field Day is going to be epic."

COLLEGE BOARD MEETING SPOTLIGHTS STUDENTS



Jon Hasenfus

Jonathan Motlagh, Beth Russell, Jenn Jones, Roger Agbati, and Lee Stone were five of the six students who's presentations served as the highlight of the March College Board Meeting. Nicole Gilliam was unavailable for a photo.

R.T. PACKARD
FORUM STAFF WRITER

It was a cool, overcast Wednesday afternoon in March, at 4:00 p.m. when members of the PVCC community gathered in the W. A. Pace Boardroom. This was nothing unusual, as the group meets bimonthly to discuss various campus matters.

The scene was a pleasant one, with everyone dressed professionally and smiling -- idly chatting and catching up as the clock ticked closer to starting time.

Besides the dozen or so seats at the table -- occupied by the board members -- three walls had been lined with chairs to accommodate the extra numbers present. Scattered amongst this outer ring were six students, patiently waiting for the highlight of the day's event.

As always, the agenda was filled with matters ranging from budgeting issues to project updates; just what one would expect from a typical business meeting. To break up the monotony, board members set time aside each month to spotlight a special topic.

This particular March meeting had been designated to shine the limelight on several of PVCC's students: Jonathan Motlagh, Beth Russell, Nicole Gilliam, Jennifer Jones, Roger Agbati, and Lee Stone.

Motlagh, who served five years as a Marine, moved to Charlottesville hoping to quickly transfer into UVA's McIntire School of Commerce.

At PVCC, however, he quickly became immersed in the college life. He stated how impressed he is with the de-

gree of emphasis on student success that the faculty show.

In recent news, Motlagh was named the 2010 New Century Scholar for Virginia and received the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Guistwhite Scholarship.

Russell, who has attended the college since age 12, is the vice president of the Student Government Association (SGA), the president of Swing Dance Club, and a work-study student. She noted, "The teachers here are amazing." In May 2011 she will graduate with associate degrees in Liberal Arts, Science, and Dance.

Gilliam echoed similar sentiments. As the president of the Black Student Alliance, Gilliam said that PVCC offered her an opportunity to advance herself in a very supportive environment. She hopes to give back to the community in a similar

way, for it is her dream to become an elementary teacher.

Jones wanted to get through Piedmont as fast as possible, imagining it to be a sterile environment. Instead, she found a vibrant community, of which she rapidly became a big part.

This academic year she serves as SGA president and Forum editor-in-chief. From here, she has eyes on McIntire.

Agbati chose to come to Piedmont Virginia Community College after moving to the United States from Togo, West Africa. It was the praise and recommendations he heard that drew him to our school, where he plans to earn his Associate's before transferring to UVA or VCU to pursue a degree in politics.

Stone, the President of the Volunteer Club, was at the "Spotlight" on page 3.

STUDENT POLITICAL GROUP TAKES ACTION VIA PHONE

BEN BROOKS &
HOLLY NGUYEN
FORUM STAFF WRITERS

The recent recommendations from the House Appropriations Committee to change the way student's financial aid is calculated, as well as a \$20 million reduction in Virginia appropriated funds for education, has raised quite a few eyebrows. Among those with eyebrows raised is Virginia21.

Virginia21 is nonprofit, nonpartisan political education group with members across the commonwealth furthering awareness of political policies. It encourages students to take an active role in affairs directly relating to them.

In recent years, Virginia21 has been responsible for very noteworthy reforms in regards to education, such as the Textbook Market Fairness Act of 2004 and the Two Year College Transfer Grant Program in 2007.

Currently, Governor McDonnell's nor the Senate Finance Committee's proposed budgets have such doctrine limiting or

reducing the commonwealth's support of financial aid. However, if the House's recommendations are agreed upon and the General Assembly passes the aforementioned budget proposal into law, it will dramatically change the landscape for college students seeking financial aid, both current and prospective. With the modern-day recession and the loss of state revenues, there is already a higher tuition rate. Such a budget proposal could hardly come at a worse time for college students.

Virginia21 has already taken action against this. On March 4, 2010, it held a phone drive. Students across the commonwealth called their representatives to show opposition to a budget proposal that reduces financial aid.

Brittany Tyler, the Membership Director for Virginia21, said, "We had students calling into both the House and Senate, and to the budget conferees, because we wanted everyone in the General Assembly to be aware the students are not in support of this and that a reduction in Financial Aid would be extremely



Virginia21 is nonprofit, nonpartisan political education group with members across the commonwealth furthering awareness of political policies.

deleterious to higher education.

"It was a great opportunity for the students to become citizen leaders, actively becoming involved in the legislation that binds them, and this phone drive was a great example of grass roots legislation, and I know that we were successful in our efforts.

"Our students were very polite, articulate, and effective and we had a good response from the representatives, now it is up to them to ensure that this is not still in the budget when they announce it."

To get involved with Virginia21 and find out more, one can visit Virginia21.org.



facebook.com

Brittany Tyler is the Membership Director for Va21.

"Spotlight" from page 2.
a crossroads in his life,- fresh out of the restaurant industry and looking for change, when he enrolled at PVCC.

His first year blew him away, and he quickly became deeply involved in the student community.

This year he serves on the

PVCC senate and is Volunteer Club President, among other things, while working part time. He stated that PVCC is not only school, but a big part of the community.

After his time here, he wants to go to UVa, where he aims to study nursing anesthesiology.

The band of six student leaders talked for almost half an hour. Though all of them had ample right to boast of their accomplishments, the modesty they displayed was humbling.

They spoke highly of Piedmont's faculty, the services provided, the diverse stu-

dent body and, of course, the low cost of tuition at PVCC.

While they may have been reluctant to take credit for it, all six of them are clearly dedicated and hardworking: shining examples of all that can be accomplished when one takes advantage of the opportunities at PVCC.

AID AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER

SHAWN MARTSOLF
FORUM STAFF WRITER

PVCC holds classes not just in the fall and spring, but in the summer as well. This can be a great way for students to get a jump on classes, or take courses that one did not have time for in another semester. Normal scholarships run out by that point however, leaving students wondering if they will have to pay the fees for classes on their own.

It may be surprising, then, to hear that financial aid is available for the summer.

"Students who plan on attending school this summer should complete a simple one page Summer Session Financial Aid application form,"



said Carol Larson, the Coordinator of Financial Aid. The document is available at pvcc.edu/financial_aid/forms.php.

One thing to keep in mind is that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is very important. FAFSA applications done for the 2009-2010 academ-

ic year also apply to the summer. If one has not already completed it, "the student should also go ahead and complete the 2010-2011 FAFSA," advised Larson.

The form asks students to provide information on how many credit hours they wish to take, as well as if they want to

be considered for work-study. "We can then create a summer budget and provide any funds for which the student may be eligible" explained Larson.

Grants available include COMA, PTAP, and Pell grants. COMA and PTAP grant availability depend on the number of hours students are taking, while Pell grants depend on the student's eligibility from the 2009-2010 year. In order to qualify for work-study during the summer, students need to complete at least six credit hours.

After completing FAFSA, students should print it out and turn it in to the financial aid office. The deadline for the summer is April 15, so it is important to get the form in as soon as possible.

UVA RANKED IN TOP 50 MOST STRESSFUL UNIVERSITIES

CHRIS STOVER
NEWSPEX.COM

The news and opinions blog, The Daily Beast, ranked UVA as the 36th most-stressful university in the United States. UVA is also the highest ranking Virginia university.

The blog took five factors into account. Cost and competitiveness were both weighted at 35 percent, and acceptance rate, engineering program and campus crime were each weighted 10 percent.

"I think the stressors here are that there are a lot of tal-

ented students here, so students feel stress in terms of feeling in competition with other students," said Lenny Carter, assistant director of UVA's Counseling and Psychological Services.

Carter said stress is the second-most common problem students have, right behind depression.

"I think students here are very ambitious, so they want to do well, they want to do great things, and I think they feel a lot of pressure to do those things," Carter said.

Everyone has their own ways of handling stress. If they're not taking advantage of the Student Health Center, Students at

UVA do many things, whether it's talking to some friends or just ignoring it in the first place.

"You really need to remain aloof of the stress," student Michael Wilks said. "If you let it get to you, that's a really bad thing. If it gets to you, you're going to start falling behind, and you're going to start to think, 'This is kind of hopeless.'"

"Usually, just kind of talking it out with people," student Veronica Gonzales said. "It's kind of nice, even though it is somewhat of a stressful environment, having a group of friends or people who are also feeling the same

type of stress that you feel."

Carter said getting plenty of sleep and eating a balanced diet are the best ways to combat college stress.

"Often times, in this age group, students tend to feel relatively invincible, so sometimes I think it's difficult for them to take that advice," Carter said.

UVA doesn't hold a candle to schools like Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania or MIT, which are all in the top five in the rankings. The only other Virginia school to make the list is the College of William and Mary, which came in at No. 44.

PEER MENTORS AVAILABLE TO HELP PVCC STUDENTS

R.T. PACKARD
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Many college students become anxious when talking to counselors about their schoolwork. It can be daunting for a person to open up to someone who is not in the same age range.

With such a variety of different people on campus, it is important for PVCC to provide aid to those who would be unwilling to ask for help from adults. To fill this need, there is the Peer Mentoring program.

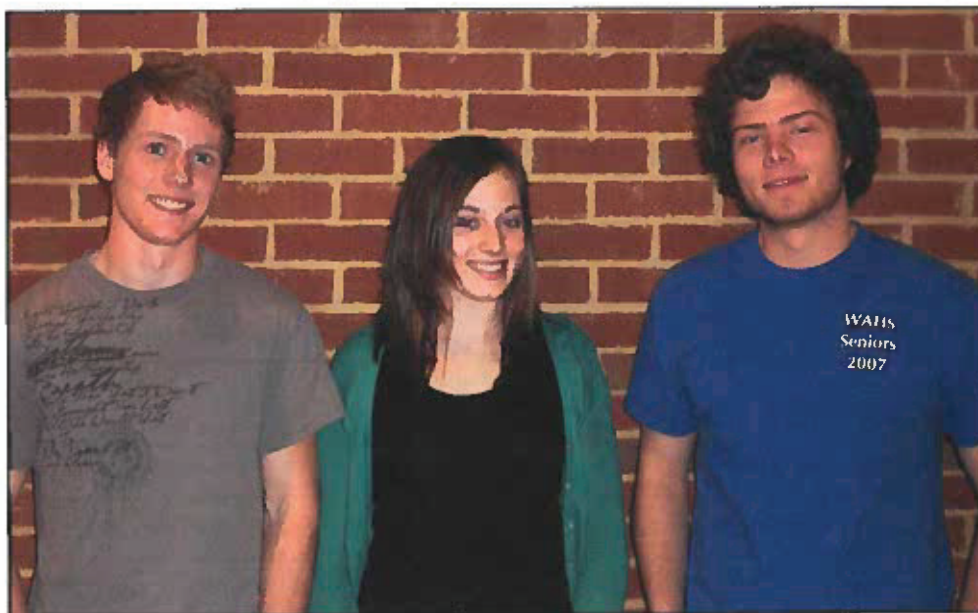
The program consists of three PVCC students who are available to assist their peers. Gina Baldi, Sam Hewitt and Jonathan Showalter are working with the Counseling Department to provide disability accommodations, career planning services and assistance in developmental classes.

They dedicate time in between their own studies to contact the students they work with and offer help and support.

When asked about the types of services she provides, Baldi said, "A lot of students don't know about the resources available in the college, like the Learning Center and the Writing Center, and different resources on the web."

She contacts students who are struggling in developmental courses to let them know she is available and willing to help. Additionally, she stays in touch with professors and counselors, to be able to further cater to each individual's needs.

For anyone at PVCC won-



R.T. Packard

Sam Hewitt, Gina Baldi, and Jonathan Showalter serve as peer mentors in the PVCC Counseling Department.

dering just what they want to do with their college education, Hewitt works closely with André Luck in Career Counseling. His focus is on getting internships for students and offering guidance for their professional goals.

To meet this end, he can give career assessment tests like the Career Occupational Preference System (COPS), line up jobs to offset the cost of school, and schedule mock-interviews with Luck.

Hewitt occasionally sets up a table in the Bolick Student Center and reaches out to students. "Students will walk by and I'll say, 'Hey, what program of study are you in?'"

He then engages that person in a conversation about his or her professional and or educational plans and guides the student towards helpful resources of which he or she was unaware.

Showalter, who works under Susan Hannifan in Disability Services, helps provide accommodations and assistance to students with learning disabilities and other conditions that may hinder education.

When asked about the role he plays, Showalter said that, "The major thing is ... seeing what the major obstacle for them is. Let's say, for example, that it is organization.

"A student looks at their syl-

labus for the semester and just thinks 'Oh man, I've got like five papers to write, and the final exam coming up, and all these things to read. How can I do all this? It's so much work.'"

To help that student overcome these fears, Showalter says he sits down with the student and breaks it up into smaller pieces. He shows the student how to "take it a chunk at a time ... instead of just looking at the whole thing and having all that anxiety."

For those interested in requesting the peer mentor services, one can contact the Counseling Office by calling (434) 961-5264 or visiting room 132 in PVCC's main building.

DOVE EMBARKS ON TRUE BEAUTY CAMPAIGN

VICTORIA MAIDEN
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Over a million Americans today are relying on Photoshop and other programs to turn average images into flawless works of art. Technology advanced enough for portraits and advertisements to be re-touched, but what does that say to the average American trying to "fit in" to this society of perfectionism?

According to Dove's National Campaign for Real Beauty, self esteem percentages are decreasing due to the fact of young women are measuring their looks against the models' portrayed in the media. This is despite the fact that even some super models have their images retouched.

On the Dove website, a video shows an average-looking woman being put through the

process of being "re-done". After the makeup specialists and hair artists are done, virtual face lifts, injections and airbrushing are done on the computer so the woman has no facial flaws, her neck is longer and her lips and eyes are bigger. The video ends with a text, stating, "No wonder our perception of beauty is distorted."

Due to retouched images, billboards, magazines, tabloids, and commercials lead to skyrocketing sales. But it also leads to a young generation failing to accept its own incarnation.

One can gleam that the purpose of Dove's National Campaign for Real Beauty is to celebrate the natural physical variation embodied by every single woman and inspire them to have the confidence to be comfortable in their own skin.



tiffabee.wordpress.com

This specific campaign is sending out a message to be natural, different, and most importantly, be an individual. Additionally, it states that the media itself will never be as powerful as one's inner voice.

Contrarily, there is speculation

on Dove's motives for this campaign. Some blogs pronounce that Dove is only doing this to raise sells with the propaganda of 'be happy and buy our product.'

To see the video and for more information, one can visit campaignforrealbeauty.com.

CHIVALRY TODAY IN QUESTION

CAROLINE MCDOWELL
FORUM STAFF WRITER

When one thinks of chivalry, the typical thought is of a knight in shining armor who fights evil and rescues the damsel in distress. Yet a simple act of chivalry may consist in opening the door for a lady or standing when a lady enters the room.

One might envision a knight in shining armor, protecting the weak, saving the damsel, and do-

ing good deeds for the fellow man.

PVCC students gave their own input of what chivalry means to them. Matthew Fielding said chivalry is "proper, etiquette, doing things right." Cheyenne Russo said, "Going out of your way to help somebody like the little things. Like opening doors, pulling out the seat"

Professor Steve Raileanu said, "Common courtesy. A code how a guy treats a girl."

So is chivalry dead today? Re-

becca Atkins thinks, "No. But you don't see it much at all."

Maybe the word chivalry is archaic and old-fashioned? Jonathan Showalter states, "the term seems kind of old-fashioned but the ideas live on."

While knights in shining armor and damsels in distress may be a thing of the past, chivalry exists in a new, weaker form. Whether it will be able to continue to evolve or go extinct, only time will tell.



riley.d21.k12.il.us

CRAWFORD RELEASES BOOK

AVERY LEE
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The Ballyshannon Fund in cooperation with The Virginia Festival of the Book, hosted Matthew Crawford's presentation at PVCC on March 18. The presentation was based on his new book, *Shop Class As Soulcraft*.

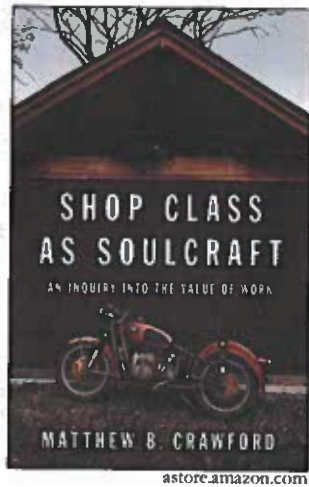
Crawford's message was not one of working-class strife or even proletariat-class consciousness. He encouraged people to be educated in labor-oriented fields or "the useful arts" in order to fulfill a greater life calling.

Crawford, through the lens of his own experience, contrasts the abstract work of the white-collar corporate worker to the tangible, visibly useful work of the blue-collar worker.

According to Crawford, American high schools cut shop classes out of their curriculums beginning in the early 1990's. Administrators pushed all students toward four-year universities and began measuring schools' success in terms of the percentage of students attending a four-year institution after graduation. This kind of thinking, Crawford touts, created an "educational monoculture."

Crawford himself felt the pressure to get on the college track. He earned an advanced degree, but after spending time in the "dark absurdism" of the white-collar world, he desired something more. He wanted to produce something measurable and immediate.

Now, he is now the owner of a small motorcycle repair shop Richmond. The connotation of motorcycle repairman has earned him looks from up-



astore.amazon.com

turned noses at cocktail parties, but Crawford contends that his work is more intellectually stimulating than when he ran a think-tank in Washington, DC.

And Crawford is not devoid of intellect. His degree is from UVa in Advanced Studies in Culture.

Crawford is not just an advocate running a PR campaign for the image of tradesmen. He's spiritually invested. He is almost a proselytizer for trade.

One gets the impression he believes passionately that more people should be

tradesmen—not because our country needs people to fix its toilets or power lines.

Rather, he wants Americans to feel engaged. If people feel they have no real effect in their world, then they disengage.

Crawford believes that the "electronic sweatshop" atmosphere of today's office environment causes people to lose touch with their surroundings.

Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work will be available May 28 in most major bookstores.

CHESS EXERCISES AN ORGAN

JAY HATFIELD
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Nearly 3,000 years ago, Asiatic peoples invented the game of chess. It grew into the modern sport nearly 500 years ago, "As a way of training soldiers in strategy," said Charles Huffman, Faculty Advisor of PVCC's Chess Club.

The depictions and descriptions seen in mainstream media, such as in the movie *X-Men*, portray the game of chess involving two intellectual, often aristocratic, outcasts mulling over the board for hours on end. Scenes such as this often intimidate one into thinking chess is extremely difficult and/or boring.

If one asks another if he or

she can play chess, one is most likely to get the answer, "I can play checkers." However, chess isn't a sport where enthusiasts simply are skilled intellectuals. The game itself helps develop these skills. This sport strengthens an organ instead of a muscle. It was developed to strengthen problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.

Chess is as much now as it was then, the sport of kings.

Huffman believes that students of all ages could benefit from learning and playing. In order to play and benefit from chess, a novice should focus on how the six individual piece types move. After understanding the basics, one can begin strategizing.



flickr.com



mwcc.edu

CLUE: THE MUSICAL COMES TO DICKINSON THEATER

ELIZA SEIBERT
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Was it Colonel Mustard in the conservatory with the revolver? Or was it Miss Scarlet in the library with the candlestick? With its characters and mystery, *Clue* is an all-time classic board game.

The game first appeared in England in 1949 as "Cluedo" and went on to gain international popularity in more than a dozen versions. For more than 50 years, this mystery game captivated the hearts of millions over the age of eight.

In the game, poor Mr. Boddy was murdered in his own stately home and the players must use deduction to solve the mystery of who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room, and with what weapon. There are 216 possible solutions.

In the 1990's a musical based

on the game came to the spotlight. *Clue: The Musical* opened at the Players Club Off-Broadway in New York in 1997.

Kay Betha, PVCC Theater Director, takes on part of the challenge to bring *Clue: The Musical* to the Dickinson stage.

The play welcomes audience participation and involvement. "We bring on the houselights at times so that they can make notes on their score cards as they would if they were playing the game of clue," Betha stated.

"We also choose three volunteers from the audience to come at the beginning and choose cards which are put in an envelope that is then kept on display." At the end of the night, when the audience announces its solution to the mystery, the cards will be revealed so everyone can see if they were right in their deduction,

The set is fairly simple and is reminiscent of the game. Actors will use periactoi, "which are three-sided, flat units that can be turned to reveal a color to represent one of the characters, a clue, and then one of the rooms on the other." Essentially, moving panels tells the audience where the characters are. "You're in a new place, magically," Betha said.

In regards to the score, "Music really permeates the whole play and it has very catchy, funny lyrics," Betha stated, "A great deal of the play is either sung with music or accompanied by music. A lot of the dialogue even has music underscoring."

In addition to the music, there is a great deal of dancing throughout the play. "A lot of ballroom dances and popular dances are involved," describes Betha.

The PVCC cast includes Chris

Alimenti, Christian Anderson, Taylor Anderson, Bryant Hamza, Madeline Manning, Sarah Richardson, Matthew Thomasson and Thomas Vance, with Lindsey Rappold as Stage Manager. Kay Betha is director. Costumes and choreography by Susan Nicholson; set design by Bill Hurd; lighting design by Larry Hugo. "If you put everybody's hours together, just hundreds and hundreds of hours go into it," Betha points out, "But it's all very well worth it in the end."

Come and see for yourself whether it's worth it. The game of *Clue* suggests ages 8 and up. However, all ages are welcome to the play. Showings will be April 17 at 2:30 p.m., and April 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. The play costs \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors and students. Students can also use vouchers.

NATIVE MICROBREWERIES OFFER TASTE, ZEAL

JOHN MCAVOY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Virginia is for beer lovers. Though the Commonwealth is mainly associated with sprawling vineyards and a wine culture, it should not be overlooked as a growing craft beer haven. Breweries in the area have been experiencing growth and recognition as consumers seek tastier alternatives to the common name brands. This would not include Bud Light or Corona.

Such large scale breweries (and plenty of others) have lost the art of turning water, malts, hops and yeast into a craft beverage with distinct flavors and aromas.

Microbreweries are able to fine tune these ingredients to taste and then let the beer speak for itself. Word of mouth spreads by aficionados, followed by your run-of-the-mill beer drinkers with a taste for quality.

Charlottesville is home to Starr Hill Brewery, established in 1999 on Main Street. The brewery has since moved to a larger facility in Crozet to sustain the larger demand.

The beer is sold by most vendors in town and many bars. Starr Hill's beers have won five gold medals at the Great American Beer Festival, and two silver medals at the World Beer Cup.

It is also part of central Virginia's largest independent music promoter, Starr Hill Presents (SHP). One can see the SHP logo at venues such as the Pavilion, the Jefferson and at John Paul Jones Arena.

The brewery is open to tastings



brewridgetrail.com



brewridgetrail.com

Microbreweries are able to fine tune these ingredients to taste and then let the beer speak for itself.

and tours from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sundays.

Another popular local microbrew is Fredericksburg's Blue and Gray Brewery. Influenced by the Civil War and the local region, Blue and Gray has four staple beer varieties, such as Stonewall Stout and Falmouth Pale Ale, in addition to numerous seasonal brews.

Fred Red is "the best beer you've ever tried," says owner Jeff Fitzpatrick. Its seasonal beers have intimidating names that match their high alcohol content.

Temporary Insanity, an imperial stout, is named after the defense plea of Daniel Sickles, the man who shot the son of Francis Scott Key for having an affair with his wife.

It was the first time anyone was acquitted on those grounds. Sickles later became a successful general for the Union in the Civil War.

Another seasonal beer, Minor

Dementia, a bourbon barrel imperial stout, is named after William Minor, a Union Army surgeon who served at the Battle of Wilderness. After the Civil War he was committed to an asylum for the criminally insane and was one of the most significant contributors to the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary.

Blue and Gray also serves the community by hosting events such as a St. Patrick's Day Parade and an Oktoberfest celebration every year. They are open for tastings on Wednesday from 2-6 p.m., Friday from 3-8 p.m., and Saturday from 10-1 p.m. Tours are available on Saturday.

Right by the Blue Ridge Mountains in Afton, lies the Blue Mountain Brewery. In addition to brewing its beer, Blue Mountain distinguishes itself by farming its own hops. Hops are an integral ingredient to beer. Initially used in the United States as a preservative, hops

are now used for bitter flavoring and aromatic purposes.

Blue Mountain grows Cascade hops, an aromatic hop with floral and citrus characteristics. Sierra Nevada and Harpoon breweries also use these hops. Next to the warehouse housing the brewing equipment, visitors will find a dining room with a full menu—both for food and beer tastings.

The beer menu showcases the most recently brewed beer, available by the glass or smaller portions for tasting. Blue Mountain has both American style and European style lagers and ales.

Brew master Matt Nucci says that brewery plans on expanding to a production-level brewery, though recently have "pulled back to meet demand," churning out 150 cases of beer a week. Nucci got his start brewing at home as a hobby before going into Greenberry's Coffee and Tea Company. He helped found Blue Mountain in 2007. Blue Mountain is open Monday to Saturday from 11:30 – 10:00 p.m., and Sunday from 11:30 – 9:00 p.m.

While these breweries all have unique beer and different events and services, one thing they have in common is a love for their craft.

It is evident with the brew masters and employees that they all enjoy what they do, and do what they enjoy. The fruits of their labor are not just successful business and monetary rewards. It is something they can bring to people who share their zeal for beer.

GOD OF WAR 3 OFFERS SPECTACULAR PLAY FOR THE PS3

JASON FLINN
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Few games of recent years have had the sheer excitement value attached to a sequel that Sony's God of War (GOW) series has entailed. This also means there will always be a dissenting faction of the rabid fan-base that is ready to tear anything apart, no matter the quality. Well, Developer SCE Santa Monica has been hard at work listening to every complaint and comment on the message boards, and the resulting product, while not perfect, is nothing short of spectacular.

Throughout the length of the game, players follow Kratos as he murders his way up the Greek pantheon, slaying minions, mythical creatures, heroic figures and divine beings one by one. Like the first two games, many monsters and icons of Greek legend are on display for Kratos to beat senseless.

Minotaurs, harpies, cerberi, gorgons and more, attempt to impede the player's progress in the combat that makes up the bulk of the game. Every battle with a god or titan is a well executed boss-fight that is massive in scale, requiring much effort and skill to defeat. The scope for each battle is different for each to keep players interested.

The fight against Poseidon is a chaotic affair of giant crab-horses made of water and stone, towering in the heavens alongside the spire of Olympus.

The confrontation with

Hermes, however, is a chase through stone architecture that tests the players' skills of timing and execution. Both are tremendous fun in their own way, and each leave the player with a great feeling of satisfaction upon completion.

The studios behind the game have found a way to bring every fan something they can enjoy, no matter the taste. And yes, while on the subject of fan taste, there is an erotic mini-game included like every other GOW game to date.

The story and gameplay aside, from a technical aspect GOW 3 is impressive. The amount of texture and shading work put into Kratos's model warrants a scrutinizing inspection upon first starting up the game. Every movement is fluid, every blade swing or fist thrown appears very natural.

In most instances, this same attention has been shown to the environment and the monsters that fall to Spartan blades. Even during the most hectic battles with two dozen enemies on screen, there isn't a hint of slow-down or chugging on the console. The combat is tight and responsive. Puzzles are well thought-out and cleverly executed.

This is not to say however, that the king of PS3 action exclusives is without fault. Tiny glitches and bugs are rampant throughout the journey, from treasure chests refusing to open to characters in cut scenes occasionally disappear-



In its predecessor, GOW2, players could face off against hoards of Spartan warriors.

ing. This leaves other models to interact with empty space.

One near game-killing experience crops up around the two hour mark, when a room ahead of the player renders incorrectly and drops the avatar to his or her death upon entering. This forces the player to reload from a non-corrupted save game.

The "Forge Render" bug has actually irritated enough people to generate several threads of its own in gaming and Sony forums. While bugs aren't completely unknown in any game, ones with this type of stopping power are a little off-putting in a game with such a large budget and development time.

Another area to be considered is the sheer violence of

the game content itself. While the GOW faithful know what they are getting into, first comers to the series could certainly be shocked. Normal combat itself isn't too over the top, but some of the conclusions to boss battles can be downright unsettling in their brutality. The deaths of Hermes and Helios in particular come to mind.

For the few readers on the fence over spending \$60.00 on the new PS3 super-exclusive, one should know that GOW3 is very much like the deities it portrays, and then viciously beats. It is gorgeously animated, violent to the extreme and while not perfect, finishing it can be one of the most rewarding digital things one does this year.

Think Of Your Backyard
As A Stage.
(Nature provides the characters.)



Attract nature's greatest and most colorful casts
of characters to your backyard.
All it takes is the right combination of food,
birdfeeder, location and advice.

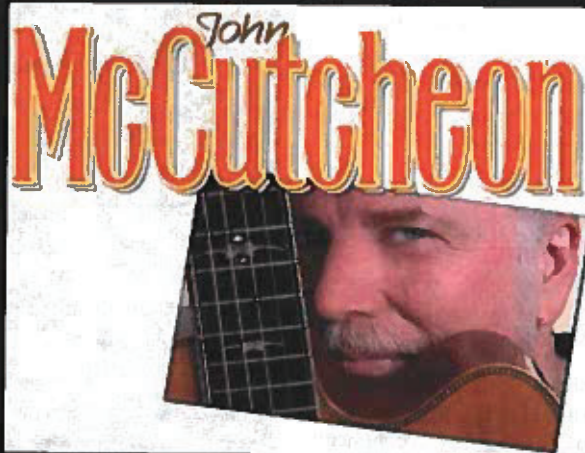
Wild Birds Unlimited

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

1510 SEMINOLE TRAIL (US29 NORTH) IN SHOPPERS WORLD

434-973-5850

BIRDSEED • FEEDERS • BIRDBATHS
• OPTICS • NATURE GIFTS



Sunday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.

PVCC's Dickinson Building, Main Stage

FREE for PVCC Students with an Arts Voucher

\$8 PVCC Faculty/Staff

Pick up your Arts Voucher at the

Reception Desk today!

www.pvcc.edu/performingarts

UPCOMING STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Spring Fling Picnic

April 14, 11:00 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.

College Fields

Creative Writing Read by UVa students
earning a masters in Fine Arts

April 14, 8:00 p.m.

Black Box Theater

Old Dominion University On-Site
Admission Day

April 14, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Field Day

April 17, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

College Fields

PVCC Smoking Policy Debate

April 19, 12:20 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Bolick Student Center

"Do You Know Your MLA?" Workshop

April 21, 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Room 261

International Night

April 23, 8:00 p.m.

Main Building

The Fall Line Reading

May 3, 12:20 p.m.

North Mall Meeting Room

COLLEGE EVENTS

PVCC Theatre Presents

CLUE, The Musical

Friday, 4/16

7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 4/17

2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Based on the popular board game *CLUE*, this rousing, fun-filled musical brings the world's best-known mystery suspects to life on the stage, and invites the audience to play along to solve a mystery.

\$4 PVCC Faculty & Staff. General seating. Contact the PVCC Box Office at 434.961.5376 or e-mail boxoffice@pvcc.edu

Engineering Saturday

Saturday, 4/17

9:00 am - 12:00 am

In the main building, this free event provides fundamental information about PVCC's two-year Associate of Science in engineering degree program and how it can lead to four-year engineering degrees in biomedical, chemical and environmental engineering and other disciplines. A panel of recent PVCC engineering graduates will discuss their experience with the College's engineering program, transfer opportunities and their current bachelor's degree programs. Attendees will also tour classrooms and labs; take part in a design challenge with prizes for winning teams; meet PVCC's engineering faculty, staff and current students; and learn about PVCC's Student Engineering Club and other College services. A light breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. in the Technology Wing of the College's Main Building, room 835. For more information, contact Andrew Renshaw, engineering program liaison at PVCC, at arensaw@pvcc.edu or 434.961.5484, or

visit pvcc.edu/engineering.COMMUNITY EVENTS
SAMPLER

The Municipal Band of Charlottesville

Tuesday, 4/20

8 p.m.

The Municipal Band of Charlottesville kicks off its 88th season with a spring concert at PVCC. Light classics, Broadway show tunes and band repertoire standards are on the program for this musical tradition, which always concludes with a John Philip Sousa march. Free admission. For more information contact the PVCC Box Office at 434.961.5376 or e-mail boxoffice@pvcc.edu. Community Events Sampler

University of Virginia Art Museum Lunchtime Talk

Tuesday, 4/13

12:00 p.m.

Join us for an informal presentation by Eliza Quanbeck, curatorial intern, on the special exhibition "Highlights from the Collection" Museum Lunchtime Talks are free and open to the public. For more information about Lunchtime Talks and other Museum lectures: virginia.edu/artmuseum/for_the_community_and_schools/lectures_and_events.php

Discover VA Wine Festival

Saturday, 4/17

11:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 4/18

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This Greene County festival is a family-friendly event featuring the rich diversity of the Old Dominion's products. The festival will benefit The Greene Education Foundation, an organization dedicated

to helping students and teachers reach their highest potential. Attendees may sample from the wide variety of wine exhibitors, a variety of food and children's activities, relax on the lawn and listen to local music, walk through the Battle of Stanardsville encampment or explore the crafts and family activities. Ticket prices at the gate will be \$20.00 or for significant savings, purchase tickets in advance online at <http://emstatix.com>, or by calling (540) 972-2749. Designated Driver tickets (\$10.00) and under 21 tickets (\$5.00) are also available. Admission is free for children under twelve. Proceeds benefit the Greene County Education Foundation.

Virginia Discovery Museum: Lights, Lasers and Lenses Exhibit

4/18

12:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

Come explore Things that Glow, learn about the Colors of Light, how Light Bends and how Light Bounces. Put on a Shadow Puppet show, Look Into Infinity, and much, much more! Contact Name: Joia Wood

Contact Phone: 434-977-1025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOG BY R.T. PACKARD

Forum Staff Writer, R.T. Packard, has a new blog at sometimesrhymes.com and invites comments.

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

THE FORUM
STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jenn Jones

STAFF WRITERS

Benjamin Brooks

Jason Flinn

Jay Hatfield

Avery Lee

Victoria Maiden

Shawn Martsoff

Caroline McDowell

John McAvory

Holly Nyugen

Eliza Seibert

R.T. Packard

ADVISOR

Dr. Andrew Smith

PUBLISHER

Danielle Johnson

The Forum is a voice for all students. If you have a voice, speak it. Accordingly, materials published in The Forum, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the VCCS, Piedmont Virginia Community College, or any stakeholder thereof. We welcome letters to the editor, guest columns, short stories, or poems, questions, or any idea you may have for the upcoming publications. If you have any questions or comments please contact theforum@pvcc.edu.