

the Forum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Volume 5, No. 1 - September 19, 2007

The SGA's First!

By Heather Wydock
Special from Student Activities

Finally, our SGA is ready and they had their first meeting and believe me, much was discussed. We have come a long way in a year. This was just an idea in 2006 that flourished into a bright group of students, eager and willing to provide help to the students and make PVCC a great place for all students.

I asked Danny Woody what the SGA was all about, in which, he responded, "Just read our mission statement. It explains exactly who we are and what we represent."

The SGA mission statement is "The Student Government Association represents the rights, interests, and concerns of the student body to the college administration while promoting an effective communication network between students, faculty, and staff. As a council for student ideas and concerns, the SGA works in conjunction with the College to improve student quality of life by planning,

supporting, and running several student events. The SGA also guides student organizations in forming procedures and encourages the establishment of new clubs." Beautiful!

What was on the agenda at this first meeting is the question? What is the SGA First, the discussed a new Student Activities Center where the SGA would have a place, as well as, Steve McNerney and myself with Student Activities. It would be a place where clubs could meet and events would be planned with ease.

They also discussed the idea of a new Fitness Center. As you know the PVCC fitness center has come a long way but with new equipment, the fitness center would like to expand. This would promote a bigger environment for more activities and for more student capacity.

A new idea, presented by myself, Lindsay Walker, President of the Vol-

leyball Club, and Steve McNerney, is having the SGA sponsor a new volleyball pit and a horseshoe pit on the North Grounds. This would be a better place for the volleyball club to practice and another intramural activity the student can join in!

At the end of October, even, the SGA will be heading to Wintergreen for a leadership retreat to gain the knowledge on how to be an appropriate leader for PVCC. Wish them luck!

So far, this SGA is on the ball. With student, faculty, and staff support, this SGA will accomplish many goals this year. If you have any questions concerning the SGA, please contact Danny Woody, SGA President, at WWoody@pvcc.edu.

If you have any questions concerning Student Activities, please contact Steve McNerney, Smcnerney@pvcc.edu or Heather Wydock, Hwydock@pvcc.edu.



The First SGA Meeting

More pictures on page 2

PVCC: Please Welcome Your New SGA!



Danny Woody, SGA President, conducts the meeting



Daniel Boyle, College Senate



Jozen Phemister, SGA Secretary



Left: Emily Traylor, The Forum Editor and SGA Representative
Right: Patrick Schwab, President of Engineering Club and SGA Representative
They are checking out the order of events for the day!



Lindsay Walker, At-Large Member

A New Look for the Jessup Library

By Jonathan Sharpe
The Forum staff writer

Any students who have not been at PVCC over the summer were probably very surprised by what they saw when they entered the Betty Sue Jessup Library for the first time this semester.

Since last spring, a renovation project has really changed the look and feel of the library.

Recently I spoke to Linda Cahill, coordinator of library services, to find out more about the renovation and how the library staff and students feel about it.

WHY THE LIBRARY WAS RENOVATED?

The library was added to the main building in the early 1980s and parts of it never had been renovated. It was time for a general upgrade of furniture, shelving, carpeting, painting and computer tables and chairs to give the library a refreshing look. It is now a much more inviting place to study and learn. Students are pleased with the additional study tables and study areas. A donation from Pepsi-Cola Bottling

Company of Central Virginia and the Jessup family made the renovation possible. This is the second gift from Pepsi and the Jessup family. A gift in the early 1990s helped upgrade library holdings and technology.

HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE RENOVATION?

The library staff and I are very excited about the new look for the library. It is wonderful having new, clean spaces in which to work and help students with research. I feel it is a real plus for the college. It provides students places to study individually and in groups. Additional study areas and rooms have been added.

HOW YOU THINK THE STUDENTS FEEL ABOUT THE RENOVATIONS?

Students like the re-design of the library and comment positively about the new furniture and study environment. They think it is beautiful and a peaceful place to study and learn, especially in the back of the library in the window lounge.

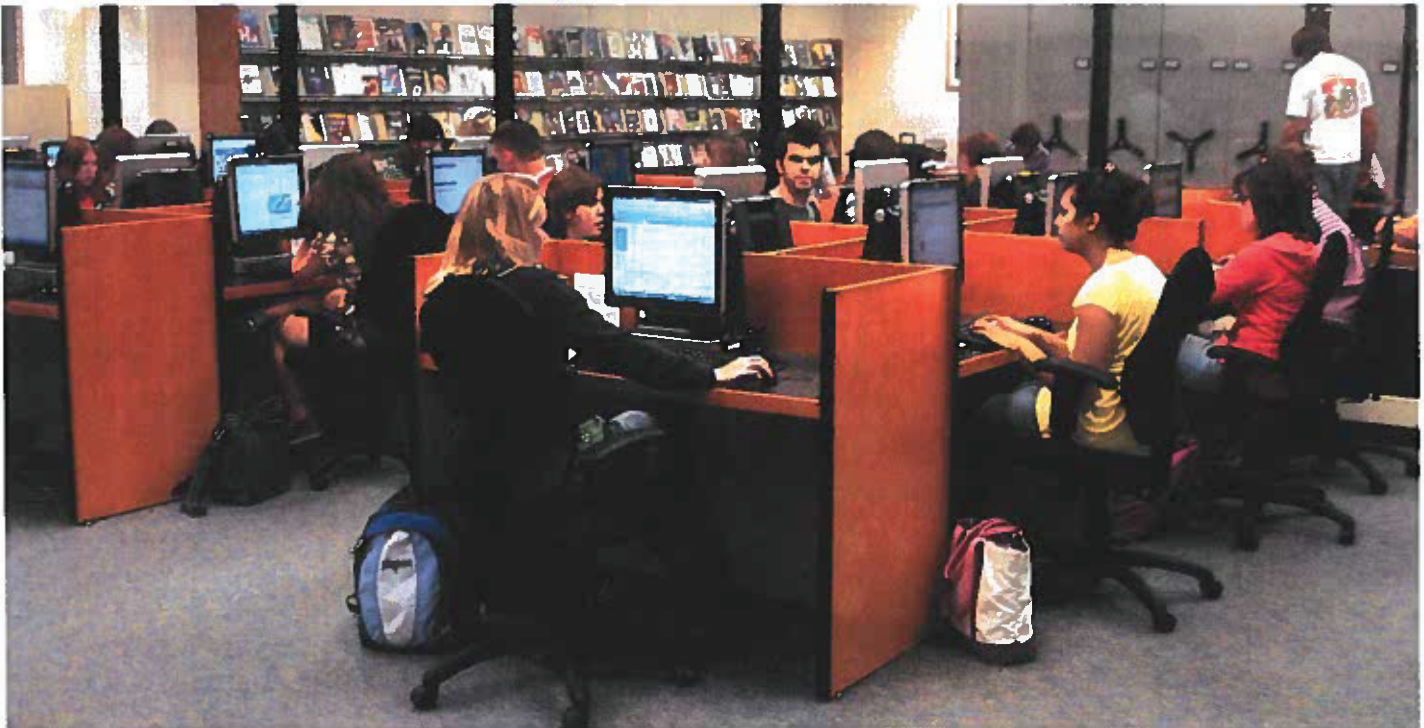
For a virtual tour of the newly renovated library go to www.pvcc.edu/library/.



Above: Say goodbye to the old circulation desk!



Above: The new desk being assembled



The library is complete. Looks great!

Take a Break!

There's Lots to Do Outside the Classroom

By Aimee Dumaresq
The Forum staff writer

Are you a student tired of studying day and night, and never taking a break?

It is important for all students, new and returning, to get involved at PVCC and to become connected with others in the community. Clubs and activities provide a place where students can explore their interests and socialize with others and may even help guide the way towards a career choice.

PVCC even makes a conscience effort to create times that are convenient for most students with College Hour. College Hour occurs from 12:10-1:20 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This is when clubs meet and most activities take place. Very few classes meet during this time and this allows all students to participate.

Why are clubs important? Because, says student activities coordinator Steve McNerney, going to school is only one part of an education. "The college experience needs to expand beyond the walls of academia."

This means getting involved with clubs, attending activities and participating in community service projects. Not only does this provide a way for students to relax, but it also enriches their college experience and adds to the value of their education.

PVCC offers many opportunities for students to get involved and work together. With 20 clubs and organizations and various activities planned for the semester, how can students choose just one?

Students interested in the arts should try the Art Club, Dance Club, Masquers, Music Club, Poetry Club or Philosophers Club. Students interested in the world around them should try the Japanese Club, Science Club, International Club and PVCC Volunteers Club.

Other clubs include the Engineering Club, Black Student Alliance, Christian Fellowship, Investment Club, Student Government Association, The Forum-

PVCC Newspaper, The Film Series and Virginia 21. These clubs and organizations are open to all current students at PVCC. Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges, is open to students who meet GPA and other requirements.

The fall semester is full of events. These events provide opportunities for social interaction with peer and free entertainment. Sometimes there's also free food!

The welcome back social and club fair day is a time for all students, faculty and staff to gather for free food and live music and helps to kick off a new semester. Over 20 organizations will be present at the community volunteer fair, and will provide an opportunity for PVCC students to help others and to make a difference.

Other events for fall include:

- Custom Apparel T-Shirts with give-away shirts with your picture or others pictures
- Dallas Page, a former professional wrestler turned motivational speaker
- Pink Floyd Theater, an interactive, computer generated and special effects filled event
- Dr. Jack Levin, a leading authority on serial murder, hate crimes and violence in America, who will discuss growing campus diversity and competition.

And don't forget the events in the Dickinson Building. There are dance master classes which begin Sept. 22 with Miki Liszt (information at 961-5376) and exhibits in the galleries on the third floor of the building.

In addition, student vouchers provide free admission to concerts and programs. If you have not done so, pick up your voucher at the reception desk at the south entrance to the main building. Voucher events for fall se-

mester are: PVCC Jazz Festival Oct. 12-14, Ballet Gran Folklorico de Mexico on Oct. 18 and the PVCC fall theater performances of "Proof" in November. Check out the flat-screen message TVs in the main building and in the Dickinson Building for more details.

Students are only able to learn so much from textbooks, but clubs, organizations and activities, help them explore their talents and hobbies. With numerous ways of getting involved, students should simply try a new club or an upcoming activity.

Take a break from that stack of books and become an active member of the PVCC community.

Student Events for Fall Semester

Welcome Back Social and Club Fair

Wednesday, Sept. 19

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Bolick Student Center

Community Volunteer Fair

Wednesday, Oct. 3

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Main building hallways

Custom Apparel T Shirts

Wednesday, Oct. 17

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:45-6:45 p.m.

Bolick Student Center

Dallas Page

Wednesday, Oct. 24

12:10-1:20 p.m.

Bolick Student Center

Pink Floyd Theatre

Tuesday, Oct. 30

1-4 p.m.

North Mall Meeting Room

Dr. Jack Levin

Wednesday, Nov. 14

12:20-1:20 p.m.

Bolick Student Center

The Editorial

It's Your School—Get Involved!

Welcome to PVCC, everyone! It's hard to believe another summer has come and gone, and we are in the midst of a busy semester once again.

I know the start of school is a very hectic time, as students are getting used to new classes and schedules, but I would like to remind everyone of the many extracurricular opportunities and activities available at PVCC.

On Wednesday, September 19, PVCC is hosting a Welcome Back Social and Club Fair. This is a great opportunity to join some neat clubs and eat lots of free food, as lunch will be provided between 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. I would encourage everyone to attend!

Clubs are a really fun way to get involved at Piedmont. They provide a chance to meet people with similar in-

terests and participate in many interesting activities. Anyone wanting starting a new club can contact Steve McNerney at smcnerney@pvcc.edu.

In addition to the Welcome Back Social and Club Fair, PVCC will be hosting a number of other great events throughout the semester. A complete list of student activities can be seen in this issue of *The Forum*. These are great chances to take a break from all the homework and just de-stress for awhile.

A very important organization at PVCC is the Student Government Association (SGA). The SGA is a link between the students and faculty. It works hard to deal with issues concerning the student body.

"Our members are receptive to

any concerns or issues," said SGA president Danny Woody. He urged students to attend the SGA meetings, as they are open to the public.

"Everyone on the SGA is committed," Woody added. "We really want to see the student body participate in the activities that go on at PVCC."

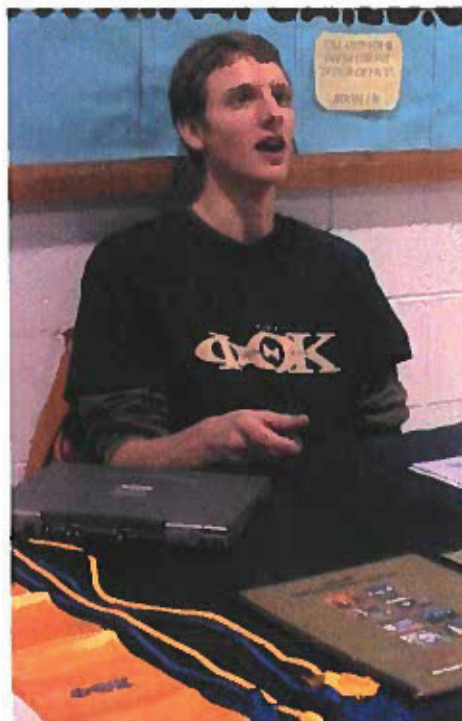
College can be so much more than just classes and studies. Obviously, those are very important. But, it is also great to take out some time for out-of-class activities. PVCC offers quite a number of these, and I would really encourage students to take advantage of them.

So, get involved at PVCC, and have a GREAT semester!

--Emily Traylor



Corey Yeago, President of Christian Student Fellowship



Jacob Neal, College Senator, President of Phi Theta Kappa, and SGA Representative, supports Phi Theta Kappa on Club Day, 2006. Please join us for Club Day, Wednesday, September 19, 2007!

New in the Classroom this Fall

PVCC welcomed 10 new teaching faculty at the start of the 2007-2008 academic year. They are:



Rhoda Cooper

Assistant Professor, Medical Coding
B.S., Police Administration, Eastern
Kentucky University
Former medical billing and coding in-
structor at schools in Virginia and Ken-
tucky. Workplace experience as billing
manager.



David Corbin

Associate Professor, Political Science
Ph.D., Political Science, University of
New Hampshire
M.A., Political Science, University of
New Hampshire
B.A., Political Science, Boston Univer-
sity
Former director of student programs
at the Bill of Rights Institute in Ar-
lington and faculty member at the
University of New Hampshire.



Bruce Glassco

Professor, English
Ph.D., English, University of Virginia
M.A., English, University of Virginia
B.A., English, University of Virginia
Former faculty member at Eastern
Shore Community College.



Rita Krenz

Assistant Professor, Emergency Medical
Services
B.S., Paramedicine, University of Mary-
land
Paramedic program director at PVCC
since 2003. Now a full-time faculty
member.



Kristina O'Meara

Assistant Professor, Nursing
BSN, Nursing, Lynchburg College
MSN, Nursing, East Tennessee State
University
Former faculty member at Lynchburg
College and nurse practitioner in
Lynchburg.



Myra Pellissier

Assistant Professor, Nursing
BSN, Nursing, University of North
Carolina
M.S., Healthcare Administration, Medi-
cal University of South Carolina
Former PVCC adjunct instructor and
emergency room nurse at Martha Jeffer-
son Hospital and in South Carolina.

Continued on page 7

"New in the Classroom" continued



Justin Wert

Assistant Professor, English
B.A., English, University of Mississippi
M.A., English, University of Mississippi
Ph.D., English, University of Mississippi
Former faculty member at the College of Charleston.



Irina Timchenko

Instructor, Math
B.S., Mathematics, Tbilisi State University, Republic of Georgia
M.S., Mathematics, University of Nevada
Former teaching assistant at University of Nevada.



Joanna Vondrasek

Assistant Professor, Biology
B.A., Biology, Swarthmore College
Ph.D., Biology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Former adjunct instructor at PVCC and assistant director of sponsored programs at Mary Baldwin College.



Andy Smith

Associate Professor, English
B.A., English, Virginia Polytechnic Institute
M.A., Composition/Rhetoric, West Chester University
Ph.D., British and American Literature, University of Missouri-Columbia

Editor
Emily Traylor

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Zaynah Akeel
Aimee Dumaresq
Rebecca Faris
Laura Hernandez Juarez
Jonathan Sharpe

Technical Advisor
Mary Jane King

Perplexed at Piedmont

Brought to you by Scarlet Hart.

Dear Scarlet:

I'm having some major issues in math. My first test is coming up VERY soon and I'm freaking out because I don't understand what's going on... I understand in class, but I can't seem to get it when I'm doing my homework later on my own. To top it all off, I missed a class last week and I have major time restrictions and am unable to get together with my teacher, who has scheduling issues as well. Since then I've been even more behind than usual, and I'm just not sure what's going to happen in the test. S.O.S. —Meryl

Dear Meryl:

Your situation is one I understand COMPLETELY. The best thing to do would be to go to the Learning Center. Usually you don't have to make an appointment to go in there because there are almost always tutors there to help you out, and they know what they're talking about, too. As far as the test goes, just relax about it and I'm sure you'll do a lot better than you're expecting. Don't forget to breathe while you're in there, eat breakfast... in other words, do all of the things your mother tells you to and you'll be a-okay! Love, Scarlet

Dear Scarlet:

About how long does it take to walk from Dickinson to the Main Building? —A.

A.:

When I went to the student orientation day my first semester, they told us it was about an 8 minute "brisk walk." If you're in a class in Dickinson and have a class ten minutes after that one ends in the Main Building, though, you might want to warn your teacher in the last class about your situation. They are usually quite understanding, especially since some of them are or have been in the same shoes. Plus, it very rarely actually takes **exactly** 8 minutes.

Yours, Scarlet

The Forum is a voice for all students. If you have a voice, speak it. We absolutely welcome letters to the Editor, guest columns, short stories, or poems, advice needed for our Perplexed at Piedmont column, or any idea you may have for the upcoming publications. We are trying to establish a better and continuing advice column so as stated above, please submit your questions. We would really like to help you out! If you have any questions or comments please contact Mary Jane King, Editor and Technical Director of the Forum, at Mking@pvcc.edu. We hope to hear from you!

The Blue Ridge Radio Project

By Rebecca Faris
The Forum staff writer

Imagine

- owning and operating a full-power radio station.
- a radio station with virtually no commercials and programs that reflect the diversity of our community and the world.
- jumping into your car and tuning to a radio station that is discussing the news and views that you think are important.
- local talk shows in Spanish and French.
- a radio station committed to providing a channel for individuals, groups, issues and music that are overlooked, suppressed or underrepresented by other media.

Now imagine joining the Blue Ridge Radio Project to guide this effort forward.

For the first time in over a decade, the Federal Communications Commission has opened an Oct. 12, filing window for noncommercial/educational FM radio licenses. Opportunities to apply for these valuable licenses are extremely rare, once in a generation at best, and many believe that this may actually be the last time ever because of the fact that the airwaves are becoming completely saturated.



In spite of the growth of the Internet and the dominance of television, radio remains a powerful means of communicating with the public. The Blue Ridge Radio Project has been formed to take advantage of this incredible moment in history.

A group of people who believe that a democracy depends upon an informed citizenry and that the role of a free press is essential in a democracy to bring citizens the information they need to make wise decisions for themselves and for future generations has banded together, independent of a profit motive, to serve as part of the Fourth Estate. We are committed to giving a voice to those people, groups, ideas and music that have little or no voice in the public arena. Two hundred years ago, President Thomas Jefferson said it best: "The only security of all is in a free press."

Across the globe, independent media are contributing to the betterment of nations and societies, and have emerged as one of the most effective forces in the struggle to change closed regimes into open and productive societies. Unfortunately, here at home we have seen the unprecedented consolidation of media in the hands of the few.

The time is ripe to help define a bold agenda for America's future. Our goal is nothing less than to be a part of the establishment of a new vision for the world and a realistic agenda to make that vision a reality. In 1823 Jefferson said: "The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary, to keep the waters pure." The centralized, corporatized media of 21st century America is contrary to the healthy functioning of a free society, we believe.

If you want to educate the public in Central Virginia on the issues and causes that are important to you, how can you reach them? Can you effectively communicate with the thousands of people in our area by nailing up flyers on telephone poles? Can our democracy be sustained when the media are often dominated by commercial interests and the most important voices of our time are relegated to the sidelines?

We Need Your Help

We need to hear from you. We are building a group of individuals and organizations that understand the incredible potential of this project. Please contact us. If you are part of a group, ask to be appointed as liaison to the Blue Ridge Radio Project.

We need to raise some money. The purchase of a commercial radio station would cost hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of dollars. The radio engineering for this application will cost \$4,000 to \$8,000. Please consider joining our fundraising efforts.

More Information

Blue Ridge Radio Project
goinglightly@aol.com or
alexis@coney.org
3378 Cotswold Lane
Keswick, VA 22947

970-2026

Become the media.

