By Zach Colona

Cheers and applause filled the room as the Guidonian Hand, a trombone quartet, walked out of the darkness and onto the brightly lit stage in the large auditorium of Marple campus Feb. 22.

Twenty-one audience members stood as the quartet settled in before playing a number of classics composed by Wolfgang A. Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach, and others.

The Guidonian Hand, whose performances have been described as “expertly played” in The New York Times, is based in Manhattan and plays across the country. Their members include Mark Broschinsky, Will Lang, James Rogers and Matt Melore.

Also known as The Hand, the quartet was one of 13, selected from more than 100 ensembles, who received the 2012 Chamber of Music America Award for 100 ensembles, who received the 2012 Chamber of Music America Award for an open seat; who

Broschinsky said the quartet’s unique name comes from a device that was used to help choral singers learn their songs in the 12th century.

Last fall, the quartet also performed in the Music for Autism event in Queens, New York to a group of all ages. The quartet played in DCCC’s large auditorium for about an hour and was followed by a brief Q and A.

Admission was $10 and free for students with a valid DCCC ID.

After this they moved onto the works of Johann Georg Albrechtsberger, particularly his works titled “Mass in D.” The next composer they covered was Éve Beglarian, the only female composer.

Then the group performed one more song before a 15-minute intermission. Once the group returned, they started with the popular works of Mozart and Bach.

Trombone quartet performs popular compositions at DCCC

At the beginning of the performance the four musicians walked out smiling, then quickly began their performance with a piece by Frantz Joseph Hayden. This piece was inspired by the biblical portrayal of the seven-day creation story.

Next the quartet played two songs by French composer Claude Debussy. After this they moved onto the works of Johann Georg Albrechtsberger, particularly his works titled “Mass in D.”

The next composer they covered was Éve Beglarian, the only female composer.

Then the group performed one more song before a 15-minute intermission. Once the group returned, they started with the popular works of Mozart and Bach.

After that the quartet played their finale, composed by Monk, to a long applause. Audience member Carmen Soltani, a 75-year-old Vietnam War veteran, called the performance “very interesting.”

At the conclusion of their performance, the group answered questions from the audience. Some listeners asked about the origin of their name, others about the instruments the musicians played.

“That was really cool,” said Ben Mitchell, a clarinet player, after attending the show.

The DCCC concert series features several concerts each year with three still to come in March and April.

Upcoming performances include David Bowlin (violin) and Thomas Sauer (piano) on March 22, the Latin Fiesta on March 29 and Richard Belcastro on April 12 (sitar). All events will take place in the large auditorium on the Marple Campus at 3 p.m.

DCCC student becomes publicist for Grammy-nominated recording artist

By Shanaya Day-Merkerson

When most people run into their favorite recording artist, they are liable to ask for an autograph or ask for a selfie. DCCC communications major Ted Miller took the road less traveled and asked for a position with the musician’s company.

To Miller’s surprise, his request was granted. After waiting about three hours to get into North Bowl bowling alley Jan. 9, Miller, 21, spotted Philadelphia-native and Grammy-nominated recording artist Neef Buck, whose album was to be released a week later.

Miller said he knew that his skills in the field of public relations, along with his knowledge of Neef’s music, was what he needed to take the opportunity to ask the artist if he was in need of a publicist.

Time management: how to make the most of your work life

By Matthew Pellegrini

Several students attended a “Time Management” workshop, hosted by Kathy Soltani, a professional tutor in the Learning Commons, Feb. 12 at Marple Campus.

Soltani covered time management tips and techniques that students could utilize in their academic careers. She emphasized that time management is important because all of the academic commitments that students make are mandatory, and time management skills are critical for obtaining a job.

“Successful people do not waste time,” Soltani said. “Learn to manage time effectively now. Poor time management could cost you your job.”

Are you selfie-obsessed?

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The Daily Show has an open seat; who will fill it?

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Take advantage of your school’s resources

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Do want to create a club on campus? Here’s how

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continued on page 2
Time management: how to make the most of your schedule

continued from page 1

Soltani believes budgeting time is very important. “Time management helps you keep the ways in which you are moving towards achieving your goals in clear perspective,” she said.

Before moving on to specific steps regarding time management, Soltani talked about the nature of time management itself.

According to Soltani, time management boils down to selfishness, because it is required for students to make enough time to work. In fact, she said, “A certain amount of selfishness is required to be happy.”

Soltani said that it is important to avoid distractions, especially for the current generation and it’s stimulating technology. She explained that distractions are everywhere.

"Cell phones alone keep us connected 24 hours a day," she added.

Throughout the workshop, Soltani offered specific techniques for time management.

First, Soltani suggested making a to-do list every day. “Make it a ritual just like brushing your teeth,” she said.

To make a to-do list, students can use apps on their phones such as the DCCC college app, Soltani added.

New York University’s Learning Center also suggests using to-do lists. They recommend that students choose between a daily to-do list and one that is being continuously updated.

Next, Soltani suggested using a big calendar. She said students should add all of their syllabi’s events on a calendar immediately at the beginning of classes. “If you do that, you will be on top of it,” she said.

Dartmouth’s Academic Skills Center also suggests that students use a big calendar and jot down notes to themselves. Soltani said students should bring homework and study materials with them at all times. She specifically emphasized using index cards because they can allow a student to study during any moments of free time, such as on the bus or in between classes.

“We learn through repeated exposure to something rather than cramming for a while,” Soltani said.

According to Soltani, students should also learn to say “no” so that they can be assertive enough to make time for school work. Saying “no” applies to family, work, and friends. “When you make a commitment to school, you cannot go to a party,” Soltani said.

Soltani then stressed that students need to find their own productive time. “If you’re a morning person, then the morning is your working time,” she said. However, she emphasized cramming the night before is deadly.

Once students find their productive times, Soltani suggested students create a designated study time. “This is where the power of routine comes in,” she added. “You have to start treating yourself like a business.”

According to Soltani, students’ study areas should be viewed as their offices, or if it helps to think of school as a military commitment, students should do that.

Soltani closed by reviewing handouts on time management and discussing an included time management chart.

Kathy Soltani (left), a professional tutor in the Learning Commons, hosted a workshop on time management, Feb. 12 on Marple Campus. Christa Kwaw-Vankson (right), a health sciences major, attended.

Photo taken by Matthew Pellegrini

“I just have to try something new,” said Michelle Coston, a nursing major who attended the workshop. “So I am trying to implement time management into my routine. I am trying to bring balance into my life.”

Contact Matthew Pellegrini at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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Chestnut Hill College
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DCCC offers students several resources to help them succeed

By Joe Andrew

DCCC offers many services to help students get a better education, which can be beneficial on college transfer applications, job applications, and more.

But most students do not know what the college offers. Three departments that help students make the most of their education are Career and Counseling, Campus Life and Student Employment and Co-Op Services.

Career and Counseling Center

The career and Counseling Center, located in Room 1325, helps keep students on task by offering specific plans, workshops, seminars and other activities to help students achieve their goals for success.

“The Career and Counseling Center is a place where students can come to get help reaching their educational goals,” said Christine Doyle, director of the Career and Counseling Center. “Our mission is really to do what we can so that students can be successful here at Delaware County Community College and beyond.”

Appointments can be made at the Career and Counseling Center for transferring, scheduling new classes, and overall mentoring for collegiate success.

“They really helped me when I changed my major from communications to education,” said student Amanda McMaster. “It helped me find out more closely what career I can have when I graduate.”

This semester the Career and Counseling Center has many transfer fairs to help students meet representatives from area colleges and universities, such as Widener, Temple, West Chester and more.

A transfer fair for La Salle University will be held March 24 at 11 a.m. in the Academic Building. Also, a transfer fair for Widener University will take place March 25 at 10 a.m. Other events are listed in the Career & Counseling Center’s Spring 2015 Workshop Calendar, available around campus.

“Coming into college I had no clue about the resources available,” said network engineering major Josh Ethridge. “After meeting with a counselor I was able to find out about transfer information as well as student employment. It was a huge help.”

Campus Life

Campus Life, located in Room 2518, helps students get involved by offering specific educational activities, clubs, and extracurricular events.

“Campus Life provides students with opportunities to connect with faculty outside the classroom,” said Director of Campus Life Amy Williams-Gaudioso, who added that students do so by participating in clubs and events that “help students develop college connections that increase their likely hood of persisting.”

Students can join clubs, such as the Creative Writing club, the Student Government Association and more, through Campus Life.

Student Employment Services And Co Op Center

Students looking for employment and internship opportunities can visit the Student Employment Services and Co-Op Center in Room 1305 to take advantage of job search assistance, internship and co-op programs, and work study.

Internships and co-op programs help students gain knowledge in a career of their choosing. These services are “available to all students,” said Carlotta Randolph, managing director of Workforce Employment Services. “Internships are also available to gain hands-on exposure.”

These are not the only departments where students can receive important services. Students can also visit the Writing Center, Learning Commons and Financial Aid Office.

For more information on the student resources the college offers visit www.dccc.edu or Delagate.

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Chances of a perfect March Madness bracket? 1 in 9.2 quintillion

By Lizzie Johnson
Chicago Tribune
(TNS)

The probability of creating the perfect March Madness bracket is shockingly low — as in less than 1 in 9.2 quintillion (or 9,223,372,036,854,775,808) chance.

Jeff Bergen, a mathematics professor at DePaul University, crunched the numbers and discovered that it was nearly impossible to create the winningest bracket.

"The size of the number astounds people," he said. "It's just not going to happen."

It's more likely that the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago White Sox will win the next 16 World Series games, he said. Or that someone will win the Mega Millions lottery two times in a row buying one ticket both times.

Or just as likely that someone will pick the winning party of each presidential election through 2264.

"If you want to sit down and do an experiment, grab a coin and flip it 53 times in a row," Bergen said. "Every time you get a tail, that is basically a failed bracket. The only way to get a perfect bracket is if you flip heads 53 times in a row."

Bergen calculated the likelihood by determining the percentage of chance someone would correctly guess the winner of each bracket, then multiplying the 53 numbers together.

There are exceptions, Bergen conceded. If you had a knowledge of basketball and the teams involved, that would up your odds. But not by much.

"Suppose you know that a No. 1 seed has never lost to a No. 16 seed in the men's tournament," he said. "That would help improve your odds."

The chances of creating a perfect bracket with knowledge of the teams would still be only about 1 in 128 billion with those odds. Additionally, the chances of having a perfect bracket after the first round is about 1 in 17,000, he said.

"What I would like people to realize, even though it's hard to get a perfect bracket, is that as long as you're having fun and winning your office pool, it doesn't matter," he said. "Perfection is nice, but there are lots of ways to have fun."
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Upcoming DCCC spring baseball schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Chesapeake</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brunswick CC NC</td>
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(Douglas R. Clifford/Tampa Bay Times/TNS)
76ers trade of PG Michael Carter-Williams baffles fans

By James Pearson

The Philadelphia 76ers were one of the few NBA teams who were active during the 2015 Trade Deadline. Therefore, it is no surprise that the 76ers were listening to trade offers because the team hasn’t performed up to high standards in recent years.

But it came as a shock when the 76ers traded away their first round pick and 2014 NBA Rookie of the Year point guard Michael Carter-Williams to the Milwaukee Bucks for the Los Angeles Lakers’ protected top five pick in this year’s draft.

“I can’t lie,” tweeted Carter-Williams after hearing about the trade to Milwaukee. “I’m shocked. I love this city thank you for everything. I can honestly say I gave it my all. I wish Philly nothing but the best.”

I know the 76ers have been in a rebuilding period for the last couple of years but when it comes to trading away a player that was drafted high in the previous year for draft picks it’s difficult for fans to observe.

76ers General Manager and President of Basketball Operations Sam Hinkie said during a press conference Feb. 29, “the focus is on finding greatness.” But this is not first time that the 76ers traded away a point guard that was a fan favorite player.

In July 2013, the team dealt All-Star point guard Jrue Holiday to the New Orleans Pelicans for current 76ers center Nerlens Noel and the rights to forward Dario Saric who’s playing in the Euroleague now.

“Sometimes you know exactly what you knew before. Sometimes the world changed and you know a lot more than you did,” said Hinkie when talking about Carter-Williams in a recent press conference.

As I follow the 76ers I want to see them continue to improve and build for the future but how long will fans have to endure losing seasons before the team advances further.

To say that stock-piling draft picks to help enhance a team’s productivity for a basketball organization is yet to be seen. Still, I wonder will the process continue to repeat itself and the 76ers trade away more players they developed for high draft picks.

Let’s face reality: the 76ers have a plan in place that goes beyond two or three years but I’m anxiously waiting for that day to finally come.

“We’re all focused on the same thing: How do we build something really special that can win at the highest level,” said Hinkie in the same press conference.

The Philadelphia ’76ers’ Isaiah Canaan (0) is defended by the Milwaukee Bucks’ Michael Carter-Williams (5) during the first half at the BMO Harris Bradley Center in Milwaukee on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015.

(Mark Hoffman/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel/TNS)

How students can create a new club on campus

By James Pearson

Have you ever wanted to create a new club on campus, but did not know how?

According to the Campus Life Office, the process for starting a club is not complicated but requires seven steps.

Develop a Statement of Purpose

Before the process begins students must establish a statement of purpose for creating a club which reflects the college’s mission and is different from current clubs. This will help with producing a constitution.

Write a Constitution

According to Campus Life Club Recognition Application guidelines, the constitution “should include information such as the group, statement of purpose, definition of membership, officer responsibilities, and a process for elections of officers, … who must have a 2.5 GPA.”

Select an Advisor

The next step is choosing an advisor that meets the necessary requirements. Students must consider the following when choosing an advisor, such as familiarity with the club’s mission and a positive relationship with students.

Find Members

Once students have found an advisor they can now gather a group to hold meetings and plan other activities.

Submit Paperwork

When the previous steps are finished students are ready to submit the essential paperwork to the Campus Life Office.

Approval

Campus Life will review the paperwork and forward it to the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee to make final approval.

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Students who have completed both classes are welcome back to join the senior staff. For more information, send an email to communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.
## Why colleges must go mobile-first

### Growing number of higher ed web teams designing their websites with mobile device users at the forefront

By Esther Shein

Colleges and universities miss a significant opportunity to capture the attention of their primary web audience—teenagers and young adults—when their websites aren’t designed to perform well on mobile devices.

A 2014 study of 200 public and private schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania found that more than 70 percent of those institutions did not have a mobile-friendly website. Nearly half of those that did were deficient either in technology or content, or both, according to the study by marketing firm Princeton Partners.

More than seven in 10 students and nearly half of parents have looked at college websites on mobile devices, according to Noel-Levitz’s “2014 E-Expectations Report,” which included online preferences of college-bound high school seniors and their parents.

Higher education institutions working to increase enrollment and retention, adopting a mobile-first strategy is critical.

A mobile-first strategy emphasizes designing sites from the earliest stages of a project for interaction on mobile devices and presenting an experience that is satisfying and visually pleasing.

It while sounds like a simple concept, making it happen requires resources, a change in mindset and a willingness to experiment.

### Making a first impression

Colleges’ websites are where students first interact with the institutions that will be their home away from home for the next four years. A recent study shows that 56 percent of those who apply will never even visit the institution they apply to—so their website is their first impression.

“Universities have to think about their website as the first stage of marketing,” says Erik Runyon, director of digital communications at University of Notre Dame.

Runyon notes that, while many institutions invest in ensuring that their websites are accessible on mobile devices, they are not necessarily optimized. “The number of mobile users is growing fast, and we’ve got to think about how our information is presented on mobile devices,” he says.

### Case studies

The University of Notre Dame is among a handful of mobile-first early adopters.

Erik Runyon, director of web and marketing communications, got the idea to create a mobile site after first using an iPhone in 2008. “As I was testing out our site, it became pretty evident there were better ways of displaying them than having to zoom out on pages that weren’t mobile friendly, he says.

When they started, the focus was on “responsive web design,” a method of retrofitting a website for a wide range of mobile devices.

“Getting down to business

Administrators at the University of California, San Diego wanted to make readily available resources such as course lists, sports information, campus maps and the like.

UCSD Mobile, the mobile app built in 2011, was very popular with students, but it had limited functionality, says Brett Pollak, director of the campus web office. The web team decided to optimize all of the campus websites for mobile "so folks don’t have to zoom in and do all the things that are cumbersome.”

In 2012, when North Carolina State University officials were redesigning its main website, they began an experiment with a mobile site.

That department was asked to prioritize content to appear on the smaller layouts of mobile devices with different screen sizes.

Cost savings come in making sites “future friendly,” meaning they won’t have to be rebuilt on any new devices that come on the market, Runyon says.

“Just to name a few. These would be great choices, but the question is if it would work, considering these two actors have large movie careers. It is unknown if she would be willing to give that up for a fake nightly news gig.

Furthermore, Comedy Central president says they did not want to see the “next Jon Stewart.”

The network wants to cast someone that can take the program to new heights and be the rebirth of the show instead of simply living in Stewart’s footsteps.

In a recent interview with the LA Times, Michele Ganeless, the president of Comedy Central summed that up when she said, “We have to find the next evolution of The Daily Show.”

The University of Notre Dame is among a handful of mobile-first early adopters.

Erik Runyon, director of digital communications at University of Notre Dame.

“Responsive web design,” a method of retrofitting a website for a wide range of mobile devices.
When Miller approached Neef, he knew the artist’s album, “Forever Do Me,” was to be released Jan. 19. “It was perfect timing and I couldn’t let this chance slip away,” Miller said. “I asked him if he had a publicist. He didn’t say yes or no. I told him what I was in school for, then he asked for my phone number and we exchanged contact info.”

A few days later, Neef’s team contacted Miller with an album press release they wanted sent out to various media outlets. Miller made edits to the release before forwarding it to the media and, according to Miller, the recording artist’s team was very happy with the press release.

Miller said his version of the release can be found on thesource.com, hip-hop Since 1987.com, and hip-hop blogs. Although timing was very essential in this situation, Miller said it was his persistence and his outgoing personality that got him the job.

“Your first impression has to be your best impression,” Miller said. “The team knew I was serious about working with them and as soon as they gave me the opportunity I didn’t waste any time. When they told me to do something I got it done immediately: sending emails, making phone calls, setting up interviews and promotional events. Whatever they needed, I got it done.”

Since then, Miller said he’s played a major role in the promotional run of Neef’s album and has built a close relationship with the rapper on a professional and personal level.

Miller said he’s always learning from Neef, an independent artist, about how to build brands in this business along with different ways of networking which is helping Miller become a better publicist.

“I learned a lot from that man,” Miller said. “The random puzzle mechanic came learned from him and using it with my own brand one day.”

Having taken journalism and public relations classes at DCCC, Miller believes that he is prepared enough to apply what he learned inside the classroom and outside the classroom to consider taking some time off from school to focus on his career and to build his own brand.

Miller said that modern technology allows him to be able to do his job better. He said all the information he needs is easily accessible through his iPhone, which makes his job somewhat easier.

One thing that could potentially make the job harder, Miller said, is social media.

“If something goes down, people will tell what happened based on how they saw it happen,” Miller said. “That’s why it’s important to explain the importance of celebrities having publicists to help protect their image if needed.”

“Let’s say two celebrities get into a bar fight and things escalate,” Miller said. “Who do you think writes the official press release? The publicist.”

In the future, Miller plans to own a public relations firm, which will be called The Miller Group.

“Being given this opportunity really humbled me,” Miller said. “It shows me that hard work really does pay off. I know a very successful future lies ahead of me.”

Contact Shanaya Day-Merkerson at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Video game developer’s ‘Vidar’ becomes reality, thanks to Kickstarter

By Raymond Porreca
Special to The Communitarian

Dean Razavi seems determined to carve out his own path in the video game industry. The New York City lawyer-turned-game developer has been hard at work creating “Vidar,” a classically styled role-playing game with a unique twist.

Razavi’s vision for the game is to ensure that its storytelling and various puzzles are always randomized, making for a game that will not only be unique each time it is booted up, but also an experience that is different for every single player of the game.

“Vidar” places players in the shoes of a stranger who has found himself in a dangerous town.

Each night, a mysterious beast stalks the street of the town, slaying a random villager. The random element ensures that the player’s journey through “Vidar” is always a dynamic one.

Razavi has now successfully funded “Vidar” through the popular crowdfunding site, Kickstarter.

The “Vidar” campaign raised $19,530, well over the $10,000 goal. Recently, Razavi and I spoke about “Vidar,” his vision for the game, and the importance of independent video games.

Q: How did you first become interested in video game development?

A: I first became interested in video game development when I was in school, when I was 12, I made a full compass campaign to the goal’s current story, complete with voice acting. After that, I just felt compelled to make games.

Q: “Vidar” is different than many other games that have been released in recent years. Would you mind explaining the basic premise of “Vidar”?

A: Sure. There’s been a lot of emphasis recently – especially by indie developers – to randomness. Key elements of their games. It’s mainly done in order to compete with the “Triple A” studios when they are able to put hours of content into a game.

Indie developers see that and don’t have the budget for that, so we started extending the life of play with randomness. Over the past few years we have really good story at randomizing maps. “Minecraft” is the best testament to that, along with games like “Terraform” and “Spelunky.” “Vidar” is my attempt to see how randomize story elements, which I am convinced is the next step in game design.

It starts from the premise that a town is under siege by a monster. That beast kills a villager every night, and it’s up to the player to stop the beast.

But like any community, everyone has reactions to the loss of everyone else – people are cowards, friends, neighbors, lovers, enemies.

Because the order of deaths in each game is different, the reactions are different. People’s needs change and ultimately, the plot that unfolds is a testament to how each character has changed.

Q: How did you come up with the idea of making a game that featured randomized story and puzzle mechanics?

A: It was probably just a confluence of events. I lost a dear family member and mentor about a month before I started sketching “Vidar” out, so I had death and grief on the mind. I had been toying with this idea of taking the traditional mechanic of a town which slowly populates, and turning it upside down. What if [non-player characters] start disappearing instead? And then the idea of making that random snapped into place.

Then I decided to randomize the mechanic later. For better or worse, I have a pretty good memory for in-game puzzles. I can come back to a game years later and be like, “Oh I remember this. We have to do X, Y, and Z.” So I knew that if I wanted to come back and see a new story in “Vidar,” it wouldn’t be a challenging game anymore. I decided that the only way to fix that would be to randomize the puzzles as well.

Q: Some gamers may think that “Vidar’s” innovative premise and game mechanics are a great representation of the growing indie game scene. Is there anything that you think AAA developers could learn from the small teams making big games?

A: A willingness to iterate. “Vidar” has taken so many forms over the past year. There used to be combat in this game! There was a time when puzzles weren’t random. All of these things change as I defined the game to get feedback and see how people interacted with it. AAA developers should be willing to throw the entire thing out if it will make for a better game.

Q: Is there a specific process that you go through when writing the characters and their personal stories for “Vidar”?

A: Originally, all of my characters just had a few lines of description. Knowing that I wanted each character to represent a piece of a community helped a lot, so I’d jot those notes down.

The nun can represent a zealot patriarchal religious. The blacksmith can represent industry.

Often times, characters can cover two sides of a coin. The priest is the much more loving, caring part of religion. The alchemist, for example, is the socially unawake part of academia and science, and the scholar is the “sorcerer’s tower arrogance” type of academia.

The next thing to figure out was, why do these people not just take up arms and go fight the monster themselves? Now we have a character flaw and the ball is rolling.

I’ve lived with some of my characters more than others – I know the watchmaker really well, how he’d react in each situation, what his crisis points are. I barely know the chef at the inn. I’m going to have to spend some more time with him.

Q: The Kickstarter campaign for “Vidar” raised more than $19,000 from its $18,000 goal. Can you explain why you elected to use crowdfunding to aid the game’s development?

Crowdfunding does two things. The obvious answer is that you get money up front, to pay for things like an artist to do all the sprite work. It gives you a nice money cushion and helps start building your community.

But the second important thing is that it serves as social proof. I could have saved and invested the $18,000 into the game myself, but I’d have no idea if I was making a game that anyone in the world would be interested in and then when I was done, I’d emerge from my apartment, holding “Vidar” to present to the gaming public and it might be a flop. Kickstarter allows me to test the waters before I waste a year on a bad idea.

Q: Kickstarter has helped fund numerous video games over the last handful of years, from both independent teams and large studios. Do you think crowdfunding will be a mainstream in game development? If so, why?

A: I think we’re starting to see Kickstarter get co-opted by the major studios a bit too much for it to continue as a necessary tool for independent developers. During the entirety of the “Vidar” Kickstarter, I was pushed out of the “hot list” of projects in Kickstarter’s searches by games made by big-name studios. These titles were games that would undoubtedly meet their fundraising goals.

Situations like this make me think that the Kickstarter market will become too flooded and cause many independent developers to shy away from the platform.
Q: How has the reception to “Vidar” been so far?
A: I seriously can’t even comprehend it. I’ve had the wonderful opportunity to demo the game as part of various indie showcases, including Boston FIG, MAGfest, Playcrafting NYC. When I talk to people and explain the concept of “Vidar” and someone’s eyes light up, it’s the best feeling. Hearing people tell me that “Vidar sounds like their own personal dream game is an amazing experience.

Those events were great for finding a community for the game. Every day, because I’m compulsive, I google “Vidar Kickstarter” to see if there’s any new coverage of the game or something that I should tweet about. In the first week, someone who I’ve never met posted a link to the campaign in forum they frequented. They liked the game, and wanted to share it with someone. That made me so happy I started crying. The thought that someone else might tell their friends, “Hey, check this out,” had somehow never occurred to me, and it was just so amazing.

Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring game developers?
A: Fake it until you make it. Seriously. That’s the only way to actually do this. Go to events and introduce yourself as a game developer. It doesn’t matter if you have been working on games for twenty years. You don’t need to have done this for years, or released 20 small apps, to claim that title. And once you own it, and pretend like you know what you’re doing, eventually you come to find out that you’ve learned what to do. Anyone can be a game developer.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to say?
A: I am so excited about the opportunity to go back in hiding and make my game. Kickstarter campaigns are not for the faint of heart. They are a mix of a full-time job and a newborn. They are finicky and require constant attention, and there’s no way to be a developer and run a campaign at the same time. So if you’re going to go the crowdfunding route, congratulations, best of luck, and I hope you have some very patient family and friends.

Contact the editor at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Selfies: harmless fun or narcissistic?

By Erica Setnick

Walking into Planet Fitness in Aston, one might immediately notice a humid odor of sweat and equipment cleaner filling the air. Various exercise machines are occupied with all sorts of people working out at their own pace.

In the weight lifting section, several people are lifting dumbbells and free weights: the big and husky, the slim and toned, and the ones that are just starting out. Various exercise machines are occupied with all sorts of people working out at their own pace.

In a recent Marple Campus poll conducted by The Communitarian, which asked 25 students, “Do you think taking selfies is a form of self-confidence, self-obsession, or a little bit of both?” 28 percent of students said selfies are a form of self-confidence, 12 percent of students said it’s a form of self-obsession, and 60 percent said it’s a little bit of both.

Twelve percent of students think selfies are a form of self-obsession. “I think taking one or two selfies a week is okay, but if you do it every day, it can get annoying to see all over Instagram,” says Justin Bellace, an emergency management and planning major.

According to Howard, “The concern lies when people who are using it to create a persona that will be approved of, i.e., how many Facebook or social media clicks, ‘likes,’ and approvals they get.”

When Alii Gasperetti, a veterinarian technician major, takes her selfies, she says she takes 25-30 pictures, narrows a couple down to her favorites, posts them online, and waits for “likes.”

“I usually don’t think I’m pretty unless I get 20 or more likes on my selfies,” she says. “But if I don’t get 11 likes on Instagram, I delete the picture and feel miserable. I guess you can say it’s attention seeking, but it’s just what I do."

In a 2013 Teen Vogue article, Psychologist Jill Weber, Ph.D., said there’s a danger that your self-esteem may start to be tied to the comments and likes you get when you post a selfie, and they aren’t based on who you are—they’re based on what you look like.

The remaining 60 percent of students polled thought that selfies are a little bit of both. Joanne Jao, a student at DCCC, believes there’s a “thin line” between selfies being harmless fun and being narcissistic. “I think it depends on the person and how they view themselves,” she says.

Nevertheless, Howard thinks selfies are “context dependent” and taking selfies depends on how you use them. “If you’re using it as a tool to document feeling good about yourself and you’re just taking momentos of living a great life, that’s fine,” says Howard.

But Howard also thinks that problems arise when people are so busy controlling their image that they miss the moment entirely. “Those seeking reassurance and approval through selfies consistently take themselves out of social interaction,” Howard says.

Contact Erica Setnick at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Email The Communitarian your choice for the best selfie at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Photo submitted by Erica
Local entrepreneur gives advice to motivate students

By Erica Setnick

Andrew Rufo, who grew up in Radnor, Pa., is the current CEO and Founder of EVLiO, a full service web-designing site, and the proud owner of more than 200 domains online, including DudenessNews.com and PhillyHats.com.

“A lot of what it takes is vision and the entrepreneurial spirit, which can’t really be taught,” Rufo, 25, says. “Thinking of all these different website names is a long process.”

He explains that the first step is sitting down and thinking of what people will pay for. He then thinks of different names of websites and sees if they’re already taken. When they’re available, he buys them and starts selling his products.

Rufo admits that he was not very engaged during school. “When I was 8, I was the kid secretly charging other kids video games on floppy disks, not really paying attention to what was being taught,” Rufo says. “When I was 11, I started wearing six jerseys to school and renting websites and seeing if they’re already taken. But Fryer’s findings also revealed that the fact that I’d rather be doing anything else but sitting in a classroom,” he says.

According to Rufo, teachers these days need to realize that students aren’t engaged in everything they teach.

Rufo isn’t alone. According to an analysis by the National Research Council, motivation often declines as students move from elementary school through high school.

Upwards of 40 percent of students—high school through college—are disengaged from learning.

According to the Center on Education Policy, if students aren’t motivated, it is difficult to improve their academic achievement, no matter how good the teacher, curriculum, or school is.

Experts believe there are some ways to motivate students, starting with the teachers. Ronald Girmus, Ph.D. of New Mexico State University at Carlsbad reports, “An unmotivated teacher can undermine an entire classroom.”

According to the CEP, some schools have considered rewarding their students with money or other prizes to motivate their students. Students can receive pizza coupons or free movie tickets when they demonstrate things like good behavior, good attendance, attaining a passing score, or getting a higher score on an important exam.

But the CEP reveals that studies of reward programs have shown mixed results. A study by Harvard economist Ronald Fryer concluded that paying students to increase their test scores produced no improvements in test scores or grades, because students had little knowledge of how to control their test scores.

But Fryer’s findings also revealed that paying students for reading books and taking a corresponding quiz produced the best results—a dramatic rise in standardized test scores which continued to grow about a year after the program ended. Megan Trexler, a DCCC English professor, says she found it shocking that her college students were unmotivated in the classroom.

“When I first started teaching, I was surprised that students lacked motivation because I wrongly assumed that my students would be like I was when I was a student,” Trexler says. “I was always very motivated, so I expected the same mentality from them. I also figured that it was college, so students understood that, to an extent, it was their choice to be there [unlike high school]. Now that I’ve been teaching for eight years, their lack of motivation doesn’t shock me at all.”

Trexler explains how she engages her students the best way she can.

“I try relating to them as much as I can,” she says. “I also try to design assignments and include topics that interest them and influence their lives. Other ways that I engage them include asking thought-provoking questions and establishing a discussion-based class where students are encouraged to get to know each other, work together, and become comfortable in the classroom environment.”

Today, Rufo says he wished that teachers offered more “pick your own topic” projects. “What I liked most about school was when teachers gave you freedom to pick your own topic to write about and let you choose the way you wish to present it,” he explains.

Rufo adds that he owes his success in web design to “getting the right opportunities and taking advantage of them right away.”

He also says he’s a big believer in karma. “If you pay it forward to someone, it’ll come back to you one way or another.”

“Finding what you love always helps with starting a business,” Rufo adds. “In order to find what niche, you have to find what interests you, and that might not always be stuff you learn in textbooks.”

Rufo wants to convey that hard work and dedication really have an effect on how your life plays out. “Don’t be [discouraged] on whether you should follow the money or follow your dreams,” he advises.

Rufo gives a example of why young people should follow their dreams rather than the money.

“Let’s say you’re a stockbroker and you’re making a lot of money in one day,” Rufo explains. “The next morning, there’s an announcement on the news that says stockbroking has been named illegal and they force you to go home, then what do you live for, right? That’s your job they just took away from you. Now if you followed your passion and created something you love from scratch, no one has power over you. No one can tell you tomorrow that your dream is invalid.”
Penn State prof explains FCC’s net neutrality decision

By Lori Falce
Centre Daily Times
(State College, Pa.)
(TNS)

March 04--Rob Frieden knows net. Internet, that is, and he wants people to care about the issue of net neutrality.

“We should care,” said the Penn State professor of telecommunications and Internet law.

But why? Sure, the Federal Communications Commission passed regulations Thursday protecting it, but what is it, really?

“Increasingly, the Internet is our one-stop shop,” Frieden said.

People use it for simple communication. Send an email to your boss. Let Grandma see pictures of the kids. Keep in touch with your best friend from college.

But people also use it to pay their bills, watch movies, play games, and do their jobs. A functioning Internet connection can help you do something as mundane as order a pizza or as significant as overthrowing a Middle Eastern government.

“Most people are tech agnostics,” Frieden said. “As long as they get a connection, they are happy. Block it and they are unhappy.”

But with Internet becoming more intrinsic to everyday life, the equity of it becomes more important.

“It’s about ensuring fair management practices,” said David Norloff, senior telecommunications lecturer at Penn State.

“That means that your Internet service provider can’t decide which content can come to you at what speed. All content, whether it is coming from Internet retail titan Amazon, a work-at-home mom’s photography studio or a local newspaper, has to have the same priority.”

“Net neutrality tells the middlemen to play fair,” said Frieden.

“There are First Amendment issues at work for some. The United Nations came out Friday calling the effort a “real victory” for freedom. However, Norloff said that it is really an issue people should care about as customers.

“What’s really critical for consumers is that you have the flexibility to choose, that Amazon Prime or Netflix has the same access,” he said.

But will the FCC’s decision be the final word on untangling Web access?

“There is certainly going to be an appeal,” Frieden said. The FCC has attempted similar regulation twice before but been overturned on appeal. This time, Frieden said, they reclassified broadband access as a telecommunication service like a utility as an effort to head off appeal issues.

The issue is also becoming more and more politicized.

“I think it’s important to be mindful of the fact that the chairman of the FCC is usually affiliated with the political party in power. It transcends political party. I challenge my class to think not as a political party, but as consumers or businesses. The sensationalism is leading people to conclude it’s a Democratic-Republican issue and there is some fear-mongering going on,” Norloff said.

Frieden agreed, saying that both parties should be pushing to make the system better.

“Fix it and everyone benefits,” he said.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler makes a statement during the FCC vote on net neutrality on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

(Brian Cahn/Zuma Press/TNS)
Same-sex marriages in two cities halted after Alabama high court order

By James Queally, Ryan Parker and Kurtis Lee
Los Angeles Times

(TNS)

Probate courts in Alabama’s most populous cities stopped issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples Wednesday, a day after the state’s Supreme Court ordered judges to halt allowing such unions.

In Birmingham and Montgomery – the state’s two most populous cities – probate courts are no longer issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in a move that defies a federal judge who struck down the state’s ban on gay marriage as unconstitutional. A probate court in Mobile has halted issuing marriage licenses altogether.

Six of the court’s nine justices concurred and a seventh did so in part in the 148-page ruling, published Tuesday night. One jurist dissented, and the court’s most outspoken opponent of gay marriage, Chief Justice Roy Moore, recused himself, the Associated Press reported.

“As it has done for approximately two centuries, Alabama law allows for ‘marriage’ between only one man and one woman. Alabama probate judges have a ministerial duty not to issue any marriage license contrary to this law,” the opinion reads. “Nothing in the United States Constitution alters or overrides this duty.”

The state’s top court expressed displeasure that lower federal courts have been acting while the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision on same-sex marriage is on the horizon.

“We are concerned about the family and the danger that same-sex marriage will have...”

“It is unfortunate that the federal judiciary has refused to stay the order striking down Alabama’s marriage-protection laws until the Supreme Court of the United States can conclusively rule on the issue within the next few months,” the opinion states.

Alabama had asked the U.S. Supreme Court last month to suspend Granade’s ruling, but the high court refused. Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore has repeatedly ordered probate judges, who issue marriage licenses in the state, not to give licenses to same-sex couples. Even after the U.S. Supreme Court let Granade’s ruling stand, some probate judges refused to issue licenses. Granade held another hearing and ordered the judges to comply with her order.

Moore’s February decree that judges should not issue licenses caused a fracture throughout Alabama courthouses. About one-third of the state’s 67 counties began issuing licenses after the U.S. high court refused to block Granade’s order, but the other two-thirds followed Moore’s direction and refused.

The state Supreme Court’s ruling was met with frustration by gay rights advocates.

“The Alabama Supreme Court led by Roy Moore did not even ask for briefing on the constitutional questions it rushed to get wrong,” Evan Wolfson, founder and president of advocacy group Freedom to Marry, said on his Twitter account.

Susan Watson, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Alabama, said her office was reviewing the decision and declined to comment further.

Meanwhile, Joe Godfrey, executive director of the Alabama Citizens Action Program, told Associated Press he was excited about the decision.

“We are concerned about the family and the danger that same-sex marriage will have,” Godfrey said.

In Tuesday’s ruling, the Alabama Supreme Court cited the confusion among the state’s probate judges as a reason not to issue licenses. With some judges issuing licenses to same-sex couples and others refusing to do so, the state courts could see an “overnight revolution” as to how to enforce estate law, alimony decisions, custodial rights of children and other such issues.

The ruling was met with a furious reaction from Equality Alabama, one of the state’s largest gay rights groups.

“This move by the Alabama Supreme Court is nothing but an attempt at delaying the happiness that all families deserve... a last-ditch effort to stand in the way of the love we’ve seen in these historic weeks,” the group’s board chairman, Ben Cooper, said in a statement. “As we get closer to the day the freedom to marry comes to all 50 states... the Alabama Supreme Court is on the wrong side of history. Every day of denial is a day of harm for Alabama families.”

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on the constitutionality of gay marriage bans by late June.

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A World of Opportunities for Transfer Students
Clinton controversy highlights gaps in email rules for Congress

By Kate Ackley
CQ-Roll Call (TNS)

Despite gripes on Capitol Hill that Hillary Rodham Clinton's email practices may deprive the public of important insight into her tenure at the State Department, Congress has subjected itself to a hodgepodge of electronic data protocols, with much left to the whims of lawmakers.

Reporting to courts that Clinton used a personal email server, instead of a government account, to conduct business as secretary of State, a spokesman for Speaker John A. Boehner last week blasted the actions as part of the administration's pattern of blocking transparency.

But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more, and some forever.

"The best thing that may come out of this Hillary situation is that the House and Senate have to take a good hard look at their own procedures," said a former historian of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University. "This is a pattern of blocking transparency. The House and Senate have to take a good hard look at their own procedures, according to Smock and other experts. And it is up to them whether they wish to make their records public and, if so, what restrictions they choose to place on them.

If Byrd had wanted, all of his personal office emails and other records could have vanished. Smock said Byrd choose to preserve his files, which are now available at the school's library.

The emails and other records of congressional committees are preserved at the National Archives' Center for Legislative Archives, although Congress determines which records are deemed official and maintains ownership of the documents.

Congressional committees have the authority to omit or further delay disclosure of certain emails and other records from public view if they contain private, classified or national security information. Records that pertain to congressional investigations can be closed for up to 50 years.

Officials with the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate did not respond to requests for information about guidelines for committee emails from lawmakers and their aides, including any protocols for using official or personal email accounts. The House Administration Committee also did not respond to requests for comment.

There are some clear prohibitions on lawmakers' use of their official email. They must never use their government email accounts to solicit campaign money or even most charitable contributions.

"I think lawmakers have the opposite problem [from Hillary Clinton]," said Ken Gross, a political law partner at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom. "They have to be more mindful of what they can't use their official email for."

The House and Senate approved a resolution in 2008 stating that lawmakers should "properly" maintain their papers, adding that each member of Congress "should take all necessary measures to manage and preserve the Member's own Congressional papers." And to make them available for "educational purposes at a time the Member considers appropriate." But the resolution does not compel them to do so.

Senate historian Donald A. Ritchie said his office helps senators find a place, typically a university library, to house their records.

Some senators have printed out their email collections, Ritchie said, though others, such as former Sen. Scott P. Brown, R-Mass., keep them in electronic form. "Scott Brown took his entire collection under his arm in his hard drive," Ritchie said.

Reading and searching old emails can become difficult as technology becomes obsolete. Smock said the Byrd archives spent $10,000 recently to clean up the hard drive of the late senator's electronic correspondence.

Historians and government disclosure groups say they want more consistency in congressional preservation of emails and other records.

"It's a labyrinth," said Frank Mackaman, president of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress. "Our approach in dealing with donors is to try to get the fewest restrictions on the use of the material, but every case is an individual negotiation."

Archives open most Senate committee records after 20 years, while most House committee records stay closed for 30 years.

"Our total holdings of electronic records from the legislative branch is over 56 terabytes of data," said Richard Hunt, who runs the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives.

Most emails are still closed to the public because the technology has only been used for the past two to three decades. Still, Hunt said, such records hold enormous value to historians or anyone interested in how Congress operates.

"They really show how our government works, or not," he said. "The files are pretty rich. There are some hidden gems in the collections."
Pakistan tests nuclear-capable missile in burgeoning Asia weapons race

By Tom Hussain
McClatchy Foreign Staff
(TNS) ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday successfully test-fired a ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear or conventional warheads far beyond the borders of its strategic rival India.

The Shaeen-III surface-to-surface missile splashed down in the Arabian Sea after flying 1,720 miles from its launching pad, the military said in a statement.

That’s more than double the maximum range required to hit a target anywhere in India but falls short of being able to reach Israel, located more than 2,100 miles away. Pakistan has said, however, that the strategic plans division of its military is technically capable of extending the reach of its Shaeen and Ghouri missiles programs beyond Monday’s test by adding solid or liquid-fuel engines.

Previously, Pakistan has restricted the range of its missile tests to about 900 miles, a distance that would allow it to target India but would not raise alarms in potentially threatened states like Israel, with which Pakistan has no diplomatic relations.

Pakistan is a close ally of Saudi Arabia and toes Riyadh’s foreign policy line on Arab-Israeli diplomatic disputes.

Pakistan’s government says its nuclear weapons program has been developed exclusively as a deterrent against India, with which it has fought two wars and four regionalized conflicts since the two countries gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

The commander of the Pakistani military’s strategic weapons division, Gen. Zubair Mahmood Hayat, said Monday’s test was conducted to validate various design and technical parameters of the Shaeen-III at maximum range.

He described the test as “a major step towards strengthening Pakistan’s deterrence capability,” an obvious allusion to India.

In December, India’s military conducted the first “user test” of its 2,500-mile-range Agni-IV, the first Indian ballistic missile capable of delivering nuclear or conventional warheads deep into Chinese territory. It is scheduled to be deployed in 2016 or 2017.

Scientists at India’s Defense Research and Development Organization on Jan. 31 carried out the first test-launch of the Agni-V, a 3,400-mile-range intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching all of China from a mobile platform. It, too, has been fast-tracked for deployment by India’s strategic forces command in the next one to two years.

India fought a 1962 border war with China, and the two countries’ troops frequently skirmish along their disputed Himalayan border. China is also Pakistan’s closest ally, creating the prospect of a two-pronged conflict for India and fueling India’s push for parity with China’s older, more advanced nuclear weapons program.

Pakistan’s ballistic test Monday came a week after the resumption of diplomatic engagement with India, which called off talks in August to protest Pakistani consultations with politicians from the part of disputed Kashmir administered by India.

“Missile tests are actually the norm when it comes to Indo-Pak talks,” said Harsh V. Pant, a professor at King’s College London. “Every time the two states decide to talk, there is a tendency to show off their military muscle.”

India and Pakistan border forces exchanged automatic weapons and mortars last year in a series of confrontations that left several dozen soldiers and farmers killed and forced the evacuation of rice-farming villages on both sides of the border.

By October, the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers were no longer on speaking terms, and it fell upon their common ally, the United States, to break the ice.

During his January trip to India, President Barack Obama used his friendship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to push for a resumption of talks with Pakistan. Both before and after his visit to India, Obama telephoned Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan’s prime minister, to inform him of his discussions in New Delhi.

Modi subsequently telephoned Sharif in February to wish Pakistan luck at the ongoing world cup of cricket, a sport with fanatical followings in both countries. The call also set up a visit by India’s foreign secretary to Islamabad on March 3.

However, India has limited renewed contacts with Pakistan to the context of an association of South Asian regional states. “Obama might have nudged the Indian government, but it is Prime Minister Modi who is shaping India’s foreign policy,” Pant said. “He likes to spring surprises, and in Pakistan’s case, he wants India to have the initiative so the idea is to have a dialogue at a time and place of India’s choosing.”

Against that backdrop, India and Pakistan are pressing ahead with the development and expansion of their nuclear-capable strategic forces. India is focused on completing the triumvirate of air-, land- and sea-based ballistic missile platforms to match China.

Pakistan recently has developed tactical nuclear warheads that could be used on Pakistani soil in the event of an overwhelming conventional attack by Indian forces. Both have also recently tested terrain-hugging cruise missiles.

Pakistan currently possesses enough fissile material to arm 100 to 110 nuclear warheads, while India isn’t far behind, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. think tank, in November said Pakistan’s nuclear weapons program was the fastest growing in the world, and that it could enrich enough plutonium for 200 warheads by 2020.
3 Ways to Transfer

1. **Transfer as a full-time undergraduate student**
   Saint Joseph’s University welcomes full-time transfer students. We encourage you to schedule a visit and tour of campus. While you are here you will meet with a transfer admission counselor to review your transfer credits and learn more about a life lived greater on Hawk Hill.

2. **Complete your degree through the College of Arts and Sciences Professional and Liberal Studies Program.**
   SJU’s adult learner program is one of the oldest in the region with a rich tradition of providing flexible scheduling for full- or part-time students and affordable tuition rates. Courses are offered on-campus, online, and accelerated, and students can choose from a variety of majors or complete a liberal studies degree.

3. **Earn your bachelor’s in business with the Haub Degree Completion Program.**
   The Haub Degree Completion Program offers a convenient, affordable and flexible education for adult students. With day, evening and online courses, the Haub School of Business makes it possible to earn your bachelor’s in business from experienced faculty members at an AACSB international accredited institution in 15 business majors on a part or full time basis.

Visit [sju.edu/transferinfo](http://sju.edu/transferinfo) or email [transferinfo@sju.edu](mailto:transferinfo@sju.edu) for more information.