Farewell, Dr. Carter

Dr. Virginia Carter Ed.D., is not one to miss a day of work as she sits behind her desk surrounded by stacks of paperwork and photographs of her love ones, including her two pet horses Clipper and Gator.

Carter's office is fully decorated with several mementos, such as little figurines of horses and plaques commemorating her accomplishments at Temple University, where she served as senior associate dean for the College of Education before coming to DCCC.

Dressed in a black well-tailored suit, Carter seems to be a woman of power.

"She is one of the smartest people I have ever worked for and is quite a role model for women in the workplace," says Lori Wushensky, an educational technology specialist and colleague of Carter's since 2004.

So it is no surprise that for the past 10 years, Carter has been provost at DCCC.

The bulk of Carter's day consists of spending time with students, coming up with different ways to provide support to faculty and tackling big assignments such as enhancing partnerships with universities. Carter is also responsible for handling and dealing with any problems the university might face.

According to Carter, her most difficult challenges are resolving obstacles that come up because the College has a mission of educating multiple communities. The problems vary from policy issues to procedures or a unique situation.

"A lot of what I do is think with faculty and administration about the college and our day-to-day operations and how we can possibly do them in a more efficient or successful fashion," Carter says.

According to Shannon Bullock, associate professor of English and faculty delegate who has worked closely with Carter for the last year and a half, Carter has an incredible work ethic.

"She arrives earlier than many and works later than most," Bullock says. "She checks and responds to e-mails even when she is away from the college. It is clear from her hard work that she cares about the college as an educational institution, it is equally obvious that she cares about the individual people who work here."

Even before starting her career in the 1970s at Bucks County Community College, Carter says she always had an interest in pursuing education.

"I was born in the 50s and back then you had less choice for careers," Carter says. "And for me, I looked at my family. My father was an engineer and my brothers were also studying to become engineers. My mother and all of her sisters were teachers. So I started off college as a math and English major.

Continued on page 2
I loved them both and I think I decided that teaching would be a good choice for me so I did a double major.” After graduating, Carter got her first job with Bucks County Community College as an assistant to the director of Student Life.

“I was the only female administrator at that time and I was young,” Carter says. “There was a time when the men wouldn’t feel comfortable telling me things because I was a woman.”

Although Carter admits she did feel out of place being the only female, she continued to move forward and focus on what was important.

“I really enjoyed my job,” she says. “Bucks County was growing at the time and there were no two days the same. It was really about education and I felt like I was contributing in some way.”

Surrounded by photos of loved ones, DCCC Provost Dr. Ginny Carter says she believes in opening doors to education and has no regrets about her career paths. Photo by Victoria Shiler

Continued from cover

After her experience at Bucks County Community College, Carter worked for nearly 26 years at Temple University, in positions ranging from dean of Temple’s Ambler campus to acting director of Temple University Center City.

“Temple afforded me the opportunity to have numerous different types of positions,” Carter says. “One of the best things Temple did for me was to help me see a university from an overall perspective. I didn’t just see marketing, admissions, and the creation of curriculum. I saw how they all connected and so for that I will always be exceedingly grateful to Temple.”

Eventually, Carter turned her attention to DCCC, where she was impressed by the dedication and drive faculty had to make sure every student succeeds.

“I came to DCCC because the faculty seemed passionate about serving the students,” Carter says.

Since being a part of DCCC, Carter has been responsible for making positive changes to improve student success. For instance, a recent partnership with Drexel University has been developed to further help students go through the transfer process more efficiently.

“We will now have three degree completions on this campus,” Carter says. “Students will complete their associate’s degree and then they have the choice of going on for business, computer security, and allied health. We even have a joint degree with Drexel in nursing where by students are completing their RN and BSN all in three years.”

Dr. Diane Picciani, an associate professor of ESL and director of the Center for Excellence, has worked with Carter since 2004. She believes that Carter is dedicated to helping students achieve success while helping faculty being more efficient.

“There was a time when faculty held a meeting that administrators usually don’t attend,” Picciani says. “I remember I saw her take part in the meeting to help faculty even when she really didn’t need to be there. That just shows how invested she is in new ideas, and moving people forward.”

After she retires at the end of this semester, Carter says she plans to spend her retirement by enjoying one of her passions, training and riding horses.

“One of the things I absolutely love doing is working with horses,” Carter says. “The thought has occurred to me to train a young horse again. I have two horses at the moment I love riding and I love to work on the farm.”

Because of her dedication to higher education, Carter believes she can’t imagine not being a part of the education system.

“Since I was 21, I have only worked full time in higher education,” Carter says. “I will stay somewhat involved, whether that’s teaching a graduate course or working with a university to develop new curriculum. But I would love the opportunity to just spend some time quietly and see what it is I might like to do that has no boundaries.”

Since the announcement of Carter’s retirement, many colleagues have had nothing but positive things to say about her contributions as provost.

“I cannot tell you how many times I’ve dropped into her office without an appointment,” Bullock says. “The fact that she is so willing to see me at a moment’s notice goes to show how willing she is to hear and address the concerns of faculty.”

Dr. Lana deRoyter, dean of Allied Health, Emergency Services and Nursing, says she has been working side by side with the provost since she came here 10 years ago.

“She has an amazing work ethic,” deRoyter says. “She is extremely intelligent, and has the student’s best interest. The college is losing an amazing provost.”

Carter says she has nothing but positive things to say when she looks back on her career and reflects on her journey.

“T’m not a person who tends to look back,” Carter says. “One of my challenges in life is to try to live in the moment and be in the moment. I think from my perspective I have had a great career. It was important to me to feel passionate about what I do. And working at DCCC as well as Temple University was about access and opportunity. I’ve always been part of public institutions and that has been by choice. I believe in public education. I believe in providing opportunities for some who might not even have dreamt of what they could do. I believe in opening doors, and my career path has allowed me to do that.”

Contact Victoria Shiler at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

DCCC Story Slam
We give you five minutes and a theme
You tell us your (true) story

Theme: COURAGE
Guest Emcee: Jim Brezlin, Founder of the West Chester and Delco Story Slam

First Prize: $100
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Place: Upper Lobby, STEM Building
Marple Campus
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Contest Rules:
1. Each story should fit into the theme of the night.
2. All stories should be real as you remember them.
3. No profanity or props.
4. No musical accompaniment of any kind.
5. Time limit: five minutes.
6. You must be currently enrolled at DCCC.

Please register by 1st Friday, March 7th with the Campus Life Office at Marple Campus: Rm 2518 Phone: 610.359.5341. Email: camplife@dccc.edu. Please contact Gina Gennari (gennari@dccc.edu) or Matt Brophy (mbrophy4@dccc.edu) for more information.

If there is time, we may allow walk-ins on the day of the contest.
The Workforce Entry Center helps job seekers

By James Pearson

The Workforce Entry Center (WEC) is an employment service office that was founded at DCCC’s Marple campus and opened in 2001. For years, the center has been a location for people who are unemployed and people who are currently employed, but seeking employment.

The WEC partners with PA CareerLink to provide workshops and information sessions that are designed to assist individuals. A staff of 14 members are available on site to provide help with individual leadership, job training, and skill advancement.

In 1998, the Workforce Investment Act was created and provided funding for each of the states to provide career centers called the “One Stop Career Centers,” according to Susan Bond, director of the Workforce Entry Center.

“All states had a choice of how they were going to name the centers. After awhile Pennsylvania started calling the center Team PA CareerLink, but then it evolved into PA CareerLink which basically eliminated the Unemployment Offices. As a result, people who are on unemployment can only access the service through the Internet or on the phone.”

Several accessible services that are provided by the center include resume writing, career development plans, employment search assistance, and networking to help concentrate on all of the aspects which aid in going into the workforce.

In January, Mike Caputo, a career consultant at Delaware County Community Office of Employment and Training presented a workshop titled “PA CareerLink Orientation.”

Nearly all 15 seats were filled in the Workforce Entry Center’s lecture room.

“This orientation helps people looking to advance themselves in the job market,” said an attendee and employee for QA Quality Insurance for Pharmaceutical Insurance, who preferred to be addressed by his first name “Joe.”

Caputo explained there are certain guidelines one must follow to be considered for career training such as attending an orientation program and registering for an account on the JobGateway system, in order to access a list of programs available for people to attend.

According to Bond, when people are attending an orientation program it is essential to go for a training program that is approved by the state. “Where the wages are pretty good, you can get full-time work in the career field of your choice if it remains stable and cultivates,” she said.

The WEC also has additional services located in their Career Resource Center. The center provides the service of internet access computers with Office Suite program and an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) software which helps students who are hearing and visually impaired along with other beneficial resources accessible.

During the seminar, Caputo highlighted several workshops and information sessions which the WEC presents to provide people with the chance to acquire training in the career of their choice.

“These workshops include the Resume I – The Basics and Resume II – Self Marketing.

Resume I – The Basics workshop is designed to help people who need assistance with writing a resume or how to display a resume to future employers. Resume II – The Self-Marketing seminar gives people the chance to learn how to communicate effectively to hiring managers.

The WEC also has additional services located in their Career Resource Center. The center provides the service of internet access computers with Office Suite program and an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) software which helps students who are hearing and visually impaired along with other beneficial resources accessible.

Towards the end of the presentation, Caputo spoke briefly about popular careers in need of qualified applicants. These careers include allied health, manufacturing, hospitality, and the IT communication industry on the JobGateway.

“Sometimes people have to choose a career because of the shrinking opportunities available,” Caputo said. “Our goal is to get people back to work as quickly as possible.”

Contact James Pearson at communityarian@mail.dccc.edu

Women of STEM

Miss America Nina Davuluri

Continued from Cover

The AAUDE reported that the number of women receiving bachelor’s degrees in STEM fields has increased 37 percent, from 70,537 in 2004 to 89,817 in 2010, making up 40 percent of STEM degrees granted that year. The number of women who received doctorate degrees nearly doubled from 5,734 to 9,358.

Yet, while women with STEM degrees are less likely to work in a STEM occupation, according to the US Department of Commerce. It was reported that out of 2.5 million college-educated female workers with degrees in STEM, only 26 percent are employed in STEM occupations, compared to 40 percent of males with the same qualifications.

Thirty-three percent of college-educated women with STEM degrees enter healthcare or education professions.

“Once they get into the job, they don’t get the promotions, they get the office without windows, they get the worst classrooms,” said Sandra Devenny, assistant professor of biology and academic advisor for the Women in STEM club.

“There is this really subtle discrimination against them,” Devenny said. “It’s that type of atmosphere that makes them want to leave the workplace.”

Devenny worked in STEM occupations for seven years, two as a research associate and five as a development scientist, before committing to being an educator.

“In elementary school and even into middle school, girls are really just as interested as boys in the STEM sciences,” Devenny said. “Something happens when they reach high school and they decide that’s not what they are going to do when they go to college.”

While many say progress is being made on the matter, the idea of Women in STEM careers hasn’t been an easy notion to embrace.

“One woman defaced a poster, replacing STEM with ‘kitchen,’ so it read ‘Women in the kitchen.’” Edwards said. “It didn’t really bother me though because I knew that’s what we were going up against.”

Despite negative feedback, Edwards said she is optimistic and for good reason.

While women are comparatively underrepresented in STEM fields, the number of STEM degrees awarded to women has been climbing slowly but consistently, according to AUADE report.

Studies show that more women are graduating with doctorates in STEM now than ever before; 36.6 percent of STEM doctorate degrees were awarded to women in 2010, up from 31.2 percent in 2003.

In the 1960’s, Howard Miller created the “We Can Do It!” poster that has become popularized in the 1990’s as a symbol of progressive movements in the advancement of gender diversity in the workplace. For some, Edwards’s efforts evoke the sentiments of the iconic slogan.

“We can do it,” Edwards added. “We can do more.”

Contact Serigne Faye at communityarian@mail.dccc.edu

Page 3
By Joe Gbodai

One of the most important decisions a student will make upon graduating high school is deciding which college or university to attend. Numerous factors play a role in the decision process, such as a student’s educational goal, what he/she wants from the experience, and the cost of tuition and housing.

Although students who choose to attend a four-year institution may have carefully planned their college endeavors, they sometimes encounter unexpected circumstances that occur and force them to reevaluate their decision.

“I attended the University of Delaware my first semester,” said Sianni Miller, a biology major currently in her second semester at DCCC. “I hated it. I constantly felt homesick and didn’t have many friends there.”

Miller is not alone. This trend is common within DCCC’s student body. “I received a scholarship to attend King’s College my senior year of high school,” said Jasmyne Randall, a liberal arts freshman who began her first semester at DCCC in January. “I realized that it wasn’t for me. I constantly felt homesick and didn’t have many friends there.”

Randall has good reason to be reluctant.

According to the Department of Education, student debt in 2010 exceeded credit card debt. The Institute for College Access and Success reports that the average debt for a student attending a four-year public or private institution in the state of Pennsylvania is nearly $32,200, with out-of-state four-year public or private institution about $10,000 more. According to the Project on Student Debt, 71 percent of these students will be in debt after they graduate. Large class sizes also tend to also pay a factor in students transferring to a community college from a four-year university. “Class sizes at community colleges are much smaller than those found in the freshman and sophomore year at public universities,” said George R. Boggs, former president and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges. “Most classes have fewer than 35 students and provide more opportunities for students to interact with teachers and other students.”

Furthermore, many high school graduates aren’t prepared for the college experience. Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency shows that more than one-in-four students quit higher education altogether after less than 12 months. The rate of enrollment in community colleges is on the rise.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, as of the 2011-2012 school years, The AACCC reports that approximately 3.3 million students were enrolled full-time, and approximately 4.8 million were enrolled part-time. The National Center of Education Statistics reports that the average tuition and fees at community colleges are less than half of the average tuition and fees at a public four-year institution and one in one-tenth of the tuition and fees at a private four-year institution.

In addition, students can live at home and save on housing and food. To help these reduced expenses, community college students often find they qualify for financial aid while attending and in many cases, the colleges offer work-study or part-time jobs.

Not only does community colleges offer transfer programs that count toward a bachelor degree, it also prepares registered nurses, police officers, paramedics, firefighters, and advanced skill technicians. “I used to go to Temple and was a nursing student in her first semester at DCCC. “I realized that it wasn’t for me which prompted me to switch my major and enroll at DCCC.”

There are some opposing viewpoints. The National Center for Educational Statistics reports that the eight year bachelor’s degree completion rate for students starting at community colleges is far lower (57 percent) than for students starting at public four-year colleges (57 percent) and for students starting at private four-year colleges (78 percent).

According to the NCES, the likelihood of earning a bachelor’s degree is significantly reduced if a student starts her post-secondary education at a community college, and the amount of time it takes to complete a bachelor’s degree (and potentially, the amount of loans a student accrues) is greatly increased. On average, it takes students about 2 years longer to complete bachelor’s degrees if they begin at community colleges than if they begin at four-year colleges.

The NCES reports that the average time it takes to complete a bachelor’s degree is 71 months for students who began at two-year colleges; 55 months for students who began at public four-year colleges; 50 months for students who began at private four-year colleges.

Despite these criticisms, many students at the Marple campus seem pleased with their educational choice. “I wish I would have started at a community college in the first place,” said Miller. “I think this is a good stepping stone for any student before transferring to a four-year school.”

Contact Joe Gbodai at communiterian@mail.dccc.edu

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Albright
ACCELERATED DEGREE PROGRAM
By Christopher Linvill

On Feb. 7, students received an email from the college reminding them that DCCC is an alcohol and drug free campus. The email described problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse, including information from the Surgeon General: “Preventing drug abuse and excessive alcohol use increases peoples chances of living long, healthy, and productive lives.”

“The college prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance including alcohol in any facility owned, leased or used by the College,” the email states.

According to the email, if a student violates the policy he or she will receive disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

“The most important information [in the email] is the help available to students dealing with drug and alcohol problems,” said Grant Snyder, Vice Provost.

The policy has been around for a few years, but was not put into effect until 1988 with the Free Workplace Act, which requires Federal grantees to agree to provide a drug free workplace for its employees, Synder said.

DCCC President Jerry Parker said that the policy was emailed so newer students are aware of consequences if the policy is violated.

“To my knowledge we don’t have a drug problem or alcohol problem because we are a commuter campus,” Parker said. “That’s not to say we don’t have students that have their own personal difficulties with it.”

Parker explained how the email was more of a reminder to students that drugs and alcohol is illegal, regardless of being on the college campus or not, because it is “the law of the land.”

“We do want people to be vigilant,” Parker said. “If they see anything, we want to be alerted so we can nip anything in the bud that we are not aware of. So it’s basically asking students to police themselves.”

Several college and community resources are available for students who need help, Parker said. According to the email, these resources include counseling and access to the Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health and the Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services.

DCCC is not the only college to be drug and alcohol-free. Roosevelt University in Chicago, Ill. has a policy that is almost identical to DCCC’s concerning the campus’s disciplinary actions and the issues involving alcohol and drug abuse.

Montgomery County Community College is another college that is drug and alcohol free. According to their website, “The College prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance, including alcohol, in the workplace, as defined in the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.”

The policy is very similar to DCCC and also offers support for students or employees with problems relating to alcohol and drug related issues.

Parker explained that there might be students on campus with problems. “If you need help, we are here to help,” he said.

Contact Christopher Linvill at communitarian@dccc.mail.edu

Signs like these are becoming more prevalent as many college and university campuses implement a no drug and alcohol policy.

Photo courtesy of www.myhardhatstickers.com

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By Ashley Caldwell

Often times when people find out I am a Pastor's Kid (Preacher's kid or PK), they raise one eyebrow and twirl their faces up. Why is that?

How come we're often referred to as "the worst kind"? What is it that subjects us to fit into this category?

Here's the answer in a nutshell: Preacher's kids are often held to higher standards because of 1) their beliefs, 2) their parents' position in the church and local communities and 3) their position(s) in the church and local communities. We are expected to live a certain way, speak a certain way, and dress a certain way as well as many other things that go along with being a PK. People believe that we are supposed to be "the perfect people, the ones who make no mistakes."

Well, let me tell you, that is so wrong. Although we are raised to live in a different fashion than people who do not believe what we believe, it does not mean we are perfect nor make mistakes. It just means we believe our lifestyles should represent who God is so others would see and possibly be introduced to it. Now, that's not to say that everyone we speak to will get the Bible shoved down their throats to pressure them to believe in what we believe or even convert to our Faith. It doesn't mean we're going to judge them, call them heathens, devils, and all the other names we could call someone. It simply means when people see others living or doing things in a certain way—which more often than not tends to rub off on others—they'll want to explore and see what it's about.

The majority of my friends are not church goers and don't believe in what I believe in. But they know what I believe in or what I stand for. So certain things—out of respect for me—they will not say or do. The others just don't care. But does that mean I judge them? Do I call them sinners? Do I condemn them for doing what only they know how?

No, I, as a friend, just try to help them do better. That's all.

Aside from the judgmental notions, behavior, and positions, one of the main reasons PK's are often called "the worst ones," is because of sex.

Many of you have heard the saying, "You should not have sex before marriage."

Yeah, like that was an easy rule to follow.

Sex is a terrible, terrible temptation. I know the feeling of falling into its trap all too well, although I could take that day back, I truly would (so not worth it).

It is often the most inevitable act a person can and will engage in at some point in her life and many PK's have engaged in it, among others. PK's fall short everyday. We make mistakes everyday, especially me. But does that make us hypocrites? Does it make us sinners? No. It makes us just like you: humans.

Another thing I would love to make clear is this: not all PK's behave the same way.

Most of us do not engage in the majority of the acts other people does. Even if we do, it's not often, very seldom actually. I am one of those. Although I do not partake in the use of foul language, dressing provocatively, or smoking, there are some things I have done—not that I am proud of the actions, nor speak to boast—that's just as wrong as those things.

But I pray for forgiveness and I read my Bible, pushing to do better, pushing to refrain from making the same poor choices I made before.

What people need to understand is just because we pray, it does not mean we can continue to make the same choices and engage in the same actions we've been doing. It doesn't work like that. I believe, even though God will continue to forgive us every time we ask Him, there is a limit to how much He will forgive us if we continue to do the same things we've just asked forgiveness of.

"PK" is a category people dubbed us because of our "high positions," and felt the need to set too many standards for us. When you place unreasonably high standards and expectations on a human, please expect to be let down often, especially when referring to PKs.

Just remember that PKs are human just like you and because we do not always do the right thing, that doesn't mean we've hypocrisy.

Just like you, we PKs are learning from our mistakes and using them to live a better life and make better choices.

Contact Ashley Caldwell at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.

Why are PKs called the ‘worst kind’?

By Ashley Caldwell

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Contact Ashley Caldwell at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.

Letter to the Editor

I am a general studies major and a work study student at the Contact Center and Customer Service department of the college.


The contact center deals with financial aid calls every day and to see this article means to me that there isn't a clear understanding of what goes on in financial aid at DCCC.

There are people who abuse financial aid. They do this by registering for classes, receiving the refund checks after harassing us about what date the refund checks go out, and then dropping the classes once the refund checks are received.

There are people who go out of their way to receive more money than the cost of tuition.

There are multiple other ways a student can abuse financial aid that the editorial failed to realize.

The center representatives are subjected to unnecessary abuse from students and even parents, who don't understand how the process works or want to get over on the representatives just to abuse the system.

The center does an excellent job handling all financial aid manners.

Angel Young
When the topic of animal testing is brought up, people automatically think of medical interventions. It’s no big surprise that animals, typically mice, are used to test different medical advances that can range anywhere from chemotherapy to vaccinations.

The truth of the matter is, that there is so much more going on with animal testing than most people realize. It is not something that is limited to the medical world. As a matter of fact, I am willing to bet that most people are unknowingly using products every single day that have been tested on animals.

Many well-known companies, such as Johnson & Johnson, Proctor & Gamble and Unilever, still participate in animal testing. That means that bar of Dove soap you used this morning was tested on animals. That bottle of Johnson & Johnson baby shampoo you bought to wash your baby with because it’s cheap and tear free, I’ll let you guess at how they came to find out it wouldn’t burn your baby’s eyes.

A friend recently asked me why I care so much. After all, she asked, it’s just mice. It isn’t just mice though. The USDA reports that over one million dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and farm animals are experimented on in various laboratories around the United States every year. Those are pets. They are not beings to be tested on.

Furthermore, the Animal Welfare Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966 to regulate the treatment of animals in research facilities, has been amended numerous times yet it still excludes purpose-bred birds, mice, rats, fish and other cold blooded animals. These animals make up nearly 90 percent of those used in research and experimentations.

Recently, the well-known animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, PETA, sat down with the cigarette company Lorillard Inc. to discuss concerns over their use of testing their products on animals.

I’m sure the first reaction to that is to roll your eyes at the mention of PETA, because, as we all know, they are famous for being a tad confrontational when it comes to their involvement with companies that test on animals. All I see when I read that, though, is that cigarette companies are conducting research on animals. How is that even possible? I mean, clearly they aren’t sitting there in a room watching a bunch of chimps puff away on cigarettes. They are, however, forcing animals to inhale cigarette smoke, eat tobacco and have cigarette tar painted on their bodies. I don’t see how I can possibly be the only person, aside from PETA, that can read that and not think there is something wrong with this information.

To be fair, Lorillard, who is the maker of Newport cigarettes and is the nation’s third biggest tobacco company, has admitted to this unethical testing and has confirmed that they will no longer be conducting or commissioning animal research unless it is absolutely necessary for them to do so.

Instead, they will be conducting research using in-vitro based testing, which are tests conducted inside of tubes, and computer modules that will allow them to test for toxicity. While I do think the fact that they can easily switch to this is wonderful, it still makes me wonder why they didn’t do it sooner. If it was that easy of a switch for them, then why put it off until they were put on blast.

What bothers me, aside from the fact that animal testing is still done, is that many of these animals were born and bred for the sole purpose of being tested on. After what has been deemed their sole purpose in life is finished, they are euthanized.

Animal testing has always been and will always be one of those controversial topics that everyone will have different opinions on. I am not trying to change anyone’s beliefs regarding the matter. I am simply giving a voice to those that can’t stand up for themselves.

Contact Stephanie Kadingo at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Furry little lives lost to corporate testing

A test subject has tasted the liquid that was presented in the tray and the lights have come on, now he must decide which lever to push, sweet or sour. After he has made his choice a food pellet drops down in another tray as a reward. A Philadelphia startup company, Opertech Bio Inc., has invented a way to test flavors with rats, and to test a lot of them in a hurry.

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Kings of Leon perform during their main set Feb. 19 at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. The colorful lights were quite frequent throughout the two-hour show.

**Music News**

**Kings of Leon rock through two-hour set at Wells Fargo Center**

By Dan O’Neill

After being on a hiatus for nearly three years, Nashville rockers Kings of Leon finally returned to Philadelphia on Feb 19, with Gary Clark, Jr. as their opening act. When Kings of Leon first popped onto the music scene with albums Youth and Young Manhood and Aha Shake Heartbreak, they were just a bunch of small-time, little known Southern rockers. Slowly but surely, however, with the release of their first album, Kings of Leon seemed to finally be getting some notice, as well as notable air-play. Two years later, they released their fifth album, entitled Come Around Sundown, and soon after they finished that tour, they took a hiatus. Allegedly too many internal conflicts got in the way and the boys thought that it was time to call a break.

The hiatus didn’t last for long though, as three years later, they released their sixth and most recent album, Mechanical Bull, allowing them to embark on their current U.S. tour. It was clear from the start that the night was going to be full of energy. Gary Clark, Jr. came onto the stage and played a couple of songs from his debut album, Blak and Blue. Most notably, his signature-track, “Bright Lights”, which is originally supposed to be a song clocked-in at 5:24, but somehow, found its way to be played for a little longer than ten minutes, due to his excessive guitar solos.

There was no complaints from the crowd, however, as just about each and every person in attendance clapped and cheered as loudly as they possibly could. This was just the beginning, though, as 30 minutes later the main-attraction came out with the blisteringly raw “Charmer”, allowing them to embark on their current U.S. tour. Once the song ended, KOL said their “Thank yous”, their “goodnights”, and “drive safes”, all before leaving the stage. This prompted the lights to go on “the Bucket”, the crowd was thrown into a hypnotic-trance that didn’t show much room spontaneity, but then again, didn’t need to. It was actually nice to get a chance to cool our jets and just let everything soak in.

Right after that, KOL started blasting “Four Kicks” and the energy was back right up to where it was before everything got all mellowed-out. The moment when the crowd really felt most alive was when “Use Somebody” was played and the soaring, grandiose epic it is known as. It’s clear why it is regarded as one of their most-known songs, as the crowd sang the words along to it with the band and felt like they were actually apart of something. Almost like a family, dare I say it.

The next song KOL played, “Trani”, also happened to be their last of the main-set as the guys got right up and left the stage after they finished. The crowd clapped, cheered, and even chanted their names, waiting for the smallest-sight of one of the members walking back on stage to their instruments, getting ready for what would be the encore. And right when they came out, not only did the crowd go insane, but the guys dug right into “Crawl”, with the attitude of ("Pyro", "Molly’s Chambers").

Overall, all the members of KOL were clearly psyched and ready to put on a show for Philadelphia and the crowd was more than thankful for it. Here’s to hoping that they don’t wait another whole three years to come back and rock the City of Brotherly Love.

Kings of Leon will finish out the rest of their U.S. tour on April 11, in New Orleans. On May 1, they’ll pick up in the United Kingdom, beginning the next leg of their overseas tour.

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UC Berkeley sexual assault victims file federal complaint

By Katy Murphy
The Oakland Tribune
(MCT) BERKELEY, Calif.

Students angered by how their campus handles sexual assaults have filed a sweeping new federal complaint against the University of California, Berkeley, drawing more scrutiny to a campus already facing a state investigation and mounting criticism.

For the second time since May, but in far larger numbers, a group of current and former students is asking the U.S. Department of Education to investigate the university, claiming Cal violated federal anti-discrimination laws by failing to protect them against sexual harassment and assault. And now their show of force is starting to get results from the university.

On Wednesday, in a powerful news conference at the campus’ journalism school, six of the women - wearing Cal T-shirts and sweatshirts - told stories of despair, frustration and pain. They say the campus disciplinary process - commonly used in addition to, or instead of, a criminal investigation - fails to investigate and punish assailants or to keep victims informed about the status of their cases.

Instead of feeling supported by their school, they said, they felt victimized again.

"I feel unsafe on my own campus, my own home. And the worst part of it is, I no longer trust my university to stand up for me. For four years, I dreaded leaving UC Berkeley, and now I can't wait to get out," wrote senior Shannon Thomas in the complaint.

Thomas was one of the women who told her story publicly on Wednesday, and for that reason this story is naming her. She said she received little help after reporting she was being sexually harassed and threatened by a classmate.

The outcry at Cal is part of a national movement of sexual violence victims pressuring their campuses to deal swiftly, consistently and fairly with a problem that - according to a White House task force report - affects one in five college women.

The students decided to ask the Office for Civil Rights to investigate after not hearing for nine months from the Department of Education’s Federal Student Aid office about their complaint.

Cal’s sexual assault policies - and those of UCLA, California State University, Chico, and San Diego State - are also being probed by the state Legislature’s Joint Audit Committee. UC Berkeley has made changes and announced more Tuesday. But the young women said their treatment has not matched the rhetoric.

Iman Stenson said she returned after summer vacation last August to see a nametag for her assailant on the dorm room across the hall. When she complained, she said, she had to move to a different room.

Thomas said a Cal administrator concluded the classmate threatening “hate sex” in text messages and in social media this semester was merely joking, and that the campus would not pursue a conduct violation against him or remove him from her class.

Nicoleta Commins, a recent Cal graduate, said she learned about an informal disciplinary agreement between the university and her attacker about four months after it was reached, and only when she inquired. She also reported the case to the police and the young man was convicted of felony assault, she said.

Cal graduate Diva Kass described a 2009 disciplinary hearing in which she was not allowed to have a lawyer or present witnesses; the student accused of rape had both. The panel did not find the young man responsible for rape, and she was not permitted to appeal. (Berkeley police investigated but no charges were filed.)

“What really shocked me was Berkeley has this reputation of being a progressive school, I expected them to be supportive of a woman being assaulted by another student and to hold him responsible in a just way,” Kass, now in law school out-of-state, said in a phone interview. In September, Cal issued its first specific policy for sexual misconduct cases, it granted additional rights to alleged assault victims, who can now appeal. Before an informal resolution is reached with the accused student, the campus is supposed to consult with the victim.

A Cal administrator on Wednesday expressed sympathy for the women and a desire to improve its response.

“Berkeley wants to do the right thing and if we’re not doing the right thing we need to know what we can do differently,” said Claire Holmes, associate vice chancellor of communications and public affairs. Chancellor Nicholas Dirks on Tuesday pledged to hold assailants accountable and to support sexual violence victims.

In a prepared statement, Dirks said the campus was adding two positions - one to help victims understand the disciplinary process and another to investigate complaints - among other steps. Dirks also thanked student leaders “who have sought to raise awareness and catalyze necessary changes by sharing their own personal and painful stories of sexual assault.”

A Stanford law professor who led an overhaul of her campus’s disciplinary process for sexual assault victims said colleges across the country need to do better.

“These young girls had to drag the adults to the table, and that’s wrong,” said professor Michele Dauber. "Their activism is forcing us to do what we should have done.”

CAL ACTIONS
On Tuesday, the day before a group of students and alums announced their federal Title IX complaints about UC Berkeley’s sexual assault policies, Chancellor Nicholas Dirks announced new approaches to aid and comfort victims, including:

· Creating a confidential survivor advocate position that will assist victims in the reporting process and help survivors secure emotional support and resources.
· Authorized immediately adding an additional investigator in The Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination.
· UC campus police will dedicate resources to assist victims who report sex crimes to them.

As previously announced, a new Internim Sexual Misconduct Policy allows survivors to appeal the resolution of sexual misconduct cases.
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Congratulations to DCCC’s Phantoms Men’s Basketball Team 2013-14

DCCC’s Phantoms Men’s Basketball team and coaches pose with their Runner Up Plaque for the 2013-14 NJCAA Region XIX Championship game. The Phantoms lost 85-81 to Brookdale Community College March 1, which ended the ‘13-’14 season with a 26-6 overall record.

Photo courtesy of Andrew Johnson, Jr. and the Athletics Department

DCCC Phantom Domineek Owens is named Athlete of the Week for Feb. 25 in the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference.

Photo courtesy of EPAC

Freshman Zimir Geiger of Chester, averaged 15.8 points, 2.3 blocks and a 11.1 rebounds for DCCC's Phantoms Men's Basketball for the 2013-14 season. Geiger also received a Second Team All Conference award for the EPAC.

Photo courtesy of EPAC

Players and coaches of DCCC’s Phantoms Men’s Basketball Team pose for a photo before a home game at Widener University during the 2013-14 Basketball season. The Phantoms finished the season with a 26-6 overall record and seeded #2 in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIX’s Championship and a 14-0 record in the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (EPAC).

Photo courtesy of Andrew Johnson, Jr. and the Athletics Department

Kareem Robinson (G; Fr, Chester) finished the season with 12.5 points, 3.6 free throws at 68.7 percent, 3.1 3-pointers at 36 percent, and 20.1 field goals at 44.3 percent, 2.7 steals, 4.1 assists, and 2.5 rebounds.

James Middleton (G; SO, Easton) finished the season averaging 13.1 points, 3.1 free throws at 77.2 percent, 2.6 3-pointers at 42.3 percent, 9.6 field goals at 50.3 percent, 1.6 steals, 2.3 assists, and 1.8 rebounds.

Daikwon Hall (G, Philadelphia) 1.8 points, 1.0 free throws at 66 percent, and 1.4 field goals at 39.1 percent.

Domineek Owens (G, Philadelphia) finished the season averaging 21.1 points, 7.3 free throws at 76 percent, 2.7 3-pointers at 33.3 percent, 15.7 field goals at 46.7 percent, 1.7 steals, and 6.3 rebounds.

James Middleton

Phantom is name Athlete of the Week for March 1 in the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference.

Photo courtesy of EPAC

Daikwon Hall

Sophomore James Middleton, of Easton, averaged 13.1 points, 10.1 field goals and more during the 2013-14 season DCCC’s Phantoms Men’s Basketball season. Middleton also received a Second Team All Conference award for the EPAC.

Photo courtesy of Andrew Johnson, Jr. and the Athletics Department

Stanley Shelton (G/F, Coatesville) finished the season averaging 5.5 points, 1.8 free throws at 71 percent, 4.6 field goals at 44.9 percent, and 2.1 rebounds.

John Wallace (F, Springfield) finished the season averaging 4.8 points, 0.9 free throws at 82.1 percent, 2.0 3-pointers at 32.8 percent, 4.3 field goals at 39.6 percent, and 1.2 rebounds.

Shanier Cottman (PG, Chester) EPAC Athlete of the Week finished the season averaging 11.5 points, 4.6 free throws at 59.6 percent, 7.8 field goals at 56.6 percent, 2.8 steals, 1.2 assists, and 6.0 rebounds.

Zimir Geiger (F/C, Brookhaven) finished the season averaging 15.8 points, 5.2 free throws at 58.7 percent, 1.5 field goals at 60.5 percent, 2.3 blocks, and 11.1 rebounds.

Coaches

DCCC’s Phantoms’ Head Coach, Zain Shaw, who received the EPAC Conference Coach of the Year, assisted by coaches Jamar Shaw and Naim Little, led the Phantoms to the 2014 NJCAA Region XIX Championship.

Jamar Shaw (Assistant coach)

Naim Little (Assistant coach)

Photo courtesy of Andrew Johnson, Jr. and the Athletics Department
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