New dean joins CAH

By Erica Setnick

Open enrollment, one-to-one engagement in classes, and tight-knit community bonds are just some of the reasons why DCCC’s new dean of Communications, Arts and Humanities, Dr. Robert Kleinschmidt, said he fell in love with community colleges.

Kleinschmidt holds a Ph.D. in Community College Leadership from Colorado State University, a Master of Music Performance degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a Bachelor of Music Performance degree from Youngstown State University.

He loves jazz music, plays the tenor saxophone, has served as executive director of the Kinser Jazz Festival, and was a member of the music and jazz studies faculty at Casper College.

Kleinschmidt brings considerable community college administrative experience to DCCC, having served as dean of Creative Arts at Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio and as both assistant dean and dean of the School of Language and Arts at Ocean County College in New Jersey.

Kleinschmidt says he admires the faculty at DCCC because it consists of “fantastic people” and meets the high standards one would find among university faculty.

“What really impressed me about the faculty of Communications, Arts and Humanities was how accomplished they were in their field,” Kleinschmidt says. “Some are published authors, they’ve presented papers for conferences, 42 out of 50 professors are tenured, and many have been acknowledged by the professional organizations associated with their discipline.”

Kleinschmidt sees a lot of potential in his department, starting with fine arts, which he wishes to expand. “The art professors made fine arts a two-year transfer degree, and most students are being accepted to four-year universities and they are offered scholarships,” Kleinschmidt says.

He also wants to see growth in the departments of performance arts, communication studies, and music. To that end, he is considering a TV/radio station for the campus.

Since Kleinschmidt is new to DCCC, he hopes to learn what faculty is really thinking regarding their goals for the college.

I’ve walked around and sat in classrooms, and I’ve sat down during open conference meetings just so I can listen for the real needs and wants of the faculty and students,” Kleinschmidt says.

By doing this, he says he gets faculty to open up to him about what they want to be changed.

Regarding student concerns, Kleinschmidt says he deals with a lot of little problems that students may not realize they can fix themselves. Instead of coming to the dean right away, he suggests the students talk to their professor first outside of class to try and resolve their issues.

However, if there is a wider issue that affects more students and the course itself, Kleinschmidt says he wants to be there for students in the most receptive way he can.

“If eight kids come marching in my office all complaining about how the teacher was late for five weeks straight, or they sign a petition, that’s something I take extremely seriously,” he says.

Kleinschmidt understands that within a community college, there are a lot of challenges students can face, including financial troubles, family issues, finding time to schedule classes around a work schedule, and attending class.

But, according to Kleinschmidt, the most pressing need of community college students today is life skills. “Every class that I’ve observed, every time I’ve worked with a student on an issue with their teacher, it comes down to how to deal with other people and the realization that [the students] are no longer in high school.”

He says the most valuable lesson taught at this college is helping students gain those valuable life skills. “Every course teaches you something about life, whether it be a math class or a history class — they all teach you how to learn,” Kleinschmidt adds.

Wawa: more than a convenience store

By Joe Andrew

As part of the Student Business Society Speaker Series, Wawa CEO Chris Gheysons presented information about the popular convenience store chain before approximately 75 DCCC students on March 31 at Marple Campus.

Gheysons explained what goes into the unique shopping experience by adhering to strong core values. These values are “value people, delight customers, embrace change, do the right thing, do things right, and have a passion for winning,” according to the Power Point.

Secondly, Gheysons seeks to instill these same values in his associates (or employees) because the average person spends about three minutes in Wawa per trip. Gheysons stressed the importance of making this “the best three minutes of a person’s day.”

Next, Gheysons told students how Wawa also helps build a strong sense of values by doing the right things. For instance, Wawa is a company that realizes that they would be nothing without strong and happy associates. For this reason, they take a lot of measures to make sure a support system is apparent, Gheysons said.

Currently the company is working on expanding to Florida because it is a “similar market,” said Gheysons adding, “We become part of our customers’ everyday lives.”

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Wawa keeps employees happy by giving duties to their human resources department to help with financial problems as they see fit. Gheysons give an example of an associate that needed help paying for a wedding, and Wawa helped the person do just that. He also described that only Wawa associates and family of the company’s founders get stock with the company. Not only that, but they give this stock for free.

Finally, Gheysons emphasized that Wawa is an ever-changing company and customers should look out for many changes coming in the years to come, including new jobs being created, renovations to legacy stores in the area, new products, like paninis, ordering via mobile app, and more.

“We connect people in a way that’s unique,” Gheysons said. “We’re authentic and we do things for the right reasons. For that, we think we play a large role in making the world a better place and fulfilling lives everyday.”

Contact Joe Andrew at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Wawa CEO Chris Gheysons explains the strategies Wawa takes to ensure they go beyond other retail stores. "What really impressed me about the faculty of Communications, Arts and Humanities was how accomplished they were in their field," Kleinschmidt says. "Some are published authors, they've presented papers for conferences, 42 out of 50 professors are tenured, and many have been acknowledged by the professional organizations associated with their discipline." Kleinschmidt says. Regarding student concerns, Kleinschmidt says he deals with a lot of little problems that students may not realize they can fix themselves. Instead of coming to the dean right away, he suggests the students talk to their professor first outside of class to try and resolve their issues. However, if there is a wider issue that affects more students and the course itself, Kleinschmidt says he wants to be there for students in the most receptive way he can.

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Delaware Valley University and Delaware County Community College signed an agreement today that will allow Delaware County Community College students to earn a DelVal bachelor’s degree without ever having to leave the community college’s campuses in Delaware or Chester Counties.

DelVal (formerly DelVal College) will begin offering courses this September at Delaware County Community College’s Marple Campus and Exton Center. Bachelor’s degree programs to be offered include business administration, counseling psychology, criminal justice, and media and communications.

Student tuition for the DelVal Degree Completion program will be $425 per credit, a reduced partnership rate that is less than DelVal’s on-campus tuition. There are no additional fees.

To be eligible, students must have already earned an associate degree from Delaware County Community College and met the minimum grade point averages required for admission into DelVal’s specific baccalaureate program.

To further assist students with the cost of earning their bachelor’s degree, students will be able to take up to 12 additional credits at Delaware County Community College beyond those required for their associate degree at the community college tuition rate. Those courses can be applied to the total credits required for the DelVal bachelor’s degree.

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This new on-site bachelor’s degree completion program expands on the Guaranteed Dual Admission and Core-to-Core Transfer agreements that both institutions signed in June 2014.

The expansion of our partnership agreement with Delaware County Community College is reflective of Delaware Valley University’s commitment to being a major resource for education and training in the region,” said Dr. Joseph Brosnan, University president.

“Many students who earn associate degrees want to also continue on to a bachelor’s degree but are often having to deal with personal and financial issues that prevent them from leaving their local area,” continued Dr. Brosnan. “This program eliminates both those barriers, will help students realize their dream of earning a bachelor’s degree, and ultimately will improve their quality of life.”

“Our students will benefit greatly from this opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree at a reduced tuition rate without having to leave our College’s campuses,” said Dr. Jerry Parker, president of Delaware County Community College.

“We deliberately took a cooperative approach in developing this partnership,” said Art Goon, vice president for enrollment management at DelVal, which is located in Doylestown, PA.

“We listened to the concerns of the leaders and students at Delaware County Community College and jointly came up with an agreement that will provide for a seamless, convenient and affordable pathway for the College’s associate degree earners to attain a bachelor’s degree. This project also underscores DelVal’s continued effort to be the most transfer-friendly, four-year institution in the region.”

Dr. Jerry Parker, president of Delaware County Community College, shakes hands with Dr. Joseph Brosnan, Delaware Valley University president.

He says he is working with the Enrollment Management department at DCCC and is doing everything he possibly can to “make sure that the students who are interested in our college are able to get the classes they need.”

Contact Erica Setnick at community unsustainable@gmail.com
By Joe Andrew

The Human Services Club, Psychology Club, and Black and Women’s History Committee presented the Annual Human Services and Women’s Resource Fair in the lobby of the STEM building on March 12.

Attending organizations included Values Into Action, ChesPenn Health Services, DCCC Wellness, Family Support Line, Delaware County Suicide Prevention & Awareness Task Force, and more.

The event, which was attended by about 50 people, with many more onlookers, gave local organizations a chance to provide more information on their respective missions. These organizations provide services to benefit women’s health, offer social and emotional support, improve mental health, and meet other human services needs.

“It’s a great way to bring awareness to our college about the different resources our community has to offer,” said Danielle Wiegand, a Human Service Club leader. “Also, it’s a great way for our students to network.”

One of the organizations was the Family Support Line, which focuses on the prevention and treatment of damages caused by child sexual abuse. The organization hopes to not only benefit children, but also families and professionals alike by teaching them how to cope with the trauma associated with sexual abuse.

They also work closely with law enforcement to ensure proper repercussions for offenders. Students can visit FamilySupportLine.org for more information.

Children and Youth Services of Delaware County, which investigates abuse and neglect reports of children also attended the fair. They provide services to victims and youth at risk to hurt themselves or their parents.

Some services they offer are case management and counseling. For example, in some severe cases, if it is not safe for the child to be at home, they attempt to find placement outside of the home with caregivers that are deemed a best fit for the child.

Interested persons may call toll free to their Upper Darby office at 610-713-2000 or visit their webpage on Delaware County Pennsylvania’s site, under the Human Services Department, to arrange counseling and other support.

Another organization at the fair was the Delaware County Suicide Prevention & Awareness Task Force. Founded by close friends of a victim of suicide, this organization hopes to increase the understanding of the nature of suicidal behavior. They aim to “reduce the loss and suffering caused by suicide” by way of prevention, intervention, and post-intervention.

DCSPATF’s mission is to give support to decrease the occurrence of suicide, and to change the negative stigma attached to the issue.

“Suicide is a community-wide, preventable health problem,” is not only their slogan, but also a mission statement. They reported that more than 64 confirmed suicides occur every year in Delaware County. Students may go to delcosuicideprevention.org for more information on this service, and for a detailed list of events they are hosting.

Students seemed receptive to what the fair had to offer. The fair “was a fun day for all,” and an “all around excellent learning opportunity,” said Grace Tolvaisa, president in training for the Human Services Club.

“The fair gave students a chance to connect with a wide variety of local organizations that they may have not even known existed,” said Samantha Newman, co-president of the Human Services Club. “Those organizations were able to reach out even more by giving information, making connections, and building foundations for possible future relationships with the people of Delaware County.”

Contact Joe Andrew at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
Ric Walliser, the executive director of Integrated Enrollment Services, has announced the opening and naming of the newly renovated Enrollment Services area.

The redesign is intended to improve service to students by centralizing all of the Enrollment Services in one location. The name of the collective new area is Enrollment Central. This includes the whole Room 3500 area on the third floor of Founders Hall and it encompasses Admissions, Cashier, Dual Enrollment, Financial Aid, International Student Services, Records and Student Photo IDs both front end service and back end processing.

There will be a concierge desk at the entrance to Founders Hall. The concierge desk and the new service windows will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. There will be a check-in system so that, at busy times, students can wait anywhere on campus and be notified when it is their turn, instead of being confined to the immediate area in long lines.

The concierge desk and the service windows opened the week of April 20.

For more information, contact Ric Walliser:
walleri@dccc.edu; 610-723-4901
DCCC hosts ‘Beyond Multiculturalism: Empowering Latino Students and the Community’ conference

(Deer Lake and Chester Counties, PA)—As part of Delaware County Community College’s commitment to providing access and quality education to Latino students, the college held the “Beyond Multiculturalism: Empowering Latino Students and the Community” conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 24th at the College’s Marple Campus.

This was the first conference held at the College specifically focused on Latino issues in education and Latino youth leadership and advocacy. It was sponsored by the College’s faculty-led Latino Initiatives and Outreach Network (LION) in collaboration with the College’s student-led Latin Flavor Club.

There were two keynote presentations at the conference. The first keynote presentation, “The Path to College Graduation: Latino Student Success and Concerns” by Dr. Idna Corbett, dean of Undergraduate Student Support Services at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, focused on the factors influencing the Latino achievement gap in college.

The second keynote presentation, “A Conversation with Hernán Guaracara,” publisher of AL DÍA, a Philadelphia-based, Hispanic-owned news media organization, focused on the immigrant experience and the success of the growing Latino population in the region. In addition, two panels of experts discussed the effects and factors influencing the Latino achievement gap in college and the importance of youth leadership and institutional support at college campuses.

The third panel of Latino student leaders discussed their experiences at the College and the role of student involvement and leadership in their academic success.

Additional conference participants included many community leaders: Dr. Jose Cabrera—program manager for the national, multi-site Lumina Latino Student Success effort of Excelencia in Education, a nonprofit group that advocates for Latino students; Gilberto Gonzalez, senior designer creative services at Community College of Philadelphia and host of “Entre Nosotros,” a weekly current affairs cable TV show; Dr. Marisa Pereyra, associate professor of Spanish at Immaculata University and chair of the Global Languages and Cultures Department; and Steven Laron, Esq., the Director of legal services for The Nationalities Services Center in Philadelphia, a non-profit organization that works with immigrants and refugees in the region.

The conference also featured a screening of the 2014 award-winning documentary Underwater Dreams, which explores the true story of a team of undocumented Mexican high school students, who, under the guidance of two dedicated science teachers, enter the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center’s International Remotely Operated Vehicles competition, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Ocean Exploration, and NASA.

The four students from Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix, Arizona compete against college teams, including a team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and win first place.

After the screening, students featured in the documentary participated in a Q & A session via Skype.

For more information on the Latin Flavor Club contact:
LION Coordinator Fernando Benavidez, Assistant Professor of English, at (610) 723-1231, or Benavidez@dccc.edu; or LION Coordinator Dr. Jose Francisco Mazenett, Associate Professor of Spanish and French, at (610) 359-5228, or jmazenett@dccc.edu.

Top administrators listen to students’ concerns at Upper Darby campus

By Marwa Benahmed-Ali
Special to The Communitarian

DCCC president Jerry Parker visited the Upper Darby campus March 12 to host a “Your Opinion Matters” forum to hear students’ opinions, suggestions, and concerns about the campus.

Forty-three students attended the event to voice their opinions to Parker and special guests, including Vice Provost Mary-Joe Boyer, Jane Schurman, director of the Upper Darby Campus, Fran Cubberly, vice president of Enrollment Management, and Craig Fitz, strategic planner for the president.

Twenty-one nursing majors, said they wanted to have more science classes offered at Upper Darby for pre nursing and TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skill) exam preparatory classes.

Six students were psychology majors, three were communication majors, and two were early-childhood education majors.

Students expressed concerns regarding the library, tutoring, and child care services.

Students also asked for more resources, adding that it is helpful and useful when they study.

Another suggestion was to hold Saturday classes at the Upper Darby Campus.

“It would be helpful since many students have busy lives,” said Jorette Brown, a 28-year-old nursing major.

Boyer recorded students’ suggestions, concerns, and opinions on posters.

Before the forum began, Parker welcomed everyone to his neighborhood.

“I love about four blocks away and I have been for the past 37 years, so I welcome you all,” said Parker.

Parker said he enjoys the diversity and how he is attuned to the changes in the community. He also mentioned that the Upper Darby campus was established because of its population and accessibility.

After Parker’s introduction, students began the first round of suggestions. “I am a nursing major and it would be nice to have a TEAS class offered at the Upper Darby Campus,” nursing major Andrea Lindsay said. “I want to be well prepared for the exam.”

Nesha Kendrick, 23, also a nursing major, said it would be nice to have more science classes offered at the Upper Darby Campus, so that students would not have to go to Marple campus to complete lab assignments.

Boyer later responded to students’ questions and said that virtual labs would be piloted in 2016 at the Southeast Center. She also said that a BIO 150 class would be available during the fall semester, but labs must be done at Marple campus for now.

After nursing students finished asking their questions, other students had the opportunity to voice opinions and suggestions. Students told Parker that there weren’t enough computers, thereby making it hard to get work done.

“Services will be expanded to all locations, but space is still a problem,” Parker said. “Computers will be added and more electronic space is useful.”

Students suggested that more tutors be available at Upper Darby. “I feel like a lot of students need help with writing,” Kendrick said. “Every time I try to get help from a tutor, they’re always booked.”

The remainder of the forum consisted of complaints about faculty. Boyer stressed that students should not address complaints they have about teachers during the forum but rather address them with Shamell Jackson, the site director at the Upper Darby Campus.

Parker concluded the forum by thanking everyone for coming.

Students were then treated to lunch provided by Parker, who, along with other guests, stayed after the forum to answer any additional questions or concerns.

Boyer said she will review the students’ comments with other administrators and faculty, and they will do their best to satisfy the needs of students at Upper Darby.

Contact The Communitarian at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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Find yourself here.

Delaware County Community College is an equal opportunity institution.
Balancing priorities between work and college

By Chris Linvill

It can be stressful juggling classes, homework and a job. But I am one of many students that have been in such a predicament.

Last semester I became the Managing Editor for DCCC’s newspaper, The Communitarian, and it was more work than I had expected for my already busy schedule.

I was able to cut back hours on my job outside of school this semester from 40 to 30 hours while getting paid for work-study.

I have to admit sometimes I was thinking that I was biting off more than I could chew but then I started to look at it as getting paid for normal school work, which helped me to get through it.

New students may not be able to handle a job when they start college. It can be overwhelming and take time to become familiar with the workload.

Working too much can get in the way of school work and that is when you have to decide which is more important to you.

Do you need to work to make money, deferring school, or do you need to finish school to be able to find a job for the future?

That is all based on preference and what you can afford at the time. I chose to get school done first but it turns out I will not be able to obtain my bachelor’s degree yet, which was my initial plan, so I will take time off to save and continue to pay for school.

I will, however, have my associate’s degree at the end of this semester so it is not all bad.

Everyone should know his limitations. If you have a job that is needed to live, then you should not overwhelm yourself with school and work because holding off school could benefit you.

Some students need to stay full time to get financial aid and if that is the case then take the bare minimum, which is four classes, so you do not get stressed out. If it takes a semester or two longer to graduate then so be it, but it definitely helps to not become overworked, which can influence students’ grades.

My own grades are not what I expected and I admit that a major reason is because of the workload I took up during the semesters I have been in school. If I worked less my GPA might have been in the B plus to A minus range instead of the B range it is in now.

For students that do not need a job to live and have help paying for school, I would suggest cutting hours or not working at all during the semester.

It can definitely benefit a student’s grades to not have to worry about working to stay in school or worrying about another responsibility.

Everyone is different with what she can or cannot do but each student should find what best suits her.

If I could do it over, I might consider holding off attending college after high school to work more. I am not upset with the decision I made and I am satisfied with the experience I acquired from going to school when I did, especially my experience as executive editor for The Communitarian.
Ain't nobody's business but their own

By Lane Filler

Newsday (TNS)

April 29—It's odd coming from an opinion writer, but I feel the right way to structure our society and our behavior is around a principle of freedom and liberty because it's the right thing to do. Nobody asked me a darn thing about what they oughta do . . . And unless they do it to me, it's not my business.

Faithful readers (both of them), family members, friends and people I shout at on the street can attest that I fail to live up to this principle with metronome-like regularity, but it's the right goal for me and the right philosophy for our nation.

And that's why three seemingly disparate, but in fact related, news stories this week are driving me batty: Same-sex weddings. You almost certainly don't have to cater such events, because gay marriage is before the U.S. Supreme Court, this week are driving me batty: Same-sex marriage is a right, or whether the states or the federal government should decide, or whether the states or the voters and legislators should decide, or whether the states or the federal government should decide.

But since all of those bodies reflect the complexity of what has happened here and why—He spoke on behalf of a community that is pretty dangerous. You can marry, which is what baseball sounded like amid an oddity born of atrocity.

For the sake of public safety, and after having postponed two games already, the Orioles, the White Sox, and Major League Baseball agreed to play Wednesday at 2 p.m. instead of 7:05. The Orioles also elected to relocate what would have been three home games this weekend against the Tampa Bay Rays, the teams will play instead at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fl. A team spokesman said the Orioles had not calculated how much revenue, from parking fees and concessions, these decisions would cost the franchise, and to the Orioles' credit, no one affiliated with them seemed concerned with such considerations.

"Sports unite communities," Orioles centerfielder Adam Jones said, "and to have fans, it would be awesome so it can give them three hours of distraction away from what's really going on. That's what sports brings. It's a small distraction to the real world, and the people of Baltimore need that. At the same time, the safety of those people is [very] important."

Without the expectant crowds gathering around Camden Yards, the area took on a relative silence and stillness that mirrored the games. There was little traffic on the streets nearby and no police presence in sight, though a Humvee with STATE TROOPERS emblazoned on its hull trundled off an I-95 ramp by the ballpark. It was a far cry from what the players had experienced Monday and Tuesday as they drove to and from the park, as they watched the flames and chaos on T.V.

"It was more like a war zone than I expected," said Orioles first baseman Chris Davis, who hit a three-run home run Wednesday. "I think we made the right move. I really do."

"Across the street on Washington Boulevard, where a brawl between protesters and Orioles fans on Saturday night had prefaced Monday's destruction, Pickles Pub was open for business. The bar is a popular pregame and postgame hangout in the summer, a fixture in Baltimore City since 1988. An hour and a half before first pitch Wednesday, there were just three customers inside. On its marquee was a message: ‘We provide space for food, beverage, and fun times.’"

Its manager, Craig Ziegenhein, smiled a knowing smile when he was asked about the sentence's meaning, about the way a small business's owners had thumbred their noses at the rioters and at Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, who had said that city officials would 'give those who wished to destroy space to do that.'

"The space word was used an awful lot," Ziegenhein said. "We just thought people would recognize that."

Inside the park, Jones offered a perspective that reflected the complexity of what has happened here and why—He spoke on behalf of a community that is pretty dangerous. You can marry, which is what baseball sounded like amid an oddity born of atrocity.

"This is their cry," said Jones, who grew up in inner-city San Diego. "Obviously this isn't a cry that's acceptable, but this is their cry. We have to understand it. One needed only to listen and look out over that vacant ballpark for a sense of what those people and others had wrong. They played a baseball game here Wednesday, and it was like no baseball game before it. They told people to stay away, for their own good. How sensible. How memorable. How sad.

Lawmakers in Hawaii passed legislation Friday that would make it the first state to ban smoking for people younger than 21. Gov. David Ige is not sure whether he will sign it.

In New York City and Suffolk County the age for buying tobacco is 21. In Nassau it's 19. But in the United States you are an adult at 18. You can join the Army, which is pretty dangerous. You can marry, which is really dangerous. In New York, you can be a gay, married 18-year-old Army soldier, potentially quite stressful, and not be able to unwind with a smoke. That's just wrong.

I get that we don't want anyone to smoke, and that's dangerous. But people do have the right to do stupid stuff.

Liberals and conservatives, leave adults to their paths, as long as they don't actively block yours. Stop carping. You'll be amazed how freeing it is.

Lane Filler is a member of Newsday's editorial board.
Students enjoy Multicultural Festival

Students enjoyed food and a variety of fun multicultural activities during the Multicultural Club's SpringFest fundraiser on Marple campus April 17. This event also celebrated Spring-Summer New Years in other countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Thailand. All the funds raised went to the Multicultural Club's budget to help support their future multicultural events on campus.

For more information on this club or other clubs, students should visit the Campus Life office located on the second floor of the Academic Building.

To celebrate Earth Week, biology professor Dr. Steve Aquilani (left-center) leads students through the scenic grounds of Marple Campus. The students encounter wildlife such as geese and flowers along the way.

By Dan Crawford
Special to the Communitarian

During the week of April 20th, the student club MESA (Modern Environmental Sustainability Association) hosted a variety of activities to celebrate Earth Week.

One of the activities was a nature walk around DCCC’s scenic grounds on Marple campus April 21, led by biology professor Dr. Steve Aquilani.

During this tour students learned about the various trees (both common and rare) found on the college’s campus, the many types of birds that inhabit the College’s woods, and the delicate ecosystem found in the pond, which is part of the Crum Creek watershed.

The group spoke with Kevin Dillinger, a member of the college’s grounds crew who plays an instrumental role in maintaining the trees and plant populations found on campus.

“We're losing oaks like crazy,” he said. “I have to spray the plants to keep the deer away. Because if we don’t they get eaten.”

Aquilani discussed the evergreen trees, which he said are widely used for timber, and the iconic pine tree.

He also said the easiest way to tell a pine from other trees is to count the needles on the branches. If the needles are in groups of two, three, or five it is a pine.

Before the tour began, Aquilani drew the group’s attention to the pond next to the STEM building. He noted the brown color of the lake and said that this was not natural.

“When I look at this pond the first thing I think of is the oxygen cycle,” Aquilani said. He began to discuss the oxygen process for the pond, and how it has resulted in the brown, unhealthy color.

The tour concluded with a view of the bridge eclipsing the sun, casting a shadow among the rocks and the people walking past. “The world needs solutions,” Aquilani told the students. “It all has to start with science.”

The campus community is also encouraged to view the hydroponics installation in the STEM building. This system uses nutrient rich water solutions rather than soil to allow plants to grow.

The hydroponics system was constructed by students involved in MESA and the Women in S.T.E.M. clubs with the generous assistance of Dave and Mark physical plant employees.

All students interested in environmental and sustainability issues are encouraged to join MESA next year when more great activities and events are planned, said Erica Danowitz, the club’s co-adviser.

Contributors: MESA co-advisor Erica Danowitz and Matthew Pellegrini

Hydroponics is intended to demonstrate to students that it is not only important to strive for sustainability, but quite fun as well. This project introduces the college to an easy, cost effective and environmentally friendly, and incredibly fun technique to grow plants. It was also intended to display that a lawn, or any large surface area is not necessary to grow your own vegetables. The hydroponics is currently home to bok choy, kohlrabi, raspberry dressing rumex, Paris island and red romaine lettuce, Russian red and winterbor kale, red express cabbage and chard.

Photo by Christina Deravedisian

Students enjoy Earth Day with a nature walk

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Students enjoy a variety of foods and activities during the Multicultural Festival on Marple campus April 17.

Samantha Islam does a henna tattoo on Antoinette Gerant.

Left to right: Multicultural Club President Jumg Bin Park, Tingyu Ouyang, and Chhenglang Ngov

Keya Afroz wins top prize for a party game.
Movie review: 'Avengers' delivers an all-star punch, but somehow feels small

By Michael Phillips
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

When I say “Avengers: Age of Ultron” won’t disappoint a majority of its pre-sold, culturally obligated fans around the world — the world perpetually on the verge of extinction in the Marvel universe — you know what I mean. You know what the movie promises, and would be foolish, or inept, not to deliver.

Action, relentless and assaultive. Wisecracks, numerous, pretty sharp and evenly parceled out among Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man), Chris Hemsworth (Thor), Mark Ruffalo (Hulk), Chris Evans (Captain America, though his are fewer, and squarer), Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow), Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye) and so on. Three years ago, writer-director Joss Whedon’s “The Avengers” turned out to be a sprightly wallop of an all-star superhero blockbuster. So why does the new one seem, I don’t know ... a little ... small?

It’s a strange thing. These are some of the biggest movies in the galaxy, both in terms of production budget and grosses. The scale of the mayhem couldn’t be much crazier if it tried. In one scene, an entire Eastern European city is loosed from the ground and levitated by the antagonist (Ultron of the subtitle) with malicious, species-ending intent. Humanity looks like a bad bet against the wily metal ‘bot voiced by James Spader, a creation of Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, and one of those secret projects that got out of hand in the name of preemptive strikes and strategic defense initiatives.

Entertaining as much of “Avengers 2” is, especially when it’s just hanging out with the gang in between scuffles (the “Guardians of the Galaxy” lesson, learned), Whedon’s picture meets expectations without exceeding them. Now that so many “Avengers” club members are busy with their own franchise management, the ensemble “Avengers” movies have everything going for them and more. Whedon has said in interviews that he wanted the second “Avengers” bash to be “bonkers.” I suppose it is, here and there, especially when the mesmerizing, mind-clouding Wanda Maximoff played by Elizabeth Olsen (Aaron Taylor-Johnson is her twin, the superfast Pietro) messes with our heroes’ heads and the movie enters one subconscious nightmare vision after another.

The first half’s by far the stronger, with Whedon nicely in command of his ever-expanding team. The romance between Black Widow and the Hulk, complicated by the latter’s rage tendencies, carves out a goodly portion of the scenario. Fruitfully, so does the increased focus on Hawkeye (a bit of a write-off in the earlier “Avengers”) and his family life. The secret weapon in “Avengers 2” isn’t Ultron, or the glowing souvenir-shop tchotchke that brings the mystical floating Vision (capital V-Vision, played by Paul Bettany) to life. No, it’s Linda Cardellini, supremely honest and un-self-consciously lovely in close-up, in her farmhouse-idyll scenes with Renner. “You know, I totally support your avenging,” she tells her husband, before he zooms off with his teammates again, and while that line is one of Whedon’s better turns of phrase, Cardellini rightly refuses to deliver it with a wink.

Whedon remains a more interesting writer than director; I can’t put my finger on it (a tough thing to admit on deadline), but is it something in his series television training, even though that training led to some great notions and giddy mashups on “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” that confines Whedon’s visual sensibility? The action is plentiful and edited, within an inch of a given sequence’s life, for moderate-to-medium clarity and maximum painless pain, if you get the contradiction. But increasingly in the second hour, the close proximity of ravaged, weeping extras and another round of quips gets a little weird. And the fights grind on.

Three years ago at “The Avengers,” the crowd was giggling and already mentally preparing for a second go en masse. A similar pumped-up vibe filled the air at the “Guardians of the Galaxy” screening I saw. Both of those pictures were a tick up from this one. On the other hand, all “Avengers 2” had to be to be successful was “not stinky,” and to offer moviegoers unlimited breadsticks. Or wait. Am I mixing up this Marvel with the newest Olive Garden?
By Zach Colona

The first game of the MLB season was held on April 5 at Chicago’s Wrigley Field. The Cubs lost to the Saint Louis Cardinals 3 - 0 and the rest of the MLB played the following day, including the Philadelphia Phillies who lost their home opener to the Boston Red Sox in an 8 - 0 blowout.

Unfortunately, the Phillies have a tough season ahead with little hope because of their mediocre pitching staff and an average offense at best. The Phillies once dominating players, Chase Utley, Ryan Howard and Jonathan Papelbon, are all 34 or older, compared to Cole Hamels who is 31. Hamels has the biggest impact out of these players, yet he only gets to pick the ball up once every five games.

Although the Phillies can greatly benefit from trading Hamels, they cannot seem to move him despite negotiating with the Rangers, Giants, Dodgers and Red Sox. The Phillies’ main goal is not to lock down a huge superstar because they will not get one for Hamels, instead the Phillies hope to trade him for first-round picks.

I think the Red Sox would benefit the most from this possible trade.

If they added Hamels to their starting rotation, they would have one of the top pitching staffs in the league, with three dominant starting pitchers including Clay Buchholz, Rick Porcello and Hamels if they can make a deal.

Some teams, such as the Chicago White Sox and The New York Yankees, could be among the top in the league if they can stay healthy and make some small acquisitions.

The White Sox are predicted to do well with a “beefed up rotation,” said Aaron Gleeman, a NBC Sports journalist. The Yankees are predicted to do average at best.

The Yankees and the White Sox are the two teams that can shake up the league if their coaches can get the best out of their players.

The White Sox made some smart moves in the offseason by picking up David Robertson, a big-time closer and a couple good hitters, most notable Melky Cabrera, since these players have a huge impact on the team and can help players get into the right mindset.

“The White Sox had an intriguing offseason in making five major acquisitions without giving up any significant contributors from 2014,” said ESPN’s David Schoenfield.

Maybe these five pickups can boost the 2015 White Sox into playoff contention.

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The Yankees also have some potential. As much as you can say positive about former Yankee Shortstop Derek Jeter, losing him actually helps the team.

Jeter is 40 years old and lacked the athletic ability that he once had while giving a younger Didi Gregorius a chance.
Local music stores struggle to compete in the digital age

By Tom Ignudo
Special to The Community News

Goodies Disc Exchange, located at 2229 MacDade Blvd in Holmes, Pa. offers the latest Taylor Swift albums and Beatles records. But since opening in 1992, Goodies has experienced shake-ups in the music industry such as Napster, the rise of iTunes, and the 2008 recession.

Widener graduate Greg Trainer, 38, manager of Goodies, and employee since 2004, said the store had to adapt and make transitions into the digital age of music. “For a while our CD sales were slumping a little bit,” Trainer said. “However, our DVD and video game sales have been driving our sales.”

Trainer said Goodies saw a big drop off in sales during the recession in 2008. “The economy stunk. People thought we were going into the next depression,” Trainer said. “We weren’t getting the same foot traffic, and our eBay sales became big around that time.”

Issues within the economy forced Goodies to use eBay to move records, and digital competition became a problem, Trainer explained. “We do sell a lot of CDs now because of our low prices,” Trainer said. “My boss has also made a splash in the digital music world.”

The dominance of digital music and iTunes has caused a domino effect making retail stores like Sam Goody vanish. Since 2003 more than 900 independent record stores have closed across the United States, according to studies by the Almighty Institute of Music Retail.

Consequently, independent shops like Goodies have taken significant blows. Fortunately for them, their regular customers are stuck in their old habits, experts say. The Recording Industry Association of America reports that in 2008, 33.7 percent of people purchasing music were aged 65 years and older. Throughout their tenure, Goodies has depended on this nostalgic crowd, and the recent vinyl demand has created record setting sales throughout the music industry.

Within the past two years vinyl record sales have grown 51.8 percent. According to a study by Nielsen, 6.1 million vinyl records sold in 2013, and 9.2 million sold in 2014.

Wal-Mart and Target accounted for 13.5 percent of music sales in 1996, according to the Almighty Institute of Music Retail. Twenty years later those numbers have nearly doubled. According to a study by Nielsen, chain music stores made up for 32 percent of music sales in 2014. While chain stores accounted for 31 percent of music sales in 2014, independent stores similar to Goodies only made up for 18.2 percent of sales, according to Nielsen. Ever since debuting iTunes in 2003, Apple has also made a splash in the digital music world.

According to Horace Dediu, an analyst for ARsenco, iTunes is responsible for 75 percent of the global digital music market. According to the Institute for Policy Innovation concludes that U.S. workers in the music industry lose $2.7 billion in earnings annually, and could earn a total of $1.1 billion.

Lastly, the Institute for Policy Innovation states that the U.S. economy has lost 71,060 jobs in the music industry. Although piracy has affected the U.S. economy and music industry jobs, some believe it’s helped their music careers.

According to Eric S. Bourstin of Princeton University, artists like Janis Ian have gained money through piracy. Piracy gives the listener an opportunity to gain access to the album, and if they enjoy it enough they’ll purchase the album. Recently, streaming music through outlets, such as Spotify, Shlacker, and Beats, have been popular among music listeners. Furthermore, Nielsen reports that music streams have grown 54.9 percent from 2013 to 2014. The U.S. paid streaming subscriptions grew from 6.2 million to 7.7 million, a 24 percent increase over the last year, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

Today, Spotify has more than 60 million active users, 15 million subscriptions, and is available in 58 markets. Although the digital music world is growing, according to Trainer, this previous Christmas was the busiest of his 10-year tenure at Goodies. “Our business has been very good and it’s mostly because of the reemergence of vinyl,” Trainer said.

According to Trainer, the regular love Goodies for its nostalgic atmosphere, experience, and the opportunity to hang out inside the shop, discussing music and everyday life problems. “You have to remember, most of our customers are in there 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and even 70s,” Trainer said. “Those guys didn’t grow up in a digital world. It’s nostalgic, the music buying process is special to them, and they reminisce about old times.”

“I remember coming in here and building strong relationships with people through music,” said a long time Goodies customer who preferred to be known only as Lou. “More than 80 percent of my music collection is from Goodies. The exchange in taste of music, and good people has kept me coming back for over 20 years.”

Great customer service and knowledgeable employees like Trainer have kept the store thriving for 23 years, customers say. “I don’t know what the future holds,” Trainer said. “We’ll probably be here for another 10 to 15 years. I just take it day by day.”

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April 28—WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE, Maryland -- The streets were tense Tuesday in Baltimore, Maryland, as peace-keeping civilians kept rock-throwing protestors at bay from lines of police in riot gear.

Rioting broke out a day earlier in Baltimore after the funeral of Freddie Gray, 25, who died April 19 of injuries suffered in police custody -- the latest African-American victim of suspected police brutality.

The looting, arson and rock-throwing contrasted with the peaceful protests of the previous week.

By Monday evening, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency and deployed up to 5,000 National Guard troops to keep order. Another 500 police offices were summoned from elsewhere in Maryland, and the state government has asked for support from 5,000 police officers in neighbouring states.

Police spokesman Eric Kowalczyk said Tuesday that 235 people had been arrested, including 34 juveniles. Twenty police officers were injured. Rioters set fire to 144 vehicles, and one person was in critical condition as the result of a "structure fire."

US President Barack Obama said there was "no excuse" for the riots but underscored the need to address underlying issues of poverty and lack of opportunity in minority communities.

"There's no excuse for the kind of violence we saw yesterday. It's counterproductive," Obama said at a White House press conference following talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"When individuals get crowbars and start prying open doors to loot, they're not protesting, they're not making a statement -- they're stealing."

Live broadcasts from the scene Tuesday showed community volunteers forming a human wall between aggressive protestors and riot squad police. Some wore T-shirts identifying themselves as members of the "300 Men March, night street engagement unit."

"This is black men separating what's going on back there from what could happen out here," one peacekeeper told CNN as he faced the crowd of protesters.

Gray's death was the latest in a series of deaths of black men at the hands of police that have prompted protests in recent months, including weeks of demonstrations and violence last year in Ferguson, Missouri.

"I think we, as a country, have to do some soul searching," Obama said. "This is not new. It's been going on for decades."

Society must improve opportunities for inner-city children, reform the criminal justice system and invest in communities, he said.

Hogan said the deployment of the Maryland National Guard was a "last resort" to a situation out of control.

"It's nowhere near as bad as the '60s," Hogan said late Monday, referring to riots in Baltimore that followed the 1968 assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King. "We want to make sure it doesn't get that bad."

Hogan moved Tuesday from the state capital, Annapolis, into state offices in downtown Baltimore to be on the scene.

The riots started Monday afternoon when teenagers burst into the streets after school, throwing rocks at police in riot gear and jumping on and smashing police cars.

Police said the rioters were mostly school-age youths in the beginning. Kowalczyk said Tuesday that adults rapidly joined in the melee, as reflected in the arrest numbers.

The city government has been criticized for its slow reaction in intervening in the looting and arson. Kowalczyk defended the strategy, saying police were trying to exercise restraint against youthful activists.

"When we deployed yesterday we were expecting a high school event. I don't think anyone expects [us to deploy] armoured vehicles ... against 13, 14 and 15-year-olds," he said.

Last year in Ferguson, riot police aggressively charged into crowds of protesters. Obama had advised Hogan on Monday to use restraint.

Baltimore is enforcing a 10 pm (0200 GMT) to 5 am curfew. Schools were closed Tuesday.

At the intersection of North and Pennsylvania Avenues, police attempt to disperse a group of media and civilians after the 10 p.m. curfew on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, in Baltimore.
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Community colleges commit to more overseas students

By Bonnie Miller Rubin
Chicago Tribune
(TNS)

CHICAGO _ Despite the fact that they don't play football, basketball or soccer, Sergio da Silva and Armindo Goncalves were hotly recruited by Joliet Junior College.

The two young men arrived on campus in January, leaving behind their island home in the South Pacific _ a leap of faith, considering they are the first members of their respective families to ever board an airplane, much less pursue higher education.

"Right away, we learned that we should have brought socks," said da Silva, 20, who is studying agri-business.

The duo represent a new push by community colleges nationwide to attract students from not just around the block, but from around the world. No longer content to be known as sleepy commuter schools, two-year institutions in Illinois, but Anderson said that should catch up.

"Most countries don't have a community college system, so they are sending students here for training," said Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. "It helps globalize our campuses, but it's also an extra revenue source. It's a win-win for everybody."

While foreign students have flocked to four-year U.S. colleges _ more than 886,052 international students were enrolled in 2013-2014, up 40 percent over the past decade, according to the Institute of International Education (IIE) _ community colleges are just beginning to catch up.

There were almost 88,000 foreign students nationwide at community colleges on student visas last year, about an 8 percent increase over the past decade, with almost 20% of schools hosting 1,000 or more international students, according to IIE.

None of the top destinations are in Illinois, but Anderson said that should change, as more people become familiar with the third largest community college system in the U.S.

"People are discovering what we have here," said Anderson, who was hired in 2013, adding that there are students from not just around the block, but from around the world.

"Diversity and global engagement are written into our strategic goals," Mireles said. "It's an area that is extremely important to us."

Popular areas of study include business administration, computer science, engineering and allied health fields.

Many students use it as launching pad to four-year institutions, but others _ like da Silva and Goncalves _ plan on returning to their home countries with a two-year associate degree.

The students are from Timor-Leste, a small nation between Australia and Indonesia, which was liberated in 2002 after decades under Indonesian rule. They belong to a new generation focused on jump-starting economic development at home, where their farming families work much the same way as they have for decades.

Their tuition and living expenses are covered by the Timor-Leste Hillary Clinton Scholarship Program, a USAID-funded scholarship to expand opportunities and nurture future leaders. They chose Joliet because it was the first community college in the U.S., they said.

"We also liked that it was quiet here, so we could focus," said Goncalves, 26, and the quiet of the two.

They praised Americans for being friendly, even helping them navigate their way from O'Hare to Joliet. They marveled at the size of their apartment near campus, the ease of public transportation and the sheer size of American supermarkets.

Said Crabb: "Everyone else's shopping carts are filled with processed foods _ and then there's Sergei and Armando, with their produce and rice."

Of course, adjusting to American life can be an education in itself. Language and money issues can hobble success (under U.S. law, foreign students are not permitted to work off campus). Homesickness can also be a factor.

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"You're not allowed to speak unless spoken to," said da Silva. "I like the American way much better. It has helped change my personality."

"While the initial reason was to travel, the transition. Last fall, Crabb started the International Friendship and Mentoring Program. Faculty and staff volunteers have stepped up, from hosting Thanksgiving dinner to sightseeing to helping the newcomers find where to get their hair cut.

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