Get your Drexel degree at DCCC

By Rob Buffum

Did I just read that right? A four year degree program at a community college? Starting this fall students can get their bachelor's degree from Drexel University without ever leaving the Marple Campus of Delaware County Community College. Through a partnership signed last fall, students will be able to complete their bachelor's degree in the "Drexel University at DCCC" program, according to DCCC's website.

"This is an opportunity for people who want a Drexel education," said Tina Heuges, director of recruitment and marketing for Drexel University at DCCC. "It is a chance to go to Drexel University, without ever stepping foot in Philadelphia.

The program offers students in select degree programs a Drexel education at a substantial discount, while taking classes at DCCC, according to a flyer from Drexel.

"Members of Phi Theta Kappa are encouraged to apply," said Heuges. "Drexel is also very veteran friendly, being a Yellow Ribbon School."

The Yellow Ribbon program was started by Veterans Affairs to give outstanding schools extra funding for veterans so that their tuition can be paid, according to the VA website.

"Students also have access to Drexel's co-op program. The co-op experience gives students real world experience related to their degree. This type of education was pioneered by Drexel in 1919, and it is still recognized as the standard worldwide, according to Drexel's website."

Unlike an internship which may be unpaid and part time, a co-op usually lasts a semester, is a paid position, and gives students college credit for the intensive experience. Students who participate in co-ops often start at higher salaries than students who took part in only internships, according to campus-to-career.com.

Students interested in Drexel University at DCCC should attend one of the information sessions held every Tuesday during Q-time in Room 2334 on Marple campus.

For more information or to register for one of the information sessions please visit www.drexel.edu/dccc.

Contact Rob Buffum at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

The road less traveled is the road to success

Getting an internship can be the first step for students eager to begin building their resume

By Robert Craig

Perhaps it was during my morning commute to Norristown, as I rode the train along the Schuylkill River while paging through a copy of The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho given to me by a coworker.

Maybe it was after my exciting interview with Jeanine Leclaire, a local painter whose work is displayed at Roger Lapelle Galleries in center city Philadelphia.

Possibly it was the first time I saw the words "By Bob Craig" printed under a bold headline in Suburban Life Magazine.

All of these experiences are the result of an internship I landed at Suburban Life Magazine in January 2013 while working on an associate's degree in general studies at Delaware County Community College.

Professionally, academically and personally, I knew I was working toward something great. Internships are helpful for those who want to begin building their resume before graduation. Acquiring an internship can be a paramount moment in a college student's life and can lead to professional opportunities and hands-on learning that one cannot otherwise receive in a traditional classroom.

My internship experience at DCCC changed my life.

(continued on page 2)
They have specific assignments in their worth it, but our program is very structured. to their major. Some students think it's not unpaid but have to relate to their major, and know is our internship program is for credit completed first.

If you’re applying for an internship?

and your references. The experience. It really builds your resume Students get recommendations in addition to the semester. You would pay for it as if it's a three credit class. It's also not guaranteed that an internship can go on for more than one semester. They can start any time throughout the semester. You would pay for it as if it's a three credit class. It's also not guaranteed that a student will be placed. The positions are based on employer need and the job market. There can be times when students come to me and I don't have anything. Internships can be paid or unpaid and they typically align with the major. Some employers require that it is done for credit, but not all of them.

What types of internships are typically available to students?

A: There are a lot. First, what's not through our department: natural sciences, elementary education and nursing, [these are handled through their respective departments] foreign language, paralegal, information technology, architecture cad, manufacturing, medical cad, computer science, psychology, and sociology, and criminal justice.

Say someone in network engineering might do a help desk internship. In communications they might work for a newspaper, magazine or radio station. For business they might work for an accounting firm. Paralegal interns may intern for an attorney.

We don't work with specific employers every semester but there are some that come twice a lot. Because we are a two-year program, a lot of employers look for candidates to hire, so they may rather hire interns from a four-year school. However, they change all the time.

Q: Please explain the internship process.

A: We have minimum requirements. Students need 21 credits, a 2.5 GPA and at least three classes completed in their major. Then they have to give me a resume and they need an essay requirement. Next I have to look for positions for them and send their resume to a prospective employer. Then the employer decides if they want to interview them. If they decide to take them, the student becomes registered for a class, an elective. Students have to work 224 hours to receive three credits. There are no time requirements; an internship can go on for more than one semester. They can start any time throughout the semester. You would pay for it as if it's a three credit class. It's also not guaranteed that a student will be placed. The positions are based on employer need and the job market. There can be times when students come to me and I don’t have anything. Internships can be paid or unpaid and they typically align with the major. Some employers require that it is done for credit, but not all of them.

Q: How can students benefit from an internship? Why are they important?

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Motivational speaker Patrick Patterson inspires students

By James Pearson

Patrick Patterson, MSW, MPH, president/founder of Global Partners for Fathers & Families LLC, spoke about the important role of fathers at DCCC’s Marple campus Sept. 30.

His seminar, in partnership with the Black & Latino Male Achievement Initiative titled “ACT 101 Empowerment Series,” focused on inspiring students.

Patterson talked about his life growing up with a father who abused alcohol and the story of how he met President George W. Bush, which led to working for Bush for four years as part of the Father Initiative in 1999.

When Patterson was 15 years old, his father left him because of a drinking problem and “being involved in the streets,” Patterson said, adding that when he was in high school he played basketball to get his mind off his father’s issues and finished with a 1.3 GPA.

“It was difficult to live a normal life because of the issues that my father was going through,” Patterson said. He realized he needed a change of perspective.

Sherani Ashford Patterson, his wife, said about their relationship “If you want to be with me you have to go to college.”

Patterson added that it was because of his wife, the book Failing Forward by John Maxwell and the Bible that led him to take the right turn in his life and was challenged to do things in a different way.

Patterson afterward attended Benedict College where he made the Dean’s List for four years before receiving a Bachelor of Social Work degree.

A few days later, Patterson received a call from the White House to have a meeting with President Bush about being involved in the Father Initiative.

“In 1993, Don Eberly, a civil society scholar, organized 20 of the nation’s leading social experts to meet in Aspen, Colorado to discuss reserving father absences,” according fatherhood.org. “After awhile, the National Fatherhood Initiative was created with Wade Horn as its first president, David Blankenhorn as its first board chairman, a board of directors including leaders such as Dr. Louis Sullivan and George Gallup, and advisory board of James Earl Jones, Willard Scott, and Bill Bennett.”

Patterson later joined the National Fatherhood Initiative.

During his meeting with the President he was asked what he was passionate about and he answered it was his father.

When Patterson was offered the job he prayed with his wife about where he should be relocated and chose to pick Philadelphia where he worked directly under President Bush.

Today, Patterson has successfully written and led grant-writing efforts that have resulted in more than $40 million dollars, according to his website www.globalpartnersff.com.

As Patterson concluded his story students asked questions about the relationship that he now has with his father and how fathers can be more involved in their child’s life.

Roland Sharp, who majors in social work, asked Patterson, “What do you do with youth that have lost their fathers.”

Patterson responded, “Youth need to think about their circle by being connected with their father’s story.”

Jay Shedrick III, another student in the HVAC program, asked Patterson, “What did you have to do mentally to go from a 1.3 GPA to a 4.0 GPA.”

Patterson replied, “It is what you say to yourself and by thinking what could go right.”

In talking about his father, Patterson emphasized “the importance of forgiveness.” “I feel that the relationships that you keep are important, especially with good people,” he said.

Patterson added he wants people to understand the importance of doing something that they love and doing it for free.

“When the opportunity knocks take it,” he said. “Learn what your why is and take the chance.”

Contact James Pearson at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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Students and faculty, meet your new provost

By Joe Gbodai

“For years, we drove from Maryland here on the weekend,” says Dr. Margaret Bartow, DCCC’s new provost. “My husband and I love this area. It’s one of our favorite places to visit.”

That being said, it’s no surprise that at the end of the spring 2014 semester, when Provost Dr. Virginia Carter retired after a decade of service, Bartow would seize this opportunity to broaden her role as an academic administrator and take on a new position in a new area of the country.

Bartow is no stranger to community colleges. She began her teaching career at a community college in her native state of Massachusetts. Nevertheless, she and Carter paired up during her first few weeks as the provost.

“Dr. Carter and I place a high priority on integrity and all-around excellence of the education we deliver. Our favorite places to visit.”

Bartow, DCCC’s new provost. “My husband and I loved this area. It’s one of our favorite places to visit.”

Dressed in her black, well-tailored suit, surrounded by fresh plants, newly appointed Provost Margaret Bartow, Ed.D., sits in the sunny lounge at the end of the provost’s suite.

Despite serving in administration for over a decade, Bartow’s says that her journey of becoming an administrator was a gradual process.

“Prior to her work at Lakeland, and positions at Frederick and Lord Fairfax community colleges, Bartow was associate dean of Academic Affairs at Corning Community College in New York; a professor and department chair of Early Childhood Education at Prince George’s Community College in Maryland; director of Instrucional Programs for the Maryland State Board of Community Colleges; associate executive director for the Maryland State Council on Vocational; Technical Education; and director of Institutional Planning for the University of Maryland University College,” according to the news release.

Bartow makes it clear that as a result of her teaching background, she feels very connected to the classroom and promises to never leave it behind.

“Being an administrator is similar to teaching on a broader scale,” she says. “I think that being able to impact the next generation is the nobelst calling anybody can have.”

During her leadership at Lakeland, Bartow led initiatives to increase student success and completion rates, assess learning outcomes, and continued the college’s Academic Quality Improvement Program accreditation commitments,” according to the news release.

Bartow says she has plans to put more emphasis on distance education, starting spring 2015. These goals will be in collaboration with the new associate provost, Eric Wellington, who’s currently the dean of business and computer information systems, Bartow explains.

“I think computers are affecting every walk of life,” she says. “We’ve noticed that distance enrollment has been increasing steadily. What we’re going to do will be consistent with quality. It’s what DCCC is known for. The goal is to make the services accessible.”

Bartow adds she is confident and optimistic that her years of experience with community college students will earn her trust. Earned experiences at former institutions will aid her as she strives to carry on the academic integrity and all-around excellence of the college.

“We want to assist students with getting into an engaging program early on,” Bartow says. “We’re working to impact young people within the community so it won’t diluting our standards. We’re not like other colleges out there. We’re saying NO to lowering our standards. A DCCC education [means] high quality everywhere.”

Why even top tier students should consider community colleges

By Jon Marcus, The Hechinger Report

As a top student in high school, Amy Miramontes-Franco knew she was destined for college.

But she surprised even herself when, for financial reasons and because she hadn’t yet decided on a major, she began her higher education at a local community college.

“In all honesty, I had this mentality where I had worked so hard, I didn’t see myself going to a four-year college,” she said. “I had to take a step back and realize that the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University reports.

So bad has the perception been of community colleges that they themselves are dropping the “community” from their names in many cases. Yet they remain the butt of jokes for many students.

“If I wanted to learn something,” said the character Jeff Winger, played by Joel McHale, on the television sitcom “Community,” “I wouldn’t have come to community college.”

But at a time when there’s huge pressure for reform in higher education, many community colleges are proving more responsive than their four-year counterparts.

Community colleges in 21 states have added four-year bachelor’s degree programs in high-demand fields, for example, and those in California will follow suit next year. They’ve connected closely with local businesses, and provide education so much more in tune with workforce needs that people who have bachelor’s and even master’s degrees return to community colleges for training that will get them jobs. Among students who transfer from four-year public universities, more than half now go in the opposite direction of Miramontes and switch to a community college, the National Student Clearinghouse says.

One reason for this may be that nearly 30 percent of graduates of community colleges make more money than their counterparts with two-year degrees or less, according to the American Association of Community Colleges.

Despite growing demand, due largely to the federal government has allocated billions to help them train laid-off workers for new high-skill jobs and team up with businesses to create apprenticeships.

But a significant portion of the activity at community colleges has not resulted from money coming in. It’s been caused by money running out, as states cut back on spending for public higher education. Enrollment, too, has begun to slide; after jumping nearly 25 percent between the 2007-2008 academic year and 2010-2011, the number of students in community colleges fell nearly a percent from 2011-12 to 2012-2013, according to the American Association of Community Colleges reports.

These realities, along with greater scrutiny and criticism of their performance, mean community colleges have “had to be innovative, had to be entrepreneurial, had to be very creative,” said Walter Bumphus, president of the American Association of Community Colleges.

“All of these things have come together all at once to force our community colleges to change,” said Elly Oakley, president and superintendent of Monroe County, community colleges face today.
By Chris Linvill

Mischief Night is a night that most of us recall as a night of pranks and vandalism. I have never taken part in mischief night, but I am probably in the minority. Mischief Night takes place the night before Halloween in the Philadelphia area and seems to legitimize – at least for teens – egging houses, toilet papering neighbors’ trees and other acts of vandalism. Although police usually patrol the neighborhood, there are a lot of mad homeowners in the morning, all in the name of tradition.

“The idea of letting children have a ‘lawless night’ originated in England, and was often celebrated on May Day Eve (April 30) or on Halloween,” writes Cherie D. Abbey in “Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World Dictionary.”

But in the mid-17th century, when Guy Fawkes Day (November 5) became a national holiday, Guy Fawkes Eve became the most popular night for mischief in England, Australia, and New Zealand, where it is sometimes called Mischiefous Night or “Danger Night.”

But Mischief Night seems to have had a decline in its popularity locally. I no longer hear of kids going out and no longer witness it either. Furthermore, media outlets don’t seem to cover it as much anymore.

One of few a cases that I can find is from Phillipsburg, Pa. where three teens were arrested for vandalizing a property with spray paint Oct. 31 last year, according to Tony Rhodin, reporter for the Express-Times.

In other places, Mischief Night has different names. In Detroit it is known as Devil’s Night.

Lee DeVito of Detroit’s Metro Times reported on the mayor’s plan to help prevent arson and other acts of vandalism. “As in past years, neighborhood watch patrols, enforced police curfews for minors, turning on porch lights, and posting signs warning that abandoned buildings are being watched are planned in an effort to curb fires that have plagued Detroit in the Halloween season for years.”

In Detroit, it seems to be a bigger problem than it is around the Delaware County area and much more serious.

This announcement by Detroit’s mayor is just to inform people that vandalism still happens on this night even though it isn’t as prominent as before.

Is Mischief Night starting to die down in our culture? Or are we just not noticing it?

I polled 15 students at DCCC and only five people said they ever went out on Mischief Night. Three said they knew of a friend that went out.

Another three had no idea what Mischief Night even was.

Two popular acts of vandalism involved people egging houses and a car.

One student said that he totaled a car and another said he put a stink bomb in a mailbox.

Almost all who took part in the poll said they went out on Mischief Night in high school.

Maybe some youth today still take part in Mischief Night, but it seems like we hear about it less now because many students now in college never really engaged in it.

Contact Chris Linvill at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
Anti-Corbett, not pro-Wolf?

By The Sentinel, Carlisle, Pa.
(MCT)

A story by The Associated Press Oct. 22 on Pennsylvania’s governor’s race was reminiscent of an editorial page cartoon from yesteryear. “Who are you voting against?” one man asks the other as they approach their polling place. This year, the answer is clear: Tom Corbett.

The story by the AP, based on interviews with voters across the state, showed that Corbett is not liked, and Democratic opponent Tom Wolf is not known. So guess who has the big lead in the polls? They consistently have given Wolf a big lead, in no small part because people simply are voting against Corbett. Incumbents have to run on their record. Corbett’s is shaky. He’s unpopular, because he’s had to deal with problems as governor, as any incumbent must do. Some of those decisions have not been popular.

On the other hand, the best part of Wolf’s record (other than that he is not Tom Corbett) is as a businessman. He’s a millionaire. But that doesn’t mean he can govern. In a way, it’s a flip on the old saying “better the devil you know than the devil you don’t.” Voters are clearly seeking a new “devil,” as it were. “We’re not voting for Corbett, that’s for sure,” said Vincent Graziani, a registered Democrat and tour planner from West Chester who could not immediately recall Wolf’s name but nonetheless vowed to vote for him, the AP story said.

Not a ringing endorsement for the Democratic candidate, is it? Incumbents have many built-in advantages and win a huge percentage of their re-election bids. But unpopular incumbents can quickly lose much of that advantage because they have a record to run against. There is always a chance that Corbett could pull the upset. Republicans who are not enamored of him and are loathe to publicly express their support still could vote for him because Wolf is too far afield of their core values. But some of those Republicans might decide to not vote at all. We would prefer that voters be knowledgeable about both candidates in any race and make an informed decision. But that’s not reality. It never has been. Too often voters feel as though they are picking the lesser of two evils. Is that a reflection on the candidates, or on the voters?

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Theme parks' Halloween scare tactics becoming frightfully high-tech

By Hugo Martín
(MCT)
Los Angeles Times

To re-create a bloody scene from the 1981 horror flick “American Werewolf in London,” crews at Universal Studios Hollywood installed computer-controlled strobe lights behind the walls of a dark maze to simulate the flash of bullets.

An actor wearing a rubber prosthesis connected to a tube of fake blood around his neck reenacts a gruesome execution. It all plays out to the sound of gunfire and blood-curdling screams, blasted from speakers in the ceiling.

The technology used at gore- and chaos-filled mazes, haunted houses and other scare shows has advanced dramatically from a decade ago, when rubber masks and fog machines represented the most advanced special effects used to frighten guests.

Now the scares are created with the help of 30-channel audio mixers, animatronics, computer-controlled lights and video monitors.

“We’ve made a quantum leap in technology, especially this year,” said John Murdy, director of Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Hollywood.

“We need to make the scenes move faster.”

Scare masters such as Murdy say such high-tech gadgets are a must to put a new and violent edge on the creative offerings of Halloween horror shows.

“Genuine shock into teens who have become bored with the old horror and violence in movies and video games,” said John Edlich, president of the Haunted Attractions Association.

“An actor wearing a rubber prosthesis connected to a tube of fake blood around his neck reenacts a gruesome execution. It all plays out to the sound of gunfire and blood-curdling screams, blasted from speakers in the ceiling.”

“We always think that the technology will make our job easier, but it makes it just as complicated as always.”

At the opening night of Universal Studios’ Halloween Horror Nights, the crowds were so big that visitors waited in line for up to 90 minutes for the most popular mazes.

“I think we’re going for realistic, they got it,” Josh Ault said after visiting the Universal maze “Alien versus Predator” with his wife, Liz.

“We always think that the technology will make our job easier, but it makes it just as complicated as always,” Hanneman said.

Sound effects emitted by the rifles signal when park visitors have successfully shot a zombie. But the weapons will also signal when a zombie comes too close, temporarily deactivating the rifle and endangering the group.

“It’s always a challenge to be different and innovative,” Hanneman said.
How to witchfully think of a Halloween costume

By Maryleigh Sharp

There was a long line at the Halloween store in Springfield, Pa. on Hallow’s Eve and no costumes were available. Emily Murphy, a 23-year-old nursing major at Neumann University, didn’t know what to do.

Murphy had to be at a Halloween party at 6 p.m. and show everyone she had the best costume.

Then she had an idea: “Why not make my own costume with scraps of things around my house?” she wondered.

Murphy said she also wanted to save money. “Now don’t get me wrong,” she said. “I was working, but I just spent my money on other things I thought I needed. I still loved not having to spend money [on a costume].”

A good store-bought costume can run from $20 to $100.

For others on a limited budget Murphy stated that you can buy a perfect witch and devil costume, both of which cost less than a Pumpkin Spice Latte grande size at Starbucks.

For the next couple of years Murphy continued to make her own Halloween costumes. She made a hippy costume and a little kid costume.

For others on a limited budget Murphy shared the following steps to create the perfect witch and devil costume, both of which cost less than a Pumpkin Spice Latte grande size at Starbucks.

Gather the Materials
You will need a broom, a hat or black belt, a witch hat, and a plastic black tablecloth. “It doesn’t matter what size the tablecloth is, but try and go with something that fits your height range,” Murphy said. “Some of these items can also be purchased at your local dollar store.”

Prepare and Cut Tablecloth
This part is fun,” Murphy said. Lay down the tablecloth and fold it long ways so it’s half the size. The tablecloth will be the witch’s dress. Now cut the folded bottom in the shape of 4 inch triangles to make the hem of the dress.

“Some of these items can also be purchased at your local dollar store.”

Try on the Costume and Add Accessories
Slip the tablecloth over your head and tie the belt around your waist. “Personally, I think the belt adds not only [pizazz] to the costume but also helps a person show off her figure,” Murphy said. Place the hat on your head and grab your broom so you can slide your head through.

How to Make the Devil Costume

Search Your Closet
“Some of these items can also be purchased at your local dollar store.”

“Some of these items can also be purchased at your local dollar store.”

Visit the Dollar Store
Murphy said that you can buy a mask that covers the eyes and a headband with devil horns and $2 pitchfork at the dollar store for just $3.

At Home
Put the headband with devil horns on first and then add the mask.

Time for the Parties
Grab your pitchfork and prepare to terrify your local party goers.” Even though I didn’t have a lot of money for my first costume, I still wanted to look like I did,” Murphy said. “I saved over $300 these past couple of years just because I didn’t go to the Halloween store to buy a costume.”

Local playwright reveals importance of digital ‘detox’

By Shanaya Day-Merkerson
Special to The Communitarian

Ontario “Kim” Wilson believes that the internet is not only making people lazy but also stripping users of basic interpersonal skills that are essential for everyday communication and, as a result, breaking families apart due to a lack of communication.

So the actress-dancer-writer wrote “Detox,” a play about people’s obsessions with the cyber world and social media.

Wilson, 40, is no stranger to the world of entertainment. The Philadelphia native appeared on The Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien as well as in M. Night Shyamalan’s 2010 fantasy film “Last Airbender.”

Wilson’s self-directed play is about a family of five who allows the internet and social media to take over their everyday lives.

I recently sat down with Wilson to discuss her accomplishments and the purpose of “Detox,” which will be performed Nov. 15 and 16 at the Luther Rogers Center for Education and the Arts, located at 4809 Germantown Ave. in Philadelphia.

Q. When did you first start dancing?

A. I always had a passion for dancing. I started dancing at 3 years old. I couldn’t take classes as a child because my parents couldn’t afford them so I would practice with my friends. We used to break dance and I would teach them how to do certain moves. When I got older, I joined Reney Harris Puremovement, an international dance company in Philly.

(continued on page 10)
By William Powers

Special to The Communitarian

Being a rock band is one thing. Being a legendary rock band is a totally different thing.

When you're a legendary band, you can do anything you want to and be guaranteed a success.

Recently, the British rock group Queen, now under guidance of guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor, have done that recently.

They've been touring with Paul Rogers in the mid-to-late 2000s, performing with the likes of Wyclef Jean and Jesse J, and recently touring with Adam Lambert.

While these actions may alienate their long-time fans who don't want new groups of followers are sure to be delighted by the band's upcoming compilation, "Queen Forever."

This compilation will feature three previously unreleased tracks: "Love Kills," "Let Me in Your Heart Again," and "There Must Be More to Life than This," along with carefully selected songs that combine well-known, songs including "Somebody to Love," "You're My Best Friend" with lesser-known songs "Sail Away Sweet Sister" and "Drowse."

The album, which can be found in a one-disc and two-disc format, goes on sale Nov. 11th and is definitely worth a listen, regardless of how long you've been a fan. Some other songs on the album include "Who Wants to Live Forever," "Spread Your Wings," and "Crazy Little Thing Called Love."

It covers Queen’s entire run as a band (1970-1995), so it certainly does have a variety of sounds to it.

Every song featured on the album is unheard, and going to the ear. Please do yourself a favor and pick up the album, because I know I will.
A new poll shows Corbett gaining on Wolf

By Thomas Fitzgerald The Philadelphia Inquirer (MCT)

Oct. 21—A new survey shows Republican Gov. Corbett has made headway in the polls and is down only seven points in his race with Democratic challenger Tom Wolf.

Wolf leads, 49 percent to 42 percent, according to the survey, the tightest margin between the two candidates in any public poll so far.

The Keystone Report poll, conducted by Magellan Strategies, a Louisiana-based GOP research firm, suggests a much closer race than other recent surveys, including a Quinnipiac University Poll this month that pegged Wolf’s lead at 17 percentage points.

In a memo released with its poll, Magellan said Corbett’s improved standing with Republican voters over the course of three polls it has conducted helped him close the gap a bit.

In July, Magellan found that the governor had the support of 64 percent of GOP likely voters.

The latest poll found Corbett backed by 73 percent of his fellow Republicans. It also noted a slight uptick in negative views of Wolf.

But the pollster said the biggest difference between its finding and those of other recent polls such as Quinnipiac’s is that the weighting of its responses assumes a lower relative turnout of Democrats compared with Republicans.

Magellan said the assumption was valid based on historical patterns in non-presidential election years.

Corbett has trailed Wolf since the May Democratic primary and is in danger of becoming the first Pennsylvania governor since the 19th century to lose a bid for a second term.

The Magellan poll, an automated phone survey with a margin of error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points, was conducted Oct. 13-14, and was based on 1,131 responses from voters who indicated they were likely to go to the polls Nov. 4.
Details emerge of Colorado girls' possible bid to aid Islamic radicals

By Michael Muskal
Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

On Oct. 17, two Somali sisters in suburban Denver told their father that they were too ill to go to school so they were going to stay home.

By mid-morning, they called their father at work and said that they wanted to go to the library.

The father told authorities he didn't see his daughters again until they were returned on Monday after they and a friend were stopped at an airport in Germany, according to sheriff's reports.

On Wednesday, the sisters were at home with their family in unincorporated Arapahoe County, said Bureau Chief Glen Thompson of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office.

None of the girls will face any local charges, he told the Los Angeles Times.

The girls were apparently on route to Turkey and eventually to Syria where they were possibly seeking to aid the radical Muslim group Islamic State, according to a U.S. official interviewed by the Associated Press.

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ISTANBUL _ In air-dropping weapons and ammunition to Kurdish defenders of a Syrian town, President Barack Obama has embroiled the United States all the more deeply in two very different confrontations _ one with the Islamic State extremists and the other with NATO ally Turkey.

That combination complicates Obama’s prospect for success at Kobani, even with a coalition of more than 60 countries behind him.

The main clash is with the Islamic State, which has been pouring reinforcements into the Kobani area and shows no sign of letting up. The U.S. response, 135 airstrikes through Sunday, hasn’t secured the nearly-empty town, and indeed on Sunday, the Islamic extremists stepped up their battle, raining rockets and mortars on the Kurdish defenders.

Kobani desperately needs troop reinforcements, but because the Islamic State controls the Syrian territory between Iraqi Kurdistan, which might be willing to provide them, and Kobani, there’s almost no way to send in additional forces except via Turkey.

And this is where Obama’s second confrontation comes in, with Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The two now are in flat disagreement over the fate of the enclave, which lies directly on the Syrian-Turkish border. Ankara is willing to let it fall, and Washington clearly isn’t.

The rulers of Kobani, the Democratic Union Party or PYD, are affiliated with the separatist Kurdistan Worker’s Party or PKK, which has waged a 30-year guerrilla war against the Turkish state. Turkey, the United States and the European Union all have labeled the PKK as a terrorist organization.

So Erdogan has strong domestic political reasons for not coming to Kobani’s rescue. The rulers of Kobani, the Democratic Union Party or PYD, are affiliated with the separatist Kurdistan Worker’s Party or PKK, which has waged a 30-year guerrilla war against the Turkish state. Turkey, the United States and the European Union all have labeled the PKK as a terrorist organization.

Erdogan has been a reluctant partner in the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State, charging that the U.S. has no strategy in Syria for removing President Bashar Assad, whom it views as the major reason for the rise of the Islamic State.

Bordering Iraq and Syria and with a major U.S. air base at Incirlik, Turkey is ideally located to provide military facilities and every other sort of assistance in the battle against the Islamic State.

But on Sunday, Erdogan made it clear that he still is holding out on the use of Incirlik in the air war against the Islamic State, the Obama administration’s foremost request.

“The Incirlik issue is a separate issue,” he told reporters on his plane. “What are they asking for with regard to Incirlik? That’s not clear yet. If there is something we deem appropriate, we would discuss it with our security forces, and we would say ‘yes.’ But if it is not appropriate, then saying ‘yes’ is not possible for us either.”

Erdogan’s defiance of his U.S. ally may have a limit. Obama’s move to save Kobani is bound to be welcomed by Kurds, who comprise at least 12 million of Turkey’s 78 million population.

Erdogan has to be careful not to touch off another round of demonstrations that could turn into riots as they did two weeks ago, when at least 35 people died in protests against his failure to help save Kobani.

Erdogan’s decision to aid Kobani puts him squarely at odds with Turkey’s Erdogan

**“As far as we are concerned the PKK is the equivalent of ISIS. Therefore it is wrong to consider them separately.”**

“As far as we are concerned the PKK is the equivalent of ISIS. Therefore it is wrong to consider them separately,” Erdogan said early this month, referring to the Islamic State by one of its alternative names. Erdogan made it clear that so long as the PKK affiliate controls Kobani, Turkey would provide no military assistance.

Ten days ago, Erdogan said it was likely to fall, a statement that enraged Turkey’s Kurdish population and may have given the signal to the Islamic State to go for the kill by sending more fighters and heavy weaponry. U.S.-led airstrikes stepped up dramatically, turning Kobani into the single biggest battle of the U.S.-led war with the Islamic State.

Shortly before the U.S. began its weapons drops from C-130 cargo aircraft, Erdogan said he would have no part of it.

“At the moment, the PYD is equal with the PKK for us. It is also a terrorist organization. It would be very wrong for America _ with whom we are allies and who we are together with in NATO_to expect us to say ‘yes’ after openly announcing such support for a terrorist organization,” Erdogan told reporters on board his plane returning from a visit to Afghanistan.

“The United States, he said, “cannot expect such a thing from us and we cannot say ‘yes’ to such a thing either.”

Erdogan, a self-confident leader, is unlikely to back down, and now that Obama has doubled his bets by air-dropping weapons to Kobani, seems equally unlikely to retreat.

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By Delia Franchi

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITARIAN

Brett “Spike” Eskin, 38, is a resident of Philadelphia and a program director at 94WIP and CBS Sports Radio 610. Originally from Glenn Mills, Pa., Eskin is the oldest of five children. His parents are sportscaster Howard Eskin and Andrea Eskin.

Eskin said he is proud of his achievements in his career so far. “I love my career choice, and I feel it’s the only career for me,” he said. “I enjoy having a personal one-on-one connection with the listener.”

Eskin recently sat down with me in his office at 610 Market St. to explain how he got to where he is today in sports radio broadcasting at 94WIP.

Q: How long have you been working in this industry?
A: 19 years.

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about your family?
A: My dad has been in this field for as long as I can remember. He works here on Saturdays and I am actually his boss.

Q: What is it like being your dad’s boss?
A: It’s actually pretty cool.

Q: What’s cool about it?

Q: What did you attend college?
A: I spent my freshman year at the University of California and transferred to Syracuse University.

Q: Why did you transfer?
A: I transferred because there was an earthquake that scared me. Every time a truck drove by me I was scared because I thought it was another earthquake.

Q: How bad was the earthquake?
A: Bad enough that I wanted to transfer.

Q: When at Syracuse University, what did you study?
A: Broadcast journalism, which, at the time, was 70 percent television and 30 percent radio, which I wasn’t a fan of because I didn’t like television.

Q: Why don’t you like television?
A: I was more into music and radio.

Q: How did you get started in your career?
A: I worked at our college radio station, which was called WJPZ [Z89]. It was a top 40 radio station and we had sports broadcasting on Saturday morning, which I helped with. However, I enjoyed the music end much more because I felt radio was more competitive. I also was an intern at WYSP. I worked in sales as well, then was hired to be on air 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Q: How did you get started in your career at 94WIP?
A: I worked at WYSP for a while and became a music director there. I was also hired at a Chicago station as an assistant program director and did middays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The station went off air and I lost my job so I convinced CBS to hire me back. I worked for 94WIP News Radio and CBS 3 and did sports for all of them, then got a position with WYSP.

Q: I hear many people refer to you as “Spike” for a nickname. How did that originate?
A: This is actually funny. When I was on Z89 and did sports and music they told me I couldn’t use my first name for both and I’d have to come up with a nickname, but I didn’t have a nickname. I could only think of how my hair stylist would call me and he to me as “Spike” because I had bleached blonde hair that stood straight up. It was spicy!

Q: What made you choose this career?
A: I like it! I always feel like there is a personal one-on-one relationship with the listener, and I always thought it was neat that you could have a relationship with people that way. You have the power to convey to the listeners a new song which, when first hearing it, they might turn off because they don’t know it, but if you’re able to convince them to listen because it’s new and a good song that you make appealing, they’re encouraged to listen to it because of you. Sometimes I just felt like it was the only thing I was good at.

Q: Tell me more about that.
A: I feel that everyone has something they’re good at and to me, this is what I’m good at. I like it!

Q: What made you certain it was the career for you?
A: I just know. Every once in a while I think the hours are long, but then I realize I would rather spend 16 hours than half of that time somewhere else because this is what I love. Most people who are in radio think there is no other option. I don’t mean that in a negative way. For example, if you’re a dancer, you don’t have a backup plan [because] you know you want to be a dancer. Most radio people are like that.

Q: Did your dad or anyone else influence your decision on getting into this career?
A: No, not really. I don’t think so. Maybe, subconsciously. I never asked him about it and he never encouraged me to get into it. I went into college undeclared, but when I was younger I did listen to Howard Stern and was also a fan of Golden Boy on Powered 99.

Q: What do you like most about your job?
A: It’s fun! When I wake up for work, I rarely think, “Oh no!” I have to go to work, I enjoy going.

Q: What makes sports radio different today from 5 to 10 years ago?
A: Sports is much bigger. I don’t know how it happened. We still talk about more than sports while on air, but we just think that sports in general got bigger, so sports radio got bigger too.

Q: Do you have any role models?
A: John Starkes. He played for the Knicks. I always loved him. He was more of a hero to me than a role model though.

Q: How was he a great person?
A: She was always supportive and to me as “Spike” because I had bleached blonde hair that stood straight up. It was spicy!

Q: What was the most exciting day you’ve ever had broadcasting?
A: The last day at WYSP, I got to interview Howard Stern. Howard Stern was someone I grew up listening to and he hadn’t been on air since he went to Satellite Radio and it had been a long time since he was on. It was awesome I got to talk to him. It was interesting how it went from being the last day on my show to my interviewing someone I grew up watching to having no job the next day because WYSP went off the air.

Q: I read that you’ve met the love of your life. Who’s the lucky lady and can you tell me a little about her?
A: Well, her name is Valerie DiBaggio. I met her at WYSP. She worked there briefly. Hmm, what can I say about Valerie? We just have a lot of fun together, and I know she cares about me quite a bit. It’s like if someone asked you your favorite song, you would know it instantly but wouldn’t be exactly able to answer why, you just know it’s your favorite song. That’s how it is with her. I just know she is my favorite.

Q: So far, what has been your biggest accomplishment in this field?
A: I think going from music to sports. I had a long career in music radio so I was nervous about the switch to radio, but it actually turned out to be the best thing for me.

Q: If you could have chosen another job profession besides your current one, what would it be and why?
A: I would have been a tough gig, but I would love to manage bands. I really thought about it but never really had the right opportunity. If I had the right situation and opportunity, I think I would be an inspiring journey.

Q: What are you hopes and dreams for the future?
A: I hope I still have a job tomorrow. It always seemed when I would plan too far in advance the course would change, so I’ve learned not to plan in advance.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years from now?
A: I really have no idea. I just hope to be happy. It’s hard to predict the future. For example, when I started this career, there was no texting or email so that goes to show how much can change in the years.

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