AdvancePA says affordability of community colleges at risk

By Cass Hamby
Staff Writer

While the USMA Team normally requires a live physical tryout, Arnold Chung and Former UFC Light Heavyweight Champion Lyoto Machida. MGM Grand in Las Vegas, he was able to meet people such as actor Steven Seagal, seeking the next Bruce Lee. Committee and talent scouts for an upcoming martial arts reality series was launched in April by community college administrators. According to a recent press release, AdvancePA will concentrate on “expanding opportunities for community colleges” and hopes that this will be given consideration in the 2011 state budget. Community college advocates are sending a message to lawmakers that Pennsylvania community colleges make education affordable for students who would otherwise miss out on higher education. “For community colleges are economic engines for Pennsylvania, providing 400,000 people of all ages and walks of life with education and cultural opportunities,” states the Web site, adding that one out of five Pennsylvania undergraduates attends a community college and four out of five students are enrolled in workforce development courses to increase their workforce skills.

Dr. Jerry Parker, president of Delaware County Community College, and the president of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, reported that earlier this year, AdvancePA released a statewide survey, conducted by Zogby International, which indicated “the extraordinary depth of support and great demand that community colleges enjoy in Pennsylvania.” Parker said the poll validates the importance of community colleges to the public.

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Gina Stewart studies to make her goal of a December graduation.

Spilling the beans

By Saundra Maddox
Staff Writer

Continued on page 2

Award winning martial artist teaches students to excel

By Steven Leitai

Gerald Williams Jr., 27, meticulously puts on his uniform, carefully zipping his pants and jacket so as not to wrinkle anything. He then ties his first degree black belt around his waist, in a mannerbefitting his greatest trophy. Williams brushes his hair for a moment before stretching in preparation for the calisthenics that signal the start of his Tae Kwon Do class.

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Williams claims that the DCCC Tae Kwon Do program started with on-site coffee through an independent company.

Burlap and Bean originated as an independent company almost four years ago in Newtown Square. One of the four owners, Christine “Christi” Endicott, is the manager of the Marple campus Burlap and Bean. Endicott alternates between her two establishments. According to Endicott, Burlap and Bean was originally created to provide an atmosphere which supports the community, local musicians, and artist. Endicott said DCCC approached the family-owned business, a fair trade store, about providing the school with on-site coffee through an independent company.

Endicott believes that being at DCCC has created great opportunities for her business. “It has helped build awareness of the company,” Endicott said. “We see about 300 to 400 people a day and because people do prefer us in such a high-demand we have extended our hours.”

Several students find Burlap and Bean to be a great place to hang out on campus.

Continued on page 2

Spilling the beans

By Saundra Maddox
Staff Writer

When DCCC opened its new STEM building last semester, who would have thought that one little coffee stand would have such a huge impact on the campus. Burlap and Bean originated as an independent company almost four years ago in Newtown Square. One of the four owners, Christine “Christi” Endicott, is the manager of the Marple campus Burlap and Bean. Endicott alternates between her two establishments.

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Continued on page 2
Community colleges use AdvancePA to reduce tuition

"It came back loud and clear that nine out of 10 Pennsylvanians are supportive of community colleges," Parker said. "We are using this poll as a spring board to [reach] our community legislators."

In addition to the survey, AdvancePA.net has an electronic petition open to the public and to let the state know the public backs the community colleges. Parker said that a committee of DCCC students, including the student government, is working to build awareness on campus to encourage their fellow classmates to sign the petition. The committee attended orientation, Springfest and other organized events to spread the word.

According to Parker, DCCC students are leading the way with almost 1,000 student signatures. The goal is 10,000 signatures and the AdvancePA Web site has logged around 7,000 signatures. Once the goal is reached, AdvancePA plans to announce the results to state legislators and decision makers as well as encourage those that supported the petition to write their senators, making it known that they personally support community colleges in time to impact the 2011 budget.

"Our biggest concern is [that] enrollment increased 10 percent last year and went up another 3 to 4 percent this fall," Parker said. He reported that the state’s current budget used federal stimulus money to fund community colleges this year. This replaced the state funding and will go away the end of June, leaving DCCC with a 10 percent loss in their budget next year. Parker emphasized that DCCC needs the state to restore this money to avoid increasing tuition to their students.

"Affordability of community college is at risk," Parker said. "Expenses, utility cost, and ongoing expenses would drive the increase. The only recourse we will have is to pass this on to the students. Without state funding we may be putting affordable tuition out of reach for some."

Stewart, now a business administration major at DCCC, said she has signed the petition.

"I have three classes remaining this semester and am planning to graduate in December 2010," she added. "I also have two daughters that have used the funding to put themselves through community college. There is no way I could have helped them with tuition. So here are three women ranging from 21 to 43 that have benefited. It has made a difference in our lives in a positive way."

Contact Cass Hamby at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Burlap and Bean’s new STEM cafe

Kyle Malatesta, 17-year-old and an Applied Engineering major, has never had cafeteria coffee, he said he prefers Burlap and Bean. "My favorite item to get is coffee," Malatesta said and agrees that Burlap and Bean have decent prices.

Aleah Giandonato, 21-year-old paralegal major, believes that Burlap and Bean has reasonable prices for their items. "My favorite item to get is the Ice Carmel Cappuccino," Giandonato said. She has had both cafeteria coffee and Burlap and Bean, but prefers B&B.

But not everyone on campus expressed their satisfaction with Burlap and Bean. Kathryn “KC” Campbell, a Library Circulation and Catalog Assistant, said she does not prefer Burlap and Bean over the cafeteria because she tries to stay away from the tempting sweets. "I will go to Burlap and Bean for my snack," Campbell said. "I like the freshness of the food, smoothies, and quality of customer service."

Although Jennie Hutchins, also a Library Circulation Assistant, admitted that she loves to get the Mango Pina Colada smoothie she thinks Burlap and Bean is expensive. "It has a limited menu and seems unorganized," Hutchins said. “Not to mention that the line is constantly long.”

One might wonder what Burlap and Bean has in store for the future. Endicott said “the business is choosing wisely for the business and community.”

Contact Saundra Maddox at communitarian@dccc.mail.edu.
South African street service: an economy in crisis By Maxwell McAdams

I had never driven on the left side of the road and it had been years since I had last operated a manual transmission. So renting a car in South Africa should have been like learning to drive again. But I was not as cautious as a new driver for a friend once mentioned that – like a bicycle – a stick shift needs to be mastered only once. Consequently, I, with a reasonable amount of confidence in my muscle memory, put my Toyota Yaris in first gear began to pedal. Generally, my head is the coolest degree of calm, but as he pulled away and I looked at my mangled bumper, my composer melted, my face flushed and from my lips ruptured a stream of obscenities that included Afrikaans expletives I did not realize had penetrated my vernacular. I mangled bumper, my composure melted, my face flushed and from my lips ruptured a stream of obscenities that included Afrikaans expletives I did not realize had penetrated my vernacular. I 

South African street service: an economy in crisis

Seek and you shall (not) find

Award winning martial artist inspires students to excel

From page 1 of Harris Sport Taekwondo in Philadelphia. Harris was a member of the U.S. National Karate Team during the 1980's. Williams claims that Harris, who is known for mentoring his pupils to the highest level, has nurtured his progress into the arena of martial arts competition.

Williams refers to such contests as “Sport Karate,” which falls under the category of point-sparring. It is full contact, but – unlike sparring in boxing, where lighter blows are primarily used as practice, scoring is awarded for striking the opponent in specific places, similar to fencing.

“We usually wear headgear, handgear and footgear, but it depends upon the rules of the competition,” Williams says.

The rules that individual tournaments have separate divisions for weight, age and four different color belts, black being the elite. In addition, as many as 5,000 contestants can pay an entry fee between $65-$75 for what could potentially result in medals, plaques, six-foot trophies and a cash prize ranging from $500-$1,000.

Williams intends to utilize the aforementioned tournaments as preparation for his future goals. “I would love to someday compete in Taekwondo at the Olympic Games,” he says.

Furthermore, he aspires to be a member of Team Paul Mitchell, a professional karate squad that travels the country and participates in various tournaments. The team is sponsored by the same Paul Mitchell that manufactures hair care products.

Williams may have an abundance of opportunities awaiting him in the future. However, he might just settle for staying home and opening his own school in Greater Philadelphia.

“That’s my goal, my dream,” Williams says. “The whole reason I went to Vegas in the first place was because the SuperShow helps people start their own business.”
Hello and welcome new and returning DCCC students. Thank you for stopping at one of our kiosks, the B&B cafe, or some random table or desk to pick up this back-to-school issue of The Communitarian.

I hope we are doing our job in entertaining and informing you of all the happenings on and off campus.

I’ve been the editor here for a year and a half now, and have seen lots of (good and bad) copy hit my desk.

All of The Communitarian crew and I are most certainly compelled to enter the world of journalism. Why? I really couldn’t tell you.

With all of its deadlines, inflated workforce, story-hacking and angry editors, any aspiring writer would back off and say “Hmmm... I think I’ll major in English.”

But, we are story tellers of the truth and can’t but face the torment of writing and editing copy.

We do it for ourselves as much as it is a vocation, but we also do it for all of you. You, the reader, we believe must be informed and so we seek to find and report the things most interesting and provoking to you.

I’m sure we don’t always succeed in doing so. In fact, I know that some of the articles and issues go unread by many in this school. Some of you are too busy and a few of you probably just aren’t interested.

Well, I’m glad some of the formerly disinterested are now reading this and I hope you’ll indulge me.

This semester marks my last as executive editor. I really enjoy doing this job – for the most part – and I’ve learned a lot about writing, editing and working with people.

I’ve met all sorts of interesting characters at this school, and I’m sure there are plenty more who would make excellent subjects, and I’m sure you all know someone or something interesting happening at the college.

So, I’m going to seize this opportunity and ask you to write to me. Write to me about anything you want. Ask me and I shall answer.

We always like to hear what you think about the paper, or what you want us to write about.

If any of the opinions or articles written by a member of the staff bothers you, write a letter about it. We love challenge and inquiry so let us have it!

Contact Katy O’Dwyer at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.

Letters to the Editor

I came across your newspaper The Communitarian. I did read most of the articles and found them interesting and amusing, exposing facts through criticism and irony, but I would not say the same about the title [of the publication] The Communist.

I am sure, as in all articles irony was used in the title as well as a form of criticism for having uniformity in education. I think, if the newspaper pretends to be the voice of all the students of the College, this title unwittingly echoes back a negative feeling in the mind and spirit of international students coming from former communist countries; and there are a considerable number of these students in our College.

To make matters worse, the symbol of the “hammer and sickle”, catches the eye of each reader. That is a typical communist, Stalin era symbol with the two tools allegedly symbolizing the unity between the industrial proletariat and the peasantry in the former communist countries.

Today it is found in many flags of remaining communist countries in the world.

Coming myself from a former communist country – Albania, where communism reigned for about 50 years, just the look at this symbol brings back bad memories in my mind. People in my country would at that time, in a hideous way, refer to these two tools as the tools of destruction. The hammer used to destroy human values of the society, and theickle used to “cut heads” of people opposing the regime. Life under communism was difficult and dangerous. It was difficult because people were impoverished by having their private property ripped off. They were not allowed to have their own cars, were paid enough to lead a life based only on necessities, were not allowed to pursue their religious beliefs, and the list goes on and on. Life was dangerous because should you dare complain against all this, you would end up in prison and your family deported to the most remote areas of the country with barely any contact with former relatives and friends. Young people like you could be put to prison even for the simplest reason of having sung Beatles’ songs… unbelievable, but it is true.

[In my opinion the title as well as this symbol does not reflect what the newspaper presents to the readers.]

Thank you,

Ajhanda Duka

Young Americans can fight, but not drink

By Lucas Rodgers

Managing Editor

“Old enough to fight, old enough to drink.”

This argument has been tossed around time and time again, but it must hold some validity if it’s such a common phrase.

The idea of lowering the drinking age, specifically to 18, in the U.S, is quite a controversial issue. There are various arguments for and against such a proposition, in addition to the growing list of teens above.

One reason people are hesitant to lower the drinking age is a fear that it will increase the death rate among teens, primarily in accidents related to drinking and driving.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 3,000 teenagers die in car crashes in 2008. Of these teens, 25 percent of drivers had some alcohol content of 0.08 grams per deciliters or higher. Though alcohol impairs one’s driving abilities, it is not a constant or sole factor in these car crashes.

While considering these statistics, it should also be noted that most teens consume the majority of their alcohol by binge drinking. Binge drinking is the act of consuming large quantities of alcohol in a short period of time; it is far more deadly, and impairs one’s senses and reaction time even more than drinking in moderation.

With all this talk of binge drinking, it may seem like an absurd idea to lower the drinking age, thus making alcohol more accessible to teens. However, it is very likely that lowering the drinking age to 18 may actually reduce the cases of binge drinking and number of alcohol related deaths among teens.

One of drinking’s primary appeals to teens is the illicit nature of the activity. If the drinking age was 18 instead of 21, it would reduce the thrill factor for teens, and would no longer be an appealing activity for those in turn, would lead to less binge drinking and fewer alcohol related deaths among teens.

Cigarettes are a fine example of this phenomenon. To a 15-year-old, smoking cigarettes may seem cool and rebellious, but to an 16-year-old, smoking loses some of its appeal with the health risks and increasing costs that go along with it.

Of course, addiction is a huge factor with cigarettes. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., killing about 443,000 people a year, according to CDC.

It makes no sense that teens are allowed to purchase tobacco products at the age of 18, but must wait until they turn 21 to consume a less addictive substance that kills fewer people per year.

Europe, Asia, Africa and elsewhere have a legal drinking age of 18 or lower; some countries have no arbitrary drinking age at all.

Italy happens to be such a country with no established drinking age, although 16 is the generally accepted age required for purchasing alcohol.

I studied in Florence in June, and I must say, I don’t recall observing any drunken Italian teenagers roaming the streets. On one occasion, I did witness a group of Italian youths, who appeared to be around the age of 14, enter a bar, and attempt to buy alcohol, but the bartender denied them the sale.

In countries like Italy, few people actually drink with the objective of getting drunk. Alcohol is generally considered a recreational drink to be consumed in moderation with a meal or among family and friends. If it works for them, why not for us?

Lowering the drinking age to 18 in the U.S., will teach teens to drink more responsibly in moderation. If an 18-year-old can be considered responsible enough to serve his country, vote, marry, and buy tobacco, he should also be able to purchase and consume alcohol.

Contact Lucas Rodgers at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.

Letters to the Editor...
Environmentalists find no welcome at the White House

By Bill McKibben
Los Angeles Times (MCT)

I got to see the now-famous enthusiasm gap between liberals and conservatives up last week, and it’s a pretty sight.

The back-story: I help run a global warming campaign called 350.org. In midterm, we organized an effort to urge world leaders to put solar panels on the roofs of their residences. It was part of the lead-up to a gigantic Global Work Party on Oct. 10 (10-10-10), and a way to give prime ministers and politburos something easy and visible to do in the fight against global warming. One of those crucial leaders is, of course, Barack Obama.

And so we tracked down the solar panels that once had graced the White House roof, back in the 1970s under Jimmy Carter. After Ronald Reagan took them down, Unity College in rural Maine put them on their cafeteria roof, and they’ve remained there since. That college’s president, Mitch Thomason, immediately offered us a panel to take back to the White House. Better still, he encouraged three of his students to accompany the panel.

And so, on the day after Labor Day, we set off in a biodiesel college van. It couldn’t have been more fun. Garlic Parmesan Pops, excellent snack food, rallies each night. Wherever we could, we’d fire up the panel, pour a gallon of water in the top, point it toward the sun, and eight or nine minutes later, steam beginning to flow out the bottom. The nine-year-old don’t it work like a charm - a vexing reminder that we’ve known how to do this stuff for decades.

We just haven’t done it.

That’s what we were telling reporters as they turned out along the route: If the Obamas would put solar panels back on the White House roof, it would help get the message across - the same way that seed sales climbed 30 percent across the country in the year after Michelle planted her garden.

There was just one nagging concern as we headed south. We still hadn’t heard anything conclusive from the White House. We’d asked them (for two months) if they’d accept the old panels as a historic relic returned home, and if the president would commit to installing new ones soon. We’d even found a company, Sunergy, that was eager to help them for free. Finally, on a Thursday evening, the White House agreed to a meeting at 9 the next morning.

The two bureaucrats who met with us in the Executive Office Building spent a lot of time bragging about the administration’s environmental accomplishments, including the great work they were doing on federal buildings. I was beginning to despair that nothing could stop the flow of self-praise when one of the three seniors from Unity raised her hand and politely interrupted.

I already knew that these students (Jean Allatore, Amanda Nelson and Jamie Nemecek) were special, but my guess is the bureaucrats hadn’t figured that out. Unity is out in the woods, and these kids were majoring in things like wildlife conservation. They’d never had an encounter like this. It stood to reason that they’d be cowed. But they weren’t.

And another, respectfully but firmly, they asked a series of tough questions and refused to be flabbergasted by yet another stream of platitudes.

Here’s what they wanted to know: If the administration was serious about spreading the word on renewable energy, why wouldn’t it do the obvious thing and put solar panels on the White House?

The bureaucrats refused to answer the question. One kept smiling and saying, “If reporters call and ask us, we will provide our rationale,” but they didn’t provide it to us.

They also refused to accept the Carter panel, or even pose for a picture with the students. Asked to do something respectful and symbolic to rekindle a little of the joy that had turned out so many of us as volunteers for Obama in 2008, they point-blank said no.

If you want to know about the much-discussed enthusiasm gap between Democratic and Republican bases, this was it in action. As Almtara told the New York Times: “We went in without any doubt about the importance of this. They handed us a pamphlet.” Nelson added: “It was really shocking to me to find out that they really didn’t seem to care.”

The normal way to handle a failure like the one we had at the White House is to claim some kind of victory. We could have said we had an excellent exchange of views and that the administration had taken seriously our plea. But that would have been lying.

Alternatively, we could have rounded on the administration and taken our best shot. It would have been easy enough right then and there to chain ourselves to the White House fence with the panel next to us. It would have gotten some serious press.

But I couldn’t stand to make that enthusiasm gap wider, not seven weeks before an election. True, it’s the moment when we might have some leverage. But no less true: The other side is running a long slate of Senate candidates who boast that they don’t believe in climate change.

And a confession. We’d walked past Obama’s official portrait on the way out, and despite the meeting we’d just had, I couldn’t help but smile at the thought that he was president. I could remember my own enthusiasm from two years ago that had me knocking on doors across New Hampshire. I admired his character and his smarts, and if I admire them a little less now, the president is still there.

And so I couldn’t help thinking - part of me at least - like this: The White House political team has decided that if they put solar panels on the roof, Fox News will use that as one more line of attack. Jimmy Carter comparisons aren’t what the administration is after.

If that’s their thinking, I doubt they’re on the mark. As far as I can tell, there is a far better understanding of the power of symbols. Witness the furor they’ve kicked up over “the Mosque at Ground Zero.” My feeling is that we should use the symbols we’ve got, and few are better than a solar panel.

Actually, I’ll be surprised if the White House doesn’t put up solar panels within a year. But even if they do, that would just be the barest of beginnings. Which is why, with other environmental leaders, we recently issued a call for ideas about a campaign of civil disobedience next spring at power plants and coal mines but at White Houses too, if they don’t turn at least a little green.

We’ve run out of spare decades to deal with climate change this summer’s events in the Arctic, in Russia, in Pakistan proved that with great clarity. We know what we need to do, and we must do it. Enthusiastically.
A successful spring for DCCC athletics

By Willie McGonigle
Staff Writer

The spring athletic season has come and gone and DCCC athletes enjoyed a successful spring season with all three teams qualifying for the post-season action in the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference.

Under the direction of Manager Paul Motta the Phantoms baseball team became the first team in the 40-year history of the EPCC to go a perfect 16-0 and win the championship. Leading the way for the Phantoms were players Michael Delio, Matt Debarberie, Andrew Dunn.

The Phantoms were also led by second baseman Evan Cline. Cline maintained a batting average of .487, had 28 runs batted in, 19 stolen bases, seven doubles, two triples while only striking out twice in 78 at bats.

Cline dominated on the field as well having a fielding percentage of 96.4. Brain Bayliss led the way as the starting pitcher for the Phantoms.

“We really earned it because we put so much effort into our work ethic. We did a lot of positive things and it paid off for us,” Bayliss said. “Motta is a fantastic baseball coach and a great ‘Motta-Valor’. He is a player’s coach and we are so thankful to have the opportunity to learn from him during our career at DCCC.”

For the first time in five years the Phantoms softball team under the guidance of Lindsey Kuajaw finished the regular season with a record of 3-3. All three of the Phantoms’ wins came over Luzerne County Community College. The Phantoms won over the Trailblazers came by an average of 12 runs per game. The Phantoms also qualified for the playoffs but their game was not played for an unknown reason.

The tennis team led by Coach Megan Bartley finished the regular season with a record of 3-4 that was good enough to reach the post season tournament as the fourth place team. Christopher Rechner and Jessica Englisher led the Phantoms to finish second in the post-season tournament.

Contact Willie at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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- Advisers from Penn State Brandywine will be available at the Marple campus on designated days the week of October 4 during Delaware County Community College’s Transfer Information Week. For more information call the Transfer Office at 610-359-5060.

Come visit our campus

- Walk-in Wednesdays (call for more information)
- Or arrange for an individual appointment (see the Website for details)
Lucas Rodgers, managing editor of The Communitarian, traveled to Italy for DCCC’s Summer in Florence Program in June. Students could choose from two different Humanities courses. “Being engulfed in a different culture was a great experience,” Rodgers said.
When Omar transferred to RWU, he knew he wanted to jump right into the community. A member of the Multicultural Student Union and an Orientation Advisor, Omar made connections all over campus. When the English major decided to take a class in Latino/Latina Literature, the fact that RWU didn’t offer one didn’t stop him. Omar proposed the class, found a professor to teach it, rounded up some students and had the course accepted by the Provost. Omar is paving his own way at RWU.

What will you do?

www.rwu.edu