Rendell offers tuition relief

By Maxim McAdams
Staff writer

Gov. Edward Rendell proposed legislation on Feb. 4 that may grant an invaluable gift to all public and community college students earning less than $100,000 dollars a year.

The Pennsylvania Tuition Relief Act, made possible by the $787 billion federal stimulus package proposal, will make available a potential $7,600 dollars per student towards relief in tuition fees and room and board, according to Rendell.

"Pennsylvania families are today wrestling with the gut-wrenching question of whether they can still afford to send their children to college. Getting a degree and being qualified to enter the working world makes all the difference in our economy," Rendell said in a recent press release. "When it comes to helping young people get there, the hard truth is that right now, we are not doing nearly enough to provide students and the families that support them with the means to complete their college degrees.

Rendell is pushing for increased government spending by $300 million on education during a recession. Some may wonder, is this the mark of madness or is Rendell seeing a bigger picture?

According to Rendell, it is the latter; his administration is earmarking education as the most important form of social currency in our society – the process that keeps America's economy running from teacher to student and from Wall Street mogul to up-and-coming broker.

Rendell's budget also includes a $35 million increase in Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) tuition grants. These grants ensure that all 28 schools under the Pennsylvania state system of higher education will receive an ample sum of grant money.

In addition to the $35 million increase, Rendell is proposing an extra $10 million to provide other types of grants for nearly 10,000 community college students, while he ensures that previously given grants are safely in the hands of students already receiving financial aid.

According to Rendell’s plan, incoming students to community or public colleges will have to pay only what they can afford, the sole limitation being a $1,000 fee required of every student regardless of their financial status.

Rendell said his proposal will allow an additional 20,000 students to seek college degrees, which in turn will provide enough tuition to maintain and even assist the economic growth of public and community colleges.

According to Ray Toole, director of DCCC’s financial aid, See TUITION on Page 7

Students seek tax aid

By Walbert Young
Staff writer

Individuals and corporations spent $265.5 billion on income tax preparation before paying a single dime of tax in 2005, according to the Tax Foundation, a non-partisan tax research group based in Washington, D.C.

This yearly “compliance cost” is projected to rise to $482.7 billion by 2015, and the money is spent dodging obstacles and finding loopholes in a tax code containing 5.6 million words – seven times the length of the Bible.

The stimulus package devotes $208 billion to tax relief in a section that adds another 577 pages to the federal tome.

When the federal government first collected income tax in 1913, the tax code was eight pages long and was limited to the wealthiest one percent.

One of the reasons the tax code grew to be so complex, said Professor Anthony Daly-Leonard, is that it gives Congress an avenue by which to direct the economy that would otherwise be absent with a flat tax.

Daly-Leonard, a certified public accountant and past advisor to the DCCC Business Society, said proposals for a flat tax have been brought up in Congressional bills. The primary obstacle, he said, is that a functional flat tax would require all individuals to pay an 8 percent minimum – well above the zero percent for many at the poverty line.

On Feb. 25, the Business Society held a yearly event to offer students free help. Daly-Leonard and Professor Susan Stranix, present advisor and an assistant professor of business, helped nearly a dozen students with their taxes.

Jolene Jordan, 43, an allied health major, saw a sign for the event. She said she has paid accountants $200 or more for tax help in previous years.

See TAX on Page 2

Laptop trend on the rise

By Atia Murphy
Staff writer

"Owning a laptop today is as popular as having a cell phone," said JoAnn Dougherty, 31, an education major at DCCC. "I love my laptop and can’t imagine my life without it.

Dougherty is a part-time student and works full time at a daycare center during the day. "I bring my laptop with me to work so I can do my homework during downtime," she said. "It is so convenient to be able to pull out and do research for a paper or just check my e-mail."

Dougherty admits that the main use for her laptop is split between personal and school purposes, but she never brings it to class because it is a distraction.

Technology has certainly come a long way from the invention of the typewriter in 1867 to the introduction of the first portable computer in 1981. When first introduced, laptops weighed 24 pounds and cost more than $2,000. Today, according to Bizrate.com, consumers can buy one for around $300 weighing only 3 pounds.

Worldwide, PC companies shipped 38.6 million laptop computers in the last quarter of 2008 raising sales up 40 percent compared to the previous quarter, according to Gartner. According to Hewlett-Packard, their top seller, the Compaq N400 and the Pavilion N400 was the world’s best-selling notebook. HP shipped 1.6 million units.

In this high-speed and technically advanced world, a student without a laptop may feel behind the times.

See LAPTOP on Page 2
be applied after paying taxes and do not aid students with current needs, other benefits listed in the bill aim to provide a more immediate assistance.

Federal Work Study funds are expected to be increased by $200 million, allowing hundreds of students to gain employment through their campuses.

"Work Study is not that great a program for paying tuition and fees because you have to enroll and be here and then work," said Toole, the director of Financial Aid. Even then, he said, the money earned is not very high and pays mostly for traveling expenses.

Another benefit for students included in the bill is a $5.5 billion increase in Pell grants, raising each endowment by $550 and $650 million that will be assigned to educational technology state grants.

For most students, the increase in the Pell grant will be balanced with a reduction of a state grant, Toole said. The excess state grants funds could then be redistributed and granted to students that otherwise would not have gotten them.

Veterans, Toole said, will enjoy the Pell grant increase the most because they receive the maximum state grants regardless.

"The economy is in a crisis not seen since the Great Depression," said Congressman Dave Obey, (D-Wis.). Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee in a recent press release. "This bill is the first crucial step in a concerted effort to create and save three to four million jobs, jumpstart our economy, and begin the process of transforming it for the 21st century."

Meanwhile, more than $100 billion will be charged to increase unemployment benefits including job training, healthcare assistance and food stamps.

Bill is the bill are numerous ways to revitalize the economy – science, technology and infrastructure being key points throughout the document.

"Contractors must be engaged across the nation to create jobs," said Obey. Thirty billion dollars, he said, will sponsor

TAX from Page 1

"I just can’t afford that this year," she said. "I don’t know tax code – I know all about health."

Clancy Conway, 25, a business major and an official of the Business Society, was on hand to assist. He admitted that he was unfamiliar with the federal tax code, adding that he moved here from Australia less than two years ago.

"Australian system is far simpler, and that their government has created a site for doing that online filing on the Web."

"Here, even online stuff costs money," he said. Many sites exist to help U.S. citizens file their taxes and nearly all of them will charge at least a nominal fee.

Randy Tang, 19, a management major, was another official on hand to help with the event. He admitted he was also unfamiliar with the tax code, citing his recent arrival from Taiwan.

He noted that Taiwanese taxes were simpler due to — if no other reason — the lack of an additional tax imposed by States. Pennsylvania changes a flat rate of 3.07 percent on all personal income, and each county may levy additional taxes on income and property.

While the tax code may be overwhelming, there is hope for financially strapped college students: The Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits ...
Beyond an old farm gate, a deep and well- worn path leads down a hill, cutting through old oak trees and undergrowth. Following the banks of a creek, the path resurges out of the woods to the edge of a rolling meadow, where the tall grasses sway and glitter in the late afternoon sun.

This landscape, known as Hildacy Farm, located five minutes away from DCCC Main campus, is ideal for students to sneak a break between classes, study, nap, or take a short walk to clear their head. Once a working farm, the 55-acre site is now open to the public sunrise to sunset for hiking, dog walking, horseback riding, and other programs.

The farm is a working nature preserve and headquarters for Natural Lands Trust, the region’s largest private non-profit conservation organization that owns and protects 21 preserves encompassing 50,000 acres in southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Since 1953, Natural Lands Trust (NLT) has worked with communities to preserve the beauty of meadows and woodlands and keep them intact for future generations. The organization fills many roles protecting natural areas, acting as a steward educating communities about preservation, and connecting people to nature.

What we are trying to do on these preserves is very challenging, particularly in Delaware County where open space is such a commodity,” said Joe Vinton, site manager at the Hildacy Farm. “We are trying to preserve our natural resources, restore the degraded areas, and educate the public.”

Part of Vinton’s job at Hildacy farm involves the control of invasive plants and insects, and monitoring the overall health and development of natural species. This occasionally requires the use of prescribed fire, a method that mimics the beneficial effects fire has in nature, such as clearing dead materials and stimulating new growth.

Hildacy Farm offers a stunning variety of plant and animal life year round, Vinton said, but it is important that “when you leave, leave as though no one would ever know you were there.”

“Students can enjoy our Hildacy preserve and others while respecting natural areas and other values,” said Jim Thorne, senior director of communications at Natural Lands Trust.

Vinton and Thorne are referring in part to the principles of Leave No Trace, an international nonprofit organization that advocates responsible enjoyment and active protection of the outdoors. According to the organization’s stated core values, the most effective way to protect the health and beauty of natural areas is through education and practical scientific understanding.

Among other programs, Leave No Trace offers classroom trainers who conduct workshops and multiple day courses to educate college students, outdoor guides, and land management organizations such as Natural Lands Trust.

Beyond their preserves, NLT consults with municipalities on how to plan and care for their open spaces, and sometimes engage in conservation easements or legal agreements with property owners and municipalities that permanently protect land from development.

A 2006 report by the Pennsylvania Department for Conservation and Natural Resources acknowledges that while wildfires are stable overall, certain regions of the Commonwealth are at high risk due to urban sprawl and development, especially southeastern and central Pennsylvania.

According to Oliver Buss, senior director of communications at NLT, there are three major consequences resulting from the loss of open spaces: “First there is the obvious ecological loss of plants and wildlife. Second there are the economic consequences related to land development. Migrating homeowners place a strain on the infrastructures of schools and other services. Lastly, the loss of scenic beauty affects quality of life. Our sense of our environment influences psychological health.”

Buss speaks of the book “Last Child in the Woods” by Richard Louv, a work near the heart of the organization’s mission. “The book captures the growing sense that we have lost the responsibility to let kids get their hands dirty…the responsibility to create future conservationists,” Buss said.

Within his book, Louv argues that direct exposure to nature is essential for the physical and emotional development of children. “The child in nature is an endangered species,” he wrote, “and the health of children and the health of the earth are inseparable.”

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**Exhibit high-lights ad art**

**By Walbert Young
Staff writer**

The Art Institute of Philadelphia will be showcasing the public service advertisement (PSAs) of the Ad Council from 1942 to the present in an exhibit entitled “Advertising That Changed the Nation.”

The exhibit highlights the elements of creativity and community that can offer: The Ad Council’s campaigns have created American icons including Rosie the Riveter, Smokey Bear, and Crash Test Dummies.

Christa Pugh has been a managing director of the Ad Council for five years and has spent 15 years working in media relations. She has worked for charity organizations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, but said she found her work with the Ad Council most satisfying.

“At the end of the day, you really get to see how you’re affecting someone,” she said. For more than 65 years, the PSAs of the Ad Council have mobilized volunteer and charity efforts; reduced wildfires, crime, and high school dropout rates; motivated diverse conservation; and raised awareness for a barrage of social issues.

“The Ad Council is always keeping a pulse on what can quickly be changed,” in American society, she said. She cited the Ad Council’s transition from focusing on “drunk driving” (“Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk”) to “buzzed driving” (“Friends Don’t Let Friends Get Drunk”) in 1990 to “drunk driving” (“Friends Don’t Let Friends Get Drunk”) in 1994.

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Faculty reach out to gay students

By Michael Brisgone
Staff writer

"Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered are everywhere," said Dr. Audrey Ervin a associate professor of psychology at DCCC who has decided, along with Denise Danford, an associate professor of speech communications, to start a discussion group for anyone with sexuality and gender issues.

The group, which will keep all student information confidential, offers — but is not limited to topics of identity, the coming out process, stress, family dynamics, challenges and homophobia.

While the discussion group is not considered therapy, both professors want this group to be a supportive place where students can address questions, concerns, frustrations and even success stories.

There is no set statistic for the number of gays and lesbians on college campuses because it is illegal for a college to ask a student his/her sexual orientation.

However, according to a recent study completed by the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce (NGLTF) many gay and lesbian students are still reluctant to reveal their sexuality on college campuses.

Out of 500 students surveyed at six community colleges, 80 percent said they saw or heard of someone who was subjected to discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Within that survey 41 percent of the respondents said their campus did not address issues related towards gays and lesbians.

In years past, DCCC has offered clubs to promote gay pride and activism.

"That is not this group," Ervin said. “The idea for this discussion group is to create a safe space for those who need it.”

While those previous groups focused on visibility, this discussion group will focus on confidentiality, Danford said.

"The need to talk about these issues will never go away," Danford said. “We want to offer the safe space but the students have to do their part in reaching out.”

The group’s facilitators may also arrange educational movies, guest speakers and anything else that may meet the students’ needs.

Ervin and Danford both have a large background working with GLBT students.

Ervin is a licensed psychologist who taught one of the first graduate level courses in the country based on counseling GLBT individuals.

Danford was the faculty advisor for a number of groups geared towards gays and lesbians on campus.

"Since being here at DCCC I’ve had 30 to 40 students come out to me," said Ervin. “In the beginning of each of my classes I let my students know I’m an ally.”

An ally is a person who is an advocate for sexual minority populations, Ervin says. She wants to use her voice, she said, for people who may not have one.

“People may not realize it, but sexual identities are so diverse," Ervin said. “People automatically assume that individuals are straight when, in fact, a large number of them are not.”

Both professors shared the same concerns about whether or not the club will succeed here on campus.

"There is always a large student interest in the beginning," Danford said. “Then, after a few weeks, fewer people come and by the end of the semester the club is non-existent.”

This is not unusual at a commuter school, Danford said, because most students want to come to campus for class and then leave as soon as possible.

Beyond campus, students may find a large outlet where they can go and be themselves in the city, said Ervin, Philadelphia, she added, has an area dedicated to GLBT individuals between 11th and Pine and 14th and Walnut.

The area, commonly referred to as the “gayborhood,” is covered in rainbow flags which hang from the street lights and store fronts, the community offers everything from book stores to clubs and even café’s where GLBT individuals can go and be themselves.

Gays and lesbians were center stage at the 2009 Academy Awards when Dustin Lance Black won an Oscar for his screenplay “Milk” featuring the life of Harvey Milk. Milk was California’s first openly gay elected official who was assassinated in 1978.

"To all the gay and lesbian kids out there tonight who have been told they are less than... you are beautiful wonderful creatures of value and that no matter what anyone tells you, God does love you and that very soon... you will have equal rights federally ..." Black said, “you are beautiful...”

Black won an Oscar for his screenplay “Milk” featuring the life of Harvey Milk. Milk was California's first openly gay elected official who was assassinated in 1978.

After Milk was assassinated, the GLBT community organized protests across the country. One such controversial right is the issue of same sex marriage. So far only Massachusetts allows gay marriage. New Jersey and New Hampshire offer similar "agreements" called a same-sex civil union. But, according to Danford, "Marriage and civil unions from more states are coming.”

For more information about this discussion group or nearby GLBT activities both professors strongly encourage students to contact them. Contact Dr. Audrey Ervin at 610-359-5045 or aervin@dccc.edu and Professor Denise Danford at 610-359-7380 or ddanford@dccc.edu.

Contact Michael Brisgone at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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Students confront body image issues

By Michael McAdams
Staff writer

Like any illusion, physical perfection is not always what it seems.

Michele Boyle, a DCCC counselor revealed the deceptions behind the fantasy that is flawless beauty in a seminar titled, "Body Image," held on Feb. 5.

Although in the 21st century the promotion of internal beauty is politically correct, it is not ideal, as external beauty is silently and relentlessly sought after, according to Boyle. She explained how the ideal of external perfection is promoted by the media and craved by the general public to such a degree that it affects every second of the daily routines of most Americans.

According to Boyle, people who continue to buy into the means which are unrealistic for most to attain, and downward comparison, comparing one's self to a similar social and professional standard such as classmate or co-worker. "These downward comparisons can be healthy," Boyle said, claiming that they can often serve as motivation to exercise more frequently or maintain a better diet.

"The Self-Discparity Theory can be the most dangerous social theory of all," Boyle said. It is the theory Boyle calls the

Like many college students, Rebekah Dubin struggles to juggle a work load made heavier by the pressure to conform to pop culture's ideal body image.

most popular among teens – a circumstance in which reality has no bearing over one's self perception – where instead one judges him or herself by internal, improbable ideals of unknown origin. It is a mindset that originates from one's dissatisfaction with his or her own genetic weight predisposition and can often lead to fruitless dieting and detrimental eating disorders.

"The best way to lose weight is to eat healthfully and exercise that's all that's required," Boyle said.

According to Boyle, people who continue to buy into the illusion of physical perfection are back to the reality that is flawed beauty.

As students confront body image issues

Enlisting the cost of textbooks

By Tim Brennan
Staff writer

As if the financial strains of tuition were not enough, college students also find themselves struggling with textbook prices.

"The books are ridiculously overpriced," said Rob Nwogu, a 21-year-old business student. Every semester, he said he spends about $250 to $300 on textbooks. "I got a book for $65 on eBay that was $100 at the bookstore," said Mike Connor, an 18-year-old graphic design student at DCCC.

There are a number of resources to aid students when they find that a large number of them felt that the cost of books was out of money very quickly.

"I lost 20 pounds just by stopping myself from eating vending machine food and eating real substance from the school's cafeteria," said 23-year-old DCCC student Dominique Jones.

"Body Image," held on Feb. 5.

According to Boyle, only 6 percent of one's body image is accurately assessed unless they have something to lose. "I acknowledge the fact that the body image they promote is not accurate and unrealistic, but it's called the social comparison theory," Boyle said.

Boyle outlined the differences between upward comparison, those goals which are unrealistic for most to attain, and downward comparison, comparing one's self to someone of a similar social and professional standard such as classmate or co-worker. "These downward comparisons can be healthy," Boyle said. "You can often serve as motivation to exercise more frequently or maintain a better diet."

Boyle cited the example of the power of attraction. "If one relies on downward comparisons, then one's self esteem is affected by what he or she perceives about others. "But Holley is not alone in this line of thinking.

One such example of potential savings is "Statistical Techniques for Business and Economics," 13th Edition. "At the bookstore it costs $97.50 used; $130.25 new, but at amazon.com new copies are priced as low as $51.99," said Mike Connor.

Several other notable and popular resources are amazon.com and bookstores.

This sentiment is also held by a number of teachers as well.

"Textbooks are outrageously expensive, and I feel bad requiring students to pay as much as $85 for a book from which I'll only use a chapter," said Eartha Holley, an assistant professor of English.

"I got a book for $65 on eBay that was $100 at the bookstore," said Mike Connor, an 18-year-old graphic design student at DCCC.

Holley doesn't use one for her English Composition I students to have a textbook. Instead, she relies on his students reading each other's papers as well as suggested examples found in newspapers, magazines, and online.

"I feel we should use the books more if we’re paying X amount of dollars," said Phil Kassiotis, a 21-year-old liberal arts student.

Holley's not alone in this line of thought. Janice Baldwin-Hench, a professor of English, made a textbook optional for her English Composition II and developmental English students when she found that a large number of them felt that the cost of books wasn’t worth the benefit.

Baldwin-Hench subscribes to a method called "Baldwin-Hench." She uses the textbook at the beginning of the semester as a way to introduce the content. "It's a little more development of her own personal class materials. She also acknowledges that some students are more comfortable using a text which is why she makes that an option as well."

However there are teachers who have chosen not to use textbooks for entirely different reasons.

Every students have to deal with sky-rocketing textbook costs.

According to Boyle, people who continue to buy into the illusion of physical perfection are back to the reality that is flawed beauty. "Everyone wants to be teanaut," Boyle said in closing. "in closing explained that no man or woman will ever be able to accept their beauty externally if they can't step out of the mirror of that self-criticism and false perception.

"It all depends on how much you buy into stereotypes to your media, Boyle said. "It all depends on how much you buy into stereotypes to your media,

"I do not think it would be prudent to forgo textbook use on a regular basis, often making minimal changes to the text or graphics so they can remodel their product," Ranalli said.

One option that many students may not know about is DCCC’s book fund. Dianne Shames, an associate professor of English, who taught the seminar, "Body Image," explained that the book fund comes from mostly a raffle of items donated by businesses, both on and off campus.

However, there is a strict criteria for determining who receives money from the fund.

"The first year we were swamped with student applications," Shames said. "We ran out of money very quickly." 

Among the things considered are students' financial means as well as whether they have used the fund before. Priority is usually given to students requesting it for the first time, and students are limited as to how many textbooks they can receive.

All of the applications are evaluated by the DCCC student enrollment services specialists. While strides have been made to help students with textbook costs, it is still a prevalent problem. Baldwin-Hench had only one word to describe the cost of textbooks: "unacceptable."

Contact Tim Brennan at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Contact Tim Brennan at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

March 11, 2009    Page 5
I don’t know about you, but mold and residue flavored peanut butter doesn’t sound appealing to me — with or without salmonella. Recent FDA observations of Peanut Corporation of America plant — which was linked to the latest nationwide salmonella outbreak — reveal disturbing findings on just what manufacturers consider reasonable sanitary conditions. 

PCA’s failures include knowingly shipping products that were “more than likely — contaminated with salmonella, continuing production under the threat of moldy coolers; and, generally, the peanut butter storage room’s sink; storing swaps; washing hands, utensils and mops in the peanut butter storage room’s sink; storing products in muddy coolers; and, generally, operating dirty production lines in unventilated areas with leaking roofs.”

The company dares to be the world’s finest peanut products, “and I haven’t even mentioned yet the live — but mostly dead — roaches found in the firm’s washroom near the production and packaging area.” Georgia Department of Agriculture is “able to conduct about 4,500 tests on products per year,” department official Oscar Garrison told the House subcommittee appointed to the case. “We inspect approximately 16,000 facilities.” That leaves consumers with more than 10,000 potential health hazards — in other words, practically every other product might be contaminated.

The last sample taken from the plant in 2007 tested negative for salmonella; Garrison said. I guess 2008 must have been a prosperous year for the bacteria. In September 2008, product testing for PCAs “terms of service said ‘licensee of PCA’s product,” said Darlene Cowart, president of PCA’s lab services at the time. The title on the sample said “PP Sales,” she added.

In January 2009, Minnesota Health Department linked Pasteuri Pride peanut butter, a PCA product, to the Salmonella outbreak, which started September 2008. No wonder PCA president Stewart Parnell took the fifth. Evidence obtained by the investigating House subcommittee “show a company that was more concerned with its bottom line than the safety of its customers,” said committee chairman Rep. Henry Waxman of California. Yet PCA’s spokeswoman Amy Rotenberg, a lawyer who specializes in government investigation and federal litigation, carefully stated that the company does not deny nor accept responsibility for the outbreak.

“PCAs not the first company to disregard public health. In 2008, baby spinach, tomatoes, jalapeno peppers, almonds and even cereal were linked to salmonella outbreaks. For the average person salmonella will only cause a four to seven days of stomach flu, but for the elderly, children and those with weak immune systems, salmonella is lethal. Arent we supposed to care for the young, old and the weak?”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, every year there are 76 million cases of foodborne illnesses, more than 300,000 persons are hospitalized and 5,000 die. Obviously, we can’t trust greedy manufacturers who are encouraged by our hyper competitive market to maximize profit and minimize cost at the expense of the poor nor can we trust poorly funded governmental agencies that allow companies to go unsupervised and leave consumers’ safety at the mercy of manufacturers’ poor discretion.

It is up to us, the consumers, to demand better enforcement of “good practice” and stronger adherence to ethical standards. We can’t blame the peanut for being contaminated by the system but we can pressure our agencies to scrub clean the system. There is no time to waste for the stimulus chapter dedicated to food safety to unveil. Write to your representative today and ask for stricter food safety regulations and enforcement — Activate your civic duty and voice your opinion. Contact Lilach Assayag at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.
“Studying abroad is one of the most rewarding ways to learn and one of the best ways to travel,” said Shane Toogood, a former student at DCCC, who studied abroad in Florence, Italy during the summer of 2006.

Toogood took Introduction to Visual Arts while he was there. “Twice a week I was in class for an hour and a half, and Monday through Thursday the classes were at a museum.”

On the weekends, he said, the group went on day trips to Rome, Venice and Lucca.

English Professor Dolores Formichella, the coordinator of the Florence program urges student to get out of their “zip code” and experience other cultures. Every year she escorts students to Italy to study and live on Centers for Academic Programs campuses.

CAPA is a partnership-based study abroad organization that operates six college campuses around the world in London, Florence, Madrid, Paris, Sydney, and San Jose, with plans to open a Beijing campus next year.

“The foreign campuses serve as an extension of your home campus,” said Brian P. Waterson, CAPA’s Project Manager. “Students are encouraged to immerse themselves in a different culture, Waterson said, and receive an education calendar that provides contacts of local students and information on lectures and trips.

For students who wonder if their major would lend itself to studying abroad, Waterson said that the program is open to all majors, and that scholarships can be applied. The prices also vary from campus to campus. “Right now, London is the most popular but also the most expensive campus,” Waterson said. San Jose, he said, is the cheapest.

“The trip to Egypt is a first for DCCC. Last year, students had the choice between Florence and Belize. Florence is still sponsored by Education First Tours. Students traveling to Egypt will spend their time learning about Egyptian culture. Much of the trip includes a cruise down the Nile to Luxor, Edfu, and Aswan, Williams said.

“Students not only learn about a different culture but also they learn the process of traveling abroad,” Williams said. “Those who have never traveled will learn how to obtain a visa and passport. Students who worry about language barriers should not be too concerned. “Students are always mixed in with other college students from America,” Williams said.

Two years ago, Williams traveled to Ghana with Cheyney University. She has also visited South Africa.

“I went in June 2005 to Belize,” said Kris Fossett, another former student of DCCC, who traveled through the college. “We stayed in a town called Orange Walk,” Fossett said. “Much of the work included studying plants and birds and walking through the rainforest.”

Students like Samir Desai, a 22-year-old communications major, have invested much hope in the Pennsylvania Tuition Relief Act.

“This is why we would like to act now,” said Michael Race of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Race hopes that in the long run, every school whether community, public, or state affiliated will have sufficient financial aid. According to Race, however this may take several years to accomplish.

Furthermore, Rendell theorizes that the salaries and jobs of faculty members will be safeguarded by the influx of students and a greater flow of tuition. Students like Samir Desai, a 22-year-old communications major, have invested much hope in the Pennsylvania Tuition Relief Act.

“I just cannot afford next semester,” said Desai. “Unfortunately, my family makes over $40,000 a year so I feel disempowered to receive any kind of Pell Grant.”

Fortunately for Desai, the fifth child in a family of six high school and college aged children, the Tuition Relief Act will cover his entire tuition if the bill will be passed by the Senate.

“That’s what we’re all waiting on — Senate approval and that final signature from Rendell,” Toole said.

According to Race, this approval, with any luck, will be a solidified promise of financial assistance by Spring 2009.

Contact Maxwell McAdams at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
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“Arcadia accepted all of our credits.”

“Arcadia made it easy to transfer— and made sure we had the courses to apply for assured admission to the Physical Therapy program.” Ashley Eisenegel (left)

“We went on Italy Preview! For $495 we got airfare, hotel accommodations, and 2 credits, too! We learned so much and had a great time.” Jennifer Eisenegel (right)

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Mariza dos Reis Nunes started singing Fado at age 5. 

She takes the stage with the elegant majestic appearance, short platinum hair and a magnificent black evening gown. Her three guitarists, already seated across the stage, await her arrival at center stage and begin to play. 

With a hypnotizing voice that soared effortlessly and echoed through Kimmel Center’s Verizon Hall, the Portuguese Fado singer, Mariza dazzled her audience on March 1. 

Translated from the Portuguese, “Fado” genre features folksongs, which Mariza performed with intoxicating vibrant passion to the sound of interchanging rhythms that seem to incorporate Balkan, Arabic and Spanish notes with a dash of gypsy vibes. 

Her songs speak of longing, loneliness, destiny and unfulfilled or lost love, “but also happiness,” Mariza said, and during her performance, she swayed and pranced on stage, theatrically reached her arms to the audience, pouted on her chest and shook the corners of her dress. 

“I started singing Fado when I was five,” Mariza told the audience. Her father owned a tavern in Portugal and allowed her to perform on stage Fado songs, which she memorized through drawings. 

Accompanying her on stage were Jose Martinho Almeida de Castro on acoustic eagle, Hugo Manuel Leao Kees tappeme on classical guitar, and the remarkable Angelo Braz Freire, who Mariza said “doesn’t even have the age to drink,” on the Portuguese guitar (a roundback 12-string guitar). 

On and off the stage throughout the evening was Hugo Antonello E Silva Carreira Maques on a variety of drums, including a Darbuka (north African drum), Jembe, and a cajón drum (produces a rattling sound), and Simon James Wadsworth on piano and trumpet. 

She show lasted three hours and displayed 17 songs, including a Portuguese guitar instrumental piece and a drum session. 

“Now I want to sing something different,” Mariza said. “A present for my American friends,” she added before performing Ivri Berlin’s Cry Me a River with Wadsworth on the piano. 

Mariza ended the evening with a charming acoustic version of a song performed with her Portuguese and classical guitarists, who also took part in singing. Even without a microphone, Mariza’s voice was carried across the hall with incredible strength and without missing a note. 

Mariza’s concert is a part of the Kimmel Center’s efforts to bring global rhythms to Philadelphia. Future March performances include Celtic music and Japanese Kodo drumming.

For more information visit: www.kimmelcenter.org.

Contact Lilach Assayag 
at community@nlmail.dcc.edu

Creepy world of Coraline

The cast is interesting too, with Teri Hatcher and John Hodgman (the PC guy from the Mac/PC commercials) and Dakota Fanning in the title role. 

Hatcher is perfect as the deceptively sweet beldam whose gifts and praise are a guise for keeping the young child’s soul in a world of her creation. 

British comedy powerhouse Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders have great roles as the two “actresses” who live below Coraline and her parents. 

Famous Indie child-friendly rock band They Might Be Giants did music for the film, along with original score by French composer Bruno Coulais.

Gaiman is known for his dark, complex, warped fairytale-like storytelling and uniquely macabre visions. He is the author of many graphic novels, and books for adults and children. In 2007 his book “Stardust” was made into a live action film, starring Claire Danes, Robert DeNiro, Ian McKellen, and many other big name players. Its popularity didn’t soar far beyond Gaiman’s followers though. 

“Their sound is}
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Located in Chester County south of Route 30 and 352
On Feb. 10, the DCCC Phantoms men's basketball team battled The Lehigh Carbon Cougars in the opening round of the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference playoffs.

The Phantoms were 30 seconds away from winning the game, until the unthinkable happened.

"Theoretically we had the game won," said Andrew Johnson, director of Wellness, Athletics and Recreation at DCCC. With under a minute to go in the game, the Phantoms had a six point lead against their opponent. The Phantoms committed numerous turnovers, which turned into points for Lehigh Carbon.

The final score was 78-76 Lehigh Carbon.

"Everybody cried," said communications major Tirik Hall 19, guard for the Phantoms.

The Phantoms had lost the playoffs game to the same team that they had beaten the week before by 15 points in the regular season.

The playoff loss to Lehigh Carbon was described by the Phantoms as disappointing and upsetting, players said.

"It was a difficult season we lost seven games by at least two points," said Tommy Vaughn, head coach of the Phantoms.

Since Vaughn's arrival, the team has made significant progress from years past. The team finished this past season with a record of 7 wins and 11 losses.

Though their season ended in defeat, it seems the Phantoms are eager to make it further in the playoffs next year. Vaughn said he is proud of his team and commends them for all their hard work.

"This has been my most talented team," Vaughn said.

Johnson described the team as having an up-tempo and aggressive style of play. "When the coach got them on the same page defensively, they were a great team to watch," Johnson said.

Having a good defense is something that Vaughn stresses constantly to his players. "Defense is what's going to get us to the championship no matter what," Vaughn said. "A defensively tough team is what they want to be known for."

Vaughn explained that this year's team had a good core of players who did what was asked of them and more.

Roderick Haynes is nicknamed "The Sniper" for his sound shooting ability. Haynes led the team in total 3 pointers made, with 27.

A basketball team benefits from players who hustle, and the Phantoms hustler is Jason Angoy, Vaughn said. Angoy was appropriately given the nickname "The Hustler" because he was all over the court doing what he could to help his team, Vaughn added.

Last but not least is "The Warrior" Seiya Inoue. Inoue's effort earned him the honor of being named an All-Star.

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