Retiring professor will not stop teaching

By Ariel Senko
(staff writer)

When Phyllis Anderson began teaching business courses at DCCC in 1987, she made a commitment to learn and teach every technological advancement in the office. She taught typewriting at first, but once desktop computers materialized in the workplace, Anderson said, she mastered one word-processing program after another to make sure that she could help her business students succeed.

Twenty-three years later, Anderson found herself tasked with something she had not anticipated – making sure that students knew enough of established methods of communication to succeed, rather than the newest. What Anderson faced: students’ tendency to use “text language” in formal documents.

“It was an on-going battle,” Anderson said. “I came with the frame of reference that what you practice is what you’re going to perfect. If you keep doing it wrong, then you’re not going to be able to recognize when you need to do it a different way. Some [students] came along, and others did not.”

Anderson retired from her near 40-year teaching career last spring. This spring, she will resign from her post at DCCC as acting assistant dean of the business division, a position that Anderson has filled since 2009.

As acting assistant dean, Anderson has overseen everything having to do with the adjunct faculty. Her duties have included scheduling adjunct faculty members’ classes, aiding in the observation of adjunct faculty for performance review, addressing student concerns regarding adjunct faculty members, and more.

Continued on page 2

The show goes on

By Adam Shorey
(staff writer)

“It’s the beginning of another rehearsal for “Arsenic and Old Lace,” the eighth play Smith has directed at DCCC. Smith’s shoulders visibly slump a bit as an actor botches a line in one of the first monologues.

“You should know your lines by now,” Smith shouts. “Start again!”

Smith, whose mother is an actress, grew up around the theater, but he said he did not always dream of acting.

“You always kind of shy away from what your parents do,” Smith said. “I didn’t do any acting through high school or while getting my undergraduate degree at Villanova.”

When Smith graduated from Villanova University with bachelor of arts degree in English, he said he felt unsure of his future. He decided to pursue a master of arts degree in theater. After building sets for Villanova productions, he pondered whether to take up the old family trade of acting.

“A friend told me to try out for the school play,” Smith said. “I got a part, and it turned out I was pretty good at it.”

After appearing in several plays and finishing graduate school, Smith’s teacher, the Rev. Peter Donohue, who is now the president of the university, suggested that he pursue a masters of fine arts degree. Smith applied to the acting program at the University of Delaware.

“Now, that was a challenge,” Smith said.

Continued on page 10
Retiring professor (Continued from page 1)

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and arranging professional development opportunities for adjunct faculty members.

Anderson said she wanted to retire at the top of her game, but also looked to make a gradual transition into retirement.

“I worked so many years,” Anderson said. “I was concerned about abruptly stopping without a plan. Becoming an assistant dean worked well to give me another opportunity to work and have new experiences.”

If it had been up to Anderson’s husband, Ernest Anderson, she would have retired five years ago. But according to her husband, who is a retired chemical engineer, his wife liked her work too much.

Before Anderson taught courses in typewriting, machine transcription, office procedures, word processing, and business communications to DCCC students, she went to school to prepare for a career as an office assistant. While working in an office, she noticed that she enjoyed explaining to others how to perform a task.

She then attained two degrees in business education from the University of Toledo and taught in Ohio high schools for 16 years before she began teaching at DCCC.

Anderson thinks that students will remember her as someone who demanded a lot of them, but who was fair and who made herself available to students who desired help with coursework. Anderson said she found working with students on an individual basis particularly satisfying.

“I enjoyed teaching in the classroom,” Anderson said. “I also enjoyed students who took advantage of coming to see me during office hours to work with them on one on one. I felt a certain pride seeing them accomplish skills — especially students who were very apprehensive because of their English skills or lack of computer knowledge. To have reassured them, and then to have seen them [improve and even] excel by the time they got to the end of the semester was really rewarding.”

Anderson said she was also touched by the thanks she received. Students would write her notes, sometimes just one sentence long: “Thank you for helping me get to the end of the class.”

“They would stop me in the hall a semester or two later, so I know they were not trying to butter me up for a grade, saying thank you for helping them,” Anderson said.

When Anderson wasn’t working with students, she met with her colleagues to discuss ways courses could be improved. She would research possibilities and share what she learned.

“She was always somebody to lean on,” said Eric Wellington, who worked closely with Anderson in recent years as the dean of business and computer information systems. “I could just pick up the phone and say, ‘Could you help me out with this project?’ She would always step up.”

For DCCC business professor Barbara Garrell, Anderson’s retirement does not mean the end of their history working together — Garrell will still call Anderson to ask for her opinions on ways to approach topics in class. Garrell and Anderson taught many of the same courses, worked cooperatively to write courses, gave each other advice about students and were officemates, Garrell said.

“We both get frustrated when students don’t get something, because we both care about our students,” Garrell said. “I will remember the way she treats her students. She goes above and beyond.” They would come to her all the time, Garrell said, and Anderson had such patience.

Anderson’s daughter Tonya McCall, a public school principal in Cincinnati, Ohio, said that she envisions her mother using her free time to entertain family and friends. “Among her friends, her parties are legendary,” wrote McCall by e-mail.

McCall said she was sure that Anderson will also continue to find ways to teach and mentor others, and affirmed that both of her parents currently tutor and mentor school children at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church of Philadelphia. “I know that she really enjoys the experience and has gotten attached to the students she’s working with,” said McCall of her mother’s volunteer work. “She is a teacher at heart whether it is formally in the classroom or informally with those around her.”

Ernest Anderson also predicted that his wife would dedicate more of her time to mentoring at their church once the school year is over, and that the two of them will travel. They are set to go on a cruise in the Mediterranean in June, and also enjoy traveling to Europe, especially Italy, he said.

Taking art classes is also on the agenda for Anderson, who said she likes arts and crafts and most recently took a watercolor painting class. Ernest Anderson said he expects his wife to look for more ways to express herself artistically. If she had not taught business, he said, she might have taught art.

Further teaching is not out of the question once she has had a break. “I never say never,” Anderson said. “You always leave options open. I’ve taught online courses as a faculty member. There might be an occasion that I would want to apply for an online position as an adjunct myself, but right now, at the end of the semester I think that is going to be it.”

Contact Ariel Senko at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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Trout season opens

By Bill Goldhahn (staff writer)

It’s a sunny afternoon March 7. A cold breeze and recent rain has made Ridley Creek’s water murky and current quick. Volunteers trample their way through brush and trees down to the creek side to dump large white buckets of trout into their new home.

Once their buckets are empty, a few of the volunteers stand and watch as the trout adapt to the cold water and eventually swim away.

Philip Ewaka, the fish stocking coordinator for Delaware County who has been doing this for 30 years, noted that each truck carries about 15,000 trout.

All 15,000 trout are scooped out of the tanks by a net and emptied into a bucket. Volunteers spend several hours dumping out each bucket one at a time.

Once the fish are free, they soon disappear into the dark water. But trout season opens April 2, and soon anglers will swarm the creek in search of the biggest catch.

On the morning of April 2, at approximately 8 a.m., Delaware County fishermen are allowed to cast their lines and try to hook their first trout of the year.

“Opening day of trout season is probably one of the busiest days of the year for us fishing-wise,” said Waterways Conservation Officer Ron Evancho. “We’ll be out there early in the morning [at] 8 o’clock to make sure nobody’s trying [to] cheat.”

According to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill and York Counties all have early openers.

For the rest of the state, however, the season starts April 16.

Pennsylvania streams and lakes are stocked with nearly four million trout. The three kinds of trout being released are brown, brook, and rainbow trout.

The brook trout is Pennsylvania’s state fish and, according to Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the state record is a seven pound brook, caught in 1996.

The trout being distributed in Delaware County are raised in Hunt controlled tanks.

Marcus Peterson, 33, a DCCC communications major, is a fly fisherman and offers an interesting insight into opening day. Peterson explained that “bait dunkers” are non-fly fishermen who fish with a worm.

“I’m actually more fearful for when trout season opens because then we have more people out there that are bait dunking, and most of the time bait dunkers don’t release their fish,” Peterson said.

To keep one trout it must be seven inches, and there is a daily limit of five combined species, according to the PFBC.

Prior to the opener on April 2, the PFBC will be conducting roughly nine stocking events and volunteers are always welcomed. All the dates of preseason and in season stockings can be found on http://www.fishandboat.com.

Contact Bill Goldhahn at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

The weight is over

By Andrew Rose (staff writer)

Last year marked a milestone for Delaware County Community College. Since the college’s opening in 1967, DCCC has never had a place for students to work out... until now.

In 2010, the college opened the $60 million STEM complex that included a state-of-the-art fitness center.

“Cardio and weight training equipment, an aerobic studio and a sound system are now provided to students, faculty, and administrators free of charge. “The fitness center has great equipment,” said Tony Daley, a nursing student at DCCC. “The fitness center has everything I need without having to pay a membership fee.”

The fitness center is located on the

Continued on page 10
AFTER HOURS
THE COMMUNITARIAN

Silk City smooth hangout in Center City

By Robert Tierney
(staff writer)

“Welcome to Silk City, where all your dreams come true,” said the bouncer to a group of St. Patty’s Day revelers, who strolled up to Silk City’s doors around 11 p.m. in fine dress clothes.

The men of this group responded with a resounding “Woo!” as a man wearing shades and a large green hat reminiscent of the Mad Hatter’s walked by.

“Cool it, guys,” said the bouncer, eyes piercing, yet friendly behind rectangular glasses. “You ain’t getting lucky tonight.”

On the inside, multi-color lights were strung about the perimeter of the ceiling and the hip-hop music that poured into the bar and lounge area to the left, where dancers, conversationalists and shot-lovers are welcome, said one female patron who chose to remain anonymous.

According to Hunter, DJs fill the lounge with a variety of beats nearly every day. Thursday’s regulars Sammy Slice and Cool Hand Luke entertain with their show “Mo Money No Problems” while local legend DJ Deejay runs “Anything U Can Shake YoHipz” on Saturday nights, Hunter said.

DJ Deejay’s dance party features hip-hop, 80s rock and 90s dance, according to Silk City’s website.

The diner itself, opposite the lounge, has been featured on an episode of Food Network’s “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives” hosted by Guy Fieri, which focused on the fried foods featured on Silk City’s menu.

“I’d recommend the tuna burger and mac and cheese,” said Chanise Thompson, a patron of Silk City. Thompson has been making frequent trips to Silk City for the past two years after hearing about it from a friend, and said she enjoys the home-cooked taste the selection has.

“The menu changes once in awhile,” Hunter said. “Really all that stays the same are the crowd favorites.”

Overhead was a red, ambient light that seemed to float in the air among the Christmas ball ornaments and televisions hanging from the wall.

As the night got late, the crowd grew loud. Observing the packed house, Hunter said, “The thing we have that our competitors don’t is we’re smaller and therefore more intimate and accessible.”

Outside in the beer garden there was a handful of men sitting in tropically colored chairs discussing the Phillies upcoming season.

“It is a great place to unwind,” said Jack Gallo, a Silk City patron. “Especially when it’s warm out.”

It may not have been warm that St. Patty’s night, but the group of men said they were looking for quiet.

Said Jaime Conklin, a cousin of Gallo’s, “Let’s say you want the food,” which incited yelps of approval. “You want to hang out, but it’s not a good night for

Continued on page 6

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Silk City (Continued from page 5)

dancing or a crowd. Silk City has you covered!”

Their pal Mike Zuckerman, added that Silk City entertains, feeds, and
nurters its customers and is always fun.

At 2 a.m. Silk City ends its three
part experience, at which point everyone
goes home, “content and drunk off
their back,” Hunter said.

“I’m not sure of any direction,”
Hunter said, referring to future plans.

“But we are always trying new things
and so far, the people love it.”

Contact Robert Tierney at
communitarian.dccc.edu

Local chocolate shop
crafts culinary wonders
Éclat chocolate makes waves with unique confections

By Bill Baxter
(staff writer)

Aleppo peppers, single malt whiskey, African coffee, ginger and pear
may not sound like chocolate flavors,
but at Éclat Chocolate they are the only
beginning.

Éclat Chocolate is a premier choco-
late shop located in downtown West
Chester, Pa. Éclat opened for business
six and a half years ago and has been
crafting fine chocolates ever since.

Christopher Curtin, 45, is the
driving force behind Éclat.

A master chef and chocolatier,
Curtin said he has been in the kitchen
his whole life, but when it came to culi-
nary school he made a bold decision.

“They weren’t teaching me what I
thought they should,” Curtin said. After
arriving at this conclusion, he left the
United States for Europe in search of
different instructors.

Curtin spent 12 years under master
pastry chefs and chocolatiers in France,
Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and
Japan. According to Curtin, he hand-
selected certain chefs and chocolatiers
to each teach him his own individual
particular expertise.

The French care more about flavor
and appearance, while the Germans
are more interested in the engineering
behind making chocolate, he said. After
completing his journey, Curtin returned
to America with a vision.

He wanted to show the public a
whole new side of chocolate.

Since then, Curtin opened Éclat, a
word which means “a brilliant display or
effect,” an idea that he attributes to his
mother.

Although Éclat has evolved
throughout its six and a half years, Curtin
remains involved in the entire process.

“I’m 100 percent hands on with the
chocolate,” Curtin said. “And if I’m not
making it, I’m always somewhere nearby.”

Dana Boyes, a manager at the store,
has worked for Curtin for two years
and helps run the store with six other
people. Boyes has a degree in public rela-
tions and marketing, but says she enjoys
working with the chocolate and the other
employees.

“Everyone does every job here,”
Boyes said, adding that although she
was trained to deal with marketing and
press releases she does not shy away from
working with the chocolate.

A staple of the Éclat experience and
a passion of Curtin’s is collaboration
with local chefs and culinary artists, he
said. Curtin has teamed with profes-
sionals like the executive chef of the Four
Seasons restaurant in New York City
and, more recently, Happy Cat Farm
owner Tim Mountz.

The Happy Cat organic chocolate bars
combine Éclat chocolate and fresh herbs
like basil, rosemary, lavender and lemon
verbena from Happy Cat Farm, a family-
owned farm based in Lancaster, Pa.

Curtin selects his collaborators
according to a simple but important
process, he said.

“First, I find people who are
passionate about what they do,” he said.
Local chocolate (Continued from page 6)

"Then I ask them what they would do with chocolate."

The process of making chocolate involves intricate measurements and meticulous preparation, according to Curtin. First, the cacao beans must be selected.

Cacao beans, known more commonly as cocoa beans, are the seeds of the cocoa tree, which is native to the Americas. Chocolate is made by first drying the beans by sun or artificial light, then roasting the beans and finally grinding them into a paste to be combined with sugar, which hardens to become the chocolate.

For Éclat, this process is very precise, as most of the chocolate the shop produces is single-origin chocolate, Curtin explained.

"Single-origin chocolate" is a term meaning that all the cacao beans used in the particular piece of chocolate are from the same area, sometimes even the same farm. This enhances the flavors inherent in that region's beans, giving the piece of chocolate a more defined flavor palate.

After the beans have been selected, they travel to Pennsylvania to be made into the chocolate used in Curtin's creations.

"I am involved from bean to bar," Curtin said, "and everywhere in between."

He said he never knows where or when he could be inspired. He remembers being inspired by something as simple as the smell of old oak leaves on a walk.

It is this same inspiration that is behind Curtin's current favorite confection: Mendiants. Mendiants are a traditional French chocolate in the shape of a thin disk.

Éclat's Mendiants are single origin chocolate from various countries such as Ecuador, Madagascar and Tanzania. The disks are shaped and textured according to their own place of origin, giving them an aesthetic individuality in addition to the unique flavor profile.

This idea of aesthetic individuality combined with culinary excellence is the philosophy that fuels Éclat, Curtin said. After 20 years of making chocolate, it is also what fuels Curtin.

"For me, it's all about creativity," Curtin said. "And we hope our customers enjoy that creativity as much as we do."

Contact Bill Baxter at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

The enticing array of sweets on display in Éclat. Photo by Elizabeth Baxter.
By Andrew Wiley

When Cliff Lee was traded to the Seattle Mariners in 2009, Phillies fans across the country were completely taken by surprise. This was the guy who posted one of the best post season records in the history of the game and took us back to the World Series for the second consecutive year.

We traded the best pitcher in baseball for Roy Halladay -- the best pitcher in baseball -- but Lee was just such a great fit for this team and city.

Everyone knows what Halladay accomplished last season in winning the National League Cy Young award, but... we wanted our boy back.

This past offseason was our chance at redemption.

In what seemed to be a two team race between the Texas Rangers and New York Yankees, the Phillies made the biggest signing of the offseason when they reacquired Lee for five-years, $120 million.

The city went wild.

With that re-signing, the 2011 season instantly became the most anticipated season in Phillies history. Fans came out in droves, gobbling up 3.3 million tickets by Feb. 25 as well as 70,000 the day they went on sale.

Even with the re-signing of Lee, there were still some questions about this team, the main one being who would replace the recently departed Jayson Werth in right field? There were really only two options: Domonic Brown or Ben Francisco.

Francisco, who was a starter in Cleveland before the Phillies acquired him in a trade in 2009, is a right-handed bat that would fit nicely in the Phillies lefty heavy lineup. Brown, who was just named the fourth best prospect in baseball by MLB Network, struggled in limited time last season and during winter ball this offseason.

While Francisco flourished in the beginning of spring training, Brown continued to struggle, going just 1-16 before fracturing his hand March 5 in a game against the Pirates. Brown will be out for at least four to six weeks, which would likely make Francisco the opening day starter.

This past offseason, the Phillies “kicked the tires” on a possible deal for Rangers’ third baseman Michael Young, but at the time it didn’t seem to be a necessary move. With the announcement of Chase Utley’s patellar tendinitis, maybe the Phillies should start kicking again.

Utley is the best second baseman in the National League when healthy. The problem is, he is rarely 100 percent. Michael Young would give the Phillies another power right-handed bat and someone who could play second, third or shortstop.

Placido Polanco is a fan favorite and possibly the best number two hitter in the major leagues, but Young is no slouch. He is a career .300 hitter and has the ability to drive in 100 runs a year and provide some protection for Ryan Howard in the five-hole.

Surgery seems inevitable at this point, so the Phillies should highly consider a deal that would bring in another veteran who could take over. I hate to say it, because Utley is one of my favorite Phillips of all time, but I think it might be what’s best for the team at this point.

On a lighter note, we do have what could be the best starting rotation ever assembled. It’s truly astounding what GM Ruben Amaro Jr. has been able to accomplish in his tenure with the Phillies. In 2009 it was Lee, in 2010 it was Roy Oswalt and Doc and this off-season, it was Lee again.

The 1971 Orioles pitching staff is the only other staff in history to have four 20-game winners. This rotation could be joining them in a few short months.

There are four legitimate number one starters on this team, all of whom have post season experience and genuinely like being around each other. There are no egos on this team and that’s why I think they will be so successful together.

Now there are some out there who say the Phillies couldn’t possibly live up to all the hype and they couldn’t possibly have four guys win 20 games. They are getting older, the bullpen stinks, they can’t hit curveballs, and the list goes on and on. Well -- you’re wrong.

The Phillies still have one of the best offenses in baseball and certainly in the National League even with the departure of Werth. Yes, they are a little lefty heavy at times but Francisco would alleviate some of those tensions.

As far as age goes, outside of Raul Ibanez, most of these guys are still in the prime of their careers. The last time I checked, MLB was not the NFL where once you’re on the wrong side of 31 you are considered old. Last year was definitely a down year offensively, and they still won 97 games. Oh yeah -- did I forget to mention we got Cliff Lee?

The bullpen is basically the same as it was last year, minus Chad Durbin. Brad Lidge had an incredible second half and I can only expect him to pick up right where he left off. Ryan Madson is the best setup man in the National League and we have a nice veteran core with Jose Contreras and JC Romero.

With the starting rotation being what it is, I don’t think the bullpen will be a real issue anyway. Obviously, the starters aren’t always going to throw complete games, but they are going to throw a fair amount of them.

It’s safe to say that I’ve never been more excited for the start of a Phillies season. And I’m definitely not alone.

Contact Andrew Wiley at communityan@mail.dccc.edu.

Clearing the record

In the March 9 issue of The Communitarian, a direct quotation in the article, “WikiLeaks fuels unrest in Egypt,” was incorrectly attributed to history professor Jeffrey LaMonica.

Adjunct history professor James Robertson said, “One of the important things to keep in mind is that the acquisition of these files was a felony and distribution of the fruits of a crime should not be applauded.”

The Communitarian staff apologizes for any confusion or misrepresentation that occurred.

The communityan is produced by both current and former students of Fundamentals of Journalism II in collaboration with Campus Life and published at Delaware County Community College. Students who would like to write for the campus newspaper and have already completed Fundamentals of Journalism I (ENG 130) should register for Fundamentals of Journalism II (ENG 131). Students who have completed both classes are welcome back to join the senior staff. For more information, email Bonnie McMeans, faculty advisor, at bmcmeans@dccc.edu.

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The young, the involved, the Philadelphians

By Robert Tierney (staff writer)

When Claire Robertson-Kraft first moved to Philadelphia 10 years ago to attend the University of Pennsylvania, she was no fan of Philly.

“I had low expectations of what Philadelphia had to offer because it didn’t have the best of reputations,” Robertson-Kraft said. “Now I’m a big advocate for people staying here after they graduate because I have seen a different side of the city.”

Robertson-Kraft is one of many young activists participating in Young Involved Philadelphia (YIP), a non-profit organization formed in 2001 by a group of college graduates who sought to improve Philadelphia’s reputation Robertson-Kraft said.

YIP’s mission is to increase civic engagement and build relationships to connect and empower young Philadelphians. The organization sets out to achieve this mission by educating and engaging members on key issues, connecting citizens and civic groups to each other and representing the young demographic by creating communication channels between the youth, businesses and government, according to its website.

From May to June 2011, YIP began looking over the Board Prep Program, along with program creators Philadelphia’s Young Non-profit Leaders, to train individuals to serve on boards for non-profits and help them find boards that serve their interests, says YIP’s newsletter.

As Board Chair of YIP, Robertson-Kraft heads the fulfillment of these objectives.

“My first event was in ’03 to save Love Park,” Robertson-Kraft said. “I talked to a city planner and a lot of young people about what [we] could do.”

In late September 2010 YIP hosted its first annual State of Young Philly (SOYP): Imaging Philly’s Future event, where organizational partners, city officials and citizens gathered to imagine the future of the city’s future, Robertson-Kraft said.

The four categories of focus during SOYP included community engagement and volunteerism, government and leadership, business and entrepreneurship, and arts and culture.

The event resulted in a summary plan that highlights five major priorities for Philadelphia which include improving government accessibility, cultivating organizational partnerships, leveraging assets and building from the City’s strengths, improving the city’s labor force and bringing together current and aspiring leadership, Robertson-Kraft said.

The first priority is improving government accessibility, Robertson-Kraft said: “We heard people wanted the government online, so we joined the Digital Philadelphia Taskforce, to work with a variety of groups on Open Data Philly and brainstormed what to make public and what platform it should have to make it user friendly.”

As part of this initiative, the City brought in Code for America, said Alain Joinville, public relations officer and board member of YIP.

“They were here most of February,” Joinville said. “They picked the brains of community members and government officials to create an applicable citizen engagement tool, whether that is apps, computer book programs or something else.”

Code for America's completed application is not expected for another year, said Joinville.

Since SOYP, YIP has taken action on the priority to bolster Philly’s positive qualities through the WhyILovePhilly Twitter campaign launched Feb. 17, Joinville said. The campaign’s name can be used as a hashtag on tweets or as a tag on Flickr uploads, according to Robertson-Kraft.

“When we had our forums last fall, many folks were talking about negative things” Joinville said. “There are some things that need work, but there’s a lot that’s great and we want to show the world what we can celebrate.”

Over the past year, YIP has developed relationships with other organizations, viewable on the SOYP website, which include a variety of non-profit organizations that work in the sectors of community engagement, government and leadership, business and entrepreneurship, and arts and culture.

As an example of one of these partnerships YIP held an event with the Philadelphia Social Innovations Journal (PSIJ), on April 7 dubbed “Future of Education: It Starts with a Conversation.” PSIJ is an online news outlet focusing on emerging leaders in a variety of sectors, according to the PSIJ website.

“Future of Education” revolves around the fourth priority, improving the labor force, as detailed in the YIP newsletter.

“An educated workforce is key to the viability of the city,” said Michelle Freeman, programming chair for YIP.

“Young people make decisions about whether or not to stay in the city based upon the quality of the school system.”

Following this event, YIP will join the Philadelphia Youth Commission to host “Get Out The Vote” on April 13, an event meant to impress upon young citizens the importance of voting and enable them to meet candidates running for city council, according to YIP’s newsletter.

The fifth priority, bringing together current and aspiring leadership is still a major focus for Robertson-Kraft. Through the Board Prep Program, YIP has attracted much interest and a great response, Robertson-Kraft said.

Despite the achievements of YIP so far, the group has many goals it still wishes to accomplish, Joinville said.

One possible goal outlined in the SOYP summary under the priority of bringing together current and aspiring leadership is to create a civilian watchdog group with the purpose of unifying communities and holding government officials accountable.

Another goal is to introduce topics such as sustainability to the second State Of Young Philly event, Robertson-Kraft said.

“YIP is a big part of the reason why I’m still in Philly,” she added. “There’s been so much progress [in Philly] in the last decade, and now it’s cool to be young here now.”

Contact Robert Tierney at communitarian.dccc.edu
Weight is over (Continued from page 4)

first floor of the STEM building, Room 2507, next to the Burlap and Bean coffee shop. About 55 to 60 people visit per day, according to Andrew Johnson Jr., director of Wellness, Athletics and Recreation.

Open to all students and faculty with a proper DCCC ID. They are able to take full advantage of the fitness center's sound system by requesting their own music. However, staff monitors the music to make sure it is appropriate.

A different event is offered each day during the week. Events include yoga, zumba, martial arts, boot camp and abs and arms training, each lasting about 45 minutes to an hour.

Yoga, taught by Caroline Tumola and Lisie Abrams, is offered on Mondays (4:00 p.m.) and Thursdays (12:30 - 4:30 p.m.)

“Yoga is everywhere now, but it is still intimidating for people because it differs from a normal physical activity,” Tumola said. “It is my goal to make yoga less intimidating and show them how they can use [it] to complement their other activities, like sports or running.”

Greg Skahan, 23, an energy techni-
cian major at DCCC frequents the yoga classes.

“It’s awesome and convenient with my schedule,” Skahan said. “It also saves me $30 a week [in yoga class payments].”

Johnson also instructs a boot camp course and two courses in arms and abs.

“Boot camp is a fitness class which works on upper and lower body,” Johnson said. “We start out up-beat to break a sweat then usually do muscle work. The class changes weekly however, [it is] never the same routine.”

Zumba is a Latin dance fitness class, which is designed to help cardio. The class is held on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

According to fitness center staff, martial arts is the most popular class offered at the fitness center. Martial arts is offered Monday (3:15 p.m.), Wednesday (3:15 and 4:00 p.m.), and Thursday (3:00 p.m.).

The fitness center staff, required to work 10 hours per week, receive work-study payment, which goes toward tuition and the DCCC bookstore.

The center is open Mondays at 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday at 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays at 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Andrew Johnson, Jr. Director of Wellness, Athletics and Recreation at athlet-icsdept@dccc.edu

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Show goes on (Continued from page 1)

“The University of Delaware has one of the best theater programs in the country. Thousands of people applied, and less than 20 of us were accepted. That gives you an idea about how hard it was to get in.”

It wasn’t just the application process that was intense, he said.

“It was more than just teaching us to act,” Smith said. “They required you to stay in shape, and many of the acting classes were physically demanding. It was grueling.”

He graduated with a master of fine arts degree in acting in 2003 and was presumably ready to begin his acting career. Then came a major roadblock.

Doctors told Smith that he had cancer. Just out of graduate school he was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

“It was a real setback,” Smith said. “I went through chemotherapy and radia-
tion, and I couldn’t act for a year.”

He recovered and acted in many plays at theaters in Philadelphia, New York and beyond.

In 2006 Smith began teaching theater at Delaware County Community College.

“It’s great,” Smith said. “They encourage me to stay active in the acting world as I teach classes. It works out really well.”

Along with teaching, Smith has directed many plays at DCCC. “Arsenic and Old Lace” opens on April 6.

“It’s a dark comedy with outrageous characters and a little bit of everything,” Smith said. “It should be a good show.”

The students involved with the play certainly seem to appreciate the devotion Smith shows toward these plays.

“Steve is brilliant,” said Isabella Fehlandt, 19, a communications and theater major. “He knows what he’s doing, so you have to listen to every-
thing he says, even the small stuff. Don’t ignore a thing.”

His former students expressed appreciation as well.

“Stephen Smith is a goldmine,” said Mario Canavarro, 21, a communications and theatre major at DCCC. “He’s classically trained and could teach anywhere he wanted to, but chooses to share his knowledge at DCCC.”

Canavarro has been cast in five plays at DCCC, but has now moved on to become the first of Smith’s students to act professionally. He was cast in “Lydia” with the Amaryllis Theatre Company in Philadelphia, Pa.

“Steve helped me make the biggest decision of my acting career,” Canavarro said. “He told me that he thought I was ready to act professionally. If he hadn’t told me to do it, I wouldn’t have been cast in my first professional play. Going into it, I have a lot of confidence knowing that Steve taught me all I need to know.”

Smith, his wife, and his mother own and operate the Amaryllis Theatre Company. According to their website, the Amaryllis Theatre Company seeks to provide “universal accessibility for all artists,” part of which is casting a disabled artist in each production.

“We want to create a place for disabled actors,” Smith said. “But we don’t pick a play for this purpose or cast disabled actors only in disabled roles. We simply seek not to discriminate in any way, be it by gender, race, or disability, and cast people purely on their skill in acting.”

This all-inclusive attitude doesn’t stop with the cast and crew, said Smith. The company makes each play accessible for disabled audience members as well.

“We try to make it as easy as possible for them to fully enjoy the show,” Smith said. “This includes providing programs in Braille, offering sign language for the hearing impaired, and providing an audio service that describes to the blind what is happening on stage.”

Smith says he intends to keep teaching at DCCC and looks forward to seeing how his former students fare.

“I keep tabs on all my students,” Smith said. “A few of them have gone on to acting programs at four year schools and seem to be doing well. I can’t wait to see how they all do. That’s what it’s all about.”

Contact Adam Shorey at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
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