Who Says Beauty and Brains Don't Mix?

Nina Davuluri, 2014 Miss America, visited the College’s STEM Career Night in February and spoke about cultural diversity and the importance of pursuing educational opportunities that lead to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers. Davuluri, 24, a National Honor Society alumna of the University of Michigan, plans to attend medical school and become a physician. The platform of the Miss America organization is STEM Education. Celebrating diversity through cultural competency is part of Davuluri’s personal Miss America platform.

The first Indian American to win Miss America, Davuluri dazzled the audience of more than 200 high school and college students and family members. Acknowledging the changing demographics of the nation, she said, “Miss America looks like me. You don’t need to be blond and blue-eyed anymore.” Later, she donned the coveted Miss America crown and posed for an hour-long, red carpet photo session with audience members.

Sponsored by the Boeing Company and Visual Sound, the College’s STEM event included area employers such as UPS, Southco, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, as well as representatives from area four-year colleges and universities that offer transfer opportunities to community college students.
Provost Virginia Carter to Retire

Before Provost Virginia Carter decided to retire, before she even set foot on Delaware County Community College’s campus a decade ago, she helped create educational programs that would have long-lasting, beneficial effects for students throughout the region.

In the late 1990s, while working as an Associate Vice President for Continuing Education at Temple University, Dr. Carter and several of her Temple colleagues orchestrated the adoption of dual admission and core-to-core partnerships at six area community colleges. The partnerships, which grew to nine, allow community college students to transfer credits to four-year schools.

For months, Dr. Carter, her supervisor Dr. Corrinne Caldwell, then a Temple Vice President and Acting Provost and currently a trustee at Delaware County Community College, and several other Temple administrators visited community colleges and four-year schools throughout the region to convince them of the value of the partnerships. “We called it the roadmap,” Dr. Carter said. “I saw this as the future of education — as an important pathway in access to education for our communities.”

Today, the partnership programs are an integral part of community colleges throughout the region, enabling students to take full advantage of their higher education experience. They are among the many innovative, student-centered initiatives emblematic of the nearly 40-year higher education career of Dr. Carter, who will retire at the end of July.

Margaret Bartow to Take the Helm as College Provost

What drew incoming Provost Margaret Bartow to Delaware County Community College from Lakeland Community College in Ohio are the same attributes that kept former Provost Virginia Carter here for a decade, Dr. Bartow, who began June 1, is enamored by the faculty, the staff, the academic programs and the student-centered focus of the College. “You have the whole package in the sense that you have a truly committed college community that focuses on students,” Dr. Bartow said.

A native of Wellesley, Massachusetts, Dr. Bartow has spent most of her career in the Maryland-Virginia area, where she has worked as chief academic officer for nearly a decade for three different institutions, including Lakeland Community College in Ohio, Frederick Community College in Maryland and Lord Fairfax Community College in Virginia.

Most recently, she was Executive Vice President and Provost at Lakeland Community College, where she served for nearly two years as chief academic and student affairs officer and the principal deputy to the president, overseeing 130 full-time faculty, more than 450 part-time faculty, more than 100 support staff and an operating budget of more than $30 million. At Lakeland, she led initiatives to increase student success and completion rates, assess learning outcomes, and continue the College’s Academic Quality Improvement Program accreditation commitment.

Dr. Bartow enjoys the challenge of helping students achieve their academic goals and the mission of community colleges, and she looks forward to immersing herself in Delaware County Community College. “Being able to work with people who are committed to helping students, to me it is the most rewarding opportunity anyone could have,” she said.

Prior to her work at Lord Fairfax, Dr. Bartow was Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Corning Community College in New York, a professor and Department Chair of Early Childhood Education at Prince George’s Community College in Maryland, Director of Instructional Programs for the Maryland State Board of Community Colleges and Associate Executive Director for the Maryland State Council on Vocational-Technical Education, as well as Director of Institutional Planning for the University of Maryland University College.

She describes her management style as collaborative and respectful. “I try to get as many perspectives as possible,” she said. She also utilizes data and analysis to help her make objective and fair decisions. In her first 90 days at the College, she plans to listen, read and learn with the help of the College family.

Dr. Bartow has a doctorate in Higher Education from the University of Maryland College Park, a Master of Education from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Early Childhood Development from Simmons College in Boston. She also has a passion for animals, owns two adopted rescue dogs and one adopted rescue cat, and volunteers at animal shelters.
president's letter

Over the years, Delaware County Community College has blossomed into an institution with a rich diversity of students, faculty and staff. More than 42 percent of our students are minorities, ranging from African-American, Hispanic and Asian students to international students from Africa, Europe and South America.

In order to fully tap into this growing diversity, earlier this year the College restated the Institutional Diversity Committee (IDC) with the goal of fostering, embracing and highlighting diversity throughout the College community. The IDC consists of 24 members representing a variety of departments at the College. I chair the committee, which also includes leaders retiring: President Virginia Carter; John Glavin, Vice President for Administration and Treasurer; and Connie McCalla, Vice President for Human Resources.

Drawing on the success of the original IDC, we have identified four target areas: Awareness/Understanding/Diversity; Recruit and Retain a Diverse Student Body; Curricular and Pedagogical Diversity; and Employment Diversity (recruit, retain, promote).

The IDC meets periodically to discuss these target areas with an eye toward building on diversity efforts already in place, while at the same time creating new ways to foster an inclusive College community. Each target area has a subcommittee whose members meet outside of the regular IDC to discuss issues with various College personnel. The subcommittees report back to the full IDC.

While the reconstituted IDC is still in its early stages, we have already engaged in thoughtful, respectful discussions on a wide range of issues ranging from exploring ways to increase diversity on hiring committees so that the College broadens its cultural range of potential candidates to encouraging more involvement in co-curricular cultural events coordinated by the College’s Campus Life Office.

Already as a result of the IDC, deans and faculty have been encouraged to submit ideas for speakers and events for co-curricular events, the College’s webpage on diversity is being redesigned, and faculty and staff have been urged to make diversity a priority at the College. Personally, I have appreciated the input of our IDC members and our candid discussions. In the months and years to come, I look forward to further weaving diversity into the fabric of the College community for the benefit of us all.

Jerome S. Parker
PRESIDENT

campus news

CONGRESSMAN PATRICK MEEKAN VISITS THE CAMPUS

U.S. Representative Patrick Meehan visited Delaware County Community College’s president, trustees and administrators at the Marple Campus on Thursday, April 14 to discuss affordable tuition, four-year school transfer opportunities, workforce development training and other higher education issues. Pictured from left are Trustee Raymond Tolnay, Board of Trustees Chair Melinda Matt; Karen Kozluch, Dean of Workforce Development and Community Education; President Dr. Jerry Parker; Congressman Meehan; and Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Michael Ranck.

COLLEGE HOSTS FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND CONFERENCE FOR TRANSFER COUNSELORS

The College, in conjunction with other higher education institutions in the region, hosted a Transfer Admissions and Advising Committee conference in March for higher education counselors who assist students in transferring from one college to another. Nora Manz, associate director of Transfer and Articulation at the College, was the lead organizer of the conference, which is believed to have been the first of its kind in the state.

Nora Manz, lead organizer of the Transfer Admissions and Advising Committee Conference held at the College.

STUDENT AMAIZES WITH HER SINGING ON TV’S “THE VOICE”

Audra McLaughlin, 21, a student studying at the College’s Southeast Center to be a medical assistant, advanced until she was one of eight finalists on television’s popular show, “The Voice.” Although she did not make it into the top four, early on McLaughlin impressed coach/judge and country music star Blake Shelton so much with her vocals on the song, “Angel from Montgomery,” by Bonnie Raitt, that Shelton selected her for his team, and called her “absolutely amazing” and said, “Audra could win this show.”

Audra McLaughlin sings on television’s “The Voice.” Photo compliments of The Voice.

2014 MARIE PATRIARCA AWARD WINNERS

Louise Armes, executive secretary for Provost Virginia Carter, and Lisa Fay, an assistant in the Career Center, are the 2014 winners of the Marie Patriarca Award. The award honors excellence in the College’s support staff as exhibited by Marie Patriarca, a long-time employee. 

The College is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education, and our candid discussions. In the months and years to come, I look forward to further weaving diversity into the fabric of the College community for the benefit of us all.

President Dr. Jerry Parker, second from left, Meehan, winner Lisa Fay, Marie Patriarca, winner Louise Armes and Labron K. Shuman.

The College's support staff as exhibited by Marie Patriarca, a long-time employee.
Nursing Dean Lana deRuyter to Retire

It is safe to say that in 15 years at the College, Lana deRuyter, the College’s Dean of Allied Health, Emergency Services and Nursing, has left an indelible imprint on Nursing, having positively affected hundreds of practicing nurses and physicians’ assistants throughout the region.

But come July 10, Dr. deRuyter, who has spent 42 years as a nurse, teacher and administrator with hospitals and education programs throughout the region, will leave the College. Fret not, however. She is not going far. She plans to teach a Master’s of Science in Nursing program part-time at nearby Villanova University. “I don’t want to let my hand get far, working at The Chester County Hospital for years as a nurse, teacher and administrator with hospitals and education programs throughout the region.

Retirement is a bit of a misnomer for Dr. deRuyter because she still plans to be closely involved in shaping the higher education system for nurses of the future. One of the reasons she decided to teach at Villanova is because of the need for well-trained nursing educators. “There are not enough master’s prepared nursing faculty, which is why I want to go back to teaching,” she said.

Dr. deRuyter started her career at the College from afar, working at The Chester County Hospital for 22 years as a Nursing instructor, staff nurse and administrative supervisor. When the hospital ended its diploma in Nursing program in 1999, the College picked up where the hospital left off and implemented its own RN Nursing education program at the hospital.

Looking back, Dr. deRuyter is most proud of the people she selected for her team, chief among them, Sharvette Law-Philmon, Associate Dean of Nursing, Allied Health and Emergency Services, who will succeed her on an interim basis. Among the accomplishments of the Nursing Division under Dr. deRuyter: the doubling in size of the Nursing program; the addition of evening and weekend classes; and the creation of the innovative Drexel at DCCC AS to BS Joint Degree in Nursing, which allows students to obtain a Drexel University Nursing degree at a significant savings and without ever having to leave Delaware County Community College.

Although Dr. deRuyter had always envisioned herself working in hospitals as a career, her path took a different trajectory, and she has no regrets. “It’s been a wonderful place to work,” she said of the College. “I have enjoyed the students. I have enjoyed the staff.”

Sharvette Law-Philmon Named Interim Dean of Nursing

There is a large metal cart in Sharvette Law-Philmon’s office that says a lot about her priorities as a higher education administrator.

Inside the cart are 30 laptop computers plugged into a giant high-tech battery. The cart keeps the laptops at the ready for Health Information Technology (HIT) students. Law-Philmon found that many of the HIT students did not have access to laptops, so a federal job training grant was used to purchase the computers and the cart. The cart, which is portable, also allows software programs to be simultaneously downloaded into each laptop, saving time and ensuring that students have the software they need for their courses.

“IT is important that we make sure our programs are cutting-edge and up to date,” Law-Philmon said. Known as an iPad PowerSync, the cart is an example of the forward thinking Law-Philmon will soon bring to the post of interim Dean of Allied Health, Emergency Services and Nursing, when she replaces Dr. Lana deRuyter, who is retiring in July.

Emergency Services and Nursing, when she replaces Dr. deRuyter, isretiring in July. Since 2008 when she became Assistant Dean and 2012 when she became Associate Dean, Law-Philmon has been a major force driving the College’s Allied Health programs.

Under her guidance, the College’s nurse’s aide training program went from 90 hours to 133 hours of instruction and was recognized by the state as having best practices in Pennsylvania for nurse aide training. The College also became the only community college in Pennsylvania to earn a coveted accreditation from the American Health Information Management Association for its Medical Coding and Billing program. Law-Philmon is a strong believer in the value of diversity and cultural competency in health care practice. She made sure, for example, that part of the nurse’s aide training includes disability awareness and instruction in how to groom the hair of African-American women, a skill that is not typically taught to caregivers, even though patients are diverse and have many different needs. Law-Philmon also worked with the College’s Communications, Arts and Humanities division to develop an educational program that teaches health care professionals Spanish so they can better provide for Spanish-speaking patients and clients.

A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Law-Philmon holds a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Howard University. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education in Organizational Leadership from Grand Canyon University.
Men’s Basketball Team Wins Conference Title
The Phantoms Men’s Basketball team won the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference, finishing their season 14-0 in conference play. Domineek Owens poured in 26 points and pulled down 14 rebounds to spark a wild second half that lifted the Phantoms over Camden County College, 88-75, on February 27 in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 19 semifinal at Brookdale Community College. But the Phantoms’ season ended on March 1 in a nail-biter against defending national champion Brookdale Community College on Brookdale’s home court. Although the Phantoms put up a tenacious fight, they lost 81-85 in a game that came down to the final second.

Thanks to the guidance of Head Coach Zain Shaw and assistant coaches Jamar Shaw and Naim Little, the Phantoms finished the season as the Region 19 runners-up with an overall record of 26-6. Region 19 includes 35 schools from New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware.

College’s Culinary Students Stand Out at Food and Wine Festival
Chef Peter Gilmore and his Delaware County Community College culinary students made a beautiful presentation at the 4th Annual American Culinary Federation Food and Wine Festival held at the Desmond Hotel & Conference Center in Malvern on April 3. Area restaurants, caterers, breweries, vineyards and culinary schools participated in the fundraising event. Proceeds from the event went to support the Home of the Sparrow, an organization that provides housing and supportive services to homeless and low-income women who want to improve their lives.

Students Make Lasting Impression at the Capitol in Harrisburg
Thirteen students from Business instructor Bradley Montgomery’s class accompanied Board of Trustees Chair Neilda Mott, President Dr. Jerry Parker and several College administrators on an April 1 visit to the Capitol in Harrisburg to advocate for the state’s community colleges. The students had the opportunity to talk with legislators about the importance of Delaware County Community College to their career aspirations. The Delaware County contingent joined other community colleges from around the state for the annual tradition known as “Lobby Day.”

As he has for many years, State Representative Stephen Barrar had lunch with the students and allowed the Delaware County group to use his conference room as home base. The students also met with Representative William Adolph Jr. and Senators Andrew Dinniman, Edwin Erickson, and Dominic Pileggi.

Student Heather Welsh, one of 50 Coca-Cola Silver Scholars nationwide and an All-Pennsylvania Academic Team scholar, joined the group after speaking at a Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges’ press conference in the Capitol that was covered by the news media. Her husband, Martin, a student at the College, and her 10-year-old son, Patrick, joined the Delaware County group after the press conference. Perhaps the highlight of the day was a photo the students took with Senators Erickson and Pileggi on the Senate floor.

A group from Delaware County Community College met with state legislators on April 1 in Harrisburg. In the front row, Senator Dominic Pileggi is third from left and Senator Edwin Erickson is fourth from right.

Chef Peter Gilmore (left) and his students at a food and wine festival.
Students Heather Welsh of Springfield and Sandra Lewis of Prospect Park were recognized recently by the Phi Theta Kappa honor society of two-year colleges and the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges for their academic achievement and volunteerism in the community.

Welsh were among 45 scholars from Pennsylvania’s 14 community colleges honored on March 11 at the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges’ annual banquet at the Radisson Harrisburg Hotel in Camp Hill, PA. The scholars were nominated to the All-Pennsylvania Academic Team, which requires students maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average and graduate with an associate degree.

The title of All-Pennsylvania Scholar comes with a full-tuition scholarship for up to two years at one of the 14 universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Welsh also was named one of only 50 Coca-Cola Silver scholars from across the nation. A silver scholar receives a $1,250 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. In addition, gold, silver, and bronze scholars were recognized earlier this year at Phi Theta Kappa’s Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Welsh, who also was this year’s student Commencement speaker, has earned an Associate of Arts degree and plans to transfer to a four-year school to study Sociology. Among the schools she is considering is the University of Pennsylvania, which has accepted her for the fall semester. Her long-term goal is to earn a master’s degree and become a university professor, teaching Cultural Sociology.

Welsh dropped out of the College in the 1990s, but came back in 2011. In less than a year, she blossomed from academic probation to honor student. As vice president of service for the College’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter, she also found time to lead a variety of community service projects.

Sharing the spotlight with Welsh is Lewis who earned an Associate of Science degree and plans to transfer to a four-year school to attain a Bachelor of Licensed Social Work degree. She then plans to further pursuea master’s degree toward her goal of becoming a social worker. Ultimately, she hopes to use her love for animals and her academic credentials to conduct a pet therapy program for prison inmates.

Lewis opted to enroll in a cyber-charter high school after being bullied in middle school. After graduating from high school, she continued her education by earning a veterinary assistant certificate online, while working at a veterinary hospital, where she is still employed and has worked for more than eight years. The College’s online classes allowed Lewis to gain confidence and ease into college life. Gradually, she worked her way to not only attending full-time classes at the Marple Campus, but joining Phi Theta Kappa and becoming the president of the College’s Human Services Club. As Human Services Club president, Lewis increased the club’s membership and led many community service projects, including an on-campus Human Service and Women’s Resource fair with more than 16 agencies in attendance.

Dr. Virginia Carter. “Plaques with ‘Home of the Phantoms’ and the names of the two gentlemen who passed away from our family will be placed in the home and away dugouts,” said College Athletic Director Andrew Johnson.

The 2015 award winner will be announced later this year. Each finalist must be prepared to carry out the duties of the state’s Teacher of the Year, including being Pennsylvania’s nominee for National Teacher of the Year. Pennsylvania’s Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by the state Department of Education and the Pennsylvania chapter of the National State Teacher of the Year, which was founded in 1995. The National Teacher of the Year program, which began in 1952, is the oldest, most prestigious national honors program focusing public attention on excellence in teaching.

Francis Priscopo, a graduate of the College’s Municipal Police Academy, was named Trainer borough’s 2013 Person of the Year last December. During a municipal meeting in Trainer, Mayor Frances Zalewski complimented Priscopo’s work ethic. “Chief Priscopo is so very deserving of being named 2013 person of the year. He is fair, hard-working, but most of all he treats everyone with respect. He has done an excellent job and this borough is lucky to have him,” Mayor Zalewski said.

The College’s Athletics Office and the Alumni Office hosted a small ceremony during a home baseball game on April 24 on the Marple Campus. The team dedicated their dugouts to two former players, Dennis Ryan ’71 and Richard Armes ’73, who passed away in 2013. Ryan, a catcher, played for the College’s first team. Armes, who played first base, never made an error, according to his wife, Louise, the executive secretary to College Provost Dr. Virginia Carter. “Plaques with ‘Home of the Phantoms’ and the names of the two gentlemen who passed away from our family will be placed in the home and away dugouts,” said College Athletic Director Andrew Johnson.

Today, she manages Cardiology Associates’ anticoagulation clinic, doing stress testing and seeing patients. She also helps tend acute care patients at Reading Hospital. She enjoys mentoring Doctor of Nursing Practice candidates and Nurse Practitioner students. She also enjoys lecturing to various groups about emerging issues in cardiology and health and wellness.

Dr. Dori Lawson, this year’s Alumni Professional Achievement Award winner, is a board certified family nurse practitioner at Cardiology Associates of West Reading. In just 11 years, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a Master of Science in Nursing, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice thanks to the educational foundation she received at the College. She has more than 35 years of experience in a range of medical facilities, and she has held leadership roles in both academic and professional organizations.

A non-traditional student, Dr. Lawson graduated from Thomas Jefferson School of Diploma Nursing in 1977. In 2001, she enrolled at Delaware County Community College, where she studied Science for Health Care Professionals, after having been out of school for more than two decades while raising her daughter. Utilizing her education at the College, she transferred in 2003 to West Chester University, where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in just two semesters in 2004. She then enrolled at Wilmington University, where she earned a Master of Science in Nursing degree in 2007.

After taking a year off to gain her footing as a nurse practitioner, she enrolled at Robert Morris University in Moon Township, where she graduated in 2012 and received her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. “It still makes me wonder what I was thinking … diploma to doctorate in 11 years,” she said. “It is not recommended for the faint of heart.”

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Beneficial Foundation Donates to the College Learning Commons

The Beneficial Foundation, named for the Beneficial Foundation in appreciation for the $15,000 grant, has joined the College’s Educational Foundation and is participating in the College Learning Commons. A seminar room was named for the Beneficial Foundation in appreciation for the $15,000 grant.

Institutional Advancement at 610-359-5131.

Alumni or friends can provide support for the College now or in the future, through many financial options, including life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities, bequests, IRA rollovers or appreciated securities. For more information, visit dccc.edu/plannedgiving, or call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 610-359-5131.

Faculty Member Plants Seed to Support and Preserve the Environment

Thomas J. Anderson has been an adjunct instructor in Biology for the College for 22 years. Anderson also has taught Plant Physiology, Ecology and related courses at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. He puts into practice what he teaches in the classroom on his 20-acre farm in Chester County where he grows fruits and vegetables. According to Anderson, he is still learning.

In his spare time, Anderson also volunteers with the Natural Lands Trust, the region’s foremost conservation organization, which protects the forests, fields, wetlands and streams that are essential to the sustainability and quality of life in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey.

Anderson is disappointed that more students do not pursue academic majors leading to careers in the environment, sciences or medicine, as he says, “that is where the jobs are.” He believes that students who undertake these challenging programs are “our hope for the future.” His love for the environment and sincere interest in helping students motivated him to establish the Thomas J. Anderson Endowed Scholarship for students with an interest in the environment.

The inaugural recipient of the scholarship was student Nick Jackson who met Anderson at the College’s Educational Foundation Annual Dinner last October. Jackson’s enthusiasm and leadership in helping to create a community garden and launch an environmental hiking trail on the College campus made him the favored candidate for the scholarship award.

To create an endowed scholarship that will earn revenue in perpetuity, Anderson rolled over an IRA to fulfill the required $10,000-minimum investment. He has added to that fund with a cash contribution and intends to enhance it with a bequest.

Faculty Awards Ceremony. Presenting the award (from left) are Kathleen Breslin, Executive Director of the Foundation; Dr. Diane Piccaro, Director of the Center to Promote Excellence in Teaching and Learning; Sharvette Law Phifer, Associate Dean, Allied Health, Emergency Services and Nursing; and William Torian, Foundation Board of Directors.

Dr. Fiona Geiser (center) receives Educational Foundation mini-grant at the Faculty Awards Ceremony. Presenting the award (left to right) are Kathleen Breslin, Executive Director of the Foundation; Dr. Diane Piccaro, Director of the Center to Promote Excellence in Teaching and Learning; Sharvette Law Phifer, Associate Dean, Allied Health, Emergency Services and Nursing; and William Torian, Foundation Board of Directors.

Foundation Mini-Grant Funds Student Research on Tobacco Smoke Exposure

With funding provided by an Educational Foundation mini-grant, a pilot study was implemented by Dr. Fiona Geiser, adjunct instructor, Allied Health, Emergency Services and Nursing, for a 5-week accelerated Applied Microbiology course required of all Allied Health students at the College.

The laboratory was relevant to the course competency for which students are expected to perform diagnostic procedures of body fluid specimens. Students in the class were trained on the interpretation of control solutions of cotinine, a metabolite of the fast-metabolizing nicotine, the addictive component in tobacco smoke.

A written laboratory procedure was given to each student along with an immunoassay strip and a questionnaire about their recent tobacco use. Students were instructed to collect a urine sample in the morning and to perform the TobacAlert cotinine test to determine the extent of their tobacco exposure. The objective of this pilot study was to train Allied Health students in the implementation and interpretation of TobacAlert and urinary cotinine test strips.

Students pursuing health-related employment are very interested in knowing their nicotine status because many Pennsylvania hospital employers will not hire smokers. In addition, these same students will be dealing directly with patients regarding smoking status and cessation once they are employed.

The results of the study support previous reports of a high correlation between TobacAlert immunoassay results and self-reported tobacco exposure. Behavioral changes, the most significant obstacles in smoking cessation, were observed in this pilot study. Both smokers and second-hand smokers were able to share the visual cotinine evidence on the TobacAlert strips with their family members in order to enlist their support in quitting. The experience provided all participants with information on the serious health effects of tobacco smoke that will greatly aid their interactions with patients in health-care settings.

Dr. Geiser received her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1978 from the University of Cincinnati. Her subsequent 30-year career as a pharmaceutical research chemist included employment at Dupont Company, Chiral Technologies, and Johnson Matthey. She has authored or co-authored more than 20 patents and publications on manufacturing purification processes, such as one currently used for escitalopram (the active ingredient in Lexapro antidepressant). She was a recipient of the 2001 Chromatography Forum of Delaware Valley Award for this work. She has been an adjunct instructor at Delaware County Community College since 2008.

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Grant Funds Technology Toy Box in Learning Commons

The Learning Commons has received a $5,000 grant from Pennsylvania’s Office of Commonwealth Libraries, which administers funds made available by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program. The grant was awarded in the Try It category of supporting innovative ideas to advance library services.

The Try It project is to create a library Technology Toy Box to give individuals the opportunity to become familiar with portable technologies that are becoming increasingly important in accessing electronic resources in libraries for research, study and class assignments. Using the College Learning Commons, the project focuses on low-income students, older students and community members, who typically are the least likely to have used these resources for library applications.

While many individuals are familiar with smart phones, iPads, iPods, and MacBooks for personal use, the use of these devices in academic applications (such as using e-books or doing online research) is less well known. And, for individuals who are not yet familiar with portable technologies, but interested in making a purchase, making an informed decision regarding what device best meets their needs can be overwhelming.

The Try It project has three objectives – to create an environment for individuals to gain familiarity with electronic technologies; to provide a means of comparison of these technologies for use and purchase; and to assist staff in creating a Learning Commons acquisitions plan that will identify the best technologies to support learners’ needs.

In addition to this current grant, the College has benefited from LSTA funding on three previous occasions. The first grant supported the development of Information Literacy workshops and video conferencing technology to support College students at all locations to become familiar with online resources. The second grant focused on the application of Personal Digital Assistants to support onsite clinical activities of Nursing students, with information typically available in reference guides. The third grant enabled the College to acquire assistive technologies to support students with visual impairments to fully utilize books and resources previously not available to them.

Students Lead the Way in Preserving the Environment

The threat of April showers did not dampen the spirits of a band of students who launched the opening of the hiking trail on Earth Day, April 22, spearheaded by Tyshon Bullock and student club members of MESA (Modern Environmental Sustainability Association). 25 nature lovers embarked on a first-time exploration of the College’s 1.2-mile trail.

The possibility of encountering wildlife, such as deer, foxes, turtles and snakes, inspired students rather than deterred them. Along the trail, one might also encounter one of the Champion Trees of Pennsylvania, a Japanese Zelkova (Zelkova serrata), the largest tree of its species in Pennsylvania, which received this distinction by the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

Also participating in the walk was Tanya Gardner, assistant professor, Communications Studies, and her class on Interpersonal Communication. Gardner challenged her students to disconnect from their digital devices and commune with nature in celebration of Earth Day.

The property on which the trail is located dates back to a land grant from William Penn to early settlers. The land was further developed in the late 19th Century by Harry Battles, a prominent Philadelphia florist. Greenhouses, formal gardens and ornamental plantings once thrived on the property. The trail itself was created by the Battles family for use by household staff and greenhouse employees. Following Battles’ death in 1938, the property was sold to the Stull family who owned the property until the College purchased it.

Along the trail, colorful markers were created and installed by the College’s Art and Design Club for Earth Day. MESA Club members hope to start a hiking trail group and are working with Andrew Johnson, Director of Wellness, Athletics and Recreation, to promote the trail as part of a wellness program, so that the entire College family may benefit from its bounty.

More Photos from 2014 Commencement