



## Spring ConvoCon is On!

No, that's not a typo! Spring Convocation is going to be different – more fun, more interactive, more conversational – this year.

Starting at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, come to Greenspan Cafeteria for coffee and a light breakfast. Dr. Jordan will officially kick off the event with his opening remarks scheduled for 9 a.m.

Through the rest of the day, you will be able to explore booths set up around Greenspan Cafeteria, just like you would at a convention. Not only will you hear what's going on – with new technology, projects, events, etc., but you will also see displays, videos, posters and other materials (maybe even some swag!) You'll be able to move at your own pace, visit any and all tables that pique your interest and speak with colleagues and representatives from DCC partners.

You'll get a panoramic view of all the great things happening on campus as you circulate and have the chance to imagine what DCC could be in Our Next 10!

Meet the new vice president for instruction and learning, Dr. Raymond Houston, talk to Dan Barbuto about the new mechatronics lab, ask Jen Yanoti about academic innovations on campus. Learn more about our different technology platforms – Brightspace, Ellucian and TracDat. Engage with data from Middle States and Evergreen. Find out the latest about our strategic plan, and get a sneak peak at the new website, too!

You can check out the list of opening week events [here](#). See you there!

### Convocation Strategic Planning Workshops

The aim of the Strategic Plan is to be as inclusive and collaborative as possible. To this end, the College is asking that you make every effort to participate in the Campus-Wide Strategic Planning Workshops being held in the Greenspan Cafeteria on Jan. 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

To ensure everyone who wants to participate is able to attend, all offices will be closed to the public between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – including student-facing offices. You're encouraged to update your email and voicemail messages to reflect this schedule!

### The Pantry Needs Your Help!

As you plan for ConvoCon, don't forget to pack your donation! The Pantry is in search of the following items:

#### TOILETRIES:

Body wash	Mouthwash
Deodorant	Toothpaste
Shampoo	Toothbrushes
Conditioner	Liquid hand soap

#### HOUSEHOLD:

Trash bags	Laundry detergent
Ziploc bags	Can openers
Dish soap	

#### FOOD:

Canned soups	Fruit cups
Granola bars	Dried fruit
Cereal	Juice
Oatmeal packets	Ramen
Peanut butter	Shelf-stable milks

You can drop off your donations at designated boxes at ConvoCon or contact Lacie Reilly at [lacie.reilly@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:lacie.reilly@sunydutchess.edu).

# Mark Your Calendars for Black History Month!

But first! Martin Luther King Day is just a few days away. Jan. 16 is an opportunity to celebrate the life and contributions of the leader, educator, activist and visionary who championed the ideals of freedom and justice that DCC seeks to encompass.

We also wanted to give you ample notice that Black History Month is getting started a bit early this year at DCC!

The Opening Tea will kick things off on Tuesday, Jan. 31 starting at 11:30 a.m. in the Ritz Lounge. The Black History Committee invites you to stop by, eat snacks, mingle and learn about events planned for the month of February.

Here's a quick preview: On Feb. 9, DCC will host the Black Professionals in Science, Engineering & Technology panel featuring three leaders from IBM. Then the main event, the third annual Black Solidarity Conference, will be held on Feb. 16 and 17 and will feature scholarly presentations, readings and an educator workshop.

The two winners of the new Emerging BIPOC Scholars Award, who are graduate students at the CUNY Graduate Center and SUNY Binghamton, will also be speaking about their work.

Professor Morris says that welcoming these scholars is one of the things he most looks forward to next month: "There is a new generation of scholarship coming, and this is a way to highlight their work and retain these communities in higher education," he shares.

Visit [this link](#) for more details about these events. All of the

offerings are free and open to the public, so please share this information with your family, friends and colleagues, and encourage them to come experience Black History in the making!

## If You Build It...

Construction for the DCC@Fishkill mechatronics lab mentioned in December's newsletter is getting underway this spring and summer! The 6,000-square-foot facility is set to open this fall and will feature four spaces, each focused on a particular area of manufacturing: mechanical, electrical, automation and HVAC.

As the first mechatronics lab in the region, this facility has the potential to serve a broad student base – from, as Dr. Susan Rogers, chief of staff and vice president for institutional effectiveness, says, "those coming out of high school who may not feel drawn to a traditional college pathway" to "slightly older students – say, 25 and up – who are re-evaluating their career paths."



*"We can't wait to show middle and high school students that this is a viable career path."*

**- Dan Barbuto**  
Chair, Electrical Technology

The whole Hudson Valley stands to benefit from this project – from companies in dire need of workers to community members in need of good jobs to DCC bringing in new students.

Offerings at the site will include industry-specific CPT and SACA certifications, along with credit classes that can articulate into DCC's Electrical Technology A.A.S. program. Find out more by watching this [informational video](#) and stopping by the mechatronics booth at ConvoCon!



## Black History Month Calendar of Events

[VIEW EVENTS](#) ▶



## Almost There!

Spring 2023 marks the final semester of DCC's MSCHE (Middle States Commission on Higher Education) self-study, a four-semester-long process that began in fall 2021. In preparation for the visit, President Jordan and self-study co-chairs Dr. Susan Rogers, Michael Hall and Scott Schnackenberg attended the MSCHE Annual Conference in Philadelphia at the beginning of December 2021.

The self-study must be completed and uploaded to the MSCHE portal by mid-February before the Commission makes its On-Site Evaluation visit, which is the final step toward MSCHE reaccreditation.

"It's been a long process, but we're almost at the finish line!" says Dr. Rogers. "Final chapter drafts have been submitted by the working groups and are undergoing final editing for the report. We look forward to welcoming the full visiting Team on April 16!"

Keep an eye out for pop-up emails and events around the self-study findings. These will help ensure everyone on campus is prepared to participate in the visit in April!

DEI SPOTLIGHT



## Sun is Shining on Caribbean Literature



Students in English Professor Jacqueline Goffe-McNish's ENG 280 class will be traveling to Jamaica this spring break to immerse themselves in Caribbean culture and literature. The course begins and ends with classes here on campus, which means students will not only enjoy the sun and all of the adventures while away, but they will also receive guidance building a strong academic foundation before their trip and synthesizing what they learn from both their readings and their experiences upon return.

In the three initial class meetings, students will begin reading and discussing the two required novels (in case you would also like to check them out, they are Michael Thelwell's "The Harder They Come" and Michelle Cliff's "Abeng"), learn about cultural analysis and receive information to help them prepare.

Through the 10 days in Jamaica – spent attending lectures, going to museums and historical sites, volunteering, meeting elected officials

and more – students will gain firsthand insight into issues like post-coloniality, creolization and symbolic geography, which will allow them to apply a more nuanced, informed lens when they return to DCC and write their term papers.

The course, which has been running for nearly 30 years, was created by Goffe-McNish in 1994. It's back after a short break from 2018 until this semester, and this is DCC's first study abroad trip to Jamaica since Covid-19.

Ya mon!



# DCC's New Website: The Trailer

Coming to a browser near you, the new DCC website hits screens this February! Just like our future and current Falcons, you'll get a bird's-eye view of the campus and imagine the adventures ahead.

Get in on the action! Fly with our cameras, panning over Bowne and Conklin, stretching out past the 130 picturesque acres to the Hudson River lined with trees and hills. The new site promises to attract new students and keep them on the page with its special effects and improved navigation.

Laurie Boris, website administrator in the Marketing & Communications department, says, "Students will be able to quickly find the answers to their questions, and pages are laid out in a way that makes sense to them."



Developed with the input from workshops held over the past 18 months, the new site is focused on prospective students. "Improved user experience, the introduction of academic pathways, the program finder tool and expanded program pages will make it easier for prospective students to discover our programs and see themselves at DCC," shares Jaclyn Murray, associate director of Marketing & Communications.

Marketing & Communications Director John Meagle says that he is very proud of his team and all of the work that has gone into the project. He says, "We're excited about the impact this website will make. The site will be able to seamlessly connect current and future students with DCC and all of the opportunities we offer during their studies and in their careers!"

You can check out a test version now at <https://testwww.sunydutchess.edu/>. *The test site can only be accessed while on the DCC network.* Please note that this is not the final product, so there may be some issues with links and content. However, it will give you a sense of the website's look and feel as we iron out all the details!

## Let the Games Begin!

An eSports arena will be opening this spring 2023 semester in Dutchess Hall, with plans for it to be in full operation by the end of March.

Inside the arena will be a community space with room for everyone – students, faculty and staff – to engage with gaming, whether they want to play competitively or for fun, individually or on a team. And, of course, there will also be quality equipment – state of the art computers, controllers, screens, gaming chairs and cameras, so that anyone can have access on- or off-campus.

Athletic Director Matthew Paquet says, "We're looking to create a location on campus not only for competitive eSports but also for students, faculty and staff to engage in social and recreational opportunities." The athletic department also hopes to partner with the community, providing access to local high schools and supporting events that they sponsor.

Something you may not know is that eSports is sponsored by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). There are over 100 schools currently participating in eSports at the NJCAA level, and competition takes place nationwide. Student athletes participating in invitational or open eSport leagues are required to meet similar academic and performance requirements as their peers competing in traditional sports. There's a great deal of preparation that goes into competing in eSports, including staying physically and mentally fit.

The athletic department is actively recruiting students to join eSports. If you know a student who may be interested, or would like to join eSports yourself, contact the athletic department via email or phone!



# Young and Old Make Music Anew

DCC's Academy of Music hosted its Winter Recital Dec. 16 and 17. The event featured approximately 75 students between the ages of 5 and 75 who performed music from Bach to Scott Joplin on instruments such as piano, guitar, strings and more. The Ukulele Ensemble also made a strong comeback post-pandemic.

As Jenny Jieun Park, Ed.D, director of the Academy of Music, shares, "The recital reminded me of how the Academy of Music is truly a special space where intergenerational music-making and music-learning occur and where students, faculty, and staff come together with a single goal of celebrating music and community wellness."

Spring Academy of Music classes begin January 23. You can view their offerings [here](#).



## Recognizing our Colleagues

### THANK YOU!

Please join us in recognizing the contributions of our colleagues who've retired over the past year:

- Jon Alessandrello, Utilities
- Linda Beasimer, Office of the President
- Willie Calhoun, Custodial Services
- Karen Dalbo, Financial Aid
- Nancy Fitzpatrick, Office of Enrollment Management
- Yvonne Flowers, Business Office
- Johanna Halsey, Math
- William Houghtaling, Inventory
- Paula Lockshon, Human Services
- Maureen Mackey, Computer Science
- Paul Neal, Building & Equipment Maintenance

### WELCOME!

Throughout this first month of 2023, we have 11 people joining our team. Please welcome:

- Hannah Balcomb, Part-time Instructor, ESL Credit Free
- Brian Cauthers, Part-time Instructor, Paramedic
- Raymond Houston, Ed.D.C.T., VP for Instruction & Learning
- Laura Kaufman, Part-time Instructor, ESL Credit Free
- Hannah Lawson-Parchment, Part-time Program Assistant, Student Accounts
- Garrett Neergaard, Part-time Instructor, Speech
- Michael Perlett, Part-time Instructor, ESW
- Carol Ragguette, Part-time Instructor, ESL Credit Free
- David Snider, Part-time Instructor, Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Allison Sohan, Part-time Instructor, Nursing
- David Soriano, Full-time Campus Guard, Safety & Security

To see a list of all of the faculty and staff who have joined DCC since the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year, [follow this link](#).