

Full STEAM Ahead!

Dutchess 101 was packed on the afternoon of Thursday, March 30 with audience members eager to hear about the educational and career paths of five women in STEAM. Students, faculty and staff attended the discussion, which featured women from a wide range of backgrounds, ages and experiences.

Panel participants talked about what they studied in college and where life took them in their working lives, revealing common themes and patterns – such as the importance of self-knowledge, embracing change, taking risks and committing to lifelong learning.

DCC Professor of Chemistry Dr. Jessica Geer Patterson talked about her original intention to work in industry rather than academia after completing her Ph.D. but, later realizing the benefits of teaching and doing research, chose the faculty life (lucky for us!). Nadine Wiese never imagined working in the male-dominated field of construction, but she took a job at DBS Remodel twenty years ago and is now their production manager. Wiese, who went to college for hotel management, said, “It doesn’t matter what you’re going to school for. Life changes.”

Even the panelist whose self-described academic interests were the narrowest, Jessica McMahon, a pharmacist who chose that path as an undergraduate, found herself doing the unexpected; in order to grow within a changing industry, she went back to school for her MBA while parenting and holding a leadership position at Nuvance Health.

Amanda Repp realized she needed a “practical degree” after completing her bachelor’s in studio art; she trained as an architect and eventually



started her own company after working in a job she disliked. Maria Emilia Leon Sanchez, an Ecuadorian immigrant and DCC alumna in chemical engineering, found herself expanding her purview after landing an unrelated career at the cosmetics giant Estée Lauder; she’s now considering a MBA instead of an academic Ph.D. “You never know where you’ll end up,” she said. “Education opens up so many doors, and you don’t always think of the career you might do.”

These inspiring women illustrated for students and the rest of the campus community that the path to success is rarely, if ever, straightforward, and taught that education is never done and possibilities abound if you’re open to them!

Congratulations to Scott Schnackenberg on his Appointment!

VP of Enrollment and Student Success

On March 29, Scott Schnackenberg was appointed VP of Enrollment and Student Success at DCC after serving in an acting capacity since February 2022.

Scott joined DCC in 2017 as director of institutional research. In that role, he began providing enrollment forecasting and student success analyses to improve target revenue projections for the annual budget process.



Middle States Visit

It's almost time! The Middle States Team will be on campus starting April 16, and we're ready for our closeup—but first, a group photo! Faculty and staff who contributed to the self-study process filled the stage of the James and Betty Hall Theatre for a "MSCHE Family Photo" on April 3. Chief of Staff & Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Susan Rogers, one of the three co-chairs of the self-study team, extended her thanks to everyone who participated in the photo shoot, and added, "Thank you for all of your active engagement in the self-study and visit-planning process."

Meetings with the Visiting Team

If you didn't get an email inviting you to a specific meeting with the visiting team, you can still attend one of the many open forums that will be held April 17-18.

Staff Forum #1 (Full- and Part-time NTE, Civil Service, Association) - Monday 4/17, 1 - 1:50 p.m., B122

Staff Forum #2 (Full- and Part-time NTE, Civil Service, Association) - Tuesday 4/18, 3 - 3:50 p.m., B122

Faculty Forum (Full-time) - Monday 4/17, 2 - 2:50 p.m., B122

Faculty Forum (Part-time) - Tuesday 4/18, 4 - 4:50 p.m., B122

Student Forum - Tuesday 4/18, 12:30 - 1:20 p.m., D101

Additionally, everyone on campus is invited to the **final report-out** on Wednesday 4/19 at 10:00 a.m. This will be held in the theatre and broadcast via Zoom.

Following the report-out, a **campus reception** will take place in Ritz Lounge from 11 to 12:00 p.m.



"I'm looking forward to building on the progress the division has made over the last year. I feel like we still have significant opportunities to improve our enrollment."

Among his many other responsibilities and accomplishments as acting vice president of enrollment and student success, he helped develop a new transfer agreement with SUNY New Paltz, negotiated with the Culinary Institute of America to rent space in DCC's residence hall, co-chaired the Middle States Self-Study, and worked to realign his division to more closely match student needs and DCC's Guided Pathways initiative.

Before coming to DCC, Scott held several positions of increasing responsibility at Teachers College at Columbia University, all in various aspects of institutional research. Scott earned two B.S. degrees from Clarkson University, one in computer science and a second in sociology with a minor in statistics. He attended SUNY Stony Brook and completed all but the dissertation toward a Ph.D. in sociology.

According to Dr. Jordan, Scott's "qualifications, performance as a member of the College's leadership team over the past year, and his history with DCC make him an excellent fit for this role. I look forward to working with him to further DCC's enrollment and student success initiatives, and I know you'll continue to collaborate with him to make DCC an even more 'student-ready' college."

It's a Numbers Game: DataFest 2023

Eight DCC students making up three teams participated in DataFest, a nationwide competition held at Vassar College, from Friday, March 31 through Sunday, April 2. This was the first year DCC students have taken part in the event and is a sign of more developments to come in the realm of data science at the College!

Professors in the Math and Computer Science Department **Henry Mendoza Rivera** and **Barbara Dolansky** are working together to build engagement through real-world experience and applied learning opportunities such as this. Both are active members in the American Statistical Association (ASA), and, seeing the value ASA membership provides, Mendoza Rivera recently helped DCC students form the first community college **ASA Student Chapter**. He now serves as the faculty advisor for the **DCC Student Chapter of ASA**.

With the support of their professors, students in STEM are jumping right in – challenging themselves and learning new skills.

Dolansky said, “Our students were outstanding, especially considering that they had virtually no prior experience with the statistical software they were working with and, in most cases, no statistics background. Henry stayed with them throughout the entire weekend to help them with coding and thinking through the different aspects of the data that they might explore.”

Mendoza Rivera said, “I’ve always been passionate about statistics and mentoring students. Someone gave me the opportunity, and I’ve made it my mission to do the same for the next generation of students.” He’s provided a variety of face-to-face and online resources to help students succeed – talking about the field in his classes, hosting mini workshops and filling Brightspace with free learning material.

Mendoza Rivera and Dolansky have big plans on the horizon. Mendoza Rivera is hoping to run **MAT 186: Introduction to Data Science** for the first time this fall and is working with Workforce Development to create a new microcredential in Data Science.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DATAFEST ON APRIL 13!

Student participants will present findings and discuss their experiences and the challenges they overcame during the competition. They'll be in Washington Hall, room 130 from 12:30-1:45 p.m. – stop by!

Promoting Workforce Excellence

DCC's Workforce Development Office plays an integral role in supporting Hudson Valley Industry. They have a number of important projects going on at any given time and are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to build connections between the College and regional businesses and agencies.

They've received \$150,000 in SUNY Workforce Development Training grants to offset the cost employers pay for training. A number of businesses have received funding through the rolling grant program to receive training for their employees – such as Hudson Valley Credit Union, ShopRite, Ruge's Automotive, Council of Industry members, Geodis and Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services.

“We cultivate ongoing relationships with businesses and build community through the work we do,” said

Workforce Development Liaison Laraine Kautz.

“The most popular trainings are in leadership and supervisory skills, customer service and business software, such as Excel, but we are able to customize training to what the employer needs.”

Director of Workforce Education & Development Paloma Krakower said, “Between January and March we have begun training over 100 new people. We are providing the educational resources our region needs to build and sustain a healthy workforce.”

Statistics Instructor Henry Mendoza Rivera (left) stands with students from DCC's first-ever student chapter of the American Statistical Association at DataFest which was held at Vassar College on April 2 (see story on page 3).



DEI SPOTLIGHT



The Linguistically Inclusive Classroom

Students whose first language is Spanish will have a new option when selecting their Elementary Statistics (MAT 118) section this fall! Section 010 will be taught with “bilingual support” by Instructor Henry Mendoza Rivera who’s not only a statistics expert but also fluent in both English and Spanish.

Mendoza Rivera holds two master’s degrees in statistics – from Universidad Nacional de Colombia and University of California, Riverside. As part of this pilot class, which will be taught in English and utilize all English-language course materials, Mendoza Rivera will offer one-on-one assistance in Spanish to make the material more accessible and diminish the extra stress students often feel when attempting a challenging subject in their non-primary language.

According to Mendoza Rivera, sometimes the barrier to learning is not a failure to grasp the subject matter, but a language and cultural difference. “In an environment where I know someone speaks my language, I can relax and learn more effectively,” he said. “I had this experience throughout my education, learning from instructors who spoke a different language from me, and it was very difficult. I want to provide a space where students feel comfortable and supported.”

Keep this course section in mind (for easy reference, it’s CRN 5181) as you’re talking with students about their courses for fall semester, and encourage those who could benefit from bilingual support to enroll!

VIPs in Action Angela Flesland

Since graduating from DCC in 2006, Board of Trustees Vice Chair Angela E. Flesland has been a driving force in our community—in her ten-year career with the Dutchess County Legislature and through her many volunteer projects, including her focus on helping recently homeless veterans.



But Ms. Flesland, our 2018 inductee into the Alumni Hall of Fame, had a new goal in mind. So she continued her education and became a Registered Nurse working in the Cardiac and Cardiothoracic ICU at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla while completing her master’s degree in nursing leadership. Angela then moved away from bedside nursing in 2022 and became the Supervisor of Clinical Care Management and Utilization Review for Westchester Medical Center.

“Pursuing a DNP felt like the logical next step, I love learning and wanted to take on the challenge. Juggling life, work, school and family responsibilities hasn’t been easy, but it is the same struggle so many DCC students face as well. A lot of late nights and weekends were devoted to school work, but when I am handed my diploma on May 14th and graduate with a 4.0 GPA, I know it will all be worth it.”

In May she is expected to graduate from Quinnipiac University with a Doctor of Nursing Practice, Nursing Leadership. We wish Ms. Flesland well as she prepares to defend her dissertation.



Renowned Scholar to Lecture on Causes of the Holocaust

Professor Emeritus of History and Holocaust Studies at Northwestern University Dr. Peter Hayes will give a presentation on April 13 at 7 p.m. in the James and Betty Hall Theatre.

This event is made possible by the Handel Family Foundation-Greenspan Trust Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the DCC Foundation. Professor of History Dr. Werner Steger will be facilitating the talk. [Read more about the event.](#)



Field Trip to UN

On February 13, Associate Professor Karin Riedl took students from her Global Politics class on a field trip to the United Nations, where they experienced a parliamentary hearing about water usage and the future of the planet. Dr. Riedl called the trip a unique opportunity for her students “to observe global leaders engaging on the international stage, hear about the different perspectives and interests of countries from around the world, and experience the complexities involved in finding global solutions to global problems.” She was especially impressed with how her students embraced the learning opportunities the experience provided.



Blast Off!

Houston, we have a website! Our new external website launched on March 21, and after a few moments of radio silence, we re-established contact with mission control and got the green light to unbuckle our restraints and move around the internet. Thank you to our intrepid and tireless team that helped turn an idea and a wireframe into reality. “The new design is modern, easier to navigate than the previous site, and gives us a lot of flexibility to grow,” said Laurie Boris, website administrator. [And DCC students seemed to like it, too!](#)



Young Scientists Present at DCC

DCC hosted the 64th annual Dutchess County Regional Science Fair on March 25, with one hundred students representing 28 schools from 11 districts. The event featured projects by one hundred fifth- to twelfth-graders in biology, chemistry, engineering and more. The senior division award winners are pictured here with Acting Associate Dean of Instruction and Learning: Pre-Collegiate Programs Dr. Rachel Mead.

A Budding Opportunity: New Microcredential Launches April 15

DCC's new Cannabis Retail Management Microcredential will officially launch this Saturday at a Cannabis Workforce Initiative (CWI) Event – 'Cannabis: Navigating Law, Jobs, and the Plant' – taking place in the Greenspan Cafeteria. The CWI event will feature a workforce panel, industry experts, a "Budtending 101" workshop – and Maureen Gittelman and Mark Condon to make the big microcredential announcement! If you're interested in attending this free community event, you can learn more and register [here](#).

Cannabis Retail Management Microcredential

Designed to equip students with the skills needed to work in the retail sector of the emerging recreational cannabis industry, the new 13-credit microcredential will help students develop critical business skills in retail management, merchandising, storeroom operations, cost control, customer service and cannabis science.

The four classes (BIO 113: Intro to Cannabis; BUS 113: Essentials of Customer Service; BUS 143: Hospitality Purchasing & Marketing and BUS 161: Management of Retail Operations) are streamlined to be completed in one semester.

The first cohort, beginning the microcredential in fall 2023, will take classes Monday through Wednesday during the day with course sections limited to students enrolled in the microcredential and enrollment capped at 18 students. The fall schedule was planned to accommodate non-traditionally-aged students who may already be working in hospitality or retail, and avoids scheduling classes in conflict with typical busy periods in those industries.

Upon completion of the microcredential, students will be prepared for a range of careers in "budtending," retail sales and dispensary management. If students wish to continue their studies, the microcredential stacks into the Hospitality & Tourism A.S. and the Business Management A.A.S.

Assistant Professor and Program Chair of Hospitality & Tourism Management Maureen Gittelman said, "Now is the perfect time for us to launch this new microcredential. The job market is about to gain real momentum, with 34 new dispensaries set to open in the Hudson Valley alone over the next year. Our graduates will be ready to take advantage of well-paying opportunities to advance their careers."

DCC Stages US Premiere, A Fully Sold-out Run!

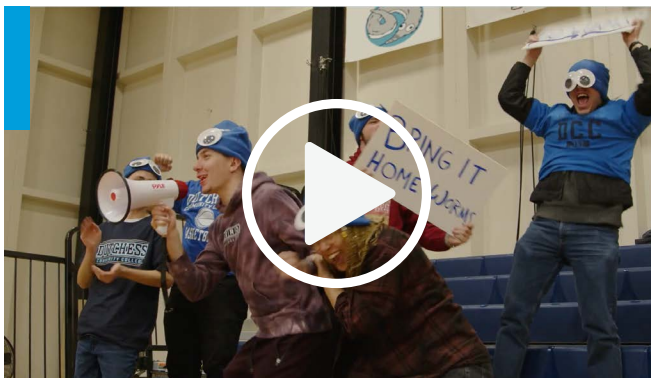
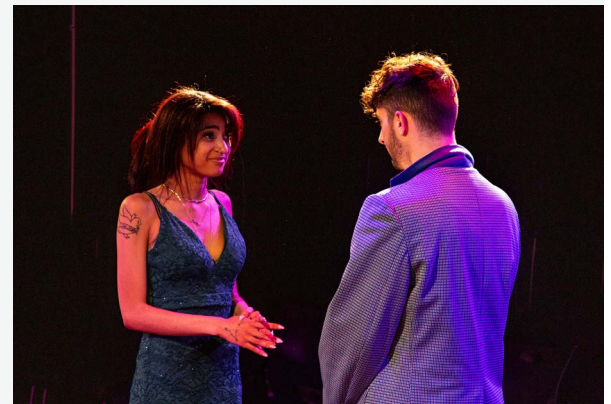
From the time he first learned about Canadian playwright Kat Sandler's "Mustard" at the 2019 Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, Performing Arts Program Chair Tommy Costello knew DCC had to do a production of the show.

He said, "'Mustard' grabbed me by the lapels when I read it. I'm always looking for theater to reflect a diversity of experience and a large cast, and when I found this play, I said to myself, 'I must do this.'"

It took three years, but Costello finally obtained the rights to the Dora Mavor Moore Award-winning play last year. "At first they said no, but I checked in every five months and got to know all the publishing office staff on a first-name basis – staying in touch even throughout the pandemic." His persistence paid off!

The play ran between Thursday, April 6 and Saturday, April 8 in the intimate Black Box Theatre, which Costello describes as the perfect setting. "It's the type of theater that simply could not exist in a larger space," he said.

It was a truly collaborative effort, with faculty from different departments and 37 DCC students working to make it a success. There was so much talent that the four-show run included two entirely separate casts. "I was racking my brain trying to figure out how to cast the show." Costello commented, "They were all so good and I could see two versions." The students and audience all benefitted from the multifaceted perspective!



SUNY's Tiniest Mascot

On April 1, DCC's social media channels announced our new mascot – Wormo! Sleek, modern, cheerful.

[Check out the video here.](#)

APRIL FOOLS! Falco has not been replaced. He is as fierce and feathery as ever, loyally representing our College.

Wormo did garner a bit of local fame, though – his video unveiling was picked up by WRRV in a round up of the [best April Fools' pranks](#) in the Hudson Valley. Go Wormo, go! Kudos to our Multimedia Content Producer Eric Greenop and his phenomenal student team on producing this quality production!

Campus Notes



New Funding Support for DCC Cares

Dutchess County Youth Board was awarded \$20,000 for the DCC CARES Surviving to Thriving initiative, through the DCC Foundation, to promote the empowerment and self-sufficiency of 40 students who are homeless, housing insecure, lack material basics, and/or struggle with mental health issues. The program provides dropout prevention services through a Student Resource Navigator (SRN) as well as emergency funds to address basic needs and the support of a mental health counselor who will provide workshops on basic life skills, coping and work readiness support.



A Pathway to Marist

The Enrollment and Student Success offices have been working with colleagues at Marist to connect students denied admission to Marist the opportunity to take an alternative path by starting their studies at DCC.

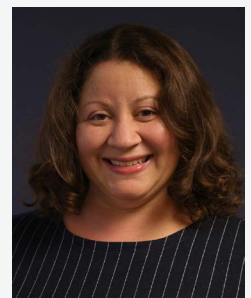
Scott Schnackenberg looks forward to growing this new initiative: "We're pleased that we were able to collaborate with Marist to develop a transfer pathway to include supports at both institutions, which will ensure students have the resources they need to be successful at DCC and in their bachelor's degree."

More information about the pathway can be found [here](#).

Congratulations, Colleagues!

Dr. Melissa Carlo

TRiO Director Melissa Carlo successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, "Persistence Towards Completion: First Generation Community College Students' Perceptions of Academic Advisors' Response During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Carlo said, "I am excited to share my findings and explore ways to create an asset-based approach for advising students, particularly first gen students."



Stewart Dawes

Veterans Resource Coordinator Stewart Dawes has been asked to join Congressman Pat Ryan's New York 18th District Veterans and Military Families Advisory Board.



Campus Notes



A Night to Remember

The Foundation's annual Bridge to the Future Gala was held at The Grandview on Saturday, March 25. It was a joyful evening spent celebrating the accomplishments of DCC alumni, current students and the generosity of the College's supporters.

DCCF Gala Honorees (L to R): Keith Daly '72, Lisa Morris '85 (Gala Co-Chair), Ron M. Lane '75, Rita McPeck '88, Michael Francis Dupree, Michael Fleischer, Susan Scivolette-McCormack '87 (Gala Co-Chair), Dr. Peter Grant Jordan (DCC President) - photo by K. Vitek. More photos of the [event here](#).



A Pathway in Liberal Arts

In a recent publication in Community College Daily, [Exploring Transfer: A Window into Possibilities](#), DCC Professor of English Jacqueline A. Goffe-McNish and Wendy Maragh Taylor (Vassar) underscore the importance of providing opportunities for community college students "to explore, to imagine, [and] to be challenged" by liberal arts education.



Come Fly with Me

And they did! Our March Aviation Open House was a big success - 183 attended, including prospective students and their guests. The event included faculty-led workshops, a representative from United Aviate, Student Financial Services staff, a photo booth, hot dogs and other activities.



Fireside Chat with Dr. J

DCC students gathered in Ritz Hall on April 5 to hear Dr. Jordan's "Formula for Success" - comprising tips and resources to help keep them going through the second half of the semester!

Campus Notes



Alumni and Former CEO Meets with DCC Students

Keith Daly '72 came back to Poughkeepsie from Texas to attend the Bridge to the Future Gala and be inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. A basketball player while at DCC, Daly visited the College the day prior to meet with student athletes and coaches along with his teammate and friend Louis LaPenna '72.



YOUR Health Fair

Falcon Hall will be the site of the Dutchess County Health Fair on Saturday, April 29, and you're invited! YOUR (Young, Old, Urban, Rural) Health Fair is an initiative by the DC Office of the Aging and several departments in Dutchess County government.

It's a day of health-related fun for all ages, with performances and exhibitions, along with a chance to win prizes. The fair runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New Hires – Welcome to DCC!

Ginger Casserly, program assistant Spanish speaking, Family Partnership

Margaret Ann Mulligan, administrative assistant, Office of Instruction and Learning

Staff Promotions

Elisha James, delivery driver

Approval of Tenure

Mariana Melo, assistant professor, Allied Health & Biological Sciences

Nancy Perretta, instructor, Allied Health & Biological Sciences

Faculty Promotions

Instructor to Assistant Professor

David Gavner, Behavioral Sciences

Shalon Hallager, History, Government & Economics

Jennifer Santosuosso, Behavioral Sciences

Thomas Winship, Business, Aviation & Construction Professions

Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

Jason Bishop, Behavioral Sciences

Dinor Dhanabala, Allied Health & Biological Sciences

Ahmed Ismail, Business, Aviation & Construction Professions

Manish Jadhav, Physical Sciences, Engineering & Technology

Samantha Langton, Physical Sciences, Engineering & Technology

Scott Willmen, Business, Aviation & Construction Professions

Associate Professor to Full Professor

Sandra DeGuzman, Mathematics & Computer Science

Cathleen Greenan, Behavioral Sciences

Mehmet Kucukozer, Behavioral Sciences

Brenda Squires, English & Humanities