

HAPPY NEW (ACADEMIC) YEAR!

Fall Convocation

On August 24, four days before credit classes officially begin, DCC faculty and staff will kick off the new semester. We'll celebrate our 2022/23 SUNY Chancellor's Award recipients, hear updates on the state of the College, and begin the work of implementing our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Each of the four lenses – Students, Learning, Community and Growth – will come to life through the stories of our colleagues. There will be five breakout sessions to delve into the following topics: the DCC logo, the Evergreen HR assessment, the Learning Commons, OurNext10 facilities plan and Title III/Guided Pathways.

Continental breakfast will be served at 9 am, and remarks will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. See you there!



The Lieutenant Governor Has Landed!

Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado visited DCC @ HVR Airport on August 1, joined by a number of elected officials, including New York State Senator Rob Rolison and Assistant Dutchess County Executive Ron Hicks, along with Board of Trustees members Michael Dupree (chair) and Stephen Caswell and other DCC leaders. Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Susan Rogers welcomed the lieutenant governor to the facility. He later received a tour of the facility from Associate Dean of Student Services Mike Roe and spoke with Assistant Professor of Aviation Science John Trosie and Coordinator of Aviation Maintenance Technology Genna Suraci about DCC students and programs. Mid Hudson News covered the event – [view the story here](#).



Nursery School Enrolling for Fall

The June Roush Pierson Lab Nursery School is accepting applications for the 2023/24 academic year – children ages 3 to 5 years old. Led by Master Teachers, the rich play-based curriculum includes art, sensory activities, literacy, math, science and music, in addition to block building and dramatic play. The program runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Contact Elaine Myriantopoulos at myrianth@sunydutchess.edu or go to sunydutchess.edu/nurseryschool for more information.



VIPs in Action:

Thank You, Ms. Appel! Welcome, Ms. Panichi!

Sheila Appel Retires

1976 DCC alumna Sheila Appel was appointed to DCC's Board of Trustees in 2017.

Upon her retirement this July, she received a commendation for more than six years of distinguished service. Appel held several leadership positions during her tenure, including vice chair of the Board of Trustees, chair of



the Finance and Facilities Committee, chair of the most recent Presidential Search Committee and member of the DCC Foundation Board of Directors. A strong supporter of the College, Appel continues to be a valued part of the DCC community as a trustee emeritus.

Evelyn Panichi Joins the Board



On August 2, a new member joined the Board of Trustees! Evelyn Panichi is a lifelong Dutchess County resident who co-owns Royal Carting Service Co. and Welsh Sanitation with her father, Emil Panichi, and sister, Elisa Popovich. She has devoted herself to a number of causes in the community, having held board and trustee positions in hospitals, arts

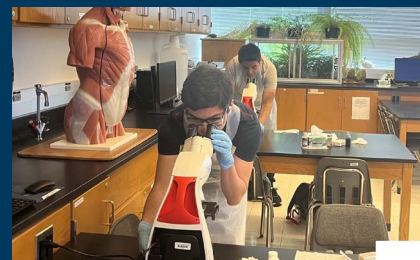
organizations, schools and more. Panichi has also earned a number of awards for her service, including DCC's Falcon Award for Business Excellence. In her spare time, she enjoys skiing, traveling and spending time with her three adult children.

CSTEP Students Seize the Summer

While many future freshmen spend their summer months catching up on sleep, students in DCC's [Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program \(CSTEP\)](#) summer program begin their days at 9 a.m. – brushing up on biology, studying trigonometry, doing research and learning about campus resources.

Designed to help level the playing field in STEM, health-related and New York State licensed professions, CSTEP provides access to a broad range of opportunities and supports to boost student success. In order to qualify for the program, students must be enrolled full time and qualify as economically disadvantaged and/or part of a historically underrepresented minority in science and technology.

The nine students completing this year's summer program come from a variety of backgrounds and represent



a wide range of majors, including liberal arts and sciences, aviation, computer science and business administration. Over the past five weeks, they've solidified their academic foundation in math and science, while also engaging in a broad array of workshops, from writing and research to stress management and career exploration – work that will pay dividends as they begin their higher education journeys this fall.

"As a former CSTEP student myself, I know how important it is for students – many of them first generation – to have these early positive experiences," said CSTEP Director Adjwanou Gbagba. "It's a chance for them to build their self-confidence and sense of possibility for the future, which they can carry with them throughout their education."

CSTEP Coordinator Melissa Minotti shared, "This summer has been all about getting students acclimated and prepared, so they can hit the ground running this fall. Not only will academics be fresh in their minds, but they'll also feel more comfortable knowing they have friends and people on campus who support them in reaching their goals."

Given how much they've accomplished in just over a month, it's exciting to imagine what they'll do over the next two to three years at DCC!

No Vacancy

For the first time since it opened in 2012, Conklin Hall is at capacity for the 2023/24 year, with 20 on the waitlist as of August 7! The resurgence of the residence hall is emblematic of the growth happening across the College, as enrollment continues to increase both in the dorms and in our classrooms.

Conklin serves a diverse student population – with 56 choosing gender neutral rooms, several out of state students (particularly in the aviation program, a population that has expanded from nine to 25 in the last year), and a number supported by DCC CARES funding. Thirty EOP students moved in on August 7

to begin their summer program, and there are many others enrolled in DCC's other opportunity programs such as TRiO and CSTEP. Some spaces are also filled by Culinary Institute of America (CIA) and Anderson Center for Autism.

Several factors have contributed to the success of DCC's residence hall, chief among them the proactive and collaborative efforts of the staff, which have led not only to improved retention, but also to a strong sense of community and vibrant student life attractive to prospective students.

Director of Academic Housing Kaina Rivera said "This past year, we've had the most consistent and solid team that has been able to continue the work from last year, allowing us to provide more efficient, informed and holistic support for our residents."

The staff in Conklin Hall have partnered with departments across campus to ensure students have the resources they need from the beginning, from counseling and tutoring to athletics and activities.

"Providing enrichment is imperative to the maturation of our students," Resident Coordinator Kamanii Samuels shared,

"whether it's social, educational or mental. In Conklin, students are surrounded by people actively playing a role in their development, which supports their success both in and after college."

The Office of Marketing and Communications has been working closely with the residence hall staff to create social media and videos that are both fun and informative. Watch [this one about what to expect on move-in day](#), and keep an eye out for more to come!



From left are Director of Academic Housing Kaina Rivera and Residence Hall Coordinators: Kamanii Samuels, Jen Lorenzo and Karen Aponte-Sanchez

Help us Build DCC's Digital Presence!

Need to update something on the website? Submit a web request to ensure our site is up to date at sunydutchess.edu/web-request.

Have a story or event to share? Past, present and future DCC stories and events – this is the material we need to engage our audience. Submit your ideas here: sunydutchess.edu/social.





It's Never Too Late: DCC Alumni Finishes What He Started, Runs for Mayor

Anthony LaRocca first came to DCC in 1976 upon graduating from Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. While he left before completing his degree – embarking on a career in construction management and later launching his own successful trucking and logistics business – he never forgot about his dream of becoming a teacher, one that began when he was a student.

In 2007, LaRocca returned to DCC. This time, instead of criminal justice, he chose education as his major, completing his associate the next year. “When I returned to academia, everyone was so welcoming and helpful. I was able to take all the credits I had completed decades prior and jump into a teaching degree rather quickly,” he shared.

Building on the success he experienced at DCC, LaRocca transferred to New Paltz where he graduated with his bachelor’s in 2010. He finished his master’s degree at City College in 2013, and returned to his community college as an adjunct professor of history in 2014 and his high school as a government and criminal justice teacher in 2015. On top of his teaching responsibilities, LaRocca is currently a doctoral candidate at Liberty University and member of the City of Poughkeepsie Historic District and Landmark Preservation Commission. As if this doesn’t seem busy enough, he also announced his candidacy for mayor past April!

A lifelong Poughkeepsie resident, LaRocca says he has always prioritized public service, knowing local history and awareness of civic affairs. “In running for mayor, I am really living the advice I give to my students – participate and generate dialogue, get involved,” said LaRocca.

Campus Notes

Presidents Past and Present

On July 24, DCC’s second president, John Connolly (1972-82), stopped by Dr. Jordan’s office for a visit. The two leaders, who began their tenures nearly 50 years apart, had a lot to catch up on!



Getting Oriented

New Falcons and their families have been flocking to campus as the fall semester approaches. DCC has hosted three orientations so far, each with two itineraries – one for the students and another for their families. Students participated in scavenger hunts and met new friends while learning about resources, student life and what to expect in college. Parents, guardians and family members learned about college supports as well and familiarized themselves with financial aid processes, accommodative services and more.

Approximately 300 students and 100 family members attended the first three orientation sessions, and there are still two more to go on August 17 and 25. Sign up is available at sunydutchess.edu/orientation!



Campus Notes



Enrollment Updates

Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Scott Schnackenberg reported on August 14 that fall enrollment is up, for both new and returning students, compared to this time last year. The raw numbers show that there are 614 more students (+22.6%) registered in 7,576 more credits (+24.0%). Last year, an initial round of course cancellations had already taken place, so adjusting for the difference, enrollment is up approximately 600 students and 7,200 credits. Fall applications are also up 640 (+19%) from last year.



Congratulations, Maureen Gittleman!

Assistant Professor and Chair of DCC's Hospitality & Tourism Management program Maureen Gittleman was presented with the Emerging Leader Award by the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE) during the organization's international summer conference in Phoenix in July. The honor recognizes the leadership and accomplishments of early career educators. To qualify, recipients must have a record of inspiring activity, demonstrate innovation and creativity and be an example of the knowledge and skills needed in the contemporary hospitality industry. Well done, Maureen!



UPWIFT Presents "Wildland"

Bring your friends and family to James & Betty Hall Theatre on Thursday, August 17 at 6 p.m. to experience a dramatic reading of a feature length screenplay, selected by Upstate NY Women in Film & Television (UPWIFT). In "Wildland," B.J. Sebring retells a true tale of murder and mayhem set in the wild, isolated forest of upstate New York. The reading is free and open to the public. It will be staged with local actors reading the parts.



FalconFest

Get out your blue and buff! DCC's annual FalconFest is taking place on the main campus walkway on Wednesday and Thursday, September 6 and 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. With music, food, games and student clubs, it's a great way to start the year and get into the DCC spirit.

Campus Notes



From left are Tanja Bos, Linda Pratt and Dr. Jordan

Board Member Featured in Beacon Art Gallery

Linda Pratt is a woman of many talents. In addition to serving on DCC's Board of Trustees and working as a literary agent, she is also a visual artist with work on display at Hudson Beach Glass at 162 Main Street in Beacon through September 4. The exhibition entitled "Up Close" features original artwork by Linda and Tanja Bos.



Pedal to the Meadow

We had some two hundred happy campers on the lawn outside Conklin Hall on August 2, taking a well deserved rest after a day of biking. Parks & Trails New York held its first ever [Cycle the Hudson Valley](#) bicycle tour July 30 to August 5, and chose DCC as one of its stops. The seven day, 200-mile tour from the Albany area to New York City followed the Hudson River section of the Empire State Trail, now the longest multi-use trail in the nation, highlighting the communities, culture, history and scenic landscape of the area. In her welcome remarks to the cyclists, Chief of Staff & Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Susan Rogers said, "It's always a great day when DCC can support the wider community in our region." Associate Vice President of Administration Bridgette Anderson said, "What a great opportunity to show off our amazing campus!"



DCC Foundation Hosts Dr. Jim Downs

This year's Dr. David D. Conklin distinguished lecturer is Dr. Jim Downs of Gettysburg College. He is slated to give a talk entitled "The Troubled and Troubling Origins of Epidemiology: How Slavery and Colonialism Changed Medicine" on Thursday, September 14 at 7 p.m. in Ritz Lounge.

Professor of History Dr. Werner Steger, who selected this year's speaker, shared: "Dr. Downs's work shows that, historically, infectious diseases and subsequent medical progress have always exacted a heavy price on the lives and health of racially and economically marginalized groups. His scholarship is especially timely considering the disproportionate effects of the recent Covid-19 pandemic on people of color, the poor and other minorities."

Campus Notes

New Hires – Welcome to DCC!

Nicholas Caruso, plumber, Utilities

Angelina Epsaro, personnel administrator,
Human Resources

Joseph Falcone, infrastructure system
specialist, Computer Center

Samantha Gonzalez, program assistant,
Student Financial Services

Michael Petralia, instructor, Engineering

Shiji Pothen, instructor, Nursing

Freddy Santiago, coordinator of
mechatronics programming, Workforce

Jennifer Seidel, instructor, Nursing

Allison Tebolt, assistant professor,
Nursing

Bethann Zehnbauer, instructor, Math

Promotions – Congratulations, Colleagues!

Bonnie Gallagher, associate dean of instruction and learning: learning commons,
Instruction & Learning

Janette McCoy-McKay, coordinator of transfer services, Academic Advising

Rachel Mead, associate dean of instruction and learning: pre-collegiate programs/title III
project director, Instruction & Learning