DCC Connects

May 2024 ——



DCC Appreciates You!

As we round out another successful academic year, faculty and staff across the College are hard at work wrapping up classes and preparing for graduation, in addition to keeping up with ongoing projects and making plans for the future. Needless to say, it's an especially busy time for all! Thankfully, as part of DCC's commitment to employee engagement and collaboration, we've had the opportunity to de-stress and connect.

On April 24, our Human Resources Office hosted an incredible Employee Appreciation Breakfast replete with French toast, bacon, eggs, fruit and more. The event began with a welcome from AVP of Human Resources Dr. Okwang and remarks from President Jordan, who initiated a lively round of shout-outs to colleagues in other departments. A steady stream of guests attended throughout the morning, and a refreshing atmosphere of camaraderie prevailed.

Human Resources Coordinator Mary Gabel planned the breakfast, coordinating with several offices to make it a success. She extends her gratitude to all who contributed – in particular, Scheduling for reserving the Greenspan Cafeteria; Custodial Services for setting up the food and beverage stations; Chartwells for preparing the delicious 200-person breakfast; and Follett Bookstore for donating the raffle prizes.

Just a few weeks later, on May 7, the Teaching Learning Center (TLC) organized a community potluck to celebrate Educator Appreciation Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. Faculty and staff brought veggie and cheese platters, pasta salad, spinach dip, cookies, brownies and drinks, adding to the already plentiful taco station. Noticing a (food) theme? In the afternoon, we honored the spring 2024 Educator of the Month recipients – Professor of Physical Science Timothy Welling (March), Senior Office Assistant in Biology and Health Technology Alyson Stewart (April), and Assistant Professor of History Shalon Hallager (May).







"We created the Educator Appreciation Day potluck to celebrate all the employees at DCC, who can each proudly claim the title of Educator because every one of us contributes to student success," said Professor of Math and TLC Faculty Coordinator Carla DelTreste-Jutt. "We appreciate everyone for helping us host a memorable event for the College community, and we look forward to building connections between faculty and staff at future TLC events!"

These are just two recent examples of the ways DCC is working to bring employees together again in the years after the disruption of the pandemic, and we look foward to many more College-wide faculty and staff activities. A happy and safe graduation and summer to all!

Graduation Preview

The Welcome

For the first time, we will hear not one but two welcomes from our colleagues. ISC Chair and Associate Professor of Art Margaret Craig will welcome guests in English, then Diversity Council Co-Chair Steven Posada will also welcome our grads and guests in Spanish. The decision



is especially fitting since DCC is now recognized as an Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

"Growing up with parents who weren't fully proficient in the English language, this hits close to home," said Posada, a Latino first-generation college graduate. "For our Spanish-speaking students, parents and families, I am certain that this will provide a sense of belonging. If I were a student in the graduating class, I would feel proud and grateful toward the College."

Craig, a DCC graduate, has been teaching in the Art department since 1992. She is actively involved throughout the College, currently serving as chair of the AWDCC and on the President's Advisory Council (PAC) and the Title 3 Onboarding Curriculum Committee in addition to being ISC chair. "The gravitas of speaking at graduation didn't hit me until I was talking with my eldest son, a graduate of DCC," Craig shared. "He said, 'Mumma, you better say something important – what will you say?" We will soon get to find out!

Commencement Address

Commissioner for the Dutchess County
Department of Behavioral and Community
Health **Livia Santiago-Rosado** will give
this year's commencement address. Her
speech will echo our student speakers as the
trajectory of her career, like the educational
journey of our graduates, also moved from
isolation to connection, parallel to the
COVID-19 pandemic. Santiago-Rosado will
share her experience navigating her medical
school residency and finding her professional



calling as an example to students searching for their own purpose, as they complete their certificates and associate degrees at DCC.

Celebrate our Students at the BBQ & A on May 16!

Don't miss the chance to celebrate with our graduating students and their families this Thursday before grad!

A barbecue will be held outside Falcon Hall (rain location: inside Falcon Hall) at approximately 5:30 p.m., following a pregraduation info session for the students. We hope to see you there! Contact Matt Hanlon at matt.hanlon@sunydutchess.edu if you have any questions.



Student Commencement Speakers

It seems our 65th Commencement will be full of firsts! We will also have two student commencement speakers! Human Service graduates Amani Deloatch and Amanda L. Faustini-Wiersum will address the class of 2024 together. They will share their inspiring story of finding friendship and camaraderie, supporting each other and becoming leaders on campus. Advocating for the mental health of fellow DCC students, both Amani and Amanda worked with Human Services Instructor Tomasine Oliphant and Director of Mental and Physical Health Services Diana Kiernan, serving as student ambassadors on the **JED Campus** Taskforce and starting the Active Minds club. The theme - moving from isolation to connection - is sure to resonate with their fellow graduates, as the pandemic has influenced each of their academic paths in a similar way.

What Faculty and Staff Need to Know for Graduation

- ✓ BUS AND PARKING:
 - The bus will leave Lot A at 2:30 and 3 p.m.
 - You can park in any of the municipal lot; there is one across the street from the Nesheiwat Convention Center.
- ✓ ARRIVAL AND LINE UP:
 - Faculty and administrators should be at the convention center before 3:30 p.m.
 - Line up will take place in the lower level.
- ✓ RETURN TRANSPORTAION:
 - The bus will return to campus after the ceremony.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month is an opportune time for DCC to commit to prioritizing mental well-being – not just in May, but throughout each semester, and for all members of our campus community.

On May 1, DCC hosted a tabling event in Drumlin with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE) of Dutchess County, the Mental Health America (MHA), and staff from the Counseling Center. Working alongside them were students from DCC's new Active Minds chapter, just launched this semester.

Human Services Instructor Tomasine Oliphant, faculty advisor for the Active Minds chapter, noted that our two graduation speakers, Amani Deloatch and Amanda Faustini-Wiersum, were instrumental in getting this club off the ground in just three weeks before the end of the semester.

Director of Mental and Physical Health Services Diana Kiernan said, "It's been wonderful collaborating with our students and local community partners to illuminate the conversation."





What is Phishing?

Phishing is a scam where cybercriminals lure people into revealing sensitive information by sending fake emails or messages that look real, like from a bank or a co-worker.



What is simulated phishing?

Simulated phishing mimics real-world phishing attacks. By conducting these simulations, faculty, staff, and students can learn to recognize and respond to phishing attempts effectively, thereby reducing the risk of falling victim to cyberattacks. Simulated phishing campaigns are vital for educating and protecting our entire DCC community. Campaign feedback allows us to evaluate the effectiveness of our cybersecurity program and implement improvements.

What this practice ultimately means to you.

Continuous cyber education is essential in safeguarding your sensitive information and our digital infrastructure. This practice fosters a culture of awareness and vigilance about evolving security threats.

Remember, if you receive a phishing email, use the "Report Phishing" button in Outlook. If you're using Outlook 365, click on the "Report" button.

The DCC IT Department appreciates your cooperation and support as we progress toward a more resilient and safer cyber environment for all.

Remember, the Help Desk can be reached at helpdesk@sunydutchess.edu.

Can't email? Call x4357 or (845) 431-8005.

If you get voicemail, please leave your contact information and a description of your troubles.

All voicemails are automatically generated into tickets.

VIPs in Action:

Faculty, Staff and Student Voice

DCC has many VIPs to recognize as spring semester comes to a close and we prepare for the upcoming 2024-25 academic year. Given the institution's commitment to shared governance, the elected leaders of the Student Government Association (SGA), Professional Staff Organization (PSO) and the Professional Service Alliance (PSA) play an important role in ensuring that the voices of students, faculty and staff are heard.

Our **new SGA leaders** are Student Trustee
Robert "Bobby" Biersack (Human Services) and
Chief Justice Katherine Pena Gomez (Business
Administration Transfer). The roles of president,
vice president, treasurer and coordinator of
internal affairs are vacant. The Student Activities
office asks that faculty and staff encourage
students to participate in student government as
it provides a valuable learning experience in shared
governance while they are at DCC. If you know
any students who would be interested in serving
as an SGA leader, ask them to contact Director of
Student Activities Matt Hanlon at
hanlon@sunydutchess.edu.

The **2024-25 PSO executive leaders** are Michael Adams (chair), Adrianna Greco (vice chair), Erik Tomik (secretary), Michael Boden and Manish Jadhav (faculty members at large), Keith Tombrello (NTE member at large), Janette McCoy-McKay (ASC chair), Gary Lindquist (FCCC representative), and Joan McFadden and Renee Lathrop (FCCC alternates).

The **PSA executive leaders** are Thomas D'Ascanio (chair), Matt Palmatier (co-chair), Phyllis Black-Ruffell (secretary), and members at large: Laura Fitzmaurice, Ryan Vitek, Jason Goldsbary, Mary Ramaglia, Jenni Oyler and Mike Costakis.

Dutchess United Educators (DUE) represents the interests of union members in negotiation with the College. As of July 1, the DUE Executive Council will consist of the following people: Laura Murphy (president), Melanie Klein (vice president for full-time faculty), Danielle Williams-Bell (vice president for full-time NTEs), Wesley Lee (vice president for part-time educators), Dana Gavin (secretary), Matthew Murray (treasurer), Kim Rybacki and Carolyn Rounds (full-time members-at-large) and Jessica Murphy (part-time member-at-large). DUE will have a special election for the vacant part-time member-at-large position in the fall.





Inclusive Pedagogy

The Teaching Learning
Center (TLC) held an
Inclusive Pedagogy Peer
Share on April 30, which
brought faculty and staff
from across the College
together to explore ways to
foster a supportive learning
environment, in and out of



the classroom. Six faculty members from different disciplines shared innovative strategies. Below are just a few key takeaways.

Teamwork and Collaboration

Professor of Math Sandra DeGuzman's calculus students work in teams to solve math problems, comparing answers and explaining their solutions to the class. Not only do students gain confidence and start speaking up more as a result, but they also attend class more regularly and build valuable connections with their peers.

Real-World Application

Math Instructor Beth Zehnbauer uses an inclusive technique called "notice and wonder" with her statistics students. Leveraging an interactive tool called Desmos, she prompts them to ask and search for answers based on data. Similarly, Assistant Professor of Business Management Irene Hughes designs business scenarios and competitions that help students better understand and integrate complex concepts.

Inclusive Language

Associate Professor of Biology Carolyn Rounds, who leads the TLC's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice (DEISJ) efforts, spoke about the importance of inclusive language in anatomy – explaining, and where possible avoiding, eponyms and replacing gendered terms with gender-neutral language.

Welcoming Office Hours

Recognizing that the students who most need to come to office hours often don't, Math Instructor Henry Mendoza Rivera made it his mission to increase participation – and succeeded! Some of the strategies he used to help students feel comfortable attending were learning their names on the first day of class, facilitating open conversations about cultural barriers, and allowing students to choose between online and in-person meetings.

Peer Education

In Assistant Professor of Biology Teresa Burke's class on HIV and AIDS, students are required to make a fact-filled brochure. They then go out and talk to peers and the broader campus community, educating them about this important topic. This year, Burke's students asked to film a video for social media, which received a lot of attention on DCC's TikTok and Instagram channels – check it out here!

The TLC will be back with more helpful and inspiring workshops in the fall. In the meantime, visit their webpage and their DEI LibGuide, which have excellent resources for faculty and staff.

Work(force) Better Together:

Manufacturing Champions Award Breakfast and Workforce Expo

The Council of Industry held their 2024 Manufacturing Champions
Award Breakfast and Workforce Expo on April 26 at the Villa Venizia in
Middletown. The Manufacturing Champions award recognizes individuals and
organizations that have helped overcome obstacles faced by manufacturers
in the Hudson Valley community.

One of this year's honorees was Dutchess County's Assistant County Executive for Strategic Planning and Economic Development Ron Hicks, who was instrumental in the creation of our Mechatronics Lab at the Center of Excellence for Industry & Innovation in Fishkill.

DCC presented information about the lab in the Workforce Expo portion of the event. Our booth was staffed by Director of Workforce Education Paloma Krakower, Workforce Development Liaison Laraine Kautz, and Coordinator of Mechatronics Programs Freddie Santiago, who enthusiastically greeted booth visitors and answered questions. Dr. Jordan was also there to represent the College.

"I always enjoy attending the Manufacturing Champions Award Breakfast," said Laraine Kautz, "because it is a celebration of people and of collaboration. This year's event was particularly special as it recognized industry champions Ron Hicks, Barbara Reer and Frank Falatyn for doing work they are passionate about. I have worked with each of them and have been impressed by their vision and their ability to get things done."





ESL Student Success: Building Brighter Futures

You may know that The Family Partnership Center (FPC) is where most of DCC's ESL (English as a Second Language) classes are held, but did you know that the center serves over 1,000 students per year? And while some might think that





Above: ESL Instructor Laura Kaufman with ESL 103, Intermediate I. Left: ESL Instructor Laetitia Ganem-Salcedo with ESL 106, Advanced I.

most, if not all, of our learners come to us as native Spanish speakers, the FPC is truly an international hub, serving students from countries all over the world, from Afghanistan to Yemen.

Also, many students begin at the FPC to learn English (or get their GED, or both!) and go on to college or other opportunities that they might not have pursued if not for these classes. Or as one ESL student said, "I am improving myself with this course, for a better future!"

Kimberly Bacon, ESL program coordinator, added, "At our core, we believe in the transformative power of education to uplift individuals and communities. By addressing the unique needs of learners in the heart of the city, we pave the way for brighter futures and a more vibrant and resilient community."

ESL classes are also held in Fishkill, Brewster and online.

Student Awards







SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Three DCC students received the 2024 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence (CASE). They were recognized on April 11 at the Albany Capital Center.

Recipients, pictured above from left, are Susanna Gilgert, Kaitlin Robin and Emily Mahoney.

Case Awards Luncheon

On April 25, the Office of Enrollment and Student Success held its first CASE Awards Recognition Luncheon in honor of CASE award recipients and nominees. The faculty and staff who nominated these students, along with the CASE Committee, were also present at the event. "Joe Reilly and I collaborated to put this event together, with the help of our colleagues in other departments, such as the Office of Marketing and Communications,



Student Activities and the Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability," said Executive Assistant to the VP Enrollment & Student Success Jessica Whelan. "We look forward to hosting this event every year!"



Honors Ceremony

The Honors Program, coordinated by Professor of History Dr. Werner Steger, celebrated its 15th annual awards ceremony on May 2 to recognize eight students who fulfilled the requirements to graduate with a minor in honors studies. Dr. Susan Rogers welcomed this group of high achievers and their families, and encouraged them to use the critical thinking skills they'd learned here as they navigate their future education and careers.



Alpha Beta Gamma Induction Ceremony

Twenty new initiates joined the Delta Zeta chapter of the national business honor society Alpha Beta Gamma on April 17, with Assistant Professor Meghan McCarthy as their advisor. Faculty and staff attended to celebrate the inductees, and Dr. Susan Rogers provided welcoming remarks to the students and their families.



Phi Theta Kappa: All-State Academic Team and New Inductees

Four Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members were named to the All-New York Academic Team during a SUNY-wide ceremony in Albany on April 11: Emily Mahoney ('24), Vivian Noriega-Vernon ('23), Moeha Saito ('24), and Emma Schmults ('24).

The longstanding international honors society also welcomed 130 new members at an Induction Ceremony on Monday, May 6. Professor of English Dr. Navina Hooker is the PTK advisor.

Student Awards



DUE Awards

Dutchess United Educators recognized 34 students for academic achievement at the 38th Annual Awards for Academic Excellence ceremony on May 1. Twentyone students were nominated by faculty and staff for individual DUE Awards, while 13 others received special awards, which are given by entire academic departments or in honor of past DCC faculty and staff members. DUE Awards Committee Chair Margeaux Lippman, Vice President for Instruction and Learning Dr. Raymond Houston and DUE President Laura Murphy gave the greetings and welcome. Professor Emeritus of English Jody Sterling was the keynote speaker.



Sheridan Awards

The History, Government and Economics (HGE) Department recognized five students at its annual Eugene Sheridan Awards Ceremony held on April 25.

Eugene Sheridan Award: Nicole Ciardullo **Xavier H. Verbeck Award:** Ryan J. Scott

HGE Departmental Awards for Outstanding Achievement in the Social Sciences: Yassmine Chanaoui and Michael A. Gattine-Suarez

Ann and Dan Zodikoff Memorial Scholarship: Ashley K. Carson



Denton Writing Awards

Eight students were selected for this year's Denton Writing Awards across four categories. The awards are given annually and named after Tom Denton, who founded the Writing Center. Denton's successor, Brenda Squires, congratulated the students at the ceremony on April 25.

Academic Writing: Sofiia Turovtseva and Amarice Wells **Creative Non-fiction:** Marriana Maloney and Kyannah Scafe

Fiction: Emily Mahoney and Rileigh Diaz-Lambos

Poetry: Katelyn Oles and Enmanuel Zambrano

Thanks to the English faculty who judged the students' submissions: Tina Iraca and Jen Yanoti (Academic Writing), Pat Phillips and Kevin Lang (Creative Non-fiction), Dr. Keith O'Neill (Fiction), Dr. Lucia Cherciu and Melanie Klein (Poetry).



As of May 13, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Scott Schnackenberg reported that both summer and fall enrollment are up, and on-campus housing is filling up. We have 1,290 students enrolled in a total of 7,943 credits for the summer term – 168 more students (+15%) and 1,549 more credits (+24%) than this time last year. There are 1,463 students enrolled in a total of 16,604 credits for the fall term – 324 more students (+28%) and 3,137 more credits (+23%) than this time last year. There are 1,218 continuing students currently enrolled for fall – 340 more than this time last year. Fall applications are also up, so far 3,075 applications – 72 more (+2%) than this time last year. Our Residence Hall has already received 101 deposits – up 30 from this time last year.

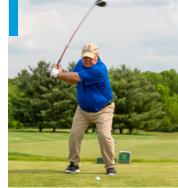
Tee Time!

The 34th Annual Dutchess Community College Foundation Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, May 20 at the McCann Memorial Golf Course in Poughkeepsie. Initially established with generous support from the family of Jack Orcutt, one of the College's founding staff members and its first director of Student Activities, the event brings in over \$50,000 for scholarships and other support initiatives. The day will begin with a barbecue lunch and continue with a great afternoon of golf, followed by a dinner filled with lively raffle drawings and prize presentations. For more information contact Stefani

Timpano at (845) 431-8407 or DCCFsponsorship@sunydutchess.edu. Check out last year's photo album here.







Gamifying Cybersecurity for Student Engagement

Senior IT Support Administrator Crystal Jones-Howe presented at the New Trends in Informatics Research (NTIR) Conference on April 19. The conference, hosted by the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity at the University at Albany (UAlbany), brought together researchers and scholars from diverse disciplines, focusing on this year's theme: "Information for a Sustainable Future." The topic of Jones-Howe's presentation was "Enhancing Cybersecurity Awareness and Preparedness in Higher Education through Gamified Learning Platforms."



"Working in instructional media and as an adjunct professor in the Math and Computer Science department at DCC provides me with firsthand insights into how students interact with technology and the gaps that exist," said Jones-Howe, who is currently pursuing her doctorate in Information Science at UAlbany. "Speaking at the NTIR Conference marked a significant milestone in my academic and professional journey, and I aspire to contribute my knowledge and research to DCC as we position ourselves as leaders in educating future technology-aware professionals."

Educating Parents about Gang Recruitment: Keeping our Children Safe

Clinton Elementary School, part of the Poughkeepsie City School District, has been offering a set of workshops this year called "Parent University," designed to help parents support their children outside the classroom. At a recent workshop, aimed at educating parents about the recruitment of children into gangs,



DCC's Human Services Instructor Tomasine Oliphant participated in the panel discussion.

"It was an incredible experience to serve on a panel with distinctive members from the community," said Oliphant, who is also co-chair of the Diversity Council. "It was empowering to see how engaged the parents were with questions to learn the signs of gang recruitment and how to keep their children safe and engaged in positive youth development activities in the community."

Get Your Goat Yoga On

On April 30, in what has become a kind of pre-finals ritual at DCC, pre-registered students gathered on the Conklin Hall lawn and participated in a group yoga class – with the addition of a bunch of baby goats. Why the goats, you might ask? They're adorable, for one. Who can't help but enjoy the cuteness when you're trying for a downward dog with a baby goat on your back? In addition to the physical benefits of yoga, interacting with the playful animals has been shown to reduce anxiety, promote relaxation, and enhance overall well-being. What more perfect way to de-stress before finals?



Thank you to the Counseling Center and Student Activities for bringing us this fun (and healthy) event.

Mentoring Young Poets

we did before Covid. I can't wait!"

For the past seven years, DCC Professor of English and former Dutchess County poet laureate Dr. Lucia Cherciu has led her ENG 210 creative writing class through a service learning project at Morse Elementary School. The students work with Jennifer Ennist's fifth-graders, building their confidence and teaching them the tools of poetry. The young learners write poems based on an annual theme, then the college students decide the judging criteria and select three winners. "My ENG 210 students learned to read the children's poems based on originality, authenticity of detail, vibrant use of metaphors and similes, and memorable images," Dr. Cherciu shared. "Reading these poems gave us insight into the wonderful world of childhood, filled with enthusiasm and joy. It was difficult to choose just three." She said, "Next year, we're planning to have our class visit with Mrs. Ennists' class the way





Enhancing Town/Gown Relations

There are three colleges in Poughkeepsie, but can Poughkeepsie be a "college town"? That was a goal on the table when Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor Rebecca Edwards recently met with Dr. Jordan and the presidents of Marist and Vassar, Kevin Weinman and Elizabeth Bradley, respectively.



The four discussed ways to enhance "town/gown relations" including a College Night, promoting college events via the Town of Poughkeepsie TV channels, support for interns interested in government and policy, along with that "college town" branding.

Go with the Flow

On April 18, Academy of Music Director Jenny Park led a workshop in the Teaching Learning Center (TLC) about flow — often referred to as "being in the zone" — and how it shows up in our work settings. Her fascination with the topic emerged from her doctoral research and from her experience as a teaching performer. Through discussions and activities, workshop participants learned about the intricacies of flow — how it presents itself at work, how it can invigorate professional development and foster holistic wellbeing.



Team (Building) Work Makes the Dream Work: HR Retreat

On May 3, Human Resources engaged in a full day of strategic planning and team building aimed at enhancing their services to the DCC community. The retreat, which was held at DCC's Fishkill site, began with a tour of the campus given by Director of Off Campus Centers Tim Decker. The team used the time to work collaboratively on an enhanced mission statement and core values that align closely with the College's Strategic Plan. The day ended with a team-building painting session that



helped each team member identify their individual strengths, weaknesses, and how each of those contribute to the team as whole. According to HR, the retreat was a great success, as it enabled the staff to engage in out-of-the box professional development that strengthened their resolve to serve the College in alignment with DCC's overall business strategy.

Help us Build DCC's Digital Presence!

Need to update something on the website? Easy! Fill out our simple web request form at sunydutchess.edu/web-request. This helps keep us organized and efficient.

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. We love collaborating with colleagues!



A Community of Dedication and Musical Talent

The Academy of Music is thrilled to share their recent events. Throughout April, talented and passionate students, faculty, and community members from ages 4 to 70 came together to create unforgettable moments celebrating the power of music and camaraderie.

At the annual Community Concert at the Galleria Mall, orchestra, scholarship students, and the violin and jazz chamber groups created an enchanting musical experience, highlighting the boundless talent within our community.



The Ensemble and Online Student Recitals showcased students' versatility and skill. Their dedication, hard work, and talent continue to inspire.

For more information on upcoming Academy of Music events and programs, click here.

Let's Dance!

Every year, students from the PVAC's Performance and Applied Dance classes show off their chops in the Spring Dance Concert. This year's show was on Saturday, April 27, and according to Dance Instructor Sharon Penz, the students created their own choreography for solos and contributed to the group choreography. "The dancers put in a HUGE amount of time outside class to create and rehearse these dances," Penz said, "and they did a really fabulous job this year."



In addition, the show contained work from two guest choreographers—

instructors Laura Ward and Cedric James—and a new contemporary work by Sharon Penz. Behind the scenes, she credits former DCC student and now professional lighting designer Jeremy Johnson for the dramatic stage lighting and Jeff Baker's work as technical director.

