

# The Conquistador

Summer 2021

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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Flight Instructor Program





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# The Conquistador

Summer 2021  
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

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The Conquistador is published  
once per semester by the Office of  
Marketing and Public Relations.  
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**Correction:** On page 8 of the Spring Fling article, in the spring 2021 issue of the Conquistador, the Social Activities Council is mistakenly referred to as the Student Activities Council. The Conquistador regrets the error.



# Cause for Celebration



I would like to welcome you to a special summer issue of the Conquistador magazine. Within its pages, you will find positive, upbeat stories and photos that help document and wrap up our spring semester here at Dodge City Community College (DC3).

After such a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a huge relief to gradually return to face-to-face classes, to finally let fans fill the stands at our athletic contests, and to host large public events such as graduation. Out of all the things we gave up last year at DC3, I think graduation was the event I missed most of all. Without a graduation ceremony, there is no satisfying closure for the college experience.

Regarding graduation, make sure you check out the photo essay included in this issue, which highlights all of the weekend's fun activities. And also take a look at our summer feature stories. In this issue, we highlight our Flight Instructor program in Arizona, we include historical pieces on Lake Charles and Conq football great Larry Brown, and we give you the latest news from the DC3 Foundation.

Basically, there's lots happening in Conq Nation, and we are glad you are here! Read on! Together we conquer!

Sincerely,

*Harold Nolte*  
HAROLD NOLTE, Ed.D.  
President





# Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.

## SUMMER BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

**519**

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

**5**

STUDENTS FROM

**31** STATES

**10** COUNTRIES

UNIQUE COURSES OFFERED

**299**

CLASS SECTIONS OFFERED

**344**

STUDENT GENDER

**59%** FEMALE

**41%** MALE



On April 30, the DC3 Visual Arts departments hosted the Student Art Show and Reception in the Little Theatre Gallery. This exhibition, showcased the best of student-created artwork from the Painting, Drawing, Photography, Ceramics, Design and Metalsmithing classes.



Several DC3 employees, including DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, took a turn at the dunk tank, during the end-of-the-year Conq Celebration on May 5. Located on the campus quad, the event also included lawn games, giveaways, and free food—such as tacos, popcorn, cotton candy, and snow cones.



The DC3 Music Department hosted its Spring Concert on April 30, in the DC3 Little Theatre. Conducted by Kerry Kuplic, associate professor of vocal music; and Nancy Sapp, visiting director of instrumental music; the concert featured the DC3 Concert Choir, the Choral Union, the Combined Choir, the Wind Ensemble, and Don Steele on piano.



DC3 students and staff gather for a photo during the CHAD open house on May 11, at 1601 Mulberry Circle. This marks the seventh year for this ongoing partnership between the college and the Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD), in which DC3 Building Construction Technology students learn all facets of the building process.



On May 1, the DC3 Foundation hosted a fundraising event called Books, Bottles and Brie, in the DC3 Library. The evening's festivities included wine and cheese tasting; a beer garden; lawn games; and live jazz music performed by John and Connie Chavez, of Jetmore. All proceeds from the event will go toward improvements to the college's library.



David McCollum, DC3 Professor of Animal Science/Ag Business (left), holds a sheep while 3-year-old Hank Goertzen feels its wool during Summer Storytime, on June 23. Summer Storytime is hosted by the DC3 Library and is made possible by the DC3 Foundation and the Communities Supporting Early Literacy Grant, which is funded by the Kansas Health Foundation.



# DC3's SARC Is Committed to Student Success

by Lance Ziesch

When students walk through the doors of the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Student Achievement and Resources Center (SARC), they can expect a calm, relaxed environment for tutoring, advising, studying and study hall.

“The mission of the SARC is to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for DC3 students and to empower them to achieve their full potential with mentoring, student workshops and free academic tutoring,” Jorge Estrella, DC3 SARC Director, said. “In addition to tutoring, advising, and a quiet room, we also offer academic coaching and face-to-face and online Student Success Workshops.”

Lucas Richards, DC3 Academic Coach/Learning Specialist, said that in addition to an open study hall for athletes who are required to take it, the SARC also now offers a mandatory study hall for DC3 sports teams that want to have a daily or weekly study hall time.

“Currently the men’s and women’s cross country and track and field teams have their student-athletes come in Monday through Thursday for one hour a day of mandatory study hall,” he said. “And men’s soccer comes in for an hour every week in the same environment.”

For mandatory study hall, all student-athletes must either do classwork or meet with a tutor—and they have to turn in their cell phones when they arrive. And surprisingly enough, several students have told Richards that they actually like the phone rule.

“It makes them realize how much time they do spend on their phones,” he said. “They end up saying that one hour a day is a time they look forward to because they get so much work done in that hour, because they don’t have any distractions.”

Also during study hall, Richards said SARC staff do routine grade checks to make sure the student-athletes are staying on top of their school work and getting the proper resources they need.

In addition to the mandatory study hall for student-athletes, Richards said the SARC also provides study groups Monday through Thursday for all DC3 students.

“All are welcome to come and get help on homework or to study for finals from 4-5 p.m. without having to book tutors,” he said.

In his interactions with students, Richards said he enjoys getting to know who his students really are as people,

especially those who come in on a frequent basis.

“You build a strong relationship with the regulars, and they feel comfortable to come and talk to you when something might be bothering them or not going right,” he said. “In addition, you also get to be there for them seeing their successes and, sometimes, even their not-so-good times, which allows you to help them through those moments.”

Kathleen Keller, DC3 Academic Coach (above, right), said that in addition to study hall, there are many other reasons students visit the SARC, including help with assignments, help with reading and comprehension of texts and class reading materials, time management issues, and study skills.

“Any circumstance that makes students feel lost can trigger a SARC visit,” she said. “But students who come seeking a better way from the outset know we can save them time and frustration by heading off potential problems.”

Keller said her “first job” is to help build the student’s confidence and to let him or her know that it’s possible to succeed at DC3.

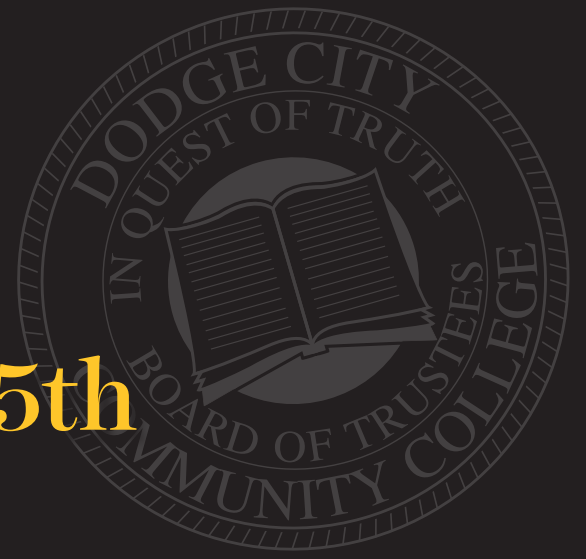
“It may start out with a simple concept of getting a better grade on an assignment, but I find that students tend to progress and seek higher and higher goals,” she said. “They want not only to get a better grade, but have a mastery of the subject matter. And, always, the higher their confidence levels become, the higher they reach.”

Although she is still fairly new to the SARC, Keller said that not all DC3 students, or even faculty for that matter, really understand how the SARC can make their lives easier.

“We can give them strategies beyond the needs of a specific assignment or class,” she said. We can give them skills for four-year college applications and résumé writing. Simply put, there is not one student at DC3 who could not benefit from the SARC.”

The SARC is located on the second floor of the Science & Math building. Originally known as the Academic Success Center, it became the SARC in July 2018. ♥





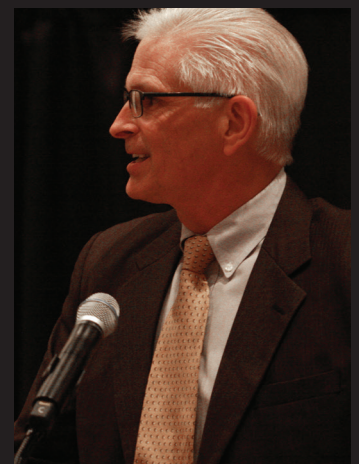
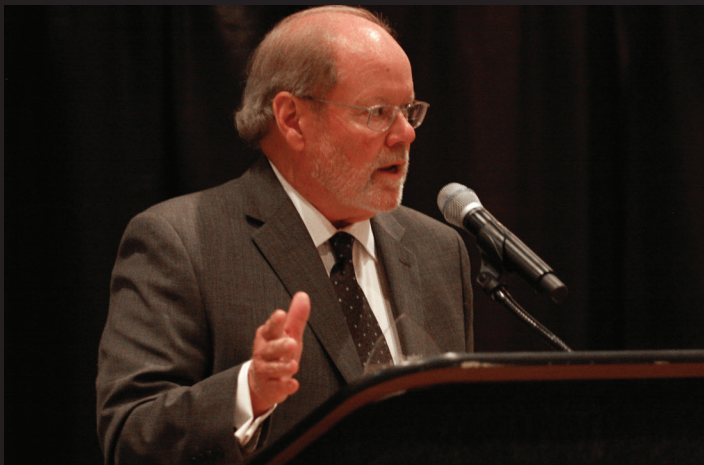
# DC3 Celebrates Its 85th Graduating Class

Photos by Justin Wilson

For the first time, Dodge City Community College (DC3) hosted a combined student honors reception and distinguished alumnus event on Friday, May 7, at 6 p.m., at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort Conference Center. Called the DC3 Honors Banquet, the event featured remarks from the DC3 2021 Distinguished Alumnus, Dr. Roger C. Barnes, followed by a recognition ceremony for the college's High Honors and Honors graduates.

On Saturday, May 8, the college hosted its graduation ceremonies at the United Wireless Arena. Up first was the Nurses' Pinning Ceremony at 10 a.m., which was followed by Commencement at 3 p.m. At Commencement, Barnes gave a second address as Distinguished Alumnus, and two members of the Class of 2021 also spoke. Charlotte Ochs, from Jetmore, gave the invocation, and Cameren Bartlett, from Cimarron, gave the student leader remarks. ♥

## Honors Banquet



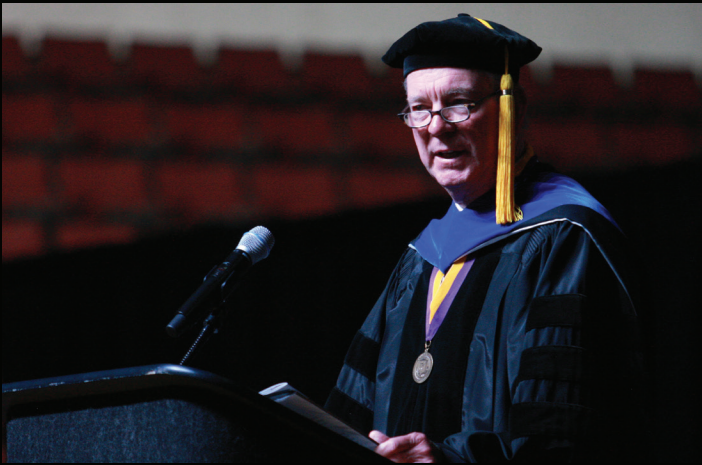


# Nurses' Pinning





# Commencement









# DC3 Flight Instructor Program Takes Off

A photograph of two helicopters in flight against a desert background. The helicopter in the foreground is purple with yellow accents and has the registration number N30820 visible on its side. The helicopter in the background is yellow with purple accents and has the registration number N30811 visible. Both helicopters have their rotors spinning. The background shows a rugged, hilly desert landscape with sparse vegetation under a clear sky.

by Lance Ziesch

**This summer, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Flight Instructor program is boasting its largest enrollment ever at its Chandler, Ariz., location. The program, which is in its 13th year, is readying itself for more than 50 students.**

“DC3’s goal in developing this Flight Instructor degree program has been simply to design the best collegiate helicopter training program in the United States,” Dr. Adam John, DC3 Provost, said.

“In doing so, DC3 has consulted with and continues to work closely with some of the most experienced helicopter flight training organizations in the world,” he said. “These relationships have been not only helpful to DC3’s course development, but have also helped to give DC3 program graduates a real advantage in job placement and career development within the helicopter industry.”

The two-year Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program, which is taught in five semesters, is a comprehensive program of study that has been specifically designed to take students with no aviation experience through their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor qualification, with the completion of the AAS degree, John said.

In addition, the program is taught fully in-house, which means all classes—including flight classes—are taught by DC3, at the college’s teaching location in Chandler or at the nearby Chandler Municipal Airport.

“The DC3 Flight Instructor Program has been designed around realistic completion times for each semester,” John said. “This means that we have allotted sufficient flight hours and ground training hours to enable a motivated and hardworking student to be able to successfully finish each semester’s workload in one semester. This greatly reduces the chance of a student having to repeat a semester or semesters.”

In addition to the core and general education courses that make up this degree program, the DC3 Flight Instructor Program includes the training required for the following FAA Pilot Certificates and FAA pilot ratings, such as Private Pilot Certificate—Helicopter; Instrument Rating—Helicopter; Commercial Pilot Certificate—Helicopter; Certified Flight Instructor—Helicopter and Certified Flight Instructor—Instrument Helicopter, John said.

“Over the five semesters of training, the program provides for 280 hours of real helicopter flight training (with no simulators), 185 hours of one-on-one helicopter ground instruction, and nearly 600 hours of aviation classroom instruction,” he said. “All of this helicopter-related training is for one purpose, to produce graduates who will be the most prepared, safe, and effective helicopter flight instructors that they can be.”



## Quantum Helicopters

DC3 has an agreement with Quantum Helicopters, also located in Chandler, which gives it access to Quantum's fleet of aircraft as well as the usage of Quantum's airport facilities. Since its inception in 1993, Quantum has grown to be one of the busiest and most respected helicopter flight training schools in the nation.

Operating out of the Chandler Municipal Airport, Quantum is the sole operator of what is believed to be the largest public heliport in the United States. It includes 36 landing pads with taxiway access, a large turf training area, nearly 8,000 square feet of office space, and a 14,400-square-foot hangar for aircraft storage and maintenance.

Neil Jones, who serves as president at Quantum Helicopters, said he thinks the program is growing by leaps and bounds. And although the current enrollment is up to 50 students, he said the existing program can handle up to 85, which means there is still room for growth.

"I think things are going about as well as they could possibly go," he said.

In 2017, Jones said John approached him about a new partnership for its Flight Instructor program.

"I told somebody last week, it felt like it was a match made in heaven, although I wasn't sure when [John] first approached me, because [DC3] had been working with one of our competitors," he said.

That competitor—Universal Helicopter Inc.—was DC3's original partner when the college launched its flight program back in 2008 in Dodge City.

"When you know the history and where it came from, I don't think it could be going any better," he said.

Jones said the enthusiastic and supportive relationship Quantum has built with DC3 has exceeded his expectations, especially the support from the college's Board of Trustees.

"I've been to Dodge City twice, and I've had three or four representatives of the Board visit our facilities in the past three years," he said. "The level of dedication I've seen toward making the program, and more importantly their students, successful from everyone at the college has been incredible."

## The Program

For its Flight Instructor program, DC3 mainly utilizes Robinson R22II helicopters. And the college has access to a total of 18 helicopters, including three that are branded with DC3 colors and or logos.

"The Robinson R22 has dominated the civilian helicopter market as the flight trainer of choice, and as the helicopter that new instructors are, by far, most likely to obtain their first job in. And the R22 dominates the flight instruction market due to its extreme cost effectiveness, reliability, and overall quality," John said.

"At DC3, we have chosen to use R22II helicopters that have been equipped with the best of modern glass cockpits for our instrument helicopter courses," he said. "This has allowed DC3 to offer our instrument training at roughly half of the price per hour of most schools, and

- CONTINUED



Tim Brennan





## FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR CONTINUED -

it has allowed us to not have to resort to low-cost and ineffective helicopter simulators to try and make our instrument training look less expensive.”

The current cost of the DC3 Flight Instructor program is around \$120,000. However, DC3 has an active program for military veterans who are seeking to use their Post 9-11 GI Bill® education benefits. By using these Veterans Administration (VA) benefits, qualifying veterans can receive up to 100% financing, which can even include the FAA Private Helicopter Certificate.

“Flight training adds significant expense to a degree program,” he said. “Because DC3 is an accredited college, students also may be eligible for various types of loans and financial aid.”

## Student Stories

The cost of flight school was a big concern for Talon Lee, who is a second semester—instrument student at DC3-Arizona.

“I actually [had] just got out of the Army, and I wanted to try something different,” he said. “I was on the fence about getting out, but I made the decision that I wanted to fly helicopters. I had no idea how I was going to do it.”

Figuring his Post 9-11 GI Bill® would cover at least some of the costs of flight school, Lee initially thought he might have to commit to a year-long contract in Afghanistan to make money for the remainder of his schooling expenses. However, after visiting with staff at DC3-Arizona, he found out his expenses would be covered.

“Once I found out... my flight school was 100% covered, I was really excited about that,” he said. “I just

didn't want to use the GI Bill® to be another guy who goes for a criminal justice degree to be a cop. A lot of guys do that, but I wanted to do something different. The school here has been really, really awesome.”

Another DC3 student, Jessica Brandal, who graduated from the program in spring 2021, was a former Air Force airborne linguist. After the military, Brandal decided to try a flight school in Virginia, which didn't work out for her like she had planned.

“Here at Dodge City, you have a semester timeline versus a lot of schools where it takes two or three semesters to get just one rating,” she said. “That can be a bit frustrating, when you are trying to progress in your career, and it is taking a lot longer than you intended. The flight instruction that I received was a 1,000 times better than what I was getting before. I only have awesome things to say about my experience.”

DC3's Chief Flight Instructor, Tim Brennan, said he is excited about the program's increased enrollment, and he hopes that the recent graduates can be hired back with DC3 and Quantum as full-time instructors.

“The challenge we are facing this summer is a huge group,” Brennan said. “It's a good problem to have, but it has been a little stressful, especially training new instructors, managing their growth, and being able to accommodate all of these new students who are joining the program as the word spreads.” ♥

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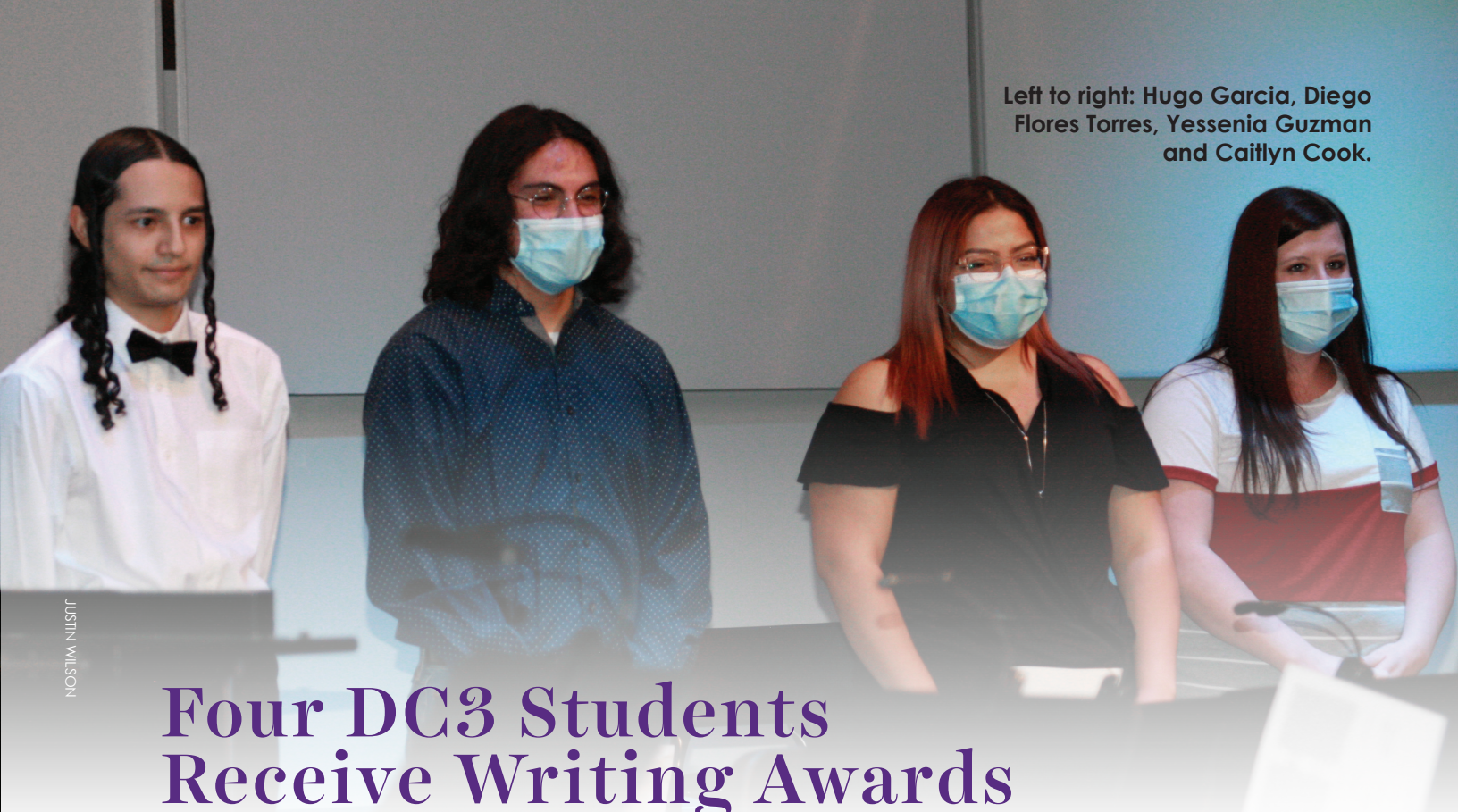
**Editor's Note:** The GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).



Talon Lee

LANCE ZIESCH



A photograph of four students standing behind a podium. From left to right: a young man in a white shirt and black bow tie, a young man in a blue patterned shirt and a light blue face mask, a young woman in a black off-the-shoulder top and a light blue face mask, and a young woman in a white and red top and a light blue face mask. They are all looking towards the camera.

Left to right: Hugo Garcia, Diego Flores Torres, Yessenia Guzman and Caitlyn Cook.

# Four DC3 Students Receive Writing Awards

by Lance Ziesch

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) English Department recognized four of its outstanding student writers at an intermission during the Music Department's spring concert on April 30, in the DC3 Little Theatre.

At the recognition ceremony, which was the culmination of an English Department writing contest called the Outstanding Writers Awards, certificates and cash prizes were presented to four students for their winning submissions.

The contest, which was the idea of Arthur Richmond, DC3 English Instructor and Humanities Division Chair, gave English Composition I and II students an opportunity to submit their work in two writing categories: literary analysis and narrative.

"I wanted to provide the college with an additional way to recognize students for their academic achievements, specifically as they relate to writing," Richmond said. "Every semester I receive a number of outstanding essays, which are often not read by anybody else but me. I thought, 'Why not come up with a way to share the students' work?' In the end, it was just a matter of getting everybody in the department together to come up with submission and scoring parameters."

Richmond said he was "extremely pleased" with the students' submissions, which covered a wide range of diverse content and perspectives.

"All of the submissions, and particularly the winning entries, are a testament to the diligence, intelligence, and creativity of our students here at DC3," he said.

Nick Clohecy, DC3 English Instructor, said DC3 English teachers were asked to select the top two essays they received for each category.

"For the literary analysis category, we had 10 submissions," he said. "For the narrative category, we had eight. This meant the submissions were very competitive, since only the best essays were pitted against each other."

Clohecy said that sometimes students might feel like their work does not have any kind of weight outside of the classroom. So, a writing contest can show them just how much their work is valued.

"Their sole audience member is usually just their teacher," he said. "By giving students the spotlight and commending them for the work they've done, both scholarly and creatively, we can encourage those same students to keep pushing and striving to be the best. Perhaps more importantly, it sets a great example for other students."

In addition to custom-made certificates, each first-place winner received \$100, and each second-place winner received \$50, Clohecy said.

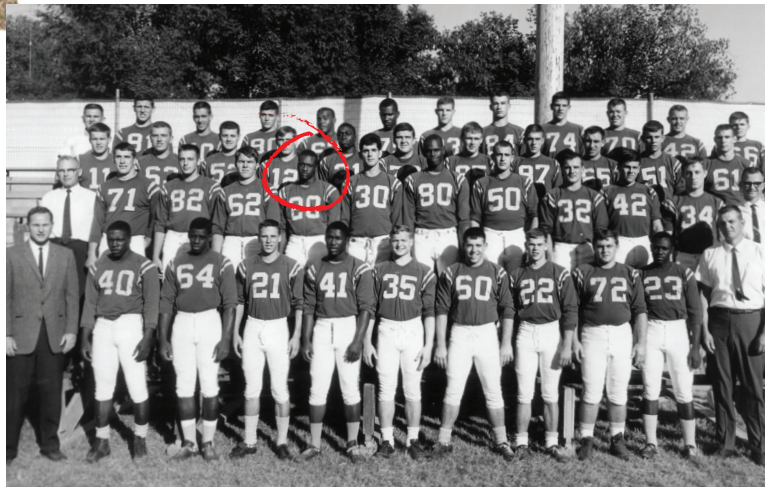
First- and second-place winners in the literary analysis writing category were Yessenia Guzman, of Dodge City; and Hugo Garcia, of Dodge City, respectively. First- and second-place winners in the narrative writing category were Diego Flores Torres, of Dodge City; and Caitlyn Cook, of Cimarron, respectively.

"As a student, I always appreciated having my work recognized beyond the classroom," Clohecy said. "It helped me to create some of my best written work, because I wanted to keep winning. This year was just the beginning, and all of us at the English Department are thrilled to see this develop in the coming semesters!" ♥





Brown



COLLEGE ARCHIVES

# Former Conq Inducted to NJCAA Foundation Hall of Fame

by Joe Penno

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) inducted its inaugural 2021 NJCAA Foundation Hall of Fame class during a virtual awards event on June 24. Among this year's seven recipients was legendary Conquistador running back Larry Brown.

"I am so excited that Larry Brown is being recognized by the NJCAA Foundation in this first Hall of Fame Class," said Conquistador Athletic Director Jake Ripple. "He is definitely one of the all-time greats of Conquistador Football. Obviously I am a little biased in this, but I believe Larry Brown and Steve Tasker are both former Conqs that should be in the NFL Hall of Fame. The NJCAA obviously sees the greatness of Larry Brown and is recognizing him in this amazing first class."

Brown, a Pennsylvania native, spent two years playing football for Dodge City Community College (DC3) in 1965 and 1966. During his sophomore year, he was named to the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) First Team, as well as an NJCAA Honorable Mention All-American.

After his time at DC3, Brown went on to start at Kansas State University in 1967 and 1968, leading the Wildcats in rushing in 1968. He was taken in the eighth round of the 1969 NFL/AFL draft as the 191st overall pick by the Washington Redskins (now known as the Washington Football Team).

Brown spent his entire eight-year career playing in Washington, after being noticed and drafted by all-time great, Vince Lombardi. Brown earned a Pro Bowl selection his rookie season after rushing for 888 yards and four touchdowns to go with 302 receiving yards. In total, Brown was named to the Pro Bowl team in each of his first four seasons in the league. Just one year later, in 1970, Brown became the first player in Washington history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a campaign, where he led the league in rushing with 1,125 yards to earn himself First-Team All-Pro honors.

Brown followed his 1970 season with Second-Team All-Pro honors in 1971, only to be named the 1972 NFL MVP

a year later, thanks to 1,216 yards on the ground despite missing two games due to injury. To this day, he is the only Kansas State football player to ever win the award. That same season, Brown led his Washington squad to a Super Bowl appearance where they lost to the "Perfect Season" Miami Dolphins by a score of 14-7.

Although Coach Lombardi passed away during Brown's second season, he drastically changed the course of Brown's career.

During Brown's rookie season, Lombardi noticed early in the year that he was reacting late to snaps. After Lombardi had his hearing tested, it was determined that he was slightly deaf in his right ear. So, Lombardi pushed the NFL to allow Washington to mount a hearing aid in his helmet, which helped the promising young running back to jumpstart his remarkable NFL career.

When Brown retired from the NFL in 1976, he retired as the Washington Redskins' all-time leader in rushing yards (5,875) and touchdowns (55). According to the "Football Register" only Jim Brown, Gale Sayer, and O.J. Simpson averaged more yards per year in both rushing and receiving over the course of their careers than Brown, who averaged 723 rushing yards and 310 receiving yards per season. To this day, No. 43 is considered "untouchable" amongst the Washington organization, along with the likes of No. 7 (Joe Theismann) and No. 44 (John Riggins).

Brown currently resides in the Washington, D.C., area and is still very much active within the Washington Football Team's alumni events. Additionally, he has stayed active in several non-profit organizations in the area including the Prince George's County Special Olympics, the National Council on Disability, Friends of the National Zoo Advisory Committee, the Coalition for the Homeless, and the Capital Children's Museum. ♥







# Men's Golf Team Competes at Nationals for 31st Consecutive Year

by Joe Penno

For the 31st consecutive year, the Dodge City Conquistador men's golf program sent athletes to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Men's Golf National Championship, in Lubbock, Texas.

Going back to 1990, the streak spans two Conquistador golf coaches, beginning with then Head Coach Casey Malek, who was in his first year as golf coach.

Malek proceeded to reach the national tournament every year until he retired in 2011, which was when current Head Coach, Chris Robinson took over. This season, Robinson took a squad to compete in their 10th straight national tournament under his tutelage.

Although the 2021 team experienced struggles at the start of the season, they continued to chop wood, and they worked their way to 18th place.

"I was beyond proud of our guys for making it this far this year," said Robinson. "This team came a long way from where we were in the fall, so credit to them for all of their hard work. With a young team, it was great that the boys got a taste of what it takes to get there and now have a chance to work on their games over the summer."

Ironically enough, in the span of Robinson's 10 years at the helm, the program has sent 31 student-athletes to compete at four-year schools with athletic aid.

In the 31 tournaments, the Conquistadors have seen themselves place in the Top 10 three times. Coach Robinson owns two of those Top 10 finishes, placing seventh in 2012 at Sand Creek Station, in Wichita, and seventh again in 2017 at Buffalo Dunes, in Garden City.

"Watching Chris continue what we started here by sending this group to their 31st consecutive tournament was remarkable," said former Conquistador Head Coach Casey Malek. "It truly is an outstanding streak, considering that Dodge City competes in one of the toughest qualifying districts in the country. Of the past seven championships, four have been won by teams that Dodge City competes with directly in their qualifying rounds."

With several key returners coming back for the 2021-2022 season, Coach Robinson's squad was able to get much needed experience heading into the fall. The group will look to retool this summer and gear up for a 32nd consecutive national tournament appearance. ♡



1995 Lake  
Renovation

COLLEGE ARCHIVES

# A History of Lake Charles

by Lance Ziesch

The lake that eventually would be known as Lake Charles was added to the Dodge City Community College (DC3) campus in 1973, which was only three years after the college had moved to 2501 N. 14th Ave., from its previous location at 1000 N. Second Ave.

According to the summer 1995 issue of *Conquest* magazine, the college's president, Charles Barnes, first came up with the idea for a campus lake. Although DC3 was settling in for its third year at the new campus, Barnes thought the surrounding landscape still looked a little barren and unfinished. So, he tasked George Harshberger, who was an engineering instructor at DC3, with the challenge of creating a campus lake.

"I called on George, and not only George, but the rest of the science group, too, because it's a sort of science project," Barnes said, in the 1995 story.

Under Harshberger's direction, the project came to fruition with minimal costs, which were paid from the college's operating budget.

"All we had to do was build a dam, nature did the rest," Barnes said. "We didn't even excavate the site."

## A name for the lake

And although there are theories as to why the new lake was dubbed Lake Charles, there isn't a lot of archival evidence that documents the exact reason behind the name. However, campus legend states that DC3 students at the time, for fun, began calling it Lake Charles after Charles Barnes.

Regarding the new lake, the May 16, 1973, *Conquistador* newspaper ran a story titled, "Name the Pond Contest," which suggested that the school bring the lake-naming matter to a campus vote. Included with the article were a few tongue-in-cheek suggestions: Trauer's Trench, Harshberger's Haven, Shelden's Swamp, Ridge's Reservoir, Mai's Marsh, Barnes' Bog and Kliever's Puddle.

And the article closed with the following two sentences: "All students and faculty members are urged to enter the title which they deem most appropriate in the blank

provided and to return their entry immediately to the Publications Center in the Student Union. Every student voice will be heard—and every member of the faculty and administration should feel it their duty to voice an opinion—if only to shift the vote away from their own name."

By fall 1973, the lake-naming contest was in its final stages. And the Oct. 24, 1973, *Conquistador* newspaper featured two articles about the new lake, and it also included a ballot with six final name choices: Lake Water, Lake Charles, Lake Sunny Dip, Lake Golfers Gold Mine, Lake Conquistador and Conq Creek.

Above the ballot, the article included these words: "This is it! This is your big chance to vote for the lake title of your choice. We have several selections to choose from, all submitted by the creative members of our beloved school. Place an X beside the title which you think is the most unique in regards to DCCC. ... All winners are final."

Although there were no official voting results or articles in subsequent newspapers, Lake Charles was the obvious winner—and also the name that stuck.

## The 1995 renovation

In 1995, which was 22 years after its inception, Lake Charles was renovated and fitted with a 30 millimeter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) liner. Due to years and years of silt deposits, the lake, which was originally 14 feet deep, had become only about 5 feet deep.

Sam Seybold, who at the time, was the assistant dean of instruction and outreach, was also quoted in the summer 1995 *Conquest* magazine story because of his key roles in the lake restoration.

Seybold lobbied with the Board of Trustees for the project, wrote the grants for funding, worked with the project engineers, oversaw the renovation, and developed an ongoing partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP)—now known as the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP)—to stock the lake with fish.



“The grants we wrote couldn’t have been better timed, because normally you can only get one grant application funded for a fiscal year,” Seybold said, in 1995. “We got a total funding package of \$30,000 from Wildlife and Parks.

“We have to match the money that Wildlife and Parks put into the project, but we’re not really expending any money,” he said. “We’re using maintenance time, maintenance expertise and donated equipment, all with a dollar value.”

The project, which was divided into three phases, began on Jan. 30, 1995, with the draining of the lake by DC3 maintenance staff and the relocating of the fish by KDWP.

When the lake was dry, it was excavated and deepened to about 16 feet. Then after the PVC liner was added, about 10 to 15 inches of dirt was shoveled by hand to serve as a protective barrier for the new liner.

Phase II of the project involved the stabilization of the lake’s banks and included the installation of a handicap-accessible floating bridge.

“The selling point to the Board of Trustees, in addition to beautification and recreational opportunities for our students, staff, and community, was the addition of the handicapped access bridge,” Seybold said, in a 2021 interview. “Lloyd Venard, in maintenance, was extremely valuable in us being able to pull this off, as he provided manpower, materials, etc.”

And Phase III focused on landscaping the area around the lake and installing aeration and irrigation pumps.

According to a Feb. 8, 1995, *Conquistador* newspaper article, “Water from the lake will be used to irrigate the campus, via a new sprinkler system. This solves two problems. One, it reduces the lake’s water consumption; and two, it allows an influx of fresh water into the lake’s ecosystem.”

Although Seybold left the college in 2003 to pursue a superintendent of schools position, he said he will always consider DC3 home.

“I periodically drive by the lake and smile as I see families continuing to take advantage of it being right here in the community,” he said. “Numerous people made this project a success, and I’m proud to have been a part of it.”

Today, Lake Charles, oftentimes referred to as Lake Chuck, has a surface area of approximately 1.5 acres and has a maximum depth of about 12 feet. Because it continues to be stocked by KDWP on a regular basis—with channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, trout and bluegill—it remains a popular fishing spot in Ford County.

Charles Barnes, DC3’s longest serving head administrator, served as college dean from 1959 to 1965. And after the title was changed to college president, he then served as president from 1965 to 1982. He passed away, in 2000, at the age of 82. ●

## 1995 Lake Renovation



JUSTIN WILSON

Dr. Roger Barnes unveils the lake dedication plaque.



## DC3 Officially Dedicates Lake Charles

Nearly 50 years after establishing Lake Charles, Dodge City Community College (DC3) officially dedicated the lake to its namesake, former college president, Charles McDonald Barnes, at a lakeside ceremony on May 7.

At the 3 p.m. dedication event, various DC3 faculty and staff spoke, including Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Foundation and Community Relations Director; Lance Ziesch, DC3 Media Specialist; Larry Burke, retired DC3 Professor of History (1969 to 2012); and Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President.

In addition to a small crowd, members of the Barnes family also were on hand for the ceremony, including the son of the late college president, Dr. Roger Barnes, of San Antonio, Texas.

Because Dr. Barnes—who was selected as DC3’s 2021 Distinguished Alumnus—was already scheduled to be in Dodge City for the weekend’s graduation activities, the college decided to surprise him, and his family, with the event.

Also representing the Barnes family were his wife, Dr. Karin Barnes, and his daughter and son-in-law, Ingrid Barnes and Juan Renteria, of Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Barnes, in his remarks after being asked to unveil the plaque honoring his father, said the Barnes family was extremely grateful—and genuinely surprised—by the lake’s official dedication. And he said he thought his father also would be proud of the gesture.

“He would be very, very proud of this moment,” Dr. Barnes said. “I think it’s altogether appropriate that it is not a dormitory. It’s not a laboratory. But it’s a lake that was named after my dad. He was an avid trout fisherman.”

The 10-by-20-inch bronze dedication plaque, which features a bas-relief image of Charles Barnes, is mounted on a black metal pedestal that is part of a new 6-by-10-foot seating area on the northeast corner of the lake. The area includes a stamped red-brick concrete pad, which was courtesy of Brak-Hard Concrete Construction Company LLC, and a black metal bench fabricated by the DC3 Welding Department.

Following the surprise lake dedication—which the college successfully managed to keep from the Barnes family until a few minutes before it began—the event concluded with a reception in the DC3 Library. ●



# From the Foundation Director's Desk

The definition of legacy that many of us think of is “putting a stamp on the future” by sharing what you have learned over the course of your life. It’s also defined as a gift, or a bequest, that is handed down, endowed, or conveyed from one person to another.



At the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation, there have been so many people we have met who have shared their legacies with us. Some of them have shared stories, some have volunteered their time and talents with us, and some have left a financial legacy in order to help our mission to continue into the future.

One of those legacy givers was Mrs. Floris Jean Hampton. Floris Jean began sharing her legacy many, many years ago—not only through her family, but also through her community. None of us could ever imagine a Dodge City without Floris Jean. At 90 years old, she had more energy than any of us in the room, as she helped to set up an auction event for the Foundation. We were all mesmerized by her.

Many in Dodge City have a small bluebird gifted to them by Floris Jean. When I started at the Foundation in 2016, she came by my office and gave me a mini bluebird. She smiled as she handed it to me and with a twinkle in her eye, she

announced that my bluebird would grow if I helped the Foundation to grow. A few years later, she appeared back in my office again with a larger glass bluebird, a large smile, and a hug. As a 30+ year supporter of DC3, she had been touched by the changes we’d made and felt that it was time to give me a symbol of that growth.

We lost Floris Jean this year on May 7, 2021, at the age of 93. She was a champion of the arts, an avid volunteer, and was fiercely dedicated to her family and her community. However, her legacy will live on in the Floris Jean Hampton Nurse Education Center and in the Marvin Hampton Memorial Scholarship (for STEM scholars) with the DC3 Foundation.

What is your definition of legacy? Have you added one to your will or trust? Legacy gifts to charities like the DC3 Foundation are not left by only those who have unlimited funds. Leaving a legacy is like tossing a rock into a pond. There’s an initial splash followed by ripple effects that continue on once the rock has disappeared. You might have a small rock to throw, or a big boulder, but each one of us will leave something behind us. It’s up to us to decide how far those ripples will travel! How will your ripples help future students at DC3?

Legacy. What is yours? **#TogetherWeConquer**

CHRISTINA HASELHORST  
Director of Foundation & Community Relations



# Class Notes



## Linda Tweedy CLASS OF 1970



Back in 1954, my Dad had to relocate from Goodland, Kan. He chose Dodge City primarily because of the college there. My oldest sister had just graduated from high school, and he thought she might go to college if it was close to home. She opted out at the time, but her younger sister took advantage of the opportunity and graduated in 1961, before going on to a four-year school and becoming a teacher.

Fast forward to 1968. Not only did I go directly to DC3 from DCHS, but my youngest brother decided to go back to school then, too. It was really fun to have classes with him. He had been out of high school for 12 years by then, so he was a little rusty! We both graduated with associate degrees in 1970. He finished his Bachelor of Science in Accounting at St. Mary of the Plains College. I finished with a Bachelor of Science in Education at Kansas State Teachers College (Yes, I'm that old!) in Emporia. We were a little competitive in those days. My grades started out high, and his started out lower. But at the end of our four years, our GPAs were 3.61 and 3.62!

In addition to the three of us, my oldest sister eventually decided to go to school after her children were grown. She earned an Associate of Arts some 30 years after the family moved to Dodge, so she would have the opportunity to go to college. Her two youngest grandchildren came to DC3 and finished in 2019 and 2020.

I'm a firm believer in the community college experience. Times have surely changed, though. When I started, the standard semester hour cost \$4.00! (Yes, the decimal is in the right place.) We had three semesters at the old building on Second Avenue, and we moved to the new campus in the spring semester of 1970. So, we were the first to graduate [from there].

One of my best memories was learning to parallel park on Second Avenue, so I didn't have to walk far to get to class! Funny what sticks with us!

## Cheryl Koontz CLASS OF 1973



I graduated from DC3 in 1973. It was a windy campus, some days almost blowing you away when you walked between buildings and the wind caught you. I was much thinner then!

I was a journalism major and worked on the school newspaper [the Conquistador] and yearbook [the Golden Shield]. I was editor of the yearbook for the 1972-1973 school year. It was a fun experience, as we had a huge budget. We got to have color pages and fold-out pages!

The 1971-1972 yearbook was "Wizard of Oz" themed, and the 1972-1973 yearbook was a game book. Too much fun!

We had fun activities on campus. I remember "Spring Whing Ding Fling" with fun events all day, kind of like "Minute to Win It."

I graduated with an Associate of Arts degree and continued at St. Mary of the Plains College here in Dodge City, graduating with a K-9 elementary education degree.

**Editor's Note:** Do you have a DC3 story to share? Feel free to submit your memories of DC3, along with any photos or life updates, to [alumni@dc3.edu](mailto:alumni@dc3.edu). We would love to hear from you!



DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
PRESENTS THE 11TH ANNUAL

# CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 20, 2021 AT 8AM  
MARIAH HILLS GOLF COURSE IN  
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# Just One More



The DC3 Adult Learning Center hosted its Class of 2021 graduation ceremony on June 25, at 6 p.m., in the Little Theatre. A total of 14 students received high school diplomas, although not all were in attendance. Left, following the ceremony and reception, graduates throw their caps in the air in front of the Little Theatre.

LANCE ZIESCH