

The Conquistador

Fall 2021

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,732

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

20

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

11:1

STUDENTS FROM

38 STATES

20 COUNTRIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

18

STUDENT GENDER

52% FEMALE

48% MALE

Conq Nation Proud



I would like to welcome you to the fall issue of the Conquistador magazine. Within its pages, you will find positive, upbeat stories about the amazing things happening here at Dodge City Community College (DC3).

This past semester, we have seen an incredible synergy at DC3 between our students, faculty, staff, and administration. Because of this, there have been wonderful things happening in just about every area of the college. We have been working on lots of infrastructure initiatives, such as remodeling our buildings, adding new learning facilities on and off campus, and just upgrading the general appearance of our beautiful main campus grounds.

In addition, our programs and students also continue to excel. In fact, in workforce development alone, we have launched two totally new programs this fall. Regarding our student enrollment, we have seen record numbers this semester, even with the uncertainty of the world's ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. And for the first time since 2011, we also have completely filled our residence halls.

As I said earlier, I believe we are experiencing a wonderful synergy here at DC3, and I am so glad we can share that with you through the pages of this magazine! So, read on! Together we conquer!

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte, ed.D.

President

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



Approximately 140 DC3 students, faculty, and staff participated in the 2021 Dodge City Days Western Parade on July 31. In addition to several college vehicles and a nursing department float, student-athletes representing the football, volleyball, men's basketball, and cheer teams also took part in the festivities.



DC3 hosted its 21st annual Halloween celebration, which was a drive through Trunk-or-Treat event in the Fine Arts parking lot on Oct. 31. Students, faculty, and staff participated in the Halloween outing by giving bags of candy to area children. The event gathered more than 1,000 nonperishable canned goods, which were donated to the Kansas Soldiers' Home at Fort Dodge.



The members of the men's golf team were recognized at the Board of Trustees meeting, on Sept. 28, for their recent Academic National Champions award from the Golf Coaches Association of America. Since 2012, the team has won six of these awards, with four of them being back to back. Pictured (left to right) are: Jacob Ripple, Athletic Director; Chris Robinson, Men's Golf Head Coach; Luka Stanislavljevic, freshman, South Africa; Brent Reintjes, freshman, Wichita, Kan.; Carson Briggs, sophomore, Broomfield, Colo.; Woramett Bodhidatta, Sophomore, Thailand; Cholnan Nunya, sophomore, Thailand; George Fricker, freshman, England; Kitsakon Jairak, sophomore, Thailand; Evan Lindsey, sophomore, Magnolia, Ark.; Cole Streck, freshman, Great Bend, Kan.; Austin Goodrum, freshman, Andover, Kan.; and Davan Smith, freshman, Dodge City, Kan. Not pictured is Supakit Seelanagae, freshman, Thailand.



More than 750 high school and middle school students—from 15 area Kansas and Oklahoma schools—attended the DC3 Tech Career Exploration Day on Oct. 20, at the Western State Bank Expo Center in Dodge City. The event, which was last hosted by the college in February 2019, included informational booths, demonstrations, hands-on exhibits, games, and giveaways.



To kick off basketball season, DC3 athletics hosted Conq Madness on Oct. 28. The event, emceed by Sports Information Director Mike Smith, began with a routine from the reigning national champion cheer team. Announcer, Chris Holsuka, introduced the men's and women's basketball teams before the two squads faced off in a three-point shootout. Kalen Williams, sophomore from Hephzibah, Ga., took home the three-point contest over Krystina Hagood, sophomore from Colorado Springs, Colo., while Jordan Love, sophomore from Durham, N.C., (right) dazzled the crowd by winning the men's dunk contest. Pictured with Love is Jacob Ripple, Athletic Director.



Members of the 2020-2021 DC3 cheer team were honored with a ring ceremony on Sept. 5, at the Student Activity Center. The event commemorated DC3's first-ever national cheer title, in the Advanced Small Coed Junior College Division, which the group won back in April at the National Cheerleaders Association National Championship. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Keegan Jones, Melbourne, Australia; Miah Fuller, Denver, Colo.; Noah Newell, Houston, Texas; Ryleigh Bates, Frisco, Texas; Kearstin Long, Plano, Texas; Deon Harness, Alexandria, Va.; Alieyah Pauly, Leander, Texas; Alexa Ortiz, Castle Rock, Colo.; Cassy Brooks, Fairbanks, Alaska; Amaya Socha, Vancouver, Wash.; Denicea Lewis, Cherokee County, Texas; (middle row) Madison Heitzman, Loveland, Colo.; Abigail Billingsley, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Austin Mee, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Ashleigh Musulin, Brisbane, Australia; Allison Sullivan, Centennial, Colo.; Kylie Sterling, Castle Rock, Colo.; Makayla Brown, Lafayette, Colo.; Kamry Howard, Dodge City, Kan.; Ashlyn Beard, Port Lavaca, Texas; (front row) Dr. Harold Nolte, President; Michael Brewster, Spirit Coordinator; and Jacob Ripple, Athletic Director.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



LUKE FAY

The DC3 Music Department presented its first concert of the school year at 7 p.m., on Oct. 7, in the Little Theatre. The fall choral concert, which was conducted by Kerry Kuplic, Associate Professor of Vocal Music, included selections by the Concert Choir and Choral Union—and also featured vocal solos by DC3 students.



LANCE ZIESCH

The DC3 STEM Program hosted a Star Party on Sept. 10. The event, which was organized by DC3 Professor of Physical Sciences, Sherry Curtis Rogers (left), was located 6 miles north of Spearville, in Hodgeman County, and attracted about 30 students, faculty, staff, and guests. Using two telescopes, stargazers were able to view the waxing crescent moon, Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn.



LUKE FAY

The DC3 Music Department presented its second concert of the fall semester at 7 p.m., on Nov. 4, in the Little Theatre. Conducted by Nancy Sapp, Visiting Director of Instrumental Music, the fall instrumental concert featured the Wind Ensemble, who performed pieces by Strauss, Holst, Ross, Broughton, and Grieg.



DC3 tech students participate in an HVAC class in the Chaffin building on Sept. 28.

DC3 Workforce Development Adapts to Meet Area Needs

Story by Luke Fay

Dodge City Community College (DC3) has undergone a technical education boom since 2019. The success of these programs can be attributed to good timing and a new vision by DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development, Dr. Clayton Tatro.

Tatro, a native of Glasco, Kan., arrived in Dodge City in December 2019, and he immediately began searching for ways to grow the technical education department.

Tatro's first item on the agenda was incorporating dual-enrollment students from area high schools, as there was an untapped demand for these students to enter the workforce early.

"We basically opened up all of our programs to the high school students and put them on the same schedule," Tatro said. "They get to follow the same schedule as the postsecondary students do. So, now we are giving ourselves access to high school students where we didn't before."

The school's nine technical education programs only included 42 dual-enrollment students in fall 2019. DC3 now offers 12 tech ed programs that house more than 100 dual-enrollment students, which is an increase of 138% over the two-year period.

"Word of mouth through the high schools is exceptionally helpful," said Tatro. "They see that one of their classmates had success and feel more inclined to enroll at DC3."

Cosmetology, welding, and diesel technology are three programs that have stood out to Tatro since he arrived on campus. During his tenure, these programs have grown more than 50% since fall 2019.

"In cosmetology, we opened it up for part-time and high school students in addition to the regular full-time students. We created a morning option, an afternoon option, as well as the full-day option," Tatro said. "We're giving students more choices,

more access, and more opportunity to enroll, where traditionally if you went into cosmetology you really needed to be a full-time student."

Diesel technology's growth can also be attributed to the influx of dual-enrollment students. The students are able to take courses at DC3 and become certified through a new partnership with the Ford Motor Company.

"We drastically increased the number of high school students that are in the diesel program," Tatro said. "The Ford Motor Company has given us access to their curriculum through our local dealership. Now our students will be able to get certified on Ford certifications, as if they were a technician at the dealership."

Like diesel tech, welding's success is due to a mix of increased dual-enrollment students and renewed partnerships with area businesses.

- CONTINUED



The new HVAC lab at the Chaffin building was outfitted by Trane Technologies.

LANCE ZIESCH

LANCE ZIESCH

The Greenlee Green Apple side of the new electrical technology lab features workbench space.



WORKFORCE CONTINUED -

“We started doing customized training for National Beef with their current employees, and they’re sending us two groups of students in welding,” Tatro said. “We are also going to partner with the new Hilmar Cheese factory and provide welding and electrical to them as well. Success for us is providing an opportunity for students to gain employment following graduation from DC3.”

New Programs and Facilities

To help boost enrollment and also to help meet the needs of the surrounding community, DC3 has undergone extensive innovation in the last two years. The school has jumpstarted two new programs, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and electrical technology, reincarnated computer science, and opened two new off-campus facilities.

Because DC3 did not have space on campus to house HVAC and electrical technology, Tatro was tasked with finding a dynamic space that could serve current programs and also accommodate future expansion.

He visited multiple sites before signing a lease for the Chaffin building, formerly known as the Gibson’s Discount Store distribution center from 1986-2003.

“We currently are leasing 20,000 square feet in the warehouse and then roughly 3,000 square feet of office space along one hallway,” Tatro said. “The hallway connects to the warehouse. There we’ve been able to repurpose some of that office space into classroom space.”

The warehouse space used by HVAC and electrical technology is one-fifth the total size of the facility. The added space may

lead to the relocation of a current program in CDL or an additional new program that works alongside HVAC and electrical technology.

DC3 used school funds to remodel the Chaffin building, which had previously been vacant since 2003. The college then received a grant that relieved the financial burden of buying units and equipment associated with teaching HVAC and electrical technology classes.

“We received a \$2.78 million grant to support technical education. There are five programs listed in that grant: HVAC, electrical technology, diesel technology, welding, and computer science,” Tatro said. “We are fortunate to have been able to use grant dollars to help offset the cost of the program startup.”

Tatro said he believes the creation of the HVAC and electrical technology programs will help alleviate the large local and regional demand for HVAC technicians and electricians.

“There is a huge need in this area for both HVAC technicians and electricians,” Tatro said. “The reality is that both of those industries are getting older; the average HVAC technician is 55 years old, and the average electrician is 53 years old. We need to create the next generation for these folks by filling the industry gap.”

Not to be outdone by the Chaffin building, DC3’s nursing program moved from the Allied Health building in September 2020 to a new site a mile away from campus. This new facility, now known as the Floris Jean Hampton Nurse Education Center, was dedicated in January 2021 after its namesake, Floris Jean Hampton, who passed away in May at the age of 93.

“Our President, Dr. Nolte, was exceptionally good at letting me go out and find spaces,” Tatro said. “The school district had their learning center in the same space where we are now. They were leaving that space to consolidate into their administration building, and the space became available at the perfect time for us.”

DC3 has seen enrollment in the nursing program increase more than 20% since 2019. These added students have made the move to a new facility critical for continued growth of the program.

The Floris Jean Hampton Nurse Education Center was a much-needed upgrade “nearly doubling the amount of space that was available to the nursing students,” Dr. Mechele Hailey, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, said.

“The larger classroom spaces allow for more classroom activities, social distancing, and room for future growth of the nursing program,” Hailey said. “The space is only one mile from campus so students still have the on-campus studying resources readily available. Nursing students are frequently seen in the Student Achievement and Resources Center (SARC) and library.”

New Partnerships

In addition to new programs and facilities, DC3 has partnered with national employers to help facilitate the worker-to-business pipeline. With these new partnerships, DC3 tech ed graduates are given a jumpstart on their careers.

The National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) helps facilitate relationships between national businesses and education. The existing relationship between DC3 and NC3 connected the

Funding Options for Higher Education

Story by Luke Fay

Funding is a common obstacle for students and schools. It can be a barrier to entry for many students who dream of pursuing college. Luckily that isn't an issue at Dodge City Community College (DC3) and in the state of Kansas.

Kansas has outlined three forms of aid for students within the state. Excel in Career Technical Education (CTE), the Kansas Promise Act, and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) have provided a lifeboat to students trying to navigate college with little to no debt.

Excel in CTE allows high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to enroll in a technical program at a community college or technical college, and the state will cover the cost of tuition.

The Kansas Promise Act provides last-dollar funding for students who have exhausted all their aid or scholarship money. The scholarship program helps cover the final cost of tuition, required fees, books, and other required program materials. The act is designed for recent high school graduates, or Kansans aged 21 (and older) who have resided in the state for at least three years. Students who enroll in the scholarship program also must live and work in Kansas for a minimum of two years following graduation.

The Kansas Promise Act ensures the workforce trained in Kansas stays in Kansas.

"We talk about the Kansas brain drain. Kansas is notorious for exporting talent," Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development, said. "We send more students out than people we bring in. The Kansas Promise Act is vital in keeping skilled workers in the state, which long term helps the economy of Kansas stay strong."

Students at DC3 also have been able to take advantage of HEERF III funds, which are federal relief funds designed to help alleviate a student's cost of attendance (COA) or emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as but not limited to: tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental), or child care. ●



LANCIE ZIRSCH

The other side of the electrical technology lab is a simulated construction site.



LUKE FAY

The electrical technology lab's simulated construction area includes both wood and steel framing options.

college with Trane Technologies Inc. and Greenlee Electric, which in turn outfitted a portion of the Chaffin building. Trane Technologies provided the new HVAC lab with Trane equipment, while Greenlee helped create the Green Apple Lab for electrical technology.

"That's the really cool part of the NC3 is you've got major corporations that are buying in," Tatro said. "They understand that they're putting money into education to help build the next generation."

Along with HVAC and electrical technology, DC3 has retooled the computer science program to support the demand of local businesses.

"Everybody wants to be a coder, however there's not a lot of jobs there locally," Tatro

said. "We revamped computer science to gear towards becoming a network support specialist or network technician. The jobs are there. Every small, medium, and large business has a computer network that needs support."

DC3 workforce has listened to the community's needs and has adjusted its curricula to best suit the students as they pursue gainful employment following their graduation from the college.

"There has been a real readiness and understanding that the timing is ripe for technical education," Tatro said. "If we are going to grow the economy of Southwest Kansas, and if we're going to keep students local, that runs through technical education." ●



Construction workers install LED lights underneath the new Humanities building balcony on Aug. 18.

New Balcony for DC3's Humanities Building Finally Complete

Story and Photos by Lance Ziesch

The balcony replacement project for the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Humanities building, which began on May 17, was completed on Aug. 26.

The Humanities building, which is one of DC3's original 1970 campus structures, was designed with an open-air, white-stucco balcony along its western side—a design aspect that is repeated in two other original campus buildings: Fine Arts and Science & Math.

Although aesthetically pleasing, the balcony design created by Caudill Rowlett Scott—the Houston-based architectural firm that designed the 1970 campus—was at odds with the harsh Kansas winters from the very beginning because the solid stucco railings blocked the necessary sunlight needed to help melt winter ice.

So, to cope with the ongoing ice problem, loads and loads of salt and ice melt were scattered across the icy walkways throughout the decades. And after 51 years of constant freezing and thawing during the winter months—and the effect of all of the salt and chemicals, which eventually weakened the concrete and caused it to crumble—the northeast end of the balcony finally collapsed on April 14.

According to Jared Stevens, DC3 Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations, another problem with the Humanities balcony was that it had begun to slant toward the building, causing snow and rain to funnel toward the building's brick wall and into the enclosed soffit under the walkway.

To alleviate both of these problems, the new balcony railing is made of square black metal tubing, instead of white stucco, which will better allow sunlight to melt winter ice, he said. And the new concrete walkway slopes slightly away from the building.

“The new balcony will dry out a lot faster,” Stevens said. “In the future, we hope we can avoid as much of a freeze-and-thaw cycle as we can.”

Of course, another noticeable difference in the new Humanities balcony will be how it looks underneath, Stevens said. The old one featured a heavy white stucco soffit, which completely covered the underside of the concrete walkway. And although the soffit gave the balcony a more finished look, it also hid the extent of the balcony's continuing deterioration.

“The underside of the new balcony is different from the original in two main ways,” he said. “The new concrete walkway was poured over a layer of corrugated steel for added strength, and there will not be a stucco soffit under it. Instead, the underside will be painted all black, similar to what is currently underneath the bridge going from Science & Math to the Science & Math Annex. With it open, we can better monitor any potential problems.”

And like the round can lights, which were installed in the white stucco soffit, the new underside of the balcony will feature round LED light fixtures that are similar in size and design to the originals, he said.

The balcony project, which was originally bid at \$314,333 by Building Solutions LLC at the March 2 Board of Trustees meeting, was increased to \$350,831.74 at the July 19 Board of Trustees meeting, due to a change order from Building Solutions for an additional \$36,498.74.

A couple of the reasons for the change order was that the project ended up requiring more labor and materials than what was originally planned and because the construction workers had to create processes and solutions for the unique problems they encountered along the way. One such example was figuring out how to remove the entire concrete walkway safely, as it was originally constructed as part of a monolithic concrete slab that extended across the entire second floor of the Humanities building.

“The construction workers had to saw through the concrete at the edge of the building,” he said. “Then before the new concrete

“Honestly, it’s a lot more fun to build bright, shiny new buildings. But, we need to take care of the ones we already have first.”

*— Dr. Harold Nolte
DC3 President*

was put in, they had to install additional I-beams on the north and south ends, to get the walkway up to 2021 codes, and add steel anchors that connected the new concrete to the remaining slab. It was quite a labor-intensive process.”

DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, said the college knew beforehand that the balcony replacement project would be expensive. However, because no one initially knew the extent of the damage or the best method for repairing such a unique problem—due to the way the building was constructed—the costs were hard to estimate.

“Because of the current expenses on this first balcony, it makes me concerned about the other two,” he said. “But, safety is first. We have to make sure our campus is safe.”

Nolte said there has been a lot of deferred maintenance on the DC3 campus during the last few years, but he said that is all changing, and things are starting to “run like they should.”

“Honestly, it’s a lot more fun to build bright, shiny new buildings,” he said. “But, we need to take care of the ones we already have first. It’s important to have our students feel good about their college experience, and a big part of that is providing them with a well-maintained and safe campus environment.”

DC3 Vice President of Administration and Finance, Jeff Cermin, said the college intends to utilize Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) funds to cover the cost of the balcony project.

HEERF III funds, which were authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, were signed into law on March 11 and provide \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and to ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The replacement schedule for the remaining two balconies on the Fine Arts and Science & Math buildings is not clear at the moment, Stevens said. However, he said the college’s Maintenance Department has already removed the stucco soffits from both of the other balconies, which will help reduce future construction costs.

“We have an engineer coming to look at the other balconies to assess the situations,” Stevens said. “Depending on his findings, we will determine the schedule for the other two. If all goes to plan, all of the balconies should match in the end.”

Because the college already has paid for the design and engineering work on the first balcony walkway, the remaining two projects hopefully should not cost as much, Cermin said.

“We should experience cost savings, if the scope of the projects is the same,” he said. “It is possible, but not likely, that the second and third walkways may not require a complete teardown and replacement [like the Humanities building].” ♦



On April 14, after decades of corrosion, the northeast end of the Humanities balcony finally collapsed.



Unlike the original 1970 balcony, the 2021 replacement includes more overall support features, such as additional I-beams (left) and a layer of corrugated steel under the concrete walkway.



A Season Sweep for DC3 Baseball

Story by Luke Fay | Photos by Annalynn Kirkhart

Dodge City Community College (DC3) baseball has yet to throw out the first pitch of the regular season. However, that has not stopped this year's team from building a strong core.

The DC3 baseball team partnered with the Ford County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to conduct a large-scale fall cleanup for the elderly in the Dodge City area on Nov. 14. By splitting into two groups, the team tackled nearly a dozen houses throughout the city.

Assistant coach Eli Egger is a veteran when it comes to the RSVP fall cleanup. In fact, the third-year assistant has participated every year since he arrived at DC3.

"RSVP is a great organization that is through school and partners with elderly people in town. This fall cleanup helps the elderly get their home winterized," Egger said. "So, it's a lot of leaf raking, gutter cleaning, maybe fixing a fence or two, and

just some random odds and ends that these people are not going to be able to do themselves, or would take a long time to do."

First-year head coach Brett Doe said he was eager to get out and make a difference in the Dodge City community.

"It's exciting branching out and showing people that it's a new chapter," Doe said. "I feel like community service is something that our program has done very well in the past. So, I am definitely thankful for walking into an opportunity where we're already well established in the community."

Doe said he understands that games are not won or lost in the offseason. However, he recognizes that these team-building events within the community are what set the foundation for a winning culture come spring.

"I thought it was a really good event where we made an impact in the community," Doe said. "We got our guys

all hanging out working on something outside of baseball, and it brought us closer together and more connected within the community."

Mathis Mauldin, a sophomore from Grain Valley, Mo., said he relished the opportunity to give back to the elderly community and get his hands dirty in the process.

"We provided manual labor, cleaned up the gutters, just things that they wouldn't be capable of doing, and it felt very rewarding," Mauldin said. "They honestly made me think about my grandparents. And if I was helping them out, I would want to try extra hard."

Mauldin, a pitcher for DC3, said he believes that the team's service will translate to more fan support in and around the Dodge City area.

"I took pride in cleaning up. I really enjoyed it. Whenever they would tell us to do certain things, I would make sure

if they needed us to do anything else,” Mauldin said. “For us to support them, I feel like they will come to our games and support us.”

Annalynn Kirkhart, Director of Ford County RSVP, is in charge of setting up the Fall Cleanup Day. The process involves marketing the cleanup on social media, going door to door asking residents if they’re in need of assistance, and using old fashioned word of mouth.

The planning and coordination of the volunteer effort takes weeks to prepare, but the payoff for Kirkhart is seeing the effect volunteering can have on the student-athletes involved.

“I actually think volunteering is the first step to opening people’s minds and hearts. At a young age, I think that’s the best way to start it,” Kirkhart said. “The fall cleanup for the kids brings the realization that when you get older, you may need a little bit of help and have to reach out to that younger community.”

Egger said he echoes the same sentiment from Kirkhart. Service for these young players can give them a great deal of perspective in life.

“The biggest thing for us is our guys are very blessed. They’re really athletically talented. They have had a lot of things go



their way,” Egger said. “Being out in the community shows the athletes how much the people in town really care about the college. It also teaches our players the benefits of helping people that can’t help themselves.”

The idea of serving the community has been deeply rooted in DC3 baseball ever since the first Fall Cleanup Day was organized 16 years ago in 2005. Kirkhart said “a lot of people want to see a smiling

face and a helping hand here in Dodge,” and that is what the RSVP fall cleanup is all about.

“I truly believe that this is one of the amazing things that the college participates in with this community,” Kirkhart said. “We have a lot of elderly here, and not all elderly can go out to a ballgame or go to certain events. For us to reach out to them shows the college cares.” ●



DODGE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Faster
certification.
Fatter
paychecks.*

**> LEARN HOW TO EARN
YOUR CERTIFICATE**



The Dollars and ‘Sense’ of College Rodeo

Story by Lance Ziesch

Unlike other student-athletes at Dodge City Community College (DC3), members of the rodeo team are financially responsible for their own gear, animals and competition fees.

In fact, some rodeo athletes may have invested more than \$50,000 in rodeo equipment and assets before they even step foot on campus. However, no matter how large the dollar figure is, students say the rodeo experience is worth every penny.

Jarrold Ford, who became the DC3 head rodeo coach on July 1, said the 2021-22 rodeo team is made up of 15 student-athletes—from Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and Ontario, Canada—who compete in a variety of events such as breakaway roping, team roping, goat tying, barrel racing, bull riding, bareback riding and bronc riding.

Of the 15 rodeo members, 14 of them

already have bought the necessary National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) card, which makes them eligible for college rodeo competition this academic year.

“They have to buy that in order to compete at college rodeos, and they have to send in their transcripts to show that they’re eligible,” Ford said. “They have to keep at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA throughout the year combined, and they have to take at least 12 credit hours and pass at least nine of them.”

The NIRA card, which costs \$275, is just one of the expenses rodeo student-athletes have to cover in order to compete. They have to cover a lot of their rodeo traveling expenses on their own as well, he said.

“Right now we don’t have a huge team, so we buy a room for everybody that enters the rodeo,” he said. “There’s usually a men’s room and two women’s rooms. And then

if they’re on the points team, they can get travel money.”

The points team, which is made up of six men and four women, is determined by Ford and the other two assistant rodeo coaches, Tyrel Moffitt and Erica Edmondson, before each rodeo.

“It will change often,” he said. “If they’re somebody that’s week in, week out, getting points for the team, they’re probably going to be on the team,” he said, referring to student-athletes who regularly bring home individual points because of their placings. “If somebody is not getting points, we may swap out each week and just try finding the right one that hits.”

However, Ford said it’s also possible for rodeo members who win every week, to not be included on the points team due to disciplinary actions. If they skip practice, are late to practice, or are getting into

trouble off campus, they can lose their place on the points team, which means they also will lose the extra travel money, he said.

"It's \$75 a weekend that they get," he said. "They can use that towards fees. They can use it towards fuel. They can use it for food or whatever they want to use it on. But then it's on them to get to the rodeos."

Although DC3 does own a truck and trailer, which is available for team use, most rodeo student-athletes would rather take their own rigs and share expenses with teammates, he said.

"Rodeo is weird. At college, it's a team sport, because there is a points team. But it's also an individual thing, because you've got the chance to make it to the college finals as an individual," he said. "They take the top three from each event as individuals to the college finals, but yet, they will take the top two teams in men's and women's to the college finals. So there's a chance to make it both ways."

Taylor Davis

Taylor Davis, who is a sophomore from Rifle, Colo., became involved in the sport of rodeo around the age of 6 or 7.

"My parents first started me on mules because they had mules," Davis said. "Then, I had a horse given to me, which actually got me into the whole rodeo aspect of things."

So, although she didn't come from a rodeo family, she started getting involved after becoming a horse owner, by competing in National Little Britches Rodeo Association events.

Little Britches, which is one of the oldest youth-based rodeo organizations, sanctions rodeos in 33 states for children ages 5 to 18.

"After I got this horse, I started riding him, and we got some help from other people," she said. "I started off in Little Britches. And then from there, I just kind of started into junior high and high school rodeo."

Growing up in the Little Britches organization, Davis competed in ribbon roping, breakaway roping, goat tying, pole bending, and barrel racing. And today, she competes in goat tying, breakaway roping and barrel racing.

"I would say goat tying is definitely my favorite," she said. "It's like a solo event. You and your horse, instead of like team roping or something like that."

Another component to her competition is caring for her horses, Davis said. Not only does she have to board her own horses at DC3, she also has to feed and care for them.

"Most of us do twice a day," she said, in regards to feeding schedules. "So, we get up before school and feed them. Then at night we feed them again."

Regarding the feed itself, Davis said she brings hay that her dad put up at home. However, because of the continuing drought conditions around the country, hay is getting expensive.

"We cut and do our own hay at home, so we just load up a flatbed and bring it out here," she said. "So, I brought 100 bales... and I put it in my shed by my horses, so I can feed them."

If she had to pay for those 100 bales herself, she said she would be looking at

roughly somewhere between \$7 and \$13 a bale.

Ford said he agrees that it takes a lot of money to keep a rodeo horse going—whether it's the vet bills, equipment, grain costs or that \$13 bale hay "that lasts a day and a half."

"You're not only taking care of yourself, but for timed events, you're putting into those animals that are your lifeline," he said. "I mean, without them, you can't do anything."

And then there's the cost of the horses themselves, he said.

"The horse might cost \$50,000 to \$75,000," Ford said. "Depending on your horse, it could be up to \$150,000. It's a very money-demanding sport."

Although Davis started out at DC3 with three horses, she currently only boards two at the college.

"Since I'm in three events, I have a barrel horse," she said. "So, I ride her pretty much just for barrels. She's younger. She's 7, so she has a lot to learn. And then my other horse, I have him for goats and breakaway."

Additionally, Davis said that she gives her older horse grain each morning and night, along with his regular feed.

"I have to grain my horse morning and night, you know, because he's older," she said. "It just helps keep the weight on him and gives him a little bit more energy."

Davis said it's important to have more than one horse at college, because rodeo horses get used so much day in and day out. And sometimes, they can get injured as well.

- CONTINUED

Jarrold Ford



LANCIE ZIESCH

LANCIE ZIESCH



Taylor Davis ropes a calf during rodeo practice on Sept. 27.

COLLEGE RODEO CONTINUED -

“They’re going to get tired. They’re going to get sore,” she said. “It’s good to give them a little bit of a break. And then when you’re hauling from rodeo to rodeo, if you have two horses, it kind of puts less stress on the other horse.”

Although Davis can ultimately do every one of her events on her older horse, she tends to save him for only goat tying and breakaway roping.

“If my younger horse wasn’t really working right for me, I would change to him,” she said. “But now like if my breakaway horse got hurt, I wouldn’t be able to use my younger one, just because she doesn’t really know anything yet. I kind of just started her in the breakaway, but she’s not really finished, and she doesn’t really understand that aspect yet.”

In addition to twice-a-day feedings, daily exercise with both animals, Davis also has to keep her horses’ stalls clean.

“We have to clean our pens at least once a week,” she said. “Although, they should

really be cleaned every day. And then exercising your horses is important. If you don’t exercise them enough, their legs can actually stock up and start to swell, which is not good at all.”

Since Davis competes in three events at every rodeo, she also has to pay entry fees for each of them before she can participate.

“For me total, it’s usually \$175 for all three events,” she said. “And then if you were to make the short round or something, there’s a jackpot fee that you have to pay.”

So, for rodeo student-athletes, in addition to the costs of buying their animals, the cost of feeding their animals, and the cost of their rodeo entry fees, they also have to pay for their transportation and gear, she said.

“Ballpark costs are easily over \$50,000 that you have to bring,” she said. “The tack, the truck, the trailer... it’s a lot of responsibility.”

But along with all of the responsibility, Davis said rodeo also has given her a lot of

opportunities to travel and meet people. It’s also helped give her a good work ethic.

“You get to meet new people. You get to see new things,” she said. “In rodeo, a lot of people help other people out. It teaches you how to be a team player and how to help people when they need help.”

Davis said her favorite moment from her freshman year at DC3 was when she made her first ‘short go’ at a college rodeo in Weatherford, Okla. In rodeo, the short go is the championship round of an individual event competition, which is limited to the top 10 placing contestants from the previous rounds.

“I was up the first night in the performance, so I had to go through about 50 other goat tiers. I was really stressing about where I was standing,” she said, referring to her place in the rankings. “Well I made it back in that one, and it was my first one ever. So I would say that would be my favorite memory.”

In addition to the short go, there is also another term used in rodeo competition: slack or slack performance. Slack is basically the overflow for contestants who compete in calf roping, team roping, barrel racing, and steer wrestling. It helps allow for as many people as possible to compete, as only 10 contestants can be in the performance.

Whether or not rodeo athletes compete in a slack or a competition is not based on their abilities or standings, but instead is determined entirely by chance, Ford said. Although they might prefer one or the other, it’s all ultimately up to how they draw.

“When they enter, they get preferences. They put down what performance they want to try for or if they want slack or whatever,” Ford said. “Then they just draw randomly their position and what performance or slack they get,” he said.

After DC3, Davis plans to pursue a career in nursing. However, she said she still has long-term plans for rodeo.

“I want to be a flight nurse,” she said. “So that also gives me time to be able to rodeo at the same time, because I do want to end up going pro. So, between nursing, I can be a travel nurse and kind of hit rodeo to rodeo.”

Although keeping up with her studies while attending weekend rodeos is a challenge, Davis said her instructors go the extra mile to help her succeed.

“They work with you a lot,” she said, speaking about her instructors at DC3. “But it’s still challenging because every day I’m up till like midnight just trying to get my schoolwork done.”

Tyler Bauer

LANCENZIESCH



Tyler Bauer rides a bull during rodeo roughstock practice on Sept. 28.



And on rodeo weekends, things are especially hectic, she said.

“For the Oklahoma rodeos, we leave Thursday, Friday and Saturday,” she said. “But the Kansas ones are just for the weekend. So I do miss a lot of school.”

Tyler Bauer

For Tyler Bauer, a freshman bull rider from Amaranth, Ontario, Canada, college rodeo has a slightly different slant.

“I’ve been in rodeo for about six years,” Bauer said. “My family has never done anything Western related. My mom did have me learn how to ride horses when I was about 9 or 10 years old. And then when I was 11, I decided that I wanted to get into bull riding. But we’ve never had any rodeo history in my family. We owned a cattle farm. And we always did the work on foot.”

So, although Bauer came from a farm background, he never had the rodeo bug until the day his dad received a call from some guys who were getting ready for a bull riding school.

“My dad was renting a bit of land for extra grazing for the cattle,” he said. “And they ended up calling my dad because their tractor broke down, and they needed to unload some bucking chutes.”

Tagging along with his dad to help unload the chutes, the owner urged him to check out the bull riding school that weekend.

“So we did that Sunday and got talking to a couple of the people who ran it, and he said that I was able to try out next year,” Bauer said. “So I waited a whole year. My mom, said, ‘Oh, just try it once and then never do it again.’”

However, that wasn’t to be. Instead of getting it out of his system, that one bull-riding experience hooked him, and he hasn’t looked back.

“The first time I got on, I was fairly nervous,” he said. “I had the butterflies going and everything. But when I left the chute, I mostly just stayed kind of stiff, people would say. But as the years came on, I kind of got more relaxed.”

Although Bauer mainly does bull riding these days, he did try a few other events back in junior high school.

“I did chute dogging and goat tying, but I never had a horse, so I’ve never had the opportunity to do steer wrestling and all of that,” he said.

So, although Bauer doesn’t own a horse, and he doesn’t have the expenses that come with having one—such as buying feed and having a pickup truck, trailer, and tack—he

still has out-of-pocket expenses that he needs to cover in order to compete.

“My bull rope definitely cost me over \$300,” he said. “I have about a \$900 helmet that I have to replace probably soon. I just dropped another over \$100 on a new pad and spurs and boot straps.”

In addition, his boots cost \$300, his gloves cost between \$60 and \$70 a pair, his vests cost between \$200 and \$300 each, and the rosin he needs to coat his bull rope costs about \$50 per pound. Rosin, which is a kind of sticky glue, helps riders to grip their ropes more tightly.

All of these costs aside, Bauer said rodeo is definitely still worth it.

“One thing I like about it is the friends you make,” he said. “I didn’t really have too many friends at school, but I did make quite a lot of friends in rodeo. And the only reason why I keep coming back is when a bull bucks me off, it makes me want to ride it more and more.”

Because he only competes in bull riding, Bauer only needs to pay one entry fee, which is normally around \$70.

“I usually do performance mainly, because there’s not that many bull riders,” he said, referring to the fact that roughstock events—such as bull riding and

— CONTINUED

COLLEGE RODEO CONTINUED -

bronc riding—don't typically have slack performances, due to the smaller numbers of contestants.

Thus far in his rodeo career, Bauer's favorite memory is successfully covering a bounty bull during his rookie year. In rodeo, 'covering' refers to a rider staying on the bull the minimum time of 8 seconds. And a bounty bull is a special bull that has a specific payoff attached to it. If the rider, covers the bounty bull, then he gets the extra bounty money.

"I did my first year of open, and they had a bull with a bounty to any rookie rider, if you would cover him," Bauer said.

So, after getting bucked off of three bulls, Bauer successfully covered the fourth.

"I made it to finals, and then ... I ended up covering him, and that put me sixth going into finals," he said. "With the bounty bull I was like, 'Oh, I hope I get him at finals, cover him, and I'll wow everyone.' So night one, I draw this big Hereford bull. Probably two or three jumps in, I'm off."

The next night, after drawing the name of a bull that didn't end up being at the rodeo, Bauer was assigned the first bull that was in the re-ride pen, which happened to be the \$500 bounty bull.

"So, it's night two, I get my rope on, and I'm out of the chute before they even

announce my name, because they want to go quick, quick, quick," he said. "I'm thinking to myself, 'I'm on. I'm still on. I'm still on.' And he goes around like three or four spins, and then I'm like, 'Okay, it has to be long enough because I didn't hear any buzzer.' I go to bail... I'm kind of getting excited, and I see people throwing their hats. Next thing I know, I end up covering the bull. I ended up winning the round at finals, and I got the bounty."

At DC3, Bauer is studying farm and ranch management, and he plans to eventually return to the family farm in Canada after he completes his associate degree. Although, he said he is still considering more rodeo after DC3, such as the International Pro Rodeo Association (IPRA) or International Finals Rodeo (IFR).

"Depends on where I'm going to move to after college," he said. "[And] whether I'm going to go back home for a few years. I would definitely like to enter a lot of IPRA rodeos, and see if I can make it to the IFR."

As head coach, Ford definitely knows a thing or two about professional rodeo himself. A two-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (NFR) qualifier back in 2005 and 2006, he won the first round of his NFR debut with a 90-point bull ride. And he would go on to finish seventh and 11th

in the world standings in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

"I went to school for Rick Smith in Riverton, Wyo.," he said, referring to his college rodeo coach at Central Wyoming Community College. "I had some ability that he sharpened. He gave me the opportunity to get on and practice and just get my skills fine-tuned. He taught me what it took to be a winner, and I just want to be able to do the same thing for students here."

For some student-athletes, college rodeo can help set them up for their futures—as it reinforces the concepts of hard work and perseverance—whether it be winning in the realm of professional rodeo or winning in their chosen career paths. It's also a valuable opportunity for students to get an education while they're doing what they love, Ford said.

"I'm gonna say 90% of cowboys and cowgirls that rodeo and compete professionally can't make a living doing it," he said. "There's sure enough some cowboys who get the limelight, but what people don't see is the work they put into it to get to that point. It's not a sport that many could do."

However, the sport of rodeo is about far more than winnings, Ford said. It's "a lifestyle," and it's about being a part of the "rodeo family."

"The rodeo family is like none other, because you're competing against every one of them," he said. "But any day you are broke down or you need something, they'll be right there to help you out."

This unique relationship is present on the dirt, too, Ford said. It's a common thing to see contestants helping out in the arena when they are not competing themselves. For instance, during calf roping, one of the other contestants may be pushing the cowboy's calf out of the chute. And during bull riding, one of the other contestants may be pulling the bull rope before the cowboy's bull ride.

"You know what I'm saying? Who else is going to do that? Is a cornerback going to be afterwards helping a receiver by telling him, 'Hey, this is how you can beat me next time?' They're not gonna do that," Ford said. "But cowboys practice together, and they're there for each other. It's a close-knit group to be honest with you. That's one of the best things about it. You make lifelong friends and family through rodeo, which is sometimes more rewarding than the money." ♥



CHRISTINA HASEHORST

Tyler Bauer
prepares for a bull
ride on Sept. 28.



DC3's Old Gym Reopens After Closures

Story and Photo by Mike Smith

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) Athletic Department is in the process of bringing the old gym located in the Physical Education (PE) building back to life.

In 2014, the gym was closed due to claimed structural issues. However, it briefly reopened in fall 2016 before closing for a second time, which would last for the next five years.

In the spring of 2021, the college requested that a comprehensive structural engineering report be done on the shuttered facility. The findings from this report deemed that the old gym was structurally stable for use. So, the college reopened the gym at the start of the fall 2021 semester.

Currently utilized by several of the Conquistador sports programs on campus, DC3 Athletic Director, Jacob Ripple, said there are now plans for a new floor along with some other cosmetic fixes.

"Having the Physical Education building gymnasium opened back up is a huge benefit for our students. We have struggled

with indoor space for athletics as well as student activities since I have been here. This gives us the opportunity to provide more space for quality practice for our sports teams as well as opening possibilities for student activities. We look forward to the minor renovations that will make this facility a true quality space for our students," Ripple said.

The reopening of the gym in the PE building already has paid dividends for Conquistador athletics as several sports programs have utilized the space for workouts and practices. In addition, the space has also housed some student activities such as dodgeball and other activities.

The Dodge City spirit squad is just one of the programs that has greatly benefited from the reopening of the gym.

"The old gym has been a blessing for the cheer program allowing us to practice even on gamedays and use both the full floor in the gym along with our spring tumble strip in the vault. It has been a key factor in us being able to increase and perfect our

skills at a faster pace this season," said Head Spirit Squad Coach, Michael Brewster.

The Dodge City Athletic Department plans to continue renovations to the gym to repurpose the space into a fully used area for practices that will continue to aide all the Conquistador athletic programs.

The PE building was originally built in 1970 as two buildings that were connected with a breezeway, with one containing offices, classrooms and locker rooms, and the other containing a gymnasium. It has been expanded twice in its history.

The first expansion was completed in 1980, and this new addition filled in the space on either side of the breezeway between the two original buildings. This area now houses offices on the upper floor, and the training and student-athlete weight rooms on the lower floor.

The second expansion was in 1988, when an entirely new wing was built on the north side of the gym. This added facility contains the DC3 Wellness Center, a yoga studio, and racquetball courts. ●



Conquistador Fall Homecoming in Pictures



LANCE ZIESCH

Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President, speaks before the bonfire begins on Friday, Oct. 8.



LANCE ZIESCH

Members of the DC3 cheer team pose for a group shot in front of the homecoming bonfire behind Jackson Hall on Friday, Oct. 8.



LANCE ZIESCH

Members of the DC3 pep band, under the direction of DC3 Band Director, Joel Vinson (center), perform the school fight song and alma mater at the homecoming pep rally on Friday, Oct. 8.



LANCE ZIESCH

Natalie Ortiz (left), a freshman from Pasadena, Texas, and Ryleigh Bates (right), a sophomore from Frisco, Texas, perform during the pep rally.



The fall Homecoming Week culminated with the football game versus Garden City Community College on Saturday, Oct. 9, at Memorial Stadium. Unfortunately, the Conqs fell to the Broncbusters 0-49. The 2021 King and Queen, who were crowned at halftime, are Keegan Jones, sophomore, Melbourne, Australia; and Nur Yaren Türkmenoglu, freshman, Istanbul, Turkey, respectively. Pictured (left to right, back row) are Türkmenoglu; DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte; Jones; (front row) and homecoming attendants, Leighton and Jet Turley, who are the grandchildren of DC3 Board of Trustees member Bill Turley.

LOGAN CLEASON



Students, faculty, and staff enjoy the bonfire behind Jackson Hall on Friday, Oct. 8.

LANCE ZIESCH



AAC 2021

DC3 Golfer Finishes in Top 50 at Amateur Championship

Story by Mike Smith

Dodge City Community College (DC3) men's golfer, Supakit Seelanagae, earned an invitation to compete with top amateurs, Nov. 3-6, at the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Seelanagae, behind a score of 289, finished the championship tied for 43rd out of 90-plus golfers, as he played in all four rounds of the tournament making the cut on days three and four.

The Conquistador golfer shot his best rounds of the tournament the first and second days, as he shot an even par 71 in the first two rounds. He then carded a 73 in the third round, and he finished the tournament in round four with a 74.

The DC3 freshman from Thailand has enjoyed a solid fall season for the Conqs. He is ranked 59th in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) individual Top 150 Golfstat rankings, which is higher than any other Conquistador golfer.

Invitations to the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship were sent to the top players from 42 different Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC) affiliated organizations over multiple countries. And Seelanagae, the first Conquistador golfer to receive an invitation to such an event, was the only golfer present from a junior college. 🍀

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GRATITUDE

Thank You, CONQS!



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, THE DC3 FOUNDATION
GIVES THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR A
FANTASTIC 2021! #TOGETHERWECONQUER

IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO GIVE THIS
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Larry Burke at
McLain Grove
on May 7.

Former Professor's Campus Beautification Efforts Pay Off

Story and Photos by Lance Ziesch

Over the past 20 years, a good portion of the landscaping improvements on the Dodge City Community College (DC3) campus have been due to the efforts of former DC3 history professor, Larry Burke, who raised \$44,000 for campus beautification initiatives during his tenure at the college.

"I got involved because I felt the grounds needed more trees and plantings and because the islands between the entry and exit drives were dry and not inviting," Burke said. "I feel a college's campus is important in creating an inviting atmosphere. This also can be an advantage to recruitment."

Burke, who taught history at DC3—part-time from 1969 to 1986, full-time from 1986 to 2008, and part-time in an emeritus position from 2008 to 2012—began his first semester of class at the college's previous location at 1000 N. Second Ave. And when the college moved to the present campus in the spring of 1970, Burke came along with it.

"When we moved from the old Second Avenue location to the present locale, the campus was nice, but raw and unfinished,"

he said. "It needed more trees and plantings to give it character. The current landscaping gives the campus a more inviting, finished, and collegiate feel. It's more appealing and much prettier."

The "current landscaping" that Burke refers to today is a combination of beautification projects that have been coordinated throughout the past 51 years—with several of the most recent being initiatives begun by Burke himself.

Burke, who served as the chairman of the Campus Beautification Committee, helped secure funds for three main campus-improvement projects during his time at DC3: McLain Grove, Scroggins Park and McLain Greenway. These three projects alone resulted in the plantings of hundreds of trees and shrubs, along with the installation of accompanying sprinkler and drip irrigation systems.

"The majority of trees on campus came from these grants, and I am proud of my work on these actions, pleased with the committee, and grateful to the entities whose funds made the projects possible," Burke said. "My brother, Richard Burke, was president when these actions were

initiated and completed, and he gave us his full support."

Burke said a large portion of the funds he raised for these projects was due to a relationship he formed with the family of F.M. Dale McLain and his wife Melba.

"Dale was a high school history teacher at Sublette High School who moved to Dodge after retirement and taught for a few years part-time in the History Department at DC3," Burke said. "Dale's daughter, Joan Dale, married R.D. Hubbard, a wealthy entrepreneur who owned Ruidoso Downs horse track in Ruidoso, N.M., and other holdings."

Together, the Hubbards founded the R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard Foundation in 1986, which gives grants to deserving organizations, especially educational institutions, Burke said.

"Between 2000 and 2002, I was able to raise substantial amounts of money for campus beautification because of my friendship with Jim Stoddard, who was the executive director of the Hubbard Foundation," he said.

This relationship with Jim Stoddard and
- CONTINUED

BEAUTIFICATION CONTINUED -

the Hubbard Foundation actually went back several years before the beautification projects, Burke said. It all started with a McLain scholarship, which is still active to this day through the DC3 Foundation.

“Prior to my becoming a full-time history professor at DC3, Ed Herrin, Professor of Sociology at DC3, had obtained funds from the Hubbard Foundation to underwrite the McLain Scholarship, intended for history majors,” Burke said.

“When I became the history professor, I would meet with Ed and Dale to select the winner from applications,” he said. “And Jim Stoddard would often come up to sit in on our meetings, and I got to know him as a result.”

McLain Grove

The first of Burke’s three main campus-beautification efforts was the McLain Grove project in 2002, which was funded by a grant of \$16,000 from the Hubbard Foundation, that established a grove of 85 trees in the grassy draw that separates the east and west sides of campus, north of the sidewalk that connects the Student Union with Shelden Hall.

“As a result, we proposed to name the area McLain Grove and designate it with a stone monument and bronze plaque,” he said. “This grove enhances the beauty and aesthetics of the campus.”

In addition to the grove, the grant also included funds for planting locust trees to line the main entry and exit drives of the college, Burke said.

“All the trees planted in this project also had drip systems installed to water them,” he said.

Burke, who served as the project officer who coordinated these efforts for DC3 and the DC3 Foundation, said the project was completed and dedicated on May 6, 2002, with a stone monument, which was made by then DC3 Professor of Art, Jim Wilson, and the DC3 Art Department. This marker, which is comprised of multiple pieces of limestone and includes black metal lettering, also features a small bronze plaque on its south side.

Scroggins Park

The second initiative, which was called the Scroggins Park project, grew out of the publicity from the earlier McLain Grove project. At the time, Frank Mapel Jr., then president of the Scroggins Foundation, had heard about the previous McLain grant, and he called Burke to tell him the Scroggins Foundation also was



interested in providing funds for campus beautification.

Through the generosity of the Scroggins Foundation, Burke was able to obtain a grant of \$10,000 to fund the planting of trees and grass and to pay for new sprinkler and drip irrigation systems for the area east of the Humanities Building to the south parking lot. This grant also allowed for tree planting along the circle drive around the southern part of the campus down to Lake Charles.

“The area east of the Humanities Building was designated as Scroggins Park, and a monument was installed south of the sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the Humanities Building,” he said.

This monument, which was also made by Jim Wilson, was dedicated on May 27, 2003.

In 2015, the Scroggins Foundation, which was founded to honor a former Dodge City teacher, Arthur Scroggins, merged with the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas, Burke said.

McLain Greenway

And the third campus-improvement effort, which Burke also served as project officer, was the McLain Greenway project. This second sizeable grant of \$18,000 from the Hubbard Foundation was given for re-landscaping the grassy islands between the main entrance and exit drives.

“This project entailed refurbishing the sprinkler system servicing the islands and replanting appropriate grasses,” Burke said. “Additionally it included planting a variety

of shade and flowering trees, as well as bushes and shrubs native to the area.”

With the 42 locust trees planted to line the campus drives during the McLain Grove project, these additional plantings provided “a beautiful and enticing entrance to our campus,” he said.

Also included in this third project, which was completed in 2004, were funds to landscape the playground area around the Childhood Development Center on the southeastern corner of the campus.

Today, two engraved wooden signs mark the McLain Greenway on both the main entry and exit drives. But because the signs are nearly 20 years old and are starting to fade and deteriorate, the DC3 Foundation and the DC3 Marketing Department are considering replacement signage, which would incorporate a bronze plaque and an outdoor seating area on the greenway itself. Burke, of course, has been asked to be a part of the new signage decision-making process.

Although Burke officially retired from DC3 in 2012—and now lives in Lawrence, Kan.—he continues to stay involved with the college as a DC3 Foundation Board member, which means he still makes frequent trips to campus.

“It is very gratifying for me to drive through and around the campus and know that I played a part in helping to create a more inviting atmosphere,” Burke said. “I drive through the campus every time I am in Dodge and feel good about what I see, especially if it looks like the things I helped with are being well maintained.”

See You at the Conq Corral!

DO NOT Remove
Food or Drink
From Student
Union
! ! !



The Conq Corral in 1968 at the 1000 N. Second Ave. campus.

Share Your Memories With Us!

The Conq Corral snack bar has been a part of Dodge City Community College (DC3) for decades. So, for our next issue of the Conquistador, we are going to feature stories from the Conq Corral! No matter which location or iteration of the Conq Corral you experienced, we would like to hear from you! Please send your memories to alumni@dc3.edu by April 4, 2022.

From the Director's Desk

“**The Power of Purple.**” It is such a simple phrase that conveys exactly the support of our alumni, students, faculty, staff, administration, and donors.



The calm stability of blue and the fierce energy of red combine to create the color **purple**. It is associated with royalty, ambition, wealth, creativity, wisdom, dignity, grandeur, devotion, peace, pride, mystery, independence, and magic. The year 2021 gave us many examples of the **Power of Purple**.

The power of purple is where we find strength as Dodge City Community College (DC3) grows and learns new ways of engaging during the recent pandemic. It's how we find connection with each other. It's what gives us hope for the future. It's a community that supports one another and comes together with an uncommon devotion to the greater good. It's in everything that we do as leaders, problem-solvers, difference-makers, students, teachers, alumni, and friends.

The **Power of Purple** is in all of us.

There are many people that the DC3 Foundation has met who share their **purple** superpower. Some have shared stories, some have volunteered their time and talents with us, some have left a financial legacy in order to help our mission to continue into the future.

The college and the Foundation have received many blessings in 2021 because of this **purple** power. The college is experiencing record enrollment this year, highlighting the increased need for scholarship funds and project funds to accommodate the higher number of students. In the last year, the college has welcomed energetic leaders with new ideas who have made great changes to recruiting processes, counseling, online learning, and more. On campus, there is a national champion cheer team, a nationally and regionally recognized athletic program through many different sports, and an award-winning nursing program. This year, the Foundation received the largest gift in this director's tenure for nursing scholarships from donors who recognized the excellency of the staff, students, and programs within the DC3 nursing department.

The **Power of Purple** is primarily about hope—about DC3 leading intentionally and promoting the common good to ensure access to the transformative education that DC3 provides. What is your **Purple Power**? Will you help the DC3 Foundation build a legacy? When we come together as a community, we can create incredible opportunities for our students. That's the **Power of Purple**!

Join me and showcase YOUR **Purple Power**! #TogetherWeConquer

Christina Haselhorst
Director of Foundation & Community Relations



Twenty-two teams participated in the 2021 Foundation Golf Tournament.

Foundation Fun in 2021

Fundraising events are always a wonderful way for the DC3 Foundation to connect with supporters across the community. After a long year and a half of COVID-19 protocols, 2021 saw a return to traditional events that welcomed guests from all over, who were eager to network and to socialize again with friends and colleagues.

Story by Christina Haselhorst

Books, Bottles & Brie

May 1, 2021, saw the very first wine and cheese fundraising event for the Foundation. This event, titled “Books, Bottles & Brie,” was a fundraiser for the campus library. It was a huge success, raising funds for a lounge area for all campus students and visitors to the library.

This new lounge is a wonderful, more modern addition to the space that has been utilized by many since its installation. United Capital Management was the title sponsor for this event—along with Barney Korbolik and Mia Schraeder-Korbolik, Medical Heights Dental Center, P.A., Simone Beaudelaire and Kathryn O’Neil, the Law Office of Daniel Love, Eric Mercer, Parker Haskins Insurance, Haley Lindsey, Dodge City Dental Care, Steven and Pamela Preston, Larry and Sonja

Burke, Stout-Henrichs Chiropractic Clinic, Floris Jean Hampton, Don and Kathy Ramsour, and Fully Promoted-Powered by EmbroidMe.

Foundation Golf Tournament

Summer winds blew into Dodge City, and planning began for the 11th Annual Golf Tournament at Mariah Hills Golf Course in Dodge City. Twenty-two teams enjoyed the beautiful summer day on Aug. 20, 2021.

Once again, the DC3 national champion cheer team members volunteered their time running two course games and assisting with the serving of lunch for all in attendance. Much laughter and good-natured competition was had by everyone!

Title sponsors for this event were Rocking M Media, Building Solutions

LLC, and Great Western Dining. Other sponsors were Victory Electric, McVey Construction, Steve and Pamela Preston, Kerbs Law Office, Kindsvater Trucking, Harold and Lynn Nolte, McDonald’s, Benefit Health Advisor, and Edward Jones – Melanie Harshberger.

Foundation Gala & Auction

The largest event of the year came back with a bang on Nov. 6, 2021! The DC3 Foundation Gala & Auction, sponsored by Boardwalk Underwriter Western Plains Medical Complex, was back to a traditional format, and 140 guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of food, fun, and bidding.

Raising nearly \$70,000, the auction provides funds for scholarships and for the

- CONTINUED

FOUNDATION FUN CONTINUED -

DC3 Foundation, meeting the mission of assisting the college and helping students with their educational needs.

“This year’s record enrollment at Dodge City Community College has made the need for additional scholarship dollars take center stage,” DC3 Foundation & Community Relations Director, Christina Haselhorst, said.

With the Monopoly theme “Play It Forward,” guests were treated to a dinner sponsored by Cargill, which was served by nearly 40 student volunteers. The event also featured games and a plethora of items to choose from for bidding. Well over 130 items were donated from generous donors from all over the United States.

Many thanks to all auction participants, volunteers, and the following sponsors of this year’s gala & auction: Truck Center Companies, National Beef, Hilmar Cheese Company Inc., Building Solutions LLC, Victory Electric Cooperative, Sutherlands Lumber, Farm Bureau Wealth – Ann Frigon, United Capital Management, Western State Bank, Steven & Pamela Preston, Parker Haskins Insurance Inc., Dodge City Brewing Co. LLC, Bunkall Orthodontics, Chaffin Inc., United Wireless Communications, High Plains Title LLC, Conant Construction LLC, Astra Bank, G&G Car & Truck Supercenters, and other cash sponsors.

Stay tuned for upcoming events in 2022 with the DC3 Foundation! ●

Foundation Announces Scholarship Winners

Story by Christina Haselhorst

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation recently announced scholarship recipients for the 2021-22 year.

“The Foundation supports more than 55 scholarships for full-time students,” DC3 Foundation Director, Christina Haselhorst, said. “Scholarship awards range from \$250 to \$1,000, and students are eligible to apply for these scholarships each year through DC3 Financial Aid and the college scholarship application.”

Increased enrollment at DC3 this year has proven that “the need for scholarships is high,” she said.

A recent press release from the Kansas Board of Regents verifies this. This report indicates that DC3 has increased enrollment by more than 15% over the last year. The report can be located at https://submission.kansasregents.org/ibi_apps/portal/BIP_Public2/KHEStats.

“We have had a wonderful influx of donations in the past two years for scholarships, which helps a bit with the increase enrollment,” she said.

“However, much more work is to be done because the scholarship funds with the Foundation are so much lower than some other community college foundations and endowments across the state.”

Because of a few new scholarships and increased donations, this academic year marks the largest availability of funds for the DC3 Foundation and meets the yearly goal of Haselhorst and the Board of Directors.

“I am grateful for the committed donors across the nation who submit a small donation each year to the scholarships entrusted to the DC3 Foundation,” she said. “At DC3, because the tuition is so cost effective, we are able to help more students per capita than a larger, more expensive institution.”



Wade Kirk, of Kirk Bros. Auctioneers, served as the 2021 gala auctioneer.

LUKE FAY



The auction aftermath!

LUKE FAY

The 2020-21 recipients are as follows:

- **Eldon Becker Education Scholarship:** Abigail Billingsley and Celeste Konda
- **Dick Brown Memorial Scholarship:** Jamie Diell
- **Krumrey Scholarship:** Steven Brown and Isamar Mendoza
- **Jim Bock Memorial Scholarship:** Obed Peregrino, Drew Herrington, Annia Llamas, and Allison Haselhorst
- **Ann & Norman Ehrlich Memorial Scholarship:**
- **Sanko-Calhoun Trust:** Kimberly Benson
- **James Maag History Scholarship:** Tijani Khelifaoui
- **DCHS Classes '60, '61, '62, White & Williams Scholarship:** Janelle Tran-Chau and Olivia Ramos
- **Elisa Murphy Memorial Scholarship:** Abby Martinez-Cuevas and Gerardo Adame
- **Robbins Business & Leadership Scholarship:** Lauren Specht, Cholnan Nunya, and Carson Briggs
- **Bernice Williams Memorial Scholarship:** Trevor Zarybnicky
- **American AgCredit Scholarship:** Lillian Friess and Daniel Baker
- **James & Carl Noland Memorial Scholarship:** Jasmine Alvarado-Martinez
- **Howard & Thelma Sailor Memorial Scholarship:** Jace Bachman, Crystal Montalvo-Gonzalez, and Delfino Juarez-Dominguez
- **Richard K. Burke, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship:** Yanira Flores, Juan Enriquez-Mendes, and Maria Perez
- **Frank & Edith Spaniol Memorial Scholarship:** Jonathan Lemus-Martinez, Morgan Wenzl, Shelby Zavala, Jonathan Renova, Julissa Orpinel-Solarzano, Ethan Mroczek, Bryna Soleil-McNair, Amayrani Galan Del Toro, Kaden Stapleton, Luz Marquez, Leo Lozano, Dalia Hernandez, and Jake Meents.
- **Irene Paulin Nursing Scholarship:** Tynisha Major and Norma Banuelos.
- **Very Tully Nursing Scholarship:** Clara Bartlett
- **Web, Wharton, & Vale Nursing Scholarship:** Ezra Michaels
- **Scroggins Nursing Scholarship:** Daisy Quinones and Hailey Ellis
- **Lucille Schaapveld Nursing Scholarship:** Stephanie Alarcon
- **June Hull Sherrid Nursing Scholarship:** Lesly Ballestros
- **Kevin Pember Memorial Scholarship:** Baylor Diaz and Alexander Brownrigg
- **Intercollegiate Rodeo Scholarship:** Chaten Tasset
- **Scroggins Child Care Scholarship:** Ryleigh Bates
- **Jack Stoecker Athletic Scholarship:** Cynthia Delapaz
- **Carl & Linda Bjork Scholarship:** Bowen Smith
- **Barnes-Gleckler Memorial Scholarship:** Emily Lehr
- **Clair C. Conard Family Foundation Scholarship:** Arizabeta Valdivia
- **Math/Science Scholarship:** Higor Barbieri
- **Bob Schmitt Scholarship:** Shade Torres
- **Ed Alexander Scholarship:** Bryan Ponce
- **Landon Jay Frazier Scholarship:** Zandt Payne and Zebastian Mata
- **Leslie & Betty Houser Scholarship:** Davan Smith, Saul Deleon, Adrien Olivares, Aneth Armendariz, Aland Carrillo, Georgina Madrid, Kamry Howard, Aaron Trent, Jaylen Indiek, and April Garcia
- **Noble Melencamp Academic Scholarship:** Olilievia Lowe, Jennifer Katz, Jaxson Gebhardt, Kerry Garcia, Regan Ast, Jaya Esquibel, Luis Robles, and Jennifer Rico-Esquivel
- **President's Scholarship in Honor of Marietta & Gene Kirk:** Maryra Macias
- **Mullin Brothers Foundation Scholarship:** Damian Garcia, Jazmin Rios, Sarah Rojas, Summer Stobaugh, Christopher Velez, and Oziel Martinez-Mondragon
- **Marvin Hampton Memorial Scholarship:** Breanna Gutierrez, Jessica Facio, and Dayna Critchii

The above list reflects only the Foundation's scholarships, which means it does not include the full number of scholarships available to DC3 students, Haselhorst said. Students interested in applying for scholarships should visit dc3.edu to view institutional aid options under the "Admissions" tab.

"Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients," she said. "The DC3 Foundation appreciates all of our donor contributions that make awarding these scholarships possible."

For more information on how to become a donor and partner with the DC3 Foundation, visit dc3.edu/foundation-alumni or call (620) 225-9541. ♥



DODGE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Foundation

Building a Legacy, Strengthening a Community

Story by Christina Haselhorst

These generous donors gave to the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation from April 1, 2021, to Nov. 15, 2021. Totaling more than \$295,000 over that time period, donations include Foundation donations, estate donations, scholarships, projects, and memorials. Thank you ALL for being a part of the Conquistador Legacy!

You, too, can make a difference and be a partner for student success with the DC3 Foundation. Contact Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Foundation and Community Relations, to set up an appointment (foundation@dc3.edu).

We are working to continue to strengthen the programs of the Foundation and of DC3. With increased enrollment, the need for more funding is very evident. Higher learning institutions are relying more and more on the philanthropic endeavors of their donors just like you.

Leave your legacy with us, and strengthen a community! ●

Several Anonymous Donors	Sherry (Curtis) Rogers	Gary & Melanie Harshberger	Nancy Leichter	Randy Quint
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Class Notes



Sarah Smith Barr

My dad, Don Smith, and Charlie Barnes were dear friends. In fact, I called Charlie, “Uncle Charlie” from the time I met him when I was about 4 years old! Although I did not attend DC3, I watched it grow from the ground up. Dad, Uncle Charlie, and I would take my dad’s old Willy’s Jeep and drive around the pasture as the college was being built. Uncle Charlie would say “the admin building is going here” or “the theatre is going there.”

Dad was the attorney for the college for many years and our family rarely missed a Conq football or basketball game. Another interesting connection is Dad’s longtime legal secretary, both in private practice and when he was district judge, Peg Coleman, was the wife of Cal Coleman after whom one of the residence halls is named. I say all this only to acknowledge my purple-and-gold roots!

I could tell you about the time Roger Barnes was driving my dad’s Jeep on a reconnaissance mission to check out the progress of construction, and he hit a hole and bounced me out of the vehicle! He and my brother thought it was the funniest thing ever. In fact, they still do! Or the time Uncle Charlie’s hat blew off while we were walking around the construction site, and I took off running as fast as I could to grab it and was clotheslined by a wire. It flipped me over and knocked me out. Upon reflection, it appears the campus was trying to kill me.

It is not hyperbole when I say that we inspected construction at least twice a week. We had a dog, Duke, who would often go with us. Poor Duke spent all his time trying to catch a rabbit, which he never accomplished. More than once, Duke missed the last Jeep home, so he would find his way to Uncle Charlie’s house on Thompson. Uncle Charlie would call Dad, and he’d go get the dog.

In the mid to late ’60s, I remember having black athletes to our house for various meals, my church (First Presbyterian) housing some players in the church, and donating beds to furnish houses and apartments for black students. Dad and Uncle Charlie were at the forefront of civil rights in Dodge City, along with Rev. David Birch and



This fall, Sarah Barr donated her dad’s 1953 Conq letterman’s jacket to DC3.

LANCE ZIESCH

Coach Chuck Brehm. Thanks to DC3 in those days, I learned firsthand about striving for racial justice.

Every year, Dad kept a personal correspondence file. In these annual files—literally files of carbon copies of letters—are letters Dad wrote to various athletes after they left Dodge City. Also, I remember seeing a letter that Dad wrote to Eddie Sutton asking if he was interested in coaching at Dodge City Community College. (Yep, that Eddie Sutton.) It seems to me that Chuck Brehm was hired instead, which worked out pretty well for DC3!

Dad died in 2002, and I have many of his treasures at my house in Wamego, Kan. Among them is a Conq letterman’s jacket with a Conquistador patch on it indicating “President, Quarterback Club.” I believe the year is 1953. Would the college like to have it? ●

Editor’s Note: DC3 would like to thank Sarah Barr for sharing her memories with us and for donating her father’s Conq letterman’s jacket! And we also would like to invite you to send your DC3 stories, along with any photos or life updates, to alumni@dc3.edu. We would love to hear from you!

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Just One More



LANCE ZINSCH

Fall Reflections
Looking southwest
over Lake Charles,
on Nov. 10.